

Weekly Pile for Week of August 5 2012

Hello Everybody,

Included is the **Weekly Pile** of Information for the Week of August 5, 2012, 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.
- provided information is a resource to the citizens of Rockingham/Guilford Counties.
- provided information does not require extra time or effort to be listed.
- Listings for Swap Shop will not list pricing details.
- Please E-mail information to me by Wednesday each Week.
- Please keep ads or events as short as possible – with NO FORMATTING, 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 alike.
- PLEASE PUT WEEKLY PILE IN SUBJECT LINE when you send into me.
- The Weekly Pile is not for listings for Commercial type properties or products.

If I forgot to include anything in this email it was 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! **I NEED YOUR FEEDBACK!**

Included in This Weeks Pile:

1. Water

2. Feeding a Horse for Maintenance

3. Horse Manure Management& Composting

4. You Asked

5. Student Researches Methods to Regenerate Damaged Tissue in People and Horses.

6. Equine Vision and Its Effect on Behavior

7. **Piedmont Horseman's Association**

8. **Smith River Fest this Saturday!**

9. **Cooler Natural Horsemanship Schedule**

10. **Bryan Park Trail Work Day August 25th**

11. **HAY DIRECTORY**

12. **SWAP SHOP**

13. **Take A Load Off**

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1. **Water**

Treating horses humanely should be the only way to treat horses & other animals. If you have horses (or other animals) and you are not managing them then you may find yourself in a legal situation. Providing water for animals to drink certainly falls under this category.

Clean, fresh, palatable water should be available to the horse at all times.

A mature, 1,100-pound idle horse will require between 10 and 12 gallons of water per day, depending on environmental and/or physiological conditions.

Factors that change water consumption:

pregnancy

lactation

work

profuse sweating

environmental temperature.

Pregnant mares require about 10 percent more water than non-pregnant mares. Lactating mares require 50 to 70 percent additional water to replace the water used in milk production. The water requirement for horses subjected to hard work will double due to water lost through sweat and

respiration. Increases in ambient temperature will also cause the horse's water requirement to double.

Before and during prolonged exercise, horses should be encouraged to consume as much water as possible to prevent dehydration. Following exercise, horses should be cooled down before drinking or have free access to water. Water consumed in large amounts by a hot horse after exercise can lead to colic, laminitis, or founder.

Automatic horse water bowls are useful because they provide a constant supply of water and decrease labor costs. Frequent cleaning of water buckets prevents horses from ingesting anything that may have fallen into them, such as feces. Cleaning also prevents algae or bacteria buildup on the walls of the bucket. Water temperature should range between 45° to 65°F, because horses will be reluctant to drink water that is too hot or too cold.

Low water intake is directly related to the increased incidence of impaction colic.

If you use a water trough, and it is in direct sunlight, go put your hand in that water, if it uncomfortable to you, you know horses will probably not be drinking enough water.

Try to lower that temperature of that water by covering with shade or possibly freeze jugs of water and place in water troughs each hot day. It is your responsibility to provide water suitable for them to drink!

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

Horses at maintenance include those kept in pasture and those occasionally used for work for short periods of time. The energy requirement for maintenance is low and can often be met with good-quality forage. Typically, grain supplementation is not needed. Supplementation with salt or trace minerals may be necessary based on the nutritional value of the forages.

Mature grass forages may also lack adequate protein, so a protein supplement may be added to the daily ration.

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3. More on Horse Manure Management & Composting

<http://www.extension.org/pages/25674/horse-manure-management>

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4. You Asked: I recently bought some hay from a grower who said I could bring it back if the horses would not eat it. Before I left he said that the hay was mostly Johnson grass and the horses might be "spoiled" on fescue and they might take a while to switch. So, I have been reading about "Johnson grass hay" and I have always been under the impression johnsongrass was not suitable to feed to horses. Some don't agree. What are the facts?

Prussic acid poisoning is caused by a poison called cyanide that can be produced in several types of plants under certain growing conditions. All species of farm animals can be affected with this acute poisoning. The plants most commonly involved in prussic acid poisoning are johnsongrass, sudangrass, common sorghum, arrowgrass, black cherry, chokecherry, pin cherry, and flax. Johnsongrass is the most toxic of the sorghums and commonly causes poisoning when subjected to frost or drought conditions. Very young, rapidly growing plants also are more likely to produce the poison. Feeding or grazing of these forages should be delayed until they are more mature. Feeding forages following heavy nitrogen fertilization, plant injury by trampling, or stunting of plant growth due to adverse weather should be avoided. If large amounts of forages containing prussic acid are eaten, death can occur within a few minutes. Excess salivation, difficult breathing, muscle tremors, and rapid heart rate all signal the onset of prussic acid poisoning. Shortly after these symptoms are seen, the animal may go down, and death will likely occur due to respiratory paralysis. Animals that live one to two hours after the onset of these signs will usually recover. Prussic acid is quite volatile, and there is little danger from feeding well-cured hay.

So, if hay contains Johnsongrass, let it cure in hay for about 3-4 weeks or longer and Prussic Acid will dissipate.

- Also another possible problem is Nitrates, Johnsongrass is a Nitrate Accumulator, so if you have hay that contains Johnsongrass, give me a call & I can come pull a sample to test hay for Nitrate level. (Don't test for Prussic Acid) Nitrates do not dissipate with time in hay.

In short, if you understand the precautions with Johnsongrass and take the precautions, Johnsongrass can be fed, and many livestock species love it! JUST BE CAREFUL!

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5. Student Researches Methods to Regenerate Damaged Tissue in People and Horses.

BLACKSBURG, Va. – What does the future of regenerative medicine look like? Undergraduate student Daniel Inman of Blacksburg, Va., a senior majoring in biological systems engineering in the College of Engineering, says he believes it will involve the successful injection of stem cells into injured tissue to stimulate regeneration of healthy new tissue.

As part of the Fralin Life Science Institute Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program, Inman is working with Linda Dahlgren, associate professor of large animal clinical sciences in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. His project, funded by the National Institutes of Health, focuses on ways that stem cells might be used to repair damaged ligaments and tendons in humans and horses. Damaged ligaments and tendons are common musculoskeletal injuries in people and horses and can be a challenge to treat successfully without re-injury.

To read entire article go to: <http://www.vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2012/06/062612-fralin-studentresearchinman.html>

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6. Equine Vision and Its Effect on Behavior

Dr. Patricia Evans, Extension Equine Specialist, Utah State University, CES

The more we know about the natural behavior of horses and why they react the way they do, the more we are able to work through problems. One aspect that may cause a horse to react differently than humans is its vision.

Eye Placement and Field of Vision

The horse is a prey animal in the wild and needs to have a large field of vision to see its predators early and outrun them. In order to have this wide field of vision, the eyes of the horse are large and placed out on the corners of its head giving it almost a 360-degree field of vision. Additionally, the eyes are placed high up on the head allowing it to have the greatest field of vision while down grazing.

A horse with small eyes may be more limited in its field of vision which can cause the horse to be spookier. A pig-eyed horse, with inset eyes may also exhibit the same problems with its field of vision.

Blind Spots

A problem with having the eyes set out on the side of the head is that there is a blind spot created directly in front of and behind the horse. The area in front of the horse may be a true blind spot, or an area of indistinct vision, depending on how far out the eyes are set. This area is triangular in shape, wide at the eyes and comes to a point about 3-4 feet in front of the horse. The area behind the horse is just slightly wider than the width of the horse's body and goes on indefinitely if the horse stands with its head straight in front of it. It is important to understand the existence and location of these blind spots so as to avoid standing in them for extended periods of time. The horse can lose track of us when we cross behind it and may startle when we reappear in the other eye.

These are also areas where we may be injured due to the horse's lack of vision. At the front end, the horse could strike out with a front hoof or could knock over the handler if scared from behind as it jumps or runs forward. At the hind end we need to be more concerned with the horse's ability to kick with one or both hind legs, having potential to do great harm. We should always make sure to approach the horse in areas of clear vision; one such area is the shoulder. Here the horse can see us and also we are not in the path of the front or hind hooves. Always speak to a horse when approaching it so as not to surprise it with a touch if it is dozing.

Regions of the Eye

Another aspect of the horse's vision that is different from ours is different areas of the eye for distinct and less distinct vision. One such area is the horizontal strip in the center of the eye which has a high number of ganglion allowing for a more distinct vision. The area outside of this strip is where motion is detected to alert the horse. The horse will then bring the object into the distinct area to determine if the object is something that should cause flight. To bring the object into clearer vision the horse will usually lift, lower, or tip its head to make use of the strip in its eye. The horse also only has two types of cones which allow some color vision. While further research needs to be performed, present data shows that horses can distinguish between blue and red but the horse might have difficulty with green and yellow (Timney & Macuda, 2001). They also have a large number of rods, more than humans, which allow superior night vision, a benefit in the wild.

Types of Vision

Horses also differ in how they see objects by having the ability to see with each eye (monocular vision) independently so they may see what is happening on each side of their body. This vision is flat visions unlike the three-dimensional vision humans have. It is used more for identifying movement at far distances. The horse's eyes "have an incredible ability to detect motion. The horse can see a small bird flutter in a tree across a canyon. Movement may mean danger and danger, of course, means move the other way at top speed" (Miller, 1999, p. 25). Horses also have the ability to view in front with both eyes (binocular vision) which gives three-dimensional vision with depth perception. If we understand this aspect of a horse's vision, we will allow the horse to view new objects in a more comfortable manner.

Usually the horse will want to put its nose down to view and touch something that it will walk over. This allows the horse to use the binocular vision with better depth perception (McGreevy, 2004). If

something scares the horse from behind it usually will jump forward and spin around so that it can use binocular vision. The horse cannot use both monocular and binocular visions at the same time, but must switch from one type to another by position of the eyes and head.

Head Position and Its Effect on Vision

The position of the horse's head can enhance or inhibit the horse's vision. A horse uses binocular vision very well when its head is extended and it looking past its nose. If we confine the horse's head in a position where the nose is behind the vertical, forward vision is inhibited, not allowing the horse to see where it is going. This can create a dangerous situation when riding as we approach an obstacle, jump, or unlevel ground.

Transferring of Information in the Brain

Until just recently it was thought that horses could not transfer information from one side of the brain to the other. This meant that information from one eye did not cross over to the other side of the brain. This has been the long time explanation for why horses acted differently when viewing an object first with one eye and then the other. While horses do need to be worked with on both sides to make them even in their responses, it is not due their inability to transfer information. Research by Hanggi (1999) demonstrated that horses do transfer information from one hemisphere to the other.

Conclusion

Equine eyesight is very important in our interactions with the horse. The horse will see movement and possibly react long before a person. As we gain more understanding in how the horse views the world, realizing that it is different from how humans view the world, we can work with them in a more realistic and safe manner. Exposing the horse to many objects and environments will help the horse not to over react to harmless everyday objects and situations.

References

Hanggi, E. B. 1999. Interocular transfer in horses (Equus caballus). Journal of Equine Veterinary Science, 19(8), 518-524.

Leach, J., and Lawrence, L. 1993. Horse Behavior & Senses: Vision, Touch, Hearing and Social Behavior. Horse Industry Handbook, American Youth Council, Inc.

McGreevy, P. 2004. Equine Behavior: A Guide for Veterinarians and Equine Scientists. Elsevier Limited.

Miller, R. M. 1999. Understanding the Ancient Secrets of the Horse's Mind. Russell Meerdink Co. Ltd.

Timney, B., and Macuda, T. 2001. Vision and hearing in horses. Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association, Vol. 218, #10.

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7. Piedmont Horseman's Association

Are you looking for a local open horse show association that is friendly and offers a variety of classes for all ages? Look no further...Piedmont Horseman's Association has been around for 41 years and still going strong! Whether you show halter, showmanship, English, Western Pleasure or Working Western; PHA has classes for you! Piedmont Horseman's Association (PHA) helps create a wholesome, family atmosphere in the great sport of Horse Showing; and for each member to exhibit his or her horse or pony in a sportsmanlike manner. There are many benefits of being a member of PHA; reduced entry fee at sanctioned shows, accumulate points for year end awards, recently APHA PAC

approved and much more! We are right in the middle of the horse show season and currently PHA has three more shows scheduled with the next show being this weekend on Saturday, August 11 at Cutting Edge in Randleman. We are also looking at scheduling a fall trail ride/cookout. You can find all the details such as membership forms, class lists, calendar, etc on the PHA website at: <http://www.phasince1971.com/> PHA is also looking for class/show sponsors to make this the best year ever! Feel free to contact one of the officers from the website if you have any questions. We hope to see some new people at the Piedmont Horseman's Association shows!

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**8. Smith River Fest this Saturday!
Attention Racers, River Rats, Runners and River Relaxers!**

Families, kids - young and old - the 5th Annual Smith River Fest is this Saturday! Whether you are in the Smith River Downriver race, the Helgramite Huslte Mud Run, or you just want to come out and shop, eat and play, you'll have a blast at the Smith River Fest.

This year's event will once again be held at the Smith River Sports Complex and is bigger and better than ever. Over 50 vendors will be there and there will be a beer garden and music after the Mud Run. Shuttles will be provided from Sports Complex to South Martinsville Canoe Access ramp. The race will be held on the 4.8 mile section between South Martinsville and the Sports Complex ramp.

We requested and received a special water release from Martinsville Dam which will begin at 0800 and last through 1300 hrs at 1100 cfs. Philpott has also agreed to release from 0900 to 1300 hrs at 650cfs. So there will be plenty of paddling opportunities on the entire river in Henry County. Come out and stay the weekend on the river.

Volunteers are needed as safety boaters on the river and at the event. Please contact Brian Williams if you can help out: [276-618-1457](tel:276-618-1457). Thanks. See You On The River !

Visit the official website: <http://www.visitmartinsville.com/4th-Annual-Smith-River-Fest.html>

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9. Cooler Natural Horsemanship Schedule

August 17 - 19 - Weekend Getaway Clinic at Shangrila Guest Ranch

Visit our Schedule Page for more info on this fun and affordable event!

Only a few clinic spots left, Auditors welcome.

Group Sessions - 6:30pm - 8:30pm

\$40/person, \$5 to audit

Wednesday August 15th

Thursday August 23rd

Tuesday September 4rd

Wednesday September 12th

Thursday September 20th

Saturday, September 29th - Clinic Day

Morning Session, 9:00am - 12:00pm

Afternoon session, 5:00pm - 8:00pm

\$100/person/per session

Auditors welcome: \$10

Sunday, September 30th - Trail Session

9:00am - 12:00pm

\$100/person

www.CoolerHorsemanship.com

kate@coolerhorsemanship.com

[843-304-3407](tel:843-304-3407)

Fiore Farms

7600 Millbrook Road

Summerfield, NC 27358

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10. Bryan Park Horse Trail Work Day - Saturday August 25th 9:00 - noon. We will meet at the 2nd entrance off of Doggett Road off of Hwy 150 East in Brown Summit NC . Once on Doggett Road - you will pass Hopkins Poultry on the left, go around a sharp curve, the pass the Trailer's Produce Stand as well as one more house on the left before the industrial look entrance that you will take to the work site parking. If you get to Lake Townsend you have gone too far. We will have signs posted.

Bring mattocks, clippers, wear/bring bug spray, and water bottles (I will have a water cooler). We will cut exposed roots, fill in holes and cut drains in the low points of the trail. All three bridges are built so this is hopefully (if turn out is good) a last work day for this wonderful 5 mile horse trail in Guilford County.

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11. 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!

Please let me know if you have hay to sell!

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12. SWAP SHOP

- Pasture Board - NE Guilford \$150/mo. Good pasture, cross-fenced, run-in sheds, dressage arena. Brought into 8-stall barn once daily to feed your grain. Tack room, hot & cold wash, trails in area. Call Sandy [336-584-5617](tel:336-584-5617) or larknspursandy@bellsouth.net.

- For Sale- Leah, 6 year old liver chestnut Quarter Horse mare, 14.3 hands, green broke with summer 2012 4-H trail horse experience. Under training since 2010. If interested contact Jenny or Allen Walton of Ruffin, [336-939-2064](tel:336-939-2064). Asking Price: \$1000.00

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13. Take A Load Off –

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

Shakey went to a psychiatrist. "Doc," he said, "I've got trouble. Every time I get into bed, I think there's somebody under it. I get under the bed, I think there's somebody on top of it. Top, under, top, under. You gotta help me, I'm going crazy!"

"Let me take care of it," said the shrink. "Come to me three times a week, and I'll cure your fears."

"How much do you charge?"

"A hundred dollars per visit."

"I'll sleep on it," said Shakey.

Six months later the doctor met Shakey on the street. "Why didn't you ever come to see me again?" asked the psychiatrist.

"For a hundred bucks a visit? A bartender cured me for ten dollars."

"Is that so! How?"

"He told me to cut the legs off the bed!"

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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!**

Have a Great SAFE Weekend!

Thank You!

Ben

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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.

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