

Weekly Pile for Week of November 14 2011

Hello Horse E-mailers,

Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the Week of November 14, 2011, Extension's Equine related educational information & announcements for Rockingham & Guilford Counties. To have something included in the Weekly Pile, please follow these simple guidelines.

- Information included needs to be educational in nature &/or directly related to Rockingham or Guilford Counties.

- Please E-mail information to me by Wednesday each Week.

- Please keep ads or events as short as possible - with NO FORMATTING

with NO unnecessary Capitalization's, and NO ATTACHED DOCUMENTS.

(If sent in that way, it may not be included)

- Please include contact information - Phone, Email and a like.

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

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

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

Included in This Weeks Pile:

**1. 2012 NC Forage & Grasslands Council Winter Conference
January 25th In Greensboro**

2. Notes from Molly the Intern

3. Feeding a Horse for Maintenance

4. You Asked

5. Safe Loading Practices for Horses

6. Digital Cushion

7. Vesicular Stomatitis

8. TAKE SOIL SAMPLES!!!

9. Forage Management Tips

10. Rockingham County Extension Volunteers FALL FAIR November 19th

11. December 3-4 Holiday Classic Open Horse Show

12. December 4 - Bryan Park riding trail workday

13. Horse Industry Handbook

14. HAY DIRECTORY

15. Take A Load Off

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1. 2012 North Carolina Forage & Grasslands Council Winter Conference

The 2012 North Carolina Forage & Grasslands Council Winter Conference will take place Wednesday January 25th at the Guilford County Agricultural Center located at 3309 Burlington Road in Greensboro. The Tradeshow & Registration will begin at 12:30, with the program 1-6pm & a Social from 6-7pm.

Program Topics will include, Healthy Soils Reduce Chemical Inputs on Grazing & Cropping Systems, Managing Forages to

Lower Production Costs and there will be a panel with local producers discussing Dealing with the High Input Costs.

If you would like more information about Registering for this event, please let me know & I will send you more details. Registration is \$15 for NCFGC members, \$25 Non-Members & \$10 for Students.

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2. Notes from Molly the Intern

Molly Stanfield, Student at A&T State University

Buying the Perfect Horse for You

Finding the perfect horse for a person's needs is not always easy. Since everyone has a different idea of what they want in a horse, there are certain questions that need to be asked in order to make sure the horse you are looking at is right for you. Buying a horse can be a long and hard process, but if done right you will end up with just the horse you are looking for. Here is a guide full of information and questions you can ask in your search.

Do Your Homework

Before you go out to look at horses, thoroughly browse the classifieds in magazines or the internet for your breed and/or discipline. Scanning ads on general horse classified web sites, as well as the sale pages of breeders' websites, can give you a general idea of what you should expect to pay for the type of horse you want. If you work with a trainer or instructor, talk over your expectations and budget to make sure they are realistic. Attend some shows or competitions for your discipline and note what types of horses are winning. Frequently, there are horses advertised for sale at shows. This may be an excellent opportunity to evaluate purchase prospects.

Ask LOTS of Questions

If you ask, the seller should answer truthfully. So it's in your best interest to ask the seller everything you might want to know, including details of the horse's health and soundness history; his behavior in the show ring and on the trail; how he stands for the vet and farrier; and whether he clips, ties and hauls. When you first call about a horse, have a list of questions ready and ask them. It could save you the time and trouble of going to look at a horse that isn't right for you. Ask the seller to send you photos and video, if available, before you go out to see the horse. Tell the seller what you plan to do with the horse and ask the seller directly whether he thinks the horse would be suitable for you. I've found it useful to ask the seller why they are selling the horse. Sometimes they are too honest for their own good! Don't take anything for granted, and be specific in your questions. Trust your instincts. If a seller doesn't answer your questions fully or makes you feel uncomfortable for asking, it's time to move on.

Here are some Questions you can ask:

1. Is he/she registered and do you have the original registration papers?
2. Is the horse a gelding, stallion or mare?
3. What condition is the horse in?
4. Does he have any health problems?
5. What is the horse's personality like? Is it quiet and well-mannered, high-strung or "spirited" and likes to go?
6. What does the horse look like?
7. How tall is the horse?
8. How old is the horse?
9. What kind of training has he had?
10. Is he road safe?

11. What is the horse's recent background? What has he been doing? Has he been out to pasture or has he been used in English, western, 4-H, ranch, trail riding, lessons, driving, roping, reining, cutting, racing, etc.?

12. What vices does he have, if any?

13. Does he load into a trailer? Does he stand tied?

14. Has the horse been stalled or is he a pasture horse?

15. Has he lived alone or with other horses?

16. If handled by a trader or trainer, who owned him before? How long did they own him? Why are they selling the horse? May I speak with the previous owner?

17. Does he have a current Coggins test? If not, are you willing to get the horse tested?

18. Do you have someone at your place who will tack up and ride the horse?

19. Do you have an enclosed arena or enclosed pasture where I can try out the horse? If not, are you willing to take the horse to a public arena, demonstrate riding him and allow me to ride him?

20. If I like the horse, will you hold him for a vet check for me?

Take Notes and Pictures

As the seller answers your questions, it is a good idea to take notes. If you feel uncomfortable bringing your checklist with you to the barn, leave it in the truck and then write down all of the information right after you see the horse. Not only will your notes be a good guide to help you compare horses, they can also serve as a record of what the seller told you about the horse. Bring your camera and take pictures of the horse standing square from the front, rear and to each side, then review the photos later to make sure you didn't overlook any flaws. Have a friend come along to videotape you riding the horse and review the tape when you get home.

Bring an Experienced Friend or Trainer

Even if you have years of experience, it's smart to bring along an experienced friend when you're horse shopping. Review the features that are most important to you and ask your friend to help keep you focused on them. On the way home, discuss the horse in detail and ask for your friend's honest opinion. If you work with a trainer or instructor, be sure to take them along to see your final choice before you purchase a horse. You may have to pay them for their time, but if their input helps you select a horse that is right for you, that fee will be a good investment.

Try Out the Horse – Thoroughly

You may often hear of people buying a horse "sight unseen." There are many things that a seller can do to disguise a horse's condition and behavior, even in a video. There is absolutely no substitute for trying the horse out yourself. When you call to make an appointment to see a horse, tell the seller that you would like to see him tacked up after you get there. Arrive early and note whether the horse appears to have been worked already. Ask the seller to demonstrate everything that he says the horse can do, including clipping, tying and loading. Have the seller ride the horse first, then ride the horse yourself. If possible, come back to try out the horse a second time, even if it has to be the same day.

Get a Vet Check

Even for an inexpensive or "free" horse, it is strongly recommend to get a vet check. As most experienced horse owners will admit, the initial purchase price of a horse is just the beginning of the investment! An old saying advises that it costs just as much to keep a good horse as it does to keep a bad one, and it often costs more to keep a bad one! Ask your vet (not the seller's vet) to check the horse for general health and soundness and screen for painkillers and tranquilizers. If your vet advises X-rays, get them. Don't be tempted to accept the seller's word that the horse is sound. You will be glad that you took the time and spent the money to have your vet examine the horse, if only for your peace of mind and health of your other horses. If you are buying the horse from a friend, you will both rest easier knowing exactly what the horse's condition was when you bought him. If he horse

becomes lame or ill later, having had a pre-purchase vet check will go a long way to preserve your friendship. If the horse's location makes it impossible to have your own vet examine the horse, hire a local vet not affiliated with the seller to come out and examine the horse for you. If the local vet takes X-rays, ask her to send a copy to your vet back home.

Citations

Tips for the Savvy Horse Purchaser, retrieved on 11/16/11 <http://www.equinelegalsolutions.com/buying.html>

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3. Feeding a Horse for Maintenance

Craig Wood, University of Kentucky

Maintenance is a component of all physiological states, defined as no net gain or loss of any nutrients. The nutrients required for maintenance are utilized for daily body functions, such as: metabolism during rest (heart function, breathing, digestion, nervous tissue function), activity for maintenance (walking to food/water, grazing), and temperature regulation.

Horses at maintenance include those kept in pasture and those occasionally used for work for short periods of time. The energy requirement for maintenance is low and can often be met with good-quality forage.

Typically, grain supplementation is not needed. Supplementation with salt or trace minerals may be necessary based on the nutritional value of the forages. Mature grass forages may also lack adequate protein, so a protein supplement may be added to the daily ration.

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4. You Asked: I have always heard that a high protein feed will make my horse bounce off the walls, is this true?

The belief that behaviour can be affected by feeding hays or grain mixes with a high protein content is probably one of the most common misconceptions among horsemen. There is no data, either scientific or otherwise, which suggests that protein intake has anything to do with mental attitude. However, high-spirited

behaviour has been directly linked to the energy content of the diet. The horse is unique in that it compensates for excess dietary energy by increasing physical activity. As a result, the horse that receives too much energy (calories) in the diet is more apt to be excessively high spirited and buck, shy or run away.

To gain a better understanding, the horse owner must be able to differentiate between the energy and the protein content of the diet. High protein does not necessarily mean high energy, and vice versa. Grains have 30 to 50% more energy than hays, but not necessarily more protein. Overactive behaviour might result if the horse is receiving more grain than is needed, or if you have switched to another type of grain than contains more energy. For example, on a pound-for-pound basis, corn and wheat contain 10% more digestible energy than oats, but they aren't necessarily higher in protein. Furthermore, corn and wheat are more energy-dense (heavier bushel weight), so these grains provide twice as much energy as an equal volume of oats. If you were feeding a coffee can of oats and you switched to corn, you would only need to feed half a can to provide the same amount of calories. If you stayed with a whole can of corn, you would be providing your horse twice as much energy. The same is true for some grain mixes—some sweet feeds and pellets may contain a higher proportion of corn, wheat or barley, and some contain added fats or oils, all of which have more energy per pound than oats.

Beyond the grain source, too much energy can also come from the hay. Alfalfa, although high in protein, is also higher in energy than most grass hays.. If the amount of alfalfa fed supplies more calories than the horse needs, it is the energy content of the alfalfa, not the protein content, causing his hyper behaviour.

The bottom line: too much energy in the diet (excess calories) = too much energy in the horse (hyper behavior). Protein level has nothing to do with it. And remember that horses are individuals. Some horses are more high-strung than others and will feel the need to burn off excess dietary energy, particularly if they are confined to a stall for most of the day. Other horses demonstrate the opposite effect with excess calories—they become fat and lazy. And keep in mind that the diet may not be to blame. Maybe the horse needs additional training to become more manageable, or perhaps they are experiencing some type of pain or discomfort.

**Source: Lori K. Warren, Ph.D., P.A.S. Provincial Horse Specialist,
Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development**

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5. Safe Loading Practices for Horses

Ashley Griffin, University of Kentucky

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

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

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

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

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

and a quick release knot will help serve the same function in case of emergency.

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

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

BC – Don't be in a hurry when working with Horses & Livestock – That's when folks get careless or get the animals flustered and people get hurt!

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6. Digital Cushion

The digital cushion is a wedged-shaped structure with a fibro-fatty composition in the foal and in the colt, and it hardens into a fibrocartilaginous tissue in the adult horse. It is very elastic and has very few blood vessels and nerves.

It is located in a wedged-in position between the lateral cartilages on the side, then deep flexor tendon on the top and the frog on the bottom and rear. It separates the frog and the bulb from underlying tendons, joints, and bones, providing cushioning protection.

When it is compressed by the pastern bones and frog, it absorbs shock and cushions the bones. As weight is placed on the hoof, pressure is transmitted through the phalanges to the wall and onto the digital cushion and frog. The frog, a highly elastic wedge-shaped mass, normally makes contact with the ground first. The frog presses up on the digital cushion, which flattens and is forced outward against the lateral cartilages. The frog also is flattened and tends to push the bars of the hoof wall apart. When the foot is lifted, the frog and other flexible structures of the foot, such as the digital cushion, return to their original position.

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7. Vesicular Stomatitis (This is not happening here but put in the Pile for the purpose of awareness)

Kathy Anderson, Extension Horse Specialist, University of Nebraska

Vesicular stomatitis is a viral disease which affects horses, cattle, swine, and occasionally sheep and goats. Additionally, numerous species of wild animals including deer, bobcats, goats, raccoons and monkeys are susceptible. The virus causing vesicular stomatitis can also infect handlers of infected animals.

Vesicular stomatitis most commonly occurs during warm months in the Southwest region of the United States, particularly along river ways and in valleys. Recent outbreaks in the Southwest have occurred from May to December in 1995, 1998, and 2005. Livestock owners and veterinarians must stay alert for animals displaying signs characteristic of this disease.

Blister-like lesions may form in the mouth and on the dental pad, tongue, lips, nostrils, hooves, and teats of infected animals. These blisters swell and break, leaving raw tissue so painful that infected animals go off feed and water, suffer mild-to-severe weight loss, and may show signs of lameness.

Aside from the economic loss to livestock producers, vesicular stomatitis is significant because the outward signs are similar to (but less severe than) those of foot-and-mouth disease. Foot-and-mouth disease is a devastating foreign disease of cloven-hooved animals that has not occurred in the United States since 1929. The only method to differentiate between these diseases is through laboratory tests.

Because of the similarity of vesicular stomatitis to foot-and-mouth disease, the potential negative impact on livestock production, and its public health implications, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) works to keep this disease from becoming established in the United States. Vesicular stomatitis is recognized internationally as a reportable disease, and exports of livestock, horses, and animal products from the U.S. would be restricted if vesicular stomatitis were allowed to spread here.

Clinical Signs

The incubation period for vesicular stomatitis is two to eight days. The most common early signs are excessive salivation and drooling. Increased body temperature may occur either immediately before or at the same time as lesions develop.

Close examination reveals blister-like lesions on gums and lips; lesions may also occur on the nostrils, teats, and coronary bands. In horses, the lesions generally occur on the upper surface of the tongue. In cattle, lesions usually appear on the hard palate, lips and gums sometimes extend to the muzzle and nostrils.

When blisters break open, painful ulcers develop that cause horses to drool and froth from the mouth. This sign can be mistaken for biting problems, dental abnormalities or colic. Infected animals generally go off feed and suffer mild to significant weight loss. Additionally, mild lameness may occur if lesions develop along the coronary band. Some cases of severe lameness have been reported in horses with sloughed hooves.

The number of affected animals on a property varies. Five to 10 percent of horses within an infected herd typically show clinical signs. If there are no complications such as secondary infections, affected horses may recover in as little as two weeks. However, more severe cases can take up to two months to heal; horses continue to be contagious during this time. Animals rarely die from vesicular stomatitis.

Transmission

Vesicular stomatitis has been confirmed only in North and South America. The disease is endemic in warmer regions of the Western Hemisphere, but outbreaks occasionally occur in temperate geographic areas.

How vesicular stomatitis spreads is not fully understood; insect vectors, mechanical transmission and movement of animals are all believed to play a role. One type of vesicular stomatitis is known to be spread by phlebotomine (bloodsucking) sandflies. Once introduced onto a property, the disease apparently moves from animal to animal by contact or exposure to saliva or fluid from ruptured blisters.

Humans can contract vesicular stomatitis by not following proper biosafety practices when handling affected animals. Prevalence of this disease in humans may be under-reported because it often goes undetected or is misdiagnosed.

In people, vesicular stomatitis causes acute influenza-like illness with symptoms such as fever, muscle aches, headache and malaise. People who handle potentially infected horses should wear gloves and shouldn't allow saliva and blister fluids to come in contact with open wounds or mucous membranes such as the eyes or mouth. Producers and other individuals who handle horses and who experience symptoms of illness should contact their physicians immediately.

Diagnosis and Treatment

Laboratory blood tests can be used to diagnose vesicular stomatitis. Additionally, the virus can be isolated from epithelium around vesicles or from vesicular fluid. Veterinarians need to differentiate between vesicles in the mouth caused by vesicular stomatitis and vesicles caused by photosensitization or trauma due to rough feed. Other vesicular viral diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease don't occur in horses.

There isn't any specific treatment or cure for vesicular stomatitis other than supportive care. Owners can protect their animals from this disease by not allowing animals to congregate in an area where vesicular stomatitis has occurred. Mild antiseptic mouthwashes may provide comfort and more rapid recovery to an affected horse. Good sanitation and quarantine practices on affected farms usually contain the infection until it dies out of its own accord.

When a definite diagnosis is made on a farm, the following procedures are recommended:

Separate animals with lesions from healthy animals, preferably by stabling; animals on pasture apparently are affected more frequently with this disease.

As a precautionary procedure, don't move animals from premises affected by vesicular stomatitis for at least 30 days after the last lesion has healed (unless they are going direct to slaughter).

Implement on-farm insect control programs that include:

Elimination or reduction of insect-breeding areas

Use of insecticide sprays or insecticide-treated ear tags on animals.

Use protective measures when handling affected animals to avoid human exposure to this disease.

Economic Impact of Vesicular Stomatitis

The majority of horse owners with infected animals will suffer economic losses in caring for sick animals. In an effort to assess the financial impact of vesicular stomatitis, New Mexico horse owners were surveyed following the 1995 outbreak in the Western U.S. Costs, including labor, veterinary fees, and medicine were estimated at \$115 for each infected horse.

Restricting horse movement and refraining from participation in events should prevent spread of vesicular stomatitis, but such restrictions may cause additional economic losses. When a horse tests positive for the disease, generally it isn't allowed to move between states or nations. Infected horses also aren't allowed to compete in most shows, rodeos, fairs, and other events. When such events are canceled due to an outbreak, owners of healthy horses suffer as well.

Health certificates issued within 24 to 48 hours of transport may be required to bring a horse to some facilities or move it across state lines. Additionally, certain events may require that each horse be examined for lesions before being allowed on the grounds. Horse owners should check to determine restrictions before moving horses.

Report Suspicious Cases

Veterinarians and livestock owners who suspect an animal may have vesicular stomatitis or any other vesicular disease should immediately contact State or Federal animal health authorities.

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8. TAKE SOIL SAMPLES!!!

Have you noticed a little broomsedge in your pastures and hayfields? Broomsedge grows well under conditions that are not conducive to good pasture grass growth. (low fertility) You may be looking at one of several problems however you can almost always be sure that your Ph is well below optimum (6 PH). You may also have a low phosphorus level in your soil. Now, would be an good

time to pull soil samples on your pastures and hayfields to have these levels checked.

The results will give you an accurate indication of how acidic your pastures are and how much lime you will need to apply. Acidic soils tie up plant nutrients so that they are not available for the plant to use. When fertilizer is applied to a near neutral soil, almost all the plant nutrients are available for the plant to use so that you get full benefit of your fertilizer.

Soil sample boxes and forms are available here at the Extension Office at no charge. We are located at 525 NC 65, Suite 200 (in the old Wentworth School location) or at 3309 Burlington Road in Greensboro, and will be more than happy to help you interpret the results of your soil test when you receive them. If you would like more information or have questions on Livestock/Forage Management please give me a call at 342-8235.

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9. Forage Management Tips - (November - December)

Take soil samples to be overseeded or planted next spring. Plant winter annuals (rye, wheat, etc.) as soon as possible if you have not done so already. Early planted winter annual pastures may need nitrogen application (30-50 lbs/acre) Sample all hay prior to feeding to livestock and prevent possible problems such as nitrate poisoning & to ensure adequate nutrition. Allow lactating animals access to best quality pastures and hay be fed to those animals that are nursing. Limit grazing of winter pastures by feeding hay on pasture or restricting acres available to animals. Check alfalfa plantings for nodule formation & complete weed control. Stretch grazable feed by cross fencing with electric wire. If pasture availability is limited, graze one day in 2 or 3 or 2-4 hours per day. Don't graze permanent pastures planted in the fall until the root systems have developed sufficiently to withstand the "plucking" action of grazing animals. Rule of thumb, don't graze until growth reaches 6 to 8 inches. Rotate or Clip pastures as needed. Drag pastures to break up manure piles. Keep good records for tax purposes, and for future management decisions. Weed control in fall plantings of legumes should be done November early January.

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10. Rockingham County Cooperative Extension Volunteers FALL FAIR

Saturday, November 19th 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Rockingham County Agricultural Center

525 NC Highway 65 (Old Wentworth School) Reidsville, NC

Quilt, Wall Hanging, and Pillow Raffle

Raffle Tickets \$1.00

Quilt, Wall Hanging, and Pillow Raffle

Raffle Tickets \$1.00

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11. December 3-4 Holiday Classic Open Horse Show

Be sure to mark December 3-4, 2011 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 or you can postmark your pre registration by November 18 to avoid the \$10 late fee/horse. This show has amazing trophies and awards! There are lots of other things happening during this show such as a social on Friday night, 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. December 4 - Bryan Park riding trail workday

The next Bryan Park trail clearing day will be Sunday, December 4 at 1:00 PM. We meet at the intersection of Doggett Rd and Hwy 150 in Brown Summit. Please bring loppers, work gloves, and lots of friends.

The sooner we get these trails finished, the sooner we can be riding there.

More information: pasharr@triad.rr.com

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13. Horse Industry Handbook

The umbrella organization providing leadership and resources for the youth horse industry.

1-800-TRY-AYHC

<http://www.ayhc.com/resources.htm>

Horse Industry Handbook : A Guide to Equine Care and Management

A tremendous resource book written by experts and professionals nationwide. This book covers horse care from A-Z. Used widely for youth competitions and a "must-have" for the adult horseman. A great gift idea, order yours today! New orders include updates listed below.

Price: \$79.00

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14. 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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15. Take A Load Off -

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

Thanks for this send in!

And then the fight started...

One year, I decided to buy my mother-in-law a cemetery plot as a Christmas gift...

The next year, I didn't buy her a gift. When she asked me why, I replied,

"Well, you still haven't used the gift I bought you last year!"

And that's how the fight started....

My wife and I were sitting at a table at her high school reunion, and she

Kept staring at a drunken man swigging his drink as he sat alone at a nearby table.

I asked her, "Do you know him?" "Yes", she sighed,

"He's my old boyfriend....I understand he took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear he hasn't been sober since."

"Good Gracious" I said, "Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?"

And then the fight started...

When our lawn mower broke and wouldn't run, my wife kept hinting to me

That I should get it fixed. But, somehow I always had something else to

Take care of first, the shed, the boat, making beer...always something

More important to me. Finally she thought of a clever way to make her point.

When I arrived home one day, I found her seated in the tall grass,

Busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors. I watched silently

For a short time and then went into the house....was gone only a minute,

And when I came out again I handed her a toothbrush. I said, "When you

Finish cutting the grass, you might as well sweep the driveway."

The doctors say I will walk again, but I will always have a limp.

My wife sat down next to me as I was flipping channels.

She asked, "What's on TV?" I said, "Dust."

And then the fight started...

Saturday morning I got up early, quietly dressed, made my lunch, and slipped quietly into the garage. I hooked up the boat up to the van, and proceeded to back out into a torrential downpour. The wind was blowing 50 Mph, so I pulled back into the garage, turned on the radio, and discovered that the weather would be bad all day.

I went back into the house, quietly undressed, and slipped back into bed..

I cuddled up to my wife's back, now with a different anticipation, and whispered,

"The weather out there is terrible."

My loving wife of 5 years replied, "And, can you believe my stupid husband is out fishing in that?"

And that's how the fight started...

My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary.

She said, "I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 150 in about 3 seconds."

I bought her a bathroom scale.

And then the fight started.....

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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!

As we go into Thanksgiving week, the Extension Staff in Rockingham &
Guilford Counties would like to wish you a very Safe & Joyful Holiday
Season!

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.

The use of brand names or any listing or mention of products or services

does not imply endorsement by the NC Cooperative Extension Service nor

discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned.

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Ben Chase

Rockingham and Guilford County Extension Agent
Agriculture & Livestock

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