Hello All,

Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the week of September 13, 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. Blister Beetles
2. Thinking Like A Grass Farmer: Carbohydrate Storage in Grass
3. Laminitis & Colic: The Role of Nutrition
4. You Asked
5. Easy Keepers: Managing Horses Prone to Obesity
6. Do Not Dispose of Fall Leaves In Horse Pastures
7. Weather Conditions Make for Hay Shortage
9. Piedmont Pot Of Gold Classic Show
1. Blister Beetles

You may have heard about some hay that has been brought into North Carolina that killed horses due to the hay containing Blister Beetles. Blister beetles are found in hay produced in the western and south western state (west of Mississippi). So if you ship or purchased hay from this part of the country (or if you are not sure of origin)——Inspect your hay for Blister Beetles!

Blister Beetles do not attack horses, but they are toxic to horses and can contaminate alfalfa hay. Management of these insects is different from other horse pests in that it requires modification of alfalfa production practices.

Blister beetles belong to a family of beetles called Meloidae. Not all blister beetles are dangerous to horses but the main species to watch out for are black blister beetles and three-stripped blister beetles. These species like to eat the flowers on alfalfa plants. These beetles contain a chemical in their hemolymph called cantharidin, which is an odorless blistering agent that will cause temporary blisters when it comes into contact with human skin; hence, the name for these beetles. The beetles release the substance (i.e.
the cantharidin) when they are pressed or rubbed, as a defense mechanism, but careful, light handling of them rarely leads to blistering unless the cantharidin comes into contact with more sensitive areas on the body, where the skin is thinner, such as the areas between one’s fingers. If a bird, for example, tries to eat a blister beetle, the beetle will do something called “reflex bleeding.” The beetle will exude the cantharidin from its joints, and the bird will feel the stinging poison and leave the beetle alone.

Of course, Livestock & Horses eat a lot of insects accidentally and are sensitive when exposed to this toxin while consuming hay. Horses are especially sensitive to the toxin, while sheep and cattle are more tolerant. Depending on the specific beetle, it could be from a few beetles consumed to a large number of beetles for the amount of the toxin ingested by any livestock to kill the animal. Even if beetles are crushed by a hay conditioner during baling or killed with an insecticide, the toxin is still present and can cause severe digestive and urinary track ailments in domestic animals. Cantharadin can remain potent months after a beetle has died.

Symptoms of blister beetle poisoning look similar to many other health problems (horses may first seem colicky, may also have laminitis, loss of appetite, diarrhea and urinary tract infections) Call your Vet, and check hay for beetles.

The bottom line is not to feed any contaminated hay to horses or other livestock. Removal of the beetles will not make the hay safe.

Most poisonings in North Carolina result from importation of alfalfa hay from western states experiencing grasshopper population outbreaks

NCDA&CS stops sale of alfalfa hay potentially adulterated with blister beetles

Blister Beetles in Forage Crops
http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05524.html/
BLISTER BEETLES IN ALFALFA
http://www.uky.edu/Ag/PAT/recs/crop/pdf/entfa102.pdf

BLISTER BEETLE INTOXICATION
http://chemweb.calpoly.edu/cbailey/377/PapersSp2000/Meredith/

Blister Beetles
http://entomology.ifas.ufl.edu/creatures/urban/medical/blister_beetles.htm

The Striped Blister Beetle
http://entomology.ifas.ufl.edu/creatures/veg/potato/striped_blister_beetle.htm

2. Thinking Like A Grass Farmer:
Carbohydrate Storage in Grass

There are so many reasons why Grazing Management & Control Grazing is so important.

1. Controlled grazing will save you money.

2. Fresh Forage is higher in quality than if cut for hay.

3. By using controlled grazing, it will stretch out grass for future grazing.

4. You will feed less hay because you are grazing longer.
There are other reasons that could be listed but one I wanted to get you to think about is the grazing height that you need to stop grazing and pull animals off.

The lower section of the stem of grass plants is the carbohydrate storage site for fescue and orchardgrass. This is where the reserves (fuel) for re-growth for the plant are stored. Grass samples taken close to the soil surface confirms the carbohydrate levels are higher in that portion of the plant. Think about this a minute, often times there will be horses that founder during the spring growth period. The common perception is that this is because the high sugar content of the grass, when there is simply more available grass to be grazed & consumed. Ask yourself this question: What time of year are carbohydrate concentrations more likely to be higher (on average) in fescue and orchardgrass? If you said winter, you are right. As mentioned before, the carbohydrate storage site is in that lower section of the plant, so the concentration of carbohydrates is greater when grass is overwintering and those concentrated carbohydrates serve as the fuel for regrowth in spring. (Carbohydrates are also concentrated in the lower portion of grass when the tops have been grazed, overgrazed, or in the stubble after being cut for hay)

Some horses are very sensitive to high levels of carbohydrates and a lot of interest has been given to many of the conditions associated with them such as Equine Metabolic Syndrome (insulin Resistance or Peripheral Cushings), Equine Polysaccharide Storage Myopathy (EPSM), or laminitis. This is especially important to someone who is grazing these carb-sensitive animals and allowing animals to graze grass to the ground, whether in the winter or any other time. The concentration of sugars is actually higher in those closely grazed or overgrazed plants.

For the health of the grass, it is very important to protect the lower section of the plant to keep a vigorous stand and the fuel for regrowth. This will also have great positive effect on the root system of the plant so when the plant is stressed (example: drought) plants are persistent and will recover quicker. Grazing livestock should harvest only part of grass plant to maintain the health and vigor of the stand and to ensure sufficient photosynthetic tissue remains on plants for production of carbohydrates to meet the growth and respiration demands of the plant.

So how close should fescue and orchardgrass be grazed? These grasses that store carbohydrates in the lower stems should not be grazed or cut any closer than four inches in order to make sure there are enough carbohydrates to fuel a quick recovery and regrowth. Closer grazing (to the ground) will result in slower regrowth of the desired grasses, a quicker infestation of unwanted weeds, and reseeding the grasses sooner than necessary.
3. Laminitis & Colic:
The Role of Nutrition

Laminitis is inflammation within the sensitive laminae of the feet. It can occur for many reasons, but as a nutritional problem it is commonly linked to grain-rich diets, ingestion of too much rich pasture, and obesity. Grain overload or a diet rich in high-carbohydrate feed (grain or lush pasture) initiates a series of metabolic and endocrine (hormone) disturbances in the body. A diet abundant in carbohydrates upsets normal intestinal bacteria, allowing more endotoxins from harmful bacteria to be absorbed into the bloodstream than can be neutralized by the liver.

The most common laminitis relates to nutrition and diet. Rapid intake of starches or fructans (a sugar) stored in pasture plants can cause laminitis.
Fructans are the primary reserve carbohydrate stored in cool season grasses like orchardgrass, bromegrass, and timothy. Sugar content is highest when grass is in the vegetative state (early spring and during re-growth); during periods of cool nights and warm sunny days (fall or early spring); after a hard freeze; and during drought conditions. Careful pasture management by horse owners with sensitive horses is essential.

Good pasture management entails:

- Providing a constant source of fresh water, (making sure its not to cold or too hot, this will definitely impact water intake)

- Not overgrazing

- Limiting grazing time, and/or

Using a grazing muzzle.

- Regularly check pastures for poisonous plants—when grass becomes scarce horses can begin to nibble on things that wouldn’t normally appeal to them. Keep an eye out for pokeweed, horse nettle, black nightshade and bracken ferns, all of which can cause physiological distress in livestock.

  Cherry and maple trees are also at their most toxic (and most palatable) when the leaves begin to change color.

Grazing should also be limited during times of environmental stress on plants such as drought. It is important not to over graze pastures as the lowest stems often contain the highest amount of sugar. Avoid grazing on pastures with lots of seed heads as they also contain high amounts of sugar. Introducing horses to lush spring pasture gradually will reduce the chance of laminitis.

Colic can be caused by digestive upsets. Some pasture forages, like legumes, can cause gas in the digestive system when quick diet changes are made. So make dietary changes slowly over time, including slow
induction to pastures.

A crucial factor in managing horses on pasture is to avoid sudden abrupt changes from a fed ration to pasture and from extremes of pasture quality or type. This is especially a problem when moving from a lower quality pasture to a high quality pasture. In these situations a horse may colic, founder or have other digestive tract problems.

A horse does not bloat from legumes or lush pastures like a cow. Many horses, when turned on lush pastures, tend to eat too fast. Others don’t. A good procedure has been to gradually increase the exposure to lush pasture over a period of days.

The protocol to follow would be:

1. Feed all the hay a horse will eat before grazing.
2. Graze on lush pasture 15 - 30 minutes morning and evening.
3. Increase grazing time to one hour morning and one hour evening the second day.
4. The third day increase grazing to two hours morning and two hours evening.
5. Day four, continue as day three and make a judgment call. A horse should reach fill time in two hours. If they continue to eat after two hours, then you may want to continue with two hours in the morning and two hours in the evening for several days.

4. **You Asked**: If someone was to come in contact with blister beetles, what is the appropriate first aid from the blister, and the minor pain (that last a for a few days).

   My understanding, from what I have read, is the keep the area clean with water or soapy water or a wipe once you know you've
been exposed, trying to get the blister causing agent off the skin to reduce the blisters formed. But once you are exposed, a blister will form. Thinner skin is more susceptible, thicker skin may not blister.

It's the hemolymph (insect blood) that causes the blistering, so smashing or squeezing the bugs is discouraged. They will do reflexive bleeding, in which case, just trying to avoid touching or handling them is best. They are attracted to lights, so if you are using headlamps or you are a little more susceptible to being exposed to the beetles.

Keeping the blister clean until it heals is really the only thing to be concerned about after the blister forms.

5. Easy Keepers: Managing Horses Prone to Obesity

“Easy Keepers” are horses that will maintain or even gain weight under conditions where other horses will lose weight. They are often considered a pleasure to own because they need less feed to maintain an appropriate body condition; however, these horses can easily become obese, which leads to other potentially life-threatening conditions. The challenge becomes meeting their nutritional needs in protein, vitamins, and minerals, without over-feeding calories.

Summary Tips on Managing the Easy Keeper

Start or increase the level of exercise. Begin slowly and work up to longer or more intensive activities.

- Get rid of high calorie concentrates. Easy keepers do not need the extra energy.
- Get rid of high fat supplements. Again, easy keepers do not need the extra calories.
- Feed grass forages and hay rather than legumes. This will decrease the caloric intake.
- Limit access to pasture to less than 4 hours a day. Use a grazing muzzle if a drylot is not available.

- Limit the amount of hay fed to 1-1.5% of the target body weight. Divide this amount into several feedings a day in order to extend the amount of time the horse spends eating.

- Make sure the horse has access to salt (straight salt or a trace-mineral salt) and clean water.

Causes of Obesity

Horses have always grazed forages like those in our pastures today, right? Wrong. Forages in our pastures today are much higher in calorie content than the types of grasses that horses evolved on. They grazed on moderate to poor quality forages, often covering several miles a day to find feed in sparsely vegetated areas. Modern management practices have placed horses in unnatural confinement situations that restrict grazing activity within the limits of pasture fences while providing easy to find, high quality forages. The ultimate confinement with limited access to forage is represented by horses that are stallkept with limited turnout. These horses do not have to travel at all to find forage, and thus are not expend any calories looking for food. Despite this, many people still believe that horses need concentrates as part of the diet. Combined with decreased exercise, this creates an equine lifestyle that results in weight gain and obesity. Interestingly, a recent survey done in Virginia found that many obese horses are getting very little or no concentrate and still battle weight issues, adding emphasis to the lack of exercise as a contributor to obesity.

The basic cause of obesity is consuming more calories than are expended, usually from a combination of too much or the wrong type of feed combined with a lack of exercise. Traditionally, working horses needed more calories than they could get from forage alone, and they were fed grain to make up the deficit. Today, most horses are no longer used for work; many are kept as pleasure and recreational trail horses. Their calorie expenditure is very low when compared with horses in the past.

Effects of Obesity

Sometimes owners think that “a little extra weight” on a horse isn’t a bad thing. What one person considers obese another might call a little plump. The difficulty lies in defining what “a little” means and whether or not that’s actually healthy for the animal. While some body fat is essential, excess reduces a horse’s capacity for exercise. The extra weight requires more exertion to move and added fat layers insulate the body, reducing the horse’s ability to dissipate heat which can lead to heat stress. The extra weight may also predispose an animal to
Another health concern for obese horses includes the formation of lipomas: fatty tumors that can form in the abdominal cavity of obese horses. These tumors are often suspended from the tissue (mesentery) that supports the intestines and hang in such a way as to increase the chances of strangulation colic. This is a surgical situation that happens when the stalk of the lipoma wraps around intestinal tissue and deprives the gut tissue of blood. Lipomas appear to be more prevalent in older horses (over 15 years of age).

Additionally, obese horses are more prone to laminitis and founder, most likely due to abnormal glucose metabolism. Overweight animals can become resistant to the actions of insulin, resulting in higher levels of insulin being secreted when the horse eats a meal. These high levels of insulin may lead to increased incidents of laminitis and founder. The added weight of the horse may also make the rotation of the coffin bone worse than what would result in a horse of an appropriate body weight.

Monitoring for Obesity

Weight gain usually occurs slowly, and without an appropriate monitoring system your horse may become obese before you realize there is a problem. While most people don’t have access to a livestock scale, there are other ways to assess your horse’s level of obesity. Weight tapes, available at most feed and tack stores, are useful for generating an approximate bodyweight and are very good at helping you monitor changes. Using the tape accurately and consistently will allow you to track increases or decreases in your horse’s weight and give you time to adjust feed intake and exercise accordingly.

The other method easily used is body condition scoring. The most commonly used system assesses fat deposition on six areas on the horse’s body: neck, withers, behind the shoulder, over the ribs, topline, and tailhead. Each area is ranked on a scale of 1-9, where a 1 is a thin, emaciated horse, and a 9 is an overweight, heavily obese horse. A score of 5 is considered moderate, and a range of 4 to 6 is acceptable for most horses. These scores are averaged to generate an overall body condition score. Again, this system can be used to subjectively evaluate a horse on a regular basis and can help track changes in body weight and condition over time. Taking pictures of your horse at the same time you score them can also be helpful in monitoring changes in weight and condition.

Reducing Obesity
Obese horses will only lose weight if their energy expenditure is greater than their intake. This can happen by increasing exercise and/or decreasing calorie intake. However, caution must be used. An unfit, obese horse can be easily and quickly overstressed by too much exercise and proper nutrition must be maintained to prevent nutritional deficiencies.

Sometimes turning out the confined horse will allow a greater level of exercise, but many horses will simply stand around waiting for something to eat. Forced exercise is often required. Lunging or encouraging the horse to run around a safely fenced paddock or round pen for 10-15 minutes several times a day will help them lose weight. Riding or driving will accomplish the task faster. If your schedule does not allow you time to do this, consider leasing your horse to someone who will have the time to exercise them. A slow increase the horse’s exercise level will avoid causing metabolic problems associated with exhaustion or heat stress. Begin by doing short sessions (20-30 minutes) of walking and trotting a few days a week. Exercising for longer periods of time at a walk or trot will burn more calories than cantering or galloping. Gradually increase the amount of time and the frequency of exercise until the horse is working out at least 3-4 hours each week. Although tempting, be sure not to increase their feed!

Restricting access to pasture will often help decrease the horse’s calorie intake. Limiting turnout time to a few hours (approximately 4 hours a day) will accomplish this, but turning them out “during the day” or “only at night” will not. Unless the amount of time on grass is severely limited horses will eat the same or more than horses left out 24 hours a day. If there is no drylot (area with no grass) to turn the horse out in, then a grazing muzzle should be used. Be sure to use one that allows the horse to drink but limits access to grass.

Pastures tend to be higher in energy than hay, and grasses tend to be lower in calories than legumes (such as alfalfa). Feed at least 1.5% of the horse’s target weight in good quality grass hay each day while limiting pasture access. This means if the horse should weigh 1000 lbs, at least 15 lbs of hay should be fed per day. The restricted amount of hay will usually be consumed in a few hours if fed all at once; therefore, dividing the hay into three or four feedings a day will reduce the amount of time the horse spends without feed. This will help maintain proper gut function, reduce the incidence of gastric ulcers, and keep them from getting bored and chewing down the barn.

Since concentrates are often unnecessary, consider eliminating, decreasing, or changing the horse’s grain. If the hay is poor quality and you’re concerned about overall nutrition, consider offering a ration balancer. Ration balancers are designed to be fed in small amounts and are low calorie, yet they contain the appropriate protein, vitamins, and minerals to balance a horse’s diet. High fiber feeds or feeds that are lower in calories (light feeds) can also be used. Some of
the “low carb” or “low NSC” high fat concentrates or supplements, as these add concentrated calories to the diet.

Salt and water should be freely available for horses at all times.

Maintaining the Easy Keeper

The diet utilized for losing weight will not be the same as the one used for maintaining weight. Once the horse has lost the appropriate amount of weight, slowly increase the amount of grass hay fed or increase access to pasture until the horse can maintain the target weight. Grazing muzzles or limited turnout may still be required, particularly during times when pasture forages are lush (spring and fall). Keep up the exercise and monitor the horse's weight regularly to maintain a trimmer, healthier animal.

6. Do Not Dispose of Fall Leaves In Horse Pastures

Dr. Ann Swinker, Extension Horse Specialist, Penn State Extension

Disposing of fall leaves properly or composting them in an area outside of pastures is an important aspect to horse management.

Horses like the taste and smell of recently fallen leaves; however, the leaves are dense and can compact in the horse’s digestive system, causing compaction colic.

- The horse’s GI tract is a delicate system; therefore, feeds should be selected not only for their ability to meet the animal’s nutrient requirements, but also for compatibility with the horse’s GI tract.

- Feeding dense leaves and grass clipping can result in “choke.” If feed becomes lodged in the esophagus, the end result is called “choke.” Choke in the horse occurs in the esophagus and, although it is painful and uncomfortable to the horse, it is not life-threatening as in humans where the airways are cut off.

- Feed in the esophagus can only move in one direction – toward the stomach. A choking
horse often presents itself with its head hung low with saliva and masticated feed coming out of the horse’s nostrils. Choking horse requires immediate veterinary attention and is usually treated with minimal complications.

Be Careful, Do Not Toss Yard Waste Over The Fence!

- The weather is cooling down, and it is the time of year when people prefer yard work to house or barn work. Horse owners may not be aware that various yard waste “trimmings” can be toxic to horses and other livestock.

- In urban areas, neighboring homeowners toss vegetative yard plants over the fence, not realizing these can be deadly when consumed by horses. It is always a good idea to establish a good acquaintance with your neighbors and educate them to the toxic affect yard waste may have on horses and other livestock.

- During this time of year, the greatest risk can come from those who need a place to discard their yard waste. As little as ½ lb. of yew shrub trimmings can be fatal when consumed by a horse. Death can occur within 24 hours, though occasionally death may be precluded by respiratory difficulty, shaking, or muscle weakness. Unfortunately, there is no known antidote for yew poisoning.

- Other ornamental plants common to our landscape are the Rhododendrons and Azaleas. All parts of these plants, but especially the foliage, contain poison, and only 2-3 leaves may produce a severe toxic reaction. Rhododendrons are more likely to retain green leaves year round than most other plants, and most toxicities occur in the early spring, when other green forage is unavailable.

- Prevention is critical to assure that your horse stays healthy. As fall arrives and plants become over grown or get frosted out, these plants have the potential to harm horses and other livestock.

7. Weather Conditions Make
for Hay Shortage

Adverse weather conditions this 2015 growing season have affected production of good quality hay.

Weather Conditions Have laid conditions for a Hay Shortage

Horse owners should consider going ahead and arranging purchasing quality hay to get through winter and into spring. Rain has been inconsistent in the area and so has our hay growth & harvest.

My guess at our hay loss is reduced hay yields by at least 30% (as high as 60%) in most of our area and across neighboring states.

Many farmers had trouble due to growing conditions and in many northern states due to the rainy conditions.

Hay availability will continue to be low in many areas. So I would strongly suggest getting on the stick to line hay supplies up for your horses now.

Cost

There has already been an increase in hay prices, in many areas of the country, since hay is in short supply it will be difficult to purchase. Farmers still have the expense of fertilizing the fields, treating weeds, and bear the fuel and machinery costs of making hay. When yields are low they may need to raise hay prices to offset those costs.

Tip

Be prepared for winter and purchase good quality hay when you can find it.

If you wait, you may not be able to find hay and what hay is found may be extremely expensive &/or low quality.

http://www.ncagr.gov/markets/livestock/horse/directory/

9. Piedmont Pot Of Gold Classic Show
9/19 Piedmont Saddle Club

Piedmont Pot Of Gold Classic Horse Show this Saturday, September 19 at Piedmont Saddle Club.

This show is a collaboration between PHA and NC Palomino Exhibitors Association!

On September 19, you will have the opportunity to show in PHA open show classes and also show in registered palomino classes. Remember you must be a member of NC Palomino and have your horse registered palomino in order to show in those classes, but the others are open to anyone.

We will award high point and reserve high point awards in each division for the weekend. Nice ribbons, clocks and gift certificates will be awarded! The show will start at 9am with halter classes. The show is open to everyone. We have something for everyone; adults and youth. This year PHA is offering field hunter, stock type hunter, working western and western pleasure.

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 web site: http://www.phasince1971.com/index.htm

Also find us on Facebook.

10. DON'T FORGET - Soil Testing Charging A Fee During Peak Season

   NCDA&CS Agronomic Division
   - Peak-season Soil Testing Fee

   There is a $4 fee charged for all soil samples processed by the NCDA&CS Agronomic Division during its busiest season: December through March. (No fee April through November).

   So if you are planning to take soil test, go ahead and get them sent in to avoid the fee.

   GET YOUR SOIL SAMPLES TAKEN & SENT IN!

11. HAY

   PLEASE 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!

12. Swap Shop

13. Take A Load Off

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

ALL From Readers Digest

- My son and I were checking out a house he was interested in buying. When the owner came to the door, she looked at me and said, “Larry? I know you. We went to school together. I’m Elaine. Don’t you recognize me?”

I drew a complete blank.

She took out our old yearbook and showed me her graduation picture—still nothing. “Let’s look at your picture,” she said.

She flipped the pages until she came to me. Under my photo I had written, “Elaine, I will never forget you.”
- After an impromptu song, our pastor asked the church pianist, “What key did I sing that in?”

The pianist replied, “Most of them.”

- I admit that I live in the past, but only because housing is so much cheaper.

- A man is driving down the highway when he sees a shipping truck wrecked on the side of the road, and 25 penguins waddling around outside it. He pulls over and the truck driver tells him, “Quick! You’ve gotta take these birds to the zoo while I wait for AAA!” The man agrees and drives off with the penguins.

After fixing his vehicle, the truck driver heads over to the zoo to make sure the penguins made it safely. There’s no sign of them. The truck driver panics and starts scouring the town for his missing penguins. An hour later he passes by the local cinema, when who does he see leaving the theater but the guy who said he’d help him, 25 penguins still in tow.

“What happened!” the truck driver screams. “I told you to take them to the zoo!”

“I did,” the man answers. “But I had a little money left over, so I thought I’d take them to a movie too.”

- Did you hear that NASA has launched several cows into orbit?

It was the herd shot around the world.
What do you call a pig that does karate? A Pork Chop

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

HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND!

BEN