

OPPORTUNITY For Growth

By Martha M. Veon

In October of 2014 Alegre Quarantine opened its doors for business in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico. This is the first USDA compliant equine quarantine facility on the island of Puerto Rico, the second USDA Compliant privatized facility and the fifth USDA compliant facility in the United States. The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is an unincorporated territory of the United States.



News of this event spread fast showing up in a variety of equine publications in the U.S, Puerto Rico and internationally, turning out to be one of the top news stories in the equine industry for 2014. What gives this story so much weight? Simply put, it opens the door to opportunity.

A quarantine facility in Puerto Rico cuts the expense of shipping horses to Puerto Rico dramatically. Owners shipping horses from South and Central America, the Caribbean and Europe to Puerto Rico no longer will be required to send their horses more than 1,000 miles out of the way to



a mainland facility to meet the quarantine requirements for the United States. They may ship directly to Puerto Rico, and quarantine there.

This expense decrease encourages more equine sporting events to be hosted in Puerto Rico. Both in the show ring and on the race track. This new found affordability for international competitors will encourage them to participate more often.

Increasing the number of competitive events is a growth and development opportunity for the individual sporting disciplines, the subindustries they support with an overflow into other sectors of the economy.

In Puerto Rico, equestrian sports are a prominent part of the culture. The beloved Paso Fino holds the title of Puerto Rico's National Horse. The equine industry in Puerto Rico provides hundreds of full and part time employment, generating a healthy revenue stream that benefits the Puerto Rican economy. The Paso Fino breed alone is responsible for generating more than \$100 million in revenue annually through competition, breeding and sales benefiting Puerto Rico's economy. With this new opportunity for growth in the equine industry, you can expect that number to grow.

The addition of Alegre Quarantine has made conducting your equine business in Puerto Rico, more

affordable with an opportunity to grow your profit margin.

Alegre quarantine is a privatized facility and the product of a 10 year endeavor by entrepreneurs Greg and Linda Jackson. It is housed in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico at the Hacienda Siesta Alegre thoroughbred farm and home to the Jacksons.

The Jacksons have been involved in the equine industry for more than 30 years in a variety of sectors. Their extensive knowledge and management experience will insure first class care for your horses quarantined in this state of the art, USDA compliant facility. Since opening day, Alegre Quarantine has welcomed a steady stream of horses.