

Weekly Pile for Week of November 21 2011

Happy Thanksgiving Everybody,

Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the Week of November 21, 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. Equine Muscle Fiber Types
4. You Asked
5. The Role of Nutrition in Horse Colic and Laminitis
6. How Much Manure Will a Horse Produce?
7. Basics of Equine Behavior
8. Equine Pedigree Factors of Selection
9. Epilepsy and Seizures
10. December 4 - Bryan Park riding trail workday
11. December 3-4 Holiday Classic Open Horse Show
12. HAY DIRECTORY
13. Where Is the Beef?
14. Take A Load Off

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1. Winter Forage Conference Set – NC Forage & Grasslands Council - January 25th – Guilford Ag Center

The North Carolina Forage & Grassland Council in Conjunction with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service will be hosting a series of winter conferences with one to be held January 25th from 12:30 -7:00pm in Greensboro at the Guilford County Agricultural Center located at 3309 Burlington Road. Ray Archuleta, a Natural Resources Conservation Service Agronomist will be this year’s speaker. He will be discussing healthy Soils Reduce Chemical Inputs on Grazing & Cropping Systems and we

will also be featuring a local Producer, as well as a Local Producer Panel discussing Dealing with High Input Costs. This producer panel is always an audience favorite.

The cost is \$15 for NC Forage and Grassland Council members, \$25 for non-members & \$10 for Students. For more information, give me a call at 342-8235.

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2. Notes from Molly the Intern

Molly Stanfield, Student at A&T State University

How to Choose a Farrier

Choosing a farrier for your horse may be the most important thing you ever do. Your farrier has more to do with your horse's day-to-day comfort and soundness—second only to you, the owner. So, you want to choose carefully. Most of us have heard the old axiom, "No foot, no horse." But despite how much biotin we supplement into the animal's feed, or how religious we are about applying the hoof dressings, if the foot is not balanced and trimmed properly for the individual horse, those things won't matter. This is why a knowledgeable farrier is so essential to your horse's performance and comfort. Not enough of us, though, give this professional their due respect.

First, you should determine if the farrier is certified. While there are many excellent farriers who are not certified, you can be sure that a farrier who has taken tests and passed a performance evaluation takes his craft seriously and is interested in staying up to date. The CJF (Certified Journeyman Farrier), awarded by the American Farriers Association, is the highest certification recognized internationally and available in the U.S. There are other certifications. Visit the American Farriers Association website <http://www.americanfarriers.org> for connections to certified farriers in your area. Almost every farrier who is certified will display his certification publicly and proudly.

When it comes to the price of shoeing your horse the cheaper route is not always the best way to go. While charges vary quite a bit according to location, a little comparison shopping should tell you what the usual and normal charges for good work in your area are. A bad shoeing or trimming job can cost you weeks of training, hours of riding, and even big vet bills. A farrier who spends money on new equipment, continuing education, a computer, and a cell phone will not be the cheapest, but he/she may be a really good investment.

One important thing to consider is whether the farrier is dependable and reliable. A farrier who doesn't return calls, or doesn't call you when he's late or can't be there, isn't much use to you when your horse is overdue for shoeing and you've taken the afternoon off. A farrier who doesn't act like he wants your business probably doesn't want your business.

Your farrier should also be familiar with the shoeing requirements and rules for the sport in which you participate so that the farrier is familiar with the needs of the horse. Some sample example questions you could ask are: "Do you make sliding plates?" "Do you

drill and tap for cross country studs?” “ Are you familiar with shoeing gaited horses?”. This is especially true for any therapeutic shoeing your horse needs. Don't wait until your appointment for shoeing to find out whether your new farrier knows how to apply an eggbar correctly.

Lastly, your best source for information on farriers, whether you are new to the area or just ready for a change, is your veterinarian--followed closely by people in your sport who are consistently competitive, with sound horses. Most people just love to be asked for advice. Ask a lot of them. If one or two names come up again and again, that's a good sign.

As a client, it is important to keep in mind that if your farrier practices his profession full time, he will probably have a busy schedule. Do not expect to call and receive an appointment the next day. Monitor the growth of your horse's hooves and try to call a week or two before a trim or shoeing becomes necessary. The farrier will appreciate this consideration, since it allows him to book clients together in a given area and prepare an organized schedule. Remember, too, that he/she is working all day with many horses. Try to be considerate and avoid asking him to work all night as well. Although their days are rarely nine to five, or Monday through Friday, we should try to book during the farrier's regular work day. This means refraining from asking the farrier to schedule late evenings or at other times when most people are not working. If you have an emergency, don't hesitate to contact your farrier, but be prepared to pay as you would an emergency vet call.

Since you have gone to the trouble to find a reliable professional, it is important to listen to what they have to say. When your farrier makes suggestions regarding hoof care, consider them carefully. As much as you may know about horses, your farrier sees hundreds of horses weekly and has the chance to examine many more animals and observe more conditions than the average horse owner ever will. Along with their education, this experience is invaluable when evaluating what is best for your horse. Trust what he suggests and give his decision time to work. More often than not, you will be pleased with your horse's performance if you take advantage of your farrier's expertise.

Sources: <http://www.fairhillforge.com/choosefarrier.html>

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3. Equine Muscle Fiber Types

Craig Wood, University of Kentucky; Ashley Griffin, University of Kentucky

In equine athletes, muscle fibers are classified as either slow twitch or fast twitch fibers. Slow twitch, or Type I, fibers (which are white in the stained muscle section pictured), are highly oxidative, meaning they use aerobic metabolism to produce energy-generating ATP. These fibers are used for endurance and are said to be "fatigue-resistant" because they are capable of reducing the toxic end products of metabolism, such as lactate. Fast twitch, or

Type II, fibers are subdivided into Type II A (stained a dark tan color) and Type II B (stained a lighter tan color) fibers. The Type II A fibers are both high and low oxidative. These fibers are capable of utilizing both aerobic and anaerobic metabolism to produce energy for work. Type II A fibers are used to maintain high speed or jumping. The Type II B fibers are low oxidative, meaning they are highly anaerobic. These fibers are used to give the horse speed. Neither class of Type II muscle fibers has the ability to reduce lactate as do Type I fibers; therefore, fatigue is reached in a shorter time.

Distinct differences exist in the ratio of Type I to Type II muscle fibers among breeds of horses, more specifically, among types of performance. Quarter Horses and Thoroughbreds have a lower proportion of Type I muscle fibers when compared to Arabians or Andalusians. This difference is because the racing or timed rodeo events of Quarter Horses and Thoroughbreds are short-term, high-intensity events that utilize anaerobic metabolism by fast twitch fibers. The endurance rides associated with of Arabians and Andalusians are long-term, submaximal intensity aerobic events; therefore, more slow twitch fibers are required.

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4. You Asked: Are Rolled Oats Better Than Whole Oats?

Most horse owners will swear that rolled oats are significantly more digestible than whole oats. Most of the studies comparing the digestibility of rolled oats to whole oats have shown that, at most, rolled oats are only 6% more digestible than whole oats. And where digestion of grains counts the most, in the small intestine, the difference is even more minimal between rolled and whole oats. In many cases, the cost of rolling oats far outweighs the small increase we get from processing the oats. The only time when this may not hold true is for older horses, horses with bad teeth, or very young horses, all of whom may not be able to chew the oats adequately enough to break down the hull for better digestion.

So, the next question is "why do I see oat kernels passing out in the manure when I feed my horse whole oats, but not when I feed

rolled oats?" To answer this, I encourage people to take their observation one step further—if you poke around in your horse's manure, you'll discover that the undigested "oats" are actually the just the hull (outside, fibrous coating of oats) and not the whole oat itself. The nutritious, starchy part of the oat has been digested, but the hull was not so it passed out in the manure. So the next time you see "oats" passing through your horse's digestive tract, go poke in your horse's manure—SEE FOR YOURSELF! (so take that)

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5. The Role of Nutrition in Horse Colic and Laminitis

Laminitis is inflammation within the sensitive laminae of the feet. It can occur for many reasons, but as a nutritional problem it is commonly linked to grain-rich diets, ingestion of too much rich pasture, and obesity. Grain overload or a diet rich in high-carbohydrate feed (grain or lush pasture) initiates a series of metabolic and endocrine (hormone) disturbances in the body. A diet abundant in carbohydrates upsets normal intestinal bacteria, allowing more endotoxins from harmful bacteria to be absorbed into the bloodstream than can be neutralized by the liver.

The most common laminitis relates to nutrition and diet. Rapid intake of starches or fructans (a sugar) stored in pasture plants can cause laminitis. Fructans are the primary reserve carbohydrate stored in cool season grasses like orchardgrass, brome grass, and timothy. Sugar content is highest when grass is in the vegetative state (early spring and during re-growth); during periods of cool nights and warm sunny days (fall or early spring); after a hard freeze; and during drought conditions. Careful pasture management by horse owners with sensitive horses is essential.

Good pasture management entails:

Not overgrazing

Limiting grazing time, and/or

Using a grazing muzzle.

Grazing should also be limited during times of environmental stress on plants such as drought. It is important not to over graze pastures as the lowest stems often contain the highest amount of sugar. Avoid grazing on pastures with lots of seed heads as they also contain high amounts of sugar. Introducing horses to lush spring pasture gradually will reduce the chance of laminitis.

To begin grazing (and reduce the chance of laminitis), start easing the horses onto the pasture in 15 to 30 minute increments. Gradually increase the amount of time in the pastures over the course of several weeks.

Colic can be caused by digestive upsets. Some pasture forages, like legumes, can cause gas in the digestive system when quick diet changes are made. So make dietary changes slowly over time, including slow induction to pastures.

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6. How Much Manure Will a Horse Produce?

Michael Westendorf, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

A 1,000 pound horse will defecate approximately four to thirteen times each day and produce approximately nine tons of manure per year. The 1,000 pound horse will produce, on the average, 37 pounds of feces and 2.4 gallons of urine daily, which totals about 50 pounds of raw waste per day in feces and urine combined. A horse kept in a stall may require fifteen to twenty pounds of bedding per day. Bedding products include: wood by-product (shavings, chips, or pellets), straw, hay, or paper. Bedding must be provided in stalls with cement floors, kept reasonably clean, and changed periodically. Manure plus bedding will have a volume of between two and three cubic feet per day.

Soiled bedding can equal almost twice the volume of the manure, but will vary based on management practices. A stalled horse will require the removal of 60 to 70 pounds of waste per day. This results in between 12 and 13 tons of waste per stall per year with 9 tons being manure, 3.5 tons urine, and the remainder bedding. The density of horse manure is about 63 lb/cubic foot. Annual stall

waste from one horse will fill a 12 foot x 12 foot stall about 6 feet deep. This leads to a steady stream of manure to handle.

Daily manure and waste production from a typical 1,000 lb. horse

Manure Daily - 37lbs. feces, 2.4 gallons urine 51 lbs. manure

Stall waste Daily – 15-20 lbs. bedding 51.lbs. manure 60-70lbs. stall

1.6
cuft .8cuft waste/day 2.4 cuft

(adapted from Pennsylvania State University, 2000, Horse Stable Manure Management)

Choosing a Bedding Material

Although straw, wood shavings, and bulk and pelleted sawdust are the most popular bedding materials, other sources may also be used. Pine shavings or sawdust will result in less disposable material than straw, and cannot be disposed of with mushroom producers. Disposal with the mushroom industry is an option in some parts of the country if horse are bedded with straw. Wood shavings, sawdust, and straw are relatively absorbent. Many horse owners, particularly owners of racing or performance horses, prefer shavings over straw because they are less dusty and may result in less respiratory irritation. Shavings produced from black cherry and black walnut should not be used. Even very small amounts of black walnut in bedding products can cause laminitis and founder in horses.

Bedding should be absorbent, dust-free, easy to handle, comfortable to the horses, readily available, easily disposed of, unpalatable (i.e. the horse will not want to ingest it), and affordable. The more absorbent a bedding is, the less material will need to be used. All beddings should be stored in well-ventilated areas to remain as dry as possible prior to use.

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7. Basics of Equine Behavior

<http://www.extension.org/pages/15174/basics-of-equine-behavior>

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8. Equine Pedigree Factors of Selection

Ashley Griffin, University of Kentucky

Purebred horses often are selected and priced based on their pedigrees. A horse's pedigree is a historical record of its ancestors. The value of this pedigree is only as accurate as the performance information on those ancestors.

Conformation and ability of a horse are the most important elements in selection, but the pedigree is particularly useful when selecting young horses or considering breeding stock. The best indication of the quality of a breeding animal is the quality and ability of the offspring it produces.

Unfortunately, that information may not be available prior to selection and purchase, or the animal may not be old enough for such data to exist. Therefore, the pedigree and performance ability of the ancestors is the next best information to use in making an informed decision. The quality and past performance of a horse's ancestors can greatly enhance or detract from its value.

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9. Epilepsy and Seizures

Epilepsy and seizures are uncommon in horses. Causes are multiple and often related to certain predisposing conditions, such as congenital seizures in Arabian foals or certain infectious agents. Without more information about the situation, it is difficult to provide pertinent information for your situation. However, it is essential to try to determine the cause of the seizures. The diagnosis will determine if treatment or control of the seizures is a viable option. Also, any time a horse has seizures, it is potentially

a dangerous situation for both the horse and the handler. Only people with extensive experience with horses should be handling the horse, and the horse should be housed in facilities that are as safe as possible.

To evaluate a horse with seizures, it is first necessary to obtain a very detailed history for the horse. If the seizures can be recorded prior to evaluation by a veterinarian, it is often very useful in determining the possible causes. If specialized diagnostics are needed, such as CT scans, MRI, radiographs of the head, etc., the horse will need to be seen by a hospital/referral center.

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10. 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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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. HAY DIRECTORY - A Hay Directory is maintained by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service for the Rockingham County and Guilford County area. This directory is intended as a service to both hay producers and buyers in the area. If you are in need of hay or would like to be added (or removed) from this list please call me at [1-800-666-3625](tel:1-800-666-3625) or 342-8235 and let me know your name, address & phone #, type of hay, number of bales, (square or round bales) and weight per bale.

MANAGE YOUR PASTURES!

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13. Where is the beef?

My Name is Kristin Neill and I raised two steers for about 14 months as my senior project. I did this project to learn more about local foods and about the process of raising and selling steers. This project has taught me that raising beef is a challenging job and better done on a large scale system, rather than just raising two cows. They have been raised on grass and hay only then given grain supplements for 60 days prior to being processed. I can't say organic since the grain was not organic but they have had no hormones or steroids. I had it processed locally at a licensed meat processing facility, where there is a USDA inspector onsite that thoroughly checks the cattle for any diseases. The meat is packaged into vacuum sealed packages and flash frozen. I am selling it by the 1/4 , 1/2 , or whole cow and I can work with you on the cuts and sizes of your packages. The price is a flat \$4 per pound.

If interested, let me know!

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14. Take A Load Off –

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

Thanks for this send in!

That Smart Foxhound

Several of the good ol' boys were fox hunting, listening to the Clyde, the lead hound, sound out as he was hot on the fox's trail. Suddenly the braying stopped and the woods went dead quiet. After about 5 minutes of silence Clyde started up again. One of the other hunters turned to Clyde's owner and asked, "Why'd your dog stop trailing; he lose the trail?"

Clyde's owner was quick to respond, "Oh no, he never lost the trail, Clyde just quits barking when he's running on posted land!"

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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 Thanksgiving & Weekend!

Ben

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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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