

Indiana Horse Racing Commission Makes The Grade

The Indiana Horse Racing Commission scores high marks in an independent survey of horsemen racing at Indiana's pari-mutuel tracks.

Survey results show that over two-thirds of respondents rated the overall effectiveness of the regulatory efforts of the Indiana Horse Racing Commission, the state's regulatory body, as either excellent or good.

The survey is a part of Governor Mitch Daniels' initiative to evaluate performance and efficiency of state government with a special focus upon providing excellent service to the customers of state government. The survey was conducted by the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs at the request of the Racing Commission.

This survey also asked respondents to grade the Commission on specific regulatory programs, including licensing, equine drug testing and blood gas testing. The Commission continued to receive positive scores in every area of inquiry.

"We are very pleased the Commission fared well while being evaluated by our licensees," stated Commission Chairman Sarah McNaught. "This staff strives to serve all industry participants while protecting the integrity of our sport."

Other survey results include:

- Over 90% of respondents indicated that the staff they interacted with in obtaining a license was "very" or "somewhat helpful".
- 87% of respondents rated their experience in obtaining a license as either "excellent" or "good".
- Approximately three-fourths of respondents indicated that Indiana's equine drug testing program was either "very effective" or "somewhat effective".

The survey was sent to 3,975 individuals licensed in 2006 as horse owners, trainers, drivers and jockeys. Indiana University received 1,378 surveys for a response rate of 35%. Horsemen of all racing breeds - Standardbred, Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse participated in the survey.

The full report can be viewed on the Indiana Horse Racing Commission website at www.in.gov/ihr.