Hello There Everybody,

Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the week of May 3, 2015, 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. Its All About TICKS - May 27th 7pm

2. Horse Hobby or Equine Business?

Legal Concerns

3. Factors that Affect Hay Quality g

4. You Asked

5. What do you have to do or required to do on your own farm?

6. WEED MANAGEMENT

7. Abnormal Horse Behavior

8. SNAKE BITE FIRST AID

9. Victory Junction Good Will Project

10. Piedmont Horseman's Association

11. HAY

12. Swap Shop

13. Take A Load Off

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1. TICKS, TICKS TICKS

Its All About TICKS - May 27th 7pm

As an Extension Agent, we often make farm visits to assist with various issues on farms. Sometimes a farm visit can turn out to be a "tick fest"… on the animals as well as on me. At an Extension Program held in April, Dr Wes Watson, a Veterinarian & NCSU Extension Entomologist had come up to discuss external parasites of Livestock. During that program there was so much interest & discussion about Ticks (control of and problems caused by ticks) that Dr Watson offered to come back to give a program "All About Ticks". This program will take place on May 27th at the Rockingham County Agricultural Center beginning at 7pm. If you are planning to attend this program, please call 342-8230 by NOON May 26th to let us know that your planning to attend. (This program will be eligible Pesticide Credits – if more details are needed please call)

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2. Horse Hobby or Equine Business?

Legal Concerns

Written by and permission granted by R.L. Adams of Carolina Equine Law

Horse ownership and enjoying recreational equine activities and can be expensive. It is no surprise that horse owners often consider ways to recoup some of the money being spent on showing or putting a new roof on the barn. They may be tempted to try to earn money by teaching a few lessons a week, taking in a boarder or two, "flipping" a couple of investment horses, or maybe opening a small tack shop. Transitioning your hobby/recreational interest into a business - no matter how minimal the business activity or the income – can raise significant legal issues and may result in unexpected legal consequences. Consider the following before taking the plunge.

Liability Insurance. The most significant legal issue raised by transitioning your equine activity from a hobby to a business is liability insurance. Homeowner's insurance policies generally exclude from coverage all business or commercial activities. Further, popular equine liability policies offered by equine membership organizations may also exclude horses used for business or commercial activities. Any one intending to engage in business or commercial equine activities should make certain that their specific business activity will be covered by a liability policy. Read your current policy! You may be surprised how little it takes to be considered a "business activity." Generally, a business will need a General Commercial Liability (GCL) Policy (although it can be part of a Farm Policy). In my professional opinion, liability insurance should always be considered a necessary cost of doing business. Paying for the right kind of liability insurance may eat up a large part of what you would take in from teaching a lesson or two each week or taking in one boarder. Know what your insurance will cost before deciding to go the business route.

Land Use Restrictions and Regulations. Zoning and restrictive covenants that permit the keeping of horses on your property may prohibit conducting commercial or business activities. Zoning varies widely from county to county

and from town to town. Even if the zoning permits commercial activities, there may still be issues with any buildings or structures that will be used in the business. Facilities that were built to agricultural standards may not meet standards for commercial uses. Minimum building set backs from property lines for agricultural or residential buildings may be shorter than those for commercial or business buildings.

Restrictive covenants (legal restrictions placed on real property by a prior owner, usually a developer) can prohibit or limit almost any type of activity in almost any way, from prohibiting all commercial activity or business uses other than a home office not open to the public, to limiting the number of horses that may be kept on a property. If the property on which you want to operate an equine is subject to restrictive covenants, review them carefully. They are on record at your county's Register of Deeds office and may be available on line. Consult an attorney if you need assistance finding or interpreting them, or to confirm that none apply to your property.

Taxes. Generally, expenses qualify as a tax deduction only if the expenses are related to a business activity, not a hobby. Horse owners often view turning their hobby into a business to as a way to make all of their horse related expenses tax deductible. Deducting equine-related expenses up to the amount of the income related to those expenses is generally permitted. Additional tax issues arise if a tax payer deducts expenses greater that the income earned from the business activity, in effect "sheltering" other income. This can trigger the dreaded IRS "Hobby Loss Audit." How to avoid or prepare for one of those is well beyond the scope of this article. Consult a CPA or an attorney if you need guidance or assistance in that area.

Buying and selling horses as a business may subject to seller to both income tax (or capital gains tax) and an obligation to pay sales tax. Again, consult a CPA for tax advice specific to your situation.

Consistency. In legal matters (as in most of life) you can't have it both ways. If you claim a tax deduction for horse related expenses you are stating that you are operating a business. You cannot then expect your homeowners insurance or personal insurance to provide liability coverage. If you take the position that your horses are "investment horses" so you can deduct expenses related to their care, you can not then claim that they are just for your personal use, so as not to violate a restrictive covenant prohibiting the commercial activities or to avoid paying sales tax. Be consistent.

Since 1999, R.L. Adams of Carolina Equine Law has been the attorney of choice for hundreds of equine professionals, businesses, non-profit organizations, and individual horse owners, throughout North Carolina and from twenty other states. He is an experienced civil litigator whose law practice is based in Raleigh, NC. He has worked with horse owners to manage the risks of their equine operations and in litigating related disputes. For more information, visitcarolinaequinelaw.com. This article is a brief, general discussion of some aspects of equine law and is not intended as legal advice. It first appeared in Carolina Hoof Beats magazine. R.L. Adams, R.L. Adams, PLLC, 333 Fayetteville Street, Suite 1201, Raleigh, NC 27601 rl@rladams.com (919) 270 - 7672

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3. Factors that Affect Hay Quality

The stage of maturity at which forages are cut (whether it be 1st, 2nd, or 3rd) has a major influence on the quality of that forage. Forage crops generally decline in nutritive value as they mature. As forage plants mature, it is typical for an increase in Acid Detergent Fiber or ADF to occur.

Hay is the most common roughage fed to horses in confinement. The goal of a horse owner is to purchase and feed high quality hay. A good understanding of the factors that affect hay production will help you select high quality hay.

First Cutting: The first growth off of a field for the year is the "first cutting." Many people erroneously feel that first cutting hay is not to be considered as good feed. We tend to disagree, provided it is of good quality and was cut when relatively immature (pre-bloom stage), before the plant is allowed to mature to the point where the stem becomes larger and coarser. This is when the lignin (an indigestible part of the fiber component associated with cellulose and hemicellulose in the cell wall) content has become sufficiently high so as to make the hay more unpalatable and indigestible and the nutritive value has declined greatly. This can happen with 1st, 2nd, or any cutting of hay if left growing too long.

Second Cutting: Depending upon the temperatures of the days and nights, it typically takes 40-45 days for regrowth of alfalfa, mix hay, and orchardgrass , and 55- 60 days for regrowth of timothy. This is termed the "second cutting," which usually has a larger percentage of leaves to stems, has a finer and softer stem, has increased percentages of crude protein and crude fat, and has a lower crude fiber percentage (depending upon the stage of maturity at which it was cut) . More non-structural carbohydrates (starches and sugars) and protein are in the leaves than in the stems. These starches and sugars are very digestible and make the hay higher quality.

Third Cutting: If the growing season is long enough on any given year, it may be possible to secure a third cutting. In regions that lie south of our location, the growing season is longer and hotter, making alfalfa the prime hay crop, and often as many as four or five cuttings may be taken from a single field.

The third cutting is typically very soft hay that is primarily leaves with very few small stems. While beautiful to look at, it can be "rich" (high in nutrients, having a high Relative Feed Value or RFV, and low in fiber). It is our opinion that third cutting hay does not contain sufficient fiber content to be the only hay in the diet of most rabbits. It can, however, be used in conjunction with a higher fiber, good quality, relatively immature 1st or 2nd cutting hay, and creates greater variety and interest in the chewing experience. We suggest that you feed the different hays at different meals so as to eliminate waste.

Growing Conditions - Legumes are higher in protein, energy, calcium, and vitamin A than grass hay. Clovers are legumes and may not be as green in color as alfalfa. Red clover can cause horses to slobber excessively. A mixture of legume and grass plants is the best type of hay to use for some horses or geographical areas.

Plant Species - Rainfall at the proper time during the growing season will affect hay quality. Drought conditions result in stunted growth and fewer leaves. Excessive moisture often leads to diseases that decrease leaf production.

Stage of Growth - When plants mature and reach the reproductive stage of development, their protein content, digestibility, and palatability decline. The ratio of stem to leaf increases with maturity, so the plant has a higher fiber content. Maximum nutrient content can be obtained by harvesting legumes when a few flowers start to appear. Grasses are harvested when the seed heads begin to appear, and grain hays when the grain is in the soft-dough stage.

Weather Conditions - Rain and too much sunlight are the two influential factors that affect hay quality. Rain beats the leaves from legumes, leaches out soluble carbohydrates, and packs the hay so it doesn't dry properly. If hay is baled when it is too moist, it will become moldy and have a musty, moldy odor. Mold can be toxic to horses. Excessive sunlight will bleach the color of the leaves and causes a loss of vitamin A. If hay is cured too slowly, hay will ferment and lose its nutrient content.

Harvesting Conditions

Harvesting conditions can also affect hay quality. If hay is cut and placed in windrows, the stems should be cut to allow for proper drying. Excessive movement of hay after it is cut can shatter the leaves and mix dirt and debris into the hay.

Selecting Quality Hay for Horses

http://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/forages/publications/id-190.htm

Hays for Horses and Their Characteristics

http://www.extension.org/pages/10295/hays-for-horses-and-their-characteristics#.VUu5d45Viko

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4. You Asked: *Which cutting of hay tends to be the best cutting??*

This is probably the most variable responses that I hear when I hear folks talking, but as stated above the stage of maturity at which forages are cut (whether it be 1st, 2nd, or 3rd) has a major influence on the quality of that forage. Forage crops generally decline in nutritive value as they mature.

So, I think factors that play into the reasons folks say what they say that one cutting is better than the other:

1. WEEDS (lack of thus increases the quality). So that can be explained with which cutting one feels is better, that they may have more of either, winter weeds or summer weeds in their fields.

2. More leaves come off one cutting over the next cutting or is more stemmy. This goes to the stage of growth at which it was cut. Sometimes its harder to get it cut due to wet weather.

So, I would love to hear your reasons why one would say one is higher quality over the other, but I will stick to my guns, the stage of maturity at which forages are cut (whether it be 1st, 2nd, or 3rd) has a major influence on the quality of that forage. Forage crops decline in nutritive value as they mature.

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5. What do you have to do or needed (required) to do on your own farm?

Talking to a lot of horse & property owners many have said or don't know what the law says about how they manage their property. I think everyone wants to do the right thing, but they don't know what is required (or recommended management) and then what they might want to do above and beyond meeting the minimum requirements.

From my view, I think the number one mismanaged thing on a horse farm is the waste. The absolute thing is to prevent the nutrients from running off your farm into the creek/stream and into our waters of our state. If you wish to have trouble, it's just a phone call away. All someone needs to do is to call the division of water quality with a suspect pollution (waste in the water) problem and an investigation will take place. They will sample water before it comes on your farm, and then when it comes off your farm and draw the conclusions on nutrient runoff or contamination. This is the matter of the law.

So what is required is that you do not pollute the environment. What is recommended depends on the situation, Things like slope angle, distance to water bodies such as streams or pond, type of vegetation, grazing pressure (horses per pasture acre) all need to be considered.

As you have read over and over again in this newsletter, you are really a grass farmer. If you manage the grass on your farm, it will save you money, prevent soil erosion, prevent loss of nutrients into our water sources and improve the quality of forage that the horses are eating.

General recommendations for things You can do to keep

The Farm & Pastures Productive:

- Cover manure to prevent rain water from reaching the pile and washing away nutrients.

- Maintain pastures with a healthy stand of grass - don't overgraze, so don’t graze below 3 inches. If you have a pasture that is over-grazed, pull animals off and give it rest, this will give the grass a chance to store up nutrients and grow grass, so the pasture will rebound. Keeping horses on the same pasture over winter causes damage to plants. So, keep horses in a sacrifice lot where they have access to hay, water and shelter. In fact I suggest in a pasture rotational system, each rotation skip over a section allowing each section a period of rest.

- Never have bare soil exposed to be washed away. This also increases soil temperature and losses its ability to hold moisture.

- Take soil tests of your fields and pastures and spread manure to maximize nutrient uptake. Take the guess work out; see if your pastures need any nutrients. Contact the Extension office for a soil sample kit.

Fertilization - Apply waste and other nutrients (fertilizers) while the plants are actively growing and taking up nutrients, not after the growing season and then allowed to sit out and wash away over the year. Utilize waste, compost or a commercial fertilizer and drag manure piles in your pasture. If you test your soils first, you know what nutrients are needed or how much you need to apply. If you are going to fertilize your pastures with manure, sample the manure first so you know how much you should spread. Spread manure on your pastures if you have somewhere else to move the horses. Remember, spreading additional manure on your pasture can result in greater chances of parasite exposure.

Sometimes all that may be needed is nitrogen (top dressing) since manure provides quite a bit of phosphorus and potassium. Our soils tend to require lime to increase the PH check your soil test for lime requirements. Ph is the most crucial part of the fertility program. If the ph is out of whack, you could apply all the fertilizer you wanted and the nutrients may not be able to be taken up by the plant. So if its not being taken up by the plant……..it will runoff, and you are

wasting your money. Maintain proper ph levels.

- Seeding Pasture Grasses - August 15th through Mid-October are the best suggested cool season grass planting dates for your pastures (usually adequate moisture, less weed competition, and cool, desirable weather conditions). Common grass species used are Tall Fescue (need to consider type and Endophyte - or the unseen fungus that it may contain) or Orchardgrass. There are some alternatives and warm season grasses (April – June) If you missed this window of opportunity then you can start thinking and preparing for that next window.

Weed Management Control – ID YOUR WEED - To control perennial winter weeds with an herbicide, fall is the time. Perennial plants are storing nutrients for winter in their roots. As the nutrients go into the roots, so will the herbicide, giving the best change for a successful kill.

It is best to have mowed the perennials though out the summer so they are not so mature. Herbicides usually work best on re-growth or plants that are 4-8 in height.

Mowing 3 to 4 times though out the year will help keep all weeds in check, but never mow your pasture shorter than 4.

See Weed Management Article

Check All Fences & Water Sources

Make sure all fences are in good shape before the wind and snow flies. Pay special attention to temporary electric fence (ribbons, wires and string) and replace any broken posts before they are frozen into the ground then they cannot be fixed. Make sure water sources are clean & are in good order.

Take Horse Off Pastures During Early Frosts - Frosted grass can cause digestive up-sets to horses. In addition, hoof traffic after a frost can damage grasses. Make sure the sacrifice lot areas set up for the horses, to hold them until the grass thaws for the day.

Hay, Feed and Bedding Storage - Make sure your storage areas are free from leaks and rodents. Try and have supplies in storage before weather can make it difficult to deliver supplies.

Heavy overgrazing of pastures in the fall can negatively influence stored root food reserves and contribute to poor winter survival. Six weeks are needed for forages to regrow and store the necessary food reserves for winter survival prior to a hard freeze that kills the shoots and stops food root reserve accumulation.

So good pasture management has a year round impact on the success of your pastures next year.

If you want to talk more - or would like me to come and visit your farm to talk about specific issues get in touch with me directly and I would be happy to work with you to develop a plan for your farm.

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6. WEED MANAGEMENT

by: William M. Lewis and James T. Green, Jr.

Forage crops, like all other crops, must compete with weeds. Weed control is essential to successful production. The aspects of forage quality (and, therefore, any weeds in forage) that affect animal performance are (1) digestibility and nutritive content, (2) consumption (amount and rate), and (3) toxic factors. Although some research indicates that many weeds are highly nutritious and digestible (50 to 75%), animals may not eat them voluntarily. However, strict rotational grazing with high stock density increases consumption of many weeds. Weeds may adversely affect forage quality because certain ones are toxic or poisonous to livestock; others are unpalatable and limit consumption; some cause an undesirable flavor in milk and meat, and others cause irritations that may contribute to pinkeye.

Certain weedy plants have sharp thorns, awns, or spines that cause internal injury or prick the mouth and eyes of grazing livestock, causing infections or irritations. Plants that cause these problems include horsenettle, mullen, multiflora rose, sandbur, spanish needles, spiny amaranth, and thistles. Intestinal obstructions may occur if animals eat plant parts such as the mature seed heads of crimson clover.

Plants that produce a disagreeable taste or odor in the milk and meat of grazing animals include bitter sneezeweed, buttercup, chicory, dock, dogfennel, horsetails, mustards, ox-eye daisy, ragweeds, sorrel, spurges, St. John's wort, wild garlic, and yarrow. Toxic weeds are described in "Plants Poisonous to Livestock and Pets in North Carolina."

Weeds' requirements for growth are somewhat similar to those of many forage crops. Depending on weather and soil conditions about one pound less forage is produced for each pound of weed growth.

Competition for soil moisture is often severe when shallow rooted forage plants are competing with weeds. Many summer annually weeds also have high water requirements and extensive root systems for extracting soil moisture. Others use water remarkably efficiently. Clovers, bluegrass, and lespedeza cannot effectively compete with most weeds if there is not enough moisture in the soil. Legumes use nearly three times as much water as efficient plants. For example, ragweed uses three times as much water as corn per pound of dry matter produced.

Weeds' nutrients requirements for growth are also somewhat like those of many forage plants. They are strong competitors on infertile and acid soils and seem to be able to grow and reproduce much easier than forages on such soils. Lime and phosphate fertilizer doubled the ground coverage of desirable forage and reduced weed coverage by nearly 20% in mountain pasture tests. Weeds are heavy users of phosphate and potash compared to grass and red clover. For examples, weeds contain more than twice the potash and 30% more phosphate than clover. Since grasses also take up lots of potash, legumes growing in mixtures are at a tremendous disadvantage when grown on soils low in potash.

Many weeds are highly digestible and contain high protein and energy values. A few examples are curly dock, crabgrass, lambsquarters, redroot pigweed, and tall morningglory. If animals will eat the weeds, control is not as critical as it is for weeds that animals will not eat.

Methods Of Weed Control

Mowing may control tall-growing annual broadleaf weeds and reduce seed production if completed just after the first flower appears. However, mowing will not control weeds that form rosettes or mats that grow

close to the ground. In fact, mowing may help those weeds by reducing the competition form the desired forage plants. In most instances, weeds have done their damage (in terms of yield reduction) by the time they can be controlled with a mower. Mowing of perennial, hard-to-kill broadleaf weeds shortens them but rarely gives satisfactory control. Mowing to control crabgrass, foxtail, and similar annual grass weeds is essentially hopeless.

Cultural Grazing. Management practices that produce a vigorous, dense stand of forage combined with judicious grazing management are excellent for reducing pasture weeds. Methods of successfully competing with pasture weeds include (1) following soil tests' guides for lime and fertilizer, (2) planting weed-free seeds of persistent varieties adapted to specific management systems and soil environments, (3) rotating crops when feasible to interrupt the life cycle of certain weeds and (4) using frequent rotations of high stock density to force grazing animals to eat or trample weeds. Mixing goats with cattle in the appropriate proportion has been effective in controlling certain weeds, such as blackberry, privet, honeysuckle, kudzu, multiflora rose, and a multitude of woody seedlings and saplings.

Herbicides. Chemical control of pasture weeds is effective and often economical. However, herbicides are only one aspect of a weed management program and should be used in combination with fertilization, liming, and grazing and harvesting management.

Weed Management With Herbicides

The success of using herbicides to control weeds in pasture and hay crops depends on plant growth factors, environmental conditions, and herbicide selection. All these factors can interact to affect the performance of foliar-applied herbicides.

Plant Growth Factors. Annual pasture weeds are easiest to kill when they are young and actively growing (3 to 8 inches tall) or in the rosette stage. Biennial plants require two years to complete their life cycle, and they are usually most easily controlled in the rosette stage, before stem elongation and flowering. Bull, musk, and yellow thistles are biennial weeds. Perennial plants live for several years. They may reproduce by seed and/or rhizome, roots, bulbs, or tubers. Early spring growth depends largely on stored food reserves. Foliar-applied herbicides may be ineffective because the herbicide is not translocated into the roots and rhizomes in sufficient amounts to prevent regrowth. Once the plant has ceased to depend on stored food reserves and begins to transport food into storage organs, control can be achieved more readily since the herbicide is transported downward with the food.

Spraying at early growth gives best control of weeds and reduces the potential loss of forage. Herbicide rates may need to be increased when weeds approach the flowering stage. More difficult to control perennial weeds may require a second spraying when regrowth appears. Foliage sprays

for woody plant control should be applied after full leaf development in the spring.

Environmental Conditions. Favorable soil moisture and mild temperatures contribute to actively growing weeds. Desirable forages are usually more tolerant to herbicide application under these conditions. Herbicides are less effective when stressful conditions such as drought are present, because herbicide absorption and translocation are reduced in stressed plants.

Temperature may inhibit or enhance the effectiveness of foliar-applied herbicides. Within the range of 40 to 85°F, foliar penetration usually increases with temperature. However, volatility also increases. At temperatures above 85°F, Banvel and low volatile ester forms of 2, 4-D and Crossbow may be lost to volatility. Such losses reduce weed control and may damage nearby crops and plants.

Rainfall received shortly after spraying may adversely affect the performance of the foliar-applied herbicide because the rain washes the herbicide off before it is absorbed. A rain-free period of 4 to 6 hours after application of postemergence herbicides is best for performance.

Herbicide Selection. Herbicide selection begins with properly identifying the weeds to be controlled, because various weeds respond differently to different herbicides.

***Always consult the North Carolina Agricultural Chemicals Manual for chemicals that can be used in North Carolina as well as crop with specifies want to be controlled, Herbicides and Formulations, amounts of Formulations per acre, ponds active ingredient per acre and precaution and remarks (know the withdrawal times or waiting period required before treated forage can be used). Herbicide labels provide specifies information on rates, grass tolerance, grazing restrictions and other pertinent safety details.

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7. Abnormal Horse Behavior

Clint Depew, Extension Horse Specialist, Louisiana State University

Animal behavior experts often refer to vices (bad habits) as stereotypies because

they are often rooted in the behavioral nature of the animal. Understanding that vices are behaviorally based may assist in preventing and/or treating these problems. Common vices are described below.

Wood chewing - This occurs with both stabled and pastured horses and research suggests that this can be due to a lack of fiber in the diet, or due to boredom.

Cribbing - This term is sometimes confused with wood chewing; however, cribbing is more serious. It involves the grasping of a surface (often wood) with the teeth and swallowing air. It is unclear if there is a single cause or if there is an interaction of several variables that causes the behavior. This behavior can cause horses to lose weight, wear down their top incisors, and be more prone to colic.

Stall kicking - This behavior involves a horse habitually kicking or pawing the walls and/or floor of its stall. This behavior often intensifies near feeding time.

Weaving or circling - Weaving is the shifting of the horse's body from side to side. Circling and head bobbing are self-descriptive. All of these and other habitual movements may simply be annoying or may become so persistent that they actually result in a tired and listless animal.

Wood chewing

Cribbing can be destructive to the horse as well as facilities.

Correcting behavioral vices can be difficult. Punishment is almost never effective and may actually worsen the condition. Try to determine the basis for the problem. For example, if the horse is chewing the planks on the stall because of a lack of fiber in the diet, simply feed it more hay or a lower-quality hay with more fiber. If the horse is chewing because of simple boredom, provide stimuli, such as stall balls or other safe toys to decrease the boredom and the wood chewing. It is also sometimes effective to put up a barrier such as metal flashing, over the favorite chewing place, or to use a deterrent such as hot pepper sauce on the wood. Sometimes a simple change can prevent wood chewing. Moving the horse to a different stall or allowing more pasture time could help.

Cribbing is even harder to correct, but it is more important to find the solution, because it is potentially more dangerous to the horse. Sometimes, a cribbing strap placed around the throat will make swallowing difficult enough that it curbs the habit. A grazing muzzle that allows grazing and drinking but prevents cribbing may also help.

Horses are social, or herd, animals. If part of their vice problem is boredom due to lack of companionship, providing a companion animal may help. A variety of companion animals, from chickens to goats, have been used successfully.

Sometimes horses that are developing a tendency toward weaving, circling, or other repetitive movement vices will stop the behavior if you simply introduce a companion animal in their stalls, enable them to get more exercise, or turn them out periodically into an open paddock or pasture.

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8. SNAKE BITE FIRST AID

Brady's Emergency Care for the Sick and Injured, the standard training and procedures manual for Emergency Medical Technicians

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, about 8,000 people a year receive venomous snake bites in the United States, and only 9 to 15 victims (.2%) die. In fact more people die from wasp and bee stings than from snake bites. Most of the fatalities received no medical treatment or first aid. The same simple care one takes around wasp nests and busy roads also suffices to keep the risk of snake bite to acceptable levels. Nonetheless venomous snakes must be considered dangerous and even non-fatal bites can cause severe pain and long-lasting tissue damage.

There have been many snake bite remedies offered over the years. Recent studies have concluded that the following protocols are best:

Stay calm, get safely away from the snake, and have someone call 9-1-1 (or the emergency number in your area). The less the victim moves the bitten site, the less likely the venom will be spread through the body and cause damage.

Have the victim lie down with the affected limb lower than the heart. Keep the limb immobilized. If practical, splint the limb.

Treat for shock and preserve body heat.

Remove any rings, bracelets, boots, or other restricting items from the bitten extremity. (It WILL swell.)

Apply a light constricting band about 2" above and below the bite, however never place the bands on either side of a joint (such as above and below the knee or elbow). This band should be made up of wide, soft material, which could be a handkerchief or shredded clothing. The band should only be as tight as the band the nurse applies when taking a blood test.

NOTE: The purpose of constricting bands is to restrict lymphatic flow, not blood, so they should not be too tight. Check pulses below the bands and readjust the bands as necessary when they tighten due to swelling.

Wash the bite with soap and water (if available).

If the victim has to walk out, sit calmly for 20-30 minutes to let the venom localize at the site, then proceed calmly to the nearest source of help and try to avoid unnecessary exertion which will stimulate circulation of the venom.

Get the victim to definitive medical care for antivenin, which will provide the greatest relief from the toxic effects of the bite.

ACTIONS TO AVOID:

DO NOT cut the bite. The additional tissue damage may actually increase the diffusion of the toxins throughout the body.

DO NOT apply a tourniquet. Such action can result in the loss of the limb.

NEVER try to suck out the venom by mouth. You can try the suction cup in a snakebite kit if it doesn't delay other needed treatment. Suctioning seldom provides any measurable advantages, however.

Do not apply cold and/or ice packs. Recent studies indicate that application of cold or ice makes the injury much worse.

The recommended treatments presented are those published in the current edition of Brady's Emergency Care for the Sick and Injured, the standard training and procedures manual for Emergency Medical Technicians.

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9. Victory Junction Good Will Project

There is project taking place at Victory Junction on May 13 at 8 AM where they will be installing about 250' of 3 rail brown Horserail. Lunch will be provided at noon. If any of you have any wood post, they could use some donations ($, Posts or Labor)

Here is the list of what is needed at this point:

- 7- 5-6" x 8' and 20- 4-5" x 6.5'.

Please let Chris Chapman know if you can provide any assistance with this. All the wire has been purchased. If any of you would be willing to come on Tuesday night, please let Chris know ASAP and arrangements may be made for you to stay at the camp. Address and directions are on the website below. Thanks for any assistance and Chris hopes to see you there.

Victory Junction - http://www.victoryjunction.org/

CONTACT: Chris Chapman, Chapman Fence Co., Inc.

Certified Fence Professional, Certified Automatic Gate Operator Installer

706.367.9511 706.367.9606 Fax chrisc@chapmanfence.com

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10. Piedmont Horseman's Association

Our first horse show this season will be on May 9th at Circle K Ranch in Graham - find more info on website or facebook. High points will be awarded at this show! 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 44 years and still going strong! PHA is offering field hunter, stock type hunter, western pleasure and working western classes. The shows are also PAC (Paint Alternative Competition) and NCAQHA Open Show Program approved.

Piedmont Horseman's Association 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, and much more!
We hope you will become part of the PHA family!!

We have 9 shows scheduled for this year so be sure to check our calendar. You can find all the details on the web site:http://www.phasince1971.com/index.htm

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11. HAY

With the warm weather please make sure you manage your grass, let grass grow to proper grazing height before grazing and once you do graze it, pull horses off when grazed down at proper height.

LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE HAY FOR SALE!

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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12. Swap Shop

- For Sale – Winter Company Up-Right Piano - $475 OBO 336-623-1783– Excellent Condition!

- Looking for someone with hay baling equipment interested in share-cropping established orchard grass/fescue mix hay field near Flintrock Farm (off Hwy 158). Yield varies from 350 - 500 square bales. I fertilize, lime and spray - you cut and bale. Ready to cut now. Call 336-342-6062.

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13. Take A Load Off

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

Thanks For This Send In

This Iz A Stikkup

A man, wanting to rob a downtown Bank of America, walked into the Branch and wrote "This iz a stikkup. Put all your muny in this bag."

While standing in line, waiting to give his note to the teller, he began to worry that someone had seen him write the note and might call the police before he reached the teller's window.

So he left the Bank of America and crossed the street to the Wells Fargo Bank. After waiting a few minutes in line, he handed his note to the Wells Fargo teller.

She read it and, surmising from his spelling errors that he wasn't the brightest light in the harbor, told him that she could not accept his stickup note because it was written on a Bank of America deposit slip and that he would either have to fill out a Wells Fargo deposit slip or go back to Bank of America.

Looking somewhat defeated, the man said, "OK" and left. He was arrested a few minutes later, as he was waiting in line back at Bank of America.

I always need more help with the jokes!

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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!

PLEASE SEND TO ME 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.

HAVE A SUPER

WEEKEND!

Thanks

Ben

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Ben Chase

Rockingham and Guilford County Extension Agent
Agriculture & Livestock
North Carolina State University
North Carolina Cooperative Extension,
525 NC 65, Suite 200, Reidsville, NC 27320
(336) 342-8235 800-666-3625 Fax: 336-342-8242
Email : ben_chase@ncsu.edu
http://rockingham.ces.ncsu.edu/index.php?page=animalagriculture