



Maryland  
HORSE INDUSTRY BOARD

# Maryland Horse Industry Board



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## Making Maryland The Hub For International Equine Business *International Import and Export Facilities For Livestock Feasibility Study*

***What is a permanent international import and export facility?***

A feasibility study is currently underway to determine the possibility of establishing a federally approved import and export station(s) in the vicinity of the BWI Thurgood Marshal Airport. The federal government requires that any horses imported or exported from the United States be quarantined for a defined period of time prior to shipment overseas. Currently only three of these facilities exist in the United States, and they are located in Florida, New York, and California, there are allowances for temporary import and export facilities however those are dependent on the availability of federal inspectors. There is often some confusion on the part of the general public as to the difference of these facilities from CEM quarantine stations such as Rigbie Farm ([www.rigbiefarm.com](http://www.rigbiefarm.com)) in Darlington, Maryland. The difference is that while all horses imported into the country must spend a defined period of time (usually between 3 – 6 days) at one of the three federal import

facilities, horses not intended for breeding do not have to visit a CEM quarantine station.

***What are the benefits of establishing such a facility in Maryland?***

By establishing such a facility in Maryland it would lessen the cost, time of travel, and stress on the horses being shipped internationally to and from Maryland. This would make it easier for Maryland horses to be sold internationally, and would enable international competitors to travel abroad without having the arduous task of traveling across the country just to take their horses to an approved permanent import or export station.

***What is the status of the feasibility study and what does the study cost?***

The study is being split into three phases; organization phase, the data collection phase, and the data analysis/reporting phase. The first phase of the project was completed and it included: compiling a team to assist in

the implementation of the feasibility study; releasing a request for proposals (RFP) to obtain professional assistance with project; a principal investigation team was selected; initial meetings to clarify objectives and delineate tasks were held; and contact points for relevant study information were compiled. The funding of the project has come through two matching grants from the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development and the United States Department of Agriculture. The second phase has begun and the project should be completed by the summer of 2007.

***How can you contribute to the study?***

If you are interested in contributing your needs, thoughts or experiences regarding the importation or exportation of horses, we need to hear from you now, before the end of June. Please e-mail either Rob Burk at [BurkJR@mda.state.md.us](mailto:BurkJR@mda.state.md.us) or Laurie Adlehardt at [web@OwlCreek.net](mailto:web@OwlCreek.net)