

Weekly Pile for Week of February 7 2011

Hey Folks (Horse Emailer's),

Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the Week of February 7, 2011, Extension's Equine related educational information & announcements for Rockingham & Guilford Counties. To have something included in the Weekly Pile, please follow these simple guidelines.

- Information included needs to be educational in nature &/or directly related to Rockingham or Guilford Counties.
- Please E-mail information to me by Wednesday each Week.
- Please keep ads or events as short as possible - with NO FORMATTING with NO unnecessary Capitalization's, and NO ATTACHED DOCUMENTS. (If sent in that way, it may not be included)
- Please include contact information - Phone, Email and a like.
- PLEASE PUT WEEKLY PILE IN SUBJECT LINE when you send in to me.
- THERE ARE NO CONTINUAL RUNNING SPOTS - Ads must be sent in each week
- The Weekly Pile is not for listings for Commercial type properties or products.

If I forgot to include anything in this email it was a probably an oversight on my part. BUT PLEASE, LET ME KNOW!

If you have a question or ideas that you would like covered in the Weekly Pile, please let me know and I will try to include. As Always - I would like to hear your comments about the Weekly Pile or the Extension Horse Program in Rockingham or Guilford Counties!

Included in This Weeks Pile:

1. Come On Monday Night - Extension Horse Management Short Course
2. Coyotes & Feral Dogs In Our Future? Part II March 10th
3. Virus affecting Horses in Western NC
4. Daily Care and Management
5. The Equine Digestive System
6. Grazing Management – We must change our Mind Set!
7. You Asked: Can horses graze on wheat?
8. Betsy-Jeff Penn 4-H Educational Center Looking To Lease Horses
9. Yellow Flower in Pastures
10. Help the Veterans at the VA Hospital - Bring In Your Magazines!
11. Hay Directory
12. Get Your Grazing Sticks
13. PLEASE SEND ME TOPICS THAT CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE PILE
14. Swap Shop - For Sale/Wanted - Equestrian Facilities Available
15. Take A Load Off

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1. Monday Night - 2011 Extension Horse Management Short Course

2011 Extension Horse Management Short Courses
Location: Guilford County Agricultural Center, 3309 Burlington Road,
Greensboro, NC 27405
Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Each Evening

This will be a Good One!

Monday, February 14 - Dressage Equitation & Hunt Seat Equitation
Cindy Sydnor, Braeburn Farms, Snow Camp NC

Monday, February 21 - Barefoot Hoof Health - Sandy Judy, Gibsonville NC

Monday, February 28 -

Saddle Seat Equitation -Mary Orr, High Caliber Stables, Kernersville, NC
Western Equitation - Kim & Dee Joyce Destiny Hill Farm, Greensboro NC

Monday, March 7 - Trail Riding & Safety

Shannon Hoffman, St.Clair Red Mule Farm, Zebulon NC

Monday, March 14 - Therapeutic Riding

Jan Clifford, Horsepower/ Piedmont Saddle Club, Colfax NC

Monday, March 21 - Natural Horsemanship

James & Kate Cooler, Cooler Horsemanship, Summerfield NC

Horse Management Committee - Randy Boles, David Dick, Sara Jo Durham, Steva Allgood, Rita Nott,
and Georgianne Sims

- Registration Fee: \$30 for entire series or \$5.00 per session.

- Registration Fee will be waived for 4-H members presenting an official current 4-H Program Membership ID Card.

For additional information,

Call Ben Chase, Rockingham & Guilford County Extension Livestock Agent,
North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service at [1-800-666-3625](tel:1-800-666-3625),
342-8235 or email - ben_chase@ncsu.edu.

In case of inclement weather, please call [1-800-666-3625](tel:1-800-666-3625) or 342-8235 for a recorded message.

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2. Coyotes & Feral Dogs In Our Future? Part II March 10th

Part II of the two-Part Educational Program aimed for the Northern Piedmont of North Carolina and Neighboring Counties in Virginia called "COYOTES AND FERAL DOGS IN OUR FUTURE?" will take place on March 10th for the purpose educating all that are interested about this growing concern.

On Thursday, March 10th - 7pm - Managing Coyotes and Feral Dogs.
To be held at the Rockingham County Agricultural Center, 525 HWY 65,
Wentworth, NC

This program will cover - Introduction and Laws affecting Coyotes and Feral Dogs, Presented by Barry Joyce, Master Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Rockingham County, also to be covered will be the History of Coyotes in the Northern Piedmont presented by Perry Sumner, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Wildlife Management Division, Section Manager Surveys/Research & Wildlife Diversity. Dr. Chris DePerno, Associate Professor of Wildlife Science and Wildlife Extension Specialist, North Carolina State University, will cover The Ecology and

Management of Coyotes and Feral Dogs on the Landscape with a Wrap-up. & Q&A session to follow.

The Sponsors for these programs are:North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service - Rockingham & Guilford Counties
USDA-APHIS, Wildlife Services, North Carolina Office
North Carolina Trappers Association
Hunting Advisory Committee, Rockingham County Board of Commissioners
Dumaine Farm Trust, Wentworth, NC
Area Cattlemans Associations, Area Sheep and Goat Producers, Area Poultry Producers, Area Horse Owners

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3. Virus affecting Horses in Western NC

The following message is not intended to spread panic or to spread misinformation. This message is simply for horse owners to be diligent in daily observation of your horses and maintaining your horses' health.

I have seen a couple of posting about a horse virus that has presented in western NC and its possible spread. From what I have read several horses got sick and a death occurred at a barn. Virginia Tech Veterinary Hospital has been involved and they feel it is an airborne virus. If the symptoms are recognized it is not difficult to treat. If not treated quickly horses can dehydrate quickly.

Symptoms may look like colic, horses may lose interest or go off feed & water, act lethargic, horses may look at its side and have increased gut sounds, may develop an impaction due to lack of drinking and slow capillary refill. Treatment has been IV fluids and Banamine.

Be aware of good husbandry practices and in your daily observation make sure animals are drinking and eating. (and how much consumed) Talk to your veterinarian about prevention and let them know quickly if you see any symptoms or anything that is not normal.

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4. Daily Care and Management

Horses require routine care and management to remain healthy and productive. Daily care should include good feeding and watering practices, daily grooming and exercise, good foot care and proper sanitation. By providing good care, horsemen can minimize the costs of health care and maximize their enjoyment of their horses.

Providing daily feed and water is essential for a healthy horse. Lots of clean water should be available at all times. Horses will normally drink 10 to 20 gallons of water per day. Horses may also need 5 to 10 pounds of grain and 10 to 20 pounds of hay per day to meet their nutrient requirements. Horses maintained on pasture will require less hay and grain. Horses should be fed according to their body condition. For example, a fat horse needs less feed, and a thin horse needs more feed.

Horses should be groomed daily to maintain a good hair coat and to minimize skin problems. Always brush your horse both with and against the lay of the hair to loosen the dirt and dandruff and bring out the natural oils in the skin. By brushing against the natural direction of the hair, the dirt and dandruff underneath the hair are loosened. Grooming also massages the hair coat and stimulates blood supply and releases the natural oil in the skin. The horse should be washed after exercise to remove sweat and dirt. Many skin problems are a result of poor grooming.

All horses need daily exercise to improve their mental and physical health. Horses that live in a closed environment have excess energy and may become nervous. Nervousness leads to stall vices. Inactive horses become dull, disinterested and may develop health problems. Research indicates horses will

travel seven to 14 miles per day in a pasture. If your horse is stalled, you should exercise him 30 minutes per day to keep him in good condition. In young growing horses or out-of-shape horses, exercise should begin very slowly and increase over a two- to three-month period. Your horse will be much more enjoyable if he is in good condition and feels like trying to perform for you.

Regular foot care is needed to maintain a sound horse. The feet should be cleaned daily and trimmed or reshod every six to eight weeks. The inner part of the foot, which is called the frog, must be in contact with the ground. The frog is largely responsible for pumping blood out of the foot and the maintenance of a healthy foot. Feet that become too dry and brittle will crack and cause lameness. Additionally, excess moisture will break down the outer covering of the foot and can cause cracks and lameness. Daily cleaning and care can alleviate most of these problems.

Daily cleaning of the horse's environment will reduce insect populations and reduce skin and foot problems. Horsemen should clean stalls daily to remove feces and wet bedding. At least once a month stalls should be cleaned to ground level and lime or disinfectant should be sprinkled on the ground to kill bacteria. Manure should be stockpiled and composted for two to three months to kill parasite eggs.

All horses should be vaccinated for contagious diseases and on a deworming program. By providing good health care and good daily management, horsemen will have many years of enjoyment from their horses.

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5. The Equine Digestive System

One of the greatest expenses of owning a horse is feed cost. This expense can be minimized by maintaining the health of your animal, feeding a balanced ration and purchasing feeds that fulfill all nutrient requirements.

Many problems with horses are a result of either overfeeding or underfeeding. Horsemen must understand the horse's digestive system.

Anatomy of the Digestive System

The digestive system of the horse is different than that of other farm animals. The horse's stomach is quite small. The stomach holds a maximum of 2 to 4 gallons, which is only about 8% of the horse's digestive tract. The small intestine makes up about 30% of the horse's digestive tract and is the major site of nutrient absorption. Approximately 65% to 70% of all nutrients are absorbed in the small intestine.

The feed passes through the horse's stomach and small intestine in one to two hours. In a normal system of digestion, grain and highly digestible nutrients are used in the stomach and small intestine.

The next structure in the digestive system is the cecum, which is basically a fermentation vat responsible for breaking down roughages, such as grass and hay, into useful energy for the horse. The cecum and the large intestine, known as the colon, make up almost 65% of the digestive tract but are responsible for only 25% of the nutrient absorption.

Dangers of Overfeeding

The small stomach and rapid rate of feed passage through the small intestine indicates that a horse must be fed relatively small amounts of feed on a regular basis. In nature, the horse is basically a continuous eater. The advantage of the rapid rate of passage through the stomach and small intestine is that, within a couple of hours after feeding, the horse can normally be ridden without danger of digestive problems.

If the horse is fed large amounts of grain, the undigested feed may move through the upper portion of the tract and overwhelm the lower gut. Grain that is passed into the cecum and large colon is fermented, which normally results in production of gas and gaseous colic. This can make horses susceptible to digestive problems if large amounts of grain are fed.

Feed and Forage Go Hand in Hand

The lower gut, namely the cecum and colon, is relatively inefficient in the digestive and absorptive process. As a result, it is difficult to feed horses on forage alone. Therefore, animals that have any additional requirement other than maintenance, such as performance horses, growing foals and lactating mares, will need additional high-quality feeds. High-quality hay and forage are needed to achieve adequate use.

Forages move through the digestive system more slowly than grains. By feeding hay before grain, the grain portion of the ration can be slowed down through the digestive system, and use of the grain is increased and the potential for overloading the hind gut is reduced. To use the digestive system of the horse properly, horsemen must feed high-quality forages and small amounts of grain regularly

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6. Grazing Management – We must change our Mind Set!

The timing of grazing has a long-term impact on your pasture. Grazing too early in the spring can reduce the yield potential of your pasture and is the most common pasture management mistake. Allow grass to grow before grazing a horse. This grass growth varies depending on the grass species. For example, allow orchardgrass/fescue to grow to a height of 6 to 8 inches before grazing is initiated. Grasses have different height requirements prior to the initiation of grazing.

Grazing Management is very important. A horse that is grazing should not remove more than 50 percent of the available forage. Simply put, if your horse eats 50 percent of the grass that was there prior to grazing, remove him and allow the pasture to rest approximately 30 days or until the grass regrows to the original height. This approach is called “take half and leave half.”

Divide your pasture into grazing cells to allow for rotational grazing. After a cell is grazed, move the animals to a fresh cell while the grazed cell rests and regrows. The improved management afforded by rotational grazing can greatly increase forage productivity, pasture health and decrease your feed bill.

The past few weeks, we have had 2 forage events that we discussed and saw controlled grazing. One farm that we went to during the Stockpiled fescue demonstration day, we saw a field that was grazed to the ground in July, and a field next to it that was managed and only grazed down to 3 inches. That field that was grazed to the ground has not recovered yet. While the field next to it grew back and had a good canopy. The sun and heat during July/August & September dried out the soil and roots because there was no cover or plant canopy to help maintain soil moisture. This is so important.

Have a sacrifice area or drylot where you put animals during times when the grass is not at the proper height to graze. (Or in times when its to wet) If you don't do this you will damage or kill your stand of grass. When this happens you will not only have to go to the expense of reestablishing your stand but you will have to buy more hay, because there is no grass to graze, and you will have to drylot horses or move to another location while the newly planted grass grows and gets roots established.

See the bottom of document for Grazing Suggestions

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7. You Asked: Can horses graze on wheat?

Wheat is an excellent cool-season annual grass that can be used for winter grazing. It is not a typical horse pasture species, but as with other cereal grains such as rye, barley, and oats, these forage species can be planted on an annual basis to help extend the grazing period. As with all forage crops, a major requirement for effective use of grazing wheat for horses is proper management. Potential extended periods of grazing are in late fall, early winter, and early spring when the primary forage species are dormant. In return, this could result in a 12-month grazing program if pastures are managed intensively. Wheat and other cereal grains are more cold-weather tolerant and can therefore survive and grow in colder temperatures. They can be planted as a single stand or can be overseeded into an established

pasture. Horses grazing cereal grains can be more prone to colic, laminitis, and founder, so it is important to limit their exposure, and the horse(s) must be monitored closely. In addition, if this species is planted as a single plot or pasture, horses should not be turned out when the soil is wet. If they are turned out when it is wet, there is high potential for them to tear up the pasture very easily because no sod is formed. So with proper management of both the crop and the horses, wheat can be an effective part of a grazing program for horses.

One more issue that can happen (and has been an issue here) is a small grain being mixed in hay. Most of you are probably aware of the physical appearance of the seed head of grains, there is a stalk and has the tightly formed cluster of plump kernels or seeds enclosed by a beard of bristly spikes. This beard of spikes is what can cause a problem with some grains. When eaten these spikes can stick in the gums and cause irritation along the gum-line.

I have seen pastures & hay fields, that at one time might have had small grain planted in them and you will see plants that remain years after in what are now pastures & hayfields. It could also be in the seed that planted in the pastures & hayfields. I refer to these plants as being wild. Example is like Wild Barley.

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8. Betsy-Jeff Penn 4-H Educational Center Looking To Lease Horses -

Keith Russell, Director of Betsy-Jeff Penn 4-H Educational Center is look to know folks who may be interested in leasing horses. They are looking for 15 horses, tack is not required as the camp provides this. The horses need to be shod and be delivered with the necessary vaccines, coggins test. The dates needed are roughly June 3 through August 12. Once the horses are on site the camp will pay for any vet bills, ferrier bills, etc. Keep in mind that these horses should be of good temperament and that they will be working with kids.

If you or someone you know of that may be interested please contact Keith Russell Director, Betsy-Jeff Penn 4-H Educational Center [336/349-9445](tel:336/349-9445) or www.bjpenn4H.org You will need to send your contact info and you will be sent a bid form. This form would have all the details and help you decide if you wanted to bid or not. They are willing to work with multiple sources to get up to 15 horses for camp.

Please contact Keith about this if you are interested.

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9. Yellow Flower in Pastures

Do you remember last spring when your pasture was a sea of yellow flowers? It was pretty as a picture, wasn't it? NO, then have you done something about it? The flower (weed) is buttercup, and spraying with an herbicide is the best way for control but it is too late to spray if you are seeing the flowers. Late February-early March is a good time to spray, since this is a winter weed.

You will need 3-4 consecutive days above 50-55° F, so do not go out and spray when it is 35 degrees outside then call me because you do not get good control. **SPRAY ON A WARM DAY.** You will have to spray 2-3 years to control the buttercup. **REMEMBER: READ ALL LABELS BEFORE YOU USE ANY CHEMICAL – KNOW THE RESTRICTIONS.**

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10. Help the Veterans at the VA Hospital - Bring In Your Magazines!

We are collecting magazines for Veterans in the VA Hospital. If you have any magazines that you have read and need to dispose of, please drop them off at the Farm Service Agency located in the Rockingham County Agricultural Center. (or at either one of my offices) There are women as well as men located in

this hospital and all variety of magazines is appreciated. This is an excellent way to 1) RECYCLE and save our environment and 2) boost the morale of the Veterans that have served our Country and protected our rights as Americans.

Thanks in advance for your contribution.

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11. HAY DIRECTORY - A Hay Directory is maintained by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service for the Rockingham County and Guilford County area. This directory is intended as a service to both hay producers and buyers in the area. If you are in need of hay or would like to be added (or removed) from this list please call me at [1-800-666-3625](tel:1-800-666-3625) or 342-8235 and let me know your name, address & phone #, type of hay, number of bales, (square or round bales) and weight per bale.

*Please let me know if you have Hay to Sell or looking to purchase!

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12. Get Your Grazing Sticks

Grazing sticks are handy tools that simplify the tasks of when to rotate animals on and off a pasture to graze, measuring pasture yield, and tracking changes in productivity. These are all critical aspects of good pasture management. Grazing sticks are a simple and useful tool for making immediate pasture management decisions, but also good records of pasture yield, grazing days, and other data will provide a means to evaluate past efforts to improve the system.

The grazing stick is a quick guide, so carry the stick with you whenever you check animals or move fences, you can quickly assess pasture regrowth and readiness for grazing. You will see the suggested starting height for grass species on the stick for height when to graze which ensures that forage is in a high-quality vegetative stage, and when to stop grazing height that ensures that some leaf tissue is available for grass regrowth. Removal of basal leaves will slow grass regrowth and limit yield. If pastures are growing quickly in the spring, you may need to harvest or clip them to keep them productive and in a high-quality condition.

If you wish to have one of these grazing sticks – please call or E-mail me for details! These are Great Management Tools!

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13. PLEASE SEND ME TOPICS THAT CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE PILE
THANKS

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14. Swap Shop - For Sale/Wanted - Equestrian Facilities Available –

- Pasture Board - NE Guilford \$150/mo. Good pasture, cross-fenced, run-in sheds, arena. Brought into 8-stall barn once daily to feed your grain. Tack room, hot & cold wash, trails in area. Call Sandy [336-584-5617](tel:336-584-5617) or larknspursandy@bellsouth.net.

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15. Take A Load Off – Brain Teasers

1 How can you arrange for two people to stand on the same piece of newspaper and yet be unable to touch each other without stepping off the newspaper.

2 How many 3-cent stamps are there in a dozen?

3 A rope ladder hangs over the side of a ship. The rungs are one foot apart and the ladder is 12 feet long. The tide is rising at four inches an hour. How long will it take before the first four rungs of the ladder are underwater?

4 Which would you rather have, a gallon jar full of nickels or a gallon jar half full of dimes?

5 Steve has three piles of sand and Mike has four piles of sand. All together, how many do they have?

6 In which sport are the shoes made entirely of metal?

7 If the Vice-President of the United States should die, who would be President?

8 How can you throw a golf ball with all your might and -- without hitting a wall or any other obstruction -- have the ball stop and come right back to you?

9 According to most state laws, the attempt to commit a certain crime is punishable, but actually committing the crime is not. What is the crime?

10 Find the English word that can be formed from all these letters:

PNLLEEEESSSS

11 How many times can you subtract 2 from the numeral 9?

12 If you take two apples from three apples, how many apples will you have?

13 If you are standing on a hard floor, how can you drop an egg three feet without breaking the egg?

(Scroll down for the answers)

ANSWERS:

1 Slide the newspaper half way under a closed door and ask the two people to stand on the bit of newspaper on their side of the door.

2 There are twelve (not four).

3 Actually, the ladder will rise with the ship!

4 Dimes are smaller than nickels, so choose the dimes!

5 When they put them all together, there will be one pile.

6 Horse racing.

7 The President.

8 Throw the ball straight up.

9 Suicide.

10 Sleeplessness.

11 Just once. Then you'd be subtracting 2 from the numeral 7, then 2 from the numeral 5, and so forth.

12 You will have two apples.

13 Hold the egg more than three feet above the ground when you drop it.

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I always want to know what you think of the Weekly Pile, good or bad, especially if it has had ANY IMPACT on you. Let me hear from you!

*****I NEED YOUR IDEAS FOR ARTICLES In FUTURE WEEKLY PILES!*****

I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

*Please remember our Troops who are serving our Country (and there families) those who have come home with wounds and the families that paid the ultimate sacrifice. We owe everything to those who are and have served! Thank You!

I hope that you all have a Great & Safe GREAT Weekend!

Ben

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Grazing Management

- 1) **Animal Needs Vs Plant Needs—Finding The Balance**
 - a) There has to be a compromise between what is good for the plant and what is good for the animal.
 - b) Never can obtain maximum plant yields and maximum nutritive value at the same time.
 - c) With control of green leaf defoliation, trampling, manure and urine distribution one can meet most nutrient needs of animals while maintaining plants.

- 2) **Understanding Animal Grazing Behavior (cattle, goats, sheep, horses)**
 - a) Because of differences in mouth anatomy, nutrient needs and social interactions, animals select what they eat differently.
 - b) Grazing two or more animal species in the same pasture can have positive benefits on plant utilization and acre output.
 - c) Young animals learn how to graze and what to eat from mothers
 - d) Observing animal behavior in various situations can be useful in making decisions that minimize the stress on animals.
 - i) When do they ruminate, when do they prefer to graze, where do they prefer to rest, how do they act when fully fed vs when they are hungry, what do they do when disturbed during rumination,
 - ii) What plants do they select when given plenty of choice?

- 3) **How To Get Started With Controlled Grazing?**
 - a) Taking the first step. Human nature is to accept change slowly. Begin by using only a small part of the farm. Subdivide pastures with temporary wire and plan a management schedule to allow the forage in each paddock to be grazed to the desired stubble in 1 to 3 days.
 - b) Consider developing "on paper" the most detailed or "elaborate" system you think you could possibly want to have, and in the end decide which of the parts you want to put into practice first
 - c) Just try something different tomorrow, like "squeezing" onto a smaller section of the pasture and observe what they do in the first 30 minutes and what they are doing in 2 hours.
 - i) Graze an area to the target height in one to 2 days
 - ii) Rest the area until plant growth is sufficient for regrazing.
 - iii) Have a place to put animals when pasture growth is not ready for grazing.

- 4) **Equipment Needed For Control Grazing**
 - a) An attitude...that you can do it.
 - b) Basic understanding of plant growth, animal needs and animal behavior
 - c) Electrical fencing to control animal use and behavior
 - d) Sufficient drinking water locations to keep animals distributed on the farm.

