

## Weekly Pile for Week of March 14 2011

Hey Folks (Horse Emailer's),

Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the Week of March 14, 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. Extension Horse Management Short Courses
2. Creep Feeding Provides Needed Nutrients to Nursing Foals
3. Basic Dental Care For Horses
4. Boarding Horses
5. You Asked
6. Free Pesticide Collection Day In Rockingham County
7. Open Fun Show April 2nd - Circle S Stables
8. Open Community Fun Show, April 16, @ Piedmont Saddle Club
9. Fun Open Horse Show May 14th Hardin's Farm and Stables
10. Hay Directory
11. Swap Shop - For Sale/Wanted - Equestrian Facilities Available
12. Take A Load Off

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1. Monday Night - 2011 Extension Horse Management Short Course  
Please support these Courses

2011 Extension Horse Management Short Courses – Don't Miss This Last One For 2011  
Location: Guilford County Agricultural Center, 3309 Burlington Road,  
Greensboro, NC 27405  
Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Each Evening

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](mailto: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. Creep Feeding Provides Needed Nutrients to Nursing Foals Dave Freeman, Oklahoma State University Extension Equine Specialist

A nursing foal's nutritional requirements will exceed the mare's ability to supply nutrients to the foal a few months after birth, making creep feeding a good way to get the young horse off on the right hoof. Many foals allowed access to grain will start to show interest in eating within a month of birth. If a mare's feed is soft and small enough, it is expected that foals will soon eat alongside a mare's trough. While milk will serve as the main source of nutrition for the first couple of months, unweaned foals older than three months to four months of age will need a substantial source of additional nutrition.

For unweaned foals older than three months

Given that adequate amounts cannot be assumed just by eating alongside the mare, Freeman recommends horse managers provide unweaned foals older than three months to four months of age access to a creep feed. Creep feeds are formulated to be nutrient-dense, highly palatable feeds that are easily digested by foals. Creeps can be fed as pellets or as coarsely processed grains. Most creep feeds are about 16 percent protein, and are formulated to contain about 0.6 percent to 0.8 percent calcium and 0.4 percent to 0.6 percent phosphorus.

Recommended schedules start with supplying a half-pound to 1 pound of creep feed per day for the first month, with expectations of increasing supplies as the foal grows through the next several months. Once fully on creep feed, expect consumption to be round 0.75 percent of the foal's body weight per day. Thus a 150-pound foal can be expected to consume approximately 10 pounds of creep feed per day. The amount of creep feed intake per day likely will increase to approximately 1.25 percent of the foal's body weight per day after a few months.

Feeding schedules and amounts will be dictated by the individuality of the foal and its growth. As long as processed feeds and forages can be chewed easily and are palatable, most foals will be eating diets characteristic of other horses within a few months of age.

Most foals can be allowed free-choice creep feed without fear of over-consumption being a problem. A foal's intake capacity generally will be lower than levels that will cause fat deposition or too-rapid growth. Of course, foals learn to eat feed through imitation. A foal that does not care to eat might be encouraged by placing a companion next to or with it, such as another foal, pony, goat or horse.

Feeder construction

The main concern in creep feed construction is to design it to be easily accessible to a foal while deterring the advances of the broodmare's attempts to get at the feed.

Openings into the creeps will need to be narrower than the width of a mare's chest while being wider than the foal's chest and hips. The height of openings likewise need to be lower than the wither height of a mare, but several inches taller than that of the foal.

Placement of a smooth top board that can be easily raised as the foal grows is one option  
Construction of a feeder that protects feed from rain and other environmental concerns will help maintain a fresh and safe supply of creep feed

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### 3. Basic Dental Care For Horses

By Dr. Jenifer Nadeau, Equine Extension Specialist, University of Connecticut

Dental checkups are essential for horses. As a horse becomes older, the shape and angle of its teeth begin to change and some problems may occur. Knowing what problem signs to look for will help prevent further dental problems. This article explains what an owner and an equine dentist should look for when examining a horse's teeth, based on the age of the horse.

When was the last time you had your horse's teeth checked? If you're like most horse owners, you may not be aware that all horses should receive a complete dental exam at least yearly, starting from their first year of life. By the time most horse owners recognize that a horse is having trouble eating or is losing weight, that horse's teeth may be severely abnormal.

Equine dentists or equine veterinarians that perform dentistry have to look for different situations in the horse's mouth at different stages of the horse's life. The following table lists situations that are most common at these stages.

Birth – 18 months

(should be examined at least once a year) Will be evaluated for:

- Defects that the horse may have been born with related to head symmetry or chewing function
- Proper eruption of teeth
- Incisor alignment
- Sharp enamel points on teeth
- Improper position and number of teeth
- Abnormal wear

18-52 months

(should be examined twice a year) Will be evaluated for:

- Eruption cysts in the gums over permanent teeth
- Gingivitis (inflammation of gums)
- Periodontal disease
- Loose or infected caps or cap slivers (A cap is the remnant of the crown of a deciduous tooth after the roots has been resorbed.)
- Sharp enamel points on the premolar, molar and wolf teeth (These are the first upper premolars that are not fully functional or formed.)
- Unequal eruption of permanent incisors
- Wolf teeth interference with bit
- Rounding of edges of front cheek teeth (first premolar) to keep biting comfortable

4-10 years

(should be examined once a year) Will be evaluated for:

- Contact and balance of bite surface
- Sharp enamel points on cheek teeth
- Sharp edges of cheek teeth which interfere with the bit
- Jaw balance
- Symmetry, contact, length and balance of incisors

10-18 years

(should be examined once a year) Will be evaluated for:

- Abnormalities of wear that can lead to abnormal crown wear, crown fracture and periodontal disease
- "Wave" mouth due to abnormalities of wear on central molars making teeth look wave-like
- Sharp enamel points on teeth that may require extensive correction (hooks,\* ramps\*\* or beaks\*\*\*)
- Balance of tooth alignment
- Length of canine teeth if needed

18 and older

(may need frequent oral exams and dental maintenance to keep mouth healthy)

- Periodontal disease (60 percent to 80 percent incidence)
- Tartar accumulation
- Gingivitis
- Tooth loosening
- Loss of grinding surface of teeth
- Abnormalities of wear
- Need for geriatric diet
- Sharp enamel points on teeth (hooks, ramps or beaks)
- Balance between upper and lower jaws

#### Signs of Dental Problems

These are signs that a horse is having problems with his teeth:

- long, unchewed particles of hay in manure
- changes in eating or drinking habits
- irregular movement of lower jaw
- bumps or enlargement on jaw/side of face
- abnormal tongue carriage
- sharp points on front of first lower or upper molars
- oral pain
- head shy
- quidding – dropping partially chewed food from mouth
- weight loss
- halitosis
- abnormal slurping sound during chewing
- food pocketing between teeth
- loosening and loss of teeth
- lacerations of cheek and tongue
- “hamster-like” cheek swelling
- very slow chewing
- inappetence
- holding head in abnormal position during eating
- using one side of the mouth for chewing
- reluctance to eat hay
- spending more time eating
- abnormal head carriage
- resistance to bit
- head shaking during work
- foul smelling, chronic nasal discharge from one nostril
- excess salivation
- bleeding from mouth
- swelling or distortion of lips
- tooth displacement

#### Equine Dentists

Next, you might be wondering how to go about selecting an equine dentist or equine veterinarian that specializes in dentistry. Keep in mind, some states only allow veterinarians to perform dentistry procedures. An equine dentist does not have to be certified; therefore, there is no universal standard of quality. You might consider checking to see if the equine dentist is a member of the International Association of Equine Dentistry, an organization of non-veterinary equine dental practitioners that has set certain standards. You may want to check to see if a veterinarian is a member of the American Veterinary Dental Society or has a fellowship in the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry. Additionally, the veterinarian could have taken continuing education classes in dentistry offered by the American Association of Equine Practitioners. Word of mouth or referral is another good way to find an equine dentist or veterinarian. Also, keep in mind, it's not unreasonable to meet with a dentist and watch the dentist work on another client's horse before making an appointment.

#### Summary

Hopefully, this information has enhanced your knowledge of equine dentistry and its importance. Please

do not attempt to perform dental procedures on your horse yourself. Seek an experienced equine dentist or equine veterinarian to undertake this necessary care for your horse. Proper dental care from the beginning of your horse's life can help eliminate problems before they start.

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#### 4. Boarding Horses

\*Boarding Horses\*. This publication was developed by the Small-scale and. Part-time Farming Project at \*Penn State\* with support from \*...\*

<http://agalternatives.aers.psu.edu/Publications/horses.pdf>

\*Beginning a Boarding Facility Business\*

<http://www.gaitedhorses.net/boarding.htm>

Horse Facilities Handbook

[http://extensionpubs.umext.maine.edu/ePOS?this\\_category=71&store=413&item\\_number=1059&form=s\\_hared3%2fgm%2fdetail.html&design=413&\\_session\\_info\\_=pzDeOCPJDhFd3KZchEQLhbrGnOZULdeHPI7O0WHUvRqwijNNUPozHq11OGd1%2bjq5XR655b44d%2fgLKpyxPE1%2fiNWTey4Ulv1Y](http://extensionpubs.umext.maine.edu/ePOS?this_category=71&store=413&item_number=1059&form=s_hared3%2fgm%2fdetail.html&design=413&_session_info_=pzDeOCPJDhFd3KZchEQLhbrGnOZULdeHPI7O0WHUvRqwijNNUPozHq11OGd1%2bjq5XR655b44d%2fgLKpyxPE1%2fiNWTey4Ulv1Y)

What to look for in a Horse Boarding Facility

<http://www.umext.maine.edu/onlinepubs/PDFpubs/1012.pdf>

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#### 5. You Asked: What is pigeon fever?

Common names: pigeon fever, pigeon breast, breastbone fever, dryland distemper, dryland strangles, false strangles, false distemper.

Geographic incidence: Endemic to California, but now found in most western states in the United States.

Seasonal: Usually appears in late fall but can appear sporadically at any time of year.

Cause: *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*.

Vaccine: None at this time.

Reservoirs and mode of transmission:

\* Can live in the soil and enter the horse's body through wounds or broken skin and through mucous membranes.

\* May possibly be transmitted by flies, including the common housefly and horn flies.

\* Disease is usually highly contagious and can easily infect multiple horses on the premises.

\* Bacterium in the pus draining from abscesses on infected horses can survive from 1 to 55 days in the environment. It has also been shown to survive from 1 to 8 days on surface contaminants and from 7 to 55 days within feces, hay, straw, or wood shavings.

\* Lower temperatures prolong the survival time.

Clinical signs:

\* Early signs can include lameness, fever, lethargy, depression, and weight loss.

\* Infections can range from mild, small, localized abscesses to a severe disease with multiple massive abscesses containing liters of liquid, tan-colored pus.

\* Deep external abscesses, swelling, and multiple sores develop along the chest, midline and groin area, and, occasionally, on the back.

Incubation period: Horses may become infected but not develop abscesses for weeks.

Animals affected:

\* The disease usually manifests in younger horses, but can occur in any age, sex, and breed.

\* A different biotype of the organism is responsible for a chronic contagious disease of sheep and goats, Caseous lymphadenitis, or CL. Either biotype can occur in cattle.

Disease forms:

\* Generally three types: external abscesses, internal abscesses, or limb infection (ulcerative lymphangitis).

\* The ulcerative lymphangitis is the most common form worldwide and rarely involves more than one leg at a time. Usually, multiple small draining sores develop above the fetlock.

\* The most common form of the disease in the United States is external abscesses, which often form deep in the muscles and can be very large. Usually these abscesses appear in the pectoral region, the ventral abdomen, and the groin area. After spontaneous rupture, or lancing, the wound will exude liquid, light tan-colored, malodorous pus.

\* Internal abscesses can occur and are very difficult to treat.

Diagnosis: Your veterinarian can easily collect a sample for culture at a diagnostic laboratory. It is important to isolate the bacterium to get a definitive diagnosis since pigeon fever can superficially resemble other diseases.

Treatment:

\* Hot packs or poultices should be applied to abscesses to encourage them to open. Open abscesses should be drained and regularly flushed with saline.

\* Surgical or deep lancing may be required, depending on the depth of the abscess or the thickness of the capsule, and should be done by your veterinarian.

\* Ultrasound can aid in locating deep abscesses so that drainage can be accomplished.

\* External abscesses can be cleaned with a 0.1 percent povidone-iodine solution.

\* Antiseptic-soaked gauze may be packed into the open wound.

\* A nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug such as phenylbutazone can be used to control swelling and pain.

\* Antibiotics are controversial. Their use in these cases has sometimes been associated with chronic abscessation and, if inadequately used, may contribute to abscesses, according to one study.

\* The most commonly used antibiotic for the treatment of this condition is procaine penicillin G, administered intramuscularly, or trimethoprim-sulfa.

\* In the case of internal abscesses, prolonged penicillin therapy is necessary.

Care required:

\* Buckets or other containers should be used to collect pus from draining abscesses, and this infectious material should be disposed of properly.

\* Consistent and careful disposal of infected bedding, hay, straw, or other material used in the stall is vitally important.

\* Thoroughly clean and disinfect stalls, paddocks, all utensils, and tack.

\* Pest control for insects is also very important.

Recovery time: Usually anywhere from 14 to 77 days.

Prognosis: Usually good with complete recovery, although some horses may experience recurrence.

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## 6. Free Pesticide Collection Day In Rockingham County

Do you have pesticides at your home or farm that you no longer need or use? If your answer is 'yes', then you'll be interested in the Rockingham County Pesticide Collection Day on Wednesday March 30, 2011.

The Rockingham County Extension Office, in cooperation with the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Pesticide Disposal Assistance Program, a NON-Regulatory and Cost-Free program, will be offering this Pesticide Collection Day for residents in Rockingham County and all of the surrounding North Carolina counties.

County Agricultural Extension Agent Kathryn Holmes will be the local contact for the event. The Collection will be from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at The Rockingham County Agricultural Center, 525 Hwy 65 Reidsville, NC 27320.

Nearly all pesticide products will be accepted at this amnesty collection event, including banned and out-dated pesticides. For pesticides with unreadable or missing labels, please contact the Cooperative Extension Office for instructions. Please save any portion of the label to help identify the material so you can be assisted with disposal. Unknown materials cannot be accepted.

For gas cylinders or containers greater than 5 gal in size, please contact the Extension Office BEFORE the Collection Day for special instructions and information. For tips on transporting the pesticides safely to the Collection event, contact the Extension Office.

Each year the Pesticide Disposal Assistance Program ([www.ncagr.com/PDAP](http://www.ncagr.com/PDAP)) visits between 40-50 counties to collect unwanted and unused pesticides through this NON-regulatory amnesty Program. This means that a Collection Day of this kind only happens about once every other year in each county!

Don't miss this pesticide collection opportunity in Rockingham County co-sponsored by NCDA&CS and the NCCES. For more information contact Kathryn Holmes, Rockingham County Agricultural Extension Agent at [\(336\) 342-8230](tel:336-342-8230).

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7. Open fun show - Western, English, Halter and Games  
Saturday April 2nd 9:00 am  
Classes \$5.00 each/\$45.00 all day  
Circle S Stables, 2339 Wagoner Road, Gibsonville, NC  
For a class list, email: [circleshorsestable@yahoo.com](mailto:circleshorsestable@yahoo.com)

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8. Open Community Fun Show, April 16, @ Piedmont Saddle Club in Colfax. No class entry fees; admission \$5 per person, \$5 per horse. Contact Jenny Taylor [919-323-9910](tel:919-323-9910) or [info@piedmontsaddleclub.org](mailto:info@piedmontsaddleclub.org). See [www.piedmontsaddleclub.org](http://www.piedmontsaddleclub.org) for class list, release form, sponsorship, directions, etc. Sponsorship info contact Carol Merritt [336-312-4149](tel:336-312-4149) or [ckmerritt@bellsouth.net](mailto:ckmerritt@bellsouth.net). Last year's attendance: over 600 people.

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9. Fun open horseshow Saturday May 14th 9:00 am  
Hardin's Farm and Stables - 8201 Millrun Rd Stokesdale NC 27357 for more information see website [www.cc-ha.org](http://www.cc-ha.org) or contact Steve Nelson at 688-8845 or Helen Isley 580-4532

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

- Looking for lesson horses for beginner riders. Lost my job of 20 yrs and trying to start teaching lessons. Horses will get excellent home and be used for lessons or my 7 yr old daughter to ride. I have 20 acres farm with a 12 stall barn.

Please contact Kim [336-549-8018](tel:336-549-8018), [ratherberidin45@gmail.com](mailto:ratherberidin45@gmail.com)

- Newly available: Sam the 10 year old TWH gelding, sweet mannered, 16 hands, chestnut with blaze and Finally, a 14.2 hand QH cross gelding that is dark chestnut. Both are current on shots and Coggins. See [http://www.reddogfarm.com/adoptable\\_animals\\_horses.html](http://www.reddogfarm.com/adoptable_animals_horses.html) for these and other horses that can be adopted through Red Dog Farm Animal Rescue. While you are there, check out our farm

animals, cats and dogs that are available for adoption too!

- 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](mailto:larknspursandy@bellsouth.net).

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12. Take A Load Off – (Thanks for this send in)

A Texas rancher was doing agricultural consulting for a farmer He asked the farmer about the size of his property, to which he replied, "About a mile square." When the farmer asked the Texan about the size of his ranch, the rancher explained that if he got in his pick-up truck at dawn and drove until sunset he would still be on his ranch. Not to be outdone, the farmer replied, "I used to have an old truck like that!"

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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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The use of brand names or any listing or mention of products or services does not imply endorsement by the NC Cooperative Extension Service nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned.

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<http://rockingham.ces.ncsu.edu/index.php?page=animalagriculture>

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