

Outline of Arkell Equine RSSA (Research Station Services and Access) Fees May 2008

Rationale:

The Arkell Equine herd is a valuable resource for U of G equine researchers as a source of ponies/foals and horses for reproductive, respiratory, locomotion/performance and other studies. However, since most of the equine research studies are conducted at on-campus facilities, and Arkell is largely a 'housing' facility, it requires a different RSSA fee model than that used for other OMAFRA Research Stations (i.e., where research is conducted on-site at the stations).

Consistent with the principles for management of RSSA fees at other stations, the model outlined below for Arkell Equine RSSA fees is intended to:

Give priority access and fee offsets for OMAFRA-approved projects

Apportion costs of operating the Arkell Equine herd equitably among the users of the herd

Be as simple to understand and administer as possible

The Model:

The overall cost of operating the Arkell Equine herd is ~\$225K per year. The normal, target herd size is 75 ponies and horses. Thus the average cost per head is \$3000 per year, as of 2007. (Note: This herd size is essentially limited to this level due to nutrient management restrictions at the Arkell Station.) Analysis to date has shown that there is little effective difference in the per-head cost of maintaining and managing ponies versus full size horses, so no differential price will be assigned.

Most of the horses/ponies at Arkell are kept year-round for targeted research purposes and because obtaining horses from other sources would be difficult, more costly and/or suitable horses could not be obtained. However, wherever suitable horses or ponies/foals can be obtained readily from other sources at lower cost than year-round housing at Arkell, these alternative sources should be given serious consideration (to allow for more flexibility in numbers of other groupings).

The duration that Arkell horses/ponies are not at Arkell (i.e., are on-campus) is generally kept as short as possible due to the higher costs of care at on-campus facilities. Thus, the full-year rate will not be adjusted other than in exceptional cases.

Therefore, the RSSA fee for Arkell horses/ponies will be established at the rate of \$3000 per year per animal (rather than as a per diem rate).

Assignment of horses and ponies/foals to specific researchers / studies will be done at the time Equine project proposals are reviewed and approved each year (generally during the Winter semester) by the Equine Coordinator.

- ▶ **Horses and ponies/foals being used in OMAFRA-approved research studies (Tiers I, II or III) will only be charged the net subsidized RSSA fee. The subsidized fee is calculated as 3% of total RSSA fees in year 1 of a project, and 6%, 9% and 12% respectively for years 2, 3 & 4 of a project. The balance of the RSSA value should be noted as an in-kind OMAFRA contribution to your project.** (For a description of the Tiers I – IV, please refer to <http://www.uoguelph.ca/research/omafra/forms/SPSForms.shtml> and click on the 'Multi-Tier Slideshow' link at the bottom.)

Horses and ponies/foals used in projects not approved by OMAFRA (i.e. Tier IV projects) will be charged the full per annum RSSA fee.

Where use of individual or groups of horses/ponies are shared among researchers, the Equine Program Coordinator will pro-rate the applicable per annum RSSA fees (and offsets) among these users.

Any exceptions to this will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Equine Program Coordinator (Jeff Thomason) in consultation with Station management.

Access to Arkell horses is given first to Tier I OMAFRA projects (those that receive OMAFRA 'project operating funds), followed by Tiers II, III (both of which meet OMAFRA research priorities but receive no project operating \$) and Tier IV (proprietary or not OMAFRA approved) projects in order, subject to availability of animals.

Administration:

Horse / pony 'groupings' will be assigned to the respective 'user group' of researchers each year (in tandem with review/approval of Equine Guelph project awards).

In the absence of an OMAFRA Tier I project award, approved Equine Guelph projects must be submitted to the Office of Research (Agri-Food & Partnerships) to be reviewed by OMAFRA for approval as Tier II / III projects.

The number of horses/ponies in a group and the number of researchers in user group will determine the net fees that will be billed to each researcher. Approved Tier I, II or III projects will be billed at the subsidized rate. Tier IV projects will be billed the full RSSA value.

Actual billing for horse / pony use would occur later in the fiscal year based on actual horse / pony use and the researchers in the user group (i.e., to account for projects and/or users added or dropped).

An Example – Arkell Pony Herd:

Arkell currently has a stock of 24 ponies (22 mares and 2 stallions), kept primarily for the provision of foals for pathogenic studies. A typical number of foals available and utilized each year is 15 -18.

This means that a total of \$72,000 (24 x \$3,000/head/yr) in RSSA fees per year needs to be covered, collectively, by the users of the 18 foals.

For the sake of this example, let's assume there are 3 researchers using the pony herd/foals. Also assuming all 3 researchers have 'OMAFRA-approved' projects (i.e. Tier I, II, or III) and each is utilizing the foals to roughly the same extent, each of these researchers would be billed the net subsidized fee of \$720 in year 1 (i.e. $\$72,000 \times 3\% = \$2,160$ total net fee, divided among the 3 researchers = \$720). In year 2 of the project, the fee billed to each researcher would be \$1,440.

Alternatively, if Researcher A was the big user (i.e., used 75% of the foals), their RSSA fee would be prorated to 75% of the \$2,160, and the fees for the other two researchers reduced accordingly.

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