Hey Horse E-mailers,

Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the week of **July 13, 2014**, 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 & IDEAS!*

**Included in The Pile this Week:**

1. Guilford County Livestock Show **August 9**

2. Face Flies and Horses

3. Horses & Health Care - Allergies

4. You Asked

5. Reducing Weaning Stress in Foals

6. Horse Health, Diseases & Vaccinations
1. Guilford County Livestock Show
August 9

YOU ARE INVITED TO COME & WATCH!

In just a few weeks on August 9th, the 2nd Annual Guilford County Livestock Show will be taking place at the Guilford County Agricultural Center Livestock Arena (located at 3309 Burlington Road) in Greensboro.

At this Show on August 9 – Steers, Heifers, Sheep & Goats will be shown.

We hope to see you this year at the Annual Guilford County Livestock Show on August 9th.

2. Face Flies and Horses

Steve Lemons, NC Cooperative Extension Livestock Agent

Multiple fly species may be present in and around equine facilities. Some of the more common pests include house flies, stable flies, horse flies, deer flies, face flies, and horn flies. Problems that may occur with our horses vary from minor itching, skin reactions, possible hair loss, extreme annoyance, and even blood loss and fatigue in excessive fly population situations. In our area the face flies have been noticeably more numerous and annoying than in recent years.

The face fly is a non-biting fly that feeds on animal secretions which quickly draws the pest to the horse’s face to feed on tears around the eyes and mucous around the nose and muzzle. Their activity around the animals’ eyes allows face flies to serve as vectors of eye disorders such as pinkeye which may cause permanent damage and vision loss if unnoticed and left untreated. Extreme annoyance and agitation may also be noticed in animals that have numerous face flies present. They are also “facultative blood feeders,” which means that they do not bite and cause bleeding but may gather around wounds caused by mechanical damage or biting fly activity to feed on blood and other wound secretions.
Insecticidal control options for face flies include sprays and wipes. These usually provide rapid relief with varying lengths of control time. Masks have proven to be an effective barrier from face fly attacks for horses but should be monitored closely for fit and routine maintenance and allow for a breakaway feature such as velcro in case the horse decides to scratch and gets it caught on something.

An inclusive article on equine fly control that covers multiple fly species and management options can be found at the following link:

**Pest Management Recommendations for Horses**

http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/FreePubs/PDFs/XF0276.pdf

3. Horses & Health Care - Allergies

Adapted from Allergies in the Horse by Petra Bizikova, DVM, Ph.D., dipACVD, dipECVD, a dermatology specialist with NC State’s Veterinary Health Complex at the College of Veterinary Medicine, discusses allergies in the horse.

Not only can people suffer from allergies, but horses can too. Some of the clinical signs that may show up in allergy-prone horses are skin problems like hives and itchiness. These can actually lead to secondary skin infections. Other symptoms include watery eyes, cough, and nasal discharge. These symptoms may all occur together or just one individual symptom may present itself. Often horses that have allergies might need medications or have a lower quality of life overall due to dealing with these symptoms. (Food allergens may also pose a problem in horses with specific symptoms.)

Diagnosing horses with allergies is not an easy process. Notes will need to be taken in reference to the horse’s environment, patient history, and eating habits in addition to an exam by your veterinarian. It is obviously best to eliminate the allergen from your horse’s environment (if possible) but other treatments are available such as allergy shots.

There are two different ways to test for allergies in your horse. A blood test or a skin test. The skin test searches for specific allergen antibodies in the skin. The blood test searches for specific allergen elements in the blood. A lot of veterinarians like using the skin test.

If you notice your horse has any of the above symptoms in addition to rubbing at their skin, biting at their skin, or wheezing, you should contact your veterinarian for further investigation. If you would like more general information on horses with allergies, symptoms, or treatment, let me know!

4. You Asked: Occasionally there are tadpoles in the horses water tubs. Is this harmful?

OK, you would think such a simple and common question would have a very short and easily found answer?? NOT - First I have never heard of tadpoles in water troughs or in anywhere else, causing problems with horses or Livestock in NC. Most of us have probably seen this most of our lives..... So my first inclination would be to say that this is not a problem, BUT that is not a very detailed or Researched Based Response. (Researched Based Responses is the backbone of NC Cooperative Extension)
After calling all over, I got up with Jeff Hall, a Wildlife Biologist with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission and was told that “many frogs & toads could lay their eggs in water troughs but only a few frogs/toads in NC could have slight toxicities as adults but this is not seen in tadpoles forms or salamander larvae. Tadpoles or salamanders should not be a problem in North Carolina if in watering troughs or if drunk by horses or livestock.

Jeff’s only slight concern or elevated risk for concern was if watering tanks were not cleaned out regularly, then Newts could possibly set up a home. Cleaned out waterers is not good habitat to support Newts. He also said that they are not very palatable if eaten.

Frogs & Toads of North Carolina

FROGS AND TOADS
http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/wild/pdf/wildlife/FROGS_N_TOADS.PDF

Reptiles and Amphibians in your backyard

Salamanders of North Carolina

Eastern Newt

Checklist of Amphibian Species and Identification Guide

How was that attempt?

5. Reducing Weaning Stress in Foals

Kevin H. Kline, Extension Horse Specialist, University of Illinois

There is no single weaning method that will completely eliminate stress during the weaning process; however careful evaluation of management conditions can lead to the selection of a weaning method that minimizes stress to the greatest extent possible.

Weaning time can be stressful for both the horses and humans involved in the process. Weaning stress for the foal can result in reduced resistance to disease, loss of body condition or injury due to panic behavior. The mare may also become agitated and be more prone to injury, and may experience discomfort due to a distended udder for a few days. The human horse owner may also experience a certain amount of stress due to empathy for the dam and foal. For the latter problem, consult a psychiatrist or try some other form of therapy, possibly at the local pub. For the former horse-related stress problems, several proven weaning management practices will be discussed for your consideration.
Prepare for Weaning

Weaning can be successfully done at any time after the foal has received the first milk, or colostrum, just after birth. However, under most practical management conditions, foals are weaned at between four and six months of age. Before the weaning process is begun, however, the foal must be properly prepared nutritionally, be in good health and exhibit robust body condition. If any of these requirements is lacking, weaning should be postponed until these concerns have been addressed.

Foals should be well accustomed to the feed that will sustain them once the dam’s milk is no longer available. Creep feeders which provide foals with access to solid feed (while denying entry to the mares) should be routinely filled by three to four weeks of age. Foal creep feed should generally be provided in the form of a nutritionally balanced grain, hay and supplement completely pelleted or textured feed, and can be provided free-choice in this form. However, if creep feed without significant fiber from a forage source is used, access to the creep feed should be limited to just a few hours per day. Complete feeds can greatly reduce the labor of creep feeding foals, but diets should still be examined daily for signs of spoilage. Creep feeders should be designed with a roof to keep feed as dry as possible. A complete foal creep feed should provide about 14 percent crude protein, 0.7 percent calcium, 0.4 percent phosphorus, and include about 0.5 percent trace mineralized salt. Improperly balanced creep diets can lead to skeletal growth abnormalities.

Controlling parasites and diseases prior to weaning is critical. Foals which are sick or heavily parasitized before weaning will likely only become more ill once the added stress of weaning is imposed. In order to control damaging internal parasites such as ascarids and large strongyles (bloodworms), worming should begin at four to six weeks of age. In intensive management situations such as continuous grazing of many mares and foals, worming should be done about every two months. In addition, a continuous wormer such as Strongid C can be provided in the creep feed.

The mare’s first milk (colostrum) will help to protect the foal for several weeks from diseases which the mare herself has been exposed to or which she has been vaccinated against. By about two to three months of age, though, the foal should begin a vaccination program which includes vaccines against:

- Tetanus
- Influenza
- Rhinopneumonitis
- Sleeping sickness.

Other vaccines such as strangles or Potomac horse fever may be recommended by your veterinarian depending on local conditions. The foal should neither be weaned nor vaccinated when signs of active disease are present; since both of these procedures will tax the foal’s already challenged immune system. Likewise, it is generally a good idea not to vaccinate a foal during the early stages of weaning stress, in order to allow its immune system to rebound before the added challenge from the vaccine.

Deciding When to Wean

As mentioned earlier, weaning normally occurs between four to six months of age. The exact timing of weaning will depend upon the physical maturity of the foal during the time weaning is considered, as well as its general health and condition. In addition, factors such as adverse environmental conditions and the temperament of the mare should be considered. If extended bad weather is forecast, it may be wise to postpone weaning to avoid added environmental stress. If the foal to be weaned has a dam with a difficult disposition, especially one with serious vices, weaning should be accomplished sooner rather than later in order to avoid development of learned vices in the foal. Foals weaned later than six months may begin to develop some undesirable behavior regardless of the disposition of the dam, and the nutritional support from the dam is insignificant by the foal’s sixth month. Therefore, weaning should not be postponed beyond the foal’s sixth month of age.

Weaning Methods

The exact method used to wean foals, once the decision to wean has been made, will be dictated to a certain extent by
available facilities, number of mare/foal pairs available, and the age distribution of foals to be weaned. Still, the horse owner has a few options available.

Weaning methods can be divided into the two basic categories of abrupt versus gradual weaning. If a horse owner has only one foal which needs to be weaned at a particular point in time, the abrupt weaning scenario, whereby a foal is completely and suddenly removed by sight, sound and smell from its dam, may prove to be excessively stressful for all parties involved. Research suggests that gradual weaning of single foals, in which the mare and foal are placed in adjacent but separate quarters which preclude suckling, generally causes less stress to the mare and foal than abrupt separation. The initial, adjacent separation usually lasts for a few days or weeks, until complete separation is achieved. Of course, if the mare or foal exhibits dangerous behavior such as attempting to scale or jump over partitions during the adjacent separation period, an abrupt method may be chosen by default.

The stress of abrupt separation weaning methods can be greatly reduced by certain management techniques. If one is weaning more than one foal simultaneously, weaning on the “buddy system” can be helpful. Separating pairs of weanlings from their dams simultaneously and together might reduce stress in the foals, although research has found that this method can actually increase stress above the abrupt single weaning method if the foals were not thoroughly familiar with one another and “buddied up” prior to weaning.

Perhaps the best system of abrupt separation of mare and foal involves “pasture weaning” whereby the mares in a stable social unit of mares and foals on pasture are removed one by one over time. The foals are allowed to remain in familiar surroundings with both similar-aged “buddies” and familiar mares. Strategies to be employed with this method should include removal of the more aggressive mares first whenever possible, and leaving a docile, tolerant “baby sitter” mare to be removed last of all. Removal of mares from the pasture simply based upon the age of her foal, disregarding temperament, can lead to unpleasant and dangerous encounters when a weaned foal approaches an aggressive or overly protective mare and her foal. This method is also less apt to succeed if the mares and foals have not resided in the same pasture for most of the spring and summer. If most of the mares are long-term pasture residents, and only a few mares are newcomers, the newcomers should generally be removed first, although temperament and level of social acceptance by the herd are overriding considerations.

General Considerations

Regardless of the specific method of weaning used, facilities must be designed to safely restrain mares and foals which will inevitably show some level of agitation. Partitions, walls, fences, feeders and other objects in the immediate vicinity of the mare and foal must be strong, smooth and readily visible to the horses. Placing a flimsy wire fence between mare and foal, for instance, will likely result in injury due to lack of visibility and/or lack of respect for the potentially debilitating structure. Likewise, even a slightly protruding nail or sharp edge on an otherwise sturdy and well-designed wall or fence row can cause damage to the mare or foal as they fret and worry along its length.

Another suggestion for easing weaning stress is to wean the foal in a familiar environment. Completely removing the mare and foal from familiar surroundings during the weaning process only compounds the stress. For horse owners that may have only one foal to wean, and would still like to try the “buddy system”, introducing the suckling foal to a goat or sheep companion that stays with the foal during the weaning may also ease the foals transition to independence. Mares also generally appreciate the companionship of other compatible mares after weaning and temporarily reducing the mare’s grain intake after weaning may help to reduce painful udder distension.

Conclusion

No single method of weaning foals is superior to all others under all circumstances, and no method has been found which completely eliminates weaning stress. However, careful evaluation of management conditions on given farms can lead to the selection of a weaning method that minimizes stress to the greatest extent possible.


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7. Local and Niche Meats Educational Opportunity in Canton, July 23

REGISTER NOW!

$20 per person includes access to entire program and catered lunch. Registration is available online, pay by credit card, by clicking here. Processing fees apply (less than $5). Online registration closes Friday, July 18th at 5pm. NC Cooperative Extension personnel should register by contacting casey@ncchoices.com directly by email.

NC Choices and WNC Agriventures present a one-day workshop for aspiring and practicing local and meat producers. Join us Wednesday July 23rd at the WNC Regional Livestock Center in Canton, NC for a day of presentations and butchery demonstrations as well as networking for local and niche meat producers, processors and food-service buyers.

Topics include
Opportunities and Challenges of Local and Niche Meats with NC Choices
Half Beef and Half Pork Butchery Demonstration- Primal, Subprimal and Retail Cut Identification with Glenn Carrozza Whole Foods Market, New York
Regulatory Compliance for Meat Handlers with NCDA&CS Meat and Poultry Inspection Division
Marketing: An Overview of Options for Meat Producers
Intro to Pasture-based Production Systems for Beef, Pork and Poultry
Assessing Risk in Farm and Food Businesses with Thomas Beckett, Attorney at Law

Wednesday, July 23rd, 10am-5pm
WNC Regional Livestock Center
474 Stock Drive, Canton, NC 28712 Exit 33, off I-40
For questions please contact casey@ncchoices.com

8. Piedmont Horseman's Association NIGHT Show on Saturday - August 9 at Hardins Farm in Stokesdale!

On August 9th we will have next PHA show at Hardins Farm in Stokesdale. The show will start at 4pm with halter. The show is open to everyone. We have something for everyone; adults, youth, novice. This year PHA is offering field hunter, stock type hunter, working western and western pleasure. High point and reserve high point awards will be awarded!

You do not have to be a member to show, but there are many benefits of being a member of PHA; reduced entry fee at sanctioned shows, accumulate points for year-end awards, and much more.

We hope you will become part of the PHA family!!
You can find all the details about all the shows as well as membership forms on the website: http://www.phasince1971.com/index.htm
Also find us on Facebook.

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9. 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 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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10. Swap Shop

- Fiore Farms - Weddings/Special Events @ Fiore Farms Equestrian Facility & Vineyard- Contact Sue McCain @ BellaWeddingandEvents.com
  Equine Training Sessions-drop in or drop off
  Haul in-Trail Riding @ Fiore Farms
  Equine Yoga, Equine Vaulting

Red Dog Farm Bullesye looking for his forever home. 4yr. old gelding paint pony. visit http://www.reddogfarm.com/Adopt/AdoptableHorses.aspx for more info. Few spots available for boarding @ Fiore Farms.

Happy horses. Happy people.

www.BellEquine.org or www.FioreFarms.com

- For Sale – Winters & Company Upright Piano – Excellent Condition - $465 OBO – Call 336-623-1783

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11. Take A Load Off

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

You know you grew up on a Farm when:

(Source:FASTLINE.COM)

1. You give directions not by streets, but by fields and land marks.

2. You were driving Tractors before your feet could hit the pedals.

3. Your homepage on your computer is the weather channel and everyone knows to be quiet when the weather comes on the evening news.

4. Forget ladders, you’ve got loaders and tractors to clean those gutters, trim trees and hang decorations.

5. You plan events around planting and harvesting. A wedding during plant – fuhget about it!

6. Automatic transmission, no thanks! You were driving stick by the 3rd grade!
7. You can fix anything with some elbow grease and bailing wire.

8. A lot of your wardrobe came from your family’s seed or feed dealer.

9. You learned quickly where your loyalty would be – Green or Red?

10. You know where your food comes from, after all, you raised it and grew it!

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 their families) those who have come home with wounds and the families that paid the ultimate sacrifice.

HAVE A GREAT SAFE WEEKEND & WEEK!

There will not be a Weekly Pile Written Next Week!

Thanks

Ben

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