

Weekly Pile for Week of September 19 2011

Hello All (Horse E-mailers),

Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the Week of September 19, 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. **A Flash Flood Watch**
2. **Cribbing Has Multiple Causes, Management Practices Can Help**
3. **Horse Stable Ventilation & Facilities**
4. **You Asked – When is the Time** to Cut for Hay?
5. **Horseback Riding Safety - Saddle Up SAFELY- Rider Safety Program**

6. Tractor & Equipment Safety : It Can Mean Your Life!

7. Posting Land - New legislation in North Carolina - Repeat but worth reading

8. Cooler Horsemanship Activities

9. Buck Brannaman Horsemanship & Cow Working Clinic - September 30 – October 3

10. December 3-4 Holiday Classic Open Horse Show

11. Forage Tips September – October

12. HAY DIRECTORY

13. Jobs & People Wanted

14. Take A Load Off

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1. **A Flash Flood Watch has been issued for our Area from 6pm Thursday afternoon through 6pm Friday. Please read the statement from the National Weather Service and be prepared for street and creek flooding.**

...FLASH FLOOD WATCH IN EFFECT FROM 6PM TONIGHT THROUGH 6PM FRIDAY... .MOISTURE ADVECTION FROM THE GULF OF MEXICO WILL OVERSPREAD CENTRAL NORTH CAROLINA THROUGH FRIDAY EVENING AS A LOW PRESSURE SYSTEM REMAINS NEARLY STATIONARY OVER THE WESTERN GREAT LAKES. HEAVY RAINFALL IS EXPECTED ACROSS THE AREA WITH FLASH FLOODING POSSIBLE

<http://alerts.weather.gov/cap/wwacapget.php?x=NC20110922193100FlashFloodWatch20110923220000NC.RAHFFARAH.f2ec5330151d2a67865b87ab3e302c2a>

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2. Cribbing Has Multiple Causes, Management Practices Can Help

EAST LANSING, Mich. – A recently published analysis of nearly 20 years of research on cribbing will provide horse owners with valuable information about the behavior and ideas for management practices that could reduce the frequency of this undesirable equine habit.

"Owners of cribbers seem genuinely interested in the behavior and are eager to learn about how they may better manage their horses," said Carissa Wickens, assistant professor and equine Extension specialist at the University of Delaware. Wickens conducted the cribbing research analysis as a part of her doctoral program at Michigan State University (MSU), which she completed in 2009.

Cribbing

Cribbing is a behavior in which horses anchor their top teeth onto some fixed object, such as a fence or stall wall, pull backward, contract their neck muscles and take air into their esophagus, resulting in an audible grunt.

The behavior is known as a stereotypy - a repetitive behavior without any apparent reason or purpose. Viewed by many horse owners as problematic, cribbing can lead to dental problems, weight loss and poor conditions in horses exhibiting the behavior. Estimates put 4.5 percent of U.S. horses, or as many as 414,000, as cribbers.

"I think if we can better understand cribbing behavior, especially the cause(s) of cribbing, we may be able to identify horses that are at risk and make improvements as necessary to their management, which would ultimately allow us to further reduce the number of horses that exhibit this and other stereotypic behaviors," Wickens said.

Through analyzing the vast amount of research conducted on cribbing since the 1990s, Wickens found that the behavior has multiple causes and likely results from a complex combination of or interaction between factors including genetics, gastrointestinal and brain physiology, and the horse's environment and management. According to Wickens, it is

possible for horse owners to reduce cribbing behavior if they put certain management practices in place.

Management practices

“I think possibly the most important message for horse owners is that the manner in which we house and manage our horses can have a tremendous impact on their behavior,” she said.

Many of the studies analyzed provided evidence that limiting a horse's ability to engage in foraging and social behavior increases the risk of stereotypic behaviors, like cribbing. There are also some strong associations between cribbing and the horse's diet; horses fed high-concentrate and low-forage diets may be at greater risk for developing stereotypic behavior.

“Once a horse becomes a cribber or crib-biter, it is unlikely that the horse will ever completely stop performing this behavior despite attempts from the owner to stop the horse from cribbing,” Wickens explained. “However, providing the horse with ample forage, turnout into the pasture and opportunities to socialize with other horses may be helpful in reducing the frequency of the behavior or the amount of time the horse spends cribbing.”

While no one has reported direct economic losses due to cribbing, surveyed owners perceive that cribbing has a negative effect on the monetary value of their horses as many people will not buy a horse they know to be a cribber. Additionally, many owners try to physically prevent horses from cribbing through the use of cribbing collars and muzzles, electric fencing, distasteful treatments or paint on wooden surfaces, nutritional supplements and even surgery. Those costs, in addition to costs associated with dental work and the extra energy spent cribbing

instead of grazing, could be reduced if the beneficial management practices are implemented.

Wickens believes there is still work to be done to further investigate cribbing behavior. While there are some clues already, the underlying mechanism behind the behavior still needs to be completely explained. The information researchers currently have could also have applications and implications for preventing and managing stereotypic behavior in other species. Since the horse genome is available to scientists, cribbing may provide an ideal case study on the relationship between genetics and the environment in the development of stereotypic behavior in horses.

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3. Horse Stable Ventilation

http://www.extension.org/mediawiki/files/e/ea/stable_ventilation.pdf

Equine Facilities: Stall Barn Windows

<http://www.extension.org/pages/11076/equine-facilities:-stall-barn-windows>

Equine Facilities: Stall Barn Design Construction

<http://www.extension.org/pages/11085/equine-facilities:-stall-barn-design-construction#>

Equine Facilities: Stall Dimensions

<http://www.extension.org/pages/11139/equine-facilities:-stall-dimensions>

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4. You Asked: – I have Fescue & Orchardgrass pastures & hayfields, when should I cut them for hay?

Good Question - When To Cut Hay

Tall Fescue -

Harvest at boot to early flowering stage for first cutting. If subsequent cuts are to be made, they should be at about 6 week intervals as growth permits

Late Boot ~17%CP 71%Digestibility

Early Flowering 15% CP 61% Digestibility

Seed Dough 10%CP 56% Digestibility

Harvesting at earlier maturity will reduce yield but result in much higher quality hay.

Hay made late is not only low quality, but also may contain higher levels of toxins (endophyte), which reduce animal performance. Cut fescue when it starts to show a few heads. Delaying haying to get a seed crop results in very poor quality forage

Start animals grazing when the plants reach an 8- to 10-inch height and remove the livestock when they have grazed most of the stand to 3 - 4 inch stubble.

Orchardgrass –

Highest Yield of good quality forage is to cut between head emergence & early bloom. PREFER BOOT STAGE generally late-boot to early-head stage (orchardgrass matures about one week earlier than tall fescue)

For highest quality and high yielding hay, orchardgrass should be harvested in spring during boot stage. Beyond this stage, there is little increase in yield and the digestibility decreases at the rate of about 1/2% per day. Aftermath growth can be harvested at 4-6 week intervals. Production and cutting frequency are greatly affected by soil moisture, temperature, fertility and disease.

Harvesting at a height of four inches will help maintain strong root reserves, leading to fast recovery of re-growth and better stand persistence.

Forage researchers have seen less damage to plants from summer heat and drought when the first harvest is made early and plants have time to re-grow before the stress. Some have reported almost 100 percent loss of stands when harvest was delayed to the late bloom stage. This can be more of a concern

when late harvest is followed by high temperatures and low moisture supply.

Growing Orchardgrass for Forage –

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/sites/default/files/documents/lf/orchardgrass.pdf>

Anytime a cool-season plant matures, forage quality drops rapidly. Crude protein will drop 0.5% per day from boot stage to mature seed stage.

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5. Horseback Riding Safety -
Saddle Up SAFELY- Rider
Safety Program

http://www.extension.org/mediawiki/files/b/b9/Horseback_Riding_Safety_Brochure.pdf

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6. Tractor & Equipment Safety : It Can Mean Your Life!

Each year, there are a number of tractor related accidents. Some of these accidents are due to tractor roll-overs, a tractors being struck by other automobiles on the highway, PTO mishaps and tractors jumping or being knocked into gear and running over folks. These type tractor accidents have claimed the lives of numerous area farmers in recent years. Tractor and farm related accidents are far too numerous and occur all over our State and Country each year. Please make sure that you

keep safety first when operating tractors or other equipment.

The following are some safety tips that you should follow:

- Be aware of and follow all warning decals affixed to tractor and equipment
- Know your Tractor & Machinery Limitations
- Know Your Own Physical Limitations
- Let someone know where you are working, work in pairs when possible
- Never start the tractor from the ground; always be in the seat
- Do not start the tractor by using bypass starting procedures
- Keep your tractor and equipment in good repair and proper working condition
- No seat, no rider
- Check all lights & signals, reflectors and make sure the slow moving vehicle emblem is visible
- Make sure the PTO master shield is in place and in good repair (also make sure U-joints and shafts are shielded)
- Wear your seat belt if your tractor is equipped with a Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS) Most tractors can be retrofitted with a ROPS (Consult your local dealer)
- To prevent rollover, avoid depressions, do not drive too close to a ditch bank; use proper hitch points and safety chains; use caution while on steep areas; and avoid excessive speeds while turning, pulling trailers, crossing slopes, and riding on rough, slick or muddy surfaces
- Is tractor properly balanced (A minimum of 25% of tractors weight should be on front axle)
- Are tractor wheels set at proper width for the job. The wider the base, the less likely to turn over
- When stopped, set brakes securely

- When working with PTO implements, don't wear loose fitting clothes, put hair up out of the way and turn the tractor off to perform maintenance - removing the key
- Be aware of all vehicular traffic and bystanders
- Please think about what you are doing and make use of Common Sense
- Make sure others that use tractor & equipment understand the proper use and safety factors
- Make sure the ABC fire extinguisher is in working condition and first aid kit is properly supplied
- Take a safety training course such as basic first aid and CPR . It may save a life!
(other farm workers should take these courses, and know emergency procedures)
- If you have workers that don't speak English, make sure that the communication language of safety is known and understood

Make sure you always keep safety in mind when riding or operating tractors and equipment. It is a tragedy anytime these accidents occur. Please make sure you do what you can to prevent them!

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7. Posting Land - Worth repeating

THE WAY I UNDERSTAND IT, THIS LAW IS WRITTEN FOR THE MAIN PURPOSE OF BEING ABLE TO PROSECUTE THOSE WHO ARE HUNTING/FISHING WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION. Not for the purpose of those just walking on your land.

New legislation enacted this past June pertaining to posting of land to prevent trespass - HB 762 - An Act to Protect Landowner Rights. The entire law can be read

at <http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2011/Bills/House/PDF/H762v6.pdf>

Please read the entire law, but posting is now easier by using PURPLE PAINT (I've been told you can't find purple spray paint in the stores right now). You can put up signs or spray trees or posts on the boundary with the paint based on specific heights and distances referenced in the law.

If you have friends or neighbors that work for law enforcement, please share this information with them.

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8. Cooler Horsemanship Events

September 25 - One Day Horsemanship Clinic at 4T Stables

3000 Williams Road

Lewisville, NC 27023

www.4tstables.com

Sunday Clinic - 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Clinic Participants - \$150, Auditor- \$10

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

Clinic will be split into 2 sessions with 5 participants/session (10 total).

Morning Session: 9am-1pm

Afternoon Session: 2pm-6pm

October 15 - Trail Clinic at Fiore Farms

9:00am-1:00pm

Cost is \$100/rider, limited to 7 participants

Colt Starter Challenge 2011

Saturday, November 12, 8 am – 4 pm

Mars Arena, Chatham Hall, Chatham, Virginia

www.sefha.net

Contact us for tickets, \$15

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

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9. Buck Brannaman Horsemanship & Cow Working Clinic - September 30 – October 3 – To Be Held at FlintRock Farm – "Horses and life, it's all the same to me." For more information, or if you are interested in attending please contact Dottie Davis at [828-891-4372](tel:828-891-4372) and visit their website at www.brannaman.com This is an Excellent Opportunity – FlintRock Farm is located off Highway 158 – West of Reidsville at 221 Flintrock Trail Reidsville, NC 27320. <http://flintrockfarm.com/default.aspx>

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10. 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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11. Forage Tips September – October

Take Soil Samples. Apply lime to pastures with pH below 5.8. Remember the best time to plant cool season grasses (fescue, orchardgrass, clovers, etc.) is August 25 - October 15. Consider overseeding bermudagrass for winter grazing with rye, ryegrass, etc. in late September. Planting early will require that herbicides be used to suppress the existing grass growth. Overseed legumes into properly fertilized and grazed pure grass pastures. - Keep grazing summer grasses and completely use them up before grazing cool season forages. - Decide which fescue pastures will be stockpiled for winter grazing. Nitrogen (60 to 80 pounds/acre should be applied if have not done so. - Plant alfalfa and other legumes (clovers) on time: August 25 - October 15 and check on proper nodule formation. - Graze sudan and sorghum-sudans after frost, but before they weather badly. Use precaution just after the first few frost. Prussic acid can become a hazard in young regrowth and for about 3 days after a killing frost. - Drag pastures to break up manure piles.

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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](tel: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 CUT HAY AND HAVE SOME TO SELL, PLEASE LET ME KNOW!!

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13. Jobs & People Wanted -

- Want to work? Needed farm help, including stalls cleaned, horses turned out, feeding, general farming and mowing, etc. Call Mickey at [336-402-0356](tel:336-402-0356) if interested. Please do not call if you are not in the Madison, NC area with transportation and mind working.

- Wanted dependable, hard working person who would like to help with grooming, tacking up and caring for award winning show horses/large ponies (dressage/hunters) in exchange for riding privileges, training and showing on our horses/ponies. Prefer previous experience with horses and ability to ride broke but green horses/large ponies. needed 3-4 days per week. Located in GSO area- cell- [336-669-1565](tel:336-669-1565)

- Wanted!: Other woman that share an interest in trail riding, occasional evenings or weekends for outdoor enjoyment! (Hubby doesn't ride.....) I'm in the Ridgeway VA area (just north of Eden NC) & have a trailer, but would enjoy riding within a 30 mile radius! Please call Laura [276-358-2378](tel:276-358-2378) or email: infinityacresva@gmail.com or our website: www.infinityacres.org

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14. Take A Load Off - (Thanks for sending this In)

My wife has not spoken to me in three days. I think it has something to do with what happened on Sunday night when she thought she heard a noise downstairs.

She nudged me and whispered, "Wake up, wake up!"

"What's the matter?" I asked.

"There are burglars in the kitchen. I think they're eating the tuna casserole I made tonight."

"That'll teach them!" I replied.

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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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