

Weekly Pile fopr Week of June 20 2011

Hey Horse E-mailers,

Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the Week of June 20, 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. Horse Care & Well Being
2. Insect Pests of Horses
3. Hoof Care
4. You Asked: What are the best pasture forages for horses?
5. Lightning Bugs Are Looking Good
6. Its Name Is Mud Dauber
7. Pest & Pest Control

8. Open Fun Show at Flintrock Farm on Saturday, June 25th

9. Focus group for young people

10. Rockingham County Cooperative Extension Advisory Golf Tournament 7/20

11. Hay Directory

12. Swap Shop - For Sale/Wanted - Equestrian Facilities Available

13. Take A Load Off – Refrigerator Man

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1. Horse Care & Well Being

In the past couple of weeks I have had calls and questions about Livestock & Horses that were in bad condition. Its hard to see animals that are not being taken care of, & in some of the cases, someone should face criminal charges.

If you own animals, please make sure that your animals are being fed properly, always have a source of fresh drinking water, (that is not to hot to drink) and receiving veterinarian care when needed.

A common denominator in the cases is lack of management, & many times is simply to many horses on the land.

Below are some good resources to look over and to share with other Horse Owners.

HorseQuest Learning Lesson: How to Body Condition Score Horses
<http://www.extension.org/pages/11488/horsequest-learning-lesson:how-to-body-condition-score-horses>

Horse Welfare
[http://trace.tennessee.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1014&context=utk_agexani&sei-redir=1#search="horse+welfare+Extension"](http://trace.tennessee.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1014&context=utk_agexani&sei-redir=1#search=)

The Horse Industry’s Responsibility to Animal Welfare
http://www.esc.rutgers.edu/publications/PDF_Files/fs788.pdf

A bad Livestock or Horse Owner not only has a negative impact on the animals on a particular farm but reflects a negative image of the Livestock & Horse Industry.

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2 Insect Pests of Horses

North Dakota Extension Bulletin No. 55
<http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/ansci/horse/eb55-1.htm>

A number of insect pests can cause damage and irritation to horses. These insects include biting flies, nuisance flies, lice, and bots. Occasionally other arthropods such as mites and ticks may cause problems. The biology and control of the most commonly encountered insects associated with horses and their premises are discussed here.

Biting Flies - Several types of biting flies bother horses. These include mosquitoes, black flies, deer flies, horse flies and stable flies.

Stable Flies - Adults: Both male and female stable flies feed on blood and are persistent feeders that cause significant irritation to host animals. Adults are 1/4 to 1/3 inch long and resemble houseflies. A "checkerboard" appearance on the top of the abdomen and the stiletto-like proboscis separate this species from adult house flies.

Eggs: Stable fly eggs are about 0.04 inch long and are an off-white color. Females deposit clusters of eggs containing up to 50 eggs. Several egg clusters may be deposited during the life of a female fly and a single female can lay up to a thousand eggs during her lifetime. **Larvae:** Stable fly larvae have a typical maggot shape and are similar to the house fly. There are three larval stages. The last stage larva is about 2/5 inch long and is a cream white color.

Pupae: After the third stage larva completes feeding, it shortens, hardens and darkens in color. The chestnut brown pupa is 1/4 inch long. Stable fly pupae are very similar in appearance to house fly pupae and are difficult to distinguish since, in their natural habitat, they are usually mixed with house fly pupae

Stable flies will feed on blood from practically any warm-blooded animal including horses, humans, pets and other livestock. During periods of high stable fly activity, humans can be severely annoyed; this insect has been called "the biting house fly." Individual flies may feed more than once per day. Peaks of feeding activity commonly occur during the early morning and again in the late afternoon. Stable flies prefer feeding on lower parts of the hosts such as the legs and belly of horses and cattle. Both male and female flies feed on blood; the female requires blood meals to produce viable eggs. Eggs are deposited into a variety of decaying animal and plant wastes but is rarely found in fresh manure. Fly larvae develop in excrement mixed with straw, soil, silage or grain but are also found in wet straw, hay, grass clippings, other post-harvest refuse, and poorly managed compost piles. Large round hay or straw bales, where contacted by moist soil, may also serve as a larval development site. Larval development requires 11 to 21 days, depending on environmental conditions. Mature larvae then crawl to drier areas to pupate. The pupal period varies from six to 26 days depending on temperature. The entire life cycle from egg to adult is generally completed in three to six weeks.

Stable flies are active during the summertime in the north central plains and are one of the most important pests of horses and livestock. Stable flies prefer to feed outdoors and rarely are found feeding or resting indoors. These flies are strong fliers and dispersion from one livestock facility to the next is common. They remain active into October (and beyond in

NC). However, larval development slows as autumn temperatures decrease. At temperatures near freezing, larvae can survive but continue to develop slowly in habitats such as piled silage or manure where fermentation generates heat.

Stable Fly Management - A sound sanitation program is of paramount importance to fly control; all other types of control are doomed to failure without this important first step. Control of stable flies in barnyards, stables or corral areas usually involves several methods. These methods also apply for the house fly. Chemical control directed at larval and adult stages of both insects is usually required periodically during the fly season.

Sanitation around stable or corral. The basic aim of a sanitation program is to reduce or eliminate larval development sites on the farmstead. A number of areas require attention because of the varied habitats suitable for larval development of these flies. Manure management is essential in limiting fly production. Timely spreading of manure promotes drying and prevents larvae from developing. Even small areas, where manure mixes with straw, are ideal breeding sites for large numbers of both stable and house flies. Wet areas where manure, mud and plant debris accumulate also form ideal breeding habitats for these fly species. Modifications of the drainage around corrals to reduce excess moisture can eliminate these fly production sites and make chemical control efforts much more successful.

Chemical control. A variety of chemical control techniques are available to the horse owner. Generally, control of adult flies using residual insecticides as surface treatments and knock-down sprays to kill existing adult flies are the most effective techniques. In most barnyard situations, a combination of residual and space sprays is used, often on an alternating schedule. Treatments applied directly to horses are not as effective for control of stable or house flies as residual surface treatments. In practice, both techniques usually are needed. These and other methods of more limited usefulness are discussed below. **ALWAYS FOLLOW THE LABEL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RATE AND FREQUENCY OF ANY PESTICIDE TREATMENT.**

Applications of residual insecticides to premises are frequently used to control both house and stable flies. Longer residual insecticides provide control for an extended period when sprayed onto sites where the adult flies congregate. Sides of buildings, inside and outside surfaces of stalls and fences may be potential day or night resting sites for these flies. Observation of your own barnyard situation will quickly tell you the favored resting sites for flies. Flies contact the insecticide when they land on the treated surfaces.

Knock-down sprays are effective in killing adult flies present at the time of application. The chemicals used for these applications are usually short residual insecticides having a quick knock-down and high contact toxicity. Several types of spray or fogging apparatus may be used for these applications. Wind velocities should be low at the time of application and the droplet or particle size should be small (50-75 microns) to ensure drift through the corral area. This method requires less time for application but has the disadvantage that it will only kill flies present at application and thus provides short-term relief.

Direct animal applications of sprays and dusts may be used in some situations to protect animals. Materials used for direct animal application usually have short residual activity and this type of application is labor intensive. Other methods of fly control such as baits, electric grids and traps may have some limited use for house fly control but are ineffective for the blood feeding stable fly. Baits may be used effectively for house fly control in enclosed areas. Fly papers, cords and strips may also help alleviate fly problems in these areas. Such methods are usually ineffective in open areas.

Control of immature flies (larvae) is sometimes possible. Usually, the best approach is to remove the potential source of fly production with sanitation practices. When this is not possible, a larvicide can kill the developing flies. A larvicidal insecticide may be applied directly to places where eggs are laid and larvae develop. Biological control has potential for controlling barnyard fly problems. A number of parasites and predators of both house and stable flies exist that help to reduce fly numbers. Some of these natural parasites are available commercially but to date research has not demonstrated cost-effective fly control.

Horse and Deer Flies - Horse and deer flies are large biting flies which can inflict painful bites on horses and humans. Several species may become abundant enough to constitute a problem for grazing horses, particularly animals pastured near streams or low, wet areas. Both horse and deer flies have been incriminated in the transmission of equine infectious anemia. Further, because the bite is painful, horses may become restless and unmanageable when they attempt to ward off attacks by these flies. Immature larval horse flies are aquatic or semi-aquatic and the last stage larva overwinters. Life cycles are long; most species have only one generation per year and some species may have a two-year life cycle. Only female flies feed on blood. Control is difficult; individual animal treatment using repellents or insecticidal sprays may reduce fly bites.

Black Flies – Black flies or buffalo gnats are small, 1/12 to 1/15 inch long, hump backed, biting flies which may have high populations in the spring and early summer, particularly in pasture areas along streams. The immature stages are found in flowing water. Pupation occurs underwater and the adults float to the surface, ready for flight, feeding and mating. Adult feeding on horses and other animals can pose serious animal health problems, and the irritation caused by black fly bites can make horses unmanageable. Anemia as a consequence of black fly feeding on the blood of the vertebrate host is a possibility when the black fly population is high. Bites may cause severe reactions such as toxemia and anaphylactic shock; these reactions can result in death. Control is difficult; species which feed in the ears of horses can be controlled using insecticidal applications or by using petroleum jelly in the interior of the horses' ears. When possible, horses can be stabled during the day and pastured at night. Black flies only feed during daylight hours and usually do not enter stable areas. Area sprays or general topical applications of insecticides are not very effective.

Biting Gnats - "No-see-ums," "punkies" or biting midges can be a serious pest of horses. Blood loss and irritation associated with the feeding of these very small (usually less than 0.04 inch), blood feeding flies can be significant. The immature stages of these flies complete development in water in a variety of locations from tree holes or man-made containers to lakes and streams. Adults of these flies often are unnoticed because of their

small size and because they are active at night, late evening or early morning. Direct treatment of horses with wipes or sprays containing insecticides or repellents can provide relief for the horses.

Horn Flies - The horn fly is normally a pest of grazing cattle; however, when cattle and horses are pastured together, this fly will feed on horses. Horn flies are about one-half the size of stable flies and like stable flies are biting flies. The horn fly usually remains on the host animal almost continually, both day and night. Females lay eggs on fresh cattle droppings. Control of horn flies on cattle using established treatment methods such as self-treating devices provides the best approach to this problem if horses are pastured with the cattle. Sprays or wipes can be used successfully on horses.

Nuisance Flies - Several types of nuisance flies may be associated with horses or their premises. These include the house fly, bottle flies, false stable flies and other species of barnyard flies. Face flies, usually a pest of cattle, may also affect horses, particularly when cattle are nearby.

Two major pest species, which bother horses, are the stable fly and the house fly, a non-biting species. A distinguishing feature, visible to the naked eye, that separates the two species is the distinct stiletto-like proboscis of the stable fly which extends forward beyond the head. This sharply pointed beak is used to pierce the skin and draw blood. The house fly cannot bite since it has sponging mouthparts.

House Fly - Adults: Both male and female house flies are grayish-brown with a black and grey striped thorax. The house fly is a medium sized fly ranging from about 1/4 to 1/3 inch long with sponging mouthparts. House flies do not bite but feed on a variety of plant and animal wastes and garbage, as well as other sources of carbohydrates and proteins.

Eggs: House fly eggs are about 0.04 inch long, whitish and slightly curved. The females generally deposit eggs in batches of about 100 eggs at a time. Each female may deposit four to six batches of eggs during an average lifetime of two to four weeks during the summer.

Larvae: The three larval stages are similar in appearance to stable fly larvae. The third stage reaches approximately 1/2 to 2/3 inch in length. Differentiation of the two species is based on the size and shape of the posterior spiracles (or respiratory tract openings).

Pupae: Pupae are barrel shaped and are of the same approximate size and coloration as stable fly pupae.

House Fly Life History and Habits - House fly females lay their eggs in clusters, preferably in moist decaying organic material. Eggs hatch within eight to 40 hours, depending on temperature. Larvae feed on yeast, bacteria and decomposition products which occur in their development site. Larval development through three stages takes from three to eight days. Larvae crawl to drier areas to pupate when feeding is completed. The pupal stage lasts from three to 10 days, depending primarily on temperature. Adults emerge from the puparia and begin feeding within 24 hours. Males are ready to mate shortly after emergence and females begin mating by the second or third day. Most females mate once and deposit eggs in batches every two to four days. The flies feed on carbohydrates and proteins.

Females require protein to produce viable eggs. Solid foods are first liquified with saliva and are then ingested using the sponging mouthparts.

The entire life cycle from egg to adult can be completed in as little as 10 to 14 days during warm weather. Like the stable fly, house flies overwinter in sites where microbial fermentation heats the larval habitat, such as silage or manure piles. House flies may develop throughout the year in heated livestock facilities. They are active near sources of food during daylight hours and generally rest at night on stationary objects both indoors and outdoors. The flies prefer shaded areas during much of the day and commonly move inside structures where livestock are held.

House Fly Management - House fly management, like stable fly management, is based on a strong farm sanitation program. The methods for reducing house flies are the same as those discussed for the stable fly.

Face Fly - The face fly is usually a pest of grazing cattle. However, when horses are pastured with or close to cattle or when face flies are numerous these flies will feed on secretions around the eyes of horses. Adult face flies look much like house flies. The face fly does not bite, but the persistent feeding behavior of the fly makes it a nuisance pest. In addition, the face fly can mechanically transmit parasites or pathogens to the horse. Control of face flies is difficult. Relief can be obtained by stabling horses during the daytime when the face fly feeds. In addition, since the face fly feeds predominantly on cattle, pasturing horses separately from cattle will lessen the incidence of these flies on the horses. Topical insecticide applications are usually not effective because face flies spend little time on the vertebrate host.

Mosquito's - There are many species of mosquitoes known to occur in North Carolina Their presence affects people engaged in outdoor activities during the warm months of the year. Mosquitoes also annoy livestock causing weight loss, reduced milk production, and poor reproduction. Besides the nuisance biting activities of various mosquito species, there are several species that can transmit diseases such as equine encephalitis to humans and horses, and heartworm to dogs. The danger of disease outbreaks such as encephalitis (sleeping sickness) in people and horses is always possible.

Life Cycle and Breeding Habits - The most abundant mosquitoes temporary pool water breeders (also sometimes known as flood-water mosquitoes). They lay their eggs singly on damp soil near water. Like all mosquitoes, they pass through four life stages: egg, larva (four stages or instars), pupa and adult. They overwinter in the egg stage. All mosquitoes live in water continuously from the time the eggs hatch through the larval (wiggler) and pupal (tumbler) stage until the adults emerge. Multiple generations are possible. They are found in shallow water with abundant vegetation above and/or on the water surface and where there is a fluctuation of water level and they are protected from wave action. Roadside ditches are common breeding sites. They do not live in running water or deep, open waters of lakes and ponds. Mosquito eggs, if not exposed to water, can survive for several years until they are flooded.

The adults emerge from pupal cases, their wings expand, and after a few hours the exoskeleton becomes hardened enough for flight. Because blood is necessary for egg development, the female then seeks a blood meal from human or animal. Adults often rest in weeds, tall grass or other vegetation but never reproduce there. After a few days the females return to suitable pools to deposit eggs and the cycle begins again. Depending on the amount of light and temperature, the cycle from egg to adult may take one to four weeks. Adult mosquitoes are strong fliers. They can fly (or be blown) long distances from their breeding sites, although they usually go only far enough to find a blood meal.

Mosquito Management - Mosquito reduction on an area-wide basis is a complex problem which should be based on established principles of good mosquito management. A number of techniques are available, depending on the target species involved and the priorities which have been established. For example, the control of species implicated as disease vectors can be quite a different problem from that of species which are strictly nuisance biters.

An effective mosquito management program cannot be planned or implemented until a survey is made to locate the major breeding places of problem mosquitoes. Mosquito surveys take a great deal of time and work but are well worth the effort. Though mosquitoes usually require standing water for breeding, it is not true that mosquitoes will be produced in every body of standing water. A survey will identify breeding sites which must be eliminated or treated. This will avoid unnecessary intrusion upon areas which need not be treated, thereby preserving the environment. Since the most efficient management programs concentrate on control of mosquito larvae rather than adults, the survey is an essential prerequisite.

The following practices may be used to reduce mosquito-breeding sites:

Ditch and clean stagnant streams to ensure a continuous flow of water to eliminate border vegetation, which provides habitat for mosquito development.

Drain or fill back-water pools and swamps where stagnant water accumulates. Sanitary landfills, which can often be used in such locations, will eliminate mosquito-breeding sites and improve the value of the land.

Since all mosquitoes breed in shallow, quiet water, remove vegetation and debris from along the shores of lakes and ponds to discourage mosquito breeding. Such bodies of water should have a steep, clean shoreline with as little vegetation as possible. Approved weed killers may be used in some cases to eliminate or prevent emergent plant growth. Chemical control is, at best, a temporary expedient, which should be limited to situations, which offer no other alternatives. In general, chemical control can be divided into two major operations. The first, control of larvae, is the most efficient and effective and should be the backbone of any good chemical program. The second, control of adults, is less efficient and should be used strictly for supplemental or emergency purposes. The detection of active transmission of a mosquito-borne disease is an example of such an emergency.

A number of insecticides are registered for mosquito control. The relative value of chemical control varies with the mosquito species and environmental conditions at the location where control is to be applied. Because each situation differs, care must be taken to select the proper insecticide for your particular situation. Some factors to consider include: effectiveness against target species (resistance problems); relative toxicity to humans and

domestic animals (impact on non-target organisms); contamination of garden or fruit; cost; availability in quantities needed; need for residual action in some situations; chemical stability; flammability; ease of preparation; corrosiveness; and offensive odor, staining, etc..

Resistance can be a problem in mosquito control, especially when using some of the carbamate and organo-phosphate compounds. However, before assuming that resistance is the cause of poor control, it must be established that poor control is not caused by other factors such as improper identification of mosquitoes, spray techniques, lack of knowledge about insect habits, or faulty source reduction procedures. Any decrease in susceptibility should be substantiated in carefully controlled tests before changing either the toxicant or the application procedure.

You can reduce numbers of mosquitoes on horses by treating individual animals using sprays or wipe-on insecticides. In stables, sprays, fogs and insecticide impregnated strips provide useful methods of control.

Biting and Sucking Lice - Both biting and sucking lice parasitize horses. Both types are host specific to horses, mules and donkeys. Horses infested with lice usually look poorly groomed. The hair coat looks poor and the animals rub and scratch to alleviate the itching caused by feeding activity of the lice. The initial locations of infestation are generally on the head, neck, mane or tail; however, as numbers of lice increase, other areas of the body become infested. Heavy louse populations may predispose the horse to other disease conditions and reduce the vigor of the animal.

Both types of lice found on horses have similar biology. Eggs are glued to the hair on the horse, usually close to the skin. The eggs hatch in about seven days to three weeks depending on species. Immature lice remain on the horse throughout three nymphal stages, which last about a month before molting into adult lice. Adult lice remain on the horse during their entire life. Lice, which are removed from the animals, die within a short time. Lice are transferred from one horse to another by direct contact with other animals. The horse sucking louse feeds on blood and the biting louse feeds on shed skin or scurf and on secretions from the skin. Both types of lice reproduce throughout the year. However, these pests are most common during the winter months. Good grooming and adequate nutrition are important to maintain the health of the horse. Grooming provides an excellent opportunity to inspect the horse for lice. Insecticidal sprays prepared from wettable powders can be used to control both types of lice. Emulsifiable concentrates should be used with caution since some horses are likely to develop a dermatitis from the concentrate. Avoid unnecessary use of louse control products by treating only when you have verified that lice are present

Ticks - Ticks and mites are arthropods related to insects that may become numerous and damage horses in some years. Several species of ticks may occasionally become pests on horses. Before ticks feed they are about 1/4 inch long. Ticks attach to the vertebrate host to obtain a blood meal; heavy populations may cause the death of animals from excessive blood loss. Engorged ticks are about 1/2 inch long and look inflated. The adults have eight legs. The engorged female tick drops from the host and lays large numbers of eggs (up to 6000) on the ground.

Occasionally cattle, sheep, bison and other large animals are attacked. Heavy infestations cause loss of appetite, depression and debilitation of horses. The American dog tick is a

three host tick. Larvae and nymphs feed on rodents and small mammals. Adult dog ticks feed on a variety of larger mammals including horses, cattle and humans. Grooming of horses should reveal ticks which are present. These ticks can be removed by hand, or topical applications of acaricides can be used to prevent infestations.

Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases in North Carolina -
<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/Urban/ticks.htm>

Other External Parasites

Mites - Horse Bots –

North Dakota Extension Bulletin No. 55
<http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/ansci/horse/eb55-1.htm>

For External Parasite Control in North Carolina go to the North Carolina Agricultural Chemical Manual at <http://ipm.ncsu.edu/agchem/agchem.html>, click on Insect control

Then click on Livestock and Poultry and then you can scroll to **INSECT CONTROL FOR HORSES.**

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3. Hoof Care

Care of the hoof is an important area of horse care and is most often neglected. Neglecting the hooves will definitely lead to further problems such as lameness. Horse owners should rely on a Professional to do trimming, shoeing, or corrective shoeing. Here is a check list that you could make use of when working with your farrier.

Evaluation of the Owner

- Are horses ready to be shod or trimmed. (Are horses caught or up ready to be trimmed or shod?)
- Are the correct number of horses there to be shod or trimmed?
- Are high-strung horses restrained or treated properly to be kept under control?
- Is the Hoof Professional made aware of the problem horse?
- Is Hoof Professional paid on time??

Evaluation of the Hoof Professional

- Did the Hoof Professional observe the horse walking?
- Are frogs and bars cleaned and trimmed?
- Are shoes made to fit hoof?
- Are hoof and shoe level?
- Was it a pleasant experience for the horse (not mistreated), and the owner?

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4. You Asked: What are the best pasture forages for horses?

There are several forages that work well for horse pastures. You should use forages that provide the most extended grazing season. This means that you should look at a combination of warm- and cool-season forages. You should keep in mind that horses are very tough on pastures. Horses are spot grazers and will tend to graze certain areas very close to the ground while leaving other areas untouched. Horses are also very selective grazers and if given a choice will not consume certain forages. Horses will destroy certain sods.

In selecting what forages to use for horse pastures, you need to keep all of the above in mind. In many cases, you want to sacrifice total forage production from a higher yielding grass for one that will withstand close grazing, trampling and bogging and hoof action on pasture. There are warm-season perennials, such as Bermuda grass, Johnson grass, bluestems, crabgrass and native grasses. The cool-season perennial grasses include fescue, orchardgrass, & ryegrass. Varieties of fescue that are contaminated with the endophyte fungus, *Acremonium coenophialum*, should be avoided because they can cause abortions, stillbirths, thick placentas and/or failure to lactate. Legumes that are suitable for horses are alfalfa, & clover. Orchard grass is a bunch grass that produces regrowth rapidly following grazing and should be chosen for irrigated and subirrigated pastures. Tall fescue is good for wet areas that are subject to heavy travel. Ladino clover is a white clover that is productive and palatable to horses. Alsike clover is adapted to wet areas, poorly drained areas and is short lived. Alfalfa can be maintained as a pasture if grazing is followed by long rest periods.

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5. Lightning Bugs Are Looking Good

For the first time in several years, most of North Carolina has had a reasonable amount of rainfall in the spring. This year the lampyrids (lightning bugs) seem to be off to a good start. Lightning bugs are beetles. Fireflies are, coincidentally, also beetles! Lightning bug

adults produce a heat-free source of light through a biochemical reaction. The light flashes are used to attract mates. Different species have different flash patterns and are active at different times during the evening.

What does this have to do with pest management? One of the many great aspects of lightning bugs is that the larvae of some species are predatory on **snails and slugs!**

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6. Its Name Is Mud Dauber

Last week the mud daubers exploded at my back porch. The common and beneficial organ pipe mud dauber, *Trypoxylon politum*, is a dark blue metallic, solitary wasp. With this species, females build elongate, tubular (far out man!) mud nests under shaded overhangs and eaves. Nests may be clusters of longitudinally touching tubes that resemble pipes of an organ.

Females will "attack" a mud spot, scoop some up and move it to the forelegs for carrying. It may take several scoops to secure a full load. She then flies to a desired spot and forms a band of mud on the opening of each tube. Bursts of (annoying) buzzing that are akin to a trip to the dentist are often amplified by substrate and the echoes of the forming tube. As she builds, the female provisions the nest with paralyzed spiders in each cell for the future offspring to eat. They most often hunt orb-weavers and crab spiders. Males may stay in the nest to protect it. The females only visit to provision and construct it. The males cannot sting, and the females rarely do (or would). They are not defensive and are not like paper wasps in this behavior.

Other related species may build clumps of mud instead of pipes, and specialize on different prey.

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7. Pest & Pest Control

Particularly during the summer, pests seem to be more active & noticeable. There have been a few reports "aggressive" sales tactics across NC particularly in the larger urban areas such as the Triangle, Triad and Charlotte. In some cases, door-to-door sales calls are coming late in the evening (9:00pm and later)

While there is nothing illegal about these sales calls (and tactics), some individuals end up regretting signing the contracts. Why? Simply because they forgot the well-worn adage "Caveat emptor" - they fail to read the terms of the contract and subsequently find out that they signed a long-term contract that may carry incremental recurring costs over the initial

"sign-up discount cost". This article is not saying that folks should discourage from signing up for pest control services. Some people need that margin of comfort against bugs and it's entirely their decision. However, a key part of that decision process is being an **informed consumer. Ask to see the sales rep's NCDA-issued identification ("Registered Technician") card. If they don't have one, ask why not (the typical response will be that "it's being processed"). Every company has at least one licensed applicator; ask for his/her license number.**

Never hesitate to ask to have the contract terms explained (and explained... and explained...) until they understand it clearly:

- How long does the contract last?**
- Can I cancel it (are there any penalties?)**
- What exactly am I getting as part of this service**
- What guarantees (for pest control) come with the contract?**
- If I have questions later on, whom do I call? (ask for a contact name)?**

If the sales person seems to hesitate about responding to any of these queries, bid them a good evening and go back to watching TV. If they have any other concerns or complaints, call the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services - Structural Pest Control Division (919-733-6100).

If you would like some tips on selecting pest control companies, go to: <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/Urban/tips.htm>

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8. Open Fun Show at Flintrock Farm on Saturday, June 25th from 9 a.m. until we're done! English, western and fun classes for all ages! \$10 per class or \$60 to show all day. All proceeds go to benefit HorseFriends Therapeutic Riding Center. See www.horsefriendsnc.org for more information. Concessions will be offered on site! Come join the fun and help support HorseFriends!

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9. Focus group for young people

The N.C. Rural Economic Development Center is exploring opportunities for youth and young adults in our rural communities across the state. Each year, hundreds of young

people move away to attend college, join the military or take a job – and never return to become part of the economic and social fabric of their hometowns.

As a result of having this knowledge, the center is conducting eight focus groups around the state during June and July to hear from young adults (ages 18 – 30) about opportunities and challenges in their communities and what attracted them to stay or return. Below is the detailed information for the focus group in Rockingham County.

Date: Tuesday, June 28

Time: 6:00 – 6:30pm dinner served, 6:30 – 8:00 pm focus group\

Location: Reidsville Area Foundation, Wachovia Building, 227 W. Morehead Street, Reidsville

Participants in the focus group should be young adults ages 18-30, particularly those who are no longer in high school. The aim of the exercise is to hear from young people who are facing choices of whether to stay in or leave their communities and/or where to find work or go to college and from those who have returned or are newcomers and what attracted them to or back to the community.

The NC Rural Center is happy to share with you themes that emerged from the focus group in your community once the process is complete in mid-July.

If you or if you know anyone who might take part in this exercise, please contact Jennifer Nixon at 520-2046 or jennifernixon@bellsouth.net

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10. Rockingham County Cooperative Extension Advisory Golf Tournament

Date: July 20, 2011

**Location: Wolf Creek Golf Club
722 Wolf Island Road, Reidsville**

Purpose: To establish an endowment fund for the support of our Rockingham County Extension Agents with program cost as they play a vital role in many ways such as Food Safety, Youth Development and Leadership skills, Crop/Livestock Production, Home Beautification, and Recreational Opportunities – just to name a few benefits given!

Hosted By: NC Agricultural Foundation, Inc. In conjunction with Rockingham County Cooperative

Extension Service.

Entry Information:

- \$200 per team or \$50 per player
(Includes green & cart fees, player gift, lunch, closest to the pins & Prizes.)

- Payment MUST accompany completed registration form to reserve your entry.

Event Format:

- Four Person Captain's Choice

Schedule of Events:

- 7:15 – 8:00 Registration
- 8:00 a.m. Morning Shotgun Start
- 12:00 – 1:00 Afternoon Registration
- 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Shotgun Start
- 5:15 p.m. Prizes & Awards

Tournament Prizes:

- 1st Place \$800 team
- 2nd Place \$600 team
- 3rd Place \$400 team
- 4th Place \$200 team

Registration Deadline

Monday, July 18th

SPACE IS LIMITED

Limited to the first 36 teams!!

We will start alternate list after tournament is full.

If you would like more information please call 336-342-8230

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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 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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12. Swap Shop - For Sale/Wanted - Equestrian Facilities Available

- 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. 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
- 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 or shoponys@gmail.com
- Order by July 31st - Unique, Artistic Horse Jewelry... Sterling Silver Horse Head Pin/Pendant(Pg 106D in catalog): \$52 + \$4 shipping + 7.75%tax = \$60.34 Smaller Sterling Horse Head necklace (Pg 102C in catalog): \$39 + \$4 shipping + 7.75% tax = \$46.33 Pay only \$4 shipping no matter how many items you order! Great gifts! Get these items at last year's low silver prices only through July 31. After that they will be gone! To order, contact Cindy

Van Gorder 336-274-6222, cindyvg@earthlink.net See it and/or order at: www.MySilpada.com/Cindy.VanGorder.

- Looking for someone to live in nice barn apartment in exchange for taking care of horses and farm. Max-1-2 adults and 1 child, Could have full time job and do this on side. Feeding twice a day, general farm maintenance and upkeep. Or could pay someone to come feed twice a day. Location-between GSO and HP near 311 Ext, 85, and Hwy 62, please contact ratherberidin45@gmail.com or call 549-8018. Must have references, Thanks! Please spread word to your friends also.

- For Sale- 2002 Horse Trailer, "Stallion", bumper pull, step up, with stabilizer attachment, steel frame, aluminum shell, two horses slanted, tack/changing room, saddle area. Drop down windows w/bars and screens. Lights. Used only few times for local events. Excellent shape. Email Mrs.White (fwhite2@triad.rr.com) and I'll send you a photo. Asking \$6,900.

- For Sale- five totes of 275 gallons each, used only once. Large opening on top, spigot with valve at bottom. They are in excellent shape and they have the galvanized protective cage with the lift fork set up. Great for water storage. If you are interested, please contact Ms.White @fwhite2@triad.rr.com or call [336 817 2144](tel:3368172144).

- Pasture Board Plus - 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 orlarknspursandy@bellsouth.net.

- Horse Boarding available – Liberty, NC location. Our facility has round pen, lighted riding ring, and beautiful setting. Safe secure facility, owner on-site. \$150/mo includes feed and hay. Additional services available at reasonable additional costs, just ask. Please call for more information. 336-708-1759.

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13. Take A Load Off - Refrigerator Man

A woman goes to a psychiatrist and says, "Doctor, you've got to do something about my husband -- he thinks he's a refrigerator!" "I wouldn't worry too much about it," the doctor replies. "Lots of people have harmless delusions. It will pass."

"But you don't understand," the woman insists. "He sleeps with his mouth open, and the little light keeps me awake."

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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 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.

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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

North Carolina Cooperative Extension,

525 NC 65, Suite 200, Reidsville, NC 27320

(336) 342-8235 800-666-3625 Fax: 336-342-8242

Email : ben_chase@ncsu.edu

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