

Weekly Pile for Week of April 4 2011

Hey Everybody, (Horse Emailer's),

Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the Week of April 4, 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. Older Overweight Horse
2. Wood Chewing
3. You Asked
4. Fire Danger
5. NCDA&CS works to control invasive plant species
6. Rockingham County Clean Up Week
7. Huge Tack Yard Sale Benefit April 9
8. Tack/Clothing Consignment Sale April 9 Flintrock Farm
9. Cooler Horsemanship Upcoming Events
10. Guilford County Spring Clean-up
11. Open Community Fun Show, April 16, @ Piedmont Saddle Club
12. Fun open horseshow Saturday May 14th Hardin's Farm and Stables
13. Hay Directory
14. Swap Shop - For Sale/Wanted - Equestrian Facilities Available
15. Take A Load Off.

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1. How do you deal with the older overweight horse that does not get a lot of exercise (work) and is being fed “diet” food.

Dr Bob Mowrey, NCSU Extension Horse Husbandry

With the older horse ~ 18years young , she is a senior horse and as such should be fed a concentrate mix formulated for a senior horse. If you would like a copy of the fact sheet on feeding the senior horse let me know & I will send it to you.

The regulation of body weight can be achieved two ways. The preferred way is free choice exercise plus routine conditioning. This would permit the owner to maintain the concentrate intake at the current level and use the gradual increase in exercise to burn stored fat as energy thus reducing body weight. Using this method it should be done gradually over 2-4 weeks.

A second method to reduce body weight is through body condition scoring [B.C.S.] Determine the current BCS. Plan to adjust that condition score down to an ideal score of 6-6.5. For each condition score you wish to reduce by, lower the concentrate intake by 20% and you will achieve one body condition score lower in 14 days [2 weeks]. For example, if her horse is an 8 and she wants a 6 she would reduce by 2 condition scores .

[2 condition score x 20% reduction = a 40% Reduction required in concentrate intake] . Using this method, it would take 2 weeks per condition score or a total of 4 weeks to achieve the 6.0 B.C.S. Using this method would allow to owner to continue to feed the same diet. However, once the BCS of 6.0 is reached I would switch to a senior concentrate mix over a 7-10 day period.

The final question is way did the horse originally get too fat ? Most often it is feeding either too high of intake of the concentrate mix or feeding a concentrate diet that is too high in energy. So decrease concentrate intake while either maintaining or increasing forage intake would be one answer. Senior horse requires higher quality, more immature digestible forages then mature horses.

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2. Wood Chewing

Horse wood chewing is not a terribly worrisome vice, but it is important that you take steps to cure it immediately when you detect it. Also ensure your horse is indeed a wood chewer and not a cribber, because cribbing is an entirely different problem that is far more difficult to combat.

Why would horses be chewing wood, and how do I stop it?

It could be the result of boredom. This is normally seen when horses are stalled for long periods of time or when they do not have adequate grazing available in paddocks. However, it is more likely due to a lack of fiber intake, which reduces the scratch effect in the horse’s hindgut. The horse’s gastrointestinal (GI) tract contains a microbial population located in the cecum of the large intestines. The microbes, bacteria, protozoa, and fungi produce an enzyme cellulase that

digests fiber. In normal feeding situations, the enzyme consumes higher quality (immature forage) fiber that causes increased microbial activity in the cecum and digestion. However, if a low amount of fiber reaches the cecum, the microbes are less active, and gut motility decreases throughout the horse's GI tract. The horses will attempt to consume additional fiber (wood, hair, and sometimes dirt) to restore normal GI tract motility. Feeding at 1.5% to 1.75% of body weight with a long-stem fiber, such as alfalfa, other legumes, and certain grasses, will normally prevent wood chewing. Finer stem forages, such as coastal bermudagrass, may have to be fed at higher intake levels to eliminate wood chewing.

To keep wood chewing from developing into a life long habit and to prevent a horse from "discovering" cribbing, provide the horse a well-balanced ration with minerals and plenty of long-stem hay for roughage, especially during cold, wet weather. Horses who are satiated with roughage are much less likely to chew wood. Be sure the horse gets plenty of exercise, with time out on pasture if possible.

If you are serious about stopping wood chewing (Not Cribbing)

You can try to protect all wood that the horse comes in contact with. You can do this by covering the wood with sturdy metal edging (angle iron) or use electric fence to keep the horse away from the fence rails altogether. Since wood chewing is not the same as cribbing, metal strips along the wooden edges of doors and stall windows will stop a horse from chewing.

There are several chemical products available to reduce wood chewing. Their effectiveness is variable. As a rule the products appear to work on about 75% of the horses. Unfortunately there is little research in this area.

Products like Chew Stop And Related Products may work but is mostly a temporary solution and \$. Chew Stop (and similar products like Dycosote, available in dark brown and clear) are non-toxic sprays and paints that can be applied to wood, thereby giving the wood a foul taste and scent that will turn off horses. It can be applied to trees.

Unfortunately, these sprays must be re-applied approximately once a month inside the stable and once every two to three weeks outdoors depending on the harshness of the elements. Chew Stop has the advantage of being usable on awkward portions of wood that can't be protected with an electric fence or metal strips (i.e., a tree).

Quitt is a feed through that has a high efficacy rate within 7 days. Quitt provides a combination of essential vitamins, micro and macro minerals and fatty acids. In theory, a deficiency of those nutrients could cause wood chewing. In short, correcting a nutrient deficiency is the starting point to limiting wood chewing. It is a pelleted product using alfalfa as a binder. The pellet is very palatable and has a guarantee to work or your money back.

A great place to see the difference b/n wood chewing & cribbing

<http://www.extension.org/pages/10284/abnormal-horse-behavior>

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3. You Asked: I have a horse that eats bark off trees. Is this bad for him?

Eating the bark of trees is not ideal for horses. Bark eating is seen most often during the late winter and early spring months. Some horses eat other things (i.e., soil, fences, etc.) because they are bored; others may have a nutrient deficiency causing them to crave odd things in their diet, possibly one of the minerals such as phosphorus. However, in most cases, horses seem to chew because they like it. Wood chewing occurs in the late winter and early spring because this is the time when cool-season grasses have the lowest fiber content. Consequently, by chewing wood, the horse may be making up for some of the lack of bulk or fiber.

It also has been reported in controlled research that horses increase wood chewing during wet and cold weather. The wetness softens the wood. The coldness increases the maintenance energy requirements to maintain normal body temperature. Fiber digestion is essentially a fermentation that produces heat which can be used to maintain body temperature or warmth. Therefore, the increased fiber intake from wood may actually increase fermentation and heat production in the horse to maintain normal body temperature. Bark consumption is generally not harmful to the horse. Splinters from fences, however, may cause potential gastric complications that may cause a horse to colic.

For horses, the most effective option is some sort of physical barrier around the tree(s). This would usually entail some sort of fencing that will keep them away from the tree, whether it is due to distance (circumference) or using electric fence or tape. Horses may be more likely to entertain themselves at the expense of your trees if they do not have decent pasture available, adequate space, or adequate exercise

Make sure horse has plenty of hay or other palatable horse-appropriate feeds that would help keep him from eating the bark on trees.

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4. Fire Danger - I was sent this from a couple of sources and wanted to include for the purpose of keeping fire safety on everyone's mind.

Early morning April 5, a barn fire destroyed the main barn belonging to long-time Arabian breeding farm, Oasis Arabians, located near Cincinnati, OH. The farm, co-owned by Deborah Crosby and Nancy Brant, was home to over 40 beloved Arabian horses that exhibited in reining, working cow, cutting, and competitive driving, among other disciplines. As of this writing, 24 horses were lost, with 16 surviving, 2 of whom are currently at Rood and Riddle under veterinarian care. Virtually everything else, including feed, hay, tractors, equipment, tools and carriages, was lost in the blaze.

Obviously, there are many items that will be needed to care for the remaining horses and continue the day-to-day operations of the farm, as well as substantial rebuilding and replacement costs. Donations to benefit the farm and family can be made on-line by going to <http://www.horsemensdistressfund.com/how-you-can-help/>, where you will find a Pay Pal button through which you can make a secure credit card donation. To earmark your donation towards the fire fund, simply then send an e-mail to mary@trowbridgesltd.com that includes the electronic receipt provided by Pay Pal with a note to earmark your donation for Oasis Arabians. If you prefer to donate via check, make a check payable to The Arabian Horsemen's Distress Fund with an Oasis Arabians notation with it, to

The Arabian Horsemen's Distress Fund

236 Henry Sanford Road

Bridgewater, CT 06752

The Arabian Horsemen's Distress Fund is a separate, restricted fund with 501c3 charitable status managed by a five person board. The family will be supplied a list of all who have donated, and all of the monies collected will be available to them in order to rebuild and replace what has been lost. During these times when our worst fears as horsemen are realized, one of the few saving graces is the support that generates among fellow Arabian horse-owners from around the world. Every donation matters, regardless of amount-thank you in advance for being A Horseman Who Helps.

5. NCDA&CS works to control invasive plant species

Dr. Stephen Schmidt, Plant Pest Administrator,

NCDA&CS Plant Industry Division

[919\) 733-6930, ext. 231](tel:9197336930)

It's Invasive Plant Awareness Week in N.C.

RALEIGH Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler wants you to think about kudzu and other invasive plants this week, because it's the first Invasive Plants Awareness Week in North Carolina. Troxler also hopes you'll take note of the critical role the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services plays in preventing the introduction, establishment and spread of all invasive species in the state. In fact, he would like it if word of his department's work spread like, well, kudzu.

Invasive species include weeds, insects and diseases not native to the state that have the capacity to greatly harm agricultural and natural resources. Examples include kudzu, hydrilla and beach vitex. Estimates place the cost of invasive species in the United States at more than \$137 billion each year.

“The least costly way to control invasive species is to prevent them from being introduced and becoming established,” Troxler said. “As we've seen with kudzu, once invasive species are established and begin to spread, it's much harder to get rid of them.”

The department's Plant Industry Division coordinates preventive programs to assist plant nurseries, garden centers, farmers and the public in guarding against the impacts of invasive species. As part of its monitoring activities, the division's staff registers and inspects more than 1,800 plant nurseries and nearly 3,000 retail locations that sell plant material. These inspections ensure plants and related material produced and sold in North Carolina remain free of invasive species that might trigger plant quarantines, Troxler said.

For more information about invasive species in North Carolina, along with ways you can help prevent their introduction and establishment in your area, visit www.ncinvasivespecies.org.

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6. Rockingham County Clean Up Week

From: Jack Brinkley, Solid Waste Program Manager, Rockingham County Environmental & Engineering Services

The Environmental & Engineering Services Department and Keep Rockingham County Clean & Green (Beautification Council) are joining forces to plan for an annual "Clean Up Week" for Rockingham County residents who participate in this program. Judy Wall, Chair of Keep Rockingham County Clean & Green, has requested and the Board of Commissioners has approved the week of April 11 to April 16, 2011 for this year's annual event. With the approval, tipping fees for County residents will be waived at the Rockingham County Solid Waste Management Facility (Landfill), in order that citizens can clean up around their respective residential properties and dispose of their discarded items and wastes at the Landfill at no charge.

The following conditions and restrictions will apply to the "Clean Up Week" event.

- The following items are banned from disposal at the Solid Waste Facility: aluminum cans, auto batteries, liquids, used oil, used oil filters, antifreeze, paint, hazardous waste, pesticides, whole scrap tires, wood pallets, asbestos, drums, barrels, pressurized containers, yard waste, and appliances/scrap metals. RECYCLING is provided for aluminum & steel cans, auto batteries, antifreeze, used oil, used oil filters, whole scrap tires, clean wood waste, appliances & scrap metals and these named items will be accepted for recycling. Glass (clear, brown, & green)bottles, jars, & jugs, news paper, mixed paper, cardboard, plastic (bottles, jars, & jugs), 20 Lb. propane tanks, and wood pallets, can also be recycled. Bulk oil recycling (drums) is scheduled for Wednesday morning, April 13th from 8:00 AM to 12:00

noon at the Facility.

- Regular residential solid waste will be accepted for disposal from County residents, and items from the usual municipal "clean up" collections programs conducted during the "Clean Up Week". Waste from "clean up" collection programs conducted by DOT will be accepted during the separately designated Spring Litter Sweep. However the municipalities and DOT must receive prior approval from the E & E Services office prior to the "Clean Up" week.

- Recyclable materials including scrap tires, appliances & scrap metal, antifreeze, used oil, used oil filters, wood pallets, clean wood waste, and auto batteries must be separated from other solid waste materials brought for disposal. These materials should be brought on loads separate from wastes brought for landfill disposal. During "Clean Up Week" only, a maximum of 25 scrap passenger tires per each County resident or approved clean up campaign will be accepted for processing during this week. Prior approval must be requested and received from the E & E Services office for special clean up of more than 25 tires.

- No "Commercial" solid waste material will be accepted for free disposal during the week. This includes shingles, remodeling and construction materials, demolition materials and other waste so recognized as commercial waste. No industrial waste will be accepted for free disposal. No animal carcasses will be accepted for free disposal.

- Commercial haulers of residential waste will not be allowed free disposal.

- Residents are urged and encouraged to remember those charitable organizations such as the Salvation Army, Goodwill and church & civic groups who may provide benefit to those less fortunate with donations of usable discarded items. These are good recycling efforts and avoids disposal in the Landfill.

- Questions and requests for approval of "clean up" collection programs are to be directed to the E & E Services Office as soon as possible and prior to the "Clean Up Week". Fees will be charged for those wastes not approved for waiver of fees. Contact 427-5421 and 342-8371 during regular office hours.

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7. Huge Tack Yard Sale Benefit April 9

Tack sale and huge community yard sale being held at Piedmont Saddle Club to benefit Red Dog Farm Animal Rescue Network and HorsePower Therapeutic Learning Center. Large animal vet demonstrations at 10 and 1 and a \$5 dog/cat rabies clinic at noon. Hot dogs and hamburgers, baked goods, adoptable animals and games for the kids to play! Come on out, find a great deal and grab some lunch all for two great causes on Saturday, April 9, 2011 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. NO EARLY BIRDS, PLEASE! Rain or shine with easy parking at 8001 Leabourne Road, Colfax, NC 27235. Info: [336-908-6341](tel:336-908-6341)

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8. Tack/Clothing Consignment Sale on Sat. April 9 (Open Show) and April 30 (Hunter Show) at Flintrock Farm, 9am til end of horse show, to benefit Flintrock 4-H Club.

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9. Cooler Horsemanship Upcoming Events

Friday, April 22 1:00pm

2011 Oak Ridge Horse Show Demo

Join us with "Molly" of Red Dog Farm. Watch as we apply our ATRUM Method to gain control, communication, confidence and companionship.

April 29-May 1

Level 1/2 Weekend Horsemanship Clinic at Fiore Farms

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 1:00-3:00pm

Spring Show at Fiore Farms

Come experience the Beauty, Power and Spirit of the Horse!

Admission \$5.00, children under 16 Free

Visit www.CoolerHorsemanship.com or Contact us kate@coolerhorsemanship.com, [843-304-3407](tel:843-304-3407) for more information about our program and any upcoming events

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10. Guilford County Spring Clean-up – Saturday, April 16th – 9 am to 3 pm at the Guilford County Ag Center (HHW, e-waste, white goods, tires, household recyclables)

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11. Open Community Fun Show, April 16, @ Piedmont Saddle Club in Colfax. No class entry fees; admission \$5 per horse, \$5 per person (ages 10 & under free). Contact Jenny Taylor [919-323-9910](tel:919-323-9910) or info@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. Concessions on site. Camping with electric hook-up available. Stalls available.

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12. . Fun open horseshow Saturday May 14th 9:00 am show all day \$25.00 for members and \$35.00 for non members at the 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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13. 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.

MANAGE YOUR PASTURES!

WHEN YOU HAVE CUT HAY AND HAVE SOME TO SELL, PLEASE LET ME KNOW!!

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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.

- Tack/Clothing Consignment Sale on Sat. April 9 (Open Show) and April 30 (Hunter Show) at Flintrock Farm, 9am til end of horse show, to benefit Flintrock 4-H Club.

- 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:336-698-0207)

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

Pull, Betsy, Pull

An out-of-towner accidentally drove his car into a deep ditch on a country road. Luckily, a farmer happened by with his big old horse named Betsy. The man asked for help. The farmer said that Betsy could pull his car out, so he backed Betsy up and hitched Betsy to the man's car bumper. Then he yelled, "Pull, Nellie, pull." Betsy didn't move. Then he yelled, "Come on, pull Ranger." Still, Betsy didn't move. Then he yelled really loud, "Now pull, Fred, pull hard." Betsy just stood. Then the farmer nonchalantly said, "Okay, Betsy, pull." Betsy pulled the car out of the ditch. The man was very appreciative but curious. He asked the farmer why he called his horse by the wrong name three times. The farmer said, "Oh, Betsy is blind, and if she thought she was the only one pulling, she wouldn't even try."

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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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