

Weekly Pile for the Week of October 2 2011

Hey Folks, (Horse E-mailers),

Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the Week of October 2, 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 Extension Horse Management Short Courses**
- 2. Planning a Horse Pasture**
- 3. Grazing Systems for Horses**
- 4. You Asked**
- 5. Safety – ALWAYS Comes First- NC Woman Killed by Horse**
- 6. Cooler Horsemanship Activities**
- 7. Flintrock Farm – October 8th**
- 8. Fun Show and Tack Sale - November 5, Circle S Stables**
- 9. December 3-4 Holiday Classic Open Horse Show**

10. HAY DIRECTORY

11. Take A Load Off

+++++

1. 2012 Extension Horse Management Short Courses

It's hard to believe that we are already talking about the 2012 Horse Management Short Courses. This week the committee met to plan the topics for these courses and went through the surveys that were filled out each night.

Below are the dates and topics that were selected. There is one program that the topic has not yet been chosen. That is where YOU come in. If you have a topic or idea that interest you that has not been covered in recent programs, we would love to hear your ideas & suggestions. Just E-mail them in!

2012 Guilford County Horse Management Short Courses – Monday Nights

2012 Tentative Topics for the specific dates - Mark your Calendars

Topics

January 30	Equine Health
February 6	Ask A Vet
February 13	“The Why’s” of Horse Tack & Equipment
February 20	Mules & Donkeys
February 27	Trail & Endurance Riding
March 5	<hr/>

March 12
March 19

Judging Horses
Swap Shop

**If you have any suggestions or ideas for the last slot,
please send them to me.**

+++++

2. Planning a Horse Pasture

**Krishona Martinson, Equine Extension Specialist, University of
Minnesota**

**When planning your pasture, you should ask yourself the following
question: will the pasture be a major feed source or just an
exercise area?**

**Most horses benefit from being outside regularly for exercise. Free
exercise reduces behavior and respiratory problems, promotes
optimal growth and development of young horses, and improves
overall horse health. However, if the pasture is to serve as a feed
source, other factors need to be considered including its potential
nutritional value, carrying capacity or stocking rate, and grazing
system design. These topics will be discussed in further detail
later.**

Other things to consider when planning your pasture include:

**1. Topography and Geography of Your Pasture: Individual pastures
should not include steeply sloping hillsides; soil types that vary
significantly in suitability's due to wetness, presence of rocks,
inherent differences in fertility; or forage species that differ greatly
in growth or yield characteristics. Also, paddocks should not be
oriented up and down hillsides.**

**2. Environmental Concerns: Keep horses out of rivers, creeks,
swamps, or wetlands. Poor pasture management can cause
environmental damage. Wet areas should be avoided because they
typically have a greater number of insects (biting flies and
mosquitoes) and poisonous plants.**

3. Pasture Size: Pastures should be large enough to handle your stocking rate and grazing system. For example, two one-acre-sized pastures should be sufficient for rotational grazing of two adult horses. Rectangular shaped pastures tend to better suit horses as they encourage exercise. Irregular shaped pastures should be avoided because they create a greater risk of injury. If the pasture is to be used for year round grazing, at least two acres per horse is needed; anything less should be considered an exercise area.

4. Sacrifice Paddock/Corral: Dry lots, or sacrifice paddocks, provide an opportunity to move horses off pastures when they are excessively wet or dry, and to avoid overgrazing. Dry lots can vary in size, however they should provide a minimum of 500 square feet per horse.

5. Gate Placement: Gates should be placed away from corners, closest to the direction of travel. Gates should be large enough to get equipment through (i.e. tractors, mowers etc...). Narrow gates should be avoided because they increase risk of injury when more than one horse passes through. Avoid placing gates in low areas where water may pool.

6. Water: Clean, fresh water is a requirement for horses. Place waterers in areas where filling and cleaning is convenient, and if possible, where multiple pastures have access.

7. Safety and Common Sense: Design safe pastures use appropriate fencing materials for horses (ie. barbed wire should be avoided). Pasture layout and design should be suitable for your horses and your farm.

Remember, management of horse pastures is an ongoing process that takes time, equipment, knowledge, diligence, and money. If managed well, pasture will be an economical source of high-quality forage, as well as a healthy place for horses to exercise. If managed poorly, pastures can become overgrazed, allowing weeds to take over. A poorly managed pasture provides little nutritional value and may contribute to horse health problems.

+++++

3. Grazing Systems for Horses

Bob. Mowrey, Ph.D., Extension Horse Husbandry Specialist and Kevin R. Pond, Professor, Department of Animal Science, NCSU.

Grazing systems used in horse farms include pastures, fences and management techniques used to provide optimal forage for horses. Grazing systems should be flexible based on resources and goals and developed to meet the horses nutrient requirements. Two common types of grazing systems used in horse farms are continuous and rotational.

Continuous grazing = A continuous grazing system is one where horses are housed on a single pasture for an extended period of time. Advantage to this system is that reduced fencing cost and less daily management is required. A disadvantage to this system is that it is difficult to manage grazing intensity and timing. Continuous grazing systems should be designed to enhance forage utilization by using good pasture management practices and setting appropriate stocking rates. If pastures are not managed properly forage availability is reduced. This type of grazing system is appropriate to use where ample pasture land is available to support the number of horses. Overgrazing should be avoided and plant species selected that will support continuous grazing. Increased management may be needed during periods of rapid or diminished forage growth.

Rotational grazing = Rotational grazing involves moving horses between pastures during the grazing season to allow for periods of pasture rest and regrowth. Time on each pasture will depend upon number of horses and pastures. Advantages to this system include ability to manage more animals on less acreage and improve forage availability and quality. The disadvantages are greater cost due to increased fencing and management.

Rotational grazing is a practice that, if done correctly, can help increase your pasture productivity. Rotational grazing is dividing the pasture area into several small paddocks.

Rotationally grazing your pasture should also allow appropriate rest periods. In fact, the key to pasture productivity with any rotational grazing design is providing adequate rest periods for pasture recovery and being flexible depending on the season. Resting the pasture is essential and allows the forages to store carbohydrates (energy) in their roots and regrow vigorously. Generally speaking, a pasture will need 30 days of rest for every 7 days of grazing.

Rotational grazing does not need to be complicated, as two pasture can be enough to practice rotational grazing. In some cases horses may need to be rotated before the pasture has been adequately grazed. In this case, horse owners may hay the paddock, or mow the forage to a height of approximately 4". However, in a dryland arid system you should only graze off half of the growth (the take half keep half principal).

Rotational grazing also contributes to better manure management. Instead of one or two big dropping areas, there are several smaller ones throughout the pasture. Smaller manure piles dry and break up faster, reducing fly numbers and odor. Dragging the paddock helps break up the piles, dries out the manure, and distributes nutrients back to the pasture. Dragging should be done when horses are rotated out of the paddock.

Table 1 provides an example of rotational grazing in a midwestern, cool season grass pasture system.

Table 1. Rotational grazing paddock designs (at recommended stocking rates) for horses based on 2, 3, 4, or 5 paddocks in the Northern U.S.

# of Paddocks	SPRING		SUMMER		FALL	
	DGP	DRP	DGP	DRP	DGP	DRP
2	14	14	42	42	28	28
3	7	14	21	42	14	28
4	5	15	14	42	10	30
5	4	16	11	44	7	28

DGP = Days Of Grazing Per Paddock

DRP = Days Rested Per Paddock

+++++

4. You Asked: Do I need to buy supplements for my horse if I am buying a bagged (commercial) feed?

Supplementing a Horses Balanced Ration

Ashley Griffin, University of Kentucky

Don't supplement balanced rations.

If you are feeding a commercial feed, the feed is balanced to meet the nutrient needs of a specific class of horse.

Therefore, there is no need to topdress the ration with mineral, vitamin, protein, or energy supplements. These supplements are expensive and can lead to serious nutrient imbalance and toxicity problems.

Refrain from diluting balanced rations by adding some other cereal grain to the diet. The concentrate you are feeding is balanced. By adding oats, for example, you are decreasing and changing the nutrient balance of the diet. Provide a source of salt for all horses. This source can be provided as straight salt or trace mineral salt. Do not provide both; provide one or the other.

+++++

5. Safety - ALWAYS Comes First

NC woman has been killed when the horse she was strapping into a trailer at the Biltmore Estate panicked and trampled her

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2011/10/05/2665516/nc-woman-killed-when-horse-in.html#ixzz1ZwZmBoxC>

+++++

6. Cooler Horsemanship Clinics and Events
October 7 and 8 - Horsemanship Clinic at Fiore Farms
Friday evening overview/demo - 5:00 - 7:00 pm
(October 7th)
Saturday Clinic - 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Clinic Participants - \$150
Auditors welcome - Friday Free, \$10/Saturday

October 15 - Trail Clinic at Fiore Farms
9:00am-1:00pm
Cost is \$100/rider, limited to 7 participants

November 12, 2011
Colt Starter Challenge 2011- Chatham, Virginia.
Tickets are \$15, and the challenge runs from 8 am to 4 pm.
Contact us or visit www.sefha.net for tickets

www.CoolerHorsemanship.com, kate@coolerhorsemanship.com, [843-304-3407](tel:843-304-3407)

+++++

7. Flintrock Farm - October 8th
Open Horse & Mule Show to benefit Therapeutic Riding presented by Carolina Mule Assoc. Sat. Oct. 8th at 9:30am at Flintrock Farm. See www.flintrockfarm.com for class sheet.

+++++
+

8. Fun Show and Tack Sale
November 5, Circle S Stables, Wagoner Rd, Gibsonville, NC; starts at 9 am. Only \$5/class, \$30 all day ride per horse/rider or \$50 per family all day ride. NO show clothes or show tack required. Classes for all levels of riders, including trail, English/Western, hunter hack, games. Tack sale starts at 10 am, Western and English tack.
Email circleshonestable@yahoo.com for more information, a class list or to consign tack or call [336-255-3475](tel:336-255-3475).

++++
+

9. 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/>

++++

10. 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!

WHEN YOU HAVE HAY TO SELL, PLEASE LET ME KNOW!!

++++

11. Take A Load Off -

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

YOU KNOW YOU ARE LIVING IN 2011 when...

- You accidentally enter your password on the microwave..

- You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
- You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of 3.
- You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you...
- Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses .
- You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the groceries.
- Every commercial on television has a web site at the bottom of the screen
- Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.
- You get up in the morning and go on line before getting your coffee.

+++++

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.

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.

--

Ben Chase

Rockingham and Guilford County Extension Agent
Agriculture & Livestock

North Carolina State University

North Carolina Cooperative Extension,

525 NC 65, Suite 200, Reidsville, NC 27320

(336) 342-8235 800-666-3625 Fax: 336-342-8242

Email : ben_chase@ncsu.edu

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