

Hey Everyone,

Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the week of August 13th, 2017, 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. Solar Eclipse – MONDAY – Safety Tips**
- 2. Easy Keepers: Managing Horses Prone to Obesity**
- 3. Bedding and Horse Behavior**
- 4. You Asked**
- 5. Showmanship Conditioning & Grooming**
- 6. TIPS FOR REDUCING ACCIDENTS TO HORSES**
- 7. Strongyles in Horses**
- 8. The Equine Business – Sites of Interest**
- 9. Piedmont Horseman's Association - Show Saturday, 8/26**
- 10. Fall Fun Show: September 16th**

11. First on Scene Trainings

What to do if you come to a medical or injury event on a Farm!

12. The Ag Tax Issues Short Course

Guilford County Nov 3

13. HAY DIRECTORY

14. Swap Shop

15. Take A Load Off

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1. Solar Eclipse – MONDAY – Safety Tips

On 8/21/2017, a total solar eclipse will cross the continental United States for the first time since 1918. This event that will happen during business hours for most employees. Please be sure to adhere to the following safety rules during the eclipse:

- ***Do not look directly at the sun. This can cause permanent eye damage.*** The eclipsing of the sun can only be viewed safely through the use of special purpose solar filters. Ordinary sunglasses are not sufficient to view the eclipsing of the sun. A link to the NASA website explaining more about this is below. The sun will not be totally eclipsed in our area, so **there will be no safe time in which to stare directly at the sun** during the event.
- ***Do not look at the eclipsing sun by using a camera, telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device.*** Also, please be advised that photographing the event through an unfiltered camera may damage the camera lens.

- *Do not stop along the interstate or, park on the shoulder during the event.*
- *Do not take photographs while driving.*
- *Do not wear solar filters or “eclipse glasses” while driving.*
- *Turn your headlights on during the event. Do not rely on automatic headlights.*
- *Watch out for pedestrians who may have exited their vehicles to watch the event.*
- *Prepare for extra congestion during the event.*

Please share this information with others. Visit the links below for additional information.

<https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/safety>

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/trafficinfo/eclipse.htm>

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2. 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.

Causes of Obesity

Horses evolved grazing 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 stall-kept with limited turnout. These horses do not have to travel at all to find forage, and thus do 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 musculoskeletal injuries or exacerbate arthritis, resulting in decreased performance.

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" 4 (non-structural carbohydrates) feeds are suitable as long as the fat level is below 6%. Avoid feeding 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.

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3. Bedding and Horse Behavior

Bedding material used in stables is an important factor affecting the welfare of horses. One of the factors used for investigating the level of welfare of animals is behavior observations. The aim of the study, conducted in Poland, was to assess and analysis and impact of straw, peat moss with shavings and crushed wood pellets beddings used in the stables on the behavior of horses.

The observed behavioral events and behavioral states showing the comfort of horses included occupation with bedding, resting in sternal and lateral position, and laying down into sternal and lateral positions. Undesirable behavioral events were also recorded and included the behavior of demonstrating a lack of occupation including lignophagia (chewing or eating wood), walking around the boxstall and biting the bars. Aggressive behaviors including threatening neighboring horses, biting the neighbor, and kicking the boxstall were also recorded.

Bedding the boxstalls with straw led to longer durations and higher frequencies of occupation with bedding and, in turn, shorter fractions of standing compared to the other beddings. The longest total time spent on laying down (recumbency) was observed when stalls were bedded with straw. Except for “neighbor threatening,” the undesired behaviors appeared the least frequently exhibited during usage of straw. In addition, the smallest percentage of horses manifested undesired behaviors when the straw bedding was used.

The research team concluded that straw bedding was ideal for fulfilling behavioral needs of horses housed in boxstalls. For more information on this research, go to Journal of Equine Science at:

[http://www.j-evs.com/article/S0737-0806\(16\)30026-0/abstract?elsca1=etoc&elsca2=email&elsca3=0737-0806_201607_42__&elsca4=Veterinary%20Science%2FMedicine](http://www.j-evs.com/article/S0737-0806(16)30026-0/abstract?elsca1=etoc&elsca2=email&elsca3=0737-0806_201607_42__&elsca4=Veterinary%20Science%2FMedicine)

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4. You Asked: Recently, there's been a lot of scary information about foxtail and the seed head damaging horses' mouths. What can you tell me about foxtail and precautions that need to be taken if any??

Foxtail

Foxtail is a very common weed and is often found in horse hay. There are a few types of weedy foxtails: giant foxtail, yellow foxtail, and green foxtail.

Horse owners should check your horses mouths and hay for the presence of foxtails. Mouth ulcers, or blisters, can be caused when horses ingest foxtail (*Setaria* species). Foxtail seedheads are green to light green in color, and resemble a bottle brush or a fox tail.

Foxtails are safe for horses to eat; however, they have low nutritional value and palatability and are not ideal forage for horse pastures. Foxtail does not produce a chemical toxin dangerous to horses, the concern is with consuming weedy foxtail is that mature seedheads produce long, pointed awns that have the potential to irritate horses' mouths and cause infection. Microscopic barbs on the seed heads of stems of foxtail can cause physical trauma to the mouth leading to mouth blisters, irritation to the gastrointestinal tract, and occasionally the horse's skin, ears. The leaves do not cause trauma and can be consumed, but are not recommended forage sources for horses.

If foxtail is in a hayfield, it is hard to bale hay without getting foxtail mixed in as well. If you have a load of hay delivered to your farm that contains foxtail, it doesn't mean the hay is bad, and your horse may never be bothered by it at all. However, many horses are irritated by the small spikes that come from the foxtail.

Inspection of hay and pastures for seedhead presence is a simple method for prevention. If you notice your horse not wanting to eat hay or grain, check their gums and between teeth for ulcers or irritation. Sometimes their mouths will even bleed from the irritation or you may see the small foxtail spikes lodged in the gums. If moderate

amounts of foxtail are found in hay, it is recommended not to feed. If ingested for long periods of time, weight loss may occur in addition to mouth ulcers.

Control of Foxtail can be difficult. If grazing fields with foxtail, try to graze before seed heads emerge, or mow the seedheads before grazing. Timely mowing of pastures will help minimize or reduce seed production but prevention of seedhead development is the best way to protect your horses and pastures. There is no herbicide available to remove foxtail or from hayfields or grass pastures; therefore, management to suppress seedhead presence is of great importance. Foxtails are annuals, so maintaining good ground cover in your pastures makes for shaded soil in the late spring and early summer and can greatly reduce foxtail seed germination.

If you suspect your horse is having complications from ingesting foxtail, contact your veterinarian.

Images:

https://images.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search;_ylt=A0LEVixNmZVZ0BsABdQPxQt.;_ylu=X3oDMTByMjB0aG5zBGNvbG8DYmYxBHBvcwMxBHZ0aWQDBHNIYwNzYw--?p=Setaria%C2%A0species+of+Foxtail&fr=yhs-adk-adk_sbnt&hspart=adk&hsimp=yhs-adk_sbnt



5. Showmanship Conditioning & Grooming

MSU Extension Publication 1136

Showmanship is the conditioning, grooming, and presenting of a horse to its best advantage. Conformation of the horse should not be considered. However, it is easier to groom and show a horse with good conformation than one with poor conformation. Look at the horse and study his faults; try to correct these faults and make him look as much like the ideal horse as possible. To do this, you must have a good mental picture of the ideal horse of the breed being shown.

Conditioning, grooming, and training a horse for showmanship cannot be done quickly. Sometimes readying a horse for show takes three to six months, depending on the time of year you start, on the age of horse, and on how quickly the horse responds.

Conditioning

- Get the horse in good health. Feed a balanced ration (one with enough protein, vitamins, and minerals). Put your horse on a regular deworming schedule. If possible, take fecal sample to your veterinarian, and deworm based on evaluation.
- Force exercise the horse regularly. This may be done under the saddle, loose in a pen, or on a lunge line. Exercise removes excess fat, adds muscle tone, and makes the horse look like an athlete.
- Trim feet when necessary. Don't let lack of trimming cause incorrect action or conformation.
- Train the horse to lead correctly. Train the horse to lead so that his head is just slightly back and off to the right of your right shoulder. He should respond to you quickly at a walk or trot. Horses with good action show better when moved at a brisk gait. Horses moving slowly sometimes show a springy action and, in some cases, drag their feet. The horse that moves out well will flex at the joints and have a smoother flowing action. A light tug on the lead shank should bring the horse to a stop. The horse should settle down, but be alert after the stop.
- Train the horse to stand. A horse can be trained to stand when you face him, and to follow you when you turn your back to him. If you have taught the horse to recognize these movements during training, he will know what to expect in the ring. When you set up the horse, use the lead shank and move him into position. When he is standing squarely on all four legs, just say "whoa." This lets him know he is to stay in that position.
- Daily work the horse through the entire routine of showing until he responds. Always stop for the day when the horse is responding well. Don't overwork one day and then lay off for several days. Patience and consistency are important tools in successful horse training.

Grooming

Brush your horses daily. Brushing cleans the horse and brings the natural oil to the hair. A horse brushed and fed properly will always have sheen to his hair coat.

The mane should be thinned and shortened to about three inches in length. The bridle path should be trimmed as short as possible.

Trim the long hair from the throatlatch and underside of the jaw to give a neat appearance. Clip the hairs inside the ears. Trim the hair around the coronet and fetlock. Horses with white

on the legs can be booted up. Clipping the white hair down the clipper length makes it much easier to clean, and shows up much whiter. Clip whiskers; remove (pull or clip) long eyebrows. Don't cut the eyelashes!

Clipping and mane pulling should be done well in advance of shows. Be sure not to clip too far in any area or pull the mane excessively. Most tails are left full and ground length. Clean and brush as often as possible, because this promotes growth. Never comb or brush a dirty or tangled tail, since this will pull and break the hairs. Keep a good conditioner or oil on the tail to prevent split ends and breaking. Clip white legs far enough in advance of shows so clipper marks are gone. Clip and groom muzzle whiskers, ears, coronets, and bridle path just before showing. Clip in such a manner so as to blend into the overall appearance of the horse. If this is done, you will show a horse that exhibits a more refined, classic appearance.

Be sure your horse is clean! (Wash with mild soap or brush and vacuum until clean.) Wash your horse the day before showing to allow the natural sheen to come back to the horse. If soiled spots occur before showing, clean with a wet cloth and towel dry. Clean hooves with brush and water.

Exercise your horse before the show so he will be easier to handle in the ring. When exercising, try to keep the horse from breaking into a sweat. If showing in hot weather, exercise early in the morning, and then brush after the horse dries.

Begin last-minute grooming about two classes before your class. Go over your horse with a fine bristle brush or sheep skin to remove any dust. If the hair lacks gloss or bloom, use a small amount of coat dressing. Petroleum jelly, baby oil, or mineral oil can be used to give the "wet look" on the muzzle, inside the ears, and around eyes. Apply freely and wipe excess material off with a towel. (Note: As soon as you finish showing your horse, make a point to wipe these areas clean with a towel. This will help prevent sunburn and irritation.)

Hooves may be oiled, but it would be better to paint them with a commercial hoof black or shoe polish. Commercial preparations don't tend to dry the hooves as much as do the shoe polishes. Remove as much hoof polish as you can, and apply hoof dressing as soon as possible. This will help prevent hooves from drying out.

Check and clean your tack. If you use a silver show halter, be sure to polish the silver and oil the leather. Be as particular with your own appearance as you are your horse's. Be neat, clean, and well-dressed.

Showing

Different situations dictate different show-ring procedures. There is no set pattern for a showmanship class. An example of a pattern that you might be asked to perform is on the back of this publication. The pattern you will be asked to perform will be posted at least an hour before your class. Familiarize yourself with this pattern, and know how you are going to execute every maneuver. Part of your score depends on the accuracy and precision you demonstrate in completing the pattern.

Be sure the exhibitor's number is readily visible. Hold the halter shank in the right hand, giving the horse enough shank to allow him to walk with a natural balanced stride. Hold the remaining portion of the shank in the left hand. The remaining portion of the shank should not be excessive and bundlesome. Keep a safe distance between you and the next exhibitor. Be alert and know where the judge and ring steward are at all times.

When asked to line up for the inspection, set up your horse correctly and as quickly as possible. When the horse is standing correctly, let him stand! Don't continue to move your horse. Keep the horse alert when the judge observes him. Some part of the showmanship pattern will be designed for you to show the action of your horse at the walk and trot (or saddle gait). Other maneuvers, such as 360-, 270-, 180-, or 90-degree turns, stops, and backs, may be added to test your ability to show your horse.

When beginning your pattern, let the horse take the first step, then walk or trot (depending on the pattern) to the judge (or marker, etc.) at a good, alert, and collected gait. The trot should be brisk and smooth to show the ability of the horse to flex at the joints, and to show the alignment of the feet and legs in motion. Movement at both gaits should be made so the horse is traveling in a straight line to or from the judge. If asked to return to the line, move your horse through the line before turning around, then lead back up to your position, and set up as quickly as possible.

The judge will inspect the horses individually. You should have your horse set up correctly.

Use your imagination to draw lines in the ground, dividing into four sections the area around your horse. One line goes straight in front of the horse and straight behind. The second line goes across the horse, just behind the withers. You should never be in the same or diagonal section with the judge. However, you should always be in the section next to the section that the judge is in. Execute these moves in a smooth, natural, and precise manner. Don't anticipate the judge's moves, and don't be mechanical in your moves. Never stand directly in

front of your horse. Keep the horse alert. If the horse is too far out of position when the judge is observing him, move your horse into a good position.

Don't continuously fret the horse. Move the horse with the lead shank. Make all the motions of showing in a natural manner. Do not over show your animal. Be a part of the exhibit, but not the major part. Remember, it is the horse that is being exhibited.



6. TIPS FOR REDUCING ACCIDENTS TO HORSES

Cindy McCall, Ph.D. Extension Horse Specialist, Auburn University

Horses have earned a reputation for finding ways to injure themselves. Seemingly harmless situations often can be disastrous to horses because of their natural tendency to flee from danger (either real or perceived), their strength and their high mobility. There are many safety precautions that horse handlers can take to reduce the possibility of injuries to their horse.

Many of these precautions are common sense rules that handlers disregard momentarily, exposing the horse to danger. This information sheet contains a few tips for reducing accidents to horses. Rider safety tips were discussed in a previous timely information sheet (Horseback Riding Safety Tips, H19-0395CM) and trailering safety and horse handling safety will be discussed in future information sheets.

1. Never turn the horse out or leave the horse in the stall with its halter on. The horse easily could catch its halter on something resulting in injury or a broken neck. Young foals particularly are vulnerable to halter-induced injury because they are very curious and active. Broodmares with young foals should not be haltered while pastured or in the stall to prevent the foal from becoming entangled in its dam's halter while playing around her head. If a horse must wear a halter because it is difficult to catch, use an old, leather halter that the horse can break easily or a specially designed "break-away" safety halter.

2. Always have a halter and lead for each horse within easy reach of their stall or pasture. This allows you to move horses quickly into or out of an area in an emergency such as a fire or flood. Have an emergency plan and a place to tie, hold or evacuate horses to during an emergency. Let your neighbors know how to reach you during an emergency and what your basic emergency plan is (for example, run loose horses into any fenced area except the stallion's paddock). Post emergency numbers, your veterinarian's name and number and clear directions to your barn by the phone or where they are easily accessible if you do not have a phone in your barn.

3. Keep equipment on the horse properly fastened. An unbuckled noseband or throat latch can seriously damage the horse's eye if it shakes its head. English stirrups should always be run up the stirrup leather and secured when you are not on the horse because these light weight stirrups easily can catch in a fence or gate as you are leading the horse, or catch in the horse's mouth or hind foot if it is scratching itself. Likewise slim, lightweight oxbow-type western stirrups should be thrown over the seat of the saddle if you dismount. Always fasten the front cinch before the back cinch on a western saddle and unfasten the back cinch first when unsaddling. If you use a breast collar, attach it after the saddle is secure and remove it before unsaddling. These procedures will prevent the saddle from slipping under the horse's belly and spooking the horse if it moves suddenly during saddling or unsaddling.

4. Never tie the horse up with the reins. If the horse pulls back it can damage its mouth and break your reins in the process. When tying the horse always use a sturdy halter and lead and tie with a quick release knot. The tie knot should be at or above the horse's eye level so that the horse cannot get much leverage if it pulls back while tied. This prevents the horse from breaking free easily and may prevent it from breaking its neck. Keep the tie line fairly short – usually two feet is sufficient for the horse to comfortably move its head without getting its legs entangled in the line. When tying the horse, make sure that your tying area is free from hazards that the horse could bump into while tied and make sure that the horse is not tied to anything that it can move. Even quiet horses may panic when they find an object attached to their halter is “chasing” them. Many horses have been seriously injured when tied to moveable or breakable objects such as cinder blocks, automobile door handles, a unhitched two-horse trailer or stall doors.

5. Keep pastures and turn-out areas safe. Use safe fencing materials. Fences should be constructed of a strong material that is highly visible to horses. Board fences, V-mesh wire fences with a board along the top, metal pipe fences , PVC and flexible vinyl fences generally are considered safe for horses. High tensile smooth wire is a relatively safe and economical fence when its visibility is improved by either plastic tie ribbons or a strand of white, electrified tape run down the fence line. Post and rail, split rail and stone fences are not recommended for horses because horses can knock down these fences easily by leaning on them. Barbed wire definitely is not recommended for horses. If horses must be kept in a barbed wire enclosure, white, electrified tape can be used to increase the visibility of the fence and teach horses to keep away from the fence. Using a highly visible electric tape along the inside of any fence is a good safety practice and can allow horse owners to utilize poor fencing until “horse” fencing can be installed.

PASTURES SHOULD BE ROUTINELY INSPECTED FOR DANGEROUS CONDITIONS SUCH AS LOW OVERHANGING TREE BRANCHES, HOLES, POISONOUS PLANTS (ACES CIRCULAR ANR 975, "POISONOUS PLANTS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES" IS AN EXCELLENT GUIDE TO POISONOUS PLANTS) AND TRASH.

HORSE OWNERS SHOULD AVOID OVERGRAZING PASTURES TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF SAND COLIC AND INGESTION OF POISONOUS PLANTS BY HORSES. NEVER LEAVE BUCKETS IN THE PASTURE. A HORSE CAN STEP BETWEEN THE HANDLE AND THE BUCKET AND PANIC WHEN IT REALIZES THE BUCKET IS ATTACHED TO ITS FOOT.

6. Make sure that gates and doorways are wide enough for the horse to pass through without hitting its side or hips. A horse which frequently hits its body going through openings often begins to hurry through openings; thus, increasing the chance of injury. Gate and stall latches should be opened completely so that the horse does not cut itself on a protruding latch when passing through the opening.

7. Turn horses out into new areas when there are plenty of daylight hours for the horses to explore the pasture and find the fenceline. This also gives the owner a good chance to observe the horses in their new surroundings. Walking horses around the perimeter of the fence before turning them loose in a new area is also a good safety precaution. Gradually introduce new horses to an established herd. Separating the new horses from the herd over a safe fence or pairing the new horses with a few submissive horses from the herd in a separate pasture for a few days will reduce fighting when the new horse is introduced into the herd. Similarly, use care when separating horses that are used to being together so that they do not panic and run through fences or attempt to jump fences trying to get back together.

8. Keep feed rooms off limits to horses. Feed room doors should have a latch which requires two separate movements of the human hand to open so that horses cannot open them easily. If possible, have the feed room entrance outside the paddock or stall area.

These are just a few safety considerations that fit into most horse facilities and management schemes. Individual facilities may find many additional safety procedures that fit their situation. There will always be unexpected accidents to horses, but following proper safety precautions can reduce the occurrence of careless accidents to horses.



7. Strongyles in Horses

Craig Wood, University of Kentucky

Internal parasites are small organisms that live a portion of their life cycle in a host animal. They live in internal organs, body cavities, and tissues while gaining their nutritive source by feeding on the host animal. The horse is affected by many different species of parasites. The nature and extent of damage varies with the parasite.

Parasite infestation causes loss of nutrients or blood from the host, resulting in serious medical problems. Horses heavily burdened with parasites will have a loss of condition due to a depletion of nutrients and blood, decreased growth, and reduced reproductive and athletic performance.

Numerous internal parasites infect horses, but there are only a few that commonly cause significant health problems. To establish an effective parasite control program, it is important to first understand the life cycle of parasites. Successful prevention and control programs are effective because they interrupt the life cycles of parasites. In some areas of the country, the primary class of internal parasites that cause health problems for horses are nematodes, such as large and small strongyles, ascarids and tapeworms. Other internal parasites perhaps of lesser significance, such as pinworms and botfly larvae, are often considered when designing a parasite control program.

Strongyles

Strongyles are grouped as either large or small. The three primary species of large strongyles that infect the horse are *Strongylus vulgaris*, *Strongylus edentatus*, and *Strongylus equinus*.

The adult form of all strongyles (large or small) live in the large intestine. Adult strongyles produce eggs that are passed out in the feces into the horse's environment. These eggs then develop into infective larvae that exist on the pasture vegetation or in stalls. The horse is infected when it consumes grass, feed, or water contaminated with infective larvae. These larvae are very resistant to harsh environmental conditions because of a protective sheath. Strongyles can survive in a freezing environment, but a hot and dry environment will often kill them. The infective larvae survive up to 31 weeks at winter temperatures, compared to up to seven weeks at summer temperatures.

The larvae of large strongyles migrate through various parts of the body. *Strongylus vulgaris*, the bloodworm, will burrow into and migrate in the walls of the arteries that are the primary blood supplier to the small and large intestines. This migration can result in the formation of blood clots, which can disrupt the blood flow to the intestines and

cause scar tissue formation in affected arteries. After approximately 120 days, the larvae move to the lumen of the large intestine, where maturation is completed. As adults, these parasites will lay several thousand eggs each day, completing the life cycle. The entire life cycle takes six to seven months.

The other two large strongyles (*Strongylus endentatus* and *Strongylus equinus*) have similar life cycles, but their larval migration is primarily through the liver. This migration results in damage to the organ but not nearly to the extent of the *S. vulgaris* migration through the intestinal blood supply. *S. endentatus* and *S. equinus* larvae also return to the large intestines, where they mature into adults. Their life cycle is approximately eight to 11 months.

The use of effective anthelmintic (antiparasitic) compounds has reduced the prevalence of large strongyles which, in the past, have caused the most damage to horses. The small strongyle is considered to be the most common internal parasite of horses. Horses can be infected with small strongyles and show no overt signs of disease. However, severely infected horses may exhibit clinical signs, such as sudden onset of diarrhea and colic. Small strongyles have been implicated in causing decreased feed efficiency, rate of gain, and performance.

The life cycle of the small strongyle (cyathostomes) is very similar to large strongyles except the larvae do not migrate beyond the wall of the intestines. The larvae burrow in or encyst in the wall of the large colon. Horses with heavy infestations will show clinical signs of diarrhea and negative growth performance. These clinical signs usually occur when large numbers of the encysted cyathostomes emerge from the gut wall, resulting in inflammation. The severity of clinical signs is related to the degree of damage to the intestines, which varies with the level of infection. At present, it is unclear why the cyathostomes tend to emerge all at once. It is postulated that the occurrence of larval cyathostomosis may be associated with:

seasonal factors (winter/spring in northern areas, spring/summer in southern areas)

antiparasitic treatment within two weeks

young horses (less than six years).

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8. The Equine Business – Sites of Interest

MANAGEMENT AND COST CONSIDERATIONS FOR HORSE OWNERS

<https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W371-A.pdf>

MANAGEMENT AND COST CONSIDERATIONS FOR OWNERS OF HORSE BUSINESSES

<https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W371-B.pdf>

Financial Planning For Equine Enthusiasts – Enterprise & Partial Budgets

http://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/_docs/programs/horses/FS-657%20Financial%20Planning%20for%20Equine%20Enthusiasts.pdf

Financial Control Aids for Equine Enthusiasts –

Balance Sheets, Income & Expense Statements and Cash-Flow Budgets Enterprise & Partial Budgets

http://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/_docs/programs/horses/FS-658%20Financial%20Control%20Aids%20for%20Equine%20Enthusiasts.pdf

Keeping Horses On A Budget

http://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/_images/uploaded/FS-1016%20Keeping%20Horses%20on%20a%20Budget.pdf

Sample Horse Boarding Budget

<http://extension.psu.edu/business/ag-alternatives/files/budgets/boarding-horses/Costs%20of%20Horse%20Boarding.pdf>

Virginia Farm Business Management Livestock Budgets

<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/446/446-048/446-048.html>

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9. Piedmont Horseman’s Association - Show Saturday, August 26

Our next show is Saturday, August 26 at Townley Equestrian Center in Randleman. Show begins at 10am. Everyone is welcome to attend. This is a nice facility to show at and they even have a covered arena! You can find a Facebook event page for the show or find out more information on the website.

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 46 years and still going strong! PHA is offering field hunter, stock type hunter, western pleasure and working western classes.

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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10. Fall Fun Show: September 16th -

September 16th Saturday 9:00am @ Piedmont Saddle Club, Colfax, NC. Negative Coggins Required; Concessions on grounds. www.piedmontsaddleclub.org

For more info and class list. Show Contact:

Jenny Taylor: 919-323-9910

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11. First on Scene Trainings

October 6 (for Farmers) &

October 7th (Emergency Services)

What to do if you come to a medical or injury event on a Farm!

In a typical year, 551 workers die while doing agricultural work in the United States and about 88,000 suffer lost-time injuries. Most of these incidents are preventable. In the last ten years, there have been a numerous farm-related accidents in Guilford County, NC and our surrounding counties. The

majority accidents occur during the harvest time and range from severe lacerations and broken bones, to crushed extremities and equipment-related deaths. Farmers receive minimal first aid training, but are often the first to arrive on scene at a medical or injury event on the farm. For this reason, there is a need to provide farmers with basic first aid training in case of an emergency. In rural areas, like in areas in Guilford County, where farms are isolated with difficult access, farmers can experience delays in emergency personnel arriving at a farm-related accident. Because of these problems, Guilford County Agricultural Extension Agents were concerned about the safety of farmers, farm workers, and farm family members.

With these safety issues & concerns, NC Cooperative Extension has teamed up with the folks from the NC Agromedicine Institute to offer **two** training sessions related to providing first aid in the farm setting; one for EMS and Fire personnel and another for farmers, farm workers, and family members.

These trainings are farm-based and identified with the most frequent agricultural injuries and causes of fatalities, and will be discussing proper First on the Scene response, and how to conduct victim assessment. Many types of injuries and illnesses will be described in detail with correct first aid decisions and dealing with unsafe farming practices.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED WITH THESE TWO TRAININGS, FOR DEMONSTRATION PURPOSES WE NEED,

- ***USED/OLD POWER TAKE OFF SHAFTS***
- ***PIECES OF OLD GRAIN PANELS***
- ***OLD COMBINE HEADS/CHOPPER***

IF YOU HAVE SOME OF THESE OLD PARTS AND ARE WILLING TO DONATE, PLEASE CALL ME [336-342-8235](tel:336-342-8235)

Day 1- Friday, October 6th 9am-2pm

First on Scene Farmer Safety Program

Held at: Guilford County Farm,

7315 Howerton Road, Elon, NC 27244

Registration opens at 8:30am

What to do if you come to a medical or injury event on a Farm!

Day 1 is First Aid information for Farmers, Farm Workers and Farm Family Members. Covers everything from heart attack, traumatic injuries, being first on scene to tractor rollovers.

Program by NC Agromedicine Institute & NC Cooperative Extension

Pre-registration required

Meal will be provided.

This training is FREE to all farmers and farm workers.

RSVP to Deb Fuller at ddf Fuller@ncsu.edu or leave a message for her at (336) 641-2433. Please include your name, contact information, and number of people attending.

Day 2 – Saturday, October 7th 8am-5pm

EMS First on Scene Responding to Farm Incidents

Held at: Guilford County Farm,

7315 Howerton Road, Elon, NC 27244

Registration is from 8am-8:30am

Geared for Emergency Responders - First on scene responding to farm incidents.

This training session is **FREE** and limited to the first 40 people that sign up.

All EMS workers are encouraged to bring their own equipment so they can practice with what they will be using on the job. This training session is aimed to help prepare EMS workers for being the first on scene to farm accidents. CE Credits will be given & there will be demonstrations dealing with farm equipment.

In order to sign up, go to:

<https://guilford.ces.ncsu.edu/2017/07/first-on-scene-trainings-october-6-7-for-farmers-emergency-services/>

or call **(336) 641-2433**. Please include your name, contact information, and number of people attending.

A snack and lunch will be served.

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12. The Ag Tax Issues Short Course – One being held in Guilford County Nov 3

The Ag Tax Issues short course is a day long class in which tax issues relative to production agriculture and agri-business are discussed. Attendees generally are professional tax preparers though farmers (or the farm's bookkeeper/accountant) are most welcome. A working knowledge of taxation is needed to understand discussion topics. Topics in the past have covered income and deduction reporting, Special issues such as Christmas trees income reporting and renewable energy taxation have also been discussed.

Attendees receive a text which is the basis of the course framework. The short course is not a straight "lecture" course as questions and topics of interest are brought to the session by attendees. A goal of the course is to provide a suggested 8 hours of continuing education for professional income tax preparers.

This will be either the 19th or 20th year this program has been available. Though the "farming community" is not the primary target audience, farmers are welcome to attend. This is a fee based program.

To register for this or other Tax Short Courses go to:

<https://www.ncsu.edu/mckimmon/cpe/brochures/pdf/taxSchools.pdf>

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13. HAY DIRECTORY

A Hay Directory is maintained by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service for the Rockingham County & 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 & If you have hay to sell**, hay is in short supply, especially quality hay, so please let me know & I will put you on the list!

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14. Swap Shop

Rockingham County Soil & Water has a no-till drill (grass specific) available to rent. The cost is \$10 per acre planted. Call 336-342-8230 for more information. (One also available in Guilford County at 336-641-2440)

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15. Take A Load Off

CHECKING OUT A ROMANCE

I MET MY HUSBAND WHILE I WAS WORKING IN A SCIENCE LIBRARY. HE CAME IN EVERY WEEK TO READ THE LATEST JOURNALS AND EVENTUALLY DECIDED TO TAKE OUT THE LIBRARIAN INSTEAD OF THE BOOKS.

AFTER A YEAR AND A HALF OF DATING, HE SHOWED UP AT THE LIBRARY AND STARTED RUMMAGING THROUGH MY DESK.

I ASKED WHAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR, BUT HE DIDN'T ANSWER. FINALLY HE UNEARTHED ONE OF THE RUBBER STAMPS I USED TO IDENTIFY REFERENCE BOOKS.

“SINCE I COULDN'T FIND THE RIGHT ENGAGEMENT RING, THIS WILL HAVE TO DO,” HE SAID AS HE FIRMLY STAMPED MY HAND.

ACROSS MY KNUCKLES, IN CAPITAL LETTERS, IT READ...
“NOT FOR CIRCULATION”.

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14 Year Courtship

A man is madly in love with a princess and wants to propose, but an evil witch has cast a spell on him and now he can say only one word a year. So he waits 14 agonizing years—accumulating all his words—before approaching his beloved.

Finally, the big day arrives. When he sees her, his heart skips a beat. He gathers his nerve, drops to his knees,

and intones, “My darling, I have waited many years to say this... Will you marry me?”

The princess turns around, smiles, and says, “Pardon?”

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Wife Wanted

A man inserted an 'ad' in the classifieds: "Wife wanted."

Next day he received a hundred letters.

They all said the same thing... "You can have mine!"

I *always* need more “Help” with Clean 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!!!!

Have A GREAT SAFE Weekend!

The use of brand names or any listing or mention of products or services does not imply endorsement by the NC Cooperative Extension Service nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned.

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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>