

Allowing Change to Wyandotte County Racetrack Gaming Facility Will Benefit Agri-business thru Horse Racing in Kansas

- Horse Racing has been a part of Kansas history since the 1800's. Eureka Downs began in 1872.
- In 1986, the citizens of Kansas overwhelmingly voted to change the state's constitution to allow Parimutuel racing ... sending a clear message this industry was important.
- Throughout the 20th century, Kansas was ranked 5th in the production of QH and among top 10 in the production of TB in the nation.
- In 1989, The Woodlands opened, attracting over 1.7 million visitors its first year and generating a market-place for the racing industry of the state while attracting new out-of-state investment in land, facilities, machinery, etc.
- In 1990, Kansas received over \$1.5 million for its share of the parimutuel handle.
- In 1985, parimutuel wagering accounted for 24% of the total dollar wagered. Today that figure is less than 3% as casino gambling has savaged the dollar once bet on horse racing.
- By 1993, Missouri riverboat casinos had begun to take its toll on The Woodlands, ultimately forcing it into bankruptcy and financial struggles into the new millennium.
- In 2007, after the KELA was signed into law, residents of Wyandotte County voted to allow a racetrack gaming facility there with over 82% of the votes cast in favor.
- In 2008, the track was closed when the operator realized they could not sustain a profitable operation by distributing 40% of the slot revenue to the state while the lottery gaming facility directs only 22% to the state.
- After years of attempting to change the state's share of slot revenue at each of the three racetracks, a bill was voted on by the Senate which would allow these similar changes be made at the Wyandotte County racetrack-only. It passed by a count of 24 to 12. But the House failed to be able to seriously consider the bill in the last hours of the session.
- Revenue from lottery gaming facilities has little economic impact on counties outside of Wyandotte County. But a racetrack gaming facility will be a strong economic driver for the horse racing industry, and the agri-businesses it is tied to, which lends economic benefits to every county across the state of Kansas ... creating jobs and income both directly and indirectly.
- Kansas horse racing not only generates revenue for the state thru taxes, it offers a certain foundation of family farm values to the youth of the state.
- This economic development project requires zero funding from the state as incentive to rebuild the horse racing industry that has deep roots to Kansas agriculture.
- Adding horse racing to the entertainment venue Wyandotte County already offers will attract an even more diverse business investor, tourist and fun seeker to Kansas.