

Weekly Pile for Week of March 21 2011

Hello Everyone, (Horse Emailer's),

Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the Week of March 21, 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. Potential budget cuts involving Extension – YOUR HELP IS NEEDED
2. Sample Letter that you could use to send to Legislator's
3. Equine Dentists
4. University of Kentucky Reports Increase in Cases of Placentitis
5. Rains Are Hopefully Coming – Lets talk Grazing
6. Box Fan Recall Could Affect Horse Owners
7. You Asked
8. Free Pesticide Collection Day In Rockingham County
9. Can You Help?
10. Open fun show - Western, English, Halter and Games April 2nd Circle S Stables
11. Isley Ranch Stock Horse Invitational Series – Starts April 2nd
12. Cooler Horsemanship - April 2 Seminar Saturday at Fiore Farms
13. Equestrian Trail Alliance Meeting April 7
14. Open Community Fun Show, April 16, @ Piedmont Saddle Club
15. Fun Open Horse Show May 14th Hardin's Farm and Stables
16. Hay Directory
17. Swap Shop - For Sale/Wanted - Equestrian Facilities Available
18. Take A Load Off

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1. Potential budget cuts involving Extension

This is a time-sensitive issue, and the budget cuts being bandied about are in the range of 25-30% for Extension (which translates into huge job cuts), below is a letter written by Dr. Joe Zublena, CES Director, that can be used in communicating with elected officials in Raleigh. The state legislature will be discussing the education budget next week, so every little bit of input they receive will only help our cause. Because time is so short, either phone calls or emails will likely reach the legislators in time to have impact; snail mail may not do much good. The elected officials links are copied below:

Rockingham County Representation

<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/counties/counties.pl?County=Rockingham>

Guilford County Representation

<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/counties/counties.pl?County=Guilford>

- The CES budget is only 0.23% of the General Fund. The Research Budget is 0.30% of the General Fund. Combining these two with NCDA CS (0.31%) and NCA&TSU, the primary research, extension, marketing and development organizations supporting agriculture are only 1% of the General Fund. Agriculture is the #1 industry at \$74.3B and more than 688,000 jobs in the state. This data clearly shows a very frugal, effective and efficient system of support for such a significant and important industry in our state.
- A recent (March 2011) Council on Agriculture Science and Technology report showed North Carolina is among the states that has seen the greatest growth from 1960 through 2004 in agricultural output. In addition the report showed nationally that agricultural productivity is largely responsible for the fact that the percentage of U.S. household income spent on food has decreased from 22.3 to 9.5 percent at the same time that total food consumption increased. The report also points to studies that conclude that each dollar spent on public agricultural research returns \$32 to society.

Supporters of Cooperative Extension and the Agricultural Research Station

From: Joe Zublena

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Extension, Engagement, and Economic Development and
Associate Dean and Director for North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service

Dean Wynne informed us that the Higher Education Budget will be discussed next week. As you recall, this is where the College's Agricultural Programs which include the Cooperative Extension Service (CES) and Agricultural Research Service (ARS) budgets, reside. Per your previous requests, this note is to alert you that this weekend and next week is the time for greater action. There is no question that our budgets are in significant jeopardy.

Recent information from downtown has not been favorable for the University or us. Conversations for cuts are now in the range of 25 - 30%. For CES a 30% reduction is over \$13M which would require the closing of 300 - 400 positions. Similar cuts face research. Needless to say this would be devastating to our abilities to meet the current and future needs of our citizens. In 2010 CES reported over 5.8 million contacts.

In addition to general budget reduction issues, this week the Legislative Program Evaluation Division (PED) released a draft of their 2011 – 2012 Work Plan, Potential Projects. This list contains 42 programs being put on the table for the legislature to determine which should be studied. Alphabetical listing put agriculture as #1 and was cited as follows:

"1. Agricultural Research and Extension Services

This proposed evaluation will explore potential strategies to optimize agricultural services provided by the land-grant universities and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Together, 100 county Cooperative Extension Services, 18 agricultural research stations, the NC A&T University Farm, and 8 university field laboratories provide research and/or extension services. Other states, such as Nebraska, Virginia, and Wyoming have regionalized or otherwise restructured services to save costs. The total budget for entities that provide services to North Carolina farmers is approximately \$52.1 million".

Please note that Extension has now not only been linked to the Experiment Station review but of funds noted, approximately \$37M is from CES. In addition, the university and NCDA CS have had a synergistic relationship regarding the experiment stations for years and this topic has already been studied. Also note the regional extension concept is not as effective as local presence within counties and most states that have this system have significantly less local support and fewer significant impacts. NC currently has one

of the nation's highest support levels from local governments because we align and work hand and hand with them. This study will not be beneficial to agriculture or CES.

Here are the links to the joint legislative Planning and Evaluation non-standing committee members and the entire PED list of possible studies.

http://www.ncleg.net/gascrpts/Committees/Committees.asp?sAction=ViewCommittee&sActionDetails=Non-Standing_6354

<http://www.ncleg.net/DocumentSites/committees/JLPEOC/Minutes%20and%20Handouts/2011/3-22-2011/PED%20Potential%20Project%20Brief%20Descriptions%203-18.pdf>

Below are some additional key points that may be useful. Keep in mind every program we provide is at risk. When interacting with your legislators speak from the heart and about the programs you believe in and support within their and your districts.

- The CES budget is only 0.23% of the General Fund. The Research Budget is 0.30% of the General Fund. Combining these two with NCDCA CS (0.31%) and NCA&T SU, the primary research, extension, marketing and development organizations supporting agriculture are only 1% of the General Fund. Agriculture is the #1 industry at \$74.3B and more than 688,000 jobs in the state. This data clearly shows a very frugal, effective and efficient system of support for such a significant and important industry in our state.

- A recent (March 2011) Council on Agriculture Science and Technology report showed North Carolina is among the states that has seen the greatest growth from 1960 through 2004 in agricultural output. In addition the report showed nationally that agricultural productivity is largely responsible for the fact that the percentage of U.S. household income spent on food has decreased from 22.3 to 9.5 percent at the same time that total food consumption increased. The report also points to studies that conclude that each dollar spent on public agricultural research returns \$32 to society. Information from this report validates that agricultural research and extension is a significant value to society and our efforts in NC have been one of the best in the country. This was not by accident, we've had a state that understood the importance of agriculture and invested in its future through CES and ARS.

- Research today provides adaptability, economic development, competitiveness and sustainability for our state's future. Most research takes 4-10 years to provide reliable outcomes. Adoption of that research by producers and adaptation of the research for local conditions occur through Extension.

- 4-H is one of the Nation's premier youth development programs. Compared to their peers, youth engaged in 4-H: stay in school longer, have higher graduation rates, have higher college attendance and graduation, smoke less, have significantly lower rates of criminal conduct and arrests, and are more involved in their communities. In 2010 NC 219,000 youth and 22,000 volunteers participated in 4-H. Youth in 4-H make significant contributions throughout the state and will be our future leaders just as many of our 1,000,000 4-H alums are leaders in their communities today.

- Since the early 1900's NC communities have had strong leadership through the efforts of rural women participating in home demonstration clubs and now Extension and Community Associations. We will be celebrating their 100th anniversary this year and their accomplishment are many including the development of rural libraries and book mobile programs, establishing hot lunch programs in NC rural schools, selling more than \$2M in war bonds for the WWII hospital ship, Larkspur whose total cost was \$4M and helping bring electricity to rural NC. Today's Family and Consumer Sciences Extension programs train women in leadership development and empower them to publicly address family and community issues, provide education for their families on financial management, energy conservation and nutritious and safe food preparation.

We appreciate your continued support for Extension and Research within your College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Your efforts today will shape the future!

Rockingham County Representation

<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascrpts/counties/counties.pl?County=Rockingham>

Guilford County Representation

<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/counties/counties.pl?County=Guilford>

Anything you can do as individuals will be appreciated during this budget crunch time. Thank you for your continuing support of Extension and its activities.

Feel free to use the following letter in #2

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2. Sample Letter That you could use to send to Legislator's

Dear (LEGISLATOR'S NAME)

My name is And I am a farmer (Horse Owner) in County. I want to express my concerns about the state's budget and the impact budget cuts will have on the NC Cooperative Extension Service. I use Cooperative Extension and their programs on a regular basis. I rely on their unbiased research information and their guidance as I adopt new practices to improve my farm and bottom line. They are reliable and an asset not only to me but my community and thus the state.

I realize the size of the rural and agricultural vote in NC is not very large but the contributions we collectively provide to the state are significant and disproportional for the small investment in the agencies that support us. Agriculture is the largest economic business in the state at \$74B and it is (the/one) leading businesses in my county. The local agriculture dollar also stays in the community and has significant multiplier affects.

The state investment in agricultural with Cooperative Extension and the Agricultural Research Service in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is only 0.53% of the General Fund. And as I understand it, including NCDA still has a total investment of less than 1% of the general fund. These agencies support agriculture and me and reducing their abilities to solve our on farm problems, to seek new production information and to develop new cultivars affects me and my ability to make a living.

Agricultural Extension and Research are separate funding lines in the state's Educational budget under the UNC System and under NC State University. Cooperative Extension is budget code 16032 and Agricultural Research is budget code 16032. I understand that there are difficult decisions to be made, but the Cooperative Extension Service and Agricultural Research Service are cost effective and provide significant benefits to our state. NC agriculture is where it is today because our former legislators made wise decisions to support it. It is the gleaming light in today's economy for our state and nation. Please don't dim our future!

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3. Equine Dentists

Kim D. Gemeinhardt, DVM

It's very important that everyone knows that not just anyone can be an equine dentist! Only a veterinarian is legally allowed to do dentistry on animals. There are no qualified certification programs and there is no such thing as an equine dentist who does not have DVM behind their name!

If you have any questions about this please call me or you can check with Mr. Mickey at the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board.

Thomas Mickey
Executive Director
North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board
[\(919\) 854-5601](tel:9198545601)
Fax [\(919\) 854-5606](tel:9198545606)
Mailing address: P. O. Box 37549 Raleigh, NC 27627

Kim D. Gemeinhardt, DVM
Latitude 36 Mobile Veterinary Services
Germanton, NC
lat36x@aol.com

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4. University of Kentucky Reports Increase in Cases of Placentitis

The University of Kentucky Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center and Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory report an increase in the number of cases of fetuses and placentas submitted to the laboratory and diagnosed with nocardioform placentitis.

Affects late gestation mares.

This is a unique form of bacterial placentitis affecting late gestation mares, causing abortion, stillbirth or foals born alive but compromised. This form of placentitis was first diagnosed in central Kentucky in the 1980s and has also been reported in other areas of the United States and abroad.

The number of nocardioform placentitis cases fluctuates from year to year. How mares become affected has not been determined. Nocardioform placentitis is typically a sporadic occurrence on the farm, however, and there is no evidence affected mares pose a risk to other mares in their herd.

Mares experiencing nocardioform placentitis breed back normally and are not at an increased risk for reoccurrence in subsequent pregnancies. While the number of cases has increased this year, incidence within the overall population of mares is very low, with less than 1 percent abortions reported.

Likely to return to average levels

According to researchers at UK, based on past observations, it is likely that the number of cases will return to average levels in future years.

The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory's epidemiology section constantly surveys the occurrence of animal diseases, and trends are immediately noted and monitored. A detailed epidemiological study is currently underway to identify risk factors associated with nocardioform placentitis.

"The VDL has constant surveillance for trends and emerging problems that allowed for early identification of the increase in placentitis cases. We will continue to monitor for the occurrence of this and other problems through epidemiology and diagnostic testing," said Neil Williams, professor and the laboratory's associate director. "The increased capabilities for surveillance we have built in the past several years allow us to catch syndromes early."

A survey will be sent to farm managers in the near future, and results will be used to complete a first-line analysis for risk factors. UK will then distribute a report of the findings.

According to Mats Troedsson, director of the Gluck Center and chair of the department of veterinary science at UK, the Gluck Center, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and area veterinarians are currently engaged in collaborative research to better understand, diagnose and treat this type of placentitis better, as well as placentitis in general.

Farms are encouraged to submit to the lab any fetus (including placenta) that is aborted, as well as placentas from any live foalings where the placenta is judged to be abnormal or the foal is compromised. This is to understand the scope of the situation better and to provide research data.

To assist farms during this time of economic challenge, through support from the Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders and the College of Agriculture Department of Veterinary Science, the cost of examination of placentas from presumptive cases of nocardioform placentitis will be waived. It is important to limit the submission of placentas to those that are judged to be abnormal.

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5. Rains Are Hopefully Coming – Lets talk Grazing

A. Grazing - After a dry September and dry winter– perennial forages are still under some stress.

1. Avoid overgrazing: do not graze canopy to less than 3-4 inches.
2. Wait for the canopy to reach 8 inches before grazing. This will improve total yield over the season and improve the plant stand – especially by helping the pasture plants compete with weeds.
3. Intensive rotational grazing (moving the animals every 1-2 days) allows more animals to live off a particular pasture acreage--because moving animals frequently optimizes regrowth.
4. Be cautious with seeding investments. Definitely split fertilizer applications (if applying ...).

B. Hay

In the piedmont and coastal plain drought is expected to persist, intensify or develop this spring, and NC summer is often dry. This will pressure pastures and hay supplies.

Consider buying hay now (2010 crop) if available. Livestock producers who are stocked near carrying capacity (1 - 1000 lb animal/2 acres) and do not want to cull heavily (in the event of drought) are particularly advised to purchase hay now.

Local hay is preferable, but if unavailable ship or rail freight hay in from the west (or north) . Last year (2010) was a good hay year for much of the US. Commercial hay producers need to open storage space for spring 2011 crops. Stored properly (off the ground and covered) hay will hold its quality for several years. "Good" quality commercial hay is all that is needed for beef cows or pleasure horses. Check the markets and rail freight options (the closest hay is not always the best value). Negotiate with hay producers based on bale weights (TONS) not on bale numbers and dimensions. Large squares are most efficient for shipping.

Below are recent prices for hay coming from Iowa and Pennsylvania. Note how the choices of hays and prices differ.

2011 Hay Price Update

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pocahontas/news/hayprices.ht>

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6. Box Fan Recall Could Affect Horse Owners

<http://www.thehorse.com/ViewArticle.aspx?ID=17985>

These fans are commonly used in barns. There is an electrical problem that causes these box fans to CATCH FIRE.

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7. You Asked: My horses are stalled at night with turnout during the day. What should you do during bad weather? Stall them or turn them out? I get really worried during times of bad weather and the tornado warnings.

There is no one answer to this question other than, put them where they will be the safest. If they are put outdoors, flying debris and the

horses own instinct to flee could be a problem. Horses may run through fences or be struck by falling trees. By placing horses in the barn you minimize the chances of them being struck by flying objects. If the barn is located away from trees, you have eliminated another factor. Basically, by putting horses in the barn you are protecting them from everything but fire and tornado/flat-line winds. Disconnect power to the barn to prevent electrical fires. Each horse owner need to make their own decision based on their situation at the time. So do a assessment of your barn/farm.

A little planning and knowledge of your own personal situation will go a long way toward protecting your horses.

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8. 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) 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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9. Can You Help? Mike and Danette Strouse have rescued and been caring for a group of abandoned horses in Davie county. When they were abandoned, the stallions and mares were left together resulting in several pregnant mares. Tuesday night (3/22), one of the mares died while foaling. Mike and Dani were able to get colostrum into the baby, and have been bottle feeding him but we need to find a mare that either lost a foal or one who might accept this little guy. Since Dani and Mike are busy with the baby (and 4 other mares that are just about ready to foal), any help would be appreciated. If you know of a mare or someone who might be able to help, PLEASE CALL and leave a message. Contact number [336-816-0661](tel:336-816-0661) Dr. Danette Strouse-McCandless.

The website (email contact) for Mike's business is www.strousehouse.zoomshare.com. I know this is a big request but if you know of someone who can help, please contact the Strouses. Thank you.

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10. 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

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11. Isley Ranch Stock Horse Invitational Series - Shows will be held on the 1st Saturday of each month beginning April 2nd through November 5th, 2011 @ 1 pm at the Isley Ranch Arena, 105 Driftwood Road, Reidsville, NC.

Belt buckles will be given to the Year End Champion in each division – Open, Amateur & Youth and Walk-Trot

This series is a great competitive stepping stone for any Stock Horse exhibitor with any experience level and of any age and is open to all breeds of stock horses. Entries are limited, so if anyone is interested in participating, please call Jim on his cell ([336-669-9548](tel:336-669-9548)) for availability.

We have classes in each division in the following events: Ranch Trail, Ranch Riding, Stock Horse Cutting, Sorting, Reining, Ranch Cutting, Barrels, & Poles, Showmanship and Halter.

There is no spectator fee and we welcome everyone to come out for a family affair. There is no alcohol allowed. It is great competition and lots of fun! Visit our website at www.jimisley.com for more information and class list.

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12. Cooler Horsemanship Upcoming Events
Saturday, April 2 11:00am-1:00pm
Seminar Saturday at Fiore Farms
Come out and learn how our program can be applied to enhance the relationship with you and your horse. \$5.00/person
April 29-May 1 - Level 1/2 Weekend Horsemanship Clinic
Friday evening overview/demo - 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Saturday and Sunday Clinic - 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Auditors welcome - Friday Free. \$15/Day or \$20/Weekend

May, 7 2011
Spring Show at Fiore Farms
Save the date, more information to come

Visit www.CoolerHorsemanship.com for more information.
kate@coolerhorsemanship.com [843-304-3407](tel:843-304-3407)

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13. Equestrian Trail Alliance Meeting April 7

Equestrian trail alliance of Guilford county, next meeting April 7th 6:30 pm Kathleen Clay Library located at 1420 Price Park Road Greensboro NC. Will be discussing Bryan Park trail clearing days, If you have questions or need more information please contact Betsy Rice at [336-307-1092](tel:336-307-1092).

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14. 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 orinfo@piedmontsaddleclub.org. See 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. Last year's attendance: over 600 people.

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15. 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 or contact Steve Nelson at 688-8845 or Helen Isley 580-4532

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

- Newer horse boarding facility located off HWY 61 in Gibsonville. New Barnmaster barn added in fall 2010. Facility includes 12 by 12 stalls, lighted ring and round pen, automatic water's, individual locked tack stalls and individual pastures, bathroom, lounge with refrigerator, wash pit with hot and cold water. Full board \$275- includes feed, hay and turnout daily, and stalls cleaned. Offering additional services like trailering, lessons and training for an additional fee. Call [336-215-9913](tel:336-215-9913) for more information. Visit us online www.straituphorses.com

- Saddle seat Clothes For Sale – Show & schooling quality Kentucky Jodhpurs, with & without suede knee patches, black & navy sizes 28 Long-32 Long; Carl Meyers custom 4 piece suit (hounds tooth w/brown jods/vest, cream shirt) size ladies 12-14 \$525.00; Reed Hill Day coat (linen blend-oatmeal/tan) size 16(runs smaller) \$175.00; 2 - Custom Navy 3 piece suits sizes 8 & 10-12 \$150.00 each; Black/red reversible vest, size 14 \$50.00; sequined butterfly pleasure driving top \$50.00; various vests, shirts, more day coats,etc Contact Terri Aprile [336-698-0207](tel:336-698-0207) or shoponys@gmail.com

- Equine Sports Massage Therapy –Get ready for show season!! - Improve your horses performance with massage/physical therapy for your Equine Athlete (stiffness, soreness, injuries, disposition, etc.) or if you feel your horse just needs a good massage. All sessions are performed at your facility. I have been certified from Equissage since 1994. Terri C.Aprile, ESMT at [336-698-0207](tel:336-698-0207). References available upon request. Open to all disciplines and breeds.

- Bagged Pine Shavings for sale \$4.25+tax per bag, heavy vacuum sealed bags. Contact Tony Aprile

at [\(336\) 698-0207](tel:3366980207)

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

A little boy was in a relative's wedding. As he was coming down the aisle, he would take two steps, stop, and turn to the crowd. While facing the crowd, he would put his hands up like claws and roar.

So it went, step, step, ROAR, step, step, ROAR, all the way down the aisle. As you can imagine, the crowd was near tears from laughing so hard by the time he reached the pulpit.

When asked what he was doing, the child sniffed and said, "I was being the Ring Bear."

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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

North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students, or employees based on race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, age, or disability. Moreover, North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University is open to people of all races and actively seeks to promote racial integration by recruiting and enrolling a larger number of black students. North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University regards discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation to be inconsistent with its goal of providing a welcoming environment in which all its students, faculty, and staff may learn and work up to their full potential. The Universities values the benefits of cultural diversity and pluralism in the academic community and welcomes all men and women of good will without regard to sexual orientation.

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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Ben Chase

Rockingham and Guilford County Extension Agent
Agriculture & Livestock

North Carolina State University

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Email : ben_chase@ncsu.edu

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