



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES
1445 FEDERAL DRIVE
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36107-1123

John McMillan
Commissioner

Alabama Open Horsemen's Association
907 Burgett Drive
Jasper, AL 35503

Dear Horsemen, Guests, and Participants:

It is my distinct honor and pleasure as the Commissioner of Agriculture & Industries to welcome you to the 31st Annual Alabama Open Horsemen's Association State Championship in Montgomery at Garrett Coliseum.

Each year the State Championship continues to be a highlight as our largest official horse show in the state and second largest east of the Mississippi River. The excitement of competition and commerce the event brings to our state is felt by thousands.

Not only does this event generate income, but the horse industry as a whole contributes to our state throughout the year. A recent economic analysis by Auburn University economists indicates horses pump an estimated \$2.08 billion annually into Alabama's economy, contributing to about 24,000 jobs that represent \$706 million in total labor income. Just more reasons the Department of Agriculture & Industries is proud to support this worthwhile endeavor.

As you enjoy your sporting event, I encourage you to relax and explore the natural beauty and historical significance that have made Alabama one of the most popular states in the nation.

Again, on behalf of Alabama and the Department of Agriculture & Industries, I welcome you to your 31st Annual Alabama Open Horsemen's Association State Championship. We wish you the best of luck throughout your competition and hope you have an exciting visit in Montgomery.

Sincerely,

John McMillan

