



**Statement
Regarding Nobles County 20
Count Complaint re 15 Dead Horses**

April 4, 2014

We are pleased the Nobles County Attorney has acted swiftly and that justice will be served for the sake of these horses who suffered the unthinkable at the hands of the defendant, whose own statements indicate a total disregard for the well-being of these animals. This case, like so many others, exemplifies the inexcusable failures on the part of certain horse owners to provide for their horses' most basic needs.

The law provides protection for these animals from this horrifying treatment, and an inability to pay for food or provide water is no excuse under the law. Through the generosity of concerned citizens and animal advocates, the Minnesota Hay Bank is a resource for owners who need assistance feeding their horses. The hay bank has been able to provide significant amounts of hay to distressed owners for horses in need in each of past two winter seasons.

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