

# EQUUS

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### Free microchipping available to New York horse owners

New York State now offers free microchips and microchip readers to members of its Horse Health Assurance Program.

Established by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM) in 2002, the Horse



Health program recognizes New York residents who pass an exam and on-site evaluation of horse-care standards and farm management (see "Empire State Certifies Well-Kept Farms," Roundup, EQUUS 300). The microchip identification program was added in May.

"When farms become certified, they can receive [as many as 40] microchips," explains Lyda Denney, DVM, a NYSDAM field veterinarian. "The microchip will go to [the horse owner's] veterinarian, who will inject it." Currently, she says, 24 equine operations are eligible.

The microchip, which is imprinted with a 15-digit identification number, is injected into the horse's nuchal<sup>o</sup> ligament, about halfway down the neck. The chip scanner not only reads the identification number but can also monitor a horse's temperature.

As an added theft deterrent, program participants are issued barn signs stating that animals on the premises are protected by electronic identification.

Owners of public and private horse operations in New York State are eligible for the health assurance program and microchip program. For more information, call (315) 829-4282 or go to [www.agmkt.state.ny.us](http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us). —

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