

Weekly Pile for Week of July 11 2011

Howdy Folks (Horse E-mailers),

Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the Week of July 11, 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. The Use of some Weed Control Products – **VERY IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ**
2. **What is Quality Hay?**
3. **Considerations When Purchasing All Stock Feeds for Horses**
4. **You Asked: Is founder in horses related to pasture fertilization?**
5. **Fence Law & Animal Liability**
6. **Dry lots Preserve Pastures**

7. New Swine Transport Law Listening Session for Pork Producers August 3rd, Raleigh

8. **FOOD DRIVE - USDA Feds Feed Families**

9. **First Annual Rockingham County Cooperative Extension Advisory Golf Tournament**

10. **Rabbit HACCP Course**

11. **Hay Directory**

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

13. **Take A Load Off –**

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1. The Use of some Weed Control Products – VERY IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ

Once again, the same problem that you may recall we dealt with back in June of 2009 has caused some folks to really get angry. This past week I became aware of a situation & I wanted to let all of you know about and to be aware of. As with any herbicides used, ALWAYS, ALWAYS read and follow label directions.

In many weed control programs, herbicides are commonly used. If the label directions are followed, these products do a good job with weed control and are safe. With all the chemicals there are recommendations, rates, and restrictions that should be followed.

- As educated hay buyers, you should also ask what herbicides have been used on the hay you are purchasing, so you will know if there are any restrictions that will apply to your use once you feed the hay. Products containing like Picloram, Aminopyralid, or Clopyralid,(but not limited to) have specific restrictions after feeding hay and the use of the manure/compost.

Listed below are some restrictions that may be listed on that product label that can affect the future use of products that have been treated with such products:

- Check label for livestock transfer restrictions due to possible urine and manure contamination.

- Do not use treated plant residues, including hay or straw from treated areas, or manure from animals that have grazed treated areas in compost or mulch that will be in contact with susceptible broadleaf plants.

- Do not use hay, straw, or manure from farm animals that have grazed forage or eaten hay harvested from treated areas within previous X days in compost or mulch that will be in contact with susceptible broadleaf plants.

- Do not use plant residues or manure from treated areas for composting or mulching near sensitive plants.

COMMUNICATE - COMMUNICATE - COMMUNICATE - COMMUNICATE

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Here is a situation that you need to be aware of:

A hay producer used a weed control products that does a great job with controlling broadleaf weeds. This producer sold some hay to a horse person. This horse person obviously fed the hay to his horses and was very pleased with the hay. A Gardner came to his horse farm and wanted to use the manure that the horse person had in his compost pile on his garden. So the gardener applied this waste to his garden, and it killed his garden.

The cause ended up being a product that had been used for weed control and that it had the label restrictions regarding the use of manure or compost but the information was not communicated or passed on to everyone involved. So you can imagine the issues that this created.

I would specifically recommend:

1. If you are growing hay to be sold, that you have a list of products used on the forage that you give it to anyone who purchases the hay so they are aware of what was used and any restrictions for that product. (Including rate applied) Have them sign a form that they were made aware of these products. This is a big liability issue.

2. If you are purchasing hay, ask what products were applied to the forage and any restrictions so that you will be totally informed. So if you let folks utilize the manure from your farm, it will not present new issues that you will have to deal with in the future.

Here are other common chemical product restrictions that may be included on the herbicide label:

- Do not allow lactating dairy animals to graze or consume harvested forage within X days after application.

- If there are grazing restrictions for non-lactating dairy animals or other livestock

- Do not cut treated grass for hay within X days after application.

- **Withdraw meat animals from treated forage at least X days before slaughter.**
- **Newly seeded grasses may be injured.**
- **Withdrawal is not necessary if more than X weeks have elapsed since treatment.**
- **Do not graze or harvest green forage from treated area for X days after treatment but treated areas cannot be used for hay until the next growing season.**
- **Do not harvest grass for hay from treated areas for 1 year following treatment for lactating dairy animals. Wait X days for other livestock.**
- **Where more than X qt per acre are used, do not graze, harvest green forage, or hay until the next growing season, or it may say do not graze or harvest green forage for X days after treatment.**
- **Some chemicals - Treated areas cannot be used for hay until the next growing season.**
- **Do not graze or feed livestock within X days after application.**

This is in no way suggesting that hay producers have intentionally withheld any information from anyone, misled anyone or done anything wrong. These producers are legal & trying to do there best job possible at raising quality hay.

This is a fairly new recommendation and habit get into & follow but, THE HERBICIDES APPLIED OR USED IN PRODUCTION OF HAY NEED TO BE COMMUNICATED TO THOSE WHO PURCHASE THE HAY!

IT IS A MAJOR COMMUNICATION ISSUE and an issue that will probably be heading to court!

So if it is your manure pile, and it kills a garden of someone who has permission to utilize your manure, who do you think is liable? YOU!

This is has the making of many Lawsuits....

ALWAYS, ALWAYS read and follow label directions. If purchasing KNOW restrictions on products that have been used! You should be told but it is up to you to ask!

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2. What is Quality Hay?

How Do I Select Quality Hay?

Hay is an important part of the diet for horses and livestock so it only makes sense to choose a high quality hay to feed to your animals. There are two methods of hay evaluation: visual and chemical.

Visual Evaluation - A visual evaluation can give you a rough estimate of the overall quality of the hay. There are several traits to consider when visually evaluating hay:

- Color - Just because a bale of hay has a pretty, green color does not mean that it is high quality hay. Color should be considered in your selection process but should not be the main factor in choosing hay. A green color usually means that the hay contains a high level of protein and vitamins but that same bale of hay could also be high in nitrates and low in digestibility. Hay that is a beige color is usually sun-bleached but could also be hay that was rained on prior to baling. Rain can leach nutrients from hay and decrease its quality. Dark brown hay (tobacco colored) is usually a sign that the hay has been heat damaged after being baled too moist or rained upon after baling. Hay quality is seriously affected in hay that has been heat damaged and mold may be present.

- Stage of Maturity at Harvest - As grass matures, the nutritional content of the grass begins to decrease. The stems become tougher and more fibrous and protein and energy levels can decrease. The presence of seedheads and course, thick stems can indicate that the grass was cut for hay at a mature stage of growth and is therefore a lower quality of hay. Because the leaves contain most of the energy and protein the plant has to offer, hay that is leafy with very few seedheads is usually of higher quality.

- Texture - Choose hay that has soft and flexible stems. Tough, thick stems will not be as desirable to the animal and can also be an indication that the grass was overly mature when baled for hay.

- Presence of Foreign Material - It is important to make sure that the hay is free from insects or trash. Blister beetles can be TOXIC to horses and certain types of weeds can be TOXIC to horses and livestock. It can be difficult to distinguish a toxic weed from a non-toxic weed once the plant has dried down and been baled with the hay. Also, weeds that were not completely dried prior to baling can cause moldy areas within the bale. It is best to just avoid hay that has weeds or trash in the bales.

- Checking for Mold - Hay should not smell "old" or musty. It should have a fresh, clean smell. Hay that smells bad was probably

baled too wet or was stored improperly and has molded. Hay should also not be dusty. Dusty hay can cause breathing problems in some animals. In many cases, the dust is actually mold spores. To distinguish between dusty hay and moldy hay, shake out a flake of hay from the bale. If the dust appears as a grayish-white color, it's mold. Also, if the flakes are hard or stick together in clumps, the bale has molded.

Chemical Evaluation - A chemical evaluation can give a much more accurate impression of hay quality. It is recommended that all hay be tested prior to feeding to ensure that it is safe and that adequate nutrients are being provided to the animals being fed.

Who tests the hay? Hay samples are tested in Raleigh by the North Carolina Farm Feed Testing Service, which is a cooperative effort of the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and NC Cooperative Extension. Samples can be sent to the laboratory from any of the county offices of NC Cooperative Extension. A full analysis of the hay will cost \$10 per sample. There is no charge to test for nitrates only. Test results will usually be available in 7-10 business days.

What do the test results mean? The test report will have two columns of values: As Submitted Basis and Dry Matter Basis. The values in the

Dry Matter Basis column are the ones that you will focus on when reading a test report. These values reflect the results of the analysis once all of the water was removed from the hay sample and will allow you to compare the quality of different feedstuffs more equally.

The first value to examine on the report is the percentage of **Crude Protein (CP)**. Grass hays, such as bermudagrass or timothy, are typically lower in protein than legume hays, such as alfalfa. Next, we'll examine the digestibility of the hay. Two values are typically used for this. In horses, focus on the **Acid Detergent Fiber (ADF)** value. As the ADF value increases, the digestibility and quality of the hay decreases. If we're dealing with ruminants (cattle, sheep, or goats), we'll typically use the value for **Total Digestible Nutrients (TDN)**. As TDN increases, hay quality increases. To determine what the CP, ADF, and TDN values mean in terms of hay quality, there is a Table where you'll find indicators of high, average, or low quality hays based on whether the hay is a legume, a grass/legume mixture, or a pure grass hay.

Another very important value to consider on the test report is the percent **Nitrate Ion**. Ideally, we would like for this value to be zero but hay that contains a small percentage of the nitrate ion can still be

fed safely as long as the value doesn't exceed a certain level.

One last value that may be of importance to some horse owners is

Non-structural Carbohydrates (NSC). This value reflects the "sugar"

content of the hay and is of importance to horses who are prone to

founder or have metabolic disorders. For these horses, a lower NSC value

is desired. Hays that test higher in NSCs can be soaked in water prior

to feeding to lower the NSC content and make the hay more suitable for

these horses.

Tips on Selling and Purchasing Hay

It is customary in many areas to price hay by the bale.

Purchasing and

selling hay by the ton is rapidly becoming a more equitable method of

buying hay. Purchasing hay by the ton allows buyers to know precisely

how much hay they are getting for their money, provided the hay is cured

properly and accurately weighed. The following charts can be used as a

guide to convert from bale prices to ton prices

Useful Conversion Formulas

To convert the price per ton to price per bale:

1) determine average weight of bales you are purchasing in pounds.

2) divide the price per ton by 2,000 and multiply the results by the

average weight of the bales to determine the price per bale.

Example: You are considering purchasing hay at \$160 per ton.

You

determine the average bale weighs 50 pounds. What is the price per bale?

(\$160/ton) divided by (2000lb/ton) multiplied by (50 lb/bale) = \$4.00

per bale

To convert price per bale to price per ton:

1) determine average weight per bale.

2) divide 2,000 by the average weight per bale to get the number of

bales per ton.

3) multiply the number of bales per ton by the price per bale to get the price per ton.

Example: You are considering purchasing hay for \$4 per bale.

What would

you be paying for each ton of hay purchased? You determine the average

bale weight to be 45 pounds.

(2000 lb/ton) divided by (45 lb/bale) multiplied by (\$4.00/bale) = \$177.78 per ton

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3. Considerations When Purchasing All Stock Feeds for Horses - Dr. Bob Mowrey

<http://www.ncagr.com/markets/livestock/horse/documents/ConsiderationsWhenPurchasingAllStockFeedsforHorses.pdf>

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4. You Asked: Is founder in horses related to pasture fertilization?

Founder (or laminitis) is an inflammation of the space between the hoof wall and the bone where the blood supply to the foot is located. While many conditions can result in laminitis, many times it may be referred to as “grass founder” which is associated with over-eating. Large changes in a horse’s nutrition disrupts the energy balance in the horse’s diet and often leads to laminitis. Fertilization is essential for the growing of forages; fencing and access time to the forage can vary. Managing your horse’s

grazing time so that if he isn't over-eating is the best way to reduce risks of founder.

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5. Fence Law & Animal Liability

http://www.ag-econ.ncsu.edu/VIRTUAL_LIBRARY/ECONOMIST/septoct06.pdf

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6. Dry lots Preserve Pastures – Dr's Bob Mowrey, Mike Yoder, and R. Coleman.

<http://www.ncagr.com/markets/livestock/horse/documents/DrylotsPreservePasturesFactsheet.pdf>

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**7. New Swine Transport Law Listening Session for Pork Producers
August 3rd, Raleigh**

Anyone who raises pigs- for commercial or homestead use- will be interested in this meeting concerning new laws governing identification of swine in transport.

If you haul live pigs to another farm, between farms, to an exhibition or fair, or to a slaughterhouse this new law will affect you.

Beginning October 1st, this new law takes affect and will require anyone transporting live swine on a public road to have the animals identified with an approved method.

This meeting is you chance to submit questions, concerns and challenges in complying with this requirement.

For complete information please go to:

http://sfc.smallfarmcentral.com/dynamic_content/uploadfiles/882/For%20Release-%20Swine%20in%20Transport%20meeting%20pdf.pdf

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8. FOOD DRIVE - USDA Feds Feed Families

Rockingham Co FSA office is collecting food to donate to our local Rockingham County American Red Cross! Please join us in reaching our National goal of 500,000 pound donated to the hungry this summer.

We can accept:

Frozen Food

Canned Food

Dry Food

Refrigerated/Fresh Food

Please drop off at either location:

525 NC 65 Suite #120 Reidsville, NC 27320 (Office is located in Wentworth NC) (336)342-0460 or to American Red Cross 3692 NC 14 Reidsville, NC 27320 (336)349-3434

Please help spread the word, FSA is partnering with Rockingham County's American Red Cross. They are in need of all food as their supplies are very low; they can accept frozen, fresh, refrigerated, dry or canned food. Please Help!

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9. 2011 First Annual Rockingham County Cooperative Extension Advisory Golf Tournament

The 2011 First Annual Rockingham County Cooperative Extension Advisory Golf Tournament will be held on July 20, 2011, at Wolf Creek Golf Club, 722 Wolf Island Road, Reidsville, NC.

Proceeds from the golf tournament will help establish an endowment fund for the support of our Rockingham County Cooperative Extension Agents in their program costs. Extension Agents play a vital role in areas such as Food Safety, Youth Development and Leadership Skills, Crop/Livestock Production, and Local Food Opportunities. According to Mark Davis, Chair of the Extension Advisory Leadership, "Cooperative Extension in Rockingham County provides education and resources available to every citizen."

Rockingham County Cooperative Extension Center gives our county's residents easy access to the resources and expertise of NC State University and NC A&T State University. Through educational programs, publications, and events, Cooperative Extension agents deliver unbiased, research-based information to Rockingham County citizens.

The Golf Tournament event is hosted by the NC Agricultural Foundation, Inc. in conjunction with the Rockingham County Cooperative Extension Advisory Leadership Council. For sponsorship opportunities and to sign up players teams, please contact the Rockingham County Cooperative Extension office at 336-342-8230, or contact Brenda Sutton, County Extension Director Brenda_sutton@ncsu.edu or Mark Davis mhdavis@ncgrange.com

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10. Rabbit HACCP Course

This announcement is for NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division. Please contact Janna Spruill or Doug Smith for questions.

The following is an announcement for the Rabbit HACCP course which will be offered on August 9-10, 2011 at the Burke County Agricultural Building in Morganton, NC. Pre-registration is required. Space is limited to 24 participants. Program cost is \$60, which includes meals and materials. Registration deadline is August 2, 2011.

The purpose of this course is to introduce rabbit producers to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs), Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures (SSOPs), and the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Program. Producers will also learn about the requirements for routine inspections of their facility and processes. Producers currently involved in rabbit production who are interested in selling their rabbit meat to restaurants or other locations regulated by Health Departments, will be our target audience for this upcoming Rabbit HACCP training.

For details on the program content, contact Janna Spruill, janna.spruill@ncagr.gov (919) 733-7366 or Doug Smith, doug_smith@ncsu.edu (919) 513-7157.

Registration questions should be directed to Annette Dunlap, annette.dunlap@ncagr.gov.

COURSE TOPICS

Rabbit Processing

Principles of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP)

Good Manufacturing Practices and Sanitation

Small Business Management

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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

- Available: Charolais/Longhorn cross steer, pot belly pigs, Nubian goats and companion horses. Please check out Red Dog Farm Animal Rescue Network at www.reddogfarm.com to adopt your next farm animal or horse. If would like to help, whether by volunteering, fostering, donating or adopting, please email us at reddogfarm@triad.rr.com or call 336-644-7807.

- FOR SALE: 3 Nice Trail Horses. 2 - QH Palomino Geldings and 1 - QH Red Dun Mare. Call or Email for more information: Elizabeth Cell 336-613-0932 or ejorsey@bellsouth.net

- 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
orshoponys@gmail.com

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13. Take A Load Off - Against The Law??

Did you know that round hay bales are soon going to be against the law to feed to livestock?

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Why?

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Because they are not getting a "square meal"

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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

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