Hey Everybody (Horse E-mailers),

Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the Week of August 22, 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 PUT WEEKLY PILE IN SUBJECT LINE when you send in to me.

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. Hurricane Irene

2. Be Preared for The Storm - Horses
1. Hurricane Irene
Tropical Storm Irene has become our first Hurricane of the season. Its big & broad storm with very powerful winds & heavy rains. Hurricane Irene is currently making its way through the Caribbean and debating what path she will take and strength once it hits open waters.

It looks as if we could feel the impacts of Hurricane Irene sometime over the weekend & in into early next week. While it is still too early to tell what our impacts
would be, it looks like the center of the storm will be passing over or near the coastal counties, a lot of the state will be impacted with high winds & rainfall. Due to the expected size & power of this storm we ask that you continue to monitor the progress of Hurricane Irene and try to prepare yourselves, family & farm to ensure your safety. So review your Emergency Plans!

Below are websites with more information:

NC Cooperative Extension Disaster Information Center
http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/disaster/
Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN)
http://www.agctr.lsu.edu/eden/default.aspx

NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services:
NCDA & CS now has a number for you to call to get information: 866-506-6222
http://www.ncagr.gov/markets/livestock/horse/EquineDisasterResponseAlliancePartners.htm

PDF with information about preparing for a hurricane:

PDF of 24 Step Disaster Plan:

For all: General precautions for having papers together, a 'ready kit' of supplies, food and water (for animals and people), batteries, etc., are all worthwhile.

Please plan ahead and prepare to keep yourselves and your animals and other pets safe!

Disaster recovery information related to trees and forest can be found on Extension Forestry's website. The link is http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/forestry/programs/disaster.php. Please take a moment to review.

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2. Be Prepared for The Storm - Horses
The possibility of bad weather is before us & it can come anytime, there are several preparations that horse farm owners can enact prior to a storm to
enhance your situation:

1. Establish your informational resources
2. Secure structures on the farm. Move loose objects indoors, fill all water tubs, tie jumps and poles together.
3. Store drinking water & fill all water tubs. Allow for 20 gallons water/horse/day Note: This is one of the most difficult dilemmas to overcome during the clean up period when water sources tend to be contaminated. You may want to line garbage cans with plastic bags and fill with water.
4. Have a 7 day supply of feed and hay. Cover with water repellent tarps and place on pallets to reduce the likelihood of water damage.
5. Bed all stalls including aisle ways for pastured horses to be tied during storm. Store other bedding in plastic bags indoors.
6. Secure a generator that can handle your water pump, electrical outlets for a refrigerator and lights. Also make sure you store a supply of gas.
7. Place fly mask on pastured horses to reduce incidence of eye injuries from flying debris.
8. Identify all horses with name tags braided into manes or attached to halters. Consider spray painting your phone number in white or blaze orange paint on both sides of your horse. You can include name, delivery address, phone numbers, and horse’s name. Most feed stores carry blank cattle ear tags which can be written on with a permanent marker. Microchips inserted in the neck muscle are also excellent way to identify an animal. Insome instances, it may be helpful to have pictures, identification and/or registration papers on your animals should you need to verify ownership. Be sure to store these items in an area that will remain dry.
9. If practical, evacuate yourself and horses well in advance of storm to a safe holding area. It is difficult and dangerous to pull a horse trailer during high winds. Note: Your normally docile mount may become upset and difficult to handle with the environmental changes. Loading a horse during extreme weather may be impossible.
10. If your barn is well constructed leave your horses inside to minimize injury from flying debris. Be aware of rapidly rising water. If you are located in an area prone to flooding, evacuate your animals with a seven day feed/bedding supply prior to the storm. If you are unable to evacuate, remove horses from their stalls and barns to higher ground prior to a rising water threat. Horses trapped in stalls or barns with hinged doors are a leading killer of animals immediately following a major storm. If you are unable to coordinate a move to higher ground, leave your animals in a pastured area.
11. If your barn is poorly constructed or in poor repair, leave your horses in a naturally protected well-fenced pasture area. Select low area protected by rises (elevations), make certain the area will not be subject to flash flooding, avoid streams, ponds etc., if horses are left outside leave in a naturally protected well fenced area and keep horses away from shallow rooted trees or trees which had been damaged in previous storms. So keep horses away
from old dilapidated structures to minimize flying debris injuries.
12. Secure and store a good supply of temporary fencing materials for repairs. Utilize fencing that will contain horses without electricity. Permanent repairs can be made at a later date.
13. Obtain film to document storm damage. It is suggested that you take pictures of horses, barn, equipment and house, now for insurance purposes. Review insurance policy to determine storm coverage then document accordingly.
14. Maintain an emergency first aid kit for you and your horses. (include the following: Knife, Adhesive Tape, Scissors, Duck Tape, Nylon/Cotton Rope, Extra Halter, Clean Towels, Antiseptic, Soap, Leg Wraps, Topical Antibiotic Ointments, Soap, Tranquilizers, Pain Relievers, Bandages, Bee Sting Kit, Insect Repellent, Flash Light & Batteries)
15. Have vaccinations up to date and keep all copies of records/documentation with you. This is very important due to diseases caused by biting insects. Horses should be vaccinated annually for Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE). The increased mosquito population that occurs immediately after a storm has typically resulted in an increased incidence of encephalomyelitis. Horses located in areas with high mosquito populations should be vaccinated twice per year, six months apart.

After the Storm
1. Check on horse's welfare. Check area for possible toxic tree branches. Be aware of the possibility of Cyanide Poisoning due to the ingestion of wilted wild cherry leaves, twigs, bark or seeds and/or red maple leaves. Symptoms include: weakness, excitability, grasping for breath, in coordination, collapse, convulsions, constipation or diarrhea, bloody urine, and death. Symptoms may result from as little as 1-2 cups of leaves on an empty stomach.
2. Assess storm damage to facilities, barns, fences, roadways and photograph.
3. If power is out notify the power company and advise them of the number of horses on your farm and importance of electricity to their well being.
4. If water is needed contact local fire department and request water delivery. Make sure you have tubs on hand!
5. If you have a need during/after a storm that assistance is needed notify Emergency Management.
6. Make sure you let me know (342-8235 or 1-800-666-3625) of your situation and so I can give you any information concerning storm-related agricultural assistance programs for livestock/horse owners.
3. Earthquakes
If you are interested in monitoring earthquakes worldwide with all of the data reported, go to:

4. You Asked: – I recently purchased about 55 acres. I am interested in possibly setting this acreage up as a farm.
I want to find out the facts in regard to doing this.
Please help me out with this?

Farm Classification??
How can my farm be classified as a farm? This is a common question and to get the answer to this question you must first ask yourself another question. For what reason/purpose do you want or need to be classified as a farm?? This question could be one or all of 3 reasons. In all cases it would be wise to discuss this decision with your tax advisor and attorney.
- For Sales Tax Exemption – fill out NCDR Form E-595EA
- For Property Tax purposes - Included is a link of the "Use Value Assessment & Taxation Of Agricultural, Horticultural Or Forest Lands" publication that addresses the tax definitions, classification, present use value, change in use, deferred tax and duty of the Dept. of Revenue and applications.http://www.co.surry.nc.us/Departments/Forms_Forms_PDF/Tax_Forms/Agricultural_Horticultural_Forestland_Value_Assessment.pdf
- For Zoning Reasons or Purposes - Please contact the
Rockingham County Department of Planning & Building Inspections: Rockingham County - 342-8134, Guilford County 641-3334 and discuss with them the reasons why your property should or should not be Marked on the map as Ag Use. There are definite criteria that one must meet for this Ag use classification and can affect many things associated with how things are done on the property.

- To participate in Farm Service Agency Agricultural Programs - To participate in any Federal agricultural program you must have a Farm Number issued by the Farm Services Agency (FSA). The FSA offices can be reached in Rockingham County - 342-0406 Ext. 2, in Guilford County – 375-5401 Extension 2. To establish New Farm/Ownership Change you will need:
  * A copy of Aerial Tax Map
  * Copy of Recorded Deed/Recorded Will
  * Death Certificate if bringing in Recorded Will
  * Names, Addresses, Social Security Numbers, Dates of Birth, Marital Status, Veteran Status and Telephone Numbers and All Owners on Deed


You need to talk to all of the above agencies. These agencies are independent of one another and the Ag classification requirements are also different. You may also go to the NCSU Agricultural and Resource Economics webpage at [http://www.ag-econ.ncsu.edu/extension.htm](http://www.ag-econ.ncsu.edu/extension.htm) for more information about Business Management, Taxes and Budgets.

Rockingham & Guilford Counties have Voluntary
Agricultural Districts. Your Agricultural Land is a Valuable Asset to the Citizens of the County, Look into how Your Farm Can Become a Voluntary Agricultural District!

Basic Elements of a Business Plan
http://transylvania.ces.ncsu.edu/content/busplanbasics &source=transylvania

For more information and resources for Farm Business Planning, check out these websites:

http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/value-added/tool_kit.html
http://www.smallfarms.cornell.edu/pages/resources/businessmanagement/creating.cfm
http://www.sare.org/publications/business.htm
http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/businessmanagement/DF6985.html
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/wholefarm/html/c6-41.html
http://www.eeo.aem.cornell.edu/
http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/small_farm_funding.htm
http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/Business_and_Industry/sbcnmainpage.htm

Web Resources for Farm Business Management
5. Drought Stress and Pasture Quality
by: Kathryn Watts, BS

Drought causes pastures to dry up, weeds to flourish, and horses to get thin without supplemental feeding. But there are other things going on in your fields that you need to know about in order to protect your horses from problems such as laminitis, colic, diarrhea, and toxic weeds. The problem isn't over when the rains come; conversely, the much-needed, drought-breaking rains can cause additional problems to grazing horses.

One might think that green grass is highest in nutrients and brown grass is lowest. This is true for some nutrients, but not all. When dead grass is rained on, water-soluble nutrients are leached out. But under drought conditions, they remain; your pasture might actually be higher in non-structural carbohydrates, which includes sugars, starch, and fructan.

Most cool-season grasses accumulate sugar and fructan (a type of sugar) under drought stress. When plant growth slows due to lack of water, the balance between photosynthesis that creates sugar, and growth that uses sugar, is lost. Sugar levels rise in intense sunlight, and high sugar levels trigger formation of fructan, which is the storage form of carbohydrate in cool-season grasses. Warm season grasses do not make fructan, preferring starch for carbohydrate storage.
Fructan reserves are like the fat on a hibernating bear: The more fructan plants can accumulate before they go dormant, the more energy reserves they have to sustain them during the drought and allow them to get a competitive advantage when conditions are again favorable for growth. Unfortunately for horses eating these plants, fructans are a known trigger for laminitis in susceptible horses.

Orchard grass varieties that best survived a long-term drought under Mediterranean conditions were found to have sugar and fructan levels up to 63% of dry matter in the green, living leaves enclosed in the leaf buds. In a study of wheatgrass in the high desert of the United States, sugar and fructan levels increased seven-fold in the grass crowns and roots under drought stress compared to irrigated control plots.

Other species prefer to turn their fructan reserves to sugar under drought stress. In tall fescue subjected to drought stress under greenhouse conditions, sucrose content increased 258% in the leaf base, and fructan decreased to 69% of that in control plants that got water.

When selecting plants to survive drought, plant breeders either purposely or inadvertently select those with the highest levels of fructan and sugar, because they tend to be the hardiest.

Then the Rains Came
So what happens to all these hoarded non structural carbohydrates when it rains and growth starts again?

Fructan and starch are the storage forms of carbohydrate. Neither is transportable in a plant because they are too big. To be used by the new growing point, they have to be broken down to sugars that are small enough to travel from the lower storage portions of the plant up to the new growth. Re-watering stimulates production of enzymes that break long-chain fructan into shorter chains, and ultimately to the sugar components. Those first new green shoots can be very high in sugar. The type of sugar produced after the drought breaks can vary depending on the species of grass. Ryegrass is an exception in that it makes even more fructan upon re-watering.

So, the consequence of a drought-breaking rain that stimulates new growth in your pasture is a rapid change in carbohydrate form that might affect your horse's digestive system or cause a metabolic crisis in a horse with
impaired glucose metabolism. The effect of the change on grass carbohydrate concentration and form in pasture-fed horses has not yet been researched; although digestive upsets and laminitis frequently occur with seasonal change and periods of rapid pasture growth after a drought-breaking rain.

Studies on the fermentation of fructan and sugar in the production of silage show that different species of bacteria tend to prefer specific types of plant carbohydrate. Because bacteria eat mostly the terminal ends of fructan chains, shorter chain fructans are fermented faster than longer chain fructans. These are the same kinds of bacteria that ferment the carbohydrates in your horse's cecum. If the type and chain length of the carbohydrates change quickly, the bacterial populations can also change rapidly. Those preferring the new form of carbohydrate might proliferate, producing lactic acid and changing the population dynamics within the hindgut. This is the scenario where endo- and exo-toxins might be produced.

We are all aware that changing the carbohydrate levels in our horses' diets too quickly can lead to diarrhea, gas, colic, and even laminitis in susceptible individuals. Long-term drought--and a drought-breaking rain--make for sudden changes in the carbohydrate form and concentration in your pasture, and thus in your horse's diet if he is on pasture.

Weeds in Drought-Stressed Pasture
When shallow-rooted grasses dry up, sometimes the only succulent forage left is weeds with deep tap roots. Weeds can also accumulate sugar, starch, or fructan under drought stress. This makes weeds a lot more appealing to your horse, and he might start eating things usually avoided when grass is green and well-hydrated.

Dandelion, thistles, and chicory are common weeds often relished by horses even under normal conditions. All three contain inulin, the same form of fructan used to induce laminitis in clinical studies.

Many plant toxins concentrate under drought conditions. Weeds can accumulate nitrates, oxalates, alkaloids, prussic acid, and cyanogenic glycosides, which can cause a wide variety of equine health problems including digestive upset, mineral imbalances, photosensitivity, and liver, kidney, and neurological damage. Fescue infected with endophytes might have dramatically increased levels of ergovaline under drought stress. This alkaloid causes constriction of blood vessels, which can cause abortion in
late-term mares and has been associated with laminitis.

Preventive Strategies
Pregnant or growing animals grazing drought-stressed pastures might need supplemental protein and vitamins, but energy needs might be adequate. Diarrhea or excess gas is a signal that pasture access might need to be limited to allow for adaptation to new carbohydrate levels. If your horse is susceptible to problems associated with excess carbohydrates, test your pasture for non-structural carbohydrates (NSC, the ones we've been discussing) when your pasture is under adverse conditions such as drought. Samples with any green plants must be frozen immediately and shipped cold to retain sugar. Compare these levels with the NSC content of hay your horse seems to do well on.

If your pastures are too high in NSC for your horse, limit pasture access and feed more hay. Make sure he's not so hungry he starts nibbling on weeds with possible plant toxins. When the rains come again, exert caution and consider controlling access by dry-lotting part of the day, using a grazing muzzle, or forcing strip grazing with portable fencing until grass is two to three inches tall. This allows grass growth to use excess carbohydrates accumulated during the drought.

6. A few important points about colic and how horse owners should be prepared for occurrences of colic:
Drs. Meeker, Baucom and Williamson

1. Understand and know your horse's normal eating behavior. Changes in the way they eat can sometimes be a preliminary sign of colic.

2. Know the normal ranges and how to measure temperature (100.5 normal), pulse (32-44 beats per minute) and respiration (8-16 breaths/minute). TPR will likely be the first question the vet asks if you call them with a suspected colic.

3. There are MANY causes of colic, and most can be traced to a management issue. For example, we need to keep consistent feeding times as well as the amount (in pounds) that we feed.

4. Make any feed changes gradually, usually over a 7-10 day period. My general rule of thumb is to change feeds ½ pound at a time until the changeover is complete.

5. Give horses as much access to hay and/or forage as possible. Exceptions would be in the case of a frequently stalled horse going to pasture, in which that horse needs to be introduced to grazing gradually.

6. Check horses at night. Most colics occur during the evening hours, and many cases become very serious because horses may not be checked from 6 pm until the next morning. With stalled horses, add hay if necessary during the evening check.
7. Make sure that horses have access to clean, fresh water. Also monitor water intake very closely, and if intake decreases, the use of salt blocks or electrolytes can help to stimulate drinking. In the case with very cold weather, it may be necessary to heat water up to about 50 degrees F if you suspect your horses have stopped drinking.

Know your horses, be very consistent, and be very aware of changes in behavior. This knowledge and awareness can help to minimize the severity of many colic cases that are treated.

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7. Cooler Horsemanship Weekend Clinic
August 26-28 at Fiore Farms
Friday evening overview/demo - 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Saturday and Sunday Clinic - 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Clinic Participants - $300 for weekend
Equipment not included. Please contact us if you will be needing any horsemanship equipment. Stalls not included. Please call for rates if you will need a stall.
This clinic will be split into 2 sessions each day with 5 participants/session (10 participants total). Each participant and horse will be a part of either the morning or afternoon session on both Saturday and Sunday and is encouraged to watch and learn from the other session.
Morning Session: 9am-1pm
Afternoon Session: 2pm-6pm
Auditors welcome - Friday Free. $15/Day or $25/Weekend

Cooler Horsemanship Trail Clinic at Fiore Farms
October 1, 2011- 9:00am-1:00pm
Cost is $100/rider, limited to 7 participants.
Need to build your horse’s confidence outside the arena and on the trail? Join us at Fiore Farms for our Trail Clinic. We will start with Ground Play and Saddle Play in our pastures and surrounding areas and work through emotional boundaries while building confidence in preparation for trail. Once on the trail we will work on maintaining relaxation and control.

www.CoolerHorsemanship.com
kate@coolerhorsemanship.com
843-304-3407

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8. Annual Foxhunting School August 31
Classroom session will be held Aug 31, 7 pm at Flintrock Farm, then riding sessions each Sunday afternoon (2-5 pm) during the month of September at our Plainfield Road location in Summerfield. The school teaches the basics of foxhunting and both horse and rider will have a chance to meet and be with the foxhounds. The riding sessions will concentrate on skills and knowledge needed to ride safely in the hunt field. Fees are $150, $100 of which can be applied to membership in the Sedgefield Hunt. Participants in the class will also be invited to participate in 2 hunts during the month of October. Check the Sedgefield Hunt website for registration forms and more information (www.sedgefieldhunt.com).

9. Dayenu Equestrian will be hosting a Jumping/Gymnastics Clinic Saturday September 3rd with CHA Certified Master Instructor Linnea Markham. Learn how gymnastic jumping can improve your balance, strength and confidence along with your horse's balance, strength, confidence and agility. Great place to build on your basic jumping skills as well as learn new exercises to increase your performance at horse shows.

Cost: $60/person
Optional $10/stall, only 9 stalls available
Students will ride in groups of 4
First group will ride at 8:30a, the next ride time will be 90mins after the previous ride time begins.

Clinic will be hosted at 5095 Ashlyn Dr Winston-Salem, NC.

NEW!! learn more about DAYENU EQUESTRIAN CLUB - increase your equine education by participating in upcoming events. DEC is devoted to helping local facilities improve or tidy up there farms while each participant gets hands on experience handling daily farm tasks and various equine related projects.

For additional information please contact Linnea Markham 410-271-5875

10. Forest Management Program
Monday September 12, 2011
6:30pm
Rockingham Co Agricultural Center
525 Hwy 65 Reidsville, NC 27320

Come learn about forest management from start to finish!!!! Dr. Robert Bardon from NCSU will be presenting on practicing forestry while keeping in mind fiscal considerations. This is a good presentation for those already practicing forestry and for those who may be interested in forestry in the future but are not sure about the different fiscal aspects!!!!!

Call Kathryn Holmes, Rockingham County Cooperative Extension Agent at 342-8230 for more information

11. Making Medicine Workshop: Teas, Tinctures and Salves
Rockingham County Cooperative Extension and RCC
Friday September 16, 2011
5 - 8 pm - Rockingham County Agricultural Center

Pre-registration required. Space limited to 30 participants. Cost $25. Make checks payable to Rockingham County and mail or bring to Rockingham County Agricultural Center.

Come learn to create botanical medicine using plants we can grow in our own gardens. This workshop is for the beginner wishing to start stocking their own herbal apothecary with safe, effective, natural medicine. Gain hands-on experience and learn the fundamentals of making teas, tinctures, and salves.

Instructor Chip Hope from the Sustainable Agriculture and Horticulture programs at Western Piedmont Community College in Morganton, NC as well as the Department Head of Engineering.

Contact Kathryn Holmes, Horticulture Agent 336-342-8230 for more information or to register.

Participants will take home tincture, salve, and handouts!
12. 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!!

13. I am Still Amazed By This Horse!

SECRETARIAT: SUPERHORSE in The Preakness
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=embgF79IOo

The Immortal SECRETARIAT
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VI-IVl-UGE4&feature=related
13. Take A Load Off – CHANGE??

There's an old sea story in the Navy about a ship's Captain who inspected his sailors, and afterward told the Chief Boson's Mate that his men smelled bad.

The Captain suggested perhaps it would help if the sailors would change underwear occasionally.

The Chief responded, "Aye, aye sir, I'll see to it immediately!"

The Chief went straight to the sailors berth deck and announced, "The Captain thinks you guys smell bad and wants you to change your underwear.

"Pittman, you change with Jones; McCarthy, you change with Witkowski; and Brown, you change with Schultz. Now get to it!!!"

THE MORAL:

Someone may be promising "Change"; but don't count on things smelling any better!

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!

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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