

## Weekly Pile for week of March 11 2012

Howdy Folks,

Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the Week of March 11, 2012, Extension's Equine related educational information & announcements for Rockingham & Guilford Counties. To have something included in the Weekly Pile, please follow these simple guidelines.

- Information included needs to be educational in nature &/or directly related to Rockingham or Guilford Counties.
- provided information is a resource to the citizens of Rockingham/Guilford Counties.
- provided information does not require extra time or effort to be listed.
- listings for Swap Shop will not list pricing details.
- Please E-mail information to me by Wednesday each Week.
- Please keep ads or events as short as possible – with NO FORMATTING, NO unnecessary Capitalization's, and NO ATTACHED DOCUMENTS. (If sent in that way, it may not be included)
- Please include contact information - Phone, Email and alike.
- PLEASE PUT WEEKLY PILE IN SUBJECT LINE when you send into me.
- The Weekly Pile is not for listings for Commercial type properties or products.

If I forgot to include anything in this email it was probably an oversight on my part, but please let me know!

If you have a question or ideas that you would like covered in the Weekly Pile, please let me know and I will try to include. As Always – I would like to hear your comments about the Weekly Pile or the Extension Horse Program in Rockingham or Guilford Counties!

Included in This Weeks Pile:

1. **Extension Horse Management – Last One for 2012 - Monday Night!**
2. **Pre-Travel Vehicle and Trailer Check for Hauling Horses & Safe Loading Practices for Horses**
3. **Equine Genetics**
4. **You Asked**
5. **2012 NC 4-H Horsemanship Camp Applications Now Available Online**
6. **Celebrate National County Government Month**
7. **Guilford County – Spring Cleanup Saturday March 31**
8. **Guilford County E-Cycle 2012 – Saturday March 24th**
9. **Cooler Horsemanship Events**
10. **Chestnut Hill Stables Events**
11. **Flintrock Farm 2012 Show Series**
12. **HAY DIRECTORY**
13. **SWAP SHOP**
14. **Take A Load Off**

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### 1. **MONDAY NIGHT -**

**Last night of the 2012 Extension Horse Management Series-**

**7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Guilford County Agricultural Center,  
3309 Burlington Road Greensboro, NC 27405**

**Monday, March 19 SWAP SHOP - Bring items to Sell/Trade or come to buy!**

**(Just come Monday Night to Register)**

**This is the first time we have tried this, it should be a fun event. Come and be a part it!**

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

**In case of inclement weather, please call 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. Pre-Travel Vehicle and Trailer Check for Hauling Horses**

**Ashley Griffin *University of Kentucky***

### **Be Prepared**

In addition to preparing the trailer for the horse's comfort, it is also important to consider the maintenance of all equipment.

Prior to each trip, check the following:

- Trailer lights and turn signals
- Trailer brakes
- Trailer hitch--is it secure?
- Trailer safety cables
- Spare trailer and truck tires and tools to change a tire, including tire jack
- Trailer and truck tires
- Trailer floorboards.

These checks should be done before you leave home. Finding out that something is wrong on the trip can be inconvenient and even disastrous.

Before you depart, make sure that your health papers are in order. Also, know the path of your trip, which routes might be best, how to avoid construction areas, where the rest stops are located, and how long it will take to get there. Most trips taken with horses are for recreation, and therefore, advance planning can help reduce the stress of the trip and make it more enjoyable.

### **Safe Loading Practices for Horses**

When loading a horse in a trailer, it is important to recognize and carry out safe loading practices. It is your job to make the loading experience pleasant for the horse and safe for the handler.

Before loading, make sure the horse is wearing a halter that fits properly and will not slip off or break during the loading process. Always lead your horse onto the trailer using a lead rope rather than leading it by the halter. By using a lead rope, the handler will have more control of the horse if it shies or backs away from the trailer. It is also important that the handler not wrap the lead rope tightly around his or her hands. Instead, the handler should lead the horse with the lead rope held in the left hand in a loose coil and in the right hand near the halter.

Before approaching the trailer to load the horse, remove any obstacles that might scare or prevent it from loading. Make sure the trailer partitions are securely fastened so they don't swing in the horse's way during loading. Open all vents and windows needed, hang any hay nets, and spread shavings or straw prior to loading. It is also important to park the trailer in a safe location, away from any obstacles that might injure a horse if it runs back, refusing to load. You should also make sure you have loaded all other supplies, tack, health papers, etc.

Once the trailer is prepared and these safety precautions taken, you may load your horse.

Ideally, you will tie your horse in the trailer using a quick release snap tie. These trailer ties are long enough to allow the horse to move its head and be comfortable but short enough to prevent it from getting its head under or over any partitions. If you do not have a quick release snap, then tying your horse with a lead strap and a quick release knot will help serve the same function in case of emergency.

Once the horse is loaded and properly tied, secure all partitions, including the butt bar that may be located behind the horse in the last section of the trailer. If the back door of the trailer were to open during travel, the butt bar would be the only thing to help prevent the horse from backing off the moving trailer. The butt bar also helps prevent horses from prematurely backing off the trailer when the trailer door is opened prior to unloading.

Once horses are loaded, it is best to get on the road. Some horses may become anxious and will quickly get hot in an immobile trailer.

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### **3. Equine Genetics**

**Clint Depew, Extension Horse Specialist, Louisiana State University**  
Horses have approximately 20,000 different genes. Each horse has two copies of every gene; one is received from the sire (male) and the other is received from the dam (female). The combination of genes that a horse has is referred to as its genotype. The characteristic that we see, such as coat color, is a result of the horse's genotype and we refer to these characteristics as the horse's phenotype. Some diseases are also a result of the horse's genotype. Greater than 30 genetic disorders have been characterized in the horse to date.

The goal of every horse breeder is to produce genetically superior horses. Because there are so many environmental conditions which affect the horse, it is difficult to evaluate the genetic potential. A gifted breeder is able to select superior horses for mating, and manages the environmental affects, such as nutrition, health care, training and injuries, to maximize the horse's genetic potential. Since breeding for quality horses is not a simple matter, breeders must understand basic genetic principles and their application to be successful in the horse business.

## **Basic Genetics of Horses**

Each horse has 32 pair of chromosomes.

There are two main types of gene action: Qualitative and Quantitative.

Qualitative gene action occurs when a single or only a few gene pairs control a trait.

Quantitative gene action occurs when many gene pairs affect a specific trait.

A heritability estimate is the estimate of what percentage of the horse's actual makeup is due to genetics as opposed to the percent that is influenced by the environment.

The most important aspect of developing a good breeding program is the selection of outstanding breeding stock. Identifying genetically superior breeding stock is accomplished by using individual records, pedigree records and progeny information.

- **Individual Records**

With high heritability traits, the individual record is a good indication of the horse's breeding potential. By selecting an outstanding individual based on its records, the probability of passing those genetics onto the next generation is quite good, as high as 40 to 60 percent in many traits of economic importance to horses.

- **Pedigree Records**

Breeders should also look at the horse's pedigree. Horses that have an outstanding sire and an outstanding dam have a higher probability of favorable genes for those desired traits. The pedigree will give some indication of the genes that have been passed on and shows the prepotence or the concentration of the quality genes in the individual.

- **Progeny Records**

If the mare or stallion has produced offspring, the offspring are the truest estimate of the horse's potential. Breeders should look at the average of all of the offspring that have been produced, not just one particularly outstanding offspring. If a horse has produced 10 or more offspring, in the case of the stallion, the average quality of those offspring indicate the genetic potential of the horse. However you must consider that if one offspring is particularly outstanding, it could be a result of the mare more than the stallion. Progeny averages on a number of offspring are the best indication of horse's genetics and a good predictor of breeding success.

## **Achieving Genetic Progress**

The rates of progress that a breeder makes in a breeding program are dependent on four things:

1. **Consistent goal**

2. Heritability
  3. Selection intensity
  4. Generation individual
- Consistent Goal

Breeding programs have become so specialized (racing, halter, cutting, pleasure, etc.) that the all around horse cannot be competitive in any event. Therefore, breeding programs must be focused on a single goal to be successful. The goals of a breeding program should be economically important, genetically sound, consistent and focused on the market. A breeder should select for as small a number of traits if possible to maximize progress. Many traits are related, such as speed which is highly related to conformational traits such as balance and leg structure. Thus selecting for athletic ability usually results in good conformation.

- Heritability

As previously indicated, heritability is the second aspect of genetic progress. Heritability is relatively high in most traits of economic importance; therefore it is not a limiting factor in most breeding programs.

- Selection Intensity

Selection intensity is simply the amount of selection pressure applied for a particular trait. In other words, the difference between the horses you selected and the average of the breed. It is extremely important to select the highest quality individuals that are available, because the higher the superiority of the selected horses, the greater the improvement that can be expected in the foals. Selection of high quality mares is equally important as selection of the stallion, even though as stallion has a greater genetic input in the herd.

- Generation Interval

The generation interval is simply the length of time it takes to replace all the mares and stallions in a herd. The shortest period of time required for a mare to produce a female to replace herself will be approximately four years. In reality, selecting the best mare in your herd for replacement and getting them into production requires a generation interval of 6 to 7 years.

In practice, many breeders maintain the same group of broodmares and stud for 10 to 15 years not realizing that they have made all the improvement possible after the first year. The goal should be to get the female offspring of mating age back into the breeding herd as soon as possible. In order to be a leader in this dynamic horse industry, a breeder must continually improve the quality of their herd.

**End Result: A Progressive Breeding Program**

A progressive breeding program must take advantage of these genetic principles in order to be successful. Progressive breeders should start with the best mares and stallions affordable.

The plan should be to produce 3 to 4 foals out of each mare and then replace the mare with her best filly. Any mares that do not produce or produce low quality colts should be eliminated from the breeding herd. A second stallion must be selected to breed to the new fillies that are used as replacements.

By taking advantage of the superior genetic potential in the foals produced and utilizing them in the breeding herd as quickly as possible, maximum genetic improvement will be achieved.

Question - Is it possible for a horse to be born with brown eyes which then turn blue?

There is not a lot of information available on eye color changes in horses, however it is common, according to some color breed registries, for a foal's eye color to lighten within the first few weeks after birth.

According to the book "Horse Color Explained", by Jeannette Gower, the normal eye is brown with brown sclera, iris and pupil. In horses with the cream gene, especially in Champagne colored horses, it is normal for foals to be born with nearly white or pale blue eyes that darken to an amber color within three months of age. In Champagne black horses, a very rare color similar to a dun, the foals are born with deep blue eyes, but as they grow older their eyes change to an amber color.

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**4. You Asked: How do you determine the length of a Western cinch for a horse? Having a properly fitted cinch for a horse is important. Girth or cinch size can vary with different types and shapes of saddles.**

**If you have an old cinch that fits both the horse and the saddle well, then you would get an accurate measurement by straightening out that cinch and measuring it from buckle to buckle. However this is not always possible.**

**If you don't have an old cinch that fits, there is another method. First, measure your horse's heart girth by taking one end of a measuring tape and placing it at your horse's withers. Wrap the tape around your horse's left side, down to a couple of inches behind the horse's front legs, under the belly and around the right side until you reach the place where you started. The tape should be at a slight angle. Pull the tape snug, but not too tight. This gives you the measurement of the horse's heart girth. Take the heart girth measurement (in inches) and divide it by 2. Then subtract 3 from your answer. If your figure isn't a whole number, round it up. This should give you an estimate for your horse's cinch size. Most cinches are sized in increments of 2 (34, 36, 38 inches etc). Note:**

**dressage girths are shorter than this, and other English girths are usually longer, so this method will only work for a Western cinch.**

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**5. 2012 NC 4-H Horsemanship Camp Applications Now Available Online**

**It's that time of the year again! Spring is in the air, and summer is just around the corner, so, it's time to be thinking about camps for the kids.**

**Please let all of your leaders and any other interested parties that the NC 4-H Horsemanship Camp applications are now available online for campers, adult volunteers, and junior leaders.**

**These applications can be found on the link below:**

**[http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an\\_sci/extension/horse/Webpages/NCSU\\_EHH\\_Horsemanship\\_Camp.html](http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/extension/horse/Webpages/NCSU_EHH_Horsemanship_Camp.html)**

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**6. Celebrate National County Government Month**

Healthy Counties, Healthy Families

Join Us at the Rockingham County Health Fair!

Please join Rockingham County in promoting the theme "Healthy Counties, Healthy Families" by celebrating National County Government Month. Learn more about how Rockingham County is delivering essential health care services and wellness programs as well as other important services. Information will be provided on a variety of subjects including: Blood Pressure, Nutrition Information, Cancer & Diabetes.

Rockingham County Health Fair

Wednesday April 4th 2012

3:00 pm to 7:00 pm

NC National Guard Armory

National Association of Counties      [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)INCG

*Sponsored by the National Association of Counties to raise public awareness about the roles and responsibilities of counties.*

National County Government Month April \* 2012

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**7. Guilford County – Spring Cleanup**

**Saturday March 31, 2012**

**Clean up Your environment while protecting Our environment!**

**Location:**

**Guilford County Agricultural Center**

**3309 Burlington Road, Greensboro**

**(back parking lot)**

**Time: 8:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**Drop off your:**

**Tires**

**Large Appliances**

**Household Hazardous Waste, including: antifreeze, motor oil, paint and supplies, cleaners, pesticides, batteries, other household chemicals**

**Household Electronic Waste, including: computers, televisions, electronic games, cell phones, microwaves, items with an electronic chip or a plug.**

**Personal document shredding (maximum of 5 boxes per vehicle)**

**Free and open to all residents. No business waste accepted.**

**Call 641- 3792 or 375-5876 for more information**

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**8. E-Cycle 2012 – Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Free, easy Way to Dispose of Your E-Waste New! Bring up to 5 boxes of documents for shredding.**

**Location: Pleasant Garden Town Hall  
4920 Alliance Church Road**

**Time: 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Guilford County residents can drop-off the following items:**

**Computers and peripherals, including monitors, printers, scanners, keyboards**

**Televisions, including consoles, large screen and projection TV's**

**Cell phones, including chargers and cables**

**Electronic toys and games**

**DVD players, VHS players, stereo equipment**

**Any household item with a microchip or plug.**

**Personal documents for shredding (maximum of 5 Boxes per vehicle)**

**For more information contact the Guilford County**

**Environmental Services Coordinator, at 641-3792,**

**Or the Pleasant Garden Town Hall, at 674-3002.**

**The e-waste collection event is sponsored by:**

**Guilford County, the Town of Pleasant Garden, the Guilford County Prison Farm and Shred Safety**

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[Cooler Horsemanship Clinic](#) – this weekend, March 16-18

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Fiore Farms, 7600 Millbrook Road, Summerfield, NC 27358*

Oak Ridge Horse Show Demo - Saturday, April 7th 11:00 – 12:00. Our mission is to empower horse owners of all breeds and disciplines by teaching the knowledge and skills needed to build a relationship of willing cooperation with their horse, based on mutual attention, trust, respect, understanding and motivation.

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

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10. Chestnut Hill Stables Events

March 24<sup>th</sup> 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. \$20.00 non jumpers - \$30.00 jumpers

Showmanship clinic will proceed the start of showmanship classes. \$5.00 fee Showmanship Clinic

Visit [www.chestnuthillstables.com](http://www.chestnuthillstables.com) Shelby Bivins - [336-613-3549](tel:336-613-3549)

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 [www.chestnuthillstables.com](http://www.chestnuthillstables.com) Shelby Bivins - 336-613-3549

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**11. Flintrock Farm 2012 Show Series**

**Open Show Series:**

**MARCH 31-**

**June 2**

**September 29**

**Schooling Hunter Series:**

**April 21**

**May 12**

**September 8**

**[www.flintrockfarm.com](http://www.flintrockfarm.com) for class sheets and other information**

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**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](tel:1-800-666-3625) or 342-8235 and let me know your name, address & phone #, type of hay, number of bales, (square or round bales) and weight per bale.**

**MANAGE YOUR PASTURES!**

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**13. SWAP SHOP**

- Swap Shop Sale!! - Come by the Swap Shop Sale at the Ag Center on March 19<sup>th</sup> and visit my booth! - English (saddle seat-suits, day coats, shirts, jods, ties/cumberbun sets & hunt seat-shirts, ties) & Western clothes, misc. tack, gifts, jewelry, etc. Lots of bargains! Terri C. Aprile [\(336\) 698-0207](tel:336-698-0207). Also Offering Pine Shavings - 2.8cu plastic bags, easy to pick, no waste, easy to store \$ 4.25 per bag. Equine Sports Massage Therapy - Certified since 1994 from Equissage. I will come to your farm for appointments. [shoponys@gmail.com](mailto:shoponys@gmail.com)

- For Sale - 2002 Horse Trailer, bumper pull, step up, with stabilizer

attachment, steel frame, aluminum shell, two horses slanted, tack/changing room, saddle area. Drop down windows w/bars and screens.

Lights. Lightly used. Excellent shape. Email Ms.White @ [fwhite2@triad.rr.com](mailto:fwhite2@triad.rr.com) or call [\(336\)817 2144](tel:3368172144)

- For Sale - we have five 275 gallons plastic Totes, used only once. Large opening on top, spigot with valve at bottom. They have the galvanized

protective cage with the lift fork set up. Excellent shape. Great for water

storage. Email Ms.White @ [fwhite2@triad.rr.com](mailto:fwhite2@triad.rr.com) or call [\(336\)817 2144](tel:3368172144)

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**14. Take A Load Off –**

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

**Worst Food**

A dietitian was once addressing a large audience in Chicago. "The material we put into our stomachs is enough to have killed most of us sitting here, years ago. Red meat is awful. Soft drinks erode your stomach lining. Chinese food is loaded with MSG. Vegetables can be disastrous, and none of us realizes the long-term harm caused by the germs in our drinking water.

But there is one thing that is the most dangerous of all and we all have, or will, eat it. Can anyone here tell me what food it is that causes the most grief and suffering for years after eating it?"

A 75-year-old man in the front row stood up and said, "Wedding cake"

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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

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