

# Important Updates from the USDA

## 1. Tack Changes

- a. Flatshod horses will now be allowed to present for inspection with tack on so long as the stirrups on both western and English saddles are positioned to avoid interfering with the USDA or DQP inspection. This means that exhibitors and custodians should have English stirrups pulled up tight with leathers tucked prior to inspection, and Western stirrups should be tied up over the saddle.
- b. If a DQP or VMO has concerns or suspicions regarding the tack, they may request that the custodian remove the tack for inspection

## 2. Measurements

- a. All measurements (i.e., for high bands, 50% Rule and Heel/Toe) are to be measured from the junction of the hoof wall and coronary band. These measurements should not be taken from the hairline. This will be covered in the joint training and during the shoeing clinic.