



Horse Protection Act Timeline

2023–2026 | Defending Horse Owners, Equine Welfare, and State Oversight

2023 | Western Justice Takes Action Against Federal Overreach

Western Justice begins challenging USDA's proposed expansion of the Horse Protection Act (HPA), raising concerns about federal overreach into an equine industry already governed by state animal cruelty laws and discipline-specific welfare standards.

2023 | Industry Reports Over 98% Compliance

USDA's 2022 data shows Horse Industry Organizations reporting 98.5% compliance across 48,340 inspected entries. Despite this reported compliance, animal rights advocacy organizations continue pushing for stricter federal regulations. Western Justice warns that expanded inspections could burden responsible horse owners, exhibitors, and event organizers.

2023–2024 | Western Justice Launches Public Awareness Campaign

Western Justice publishes educational articles, analyzes USDA's proposed rule, and alerts the equine industry to its potential consequences. The campaign highlights concerns about federal inspections, exhibitor liability, increased costs, and regulatory requirements affecting Western performance events, horse shows, auctions, and sales.

[Western Justice HPA Information & Resources](#)

2024 | Western Justice Mobilizes Horse Owners and Lawmakers

Western Justice expands its grassroots campaign through public petitions, calls to action, and legislative outreach, encouraging horse owners, trainers, exhibitors, and

industry organizations to contact lawmakers and oppose expanded federal authority.

May 2024 | USDA Adopts Expanded HPA Regulations

Despite industry concerns, USDA finalizes regulations expanding inspection requirements, event reporting obligations, and federal enforcement provisions. Western Justice continues educating the public about the implications for the broader horse industry.

USDA Final Rule Announcement

2024–2025 | Western Justice Intensifies Public Awareness and Advocacy

Through published articles, petitions, social media, industry outreach, and legislative calls to action, Western Justice continues mobilizing opposition to the new rule. The organization emphasizes that expanded federal inspections could discourage participation in horse exhibitions, increase costs, and threaten equine businesses and livelihoods.

January 2025 | USDA Announces First Postponement

Amid industry opposition and legal challenges, USDA postpones implementation from February 1 to April 2, 2025. Western Justice continues advocating for meaningful regulatory reform.

USDA First Postponement

March 2025 | USDA Extends Delay and Requests Public Input

USDA postpones implementation until February 1, 2026, opening the door for additional public input. Western Justice continues encouraging industry participation and communicating concerns about federal overreach to lawmakers and regulators.

USDA Second Postponement

October 2025 | Western Justice Calls for Full Repeal

Recognizing that temporary delays cannot prevent future federal overreach, Western Justice submits a formal congressional briefing memorandum proposing complete repeal of the Horse Protection Act, returning primary equine welfare oversight to the states and individual equine disciplines.

Western Justice Repeal Proposal

January 2026 | USDA Postpones Implementation Again

Following continued public concerns, litigation, and congressional action, USDA postpones implementation of the remaining amendments until December 31, 2026. Western Justice continues advocating for a permanent legislative solution.

USDA Third Postponement

October 2026 | Western Justice Advances Full Repeal Initiative

Western Justice continues its campaign through petitions, legislative calls to action, educational articles, and industry outreach, building awareness of the lasting threat of federal regulatory expansion. The organization advocates complete repeal of the HPA rather than temporary delays or exemptions for individual disciplines.

Protecting horses has never been the question. Who should regulate the industry is.