

Weekly Pile for the Week of February 12 2012

Hello Everyone,

Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the Week of February 12, 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.

- 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 alike.

- PLEASE PUT WEEKLY PILE IN SUBJECT LINE when you send into me.

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!

Included in This Weeks Pile:

1. Come Out To Support The **Extension Horse Management Program - Monday Night!**

2. **Pasture: Evaluation and Management of Existing Pasture**

3. **Is Your Horse Ready for Spring?**

4. **You Asked**

5. **AMMONIA AND FOALS DON'T MIX**

6. **Horse Training Principles Related to Bit Use**

7. **Cooler Horsemanship Events**

8. **Chestnut Hill Stables Events & Activities**

9. **Flintrock Farm Fun Show - March 10th**

10. **HAY DIRECTORY**

11. **Take A Load Off**

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1. **2012 Extension Horse Management MONDAY NIGHT**

**Guilford County Agricultural Center, 3309 Burlington Road Greensboro, NC
27405**

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Monday, February 20 Mules & Donkeys – Encourage & Educate Horse Management participants about the mule and donkey industry - Shannon Hoffman, The Carolina Mule Association

I hope that many of you will plan on coming out on Monday Night to hear this program on Mules & Donkeys. Even if you don't have or even don't plan to have Mules or Donkeys, this program will give you the opportunity to hear & see things you probably have not heard or seen before. I know Shannon will present a GREAT Program – Come support these Programs!

Monday, February 27 Land Use & Present Use, Building Codes & Laws, Annexation/ETJ's, Water Regulations & Watershed Rules & other New Laws which is pertinent to NC Horse Owners. NC Farm Bureau, NC Horse Council

Monday, March 5 Endurance Riding – American Endurance Ride Conference, Education Committee

Monday, March 12 Horse Judging – Western & Huntseat - Dr. Mike Yoder, NCSU Extension Horse Husbandry Specialist

Monday, March 19 SWAP SHOP – Bring items to Sell/Trade or come to buy! Horse Management Committee – Randy Boles, David Dick, Sara Jo Durham, Steva Allgood, Rita Nott, & Georgianne Sims

- Registration Fee: \$30 for entire series or \$5.00 per session. (Just come Monday Night to Register)

- Registration Fee will be waived for 4-H members presenting an official current 4-H Program Membership ID Card.

For additional information, call Ben Chase, Rockingham & Guilford County Extension Livestock Agent, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service at [1-800-666-3625](tel:1-800-666-3625), or 342-8235 Email- ben_chase@ncsu.edu.

In case of inclement weather, please call [1-800-666-3625](tel:1-800-666-3625) or 342-8235 for a recorded message.

Directions to The Guilford County Agricultural Center, Located at 3309 Burlington Road 375-5876 and can be found at <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/guilford/directions.shtml>

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2. Pasture: Evaluation and Management of Existing Pasture

By Dr. Jenifer Nadeau, Equine Extension Specialist

University of Connecticut

Pasture management is very important for horse owners. By managing horse pastures more effectively, horse managers can increase forage production, lower production costs, improve aesthetics, and promote a healthier environment. The benefits of a well-managed pasture include reducing environmental impacts of your operation, including movement of soil and manure to water bodies; improving property aesthetics, which makes for good neighbor relations and increases property value; and providing feed and recreation for your horses. Using a rotational grazing system can enhance these benefits.

For optimal health, horses need to eat 1 to 1.5% of their body weight in hay or pasture grasses and legumes daily (15 lbs. of dry matter intake for a 1,000 lb horse). Horses will generally eat about 1-1.4 lbs. of pasture grasses and legumes per hour on a dry matter basis if they have enough pasture available. With 24-hour access to good quality pasture, a horse grazing 17 hours each day can consume up to 25 lbs. as forage, which is more than enough to satisfy his daily dry matter intake. A minimum of 11-15 hours per day on good quality pasture would be needed to meet the dry matter intake of 1.5% body weight.

Evaluation of Current Pasture

Begin by evaluating your pasture. Move hay and water troughs every year to encourage even plant growth and reseed with grass species that can stand up to horses' hooves (such as orchardgrass, Kentucky bluegrass, and perennial ryegrass). When planting, check to see if bare areas are heavily compacted. If you can't push the blade of a trowel into the ground, loosen the soil with a tiller before reseeding. Next, eliminate areas of standing water by regrading the area or installing drains after checking with your local government environmental agency to be sure that it is not a wetland. Eliminating standing water will benefit your pasture; it will also be an aid in disease control, since mosquitoes and other insects tend to breed in standing water.

Identify plants in your pasture and see if what you seeded last spring is present. If plants you seeded last spring are not present, you need to reevaluate your seeding methods and try planting again. You also want to remove poisonous plants with an herbicide.

Management - Resting pastures is critical! Recovery time for grasses ranges from 10 to as many as 60

days, depending upon season, weather, and soil characteristics. Generally expect to wait at least 14 days for grasses to regrow to grazing height in spring, and 30 or more days in summer. A good rule of thumb for grazing is to avoid exceeding 3-7 days on any one paddock.

If you have enough land to do this, divide your total pasture area into a minimum of 5 paddocks, and rotate animals to a new paddock at least once a week. This system will allow each paddock to rest for 28 days. If it is not possible to have 5 paddocks, divide your land into as many paddocks as possible to allow the areas to rest.

A rule of thumb is to graze animals when grass is 6 to 8 inches high. Rest grass when it is grazed down halfway (3 to 4 inches high). "Graze ½, leave ½." Grazing 50% only removes 2-4% of growth but grazing it 60% removes over 50% of growth! Grazing plants too short may cause horses to ingest soil resulting in sand colic, remove growing points of grass and take longer to recover pasture, allow more weeds to invade the pastures, increase the chance for

consumption of toxic plants and increase the need for weed control.

In springtime when grasses are growing quickly, you may need to move horses through the rotation faster or work in a mowing regime as well in order to prevent plants from getting too mature and unpalatable before they've been grazed. If you make hay, you may choose instead to withhold 1/2 of your pasture from your grazing system so that you can harvest a first cutting from it. After regrowth, this area may be added back into your rotation system.

Experiment with portable electric fencing systems to subdivide pastures into paddocks.

Paddocks are usually large pens or a small pasture that encompass one-half to several acres.

Ensure that the permanent perimeter fencing is sturdy and reliable. Portable or temporary fencing allows flexibility in how much area you give your horses daily. It also facilitates mowing and haying operations due to the ease of picking it up and getting it out of the way. Sub-fencing is not good for foals and weanlings, however. Over time you may find that you are placing your fences in the same places, and choose to erect permanent fencing in its place.

Keep grasses in their "vegetative" state with a combination of grazing and mowing.

Harvesting grass before it gets too tall will prevent it from becoming reproductive, also known as "going to seed." Mature grass is coarser, stemmy, and not as palatable or nutritious as leafy, actively growing plants. Clip weeds before they form a seed head to reduce the weed seed in your pastures and control woody plants such as tree and shrub seedlings, which may invade open

areas. Ideally, a paddock should be mowed as soon as possible every time animals are removed and rotated on to the next paddock. Just like grazing, you should allow grasses to grow to 6 to 8 inches and mow to 3 to 4 inches if not actively grazing to keep pasture grass healthy.

Soil test pastures to determine the need for fertilizer and lime, and follow recommendations. If pasture is new or has not received lime and fertilizer for many years, you may wish to test for 2-3 years in a row to establish a healthy fertility level. After that, a test every 3 years is sufficient.

Remember that if soil pH is too low, any fertilizer you apply may not be accessible to the grass, resulting in a waste of money!

“Drag” or chain harrow pastures as needed to break up and spread manure piles. This will help manure to be broken down more quickly, spread fertility more uniformly, and dry out parasite eggs more quickly. During wet weather, parasites may not be controlled by this method, so manure should only be spread during dry weather periods. Be sure to follow a regular deworming program. Removing feces twice weekly from pasture, is an effective parasite control method according to a study by RP Herd in 1986.

Animals should be fenced out of wetland areas, because they can cause damage to these fragile environments. When thinking about fencing, you should consider safety first. Fences should be clearly visible to horses and not located at the base of a hill where horses can easily run into them. Some good options for fencing are small wire mesh, post and rail, PVC, or electric fencing. Fences should be designed so that horses cannot get their hooves caught in the openings. Barbed wire should never be used around horses.

Introduction of Horses to Pasture - If not grazing year round, be sure to gradually introduce horses to spring pasture. There is no need to do this if horses are maintained on pasture year round, since the growth of pastures in the spring is not rapid enough to warrant stalling horses that are typically turned out. The only time to worry about this is if horses are stalled with no turnout and all of a sudden in the spring are going to be allowed pasture. Pasture grasses are high in sugars (sucrose, glucose, fructose and fructan) particularly during rapid growth. The simple sugars (sucrose, glucose, and fructose) can be digested in the small intestine by the horse but not the fructans, which reach the horse’s large intestine undigested. The fructans are then rapidly fermented by the action of microbial enzymes with the production of lactic acid and a decrease in cecal pH leading to colic and laminitis. The first day or two after the onset of pasture growth, try to limit grazing to 30 minutes to 1 hour. Then gradually increase the time over the next 7-10 days. Avoid grazing laminitis prone horses and ponies on spring or lush pasture that may trigger laminitis. Use a dry lot for overweight horses and ponies.

Careful management of land resources will ensure greater production of healthy grasses. Managing horses carefully on grasses will enable you to maintain them in good health and prevent laminitis and other problems from occurring. By following these guidelines, you will be more able to maintain healthy horses and healthy pastures.

This article & References can be found at:

<http://animalscience.uconn.edu/extension/publications/factsheetpdfs/pastureexist.pdf>

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3. Is Your Horse Ready for Spring?

Frederick Harper, Extension Horse Specialist

Animal Science Department, University of Tennessee

Individuals own horses for many reasons, which explains the numerous horse breeds as well as the great diversity of horse activities. Most horses, about 70-75 percent, are owned for pleasure, personal or recreational uses. In this category are those who like to ride down a county lane or along a

rugged mountain trail on a beautiful Sunday afternoon as well as owners who prefer more competitive activities ranging from local shows to world championship events.

Horses Are Better Athletes Than Humans. Horses can physiologically outperform human athletes. Horses have a greater capacity for taking in oxygen. From rest to maximum physical exertion, horses increase oxygen intake about 50 times compared to only a 7-10 times increase in humans. Greater oxygen intake results in greater athletic performance.

Horses' hearts beat faster. At rest, a horse's heart beats 28-40 beats/minute (bpm) which can increase to 250 bpm or a 10-fold increase. The human heart at rest beats about 55 bpm but only increases to about 210 bpm or about a 4-fold increase. A more rapid heartbeat results in the blood carrying more oxygen to the parts of the body.

The horses' muscles can extract oxygen from blood better than human muscles can, and horses can also regulate the number of red blood cells through the action of their spleens. The horse has a vast tolerance for lactic acid, a waste product produced when muscles do not get enough oxygen during exercise (anaerobic exercise). Horses performing to exhaustion produce four times as much lactic acid as do human athletes. Human athletes, however, surpass horses in the exchange of oxygen from the lungs to the bloodstream.

Owners want the best for their horses as demonstrated by the amount of money they spend on feeds,

facilities, tack, equipment and veterinary services and supplies. Therefore, it is amazing that some owners who want to do things right for their horses use them improperly. As spring approaches, thousands of horse owners are chomping at the bit to hit the trails and show rings. Whoa! A horse owner needs to wait a minute and take stock of the horse's condition.

Horses Need to Be Physically Fit. As athletes, horses must be physically fit to perform the various tasks

demanded of them. Whatever the performance activity – a day-long trail ride, a 4-H horse show, a three-day event, team penning, jumping, barrel racing, etc. – horses must be physically fit. However, horses are often taken from the pasture or stall in the spring and ridden before being properly conditioned.

In late fall, many horses are turned out on pasture or stalled part or all of the winter. Most pleasure horses are not ridden often in the winter months. In early spring, most will still have their thick winter hair coats which impedes their ability to perform and sweat. Some pleasure horses will come through the winter with more body fat than is recommended for most performance horses. On the other hand, some may be thin. A horse's body condition may not be noticed until it sheds out in the spring. Some horses also enter the spring with long, neglected hooves.

Before embarking on serious riding in spring, owners need to:

- 1) properly groom horses to remove their long winter hair coat;**
- 2) have their hooves properly trimmed and/or shod as needed;**
- 3) address improper body condition (over fat or too thin);**
- 4) have horses on a scheduled deworming and vaccination program;**
- 5) physically condition the horse before riding.**

All these issues need to be addressed simultaneously in the spring, and it takes time to get your pleasure horse to the stage where it can perform well and safely.

Body Condition Score (BCS). Body condition score is a visual, hands-on system to evaluate a horse's

body fat content. A horse with a BCS of one is emaciated while a horse with a BCS of nine is obese. A score of five represents moderate body condition. One needs to evaluate the horse's neck, withers, shoulder, ribs, back, croup and flank areas. While the system was developed for evaluation of broodmares, it also works well for pleasure and performance horses.

Pleasure horses that do not perform often and at only a low level of intensity can have a BCS of 5-6.5. As the levels of performance intensity, longevity, and summer heat and humidity increase, fatter horses with a BCS above this level will be at a disadvantage.

Horses performing at moderate or intense levels should have a body condition score of 5-5.5. With a body condition score of less than 5 or more than 5.5, these horses tend to not perform as

well. When performance is more intense, horses that have a BCS of less than 5 may not have enough energy to

perform over time. Those with a BCS over 5.5 may have too much body fat which hinders more strenuous performance.

Once a horse has shed out and its body condition evaluated, its feeding levels may need to be adjusted. Thin horses need more feed. Horses at or below a BCS of 4 probably will require grain and/or more hay. Owners of horses in the low 5 range may increase the quality and amount of hay or grain for those individuals not intended for intense activities.

Over-fat performance horses, especially those with a BCS in the high 7's and above, need to lose body fat. Adequate exercise with proper feeding is required. Such horses need little or no grain. Hay should be limited and may even be of a lower quality, especially for horses stabled most of the time. Horses on high-quality pasture may have to be placed in a dry lot part of the time to slim them down.

Physical Condition or Fitness. Unfit horses are often seen even at high levels of competition. Riding unfit horses is unsafe for both rider and horse. This risk increases at moderate to intense levels of performance. When pushed beyond their level of physical fitness, unfit horses become fatigued. At this stage, horses may stumble and make miscues, which can result in a serious or even life threatening injury. A tired or fatigued horse cannot perform anywhere near its genetic and conformational potential. Unfit horses breathe heavily and lather easily. Their nostrils flare and their flanks heave as they breathe rapidly and deeply, indicating that they have been pushed beyond their physical capacity. A physically fit horse produces a clear, watery sweat.

Pleasure horse owners must realize that they cannot take a horse out of the pasture or stable and ride it hard and/or for long durations before it is conditioned for such activities. If sixty days of inactivity results in a loss of bone density, what effect does winter inactivity have on a horse's physical condition?

To reduce stress and possible injuries, owners should properly condition horses not routinely exercised during the winter before riding them even for pleasure. This is probably more critical with older horses. The level of intensity or degree of difficulty is the major key in performance; intensity level is far more important than the amount of time spent performing. In a few minutes of performance, a cutting or reining horse expends more energy than a horse ridden down a country road or along a trail at a walk for a few hours.

Horse owners must plan to spend six weeks physically conditioning their horses before attempting any serious training or competition. Often horses are started into training when they are not physically fit. This is counterproductive – a tired horse will not be responsive. The longer a

horse is trained the more fit it will become; however, physical and mental damage may have been done before the horse was fit enough to be properly trained. Physical conditioning prepares a horse to perform at its genetic and conformational potential without becoming fatigued or exhausted. And, it must occur first for training to be effective.

Training enhances a horse's natural ability by developing action and maneuvers needed for a specific event. And, a horse can only reach its performance potential if it is physically fit. As with human athletes, a horse must have its cardiovascular, respiratory, muscular and skeletal systems conditioned for the level of performance expected. For motion to occur, muscles must contract by converting chemical energy into mechanical energy for propulsion and maneuvers. Oxygen must be transported from the lungs via the blood to muscles and other body tissues. Then, blood must remove waste products (lactic acid) from the muscles.

The heart pumps the blood throughout the body. With more intense performance, more oxygen is required; thus, the heart must beat faster. The resting heart rate is 28-40 bpm. Any exercise will accelerate the heart to 60 bpm, and the horse's heart rate can reach a maximum of 250 bpm.

The horse's heart rate is a good measure of its physical condition and its performance effort. As the horse becomes more physically fit, its heart rate at a specific speed will be lower. When properly fit, a horse's heart rate should drop to 60-70 bpm within 10 minutes after completion of performance.

Some trainers use on-board heart rate monitors to aid them in conditioning a horse.

Once a horse's heart rate exceeds 150 bpm, the horse's body shifts to anaerobic metabolism or metabolism without oxygen. Aerobic metabolism occurs in the presence of oxygen and efficiently converts energy to motion at heart rates below 150 bpm. Anaerobic metabolism cannot last long

without the horse becoming fatigued. One result of anaerobic metabolism is the build-up of lactic acid, the cause of muscle soreness. As the horse becomes more physically fit, it becomes more efficient in converting chemical energy into physical energy (motion).

Physical Conditioning. It takes at least six weeks to get a horse physically fit for performance. More intense performance takes longer. It is relatively easy to get the horse's cardio-respiratory systems (heart and lungs) fit in this length of time.

A simple program is to start walking the out-of-condition horses for 30 minutes a day for a week. In the second week, continue walking 30 minutes per day and add 30 minutes at a trot. In the third week, ride the horse at a trot and slow canter for a total of an hour a day. For the next three to five weeks, increase the distance and speed on a regular basis as the horse responds.

It is advisable to rest the horse at least one day a week. This helps the horse to have a good mental attitude. Do not allow the horse to become tired in the early stages of the conditioning program. Some horses, especially those with high BCS, may need to be started at a slower pace. For example, ride them only 15-20 minutes a day the first week.

After the heart and lungs are conditioned, one can begin training. The horse's ability to perform specific

maneuvers rather effortlessly is an indication that the horse's muscular system is becoming more fit. It takes longer to condition the muscular system, and even more time is needed for the skeletal system. This is more critical in race horses, three-day event horses and other such high intensity performance horses.

Since the activities that horses perform require sound feet and legs, it is imperative that their skeletal system be properly conditioned also. Long slow distance (LSD) conditioning helps strengthen and toughen the bones, ligaments, tendons and cartilage. This is often known as "legging-up" a horse. The intensity should be low and the duration relatively long. The idea is to elevate the heart rate and hold it at this higher level for several minutes. This level of intensity should be done five to six times weekly for 3-4 weeks.

An exercised horse should have a heart rate of 120-200 bpm and a maximum respiration rate of 150 breaths per minute. These should drop dramatically 10-15 minutes after the end of performance in the fit horse.

For trail horses and most pleasure horses, six weeks of such a conditioning program should be adequate. Of course, allow for variation among horses – some will become fit faster and others more slowly. The level of fitness when riding ceased in the fall and the level of body fat content will also affect the spring time frame for conditioning. Fatter horses take longer to become properly fit.

Riding Unconditioned Horses. Research can help us understand the negative effect of riding unconditioned horses. Horses were physically fit at the start of a recent study. They were housed in individual box stalls and fed a ration that met or exceeded the current nutritional needs for

intense performance. Two levels (0.36 percent or 0.62 percent) of calcium were fed. Prior to this study the horses had been physically conditioned for 12 weeks, then exercised to maintain condition for 30 weeks. During the study they were walked at a rate of 2.2 miles per hour on a walker for 60 minutes per day/seven days per week. All horses were healthy during the study and did not lose or gain any weight.

Bone mineral content (BMC) measured at three locations of the third metacarpal bone (front cannon bone) decreased rather linearly over the 12-week study. The BMC decreased 0.45 percent per week. This reduction was likely due to a lack of mechanical stimuli on the bone and fewer and less forceful movements than during the previous exercise regime. BMC has been shown to be highly correlated

to bone strength, breaking load and elasticity. BMC may influence resistance to skeletal injuries.

Feeding extra calcium to horses being de-conditioned neither influenced their BMC nor overcame the effects of lack of exercise. The decrease in BMC might have been greater had the horses not been walked daily.

These results indicate that it is not advisable to take inactive horses on long or extensive rides or expect them to perform demanding tasks. Horses which have been confined to stalls due to injuries or bad weather should be reconditioned prior to exercise.

Conditioned horses on pasture without any forced exercise program probably do not experience as great a decrease in BMC. Another study showed that yearlings on pasture had stronger bones than those stabled.

After a six-week conditioning program, your horse should have a more efficient cardio-respiratory system and its muscular system should be improved. If you plan to do only trail or pleasure riding, start with short rides. Each subsequent ride can be a little longer and more demanding as your horse becomes more accustomed to such activities.

This article & References can be found at: <http://animalscience.ag.utk.edu/Horse/pdf/HorseExpress/HrseExp%20V.21%20No.2.pdf>

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4. You Asked: Are red maple trees poisonous to horses?

The wilted or dry leaves of the red maple (*Acer rubrum*) are toxic to horses — an unidentified toxin with oxidant properties is present in wilted or dried leaves. Only the red maple, and possibly closely related hybrids, are known to be toxic. The toxin in red maples oxidizes hemoglobin with the formation of Heinz bodies, methemoglobinemia, and subsequent hemolytic anemia.

Poisoning is especially likely in the fall or following a storm when leaves of fallen branches become accessible to horses. The fresh green leaves apparently are not toxic, but once dried, they may remain toxic for up to 30 days. The bark from red maple trees is also toxic. Fatal poisoning of ponies that were fed 3.0 kilograms of dried red maple leaves occurred in one to five days. Doses of half this amount will induce formation of Heinz bodies. (small round inclusions within the red cell body formed by damage to the hemoglobin component molecules)

Are autumn blaze maples or “other maples” toxic to horses?

The only species of maple that has been shown to be toxic to horses in the eastern states is the red maple (*Acer rubrum*). "Autumn Blaze" is a hybrid between red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and the silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*). When eaten by horses, the wilted leaves of the red maple can lead to a severe and possibly fatal anemia. Since Autumn Blaze is a hybrid of the red maple, it is possible, although undocumented, that it may be toxic to horses. Be cautious and do not plant Autumn Blaze in or around a horse pasture where the horse could consume the wilted leaves. While it is better to limit access to problem trees, you should quickly clean up any branches that may be blown into a pasture after a storm or in the autumn when the leaves fall.

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5. AMMONIA AND FOALS DON'T MIX

Dr. Frederick Harper, Extension Horse Specialist

Animal Science Department, University of Tennessee

It is the time of year when many of us get colds, or at least do a lot of coughing and

sneezing. Also, it is that time of year when foals are born. It is also a frustrating time for horse breeders. About 15 percent of all foals have a severe respiratory disease before they are one year of age. Problems appear from 1-12 months of age. But, most respiratory diseases occur when the foal is 2-6 months of age. Not only are these diseases costly and time-consuming to treat, but they disrupt other farm activities, such as foaling, breeding mares, training and showing.

Horse breeders need to review management practices, seeking methods to reduce

insults to foals that place them at risk. One of these is reducing the level of ammonia. High

ammonia levels have been associated with respiratory problems in foals, as well as other

animals. Protein in the diet is broken down by the body, resulting in urea that is excreted in

the urine and volatilized to ammonia in the environment.

Often, horse owners keep barns shut up to keep out the cold. They may even heat their barn in winter, especially if they have show horses. A strong ammonia odor can often be smelt when entering these barns. Much of the ammonia is near the floor where young foals spend a lot of time. Young foals also have an immature respiratory system, making them more susceptible to disease.

Ammonia levels as high as 400 parts per million (ppm) were measured in foal stalls in one study. But, it has been reported that 10 ppm of ammonia is the level above which one might expect problems in animals. So, it is important to reduce the level of ammonia in foaling stalls, and all stalls in barns where foaling occurs.

In a University of Illinois study, the ammonia level was the same regardless of whether straw, sawdust, sand or shredded paper bedding was used. But, 1-2 pounds of hydrated lime reduced the ammonia levels when sprinkled on the stall floor after cleaning and before re-bedding. Ammonia levels were noted 48-72 hours after the hydrated lime was applied with straw, but not until 72 hours with sawdust. A commercial product prevented detectable ammonia levels at either 48 or 72 hours

with either straw or sawdust. In another study at the University of Pennsylvania, researchers lowered ammonia levels to non-detectable levels when 10 pounds of sodium bisulfate were placed on the floor of a 10 x 10 foot stall (100 square feet), before bedding with 33 pounds of straw. Afterwards, sodium bisulfate was sprinkled on top of the bedding daily, then 4.5 pounds of straw was spread over

the old bedding. Straw is the preferred bedding material at foaling. Afterwards, mare and foal can be

bedded on sawdust or other suitable bedding materials.

It is also advisable to check the level of protein being fed to broodmares. Excess protein in the diet results in greater levels of ammonia. Not only can this negatively affect the foal, but excess protein is a waste of money. Horse breeders need to remove waste and soiled bedding daily, and apply hydrated lime, sodium bisulfate or a commercial stall product along with additional clean, fresh bedding to reduce levels of ammonia in foal stalls

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6. Horse Training Principles Related to Bit Use

Ashley Griffin, University of Kentucky

Bits provide one of the major points of control when riding horses. Knowledge of horse behavior and training principles used to modify behavior must be considered when selecting and using bits. Bitting is a continual process which, through repetitive and step-wise training, teaches horses to accept bits and to properly respond to bit pressure.

The goal of the bitting process is to train the horse to respond to as light a bit pressure as possible to perform a given task. Therefore, rein pressure should be as light as possible when used as a cue or to reinforce a cue.

Applying large amounts of rein pressure when cueing a horse for an initial response, will increase the frequency of undesirable responses from the horse and limit his ability to learn additional tasks. Therefore, inexperienced horses should be trained in bits that apply mild, direct pressure instead of bits that intensify pressure or apply large amounts of leverage.

Introducing A Young Horse to Bit and Rein Pressure

Applying single episodes of long-term pressure encourages resistance and avoidance of cues. Application of bit pressure should be short-termed and followed immediately by a release period. If more rein pressure is needed for reinforcement, additional “pull-and-release” pressure should be applied instead of lengthening the duration of the initial cue.

Horses in the beginning stages of training should be accustomed to the bit and taught to respond to rein pressure before being ridden. This can be accomplished with several sessions of bridling the horse with a ring snaffle bit and allowing him to wear the bit for several hours at a time without reins attached.

The second objective is to teach the horse to respond to rein pressure. One way to do this is to tie the reins from a snaffle bridle to a biting harness so small amounts of pressure are applied to the horse's mouth until the horse responds acceptably by giving in to the rein pressure.

For more information on horse bits and biting, check out the HorseQuest Learning Lesson: Understanding Bits for Horses at:

<http://www.extension.org/pages/11539/horsequest-learning-lesson:-understanding-bits-for-horses>

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7. Cooler Horsemanship Events

Finishing the Foundation Demonstration - Saturday, February 18th 1:00 - 3:00pm

Join us and watch as we demonstrate how the Cooler Horsemanship Program progresses and finishes a young horse in the Foundation Level.

Demonstration Fee - \$10.00

Freedom Clinic - February 24-26 *

"Find the Freedom in playing off line with your horse"

Friday evening overview/demo - 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Saturday and Sunday Clinic - 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Clinic Participants - \$300 for weekend

Auditors welcome - Friday - \$5 , \$15/Day or \$25 for entire clinic (includes Friday demo, Saturday and Sunday audit).

Horsemanship Clinic – March 16-18 *

Friday evening overview/demo - 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Saturday and Sunday Clinic - 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Clinic Participants - \$300 for weekend

Auditors welcome - Friday - \$5 , \$15/Day or \$25 for entire clinic (includes Friday demo, Saturday and Sunday audit).

Winter Clinic Special

Sign up 2 friends and you receive ½ price (\$150.00) on your clinic sign up fee

www.CoolerHorsemanship.com

kate@coolerhorsemanship.com

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

Fiore Farms

7600 Millbrook Road

Summerfield, NC 27358

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8. Chestnut Hill Stables Events & Activities

Shelby Bivins - [336-613-3549](tel:336-613-3549)

- March 10th - 10:00am - Vaccine and Coggins Clinic at Chestnut Hill Stables

This is a Great way for people to afford vaccines and Coggins.

Dr. Paul Erwin

10:00 am - first come first served - West Nile \$25 Coggins \$21

Rabies \$16 4-Way \$17 5-Way \$29 teeth too! teeth according to horse

Inclement weather date - march 17th

Visit website for more details www.chestnuthillstables.com

- March 24th and April 7th

CHS Schooling Day and Showmanship Clinic

Just like a show with out all the fuss. No judge. No formal attire. Pay one fee and show as much as you like. Showmanship clinic will proceed the start of showmanship classes. \$5.00 fee

\$20.00 non jumpers - \$30.00 jumpers

Visit website for more details www.chestnuthillstables.com

- St. Jude Hospital Benefit Trail Ride - Sponsored by Rockin' Riders 4-H Club at Chestnut Hill Stables 1:00pm - \$35.00 min. pledge Donation to Ride

Visit website for more details www.chestnuthillstables.com

- CHS and Rockin' Riders 4-H Open Horse Show Series

June 16th, August 18th and September 1st

9:00 am Jumping, Halter, Showmanship and western and English Flat Classes

Novice Division - Walk - Jog/Trot

Visit website for more details www.chestnuthillstables.com

- CHS and Rockin' Riders 4-H Open Night Show

Not included in Series division points - Separate Class List

July 28th - 5:00pm - Jumping and Novice classes before dark

Visit website for more details www.chestnuthillstables.com

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9. Flintrock Farm Fun Show - March 10th

For a class sheet and information on the Open and Schooling Hunter Series, please visit our website: www.flintrockfarm.com

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10. 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. Quality Hay is in short supply, this Extension hay list was compiled in the fall and much of the hay is now gone. If you are running short on hay, DON'T WAIT FOR THE LAST MINUTE to try to line some up. Please go ahead & get your hay source lined up.

I get many calls from folks saying that "We are Out Of Hay and need some like Now" When you wait until your hay is gone, you do not allow time for your horses digestive system to get acclimated to the "new" hay which can cause problems.

If you have hay to sell - Please let know!

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11. Take A Load Off -

I need your clean Jokes, so please send em to me! ~

An elderly widow and widower were dating for about five years. The man finally decided to ask her to marry. She immediately said yes. The next morning when he awoke, he couldnt remember what her answer was! Was she happy? I think so, wait, no, she looked at me funny... After about an hour of trying to remember to no avail, he got on the telephone and gave her a call. Embarrassed, he admitted that he didnt remember her answer to the marriage proposal. Oh, she said, Im so glad you called. I remembered saying yes to someone, but I couldnt remember who it was. (We Are All Getting There!)

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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!

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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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>