

# Weekly Pile for week of October 23 2011

Hey Trail Blazers, (Horse E-mailers),

Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the Week of October 23, 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. Are you missing a Horse?
2. **Horse Hearing**
3. **A hackamore**
4. You Asked
5. **Notes from Molly – The Intern**
6. **Small Ruminant Demonstration Site Open House - November 7**
7. **Locally Raised Meats, Eggs or Produce**
8. **Flintrock Farm Events**
9. **Trail clearing for Horse trails at Bryan Park – October 30**
10. **Equine Extravaganza - November 4-6 - Doswell VA**
11. **Fun Show and Tack Sale - November 5, Circle S Stables**
12. **Annual Extension Volunteer Fall Fair - November 19th – Ag Center**
13. **December 3-4 Holiday Classic Open Horse Show**
14. **HAY DIRECTORY**
15. **Take A Load Off**

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## 1. Are you missing a Horse?

Guilford County Animal Control has ask to let the word out about a horse that was out in Northeast Guilford County in the Huffine Mill Road & 61 area. From the description given at this point, we were told the color was reddish-brown (so possibly a chestnut or Sorrel) with a white blaze from ear to nose. The sex is unknown at this time.

If you or someone you know are or may be missing a horse, please call 641-5990.

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## 2. Horse Hearing

Ashley Griffin, University of Kentucky

A horse's hearing is much keener than ours. They use their hearing for three primary functions: to detect sounds, to determine the location of the sound, and to provide sensory information that allows the horse to recognize the identity of these sounds. Horses can hear low to very high frequency sound, in the range of 14 Hz to 25 kHz (human range = 20 Hz to 20 kHz). Horses' ears can move 180 degrees using 10 different muscles (compared to three muscles for the human ear) and are able to single out a specific area to listen to. This allows the horse to orient itself toward the sounds to be able to determine what is making the noise.

A horse's hearing is similar in range and tone to that of humans. Horses' ears can rotate about 180 degrees, however. This unique anatomical feature allows horses to focus on the direction from which the sound is coming, isolate it, and run the other way.

Horses can respond to a training command given at a very low volume. We don't need to shout to be heard. Also, horses are very sensitive to the tone of voice. We need to use a confident tone and avoid overly emotional tones such as shrill, high pitches. We also want to give voice commands in a way that gives the horse tools to distinguish them. For example, if you are longeing a horse at a walk and want to perform an upward transition to a trot, you may want to divide the word "trot" into two syllables and raise your voice an octave as you say "to - rot"! When performing the downward transition from the trot to the walk, you would lower your voice an octave on the second syllable of "wa - alk."

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### **3. A hackamore**

#### **Pre-Bit Hackamore Training**

**B.F. Yeates, Texas A&M University; Melvin Bradley, Department of Animal Sciences**

**Young horses just beginning their training program are sometimes started in a hackamore. A hackamore provides a way for the young horse to get used to the pressure from the reins without damaging his mouth with a bit. This article discusses the use of the hackamore in training a young horse.**

**Hackamores are used to start foals in training. An untrained foal makes many mistakes, and the trainer needs to correct them. A hackamore doesn't injure sensitive tissue in the foal's mouth, yet it provides firm, safe control.**

**Use of a hackamore is based on the simple principle that the horse learns to respond to pressures on its nose and under its chin.**

#### **Parts of a Hackamore**

**Hackamores came from Spanish culture, and the name probably was derived from the Spanish word jaquima (hak-kee-mah). The major parts are:**

- Bosal (boz-al) - This part around the horse's nose is most commonly made of braided rawhide, but it can be made of leather, horsehair or rope. Diameter of the bosal can vary from pencil size to broom handle size, and the bosal may vary in length and rigidity. A bosal may have a cable or rawhide core, but rawhide is preferred to make it pliable and fit closely to the horse's nose. Parts of the bosal are the nose button and cheek buttons, cheeks or shanks, and the heel knot.**
- Mecate (meh-kah-teh) - This is a continuous horsehair rope that is wrapped around the cheeks of the bosal in a manner to provide both reins and lead line. Other types of rope are frequently substituted for the mecate but are used in the same manner.**
- Fiador (fee-ah-door) - A fiador is a rope throat latch that usually consists of a doubled rope that is passed around the neck just behind the ears and is**

attached to the bosal at the heel knot. It helps keep the bosal at right angles to the face of the horse.

- Reins - These are necessary when a mecate is not used. They may be made from various kinds of rope or leather. Most rope reins are braided and made from soft rope to assure a good grip by the rider.

- Headstall and browband - These complete the hackamore and usually are made of leather; however, small ropes or cords are also used. The headstall should be adjusted to raise or lower the bosal on the horse's nose. Browbands are added to prevent the headstall from slipping back on the neck.

**Fitting and Adjusting a Hackamore** - A hackamore must be properly adjusted to achieve satisfactory results -- placed low on the nose, near the soft cartilage. Low placement assures maximum leverage and encourages flexion. The bosal should be short enough to make both nose and chin contact without sliding up the nose. To put more pressure on the nose than on the chin, adjust the bosal to allow a slight lift of the heel knot before the cheeks touch the horse's chin. If more contact on the chin is desired, the cheeks of the bosal should be precisely adjusted to make simultaneous contact with the chin and nose.

Making these adjustments will necessitate selecting a bosal length appropriate for a particular horse's nose. Sometimes finding the exact length needed is difficult. Bosals that are too short cannot be used, but those too long may be shortened by binding the cheeks tighter together with the mecate, the rein attachment, a leather strap or other suitable material. Many horsemen prefer to use bosals made from manila lariat rope. These bosals are inexpensive and can be purchased or made for the horse being ridden.

The severity of the bosal is important. Severe contact can cause the horse to overreact to pressures. It is difficult to show the horse what is desired because it is distracted by pain. Soft contact can result in the horse disregarding completely what the rider is trying to show it.

Hardness and rigidity of the bosal are the prime factors affecting severity. Braided rawhide bosals that are large in diameter and have rigid cores are

the most severe. For extreme softness, bosals may be made from soft cotton rope. The severity of bosals may be varied by adding or removing certain cushioning materials from the cheeks and nose button. Many materials are satisfactory for this purpose; the most commonly used is sheepskin.

Weight at the heel knot of the bosal should be sufficient to cause instant release of chin pressure when the rider quits pulling. When the fiador is used, it must be loose enough to allow this release of chin pressure. However, the fiador must be tight enough to prevent the bosal from slipping off the nose and to facilitate the balanced carriage of the bosal.

#### **Begin Training with Driving and Longeing**

Prior to being ridden, the horse should receive longe line training with a halter and ground driving with a hackamore. During longe line training the horse should learn verbal commands, especially "whoa."

Introduce the horse to the hackamore by stepping in front of it and teaching it to back as a response to bosal pressure. Follow this with a series of driving lessons with driving lines. This training can begin while it is a yearling.

The horse should learn to stop, back and respond laterally. The yearling can be taught to respond to nose pressure and to use both leads while working in a circle without a rider. The primary objective should be to get a response on loose reins with a minimum of pressure. Never give prolonged steady pulls on the hackamore. Steady pressure ceases to have meaning to the horse. By the time the horse is ready to ride, it should have good respect for the bosal and nose pressures and know how to make some of the simple responses.

Head set and neck flexion must be obtained, and this training should be initiated early. Head set refers to the angle at which a horse carries its head when working. Most horsemen prefer the head to be carried perpendicular to the ground.

Flexion refers to the relaxing of the neck and flexing at the poll in response to bosal pressure. Much of this will be obtained during ground driving; however, the head may be tied back to the saddle or a surcingle if flexion appears to be a problem. Put the horse in a stall or small pen and leave it with pressure on its nose, if the poll is not flexed. Eventually the horse will

learn to flex and get behind the nose pressure. This may require several hours and may have to be accomplished over a period of several days.

**Those First Few Rides** - The first rides may come any time after the yearling year as the rider chooses. A rider on the horse's back is a new experience and should be treated accordingly. The horse has learned respect for the bosal from ground work; however, during initial rides the excitement may cause the horse to ignore what it has learned.

First rides may be in small enclosures to allow the rider to exert less control until the excited stage is over. This helps to keep the horse from ever knowing that it does not have to respond to bosal pressure. Horsemen refer to this as "having the horse run through the hackamore." Another way to prevent this problem is to halter the young horse and lead it from a gentle horse for the first few rides. The purpose of these rides is to acquaint the horse with the rider on its back. Once this transition period is made, the horse should respond to the bosal from its ground training. If responsive control does not come, more ground work may be necessary.

From the very beginning, the rider should keep his or her hands as loose as possible when applying pull on the bosal. This pull will be more nearly in the direction as that exerted by the driving lines, will help assure good flexion at the poll and also help the horse acquire a low-head carriage.

During these early rides, the horse should learn to walk, trot, stop and back on a relatively loose rein. Good control should be obtained at the walk and trot before trying to lope. However, loping may be accomplished earlier if the rider had access to a small round pen to help assure control.

**Using the Hackamore** - A hackamore, like a bridle, has a "direct rein" and a "bearing rein." Using both reins, the rider must teach the horse to respond to three different pressures. One of these is direct pressure on the nose and chin caused by an even pull on both reins. The second is a lateral pressure applied to the nose by the direct rein. And the third pressure is the bearing rein against the neck.

In the early stages of training, these pressures and the responses are taught individually. In more advanced training, they are simultaneously presented to the horse to achieve a combined response.

Direct pressures on the nose and chin should be applied only long enough to get a response. If the horse responds to a pull, the reins should be released. Training for the neck rein will require the use of both the direct and the bearing rein in the early stages. A direct rein is used to show the horse the direction in which to move. This rein is also used to keep the horse's head turned slightly to the inside when working in a circle.

A bearing rein should be paired with a direct rein on each movement by simply laying it against the neck. Eventually, the horse will respond to the bearing rein only, and this is the beginning of a neck rein.

Horses not trained to respond lightly to the bearing rein are never good reining horses. Excessive pressure with this rein actually tightens the rein and produces a pull at the mouth that is opposite of the neck pressure. These horses have a tendency to thrust their noses in the direction of the pull at the mouth rather than the direction of the neck pressure. The horse cannot see in the direction of the neck pressure and is reluctant to rein in that direction. This problem can best be corrected with the hackamore by using the direct rein. Any time the horse does not respond to the bearing rein correctly, the rider should apply direct rein pressure.

Conduct training with a rein in each hand.

Teaching the Stop - The horse has learned the verbal command "whoa" while working on the longe line as a yearling. Response to nose pressure and how to back have been learned from ground training. After the horse is accustomed to the rider on its back, use lessons learned on the ground to start teaching a stop. Proceed at a walk at first. Pull on the hackamore and then say "whoa." Eventually, the horse will stop before the word "whoa" is voiced as nose pressure is applied. Even if the horse does not know what whoa means, it will learn to respond to nose pressure. Riding into corners of square pens can be helpful at this stage.

After lessons in stopping from a walk, proceed to the trot using the same techniques. It should collect -- that is, start getting its hind legs under him -- at the first sign of nose pressure. Hold its head straight by applying equal pressure to each rein. Expect the horse to flex at the poll without lifting its nose prior to stopping. If it does not, go back to driving lines or a head tie for

more work. Don't rush it or be unduly rough; remember, it not only has to learn what you want, but also how to accomplish it.

The horse must learn to stop collected and to drop its hindquarters. The stop should be square, head straight forward and slightly raised, hindquarters dropped slightly. It should settle and wait for the next command. Horses do not naturally stop this way before training; it must be learned.

Before proceeding to the lope, the rider should be satisfied with the horse's stopping at the walk and trot. Remember, pull on the hackamore no more than is necessary. Use of hands on the reins is best described as pull and release. Pull only until a response is obtained, then release immediately. If long pulls are needed to get a response, try a few quick jerks or go back to ground driving.

Teaching a good stop at the lope is a slow process and should not be attempted until the horse is well accustomed to the rider and has been ridden a great deal at the lope. Don't expect hard stops at first. Learn to appreciate small responses. Select relatively soft ground for this training. If the horse understands the command whoa, use it. Apply bosal pressure just prior to saying "whoa;" this should aid the horse in learning. Expect the horse to collect, get its feet under it, and stop, but without dropping its hindquarters low for a hard stop. This will come later with more practice.

Don't overdo training in the beginning. A horse may anticipate a command with too much stopping. If the horse is stopping correctly, it will stop harder and get lower with its hindquarters as it gets older and more seasoned.

Leg pressure and foot position can't be overlooked during this training. Sit deep in the saddle for the stop, but stay erect with the feet moved slightly forward. Some riders also like to apply a leg pressure with the stop. These movements can later become preparatory commands for the horse.

Teaching a Horse to Back - This training can be started as soon as the horse starts making fair responses to the stop. Many people teach the stop and back at the same time, but remember that if a horse is moving, it can't back until it stops. Therefore, some stopping response should be achieved before trying to back. One common mistake is to be overly concerned about backing before the horse is stopping, and this can result in the horse losing

its respect for the bosal nose pressure. Backing responses should be initiated with the first ground work before riding; this may cause the horse to respond immediately to backing with a rider.

Backing is an unnatural gait for the horse and must be learned. Horses do not back very much in the pre-training period, and consequently they must learn how to walk backwards. Give your horse time to learn. Much can be accomplished on the ground prior to riding. If the horse has undue problems with backing, the rider should go back to the ground work to help the horse learn this new movement. If the horse makes a few steps backwards, release the bosal pressure. This is a reward for the horse and tells it it has made the desired response.

As the horse progresses in backing, a few more steps can be required each trial before the bosal is released. Eventually, the horse will learn to back as long as bosal pressure is present. Much like the stop, leg pressure can be associated with nose pressure in these learning stages. By pairing nose pressure, leg pressure and foot position, we develop several ways to communicate with the horse. All of these cues can mean about the same thing and help assure that the horse gets a clear message. Leg pressures and foot position may be applied in several ways as long as the rider is consistent as it pairs them with nose pressure. Most riders move their feet slightly forward and apply some pressure with the lower leg.

Many times leg pressure is used as a preparatory command and is applied just prior to the bosal pressure. Riders say that the legs tell the horse to move and the hands tell it which way. Leg pressure without bosal pressure commands the horse to move forward, but if bosal pressure is applied a split second following leg pressure, the horse should back. Leg pressure is a preparatory command to alert the horse.

Backing straight is important, and to achieve this the rider must be precise. Don't rush the horse back until it learns to back well. If rushed past its capabilities, it will try to avoid the pressure by turning sideways. Keep leg pressure uniform and pay particular attention to hand position, making sure that there are no lateral pressures. For the first few trials, the rider can help the horse by spreading the hands extra wide with a rein in each. This assures no neck pressure and all the horse gets is a simple bosal pressure to back.

**Teaching Leads - Most horse people prefer to start in a round pen or ring not over 40 feet in diameter. In addition to learning leads, the small ring will also help to teach collection. The direct rein is used to keep the horse's head positioned from straight ahead to a few degrees to the inside. Straight, forward head position is acceptable; however, if the circle being ridden is small, it is preferred to have the head positioned a few degrees to the inside.**

**Because the horse should look where it is going, the rider should pay particular attention to not letting the head become positioned away from the inside. This habit can lead to real problems in teaching pivots and rollbacks. Let the horse extend its trot prior to taking the lead. From the extended trot, the horse can easily take the inside lead with the aid of outside leg pressure and inside stirrup weight.**

**Put weight on the inside stirrup, pull the head slightly to the inside, press with the outside leg and push the horse from the extended trot into the lope. If the horse misses the lead, it should be stopped and the entire procedure started again. If the horse is having particular trouble with the lead, it may be necessary to shorten the circle and exaggerate the head pull and the weight shift. Once the horse is in the correct lead, let it lope for several circles before stopping. This will help the horse become more comfortable in the lead, especially if it is a lead it is having trouble with.**

**Usually one lead is natural for the horse and the other must be learned. Less work will be required on the natural lead than on the learned lead. In the initial stages, the horse should be worked several trials on the learned lead before coming back to the natural lead. As the horse becomes more accustomed to leads, it begins to trot less distance each time before breaking into the lope. The lead becomes easier to pick up, and the horse requires less assistance each trial.**

**Eventually, the horse will learn to pick up the lead from a stop or to reach for the lead when first pushed into the lope. After several trials the horse may not want to extend the trot before loping because the lead is now easier and it anticipates the ultimate goal and tries to move directly toward it. The direct rein should always be tightened and the bearing rein laid against the neck with each trial. These will later become cues, especially the bearing rein, for the horse to take a particular lead.**

Foot position can also be developed for cue for leads if it is paired consistently with each lead. Trainers use many different cues with their feet. These cues mean nothing to the horse when first used. Each must be taught by pairing it with the more direct cue used in training.

When a horse is in a particular lead, it means that one side of its body is actually leading the other. This causes the rider to be canted slightly on the horse with the inside foot being carried ahead of the outside foot. This carriage makes it particularly convenient to cue a horse on the inside around the cinch or foreshoulder with the foot for that particular lead. As soon as the horse picks up the lead, the inside foot of the rider will move slightly ahead of the one outside, and consequently a slight cue in this area is easily applied.

After good success in the ring, the horse should be ridden on the outside but still in a circle. The horse will learn to rely more on the cues given it and less on the ring. Practice outside should be accomplished in about the same manner as that in the ring.

After success on the outside with the lead, although still working in a circle, the supreme test will come while working straightaway. The horse will probably make some old mistakes when working straight away. Remember that one of the lead cues, the circle, is gone. Keep applying the hand and leg cues that have been paired with each circle trial, and with practice the horse should pick up either lead going straightaway.

A horse should be worked on the straightaway as soon as it can be put in both leads. Excessive circle work can cause horses to lope with exaggerated diagonal position. These horses are said not to track straight and are usually very rough in this gait. If the horse continues to have problems on the straightaway, return to the circle pattern.

A hackamore is designed to exert pressure on the bridge of the nose and under the chin of the horse's head. The headstall of a hackamore also applies pressure to the horse's head behind the ears (poll). The bosal is a breaking hackamore made of a headstall and bosal, or noseband. Bosal hackamores are used in training young horses in the stock seat discipline.

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**What are the "pros" and "cons" of using a hackamore?**

**A hackamore is like a halter in that it puts more direct pressure on the horse's face (nose, side of the face, or chin) and creates a direct response. For example, when you pull straight back, the pressure is on the nose, and the horse should step back away from it. Pulling on one rein to the side creates pressures on the side of the face that the horse can move away from. So the pressure of a hackamore is a natural pressure that horses learn rapidly. A bit creates pressure in the mouth regardless of how you pull it, and the horse has to learn the more subtle signals of a bit. On the negative side, if constant pressure is maintained with a hackamore, horses tend to start ignoring that pressure more quickly than bit pressure. Therefore, constant pressure should never be maintained with a hackamore. Pull-and-release methods of training are essential when using a hackamore. Since the mouth is more sensitive than the nose, constant pressure for head setting and collection are more acceptable with a bit.**

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**4. You Asked: What is known about fescue endophyte levels? What should be done if I have a lot of fescue & if I am gonna be planting new pastures? Should I kill & replant with endophyte free Varieties to be safe??**

**In the early 90's we did a lot of endophyte testing (& since then) for a big study. In all the samples that I pulled, the lowest "infestation" level I remember was like 67%. So, with that said I would just assume that if you have Ky 31 or "native" fescue that the levels could affect livestock/horses. Now, what affect will you see in horses? The article below talks about that in Mares, but what about other horses? Well, probably not much will u notice, it has also been thought that endophyte may increase body temps in the Hot summer, may cause crumbling hooves and can cause depressed growth rate in foals . BUT, if you are managing your pastures & practicing grazing management you probably see very little if any impact on horses. Fescue is a cool season grass and most of its growth occurs in the change of seasons. In the summer it will grow if it gets moisture, but in the summer or a min hottest of summer, you should pull animals off fescue & put on like a warm season grass (bermuda. crabgrass) and stockpile the fescue. Then in the fall start control grazing or strip grazing the fescue & it can drastically cut down amount of hay that is fed. (& cutting down on feeding expense) So, back to your question, if you have breeding horses you need to look at doing**

something to prevent a problem with mares. If you have new grounds or pastures that need reseeding yes I would plant endophyte free fescue or possibly orchardgrass. For existing endophyte stands, it is up to you about the expense of killing existing stand and the cost of replanting. I have been told by economist that it is not worth the expense of overseeding endophyte-free varieties into existing endophyte stands. But you could keep the grass you have now & manage the mares by putting them up & feeding them during last trimester, or work with your Vet to see if the alternative shot to offset the endophyte is a suitable option for your situation.

Understanding Endophyte-Infected Tall Fescue and Its Effect on Broodmares  
<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/AnimalSciences/pubs/id144.pdf>

Managing Horse Pastures

<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/AnimalSciences/pubs/id147.pdf>

The article below is found

at <http://jones.ces.ncsu.edu/index.php?page=news&ci=ANIM+4>

If you have mares that are pregnant or that you plan on breeding. Endophyte-infected fescue means your fescue contains a fungus that can be detrimental to your mare's health. The chance of your tall fescue pasture containing this endophyte is very high if you did not intentionally purchase a variety of endophyte-free fescue. Tall fescue toxicity can be deadly to mares in their third trimester of pregnancy. However, tall fescue toxicity has not been fully studied in stallions and geldings.

The word "endophyte" comes from the roots "endo" meaning "within" and "phyte" meaning "plant." Therefore the word endophyte literally translates to "a plant that lives within another plant." In this case, the plant is a fungus that can make pregnant mares very ill. The part of the tall fescue plant that is the most toxic is the seedhead followed by the stem. The leaf has the least amount of toxic effects on mares in their last trimester of pregnancy.

Symptoms of tall fescue poisoning include: increased gestation length, foal and mare mortality, retained, tough and thickened placentas, and weak and dysmature foals. Other symptoms are dystocia, or difficulty giving birth, and early embryonic mortality. These symptoms are enough for you to consider preventing this problem rather than trying to fix it. Chances are your

**pregnant mare will not carry the foal to term if infected and if she does, the foal will most likely not be healthy.**

**What can you do to ensure you do not give your pregnant mare toxic fescue? There are several solutions to this problem. You can remove your endophyte-infected fescue, plant fescue that is endophyte-free or plant novel endophyte-infected tall fescue seed. Novel endophyte varieties were designed to contain non-ergot producing endophytes, which are incorporated into endophyte-free tall fescue. There are also strategic mowing plans and stockpiling infected tall fescue plans that can help you ensure you are providing safe forage for your mares.**

**If you do want to plant tall fescue, you would want to do so September 1 – 30. Be especially careful when planting new stands of fescue to watch out for the endophyte. Use seed that is known to have little or no endophyte infection. There are several varieties of endophyte-free fescue as well as low amounts of fescue. These may be the best option if you are going to be planting a new stand of fescue. Horses are not the only animals affected by tall fescue. As a livestock producer or horse owner, you should always base your planting decisions on more than just one factor. You should also take into consideration the following: your soil type, best planting dates, types and quantities of livestock and horses that will graze these pastures, soil testing recommendations, how to properly establish and manage pastures, as well as what is cost-effective and economic in your area. All of these factors will influence what you decide to plant and you should consider each factor carefully before making a decision.**

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## **5. Notes from Molly - The Intern Molly Stanfield**

### **Winter Feeding for Horses**

**As you prepare for the cold weather to roll in soon, it is important to keep your horse healthy and warm. Horses are kept warm in several different ways. These include their winter coats or blankets, shelter, adequate accounts of fresh water, and, most importantly, body fat.**

**Stalling is not necessary for all horses, but protection from the winter elements is necessary. Although horses acclimate to winter conditions extremely well, they need to be able to escape the bitter winds and**

moisture. A small, three-sided run-in shed to provide escape from strong winds, snow or ice is often all that is necessary for pastured horses. Horses provided shelter will require less feed, can more easily maintain body weight and are less stressed. These effects make the cost of sheds and windbreaks more attractive by reducing feed bills and reducing stress related sickness.

Without water, nothing in your horse's body will function. Horses will often reduce their water intake as temperatures fall. This reduced water intake, combined with increased forage consumption, can lead to a greater risk of impaction and colic. Ideally, water should be warmed so that the horse will consume adequate amounts. Water should be available at all times and should be maintained between 45 and 65 degrees with electric heaters. If any ice crystals appear, they should be removed. If you are in an area that has regular freezing, check the water supply twice daily as horses will drink eight to 12 gallons a day.

Body fat is the number one way horses keep warm. It enables the horse's digestive system to create microbial fermentation which produces heat that keeps the horse warm. In order for microbial fermentation to take place, an adequate amount of fiber has to be provided. An example is precise hay. While some think that increasing the amount of grain during this winter months helps with providing fiber, it is not as adequate as hay. Grain does not have as high fiber content as hay, which means it is digested slower. This is not a bad thing because valuable proteins can be absorbed with grains. Hay, on the other hand, provides the fiber for internal heat for longer periods of time. However, a gradual increase in grain intake can provide other special benefits-- especially for a horse that is a hard keeper. Grain will help increase fat calorie intake, while increasing weight and body fats to help keep your horse stay warm. Be sure to keep your horse's body condition score in mind when using this method.

Graining your horse may have long term benefits, but the results are not immediate. So the best solution for keeping your horse extra warm when a winter storm is approaching is to provide shelter, fresh water and simply feeding him an extra flake of hay.

Citations

Winter Care for Your Horse, Beverly J. Whittington, 2000

<http://www.gaitedhorses.net/Articles/WinterCare.html>

The Science of Winter Feeding, AQHA November 2011 Issue

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**6. Small Ruminant Demonstration Site Open House  
at the Upper Piedmont Research Station, Reidsville, NC**

November 7, 2011

9:30 - 10:00 am Sign in/Registration

10:00 - 10:45 am - Welcome - Dr. Niki Whitley, Interim ANR Program Leader/Animal Science Specialist, North Carolina A&T State University (NC A&T SU) Cooperative Extension and Dr. Joe French, Station Superintendent

Opening notes - Dr. M Ray McKinnie, Associate Dean and Extension Administrator and Dr. William Randle, Dean, School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, NC A&T SU

Tour instructions - Dr. Joe French, Station Superintendent

10:45 - 11:45 am - Tour of Upper Piedmont Research Station

12:00 - 1:00 pm - Lunch at the Sale barn

Optional Afternoon Sessions

Afternoon sessions will include an educational component and related plans for the site.

1:30 - 2:30 pm Session 1: Pasture Management - r. Ben Chase, Guilford/Rockingham County Agricultural Extension Agent

Session 2: Goat Feeding and Health Care - Dr. Ralph Noble, Chair, Department of Animal Sciences, NC A&T SU, and Mr. Garry Summers, NC A&T SU Farm Small Ruminant Coordinator

2:45 - 3:15 pm Break/visit vendor booths

3:15 - 5:00 pm Session 3: Internal Parasite (Worm) Management - Controlling Goat and Sheep Killers. Training on multiple control methods for internal parasites, including certification in FAMACHA® eyelid color scoring - Dr. Niki Whitley and Dr. Ralph Noble

Please pre-register (for a lunch count estimate) by November 4, 2011 by contacting Ms. Andrea Brooks at [336-285-4682](tel:336-285-4682) or [albrooks@ncat.edu](mailto:albrooks@ncat.edu).

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7. Locally Raised Meats, Eggs or Produce

Are you interested in Buying or Selling locally produced Meats, Eggs or Produce? If so you need to check out the Piedmont Local Foods at <http://www.farmersfreshmarket.org/rockingham/> This is a GREAT marketing option if you are already marketing meats, or if you are looking at direct marketing the meat you produce. Piedmont Local Food brings fresh, local food to the tables of restaurants and buying clubs throughout the Piedmont Triad area of North Carolina.

Piedmont Local Food is a virtual farmers market linking growers to restaurant chefs, as well as individuals through buying clubs. Once orders are placed online, local growers process them, and we deliver them - picked and shipped within 24 hours! Supporting Piedmont Local Food supports local farmers and tantalizes your taste buds!

The goal of the Piedmont Local Food program is to provide the freshest and most flavorful local produce (Meats & Eggs) in a convenient and sustainable manner. Piedmont Local Food serves members in Rockingham, Stokes, Guilford, Caswell, Forsyth & Surry Counties.

Bens Note: I think this is a Great Marketing tool to be considered for anyone that wants to sell Meat or Eggs off the farm, so check it out!

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**8. . Flintrock Farm Events**

- Flintrock Farm Open Show Series - Final show October 29th - For more information. Go to [www.flintrockfarm.com](http://www.flintrockfarm.com) and click on calendar to see class list.

- Flintrock Farm Open Fun Show and Fundraiser on Saturday, November 5th. Fun for the entire family including non-horse classes for the humans! Horse classes include English/Western pleasure and equitation, jumping, trail, halter, therapeutic riding and fun classes. Only \$10 per class or \$60 all day (horse/rider combo). Great concessions on site. Mr. Ken Davis, from Lynchburg VA, will be judging. For more information please go to [www.flintrockfarm.com](http://www.flintrockfarm.com). All proceeds go to support HorseFriends, a non-profit therapeutic riding program that operates at Flintrock Farm.

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9. Trail clearing for horse trails at Bryan Park

10-30-11 1-5pm  
Bryan Park

Corner of 150 and Doggett Rd., Brown Summit

Equestrian Trail alliance of Guilford County.  
4 hours of trail clearing for horse trails!

Please bring loppers and gloves. (no chainsaws)

Questions; Betsy Rice [\(336\) 307-1092](tel:3363071092)  
Paula Nelson [pasharr@triad.rr.com](mailto:pasharr@triad.rr.com)

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**10. Equine Extravaganza!**

**November 4-6, 2011**

**The Meadow Event Park, Doswell VA**

**The Mid-Atlantic's Biggest Horse Happening!**

**In addition to the talented and amazing line-up of trainers and exciting clinics and demonstrations you've come to expect from Equine Extravaganza, we're cooking up more ways to make our event even more FUN, FESTIVE, and FLAVORFUL!**

**Start with a line up of 3 exceptional trainers, Brock Griffith, Chase Dodd & Tommy Garland 3 young unstarted horses, 3 days of training, and a final obstacle course challenge..... it all adds up to electrifying FUN in the Celebrity Trainer Challenge!**

**America's Most Trusted Horseman, John Lyons, returns to his huge Mid-Atlantic fan base at Equine Extravaganza! John Lyons' Equine Extravaganza clinics are always packed, as eager fans fill the stands to watch John work his magic on even the most challenging horse. John's extraordinary ability to inspire, teach others, and lead has changed the horse industry. His teaching methods have influenced every breed at every level of performance. He is the most sought after trainer,**

clinician, teacher and horseman in the industry today. Don't miss John's clinics and demonstrations throughout the weekend!

Dressage icon Jane Savoie, a favorite of Equine Extravaganza dressage enthusiasts, returns by popular demand! Jane Savoie is one of the most recognized names in dressage, and for a good reason. Her accomplishments and the breadth of her influence are impressive. She has been a member of the United States Equestrian Team and has competed for the US in Canada, Holland, Belgium, France and Germany. She was the reserve rider for the Bronze medal winning Olympic dressage team in Barcelona, Spain. She has been long-listed by the USET with several horses and has won nine Horse of the Year awards and three National Freestyle Championships.

In addition you'll find more breeds, more kids fun, and more discipline demos including Cowboy Dressage, Eventing, Jumping, Gaited Horse Clinics, Ranch Horse Versatility, Dog Obedience, Equine and Canine Massage.

Don't miss out on the biggest horse happenin' in the Mid-Atlantic. For more information go to: <http://www.equineextravaganza.com/>

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### 11. Fun Show and Tack Sale

Fun Show November 5, 2011, starts at 9 am. Come join us for some good family fun at Circle S Arena on Wagoner Rd in Gibsonville, NC. Trail, leadline, halter, English/Western, games and more – classes for all ages/skill level. Low cost show...classes are \$5 each, or \$30 for each horse and rider combo (all day ride, unlimited classes), or \$50 for each family (all day ride, unlimited classes for everyone in family). We will have a professional photographer at the show. We will also have a tack consignment sale.

Email [circleshorsestable@yahoo.com](mailto:circleshorsestable@yahoo.com) for class sheet. Kopper Top Life Learning Center selling concessions.

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### 12. Annual EXTENSION VOLUNTEER FALL FAIR

Rockingham County Extension Volunteer Fall Fair will be on Saturday, November 19th, in the Agricultural Building in Wentworth. Every year this annual event provides holiday shoppers with a variety of quality hand crafted gifts and delicious baked goods.

A highlight of this year's Fall Fair will be the drawing for a handmade quilt, wall hanging, and pillow to be given away at noon. You do not need to be present to win. Tickets are available from Cooperative Extension volunteers. All funds raised are used for community projects—including college scholarships.

Also featured is the second printing of the most recent Extension Volunteers Cookbook. The cookbook has favorite recipes from previously published Extension Cookbooks—plus many new heart-healthy recipes for today's health conscious cooks. The cookbook sells for \$13.00, and proceeds from the sales sponsor scholarships for Rockingham County students attending colleges in North Carolina.

There are still a few tables available for the day for \$12.00. If you are an artist, crafter, or baker interested in selling at the Fall Fair, please contact Linda Hill to confirm availability (349-5741).

For more information, contact Brenda Sutton, 342-8230 [brenda\\_sutton@ncsu.edu](mailto:brenda_sutton@ncsu.edu)

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### 13. 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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**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](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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### 15. Take A Load Off -

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

Thanks for this send in!

These are by Will Rogers, who died in a 1935 plane crash, was one of the greatest political sages this country has ever known.

Enjoy the following:

1. Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco.
2. Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.
3. There are two theories to arguing with a woman. Neither works.
4. Never miss a good chance to shut up.
5. Always drink upstream from the herd.
6. If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.
7. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back into your pocket.
8. There are three kinds of men:
  - The ones that learn by reading.
  - The few who learn by observation.
  - The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence and find out for themselves.
9. Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
10. If you're riding' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.
11. Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier'n puttin' it back.
12. After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him.  
The moral: When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut.

### ABOUT GROWING OLDER...

First ~Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Second ~ The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

Third ~ Some people try to turn back their odometers.  
Not me; I want people to know 'why' I look this way.  
I've traveled a long way, and some of the roads weren't paved.

Fourth ~ When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth,  
think of Algebra.

Fifth ~ You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or  
leaks.

Sixth ~ I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.

Seventh ~ One of the many things no one tells you about aging  
is that it's such a nice change from being young.

Eighth ~ One must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has  
been.

Ninth ~ Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

Tenth ~ Long ago, when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it  
was called witchcraft.  
Today it's called golf.

And, finally ~ If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have  
anything to laugh at when you're old.

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

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

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

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

have served!

Thank You!

I hope that you all have a Great Safe Weekend!

Ben

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## **Ben Chase**

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