

#### Arena update

Benton County Fairgrounds Benton Arena was closed on Friday May 20, 2011 due to a confirmed case of the Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) in the Northern part of the State.

The EHM outbreak happened in Ogden Utah at a cutting horse show April 30 through May 8 and all horse owners that attended this event have been notified to quarantine their horses. Infected animals usually get sick between two and 14 days after they are exposed to the virus. Symptoms include fever, sneezing, staggering and partial paralysis.

To date, 5/23/2011, three Oregon horses that attended the event are experiencing symptoms related to the EHM disease and are quarantined.

Since Benton County Fairgrounds does not have a system in place to monitor Benton Arena use, there is no guarantee that a horse that has been around an infected horse has not been here, so in order to eliminate the risk of cross contamination the imposed guide lines will be followed:

The Arena remains closed until June 6, 2011 to all horses.

June 6, 2011, until further notice, all horses riders are to register on the arena clip board: time, date, phone, rider's phone number and horse's names and address where horses are boarded. Any owner/rider found to not to register on the clip board will be banned from using the arena.

June 6, 2011 until further notice, Benton Arena will only be open to local riders and groups that have been here in the past six months, any new horse(s) must have a veterinarian approval prior to using the arena.