

Weekly Pile of Information for Week of March 25 2012

Howdy Folks,

Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the Week of March 25, 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. Ground Handling Horses Safely

2. The Do's and Don'ts of Equestrian Attire

3. TRAINING HORSES SAFELY

4. You Asked

5. Meat Handling & Cutting Workshop

6. Grazing Tips

7. Snakes

8. Piedmont Horseman's Association

9. Guilford County – Spring Cleanup

10. Flintrock Farm Show Series

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

12. Flintrock Farm Open Show- This Saturday March 31st

13. Cooler Horsemanship demonstration at the Oak Ridge Horse Show

14. Piedmont Saddle Club Open Fun Show will be held on April 21st

15. HAY DIRECTORY

16. SWAP SHOP

17. Take A Load Off

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1. Ground Handling Horses Safely -

Wayne Loch, Department of Animal Sciences

With Safety being the topic of the month, I thought I would focus this week on this important but most often not thought about topic.

No matter what age, type or breed of horse you work with, safe ground handling is important. Odds are likely that if you cannot control a horse on the ground, you will have even less control in the saddle. It is important to remain careful in safety procedures, even around older, familiar horses, because the unexpected can always happen. The following article discusses basic horse behavior, general precautions, and how to safely approach, lead and tie a horse.

During the last decade, participation in horse-related activities has continued to grow. The National Safety Council estimates that more than

10 million people in the United States are involved in equine sports. Membership in many horse associations has grown steadily.

These numbers reflect the importance of safe horse handling at every level. Basic safety practices are essential in every horse operation. This publication describes some important safety precautions that should be taken to ensure that you have a safe and enjoyable experience with your horse.

Basic Horse Behavior

The key to true horsemanship is to respect your horse and to be patient with it. Likewise, the horse must be taught to respect its handler. In order to develop these traits and to maintain your safety, you must understand the horse's behavior.

Horses survive in the wild because of their instinct to flee from danger. This is called the "flight instinct." Therefore, horses may react to unfamiliar objects and circumstances by spooking, or fleeing, from the object of fear. Horses detect danger through their vision, sense of smell and keen sense of hearing. Remember, that when a horse seems to spook at nothing, it may be reacting to something it can hear that you cannot.

Horses also see differently than humans do, and they can be easily spooked if surprised. They have wide-angle vision, but they also have blind spots directly behind and in front of their bodies. The horse has to position its head to focus its vision, and when it focuses on one area, it cannot see the other areas clearly. For example, when it lifts its head and pricks its ears, it is focusing on something far away. The horse lowers its head when focusing on low, close objects. Keep these blind spots in mind and know where your horse's attention is focused so you do not scare it.

Your horse's ears will give you clues, too -- they will point in the direction in which its attention is focused. Ears that are "laid back," or flattened backward, warn you that the horse is getting ready to kick or bite. Know the difference between ears that are laid back and ears that simply indicate a resting or listening horse.

Horses have powerful hind legs to defend themselves, so it is only normal for them to kick when surprised. Spoiled horses that kick or strike out of habit, however, should be left for professional horse trainers to handle.

Always work with calm but deliberate movements around horses. Nervous handlers can make horses nervous, creating unsafe situations. Never, ever lose your temper or blame your horse for your mistakes. It is best to quit for the day rather than take out your frustrations on the animal. Administering proper, consistent discipline is important for maintaining safety, but there is never a good reason for losing your temper. It only makes unsafe situations worse, either scaring the horse or causing it to retaliate.

Approaching the Horse

When catching a horse, approach from its left shoulder, holding the lead rope in the hand nearest the horse and the halter in the opposite hand. Move slowly but confidently, speaking to the horse as you approach. Read the horse's intention by watching its body language. If it shows signs of moving away, move more slowly, or move away and head it off before it goes too far in another direction. Be careful not to get into a situation where you could get kicked, which can happen if your horse feels cornered or threatened.

Some people use feed to catch their horses, but it is best to teach your horse to be caught without feed, particularly when it is turned out with other horses. The other horses may crowd you, and you could get stepped on.

Once you are able to touch your horse, rub it on the neck and slowly place the lead rope over the neck. Moving your arms too quickly could encourage it to run from you. Standing alongside the horse's neck, slide the halter on the horse by bringing it upwards on the muzzle and over the head, being careful not to drag it over the nose, eyes or ears. Rough handling can cause horses to become head-shy, making haltering and bridling more difficult.

Adjust the halter with enough room at the throat to slip a hand between the throatlatch and the horse's jaw. The halter should be tight enough to prevent a foot from getting caught when the horse lowers its head, yet have sufficient room to prevent binding the throat.

Be careful when approaching a horse that is preoccupied, such as when its head is in a hay manger. When approaching a horse in a stall, speak to the horse to get its attention and wait until it turns and faces you before

entering. It is harder to escape a dangerous situation within the confines of a stall, so always make sure you have an out.

If approaching a horse in a tie stall, make sure the horse moves over before you walk in beside it.

Speak to your horse and keep your hands on it when moving around it. Even if a horse is aware of your presence, it can be startled by quick movements. When approaching from the rear, advance at an angle. Speak to the horse, make sure you have its attention, and touch it gently as you pass by its hindquarters.

Leading the Horse

Hold the lead line with your right hand, 8 to 10 inches away from the horse's head, while holding the end, or bight, of the line with your left hand. If the horse acts up, you can let go with your right hand, but still hold on with your left hand. Always use a lead line so you have this safety zone and can prevent getting a hand caught in the halter.

Teach your horse to walk beside you so that you are walking at its left shoulder. Hold your right elbow near the horse's shoulder so you can anticipate its actions. Horses must be taught to move away from pressure so they do not crowd or lean when you try to push them away. If you are leading an unfamiliar horse, or a horse that tends to be fresh, you may want to put a chain over the nose for more control. Do not let the horse walk you. Do not allow it to get behind you either, as it could jump into you if spooked.

When changing directions, turn the horse away from you so that you do not get stepped on. To lead a horse through a doorway, make sure there is enough room so that it will not bump its sides. You should step through first, then quickly step to the side, out of the horse's way. Keep an eye on it, as some horses try to rush through narrow spaces.

The bight of lead lines and longe lines should be folded in the left hand to prevent handlers from stepping on the line or getting their hands caught. When folding is too bulky, coil the line in large loops like a lariat but be sure the loops are not so big that you might trip over them. Never wrap any piece of equipment attached to a horse around your hand, even with small loops, as it could wrap around the hand and cause serious injury. If the horse pulls away from you, the loops can slide

through your hand, entangling your fingers very quickly. Do not underestimate this danger. Many handlers, amateur and professional, have suffered serious injuries such as lost fingers and maimed hands in this way.

If your lead line has a chain on the end, do not loop it through the halter ring under the chin and back to itself. If the horse lowers its head, it could get its foot caught in the loop of the shank. Instead, you should either put the chain over the horse's nose, or put it through the halter ring on the left cheek and hook it to the throatlatch ring

Tying the Horse

There are two ways to tie a horse: tying with a single lead and cross-tying. When tying with a single lead, tie to a solid fixture, such as a post or a ring in a solid wall, and use a quick-release knot. Some horses learn how to untie a quick-release knot, so you may have to put the end of the line through the loop.

Always tie with a lead rope and not with reins. When tying to a hitching rail, stagger the horses on both sides so that they cannot fight. Tie horses far enough from the end of the rail so that they cannot move around to the other side.

Tie the horse at or above the level of its withers, and tie it short enough that it cannot lower its head and get a foot over the lead. The horse should be able to stand with its head at a comfortable level. Never tie to wire fences, posts where the knot could slip to the ground, or to anything that may come loose if the horse pulls back. If tying a horse in a stall, do not tie to the stall door. A panicked horse could pull the door off its hinges and drag it.

Do not leave your horse tied up without supervision, especially if it is alone. The horse is a herd animal and may panic if left alone, possibly injuring itself or the person who tries to free it.

Cross-tying can be dangerous if not done properly, so it should be done only where there is secure footing, if possible where there is a wall a few feet behind the horse to keep it from backing up too far. Use cross-ties with safety snaps and set them high in the wall to prevent the horse from getting a leg over if it rears. The cross-ties should be made of material that can be cut quickly, and should be tied with enough slack for the

horse to hold its head comfortably. Do not use rubber ties. If the horse pulls back, rubber ties can throw the horse backward if they break or forward when the horse gives. Never leave a horse unattended on cross-ties.

Always untie the horse before removing its halter. When turning it loose, lead it through the gate and turn it around to face the direction from which you entered. It is safest to remove the halter, but if you must turn him out with a halter, use a leather one because it will break more readily than nylon if the horse becomes entangled. After you remove the halter, make the horse stand quietly for several seconds before letting it go completely. This will help prevent the horse from developing a habit of bolting away and kicking at you in the process. Make sure you have an escape route in case the horse spins around and kicks out.

Grooming the horse

Wear hard-toed boots to protect your feet in case you get stepped on. Do not wear tennis shoes or open-toed sandals. Also avoid wearing dangling jewelry and pull back long hair so that it does not restrict your vision or get caught.

Use grooming equipment gently on your horse, particularly on animals with sensitive skin. Some horses can become sour and begin nipping at you if they anticipate discomfort during grooming. Be sure not to leave your equipment where the horse could step on it.

Stay near the horse and keep a hand on it at all times so you can anticipate its movements. Never sit on the ground or groom from your knees and always be in a position to move away quickly. Do not hurry the grooming procedure, especially with a young or spooky horse.

Begin grooming with a rubber currycomb, which is more gentle than a metal one. Start on the neck and brush in a circular motion. Work from front to back, grooming carefully in bony areas. Avoid using the currycomb on the face, lower legs or flanks.

You may use a shedding blade to remove shedding hair but be very gentle, especially on bony areas or if the horse is muddy. Do not use the shedding blade on the mane, tail or legs.

After you have loosened the dirt and hair, use a brush to remove it. If using two brushes, use the stiffer one first but avoid brushes with extremely hard bristles. Start on the neck and brush with the hair, working from front to back. Be sure to clean the horse's belly where the cinch lies to prevent saddle sores.

The stiff brush also can be used in a side-to-side motion to remove mud on the feet and legs, but it may be necessary to wash mud from the lower legs rather than groom roughly to remove it.

Use a soft brush to put on the finishing touches and to brush the face. Untie the horse when brushing its face and work slowly and gently, as many horses are sensitive. Hold the halter in one hand, or drop the halter around the neck and place one hand over the horse's nose to prevent getting hit if it tosses its head. Start on top of the forehead and be careful around the eyes, mouth and nose. Avoid placing your face over or too close to the horse's face, as the animal can move its head quickly and hit you.

Stand near and to the side of the hind leg when grooming the hindquarters and brushing the tail. If you must stand behind the horse, be sure you can move away quickly if something from the front scares the horse. When working in the flank and loin areas, get a feel for your horse's reaction. If it shows anxiety, work on these areas more gently.

Use the soft brush on the mane and tail. If there are tangles, it is best to pick through them with your fingers, but you also may use a mane comb.

When moving behind the horse, walk as closely to it as possible, keeping a hand on it at all times. If it kicks, you will be hurt less because the kick has not had time to gain full momentum. Walking only a few feet behind the horse is unsafe because you will receive the kick with full force. If you do not want to walk closely, move far enough away so that there is no chance of getting kicked, and make sure the horse is aware of your presence when you approach the other side. When working with a horse in a stall, walk closely because you will not have enough room to move clear. When working with a spooky or unfamiliar horse, stand to the side and run your hands over its hindquarters to get a feel for its reaction.

Do not climb over or under the lead line of a tied horse. The horse may pull back and cause you to trip over the line, and you will have no quick

escape should the horse lunge forward, paw or try to bite. Never walk under the belly of any horse.

If your horse wears a cribbing strap, remove it before working with the horse, particularly when performing tasks that could scare it, such as trimming with electrical clippers. If something startles it and it raises its head too high, the strap can cut off its air and cause it to pass out.

Cleaning the feet

Hoofs should be cleaned daily and trimmed or reshod every four to six weeks. Pick out your horse's feet each time you handle it and before and after each ride.

Start with the left front and work around to its right front, since most horses are accustomed to this order. Facing the rear of the horse, place your near hand on its shoulder and rub down its leg with your other hand. If it does not pick up its foot, push on its shoulder to shift its weight, or squeeze the tendons above the fetlock until it picks up its foot. If you try to force the foot up, it is likely that the horse will lean on you or lose its balance.

As the foot yields, slip your outside hand in front of the foot and raise it to knee height promptly, but without jerking. Hold the foot firmly enough that the horse cannot jerk its foot away from you. If the horse gets anxious and struggles, put the foot down and start over. Be sure your feet are not placed where it will step on them if it pulls away.

Use the hoof pick in a downward motion toward the toe. Never use the hoof pick from toe to heel because it is more likely to get caught in a crevice and puncture the sole or frog if the foot is jerked from your grasp.

Clean the sole, the frog and the crevices around the frog well. Look for bruises, punctures, foreign objects or signs of disease. If you find a problem, consult your veterinarian or farrier.

To clean the hind feet, place your near hand on the horse's hip to shift its weight. This also enables you to push the horse away if it tries to kick. Run your other hand down the back of its leg to the fetlock, using the same procedure as with the front feet to ask it to lift its foot. As the horse picks up its foot, slip your hand around it. Pull the foot slightly

backward and lift it up, either cradling it in your hand or resting it on your inside knee. Allow the horse to relax in the position that is most comfortable for it. Do not force the foot too high or pull it too far back, as this will put the horse off balance. Position yourself so that you will not end up behind the horse if it struggles. When you put the foot down, release it slowly, making sure not to drop it.

Clean stable conditions are essential for proper hoof care. Dirty bedding or extremely wet, muddy conditions can cause several ailments, including thrush, canker and cracked heels. Stalls should be cleaned every day, making sure to get beneath the top layer to the wet spots. This also helps eliminate respiratory hazards associated with high ammonia levels. In addition, stalls should be stripped periodically and floors disinfected with lime to reduce odors.

General precautions

Children should be supervised when working around horses. The kindest horse can accidentally step on a small child if the child gets underfoot. Be sure children are aware of all precautions. Some tasks, such as cleaning the feet, are more difficult for children, so be sure there is adequate supervision and that they have the strength and ability for the given task.

Fly control is a safety measure as well as a kindness to your horse. Spray your horse from the same positions used to groom it. Make sure it is aware of your presence and your intentions and untie it in case it is afraid and tries to pull back. If it is too jumpy, put some fly spray on a towel and rub it on the horse. Do likewise around the face, avoiding the eyes. Always read the chemical label and heed its precautions.

Also observe the following safety practices:

- Some clothing may frighten a horse, such as flapping jackets or plastic raincoats. Allow the horse to adjust if it is afraid or remove the coat. Strange objects such as umbrellas also may have the same effect. Respect handlers and riders by approaching with caution.
- Do not run or play around barns and do not begin work that may frighten horses without warning handlers or riders ahead of time. Others may be working with horses in the stalls, and they could be

hurt if their horses spook. This includes nailing boards, work involving climbing on stalls or throwing hay down from lofts.

- Some horses are aggressive at feeding time so allow them space while they eat. Avoid hand-feeding treats, especially sweets. Some horses begin to expect a treat and may develop a habit of biting. Never tease your horse.
- Check stalls periodically for protruding nails and broken boards.
- Keep all areas free from trash and clutter and put away all tools and equipment after use. Good housekeeping reduces fire hazards and helps prevent injuries to people and horses.
- Keep electrical wires, such as clipper cords and extension cords, completely out of the reach of horses. They may chew or step on them and be electrocuted. Do not leave dangling cords unattended for even a minute -- it won't take long for a horse to discover them. Do not leave electric fans or similar equipment running overnight or at other times when barns are not supervised.
- Leave horse restraint practices, such as twitches and lip chains, to experienced handlers. Be sure that you have been thoroughly educated in the use of restraints before attempting to use them. Less experienced handlers should be supervised, as some horses may overreact and strike or run over the handler. If restraints are used improperly, they could cause injury to you or the horse.
- Do not smoke in barns, and never mix alcohol or drugs with horse-related activities.
- Have a first aid kit for humans available, as well as a first aid kit for horses. Make sure someone in your facility is trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid.
- Post all emergency numbers near the phone and cover the list in plastic. Also post home numbers of the barn's owner, manager and trainer, and have home and work numbers of all boarders and parents of minors readily available.

- Use extra caution when working around young or spoiled horses. These animals are best left to professional trainers until they are safe for amateurs.

Most important, do not become careless in safety procedures, even around older, familiar horses, because the unexpected can always happen. Realize that all horses are different, and that what may be safe with one horse may not be with another. If in doubt about whether your horse will perform a task safely, consult an experienced horse trainer. Make safety practices a part of your daily routine until they become habit.

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2. The Do's and Don'ts of Equestrian Attire

[Jenifer Nadeau](#), Equine Extension Specialist, University of Connecticut and [Betsy Greene](#), Equine Extension Specialist, University of Vermont

It is important to think about what you are going to wear prior to working with or riding a horse not only for comfort, but also for safety. This does not have to be expensive and appropriate garments are not difficult to find.

Headgear

There are many types of headgear available for equestrians. The most important consideration when selecting headgear should be safety rather than fashion. Non-approved headgear are items of apparel only. Approved headgear is available and provides the most protection for your head.

Some common non-approved headgear worn by equestrians are:

- Cowboy hats - commonly worn by those in Western disciplines or recreational riders
- Baseball hats - commonly worn by all equestrians
- Derbies - commonly worn by those in dressage and driving
- Top hats - commonly worn by those at higher levels in dressage

- Hunt caps - commonly worn by those in English related disciplines and are designed similarly to ASTM/SEI approved helmets but do not meet these safety standards
- Bicycle helmets - often worn by novice riders but are designed to absorb impact from the height of a bicycle, not the height of a horse.
 1. Bike helmets do not protect the back of the head or the forehead because these areas are generally not susceptible to injury in a bicycle crash.
 2. The back of the head, forehead, and sides of the head are all vulnerable in falls from horses.

Approved Headgear

It is a necessary precaution to wear ASTM/SEI certified and properly fitted equestrian helmets when riding, and often even when working around horses. Just as people fasten their seatbelts in a car or an airplane, or don life jackets on boat rides to lessen the possibility of tragedy, wearing a helmet is a proven way to prevent or decrease head injuries when riding. One helmet can cost from \$30-300 dollars, which is a bargain relative to the potential cost and permanence of a head injury.

Shirts

Unless you plan to go to a horse show you probably have a suitable shirt, such as a T-shirt or sweatshirt to wear. The shirt should fit appropriately, and should not be too large or loose so that it may catch on a piece of equipment or tree branch.

If you are going out on trail you should consider wearing bright colors for visibility. Many riders like to wear vests when the weather gets cooler. Your arms and shoulders are less restricted in a vest and they lend themselves to layering for warmth.

There are winter coats designed for riding if you live in an area where you have to cope with frigid temperatures. These coats are roomy through the shoulders, and have gussets so they spread over the saddle rather than tucking under your seat. Many have attractive reflective tape and patches for greater visibility out on trail.

Pants

For everyday riding, an inexpensive pair of two-way stretch tights maybe the most comfortable. Riding tights can be bought with leather knee and seat patches.

These provide a bit more grip and will be made of a more durable fabric than tights not designed for horseback riding. Winter riding pants are made of fleece material for warmth.

Many people ride in jeans or sweat pants. What you will want to avoid in any case is pants that twist, wrinkle or bunch along the inside of your legs and especially knees. Again, your pants should not be too large as they may catch on something, leading to injury to yourself or your horse. Some people like the extra grip and in the winter the wind breaking ability of leather riding chaps. Half chaps that cover from knee to foot provide grip and protection for the lower leg.

Footwear

Besides your helmet, your footwear is probably the next most important type of attire to keep you and your horse safe.

Although there is no official testing or standards for boots, you will want to find a pair with about a 1 to 1 ½ inch heel and low tread. The heel will keep your foot from slipping through the stirrup when riding. In this case, gym shoes are not appropriate for riding a horse. The tread on many hiking and winter boots is too heavy and in case of a fall may jam in the stirrup. You also want to avoid any boots with waffle tread. There are many different styles of boots so choose whatever is comfortable, affordable and suitable for your type of riding. When working with or riding a horse, you should never have sandals or flip-flops on in case you are stepped on by your horse.

For riding purposes, your boots should be supportive of your ankles, just like an ice skater. Therefore, you will want to find boots that cover the ankles. Your boots don't have to be 'riding boots' as long as the sole, heel and tread are appropriate. Inexpensive leather and running shoe style riding boots start at about \$100.

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3. TRAINING HORSES SAFELY

DAVID W. FREEMAN, EXTENSION EQUINE SPECIALIST, OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

HORSES POSSESS MANY ATTRIBUTES WHICH MAKE THEM A SPECIES OF CHOICE FOR HUMAN COMPANIONSHIP AND SERVICE. RELATING TO HORSES REQUIRES A KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR BEHAVIOR. WITHOUT THIS KNOWLEDGE, INVOLVEMENT WITH THEM CAN BE DANGEROUS.

THIS ARTICLE DISCUSSES BEHAVIORS OF THE HORSE AND HOW TO TRAIN A HORSE SAFELY.

HORSE BEHAVIOR AND TRAINABILITY

BEHAVIOR IS A PRODUCT OF BOTH INSTINCT AND EXPERIENCE. TO SOME DEGREE, ALL HORSES BEHAVE IN A SIMILAR FASHION. SUCCESSFUL TRAINING DEPENDS ON THE TRAINER'S UNDERSTANDING OF THESE TRAITS AND HOW STIMULI, OR CUES, CAN BE APPLIED TO MODIFY BEHAVIOR. BEHAVIORAL TRAITS IMPORTANT TO TRAINING INCLUDE THE FIGHT OR FLIGHT RESPONSE, MEMORY, PERCEPTION OF AND REACTION TO STIMULI AND THE RESPONSE TO DOMINANCE.

THE FIGHT OR FLIGHT RESPONSE

HORSES ARE A PREY SPECIES AND THEY SURVIVE BY FLEEING FROM DANGER. THIS COULD BE SOMETHING THAT HAS INVOKED FEAR IN THE PAST OR SOMETHING NEW OR DIFFERENT. TRAINERS BUILD ON THE FLIGHT RESPONSE BY ALLOWING ESCAPE TO BE AN ACCEPTABLE RESPONSE TO TRAINING CUES, ESPECIALLY IN EARLY TRAINING. AN EXAMPLE IS THE USE OF A HIP ROPE ON FOALS WHEN TEACHING THEM TO LEAD. A HORSE'S NATURAL RESPONSE TO PRESSURE IS TO FIGHT IT; THUS, WE TEACH THEM TO GIVE IN OR MOVE AWAY FROM PRESSURE BY RELEASING THE PRESSURE WHEN THEY RESPOND ACCEPTABLY.

THE INSTINCT TO FLEE CAN CAUSE SAFETY PROBLEMS WHEN A HORSE IS HANDLED OR CONFINED. IF A HORSE PANICS, IT MAY RUN OVER HANDLERS, FENCES OR OTHER OBSTACLES. PROPER TRAINING LESSENS THE INSTINCT TO ESCAPE.

WILD HORSES INTERACT IN HERDS WHERE FIGHTING IS A FREQUENT PART OF SOCIAL ORDER. DOMESTICATED HORSES CAN ALSO BECOME AGGRESSIVE AND STRIKE, KICK, BITE; OR RUN OVER OBJECTS, PEOPLE, OR OTHER HORSES. BUILDING SECURITY AND RESPECT AT EARLY AGES DECREASES THIS RESPONSE TOWARD HUMANS. ANY HORSE CAN BECOME AGGRESSIVE TOWARD A HANDLER, ESPECIALLY STALLIONS, MARES WITH FOALS, OLDER HORSES WITH LITTLE TRAINING AND YOUNG HORSES IN THE INITIAL PHASES OF TRAINING.

MEMORY AND REPETITION IN TRAINING

HORSES HAVE GOOD MEMORIES, BUT THEY DO NOT HAVE AN APPRECIABLE REASONING ABILITY. THEY LEARN THROUGH REPETITION. INITIALLY, TRAINERS ALLOW SIMPLE AND SLOW

RESPONSES TO CUES. ADVANCED TRAINING RESULTS FROM THE USE OF STEP-WISE TRAINING PROCEDURES THAT ALLOW THE HORSE TO ADD INTRICACY AND SPEED TO PREVIOUSLY LEARNED RESPONSES.

PERCEPTION AND REACTION TO STIMULI

IN THE WILD, HORSES RELY ON EARLY RECOGNITION OF DANGER AND QUICK RESPONSE FOR SURVIVAL. THIS POSES BOTH ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES WHEN TRAINING. HORSES ARE VERY PERCEPTIVE AND CAN REACT SUDDENLY TO SOUNDS, SIGHTS, MOVEMENT, TOUCH AND SMELL. TRAINERS CAPITALIZE ON A HORSE'S SENSITIVITY TO VOICE WHEN TEACHING A HORSE TO RESPOND TO CUES.

TRAINING PROGRAMS DESENSITIZE HORSES TO UNFAMILIAR STIMULI. THROUGH THE USE OF SLOW, STEP-WISE TRAINING METHODS, MOST HORSES READILY ACCEPT UNFAMILIAR AREAS OR OBJECTS SUCH AS TRAILERS, INDOOR ARENAS, TRAFFIC OR PEOPLE. WITH EXPERIENCE AND A TRUST OF HUMANS, HORSES LEARN TO IGNORE MANY OF THESE. HOWEVER, LOUD NOISES OR UNFAMILIAR SIGHTS MAY FRIGHTEN ANY HORSE, SO HANDLERS MUST BE PREPARED AT ALL TIMES.

SUBMISSION TO DOMINANCE

DOMINANCE IS PART OF THE SOCIAL ORDER OF A HERD. HORSES ARE TRAINABLE BECAUSE THEY CAN BE TAUGHT TO RECOGNIZE THE DOMINANCE OF HUMANS. TRUST IS DEVELOPED WHEN A HORSE FEELS SECURE ABOUT THE ACTIONS OF HUMANS.

TRAINING PRINCIPLES BASED ON EXPECTED HORSE BEHAVIOR

SEVERAL TRAINING PRINCIPLES ARE USED BASED ON EXPECTED HORSE BEHAVIOR. THESE BEHAVIORS ALLOW US TO SOMEWHAT PREDICT HOW A HORSE WILL RESPOND TO A STIMULUS.

STIMULUS -> RESPONSE -> REINFORCEMENT

STIMULUS

THE "STIMULUS, RESPONSE AND REINFORCEMENT" PRINCIPLE IS USED TO TRAIN HORSES. WE APPLY A CUE, OR STIMULUS; THE HORSE RESPONDS, AND WE REINFORCE THE RESPONSE BASED ON ITS ACCEPTABILITY. THE RESPONSE TO MOST CUES MUST BE LEARNED BY

THE HORSE BECAUSE THE DESIRED ACTION OFTEN DOES NOT COME NATURALLY.

RESPONSE

A HORSE WILL RESPOND TO A CUE BY FIGHTING OR MOVING TO ESCAPE FROM PRESSURE. WHEN A HANDLER PULLS A LEAD ROPE TO CUE THE HORSE TO MOVE, AN ACCEPTABLE RESPONSE WOULD BE FOR THE HORSE TO MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE PULL.

REINFORCEMENT ALLOWS RELEASE FROM PRESSURE ON THE HALTER. AN UNACCEPTABLE RESPONSE, SUCH AS MOVING AGAINST THE DIRECTION OF PULL, RESULTS IN NEGATIVE REINFORCEMENT.

REINFORCEMENTS

REINFORCEMENTS MAY BE POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE. MOST POSITIVE REINFORCEMENTS ARE LEARNED. FOR EXAMPLE, A HORSE LEARNS THAT A PAT ON THE NECK IS A REWARD BECAUSE IT ASSOCIATES IT WITH A RELEASE FROM PRESSURE OR EXERCISE.

NEGATIVE REINFORCEMENTS ENCOURAGE THE HORSE TO RESPOND AND AVOID ANOTHER CUE. NEGATIVE REINFORCEMENTS USE THE PRINCIPLES OF ESCAPE AND AVOIDANCE.

THE ESCAPE PRINCIPLE USES BEHAVIORAL TRAITS INHERENT IN HORSES. AN EXAMPLE IS THE DIRECT REIN. PRESSURE IS APPLIED BY A DIRECT PULL; THE HORSE ESCAPES THE PRESSURE BY MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF THE PULL.

AVOIDANCE IS ALSO USED IN NEGATIVE REINFORCEMENT. THE HORSE LEARNS TO AVOID AN ADDITIONAL REINFORCEMENT BY RESPONDING ACCEPTABLY TO INITIAL CUES. FOR EXAMPLE, A HORSE IS CUED TO MOVE AWAY FROM LEG PRESSURE. IF THE RESPONSE IS ACCEPTABLE, IT IS REINFORCED BY THE RELEASE OF LEG PRESSURE. IF THE HORSE IGNORES THE CUE, REINFORCEMENT IS A SIMILAR BUT MORE INTENSE CUE, THAT IS, A KICK REINFORCES A LEG SQUEEZE. THROUGH REPETITION, THE HORSE ASSOCIATES THE UNACCEPTABLE RESPONSE WITH MORE INTENSE REINFORCEMENT AND LEARNS TO SUBMIT TO THE INITIAL, LESS INTENSE CUE.

PUNISHMENT IS USED TO ELIMINATE BAD HABITS AND AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR INITIATED BY THE HORSE, SUCH AS BUCKING, REARING AND KICKING. PUNISHMENT REINFORCES THE DOMINANCE OF HUMANS AND ELIMINATES DANGEROUS ACTIONS. TO BE EFFECTIVE, PUNISHMENT REQUIRES INTENSE, TIMELY AND SHORT-TERMED

ACTIONS. APPLICATION SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR RESPONSES INITIATED BY THE HORSE. PUNISHMENT APPLIED INAPPROPRIATELY CAUSES FEAR AND INSECURITY IN A HORSE. A LOSS OF SECURITY PRODUCES AN UNTRAINABLE HORSE.

SOME UNDESIRED ACTIONS OF HORSES GO AWAY WITHOUT REINFORCEMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, THE INTRODUCTION OF A BIT CAUSES A HORSE TO BITE AND CHEW ON THE MOUTHPIECE. THIS RESPONSE WILL USUALLY GO AWAY WITHOUT ANY REINFORCEMENT WHEN THE HORSE LEARNS TO TOLERATE THE MOUTHPIECE.

CUES REQUIRE REINFORCEMENT THROUGHOUT THE HORSE'S PERFORMANCE CAREER. YOUNG HORSES NEED REINFORCEMENTS CONTINUALLY IN TRAINING. OLDER, WELL-TRAINED HORSES SHOULD RESPOND WITH LESS NEGATIVE REINFORCEMENT. THE GOAL OF TRAINING IS FOR THE HORSE TO RESPOND TO ALL CUES IN AN ACCEPTABLE MANNER WITHOUT OBVIOUS REINFORCEMENTS. HOWEVER, EVEN A HIGHLY TRAINED HORSE REQUIRES REINFORCEMENTS TO MAINTAIN ITS LEVEL OF TRAINING.

REPETITION AND CONSISTENCY OF CUES AND REINFORCEMENTS

HORSES LEARN THROUGH REPETITION. REPETITION INCREASES A HORSE'S ABILITY TO MASTER A TASK. IT ALSO SERVES AS A REVIEW BEFORE NEW OR MORE INTRICATE MOVEMENTS ARE PERFORMED. TOO MUCH REPETITION ALLOWS A HORSE TO LEARN TO AVOID THE PHYSICAL OR MENTAL OUTPUT OF A MANEUVER. THIS CAN HAPPEN WHEN A BARREL HORSE RUNS A PATTERN TOO OFTEN, FOR EXAMPLE.

THE ABILITY TO LEARN CUES QUICKLY AND ACCURATELY DEPENDS ON THE CONSISTENCY OF REINFORCEMENTS. HORSES ARE VERY PERCEPTIVE. THEY ARE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE SLIGHT DIFFERENCES IN CUE APPLICATION. THIS ALLOWS FOR MORE INTRICATE STIMULI AND MORE ADVANCED MANEUVERS.

CONTINGENCY

HORSES RESPOND QUICKLY TO STIMULI. TO BE EFFECTIVE, REINFORCEMENT MUST OCCUR IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE HORSE'S RESPONSE SO THAT THE HORSE LEARNS TO ASSOCIATE THE REINFORCEMENT WITH THE PRECEDING CUE.

FATIGUE

SOME HORSES LEARN TO IGNORE CONSTANT STIMULUS BY BUILDING PHYSICAL AND MENTAL BARRIERS. HORSES FATIGUE EASILY SO CUES MUST BE SHORT IN DURATION, FOR EXAMPLE, A PULL AND RELEASE OF THE REINS OR A SQUEEZE AND RELEASE WITH THE LEGS. WHEN THE STIMULUS IS CONSTANT AND PROLONGED, MOST HORSES WILL EITHER IGNORE IT OR TRY TO ESCAPE BY FIGHTING THE PRESSURE, FOR EXAMPLE, RUNNING AWAY WHILE THE RIDER IS PULLING BACK ON THE REINS.

FATIGUE ALSO LIMITS THE LENGTH OF SINGLE TRAINING SESSIONS. YOUNG HORSES, MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY UNCONDITIONED TO TRAINING, MUST BE WORKED IN SHORT TRAINING SESSIONS. THE SESSION LENGTH AND NUMBER OF CUES CAN BE INCREASED AS THE HORSE MATURES AND LEARNS. VARYING THE TYPE OF WORK AND INTERMITTENTLY ALLOWING THE HORSE TO RELAX DURING A TRAINING SESSION PREVENT FATIGUE.

SHAPING BEHAVIOR WITH STEP-WISE TRAINING PROGRAMS

ADVANCED TRAINING REQUIRES MENTAL AND PHYSICAL MATURITY. IN ADVANCED TRAINING PROGRAMS, COORDINATED MANEUVERS ARE DIVIDED INTO A SERIES OF SIMPLE TASKS. MOVEMENTS ARE ADDED AS THE HORSE MASTERS EACH TASK. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN STOPPING, A HORSE MUST SHIFT ITS WEIGHT TO THE HINDQUARTERS AND FLEX ITS HEAD. THE HORSE MUST FIRST LEARN TO CARRY ITS BODY IN A COLLECTED FRAME. IT MUST RESPOND TO VOICE COMMANDS, BODY MOVEMENT OF THE RIDER, AND MOUTH PRESSURE FROM THE BRIDLE. LEARNING IS ENHANCED WHEN MOVEMENTS ARE FIRST TAUGHT AT SLOWER SPEEDS, SUCH AS A TROT RATHER THAN A LOPE OR GALLOP. THE SLOWER SPEED ALLOWS FOR SMALL DELAYS IN RESPONSE TIME. THE HORSE IS ABLE TO POSITION ITS BODY AS IT LEARNS THE DESIRED RESPONSE.

SAFETY PRINCIPLES RELATED TO TRAINING AND BEHAVIOR

RECOGNIZE THE HORSE'S NATURAL DEFENSE MECHANISMS.

- FRIGHTENED OR AGGRESSIVE HORSES MAY PANIC, ESCAPE, OR FIGHT. THEY MAY HAVE LITTLE REGARD FOR HUMAN DOMINANCE OR SAFETY. LEARN TO RECOGNIZE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FEAR AND AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR. A FRIGHTENED HORSE WILL NEED SLOW, CONSISTENTLY APPLIED REINFORCEMENT TO BUILD SECURITY. HORSES THAT INITIATE

DANGEROUS, AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR MUST BE PUNISHED TO ELIMINATE THE RESPONSE.

- UNDERSTAND HORSE BEHAVIOR AS IT RELATES TO HERD SOCIAL ORDER, STALLION SEXUAL BEHAVIOR AND MARE AND FOAL RELATIONSHIPS. EXPECT SOME HORSES TO BE MORE AGGRESSIVE THAN OTHERS.
- WATCH FOR THE VISUAL SIGNS OF BEHAVIOR AND ATTITUDE. RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF A FRIGHTENED, CONFUSED OR AGGRESSIVE HORSE.
- DON'T TRY TO HERD OR LEAD A HORSE WHEN STANDING DIRECTLY BEHIND OR IN FRONT OF IT. THESE ARE BLIND AREAS IN A HORSE'S VISUAL FIELD. A HORSE MAY BOLT FORWARD OR KICK WHEN FRIGHTENED OR AGGRESSIVE.
- APPROACH A HORSE AT ITS SHOULDER. THIS ALLOWS YOU TO USE YOUR BODY TO IMPEDE MOVEMENT WHILE POSITIONING YOURSELF IN A SAFE LOCATION.
- MAKE A HORSE STAND WHEN TURNING IT LOOSE UNTIL YOU ARE SAFELY POSITIONED TO AVOID BEING RUN OVER OR KICKED. POSITION THE HORSE SO THAT ITS HEAD IS FACING A WALL OR FENCE BEFORE REMOVING THE HALTER. THIS WILL KEEP THE HORSE FROM BOLTING.
- DON'T ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE TRAPPED BETWEEN A FRIGHTENED OR MAD HORSE AND A STALL WALL OR OTHER BARRIER.
- DO NOT CHASE HORSES WHEN TRYING TO CATCH THEM. THIS ACTION REINFORCES THE HORSE'S DESIRE TO ESCAPE.

RECOGNIZE THE REACTIVITY OF HORSES.

- BE CAUTIOUS IN NEW ENVIRONMENTS. RECOGNIZE SMALL CHANGES IN THE ENVIRONMENT THAT MAY FRIGHTEN A HORSE.
- MOVE SLOWLY AND DELIBERATELY AROUND HORSES. AVOID SUDDEN MOVEMENTS THAT MAY CONFUSE THE HORSE OR BE PERCEIVED AS A PRELUDE TO PUNISHMENT. PUNISHMENT USUALLY INVOLVES QUICK MOVEMENTS.
- INTRODUCE CLIPPERS, BLANKETS AND SADDLES IN A SAFE, FAMILIAR PLACE. WITH EXPERIENCE, MOST HORSES LEARN TO IGNORE THE SOUND, SIGHT, SMELL, OR MOVEMENT ASSOCIATED WITH ROUTINE PROCEDURES.
- ALWAYS BE PREPARED FOR ANY UNEXPECTED STIMULI THAT MAY FRIGHTEN THE HORSE, ESPECIALLY IN NEW ENVIRONMENTS.

UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR REINFORCEMENTS.

- STAY ALERT TO CUES AND REINFORCEMENTS AT ALL TIMES. BE CONSISTENT IN YOUR CUES AND ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSES. RECOGNIZE THAT CUES ARE APPLIED TO HORSES CONSTANTLY WHILE YOU ARE HANDLING THEM.
- TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN TRUST AND ACCEPTANCE OF HUMAN DOMINANCE, APPLY APPROPRIATE AND CONSISTENT REINFORCEMENT AND PUNISHMENT.
- PUNISH BAD BEHAVIOR TO ELIMINATE UNDESIRABLE RESPONSES. APPLY PUNISHMENT APPROPRIATELY. MAKE PUNISHMENTS INTENSE, SHORT TERMED AND CONTINGENT UPON THE ACTION.
- ALLOW FOR ESCAPE AND AVOIDANCE OPTIONS WHEN APPLYING NEGATIVE REINFORCEMENT. GIVE THE HORSE AN IDENTIFIABLE REWARD BY APPLYING SIMPLE, CONSISTENT CUES WITH QUICK RELEASE.
- TRAIN THE HORSE TO RESPOND TO A RIDER'S HAND, VOICE, LEG AND BODY CUES THROUGH THE USE STEP-WISE TRAINING PROGRAMS.
- APPLY CONTINGENT REINFORCEMENTS SO THE HORSE WILL ASSOCIATE THEM WITH THE INTENDED CUE.

USE PROPER EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES TO ENCOURAGE ACCEPTABLE RESPONSES.

- USE STOCKS WHEN TREATING, WASHING OR PERFORMING ACTIVITIES THE HORSE MAY PERCEIVE AS THREATENING.
- TIE HORSES WITH QUICK RELEASE KNOTS.
- EVALUATE ENCLOSED AREAS FOR HORSE AND RIDER SAFETY.
- USE ROUND PENS AND OTHER ENCLOSED AREAS WHEN TEACHING HORSES TO RESPOND TO TRAINING AIDS.
- UNDERSTAND THE FUNCTION OF DIFFERENT BITS AND TRAINING AIDS AND USE THEM IN A SAFE MANNER.
- MAINTAIN EQUIPMENT IN GOOD REPAIR. PERFORM ROUTINE EQUIPMENT CHECKS AND REPLACE QUESTIONABLE PARTS WHICH COULD FAIL UNDER STRESS.
- USE PROPERLY FITTING EQUIPMENT TO ALLOW FOR CONSISTENCY OF CUES, RELEASE OF PRESSURE AND SAFETY.
- WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND SAFETY GEAR, SUCH AS BOOTS, PANTS, AND HEAD GEAR OR HELMET. MAKE SURE CLOTHING AND SAFETY GEAR FIT PROPERLY AND SECURELY.

LEARN THE PROCEDURES OF HORSE HANDLING AND USE.

- OBTAIN ADVICE AND INSTRUCTION FROM QUALIFIED, EXPERIENCED INDIVIDUALS.
- BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE ACTIVITIES IN WHICH YOU INTEND TO PARTICIPATE BEFORE INTRODUCING THEM TO YOUR HORSE.
- INITIATE NEWLY LEARNED TECHNIQUES UNDER THE DIRECTION OF EXPERIENCED INDIVIDUALS.

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4. You Asked: When riding, what safety distance must be respected between each horse?

When riding with friends, keep a safe distance between horses, whether riding side by side or in a line. When riding single file, keep at least a horse's length between horses. One easy way to judge the distance is to look between your horse's ears at the horse in front of you. If you can see the hind hooves, then you are at a safe distance. If you can only see the hocks, back off.

If you tailgate or ride up on the rear of another horse, you may be kicked, or your horse may step on the other horse's heels.

When riding side by side, some horses may try to kick. Be on the lookout for warning signs such as pinned ears and swinging their hind end toward the other horse.

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5. Meat Handling & Cutting Workshop

Cooperative Extension In Rockingham County will be holding a Meat Workshop on June 1st at the Rockingham County Agricultural Center from 1-4pm.

There will be a registration fee of \$20 for this workshop.

At this workshop we will have a Meat Cutting Demonstration & Discussing things such as:

DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN VENOMOUS & NONVENOMOUS SNAKES

North Carolina's non-venomous snakes have many tiny teeth. These small teeth will make superficial cuts similar to briar scratches. If you, a child or a pet is bitten by a nonvenomous snake, the bite will look like a horseshoe of tiny scratches. Clean the area well with soap and water and wipe it with hydrogen peroxide. If only one or two puncture wounds are present, or if you are allergic to snakes, or if you are not sure the snake is nonvenomous, go to a doctor. Unlike venomous snakes, most nonvenomous snakes cannot bite through clothing.

Many times people kill snakes such as the young black or gray rat snake and the young racer snake, thinking they are copperheads. This is really a shame, because rat snakes and others do no harm and help keep the rodent and insect population down. Besides, most snakes -- even venomous ones -- are not aggressive and would rather avoid a confrontation with people. A snake can only strike with authority within a distance of one-half its body length. So a reasonable distance will keep you safe. Give the snake time to go on its way.

If a confrontation is unavoidable, how can you tell the difference between a venomous [copperhead](#) and a harmless rat snake? The rattlesnakes, copperhead, and cottonmouth are [pit vipers](#). They are characterized by a pit between and slightly below the eye and nostril, long movable fangs, a vertically elliptical "cat's eye" pupil, undivided scales on the underside of the tail, and a large triangular-shaped head that has a small, smooth, shiny cap over the nose. Nonvenomous snakes have round pupils, a large smooth cap over the top of the head past the eyes, divided scales on the underside of the tail, no pits and no long fangs.

The coral snake, the only other poisonous snake in our region, is not a member of the pit viper family. It is recognized by its distinctive pattern: red, yellow and black rings. Each red and black ring is separated by a yellow ring. The head and tail are encircled by yellow and black. The scarlet snake (*Cemophora coccinea*) and the scarlet kingsnake (*Lampropeltis triangulum*) are often mistakenly killed because they have the same color bands as the coral snake, but they have a different pattern. The coral snake has

small, permanently erect fangs and divided scales on the underside of the tail.

Nonpoisonous snakes have round pupils, divided scales on the underside of the tail, and no pits. There are many more nonpoisonous snakes than poisonous ones. For example, more than 37 species of snakes are in North Carolina, but only 6 species are poisonous.

Of the 37 species of snakes throughout North Carolina, only six are venomous:

Copperhead (found throughout NC) Canebrake Rattlesnake (found throughout NC)

**Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake (found in southeastern NC)
Pigmy Rattlesnake (found in southeastern NC) Cottonmouth or Water Moccasin (found in wetland areas in the eastern half of NC)
Coral Snake (the rarest, found in the south and southeastern areas of NC). The odds of getting a serious snakebite in the Southeast are low for several reasons. The first is that only 6 of the more than 40 species of southeastern snakes are venomous. The second is that the five species with the most potent venom and greatest potential danger are less likely to bite a person than the sixth one. That sixth snake is the copperhead, North Carolina's most numerous venomous snake.**

If you or your pet are bitten by any snake that you suspect is venomous, get medical attention immediately. For the most part, if you let snakes alone, they'll leave you alone.

For more Snake information go to:

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/wild/wildlife/wdc/snakes.html>

Adult NC Snake Photos

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/gaston/Pests/reptiles/snakepix3.html>

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/gaston/Pests/reptiles/sprsnakes.html>

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8. Piedmont Horseman's Association

Are you looking for a local open horse show association that is friendly and offers a variety of classes for all ages? Look no further...Piedmont Horseman's Association has been around for 41 years and still going strong! Whether you show halter, showmanship, English, Western Pleasure or Working Western; PHA has classes for you! Piedmont Horseman's Association (PHA) helps create a wholesome, family atmosphere in the great sport of Horse Showing; and for each member to exhibit his or her horse or pony in a sportsmanlike manner. There are many benefits of being a member of PHA; reduced entry fee at sanctioned shows, accumulate points for year end awards, recently APHA PAC approved and much more! Horse Show season is upon us and currently PHA has eight shows scheduled with the first two being at the Oak Ridge Open Horse Show on April 6 – 7. You can find all the details such as membership forms, class lists, calendar, etc on the PHA website at: <http://www.phasince1971.com/> PHA is also looking for class/show sponsors to make this the best year ever! Feel free to contact one of the officers from the website if you have any questions. We hope to see some new people at the Piedmont Horseman's Association shows!

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9. 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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10. Flintrock Farm Show Series

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

www.flintrockfarm.com

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11. 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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12. Flintrock Farm Open Show

This Saturday! March 31st

www.flintrockfarm.com

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13. Cooler Horsemanship demonstration at the Oak Ridge Horse Show - Saturday, April 7th 11:00am - 12:00pm

Join us as we play with our horses and show how understanding the horses' natural psychology and profile type can lead to an amazing relationship that is both fun and safe.

www.CoolerHorsemanship.com

www.OakRidgeHorseShow.com

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14. 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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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](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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16. SWAP SHOP

- 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](tel:336-584-5617) or larknspursandy@bellsouth.net

- FOR SALE- 2002 Horse Trailer, bumper pull, step up, with stabilizer attachment, steel frame, galvalume 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

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 or call (336)817 2144

- Looking for someone to bale hay on about 20 acres in Oak Ridge. If interested, please call [336-601-5577](tel:336-601-5577).

- 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](tel:336-617-7173), rshankle@triad.rr.com

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17. Take A Load Off –

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

Got Circle Flies?

A farmer got pulled over by a state trooper for speeding and the trooper started to lecture the farmer about his speed, and in general began to throw his

weight around to try to make the farmer uncomfortable.

Finally the trooper got around to writing out the ticket, and as he was doing that, he kept swatting at some flies that were buzzing around his head.

The farmer said, "Having some problem with circle flies there, are ya?"

The trooper stopped writing the ticket and said, 'Well yeah, if that's what they are. I never heard of circle flies.'

So the farmer says. "Well, circle flies are common on farms. See, they're called circle flies because they're almost always found circling around the back end of a horse.

The trooper says, "Oh," and goes back to writing the ticket. Then after a minute he stops and says, "Hey, wait a minute, are you trying to call me a horse's tail?"

The farmer says, "Oh no officer. I have too much respect for law enforcement and police officers to even think about calling you that."

The trooper says, "Well that's a good thing", and goes back to writing the ticket.

**After a long pause the farmer says, "Hard to fool them
flies though."**

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I always want to know what you think of the Weekly Pile, good or bad,
Especially if it has had ANY IMPACT on you. Let me hear from you!

*******I NEED YOUR IDEAS FOR ARTICLES In FUTURE
Newsletters!*******

I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

***Please remember our Troops who are serving our Country (and there
families) those who have come home with wounds and the families that
paid the ultimate sacrifice. We owe everything to those who are and
have served!**

Thank You!

I hope that you all have a Great Safe Weekend!

Ben

North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University

**Is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not
discriminate against applicants, students, or employees based on race,
color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, age, or disability.**

Moreover, North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State

University is open to people of all races and actively seeks to promote racial integration by recruiting and enrolling a larger number of black students. North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University regards discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation to be inconsistent with its goal of providing a welcoming environment in which all its students, faculty, and staff may learn and work up to their full potential. The Universities values the benefits of cultural diversity and pluralism in the academic community and welcomes all men and women of good will without regard to sexual orientation.

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