

Weekly Pile for Week Of March 18 2012

Howdy Folks,

Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the Week of March 18, 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. Dewormer Resistance issues in NC horses
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3. Boarding Contracts
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9. March 31 - April 1 - Holiday Classic Open Horse Show
10. *HorseFriends Therapeutic Riding Program- 1st Annual Ride-a-Thon- Sat. April 14th*
11. Piedmont Saddle Club Open Fun Show will be held on April 21st
12. Clinics at EagleBear Farm
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17. Take A Load Off

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1. Dewormer Resistance Issues in NC Horses-

Summarized by: Ben Chase, from information provided by Dr. Niki Whitley, Animal Science Specialist, The Cooperative Extension Program at NCA&T. This project was partially funded by Southern SARE

Horses can die of worms, so proper use of dewormers is important. However, over-use of dewormers can also cause problems. Recently, the Cooperative Extension Program at North Carolina A&T State University began a Southern SARE sponsored program designed to train Extension agents and horse owners about how to determine the level of dewormer resistance, or immunity, in internal parasites (specifically “worms”) in horses. There have been 11 NC farms used for training so far. Five farms in SC and nine farms in VA were also included.

Research worldwide has proven that dewormer resistance is a problem in horse worms, especially for dewormers containing the drugs fenbendazole and pyrantel. Trade names for these drugs include Safe-Guard® and Panacur® for fenbendazole and Strongid® for pyrantel. The worms immune to these drugs are mostly strongyles.

Small strongyles are the main worms found in mature, healthy horses. These worms can “hide” in the gut wall, and when in hiding are known as “encysted” strongyles. In young animals or on farms with lots of foals, ascarids are often the most common worm. Immunity (resistance) to the drugs ivermectin (trade names like Zimectrin®) and moxidectin (Quest®) has been found in ascarids. For the work done in NC, SC and VA, the farms had mostly strongyles, so only information for those worms will be given.

Individual fresh manure samples were collected from the ground for each of 487 horses. In the 190 animals scheduled to be dewormed on the first 5 NC farms, only 41 had fecal egg counts considered “moderate” or “high”. This means that if the horses had

not been checked, nearly 80% of them would have been dewormed for no reason. This is typical of most moderately to well-managed horse farms.

Manure samples were collected every 2 weeks until there were at least 6 animals per farm that had worm egg counts that would allow us to see if a dewormer “worked”. Dewormer doses were based on weigh tape measurements plus an extra 15% (rounded up to the nearest 50 lb) to make sure there was no under-dosing. There were 472 animals used, 239 females and 233 males. Different breeds and ages (1 to 30+ years) were used, and the average body weight was around 1,141 lbs. Numbers of horses on the farms ranged from 10 to well over 100.

Dewormers tested were Zimecterin (ivermectin) and Strongid (pyrantel). Manure samples were taken the day of deworming and 14 days later to see if the treatment reduced fecal worm egg counts. For 188 animals for which the dewormers worked, (120 Zimecterin, 68 Strongid), samples were taken every 2 weeks to see how long fecal egg counts stayed down.

The fecal worm egg count at deworming averaged 639 eggs per gram of manure. As expected based on other research, for ivermectin, fecal egg counts were lowered by 99.5%, but counts were only lowered by 63.8% for pyrantel. So, overall, pyrantel did not work for strongyles.

For individual animals, ivermectin worked in 99.2% of horses treated and pyrantel worked in 57% of horses treated. For those animals for which treatments worked, the egg counts returned in a shorter amount of time than expected, even for ivermectin. Some researchers believe this could mean that immunity (resistance) to ivermectin may be starting in strongyles. So, we need to make changes in how we deworm horses to stop this from happening or at least slow it down.

Although “normal” doses of pyrantel did not work in this study for strongyles, other research has shown that higher than labeled doses of both pyrantel and fenbendazole will still work for ascarids. “Power” doses can also still work for small strongyles, even killing some of the “encysted” small strongyles hidden in the gut wall. However, in other species, eventually the worms have even become immune to these higher doses, so care should be taken not to over-use “power pack” or “power dose” type treatments.

Using dewormers on a regular basis to treat all animals is one way worms become resistant (immune) to the dewormers. Under-dosing is another main cause. So, in order to slow down dewormer resistance in worms, owners should treat only the animals that need it, and they should always make sure that animals are given the correct dose by body weight.

Since most owners under-estimate horse body weights (this happened on nearly every farm we tested), use of a weight tape plus adding an additional 15% would be one way to help ensure that under-dosing does not happen. Also, instead of treating all animals, fecal egg counting can be easily learned by owners so they can deworm only animals that need it. They could also use fecal egg counting to do dewormer resistance testing on their own farm.

Whole-farm type parasite control efforts should also be considered to help use dewormers wisely (rotation of pastures, reducing stocking rate, multi-species grazing, etc.).

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2. Ten Questions to Ask a Stable Owner

This quiz will help you find a boarding stable that is right for you - a place where the owners consider the safety, security, and health of your horse to be paramount.

By David Wyatt

Peace of mind is an important factor when choosing a boarding stable for your horse. Although each horse owner appreciates different things, most agree that the safety, security, and health of their horses provide the comfort level sought in a boarding stable. Following is a brief series of questions to help you identify a boarding stable that is right for you. The point assignments can be changed according to your personal preferences. Other categories may be added as you refine your search.

Insurance

1. What types of insurance does the facility have?
2. What types of insurance do I have to provide?

Score 2 points if the owner has a current commercial general liability policy covering the stable's activities. Score an additional 2 if the owner requires you to carry a mortality and theft policy and insurance on your personal property. This indicates the owner understands his responsibilities as well as yours.

Safety and Security

3. Do you do background checks on employees? 2 points.
4. Is a responsible person on the premises 24-7-365? 3 points.
5. What safety procedures are in place (emergency telephone numbers, first aid kit, fire extinguishers, mandatory hard hats)? 5 points
6. Is the local fire department trained to handle horses in emergencies? 5 points

Equine Health

7. Do you require Coggins tests, health certificates, and annual vaccinations for boarders and visitors? 3 points

8. Is there an equine veterinarian within a 1/2-hour drive? 2 points

9. Is there a 24-hour equine surgical facility within 1 hour drive of the stable? 2 hours? 5 points for 1 hour, 3 points for 2 hours.

10. Do you have isolation and transportation procedures for sick or injured horses? 5 points

Ratings

30-34 points: Excellent. The facility has very high safety standards and understands equine risk management. 27-33 points: Very Good. The facility is very good and covers the major points adequately. 23-26 points: Average. The facility is middle of the road. Most areas are adequate, but some need improvement. Under 23 Poor. Major improvements are needed.

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3. Boarding Contracts

by: Milt Toby, JD

No one wants to add complication and aggravation to a business or pleasure activity, and for many horse enthusiasts, the use of written boarding contracts is viewed as providing more hassle than benefit. After all, you might think, what is the worst thing that can happen to me if I continue to do business as usual, without written agreements with my boarders? For starters, you might be responsible for a hefty veterinary bill that a reluctant client refuses to pay, you might have to absorb unpaid board bills with no legal recourse, or you might face lawsuits arising from a variety of situations.

Utilizing written boarding contracts will not protect you from everything that might go wrong; nothing can do that. Proper use of well-drafted written contracts can allow you to predict the outcome when something unexpected happens. Being surprised might be a treat on your birthday, but the fewer surprises you have to face where your farm and horses are concerned, the better off you are.

A contract is nothing more than a set of promises between the parties, a promise by one person to do something in return for a second person's promise to do

something else. A valid contract either can be written or oral. It can be as simple as an agreement between two people outlined on a cocktail napkin, or as complicated as a multi-page, multi-party document crammed to the four corners with incomprehensible fine-print legalese. A valid contract creates legal obligations between the parties, and allows for enforcement in court if the contract is broken.

The value of a valid, enforceable contract is that it allows the parties to avoid surprise in the event a business transaction does not proceed as planned. While even a professionally drafted contract cannot anticipate every potential problem, a well-drafted contract should cover the problems most likely to occur. Consider the following scenario:

You have been involved in the horse business for several years, as a competitor, owner, and small-scale breeder. You presently own three horses, which you keep on your small farm a few miles from town. One of your spouse's co-workers, a secretary, has just bought her first horse, a gelding intended for trail riding, and she wants to board the animal on your farm. Although you are not in the business of boarding horses, you agree, because the extra money will come in handy. You and the owner come to a mutual understanding, and she agrees that while the horse is at your farm, she will be responsible for several expenses--board, including feed and a safe stall; veterinary care; and blacksmith services. You agree to notify the horse's owner before incurring any non-emergency expenses.

You and the boarder have entered into a contract. You have promised to provide boarding services, for which the owner has promised to pay. The owner also has agreed to pay for certain out-of-pocket expenses. As we will see later, there are several other important terms that you and the boarder have not covered.

A few months later, when you are making a final check of the barn before turning in for the evening, you notice that the new horse is showing some signs of colic. He appears nervous, he is sweating, and he is nipping at his flank. The situation does not appear critical, though, and you attempt to contact the horse's owner before calling the veterinarian.

The owner is not available, and the horse's condition appears to be getting worse. You call your regular veterinarian, who diagnoses the condition as a potentially serious colic and recommends immediate surgery. Still unable to contact the horse's owner, you authorize the surgery, which saves the animal's life. The bill for the surgery and post-operative care amounts to several thousand dollars, which the veterinarian bills directly to the owner at your instruction.

At this point, one of two things will happen. Either the owner pays the veterinarian's bill (with or without attendant grumbling), or she refuses, and the veterinarian looks to you for payment.

This relatively common situation illustrates two important points about contracts. First, if everything proceeds as expected--you incur expenses on behalf of the owner in an emergency, and the owner pays the bill when it arrives--the contract will have no practical impact. Because the expectations of both parties were satisfied, neither party should have any complaints. In other words, no one is surprised by the outcome.

If, on the other hand, one of the parties fails to perform as promised, the value of a contract becomes obvious. Say, for example, that the owner balks at paying what she calls a "ridiculous" veterinary bill for unnecessary and unauthorized surgery, a not unlikely reaction from a first-time horse owner with limited disposable income. The veterinarian, naturally, looks to you for payment. You pay the bill to preserve a good relationship with the veterinarian, who happens to be the only veterinarian with equine expertise within 50 miles, then seek reimbursement from the owner.

The boarding contract between you and the owner sets out the responsibilities and obligations of both parties. In this example, your responsibility to attempt to notify the owner in an emergency situation and the owner's obligation to pay the veterinarian's bill. If you must go to court in an attempt to force the owner to reimburse you for the bill, the judge or jury will have a basis for allocating the cost of the surgery. In this case, the terms of the contract indicate that the owner of the horse is responsible for the veterinarian's bill. Without an agreement of some kind, however, your chances of forcing the reluctant owner to pay are small.

Put It In Writing

This leads to the second important principle regarding contracts. While any contract is better than no contract, a written contract is best. In the example above, the boarding contract should be valid and enforceable whether it was an oral agreement between you and the owner, or whether the agreement was memorialized in writing and signed by the parties.

The advantage of a written contract is that neither the existence of the contract nor its terms are in doubt. In the case of an oral contract, however, the first step to enforcing the agreement in court often involves simply proving that the contract actually existed, and if it did exist, that the terms of the agreement are as you claim. This can be a difficult task months, or years, after the fact, when memories have faded and interests have changed. No matter how reasonable your actions in the above example, you might find yourself on the paying end of a large veterinary bill for someone else's horse if you must rely on an oral agreement to prove that the owner really is responsible for the care you authorized on her behalf.

Horse business traditionally has been conducted with nothing more than a handshake binding the parties. That probably never was sound practice, and the

following rule of thumb should be followed--if a particular outcome of a business transaction is important to you, or if the effect of an unexpected problem would be unacceptable, you should have a written contract with the other party.

There is no such thing as a "one size fits all" contract. Each contract represents a particular business transaction, and the terms of the contract should be tailored to the transaction's individual circumstances. A properly drafted boarding contract should address different concerns than a contract for leasing a competition horse, for example, and the respective contracts should be drafted with the particular transaction in mind. Even a comprehensive contract might have to be modified, based on the requirements of a particular boarding transaction.

There are a number of elements that should be included in all boarding contracts, and you should be familiar with them whether you are working with your attorney in drafting a contract, attempting to customize a generic fill-in-the-blanks contract from a book, or simply considering whether to sign a contract prepared by someone else.

Boarding contracts generally are prepared by, and for the benefit of, farm owners, but this is not always the case. Many boarding farms do not use written contracts, and in those situations it is the responsibility of the horse owner to insist on a written contract. You, as a boarder, have a right to be protected by a written agreement, and you can, and should, insist on one.

Identify The Parties

Every contract should identify by name, address, and contact number the persons or businesses that are parties to the agreement. If one, or both, of the parties is a business, the contract should also include a statement that the person executing the contract actually has authority to act on behalf of the business he or she represents.

Identify The Horse

Any time a horse is the subject of a contract, whether for boarding, leasing, sale or purchase, or breeding, the animal should be clearly identified in the written agreement. The reasons for this requirement should be obvious, because misidentifications can, and do, happen. The description should be sufficient to easily identify the horse in question, and should include color, markings, breed, sex, age, any registration number tattoos or freeze brands, and scars or other distinctive points. A photograph can be attached to the contract to make it easier to separate one "bay, no white" from another.

It also is important to record in detail the physical condition of the animal, as well as indications of previous injury. This should be done before you assume responsibility for the animal, for the same reason that prudent customers

carefully examine a rental car for dents and scratches and report them to the rental agent before driving the car away from the rental lot.

Any tack or other equipment accompanying the horse also should be listed and identified to avoid later disputes about ownership of those items.

Who Pays What, When, And How Much?

Board charges can be calculated on a per day or per month basis. The latter is more common, because the monthly bill is not dependent on the number of days in the month and less bookkeeping is required.

Per day charges, on the other hand, make it easier to pro rate a bill for a boarder who arrives at the farm or leaves in the middle of a month.

The contract should indicate when the farm will provide a bill to the boarder (every month is standard), and when the bill must be paid. A board bill usually becomes due on the first of every month, with a grace period of a few days before the bill becomes overdue. For the farm's protection, the contract should include a provision allowing the farm to charge interest on overdue bills. The rate, such as 1.5% per month, also should be stated.

The contract should specify which out-of-pocket expenses are the responsibility of the owner. In the example above, the owner assumed responsibility for farrier and veterinary services. For show horses, out-of-pocket expenses might include transportation to shows, instruction at the show grounds, and grooming and braiding charges. Whether out-of-pocket expenses will be paid by the farm and billed to the owner, or billed directly to the owner by the person providing the service, also should be stated in the contract.

Finally, the contract should explain the nature of each bill. For example, the bill due on May 1 could include the board charges for the coming month (requiring a boarder to pay in advance protects the farm), plus any out-of-pocket expenses that were incurred during the preceding month.

Many boarding contracts include the phrase "In consideration of \$_____ ..." or something similar. In this context, "consideration" is a legal concept that refers to the money paid by the boarder to the farm owner. It represents the inducement for the farm owner to provide the promised boarding services. Consideration of some kind is necessary for a valid contract.

What Do I Get For My Money?

The contract should state that the farm will provide normal and reasonable care, and spell out in detail the services and facilities that the farm is agreeing to provide as part of the board. These can include stall or pasture board, turnout service, exercise, grooming, training, and anything else about which the parties can agree. Whether you are the farm owner or the boarder, it is important to understand what will be provided. Any special instructions relating to the horse's care also should be listed in detail.

Other Sources of Info

Boarding Horses

<http://agalternatives.aers.psu.edu/Publications/horses.pdf>

Horse Boarding Enterprise

http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/Publications/Rural%20Enterprise%20Series/RES_10HorseBoarding.pdf

What to Look for in a Horse Boarding Facility

<http://umaine.edu/publications/1012e/>

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4. You Asked: What is Equine Metabolic Syndrome

This is a relatively new term to the equine field that is open for discussion. It is often discussed along with insulin resistance and Cushing's-like disease in horses. It appears that the consensus is that the condition is due to insulin resistance (for whatever reason) in obese horses. Dietary management of such horses includes a diet high in fiber

rather than soluble sugars/carbohydrates along with sufficient exercise to bring about weight loss.

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5. The Pink Slime Hype

You probably have heard or wondered yourself about lean finely textured beef, or what the media are calling “pink slime.” I can understand why! I’ve done this for 23 years and just like you, want to make sure my family and our kids have access to high-quality, safe food. Unfortunately, as with so many things, it’s hard to discern the facts from the hype. I know many of you are interested and want to put together the facts and develop answers. Here’s what you should know about lean finely textured beef:

- Lean finely textured beef (LFTB) is just that. Beef. When steaks and roasts are cut, it creates the “trim” that becomes ground beef. The companies supplying lean finely textured beef use a process to remove a lot of the fat from the lean beef in the trim, which is then added to ground beef as a concentrated, lean source of protein. Though some media outlets are reporting this product is a filler, that’s not true. It’s beef plain and simple.
- The nutritional profiles of lean finely textured beef and traditional ground beef are nearly identical. Lean finely textured beef is 90%-to-95% lean (5%-10% fat) and, just like all beef, is a good or excellent source of 10 essential nutrients including protein, iron, zinc and B vitamins.
- Lean finely textured beef offers affordable nutrition for kids, which is critical given shrinking school budgets, rising food costs and the fact that for many kids, school lunch is their best chance at getting a well-balanced meal during the day.
- Ground beef that includes lean finely textured beef is safe according to independent scientists, safety advocates and the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). By law, E. coli and Salmonella cannot be in meat supplied for school lunch. In some cases, a small, safe amount of ammonia gas or citric acid is used to produce the lean finely textured beef, which like other safety measures along the way, reduces the potential for bacterial contamination. FSIS has

reviewed and approved this practice as safe, and safety advocates have applauded it as an effective way of ensuring safe beef for consumers.

- Processing aids like ammonia gas, citric acid and others do not appear singled out on food labels because by definition and by law, they do not affect the finished food. According to the Food and Drug Administration, labeling of “incidental additives” like these processing aids would be impracticable and might draw undue attention to what essentially amounts to meaningless trace amounts.

You may be wondering if we’re talking about the same product after all you’ve heard or read about “pink slime,” but the fact is, much of what you may have heard just isn’t factual. Lean finely textured beef is simply a low-fat source of beef protein, that when added to ground beef, is just another ingredient in the ground beef dishes.

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6. E-Cycle 2012 – Saturday March 24th

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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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. Flintrock Farm Show Series

March 31st - First Show of the 2012 Flintrock Farm Open Show Series

www.flintrockfarm.com

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9. March 31 - April 1 - Holiday Classic Open Horse Show

Be sure to mark March 31 - April 1, 2012 on your calendars for the

Holiday Classic Open Horse Show in Raleigh. This show has

something for everyone! You can enter the day of the show for an

additional fee of \$10/horse. if you missed the pre registration deadline. This show has

amazing trophies and awards! There are lots of other things

happening during this show such vendors, give-a-ways, consignment shop

and silent auction. All proceeds benefit the Equestrian Western Club at NCSU and the North Central District 4-H Horse Program. Be sure to check out the web site at: <http://holidayclassicopenhorseshow.webs.com>

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10. HorseFriends Therapeutic Riding Program

1st Annual Ride-a-Thon!

Where: Flintrock Farm (221 Flintrock Trail, Reidsville, NC)

When: Sat. April 14th, 2012

Time: Registration: 9:00, Trail Ride: 10:00-12:00

Lunch afterward (hamburger or hotdog plate w/ chips and drink: \$3.00)

For registration and pledge sheets visit: www.HorseFriendsNC.org

Current Coggins required

For more info call 336-420-4588

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11. Piedmont Saddle Club Open Fun Show will be held on April 21st, 2012 at 9 a.m. Please visit: www.piedmontsaddleclub.org for classlist and directions.

Admission is \$5/person (children 10 and under are free) and \$5/horse. There are no class fees, casual attire, prizes and ribbons given to all classes.

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12. NEW ADDITIONS and DISCOUNTS to Clinics at EagleBear Farm!

EagleBear Farm has the incredible opportunity to host COLLEEN KELLY of RIDER BIOMECHANICS for a clinic SEPT 14-16. Colleen is in demand all over the world for her clinics. This is her first and ONLY NC clinic! There are only 5 participants in a class and 2 SPOTS have already filled!

We also have added a LARGE ANIMAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS clinic being taught by 3* Parelli Instructor Kelly Sigler, and Tori Miller and Justin McLeod of the TLAER (Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue) -- NOV 10-11. This clinic is limited to 10 spots so please contact us soon if you wish to participate. Auditors Welcome!

HUGE DISCOUNT just offered for our APRIL 20-22 Dressage Naturally Clinic -- to help more folks in NC/SC to meet the prerequisites to participate in a clinic with Dressage Naturally developer, Karen Rohlf, Karen is offering an awesome discounted price of \$625 from the regular clinic price of \$760 for her 3 day Finding the Sweet Spot of Biomechanics with her only USA Instructor, Shelby Hume. Only 3 spots left! Auditors Welcome!

ONE SPOT left in MAY 12-13 Bekah Koutsos 2 Star Licensed Parelli Instructor Continuing the Journey, Level 2, Online Bekah is offering a discount of \$20 off each 3hr session for participation in both sessions. Auditors Welcome!

3 SPOTS left in the JUNE 1-2 Level 2/3 and the 3 day JUNE 3-5 Level 3/4 3 Star Don Jessop Clinics. Don comes to us all the way from Montanna! He is a tremendously insightful and effective instructor. You will leave with powerful changes in your relationship with your horse! Auditors Welcome!

Please check out the web site for more details and schedule. If you do not get a response back within 24hrs to your questions or requests from a link on the site, please call directly (919) 452-3023 .www.eaglebearfarm.com nparelliclinics@bellsouth.net

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13. Greensboro, High Point and Guilford County partner to provide geographically-based emergency notifications to residents.

Guilford County residents now have a new way of receiving urgent and important information through cell phones, text messages, home phone and email.

Called “G.E.A.N.I.”, the Guilford Emergency Alert, Notification, and Information System will send public safety messages to all residents and businesses within Guilford County (including City of High Point residents in Forsyth, Davidson, and Randolph Counties).

The system provides time sensitive, geographically-based messages about evacuations, shelter-in-place incidents, severe weather response and recovery efforts, law enforcement events, and other urgent incidents that affect safety.

As an example: An industrial accident results in natural gas leak occurs in the vicinity of W. Friendly Avenue and N. Spring Street. The Fire Department assesses the situation and determines that residents within a four-block radius of the leak should shelter in place to protect themselves against hazards caused by the fumes. Using G.E.A.N.I., public safety officials would identify that four-block radius and send voice and text alerts to people with registered phone numbers with addresses in the affected area.

Persons and businesses with traditional land line phone numbers published in local phone books are automatically enrolled in G.E.A.N.I., and will receive notifications pertaining to the geographic area of the address associated with the phone number.

Unpublished land line numbers, cellular and VoIP telephones are not automatically added to the system database. Persons wishing to receive notifications on these numbers must self register for the G.E.A.N.I. system at <http://www.readyguilford.org/>.

Participation in G.E.A.N.I. is voluntary, and phone numbers will not be shared for any other purpose.

Public safety personnel will send voice notifications to designated phones from telephone number (336) 373-3097: this number should be added to telephone contact lists.

Although this is a free service from the partner agencies, participants may be charged a standard fee from the cellular phone service provider for text

messages or telephone calls. The agencies involved in G.E.A.N.I. are not responsible for any charges that may be incurred as a result of receiving these alerts. The system was purchased using Department of Homeland Security, Metropolitan Medical Response System grant funding administered through the City of Greensboro Fire Department. The cost of the system upgrade was \$48,500 and partner agencies will share the yearly maintenance costs of approximately \$7,000.

For questions about G.E.A.N.I., please contact Guilford County Emergency Management at [336-641-2278](tel:336-641-2278).

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14. The Buzz on Bees, Carpenter bees & Blue Orchard Mason Bees

Mike Waldvogel, Patty Alder, and David Tarpy, Extension Entomology

A lot of people panic when they see the bees. They assume “swarm” means "attack" or that these are “killer bees” (we do not have the Africanized, aka “killer”, honey bees in NC). Swarms are simply nature’s way of forming new colonies. It happens with wild honey bee colonies and can happen with maintained honey bee colonies probably more with novice beekeepers if they are not paying close attention to their hives. This is different from swarms that occur with disruptions of the hive or like incidences we had last summer when bees escaped from hives being transported on trucks. In two Wake Co. area incidents last year, bees covered a Wake County Sheriff Deputy's patrol car on US-64 (http://www.wral.com/news/news_briefs/story/8148337/) and on a nice Sunday in June, busy bees escaped from hives that were being transported near I-95 in Kenly and took up residence on the canopy over some gas pumps at a truck stop (http://www.wral.com/news/news_briefs/story/9749614/)

Things work a little different with bees compared to humans. Unlike when your parents encouraged you to leave, the current queen bee is the one who leaves with about half or more of the hive occupants. They land on a tree or another vertical surface (preferably) and hang out while some scout bees going real estate hunting. Obviously, it’s not easy to find the ideal home for tens-of-thousands of bees. They want an area protected from the weather and (hopefully) predators and a good neighborhood with plenty of food resources (flowering plants). It can take hours or even days for them to find the ideal spot. Meanwhile, you find this massive glob of bees clinging to a branch or other surfaces, which are largely in a quiescent (and therefore mostly non-defensive) state.

Understandably, people that are truly allergic to bee/wasp stings will be most concerned. These bee swarms are pretty docile because they’re not defending a nest. They’re preoccupied with

finding new digs. Of course, this doesn't mean you can start smacking at them either, but I've been on swarm calls with people that handle bees routinely and they've touch the swarm (of course, this is something we caveat with "don't try this at home!") You can see a picture of our former colleague Steve Bambara from when we responded to a swarm outside the EMS station located on Varsity Drive near the McKimmon Center. Center. (<http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/entomology/ftp/outgoing/bambara.jpg>).

The bees typically leave in a few hours, so if people can "bee patient", the swarm will head off to their new home. We strongly suggest avoiding spraying them with a pesticide or even soapy water which will still kill them. Blasting them with water as an alternative to using chemicals may also produce fatal results if the queen is injured or killed. Even with schools and childcare facilities and other public places where there's always a lot of genuine concern about the consequences of stings, if it's possible to simply rope off the area and keep everyone away, it will produce positive results as a learning experience for the kids (and others) and another opportunity to protect a wild bee colony. The duration of the swarm is definitely another one of those "it depends" situations that can actually end up with the swarm staying for a day or two (weather influences their movement). On some occasions they may actually start producing wax comb in that area and take up permanent residence. Those are times when it's definitely best to have people contact a local beekeeper to remove the swarm. If you don't know any beekeepers, go to: <http://www.bees-on-the-net.com/north-carolina-beekeepers.html>

Carpenter Bees

Carpenter bees have started appearing. It's a little on the early side but activity will take a while to really pick up. Of course some callers may report that they're seeing bumble bees. Remind people that carpenter bees are solitary bees so they're NOT seeing swarms of bees from some colony. At this point, you're mostly seeing males (they have the white spot in the middle front area of their heads). They're busily cruising, feeding (on pollen) and chasing away other suitors for the attention of the females that will begin appearing in a few weeks. The males do NOT drill the galleries in wood; they leave that task to the ladies. We still do not have pesticides that effectively prevent the bees from boring into wood and they are very fond of log homes. So, tell people to get out their tennis rackets out and practice their forehand and backhand smashes, and then get out the wood putty and spatula to plug the holes before the end of the year. We do have some information you can pass on: <http://insects.ncsu.edu/Urban/carpenterbees.htm>

Osmia - Blue Orchard Mason Bees

Another solitary bee that will show up within next two weeks and likely generate some attention from homeowners is the Blue Orchard Mason Bee, *Osmia lignaria*. They're about 1/2" in size (males are slightly smaller & sleeker) and a dark bluish metallic color. You may think that the bees are boring holes in wood but these bees let someone else do the work. In nature, they will take advantage of hollow plant stems or galleries made by wood-peckers. They will take up residence in abandoned carpenter bee galleries (which is another good reason for caulking the

holes!) Because they will clean out debris in the carpenter bee galleries (and people have short memories about last year), callers may often swear that the bees are causing new damage (or they just swear anyway!). Pesticides are not needed (and wouldn't work anyway).

Blue orchard mason bees are valuable pollinators. There is a nice Insect Note with information about the bees and also has tips for attracting the bees by providing a nesting site from an old piece of wood. You can actually do the same with a cardboard cylinder and paper (not plastic) straws IF they're the correct diameter). This activity can make a good 4-H project or just something for the young (and young at heart) to try out to help our pollinators. Check out : <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/Other/note109/note109.html>

****The combination of a continued warming trend (it's called "spring"), moderate rainfall (in some areas) and the gradually lengthening day is leading to more mosquito activity. Although many people spent the weekend glued to the TV watching the basketball tournament, it was also a good time to engage in some "Tip and Toss" Our most common mosquito (the Asian tiger mosquito) takes advantage of water-filled objects and now is a good time to correct problems before you start hearing that familiar buzz of mosquitoes in your ear when you're sitting outdoors in the evening.

- Empty or (preferably) get rid of those objects that collect water - old cans, tires, and trash cans missing their lids.
- Put fresh water in bird baths and pet water bowls
- Remove debris from your gutters and make sure water runs freely through through them. And make sure rainwater doesn't just splash and pool at the at downspout.
- If you're going to collect rainwater to save for watering your gardens, make sure you have a screen over the top to keep out debris and mosquitoes that are hunting for a good playing to lay eggs.
- Clean out drainage ditches in front of your property so that they don't impound water and let it stagnate.

You can find these details and more information on our website: <http://insects.ncsu.edu/Urban/mosquito.htm>

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15. 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!

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16. SWAP SHOP

- Looking for someone to bale hay on about 20 acres in Oak Ridge. If interested, please call 336-601-5577.

- PINE SHAVINGS, etc. – 2.8 cuft compressed plastic bags, easy to pick, no waste, easy to store \$ 4.25+tax per bag. Equine Sports Massage Therapy – Certified since 1994 from Equissage. I will come to your farm for appointments. Also I have various riding apparel for sale; English (saddle seat-suits, day coats, shirts, jods, ties/silk cumber bun sets & hunt seat-shirts, ties) & Western clothes, misc. tack, etc. Contact Terri C. Aprile @ (336) 698-0207 shoponys@gmail.com

- Approximately 7-8 acres of pasture that we need bush hogged as soon as possible so that the fescue and bermuda grass can grow without all of the weeds blocking it. The property is located in Southern Guilford County. Use to have cows on these pastures for more than 30 years. Has not been cut for over a year and a lot of weeds and stuff have grown up and will not let the grass grow. Once this initial cut is done, we will allow you to cut for hay the rest of the season. We ask that the growth around our houses and out buildings be bush hogged as well. There is some fence posts, stumps and farm equipment on the fields, but no major obstacles. You can contact me at: Richard Shankle, 105 West Steeplechase Road, Greensboro, NC 27406 336-617-7173, rshankle@triad.rr.com

- Pasture Board - NE Guilford \$150/mo. Good pasture, cross-fenced, run-in sheds, arena. Brought into 8-stall barn once daily to feed your grain. Tack room, hot & cold wash, trails in area. Call Sandy 336-584-5617 or larknspursandy@bellsouth.net

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17. Take A Load Off –

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

FOURTEEN THINGS TO DO AT WAL-MART WHILE YOUR SPOUSE IS TAKING Their SWEET TIME SHOPPING

(Don't Really Do These Kids)

- 1 - Get 24 boxes of Preparation H and randomly put them in people's carts when they aren't looking.**
- 2 - Set all the alarm clocks in housewares to go off at 5-minute intervals.**
- 3 - Make a trail of tomato juice on the floor to the rest room.**
- 4 - Walk up to an employee and tell him/her in an official tone, "Code 3 in Electronics".... and see what happens.**
- 5 - Go to the service desk and put a bag of M&M's on layaway.**
- 6 - Move a 'CAUTION - WET FLOOR' sign to a carpeted area.**
- 7 - Set up a tent in the camping department and tell other shoppers you will only invite them in if they bring pillows from the bedding department.**
- 8 - While handling guns in the hunting department ask the clerk if he knows where the shells are.**
- 9 - When a clerk asks if he can help you, begin to cry and ask, "Why can't you people just leave me alone?"**
- 10 - Dart around the store suspiciously while loudly humming the theme from "Mission Impossible".**
- 11 - In the auto department practice your "Madonna look" using different size funnels.**
- 12 - Hide in a clothing rack and when people browse through say "PICK ME! PICK ME!!!"**
- 13 - When an announcement comes over the loud speaker assume the fetal**

position and scream "NO! NO! Its those voices again!"

... and last but not least...

14 - Go into a fitting room and yell real loudly "Hey! We're out of toilet paper in here!"

Thank you for shopping Wal-Mart and we hope you had a pleasant experience!!!

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