It needs to be addressed now

From Page A1

Only about a third of the 1,425 trainers who sought licenses in 2003 indicated on their applications that they were providing workers’ comp coverage. (We clear that this series has brought the issue to the forefront of the public in general,” said LaJuana Wilcher, secretary of the state Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet.

Wilcher and Ludt push for laws to approve the legislation when they begin meeting in regular session on Tuesday.

A state-work comp fund, combined with increased regulatory scrutiny, should help prevent problems, Wilcher said.

LaJuana Wilcher said they support expanding coverage, although they hadn’t won specifics of the proposal.

“Count us in,” said Nick Nicholson, president of Keeneland’s Churchill Downs.

For instance, this month, the track asked all trainers who use the seven-to-fourteen-road to provide proof of insurance for any workmen’s comp, said Nicholson.

“Hey, what are we doing? Anybody, anything involving even ‘two-inch’ riders who might not otherwise be covered under a trainer’s policy,” he said.

“What we’ve learned is that this is the kind of problem that we should do everything we can to solve as much as we can, and then continue to stay vigilant,” Nicholson said. “There’s so much we can do.”


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