

## Weekly Pile for Week of June 17 2012

### **Hello Everyone,**

Included is the **Weekly Pile** of Information for the Week of June 17, 2012, 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.
  - provided information is a resource to the citizens of Rockingham/Guilford Counties.
  - provided information does not require extra time or effort to be listed.
  - Listings for Swap Shop will not list pricing details.
  - Please E-mail information to me by Wednesday each Week.
  - Please keep ads or events as short as possible – with NO FORMATTING, 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 alike.
  - PLEASE PUT WEEKLY PILE IN SUBJECT LINE when you send into me.
  - The Weekly Pile is not for listings for Commercial type properties or products.
- If I forgot to include anything in this email it was 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! **I NEED YOUR FEEDBACK!**

### **Included in This Weeks Pile:**

## **1. Manage Your Grass!**

## **2. Where's Your Sign? - If ya want one, you need to order One**

## **3. Don't Forget Your Horse's Teeth**

## **4. You Asked**

## **5. Learning Ability of Horses**

## 6. Grains for Horses and Their Characteristics

## 7. Piedmont Horseman's Association

## 8. Cooler Natural Horsemanship Schedule

## 9. Open Fun/Game Show" July 21st

## 10. Food Drive

## 11. HAY DIRECTORY

## 12. SWAP SHOP

## 13. Take A Load Off

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### 1. Manage Your Grass –

Excerpts taken from Forage Focus: Is it Time to Alter Your Grazing Management? - Jeff McCutcheon, Extension Educator, Morrow County, Ohio

We have gotten a little rain this spring but I have seen a lot of pastures that look mighty dry. We got a cutting of hay put in the barn and from what I have seen in forage test results is that quality is all over the place most being mediocre in quality. Now we are all wondering if we will get any more rain so we will get another cutting.

This isn't anything new, forage growth has not been what we have come to expect the last few years. With little rain or patchy showers in the forecast what is someone with grazing animals to do?

Your pasture rotations need to slow down. Grass is growing slower, it takes longer to start regrowth after being grazed and it takes longer to reach optimum grazing mass (height) for the next grazing. Most of you are grazing orchardgrass or fescue (which are cool season grasses) and their growth naturally will be slowing down especially with the lack of moisture. The number of days grazing a paddock can be increased, as long as you do not over graze. The rest period needs to increase. To prevent that you need to make sure you have a sacrifice area where you put animals to prevent your pastures from being grazed to short and allowing them to recuperate.

If possible some grazing managers should look at putting more acreage into their grazing rotation. Many may use fields where they made first cutting hay while another consideration is unused fields in your area. Every year I get calls from landowners looking for producers to mow their fields and take all the hay. They just want it mowed. Check around, many of these could easily be grazed.

Every grazier works to protect their perennial forage resource. *Do not overgraze!* Overgrazing is something we try to avoid in normal years, but critical in dry ones. Overgrazing can cause slower recovery when we do get rain, reduced productivity even longer after recovery and can cause stand loss.

During dry periods we need to be extremely protective of our residual. Residual is the term used for the amount of green forage left after grazing. Residual is an important aspect of managing grazing. In a dry year it becomes even more critical. The amount of residual has an effect on many things.

The amount of residual affects root growth. Data has taught us that at 50% leaf removal only 2% of the roots stopped growing. At 60% leaf removal 50% of the roots stopped growing. All of the roots stopped growing at 80% leaf removal. A healthy root system helps the plants survive the dry times. If more than 50% of the leaf area is removed then root growth stops. Root growth is used to capture more water and nutrients. At the very least this slows re-growth.

The amount of residual affects re-growth. Green leaves are needed to capture sunlight for photosynthesis. This creates the non-structural carbohydrates needed to fuel re-growth. Without enough leaf area the forages must fuel re-growth from their stored reserves. Growth fueled by the root reserves is slower than growth fueled from active photosynthesis. The amount of residual affects water absorption by the soil. Grazing below 2-3" will allow most of the rain that does come to run off and not be absorbed by the soil. Forage studies have also shown us that pasture grazed to 95% cover experienced a little over 10% runoff. Overgrazed pasture, 50% ground cover, lost 75% of the moisture.

More leaf area means less water runoff. The more vegetative material you have will shade the soil and slow the movement of rain allowing the water to be absorbed by the soil.

**WHAT YOU SEE IN GROWTH ON TOP OF THE GROUND HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH THE CONDITION OF THE ROOT SYSTEM BELOW GROUND!**

When we consider grazing management during dry times remember that without rain pastures grow slower, and close grazing will compound the problem. Slow

growth means the rest between grazing needs to be longer. Do not take more residual to allow for this rest. It may get to the point where you need to consider other options, like annual forages, supplemental feeding, and even penning the animals up and feeding them. If growth stops, the worst option would be to open up all of the gates letting animals overgraze the whole farm. Dry-lotting your animals may be the best option.

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**2. Where's Your Sign – If you recall a few weeks back I asked if any of you wanted to place an order for Equine Activity Liability Signs. I only received a handful of you saying that you would be interested. So that being the case if you would like a sign you can order one at one of the following web sites. (One of these is an aluminum sign)**

**Equine Liability Signs -**

<http://www.kyhorse.com/store/equipment/statesigns.htm> (aluminum signs)

**NCHC Equine Liability Sign -** <http://www.nchorsecouncil.com/sign-order-form/>

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### **3. Don't Forget Your Horse's Teeth**

**An adult male horse has 40 teeth: 24 molars or grinders, 12 incisors or biters, and four canine or tushes. A mature mare usually has 36 teeth. She probably will have no tushes.**

**The upper jaw is wider than the lower jaw. Therefore, the upper jaw teeth extend over the lower ones on the outside. Conversely, lower jaw teeth extend on the inside of upper ones. This causes wear that creates sharp points on the outside of the upper teeth and the inside of the lower ones. A horse should be checked annually to see if its teeth need floating or filing to make it easier for to eat grain or hard feeds.**

**If a horse chews with its head sideways or spills very much grain from its mouth, its teeth should be examined. Floating is a relatively simple operation and is done without much restraint on most horses.**

**Young horses replace their baby jaw teeth by growing others under them. Therefore, they have small caps on the top that shed off normally in the growth**

**process. Sometimes these caps fail to come off and cause a high spot that makes chewing difficult. These can usually be removed without difficulty.**

**Young horses also shed incisor or front teeth as adult teeth emerge. This process ends at five years of age. These may make eating grain and hay difficult for awhile. They also may be shy around the mouth when being bitted.**

**Small teeth in front of the upper jaw teeth are called "wolf teeth." They may be directly in the way of the bit, particularly a snaffle bit. They are painful and cause head slinging if the horse is agitated. They can be removed easily because they are not attached to the jawbone in 2- and 3-year-old horses.**

**Some horses have a genetic defect that prevents their front incisors from matching. This is called "parrot mouth." A horse with extreme parrot mouth has difficulty grazing. Such horses may be good work horses, but it may be necessary to supplement their pasture diet with grain or other feed during most of their lifetime. When parrot mouth appears in a foal, the sire and dam are both carriers of this genetic fault. Using such horses as breeding stock is questionable.**

**You should observe your horses eating behavior and indications from bit usage for signs of a problem. An equine that is suffering from dental problems may:**

- Lose body weight**
- Swish feed around in the mouth before swallowing**
- Maintain clumps of hay in its mouth for a couple of hours after feeding**
- Colic as a result of poor mastication and digestion**
- Fight a bit**
- Walk with it head tilted**
- Throw its head to the side**

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## **4. You Asked: Natural Dewormers - What Works?**

**There are no “natural” or organic dewormers that are known to be effective. However, you can reduce your use of traditional chemical dewormers by:**

- Deworming your horses according to their actual parasite load by performing fecal exams for parasites.**

- **Work with your veterinarian to develop a deworming program that is correlated with your farm's fecal exam results.**
- **Rotate pastures with other livestock species to break up the parasite cycle.**
- **In the summer, drag pastures on a hot, dry day to break up manure piles and expose them to the sun to kill the parasites.**
- **Mow pastures to remove some of the water film that allows the third stage larvae to move around on the blades. The sun can then dry the grass better and limit parasite movement/development.**
- **Pick up manure in stalls and turnout lots/paddocks on a regular basis.**
- **Keep manure storage piles away from livestock.**
- **Compost manure to kill the parasite load before spreading on pasture.**
- **Don't overgraze pastures. Grass should be grazed no shorter than 4 inches.**
- **Don't feed hay/grain on the ground.**

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**5. Learning Ability of Horses** - Ashley Griffin, University of Kentucky  
**All current equine learning research is based on the assumption that horses learn through Stimulus - Response - Reinforcement - Training (S - R - R - T).**  
**How S - R - R - T Works**  
**The horse perceives a stimulus, or cue, such as the rider's leg or body weight (seat).**

**The horse then makes a random response to the stimulus.**

**If the response is correct, the horse receives positive reinforcement (reward).**

**If the incorrect response is given, the trainer either ignores the response and/or repeats the stimulus or applies negative reinforcement until the horse makes the correct response.**

**Now, let's examine the different parts of S - R - R - T.**

## **Stimulus**

### **Two Categories:**

**Conditioned Stimulus - A stimulus that has been learned through practice is called conditioned. For example, a horse may be conditioned to back up when a rider picks up on the reins, makes light contact with the horse's mouth, and gently squeezes the horse with his or her legs.**

**Unconditioned Stimulus - If a stimulus naturally causes a response with no prior practice, it is said to be unconditioned. For example, when a fly lands on a horse's back, the horse may twitch the affected muscle. This happens naturally with no practice required.**

### **Types of Stimuli**

- Legs**
- Hands**
- Body weight (seat)**
- Voice**
- Visual**

**Research has shown that horses learn as well with a single stimulus as they do with a combination of visual, auditory, and tactile stimuli.**

**Horses are very adept at discriminating between the slightest stimulus in their environment and one that occurs as part of asking them to perform. Therefore, trainers must be specific and consistent with their presentation of stimuli, otherwise known as cues. If the specific cue and timing of each cue is not similar, the horse will begin to generalize in response to stimuli and won't respond appropriately. If inconsistency persists, then a stronger, more obvious stimulus will be required to generate the proper response and achieve the initial or new level of responsiveness.**

**A good example would be the riding lesson horse. Riding lesson horses become so habituated to accidental stimuli from beginning riders that they become dull and unresponsive (hard-sided) to subtle stimuli. These horses learn to ignore the cues of the riders**

**and instead walk, trot, and canter based on voice commands of the riding instructor.**

**It is important that stimuli be given consistently and at the proper time for the horse to respond with the proper maneuver. If the horse's body is not in the right position, there is no way it can give the proper response. For example, the only time a horse can move its front left leg laterally is when that leg is in the air. Therefore, the best time to present the stimulus for moving the leg laterally is when it is moving forward and off the ground.**

**The correct timing of a stimulus is where the art of good horsemanship joins the science of learning.**

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## **6. Grains for Horses and Their Characteristics**

Ashley Griffin, University of Kentucky

**The concentrate portion of the ration contains grains that are higher in energy and lower in fiber than roughages. Many grains are fed to horses. The most common are oats, barley, and corn. Wheat and milo are other grains fed to horses.**

**Oats - Oats are the most popular and safest grain to feed to horses. What makes oats a safe feed is the fiber content--about 13 percent. This means oats have more bulk per nutrient content, and horses have to eat more to satisfy their nutrient requirements. Bulk makes it more difficult for the horse to overeat and get colic or founder.**

**Kernels should be plump, heavy, and clean and have a bright color, clean smell, and a low ratio of husks to kernels. The heavier the oats, the more nutrient contained per unit of weight. U.S. No. 1 oats weigh 36 lb (16.3 kg) per bushel, whereas U.S. No. 4 oats weigh about 27 lb (12.2 kg) per bushel. Oats should be bought according to the least cost per unit of energy, provided they are clean and stored properly. Clean oats are important. Oats should be cleaned to remove dirt, weeds, other seeds, and broken kernels. Dust in oats indicates that the oats are old and may be of lesser quality. You can check to see if your oats are dusty by pouring them into a can and back into the sack. A musty smell indicates that the oats have been stored with too much moisture and will spoil. Oats should not have a sour or bitter taste.**

**Oats can be fed whole or processed. Processing includes crimping, rolling, or crushing the kernel. Whole oats are easily eaten and digested by the horse. If oats are processed, a slight crimp is sufficient. When the kernel coat is broken by processing, less chewing is required, and digestive juices have better access to the kernel.**

**Barley - Barley is very similar to oats as a feed except for some characteristics that affect how it is used. Barley is lower in fiber than oats and is classified as a "heavy" feed. Barley is more energy dense and weighs more per unit of volume (48 pounds per bushel, or 22 kg) than oats. The barley kernel is harder than the oat kernel, so it is usually rolled before**

feeding. If the barley kernel is crushed or ground, it is too heavy and can cause colic unless mixed with a bulkier feed such as wheat bran.

**Corn** - Corn is one of the most energy-dense feeds and contains a high content of carbohydrate. Corn has a high energy content per unit of weight and a high weight per unit volume. Therefore, a given volume of corn contains approximately three times the amount of energy as an equal volume of oats. Corn's high energy content has led to it becoming known as "too hot" a feed for horses. However, if the horse is fed to meet its energy requirement, corn is an excellent feed.

Corn quality is judged by the moisture content and percentage of well-formed kernels. Very few damaged kernels should be present. In addition, kernels should be plump, firm, and separated. There should be no insect or mold damage. Moisture content should be less than 14 percent. The kernel is high in starch and readily fermentable; therefore, it can become toxic.

Corn can be fed in the following forms:

- On the cob - This form can be used as a management tool for horses that bolt (eat too fast) their grain. However, older horses or horses with bad teeth have difficulty eating whole corn. Whole corn will keep longer than shelled corn, but it is more costly to store.
- Shelled whole corn - Some whole-corn kernels will pass through the digestive tract without being digested. Therefore, it is advisable to process the kernels in some way to increase digestion.
- Cracked corn - Cracking the corn kernel may be preferred because it allows digestive juices to enter the corn and increase digestibility.
- Steamed rolled corn - Steam rolling further processes the corn kernel, creating more surface area for digestive juices and increasing digestibility.
- Ground or crushed corn - This type of processing makes the corn kernel too small. If the corn passes through the small intestines too rapidly, it can lead to fermentation in the hind gut. This may lead to colic if the horse is being feed a high-concentrate diet. Whole-ear ground corn can be fed to horses because the cob is high in fiber and low in energy.

**Wheat** - Most wheat is used for human consumption, with little fed to horses. Wheat is fed to horses more in the Southwest and Northwest than other parts of the country. By-products of the milling process, such as wheat bran, are most commonly fed to horses. Wheat bran is the hard outer coating of the kernel. One popular way of feeding wheat bran is in the form of a mash. It is highly palatable and is frequently used to add bulk to a diet. It is also fed to increase phosphorus content. Wheat bran is 12 percent digestible protein. Wheat middlings are fine particles of the wheat kernel obtained during the milling process. If wheat middlings are fed to horses, they must be mixed with a bulky feed.

**Milo (Grain Sorghum)** - Milo is a high-energy grain fed to horses primarily in the southwestern United States. It is a very heavy feed and should be mixed with a bulky feed to prevent digestive disturbances. It needs to be cracked to make it easier for horses to chew and digest. It may not be very palatable to some horses.

**Molasses (Dried or Liquid)** - Molasses is a popular component of mixed concentrate rations. It is a by-product of the sugar refining industry. Horses like the flavor. It is a cheap

source of energy, and it reduces dust in the feed. Generally molasses should not exceed 10 to 12 percent of ration. Five percent is the most common amount added to a ration. Excessive amounts of molasses make the feed sticky and difficult to handle and can cause the feed to turn rancid.

**Beet Pulp** - Beet pulp can be dehydrated and used as a source of fiber and energy. It is relatively high in energy and calcium but low in protein, phosphorus, and B vitamins. It contains no carotene or vitamin D. Beet pulp is included in many high-performance diets to help ensure adequate fiber intake while meeting energy needs.

**Soybeans or Soybean Meal** - Whole, roasted soybeans and soybean meal are both used as a protein supplement to increase the protein content of a concentrate mix. Whole, roasted soybeans are not as commonly fed to horses as soybean meal. The two common types of soybean meal are differentiated based on their protein content (44 percent or 48 percent). The 48 percent protein soybean meal is prepared by removing the hulls, which makes a product relatively richer in protein content. The hulls contain mostly fiber and very little protein. Other types of protein supplements can be used in horse rations, but soybean meal is by far the most popular.

Whole uncooked soybeans should not be fed to horses, as uncooked soybeans contain a trypsin inhibitor which prevents the enzyme trypsin from digesting protein.

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## **7. Piedmont Horseman's Association**

**Are you looking for a local open horse show association that is friendly and offers a variety of classes for all ages? Look no further...Piedmont Horseman's Association has been around for 41 years and still going strong! Whether you show halter, showmanship, English, Western Pleasure or Working Western; PHA has classes for you! Piedmont Horseman's Association (PHA) helps create a wholesome, family**

atmosphere in the great sport of Horse Showing; and for each member to exhibit his or her horse or pony in a sportsmanlike manner. There are many benefits of being a member of PHA; reduced entry fee at sanctioned shows, accumulate points for year end awards, recently APHA PAC approved and much more! Horse Show season is upon us and currently PHA has eight shows scheduled. Our next show is August 4 at Jerome Davis's Ranch in Archadale, NC. This is a night show that starts at 4pm. Great high point awards will be handed out!! You can find all the details such as membership forms, class lists, calendar, etc on the PHA website at: <http://www.phasince1971.com/> PHA is also looking for class/show sponsors to make this the best year ever! Feel free to contact one of the officers from the website if you have any questions. We hope to see some new people at the Piedmont Horseman's Association shows!

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## 8. Cooler Natural Horsemanship Schedule

Group Sessions - 6:30pm - 8:30pm

\$40/person, \$5 to audit

Thursday June 21st

Tuesday July 3rd

Wednesday July 11th

Thursday July 19th

Saturday, June 30th - Clinic Day

Morning Session, 9:00am - 12:00pm

Afternoon session, 5:00pm - 8:00pm

\$100/person/per session.

Auditors welcome: \$10

Sunday, July 1st - Trail Session

9:00am - 12:00pm

\$100/person

Saturday, July 28th - Clinic Day

Morning Session, 9:00am - 12:00pm

Afternoon session, 5:00pm - 8:00pm

\$100/person/per session.

Auditors welcome: \$10

Sunday, July 29th - Trail Session

9:00am - 12:00pm

\$100/person

[www.CoolerHorsemanship.com](http://www.CoolerHorsemanship.com)

[kate@coolerhorsemanship.com](mailto:kate@coolerhorsemanship.com)

[843-304-3407](tel:843-304-3407)

Fiore Farms

7600 Millbrook Road

Summerfield, NC 27358

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9. "Open Fun / Game Show" @ Piedmont Saddle Club in Colfax, July 21st @ 5:00pm. \$2 per class or \$10 per horse & rider combo for all classes all day. No admission fee onto grounds. Concessions and overnight camping available. See [www.piedmontsaddleclub.org](http://www.piedmontsaddleclub.org) for class list and more information. Coggins required.

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## 10. Food Drive

All Food Collected Is Used To Feed The Hungry Here In Rockingham County! -

Canned – Frozen – Refrigerated – Dry - Fresh

Cold Donations:

**American Red Cross,  
3692 Highway 14, Reidsville, NC  
27320 [\(336\)349-3434](tel:(336)349-3434)**

**Dry Donations:  
Farm Service Agency,  
525 NC 65 Suite 120, Reidsville, NC  
27320 [\(336\)342-0460](tel:(336)342-0460)**

**Summer Food Drive ends on September 1,  
2012**

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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.

## MANAGE YOUR PASTURES!

Please let me know if you have hay to sell!

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### 12. SWAP SHOP

- 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)

For Sale: 2004 Kiefer Built 4 horse trailer with full living quarters. Includes large awning, TV with DVD player, queen bed, pull out sofa, toilet, shower, frig, sink, cooktop, etc. Very good condition. Call David [336-362-1242](tel:336-362-1242).

- Looking for someone to cut about 20 acres of hay in Oak Ridge 4 miles from Hwy.220 and possibly put into barn? Willing to work out a reasonable agreement. If interested call Jim at 643-9204

- Pine Shavings etc. – 2.8 cuft compressed plastic bags, easy to pick, no waste, easy to store \$ 4.50 + tax per bag. Contact Terri C. Aprile @ [\(336\) 698-0207shoponys@gmail.com](mailto:(336)698-0207shoponys@gmail.com)

- Equine Sports Massage Therapy – Certified since 1994 from Equissage. Appointments on site at your farm. Contact Terri C. Aprile @ [\(336\) 698-0207shoponys@gmail.com](mailto:(336)698-0207shoponys@gmail.com)

- Riding Apparel For Sale - English (saddle seat-suits, day coats, shirts, jodphurs, ties/silk cumber bun sets & hunt seat-shirts, ties) &

Western clothes, misc. tack, etc. Contact Terri C. Aprile @ (336) 698-0207 [shoponys@gmail.com](mailto:shoponys@gmail.com)

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13. Take A Load Off –

I need your Clean Jokes, so please send em to me! -

(This was emailed in to me)

A young boy enters a barber shop and the barber whispers to his customer, "This is the dumbest kid in the world. Watch while I prove it to you." The barber puts a dollar bill in one hand and two quarters in the other, then calls the boy over and asks, "Which do you want, son?" The boy takes the quarters and leaves. "What did I tell you?" said the barber. "That kid never learns!"

Later, when the customer leaves, he sees the same young boy coming out of the ice cream store. "Hey, son! May I ask you a question? Why did you take the quarters instead of the dollar bill?" The boy licked his cone and replied, "Because the day I take the dollar, the game is over!"

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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 Newsletters!\*\*\*\*\* 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!**

# Have a Great SAFE Weekend!

Thank You!

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  
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discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned.

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**Ben Chase**

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