

Hello Everyone,

Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the week of January 21st, 2018, 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. 46th Annual Extension Horse Management

Starts Monday Night!

2. Your ASSISTANCE is needed with Horse Management

3. The 1-2-3's of Foaling

4. You Asked

5. Weeds – Always a Challenge

6. Grazing Muzzle Use in Ponies

7. One Horse or a Hundred - What is Composting Anyway?

8. It's Illegal to Ignore the Census

9. NCSU Veterinary School

Equine Ophtalmology

10. Carolina Equine Hospital's

2018 Winter Horse Health Seminar

11. Grow by FarmHer

– North Carolina

12. 2018 Piedmont Regional

Beef Conference

**13. Regional Sheep & Goat Producer Training
1/20**

14. RECYCLE

15. HAY

16. Swap Shop

17. Take A Load Off

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1. 46th Annual Extension Horse Management Short Courses

STARTS MONDAY NIGHT!

Classes held at Guilford County Agricultural Center 3309 Burlington Road Greensboro, NC 27405

January 29 – Natural Horsemanship & Judging

7:00pm -9:00pm

Shane Young, Young Quarter Horses, Yadkinville, NC

February 5 - Horse Health Care & Maintenance

7:00pm -9:00pm

Question & Answer Keeping Equine on a Health Program, Current equine health situation & Health Care Management - Come with your Questions!

Carolina Equine Veterinarians from Carolina Equine Hospital

February 12 – Equine Breeding & Reproduction,

7:00pm -9:00pm

Understanding Parasite Management and Fecals

Lawson Walston NC State Animal Science, Equine Education Unit Manager

Sara Beth Routh, NC Cooperative Extension Livestock Agent, Randolph County

February 19 - Equine Hydrotherapy

7:00pm -9:00pm

Hassingier Equine Sports Medicine, Imaging and Rehabilitation Clinic

Veterinarian Staff Hassinger Equine Service, Aberdeen North Carolina

February 26 - Pulsed Electro-Magnetic Field (PEMF)

7:00pm -9:00pm

Therapy – An Overview Karissa Donohue, Greg and Nancy Frank,

Magna Wave Certified Practitioners Willow Spring North Carolina

March 5 - Equine Mounted Shooting Demonstration

*6:30pm -9:00pm

Purina - Technical information on Impact Pro & Outlast

Sam Helms, Hired Gun Horsemanship, Monroe North Carolina **Eric Shupe, Allie Roth**, Davis Feed & Purina Animal Nutrition LLC, Randleman, NC

**Dinner will be served, Reservations Required by March 2nd, call [336-342-8235](tel:336-342-8235)*

March 12 - Success In Saddles - Developing adaptable equestrian skill

7:00pm -9:00pm

sets including Adjusting Weight, Saddle Time & Ground Work. Basic to Advanced.

Ellen Beard, Hollybrook Farm Lexington, North Carolina

March 19 – The Amazing Horse – Training, Riding, Stunts & Animal

*6:30pm -9:00pm

Coordinating - **Tommie Turvey**, Trainer, Showman Entertainer, Summerville, Ga

Horse Management Committee

Steva Allgood, Randy Boles, Sara Jo Durham, BJ Rierson, Georgianne Sims & Jerry Tyson Advisors - Extension Livestock Agents Sara Beth Routh & Ben Chase

Registration Fee: \$30 for entire series or \$5.00 per session. Registration Fee will be waived for 4-H members presenting an official current 4-H Program Membership ID Card.

For additional information, call Ben Chase, Rockingham & Guilford County Extension Livestock Agent, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service at [1-800-666-3625](tel:1-800-666-3625),

[336-342-8235](tel:336-342-8235) or Email- ben_chase@ncsu.edu.

In case of inclement weather, please call [1-800-666-3625](tel:1-800-666-3625) or [336-342-8235](tel:336-342-8235) for a recorded message.

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2. Your ASSISTANCE is needed with a few of the Horse Management Courses this year, right now, we need:

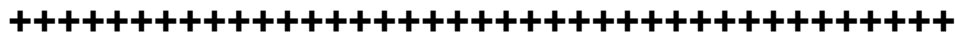
February 12 – Equine Breeding & Reproduction - need for teasing demonstration - round pens and 5 mares to tease (well behaved/controllable mares) - stallion will be brought

February 26 - Pulsed Electro-Magnetic Field (PEMF) Therapy

Need 2 performance horses that are worked really hard but has a reasonably calm disposition would be ideal.

If you can assist with these needs, please let me know!

Thanks for your assistance and will let you all know what else may be needed.



3. The 1-2-3's of Foaling

With springtime, believe it or not, is on the horizon, some of you may have mares in foal and be making final preparations to introduce one or more youngsters to your herd. If you are a veteran to foaling, this information shouldn't be anything new, however, if it has been a while or if your first encounter with a new arrival, the following information should be helpful to your success. There are two types of "1-2-3's" that are important. First, we will talk about the three stages of labor. Then, I will discuss the 1-2-3 rule on newborn foal behavior and health of the mare and foal.

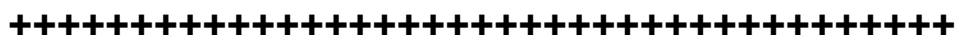
Let's start with the stages of labor. Mares more often than not foal at night. The usual hours are in the 10pm-2am timeframe, but let's face it, this could really happen anytime. There are many changes in the mare as she gets close to foaling that you may experience, even though these changes can vary greatly as well. First, mammary development usually takes place in the last 10-15 days of gestation, with the average gestation length being 340 days (range of 320-365), or about 11 months. Muscles in the croup and tail area will soften, and waxing will occur on the teats. Calcium concentration in the milk will rise, and many mare owners use a milk calcium test to check for this. Water hardness strips are a great tool and indicator to use for checking milk calcium levels. By mixing .25 mL of milk with 1.5 mL of distilled water and dipping strips in the solution, you can look for an orange/reddish color to indicate foaling in less than or equal to 48 hours usually.

When its time to foal, you will experience the three stages of labor. Stage one is where the mare appears somewhat uncomfortable. She may appear to be experiencing mild colic symptoms, be restless and uneasy, have a decreased appetite, may pace around and be sweating. Stage one might turn quickly into Stage 2, or it might take up to 24 hours. Stage 2 begins with the water breaking, and should last no more than thirty minutes. Most often stage 2 will take only up to ten minutes. The "water breaking" is the breaking of the chorioalantois membrane of the placenta. If this membrane appears and has not ruptured, it is important to quickly open it. At this point, the mare will most likely be lying down, but she can get up and down and this is still normal. The majority of mares will deliver the foal just fine without assistance, but if it's taking a while or if the mare insists on standing, intervening will be necessary. If stage 2 takes more than 30 minutes, dystocia (difficult birth) is most likely occurring and a veterinarian should be called. If more than an hour goes by, the foal's life is definitely in danger, and most often death will occur. There are several types of dystocia, such as having a leg back, the head back, or even the breech presentation. The mare will need assistance in any of these cases. After delivery, the mare may rest for up to one hour before standing, and the umbilical cord will remain attached. After the cord breaks naturally (we should not break the cord) it should be dipped in an iodine or chlorhexidine solution. A 2% Betadine solution is a good choice. Now we are

ready for stage 3, which is expulsion of the placenta. This should take less than five hours, and most often occurs within one hour after foaling. If the placenta is not expelled within six hours, call the vet. Problems associated with a retained placenta could be laminitis, metritis (uterine infection), septicemia (bacterial infection of the bloodstream), or even death. During stage 3 the mare may seem slightly colicky for various reasons and is not uncommon. She should be monitored closely. At the end of the three stages, it is important to notify your veterinarian of the birth (if you haven't already called). Your vet will want to come see the foal and take a blood sample to screen for "NI" or neonatal isoerythrolysis, to make sure the foal and mare's blood types are compatible and the foal is off to a healthy life, not to mention check over the foal's general appearance and behavior.

Now let's talk about the "1-2-3 rule" of foaling, which is directly linked to the health and well being of the foal and the mare. Ideally, you will want the foal to stand within 1 hour, nurse within 2 hours, and have the mare expel her placenta within 3 hours. As always, this might not happen exactly on time, but within reason. If your mare is due to foal this spring, monitoring her and the foal with these "rules of thumb", so to speak will hopefully be helpful to you. However, when in doubt, call your veterinarian!

Special thanks to Dr. Sally Vivrette, DVM, PhD and Dr. Scott Bailey, DVM, both of the NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine for providing educational material reviewed and used in this article.



4. You Asked: If you made one suggestion or recommendation for a horse owner to do on the farm, what would it be?

If you have read the Pile for any length of time you know that my suggestion is going to be practice Pasture Management, part of that is including a Sacrifice Lot.

So many folks want to maintain nice, green pastures for your horses? To do so, Why not set up a sacrifice lot for your horses to use when pastures are unable to sustain them? A sacrifice lot is a small non-grazable paddock or exercise lot for your horses. It requires little maintenance and can be used whenever your pastures are muddy, over-grazed; or under renovation.

A sacrifice lot is an excellent tool that allows your horses freedom of movement and exercise, while keeping them off of sensitive pastures that should not be grazed. Horses can be very destructive when allowed access to a pasture that is wet. They cause soil compaction which leads to decreased growth of desirable plants and more competition from weeds. If your pasture is too wet to drive a tractor on, then it's too wet for your horse to graze on.

If you utilize a rotational grazing scheme for your pastures, then a sacrifice lot is a necessity! You can use a sacrifice lot if additional regrowth is needed in your pastures. It is very hard to predict the weather. We never know when the next rain, snow or prolonged drought will begin, but if you have a sacrifice lot, you'll have a safe place for your horses while protecting your pastures. During a drought, grass growth declines, while forage consumption continues at the same rate, increasing the risk of over-grazing. An overgrazed pasture favors weed growth and desired grass species will be smothered out. Depending on the condition of the soil in the pasture and your management techniques, horses can stay in a sacrifice area for several months. The more limited your pasture space is, the more important it is for you to have a sacrifice lot and use it wisely.

Now that you know what a sacrifice lot is, you're probably wondering how to set one up!

Size: Keep the size to a minimum. If your sacrifice lot is larger than one acre, it is really more like an unmanaged overgrazed pasture and it will become overrun with weeds. However, you should allow for at least 600 square feet (30' x 20') per horse for comfort's sake. If you plan on utilizing your sacrifice lot for long periods of time and/or for exercise, a larger size is better.

Shape: The shape of your sacrifice lot should be determined by its location. It should take into account topography, drainage, access to water, shelter and your horse's needs. An unused arena can be easily converted to a sacrifice lot. You don't necessarily have to build anything new.

Surface: Again, the location of your sacrifice lot will help you to determine this. Sacrifice Lots Surfaces can be anything from a grass cover (if you're lucky!) to bare soil, sand, crushed rock or stonedust . Make sure that the area stays dry because your horses will spend a lot of time in this area during inclement weather. A dry sacrifice lot will help prevent hoof diseases and parasite problems.

Location:

DRAINAGE is the key word here! Locate the sacrifice lot in an area with good drainage, preferably in an area with less than a 5 percent slope. Any drainage off your sacrifice lot should go into a buffer area or vegetated filter strip; **NEVER** into any body of water i.e.: streams, rivers, wetlands etc. Avoid low-lying areas, as they will accumulate mud and be difficult to maintain. Don't locate your sacrifice lot over a septic system, including leach fields. **DO** locate it in a south or east-facing area. West and especially north-facing areas will be more difficult to dry out because they are shaded. Offsite water runoff should be diverted around the sacrifice lot to help keep it dry.

Maintenance:

Most sacrifice lot maintenance issues involve safety. Make sure the fences are strong and free of any sharp projections. Remove manure on a regular basis (frequency will depend upon the use and concentration of horses in the area). You may want to consider a vegetated sacrifice lot, but unless you have adequate space and very carefully rotate your pastures, this will be difficult to achieve. If you have a shelter in your lot, make sure it is also maintained so that it's safe for the horses. Be sure to have proper gutters and downspouts on any buildings and divert storm water away from the lot to a safe non-erosive area outside the lot.

Taken from University Of Maryland Extension Publication "Sacrifice Lots"



5. Weeds – Always a Challenge

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, spurge, 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 annual 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 from 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 specifics 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 specifics information on rates, grass tolerance, grazing restrictions and other pertinent safety details.

2018 North Carolina Agricultural Chemicals Manual

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/north-carolina-agricultural-chemicals-manual>

Forage Economics <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/forage-economics>

Forages for North Carolina: General Guidelines and Concepts

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/forages-for-north-carolina-general-guidelines-and-concepts>

Production and Utilization of Pastures and Forages in North Carolina

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/production-and-utilization-of-pastures-and-forages-in-north-carolina>

Weed ID Guide

<http://richmond.ces.ncsu.edu/files/library/77/Weed%20Id%20Handout%20Final.pdf>

Forage Fertilization in North Carolina: Concepts and Guidelines

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/forage-fertilization-in-north-carolina-concepts-and-guidelines>

Planting Guide for Forage Crops in North Carolina

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/planting-guide-for-forage-crops-in-north-carolina>

Managing Pastures to Feed Your Horse

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/managing-pastures-to-feed-your-horse>

Weed Identification in Pastures, Hayfields, and Sprayfields

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/weed-identification-in-pastures-hayfields-and-sprayfields>

Control of Common Pasture and Hayfield Weeds in Virginia and West Virginia

<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/427/427-002/427-002.html>

Weed Control – Forage & Pasture Crops

<https://ipm.ces.ncsu.edu/ipm-forages/>

Weed Identification Guide Virginia Tech

<http://oak.ppws.vt.edu/~flessner/weedguide/>

Weed Management in Pastures and Hay Crops

<https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/PB1801.pdf>

Forage Quality: Concepts and Practices

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/forage-quality-concepts-and-practices>

Greenbrier Control

<https://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/weeds/hgic2328.html>

<http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=C867-2>

Control of Blackberry and Dewberry in Pastures and Hayfields

<http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-2145/ANR-2145-low.pdf>

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag238>

Spiny Amaranth (Spiny Pigweed) Control in Pastures

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag292>

<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/BP/WS-44-W.pdf>

<https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W353.pdf>

<http://articles.extension.org/pages/65210/spiny-amaranth-amaranthus-spinosus>

SPINY AMARANTH CONTROL AND AMINOPYRALID PERSISTENCE IN KENTUCKY PASTURES

https://uknowledge.uky.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1032&context=gradschool_theses

Manage to control spiny amaranth.

http://msdssearch.dow.com/PublishedLiteratureDAS/dh_090e/0901b8038090ee0b.pdf?filepath=range/pdfs/noreg/010-58409.pdf&fromPage=GetDoc

Cocklebur control and life cycle of the plant

Common cocklebur is a highly branched, taprooted, broadleaved annual that grows from 8 inches to 6 feet (0.2 to 2m) high. The dull green leaves alternate along the stem, are coarsely toothed, and often have three to five shallow lobes. The leaf stalks are about as long as the leaves.

The flower heads of common cocklebur are unisexual. Small male and female flowers form separate clusters. Male (staminate) flowers are in short terminal spikes or clusters, and the burlike female (pistillate) flowers are in axillary clusters. The distinct seed pods, or burs of cocklebur make the weed easy to identify. Burs are light brown, Y2 to 1 inch (1 to 2.5 cm) long, and oval or oblong. They are covered with stout, hooked prickles, which terminate in two hooked spines. Each prickle is 1/10 to ¼ inch (2 to 6 mm) long.

Each bur contains two brown to black achenes (seeds), one above the other. The lower seed can germinate immediately; the upper seed is dormant and does not germinate until months or often years later. Seeds are about ½ inch (12 to 14 mm) long and 1/5 (4.5 to 5 mm) wide. Mature burs are dispersed primarily by humans and animals.

Seeds germinate from early spring through summer, from depths of up to 6 inches (15 cm). Seeds and small seedlings are toxic to humans and livestock, but toxicity decreases rapidly as the first true leaves develop. Regardless of size, common cocklebur flowers from August through October in response to day length.

Complete control of common cocklebur is often difficult because some of the seeds remain dormant in the soil for months or even years. Early-season control is important because cocklebur grows rapidly and, once established, can be a long-term problem.

The most effective control measure is to prevent seed production. Cultivation practices and herbicide applications can also be effective. No single herbicide gives good full-season control; therefore, both preemergence and postemergence herbicide applications are necessary.

For most effective postemergence control, cocklebur must be shorter than 8 inches (20 cm) at time of treatment, and herbicides must be applied under good growing conditions.

YouTube - **Cocklebur Control in Hayfields and Pastures**

When To Control

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pJ5fyP1qEk>

Plants Poisonous to Livestock and other Animals

<http://poisonousplants.ansci.cornell.edu/index.html>

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6. Grazing Muzzle Use in Ponies

Summarized by Krishona Martinson, PhD, University of Minnesota

To prevent obesity in grazing horses, it is important to control pasture intake. The use of a grazing muzzle may help to achieve this goal. The objective of this study, conducted in England, was to determine the efficacy of grazing muzzles in controlling the bodyweight of grazing ponies.

Five, non-obese, adult ponies were pastured for 23 hours daily and either grazed freely (without a grazing muzzle) or were fixed with a grazing muzzle for 10 hours. Ponies were acclimatized to grazing and drinking through their muzzles before the trial. Ponies were weighed, and the daily average bodyweight was determined.

Average daily changes in percent bodyweight for four of the ponies when grazing without a muzzle was 0.3% compared to a slight loss in bodyweight (- 0.04%) when fixed with a grazing muzzle. Daily change in percent bodyweight for the fifth pony while muzzled averaged 0.3%. Because of the rapid weight gain observe while muzzles, this pony was removed from the trial and was not allowed to graze without a muzzle.

There was an apparent learning phase during the first week of grazing with a muzzle. Percent change in bodyweight increased throughout the study as the ponies learned to graze with a muzzle. Pasture intakes for ponies with a grazing muzzle were fairly constant throughout the trial period.

Based on this research, it appears the use of a grazing muzzle for 10 hours per day generally reduced the rate of weight gain in most, but not all, ponies on pasture.

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7. One Horse or a Hundred - What is Composting Anyway?

by **Christine Skelly**

Every horse owner has to deal with the same by-product of horse ownership — *MANURE*. Horse owners have a common obligation to practice sound environmental practices. Michigan is fortunate to have a strong Right-to-Farm Act to address many of these issues. Composting is one of the manure management options that horse owners can employ as a viable manure management strategy that also complies with Right-to-Farm guidelines.

Why Compost?

The most common answer given to the question “Why should I compost?” is probably that true composting reduces a manure pile’s volume by up to 50 percent. This is a major benefit, but composting horse manure has many other advantages, too. Once manure is properly composted, it is no longer considered manure — it is simply organic material and natural nutrients critical to plant growth . When manure is composted, the nutrients are converted into a more stable form. This conversion makes the nutrients more readily available for plant growth. Manure contains nitrogen, one of the most important nutrients for grass growth, and grass is an important crop for most horse owners. Increasing nutrient availability decreases the need to use synthetic fertilizers to improve pasture yield and quality.

Another benefit of composting is the reduced moisture content of the pile. Reducing moisture also decreases the odors and flies normally associated with piled manure. During the composting process, the material should reach temperatures of 130 to 170 degrees F. At these temperatures, fly larvae, parasites, fecal coliform bacteria and many pathogens cannot survive. Many weed seeds are destroyed at these temperatures as well, such as quackgrass, foxtail and tall buttercup (a potentially toxic plant).

Compost makes an ideal additive to a productive horse pasture. Other uses for compost include landscaping projects, nursery crops, lawns and gardens. Some horse owners have been able to market compost to others for these uses. Many others spread the wealth in their communities by giving away compost. In this way, horse owners can improve neighbor relations while reducing manure volumes on their farms.

What is Composting?

Composting **is NOT** a pile out behind the barn that sits there until it is hauled away or turns to dirt sometime in the next century. Composting is a process that requires time, management and some equipment. Composting is a biological process that creates an ideal environment for naturally occurring microbes that digest organic material. These microbes require air to survive (aerobic), so the pile must be turned or have air forced into it. Moisture and the pile’s temperature are also important factors. Ideal composting occurs when the moisture is around 50 percent and the temperature is between 130 and 170 degrees F. A handful of good compost should feel like a wrung-out sponge. If the manure contains a high amount of shavings, water usually has to be added to approach a 50 percent moisture content, and the expected high temperature is apt to be closer to 140 degrees F.

Composting Methods

Several composting methods are currently in use. Not all methods will work on every farm. Time, space, equipment cost and volume of manure to be composted will dictate the method used. In most cases, a water source will be necessary to keep the compost pile from drying out. Because of the increased popularity of environmentally friendly manure management alternatives, composting equipment and methods are constantly being improved. The following methods are arranged from least to most technical.

1. Passively aerated pile — For this method, vented pipe is used to allow natural air currents to flow through the pile, keeping it aerated.
 2. Actively aerated pile — In this method, air is forced through a vented pipe with a fan or leaf blower.
3. Transfer bins — This method involves multiple bins. Manure is moved from one bin to the next when aeration is needed. The last bin in the row should yield finished compost.
4. Turned windrows — For this method, manure is piled in long, narrow, peaked rows. These rows can be turned using mechanical turners or by simply moving them from one place to another using a front-end loader
5. Vermicomposting — For this method, manure is piled in small windrows and redworms are added. The worms digest the material to create very high-quality compost. The limitation of this method is that the worms survive only in temperatures above 50 degrees F.
6. In-vessel composting — For this method, manure is placed in a large container that can be turned or aerated with oxygen.

Conclusion

Although several viable manure management solutions are available, composting is perhaps one of the most beneficial opportunities for horse owners. The ability to turn a product that can strain neighbor relations into a product that has positive environmental impacts and may enhance neighbor relations can benefit the entire horse industry.

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8. It's Illegal to Ignore the Census

According to Drovers - Farmers throughout the U.S. received a hefty white envelope labeled "U.S. Census of Agriculture" at the turn of the year. Not only is it an important civic duty to fill out and return the census, it's illegal to ignore it.

"United States law (Title 7 USC 2204(g) Public Law 105-113), requires all those who receive a Census of Agriculture report form to respond even if they did not operate a farm or ranch in 2017," USDA's website says.

Why is the Census important? USDA says the Census of Agriculture provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive and impartial agricultural data for every county in the nation.

"Through the Census of Agriculture, producers can show the nation the value and importance of agriculture, and they can help influence the decisions that will shape the future of American agriculture for years to come," they say. "By responding to the Census of Agriculture, producers are helping themselves, their communities, and all of U.S. agriculture."

Likely most importantly for farmers, legislators use the numbers from the Census when shaping farm policies and programs. For example, when crafting the Farm Bill Congressional staffers will use the Census in addition to historical payment figures to calculate the projected cost of commodity programs, including Title 1.

Completed forms are due by February 5, 2018. Respondents can complete the Census online at www.agcensus.usda.gov or return their forms by mail.

This article can be found at: https://www.drovers.com/article/its-illegal-ignore-census?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTkrSbE9EWTBaamMwWWpVMiilsInQiOiIzYlphWU12YjhouUVEROCszcThUQkJoU2tObEJpVncxVU5LdmVRU2VISW15MVVdXC9DZHpdDaHZ1TUUVYm81WIRvXC9jQmdCYzFuSU40YmRteEJlQ1BXWGFtaml4NU5YZWdaaEtyTnRmRGs0ekdVSUxNUFwvdXBVcVJWeGs2T2NHY0lReCJ9guilford

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9. NCSU Veterinary School

Equine Ophtalmology

Eyesight is very important in horses. As prey animals, they have a large field of vision and their eye placement is important in allowing them to see almost 360 degrees.

There are several problems that can occur in horses. This video from North Carolina State University Veterinary School NCSU Ophthalmology discusses those problems and what owners should be looking for. You can see more information on the [Equine Medical Services: Ophthalmology website](#).

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10. Carolina Equine Hospital's 2018 Winter Horse Health Seminar

January 27th from 9:30am to 12:00pm

Carolina Equine Hospital

5373 NC Hwy 150 E

Browns Summit, NC 27214

Please join us for our 2018 Winter Horse Health Seminar at our hospital. Topics include Ophthalmic Disease of Horses and Geriatric Care and Management of Horses. The seminar is free to attend, and a light breakfast will be provided.

Please RSVP by calling us at (336) 349-4080 or emailing us at info@carolinaequinehospital.com

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11. Grow by FarmHer – North Carolina

Event is designed to inspire and inform young women in agriculture

RALEIGH, N.C.–This event is designed to inspire and inform young women in agriculture, ages 16-22, about their opportunities and potential. With keynote speakers and a powerful panel discussion, the day will be empowering and impactful. Each attendee will walk away from the event with connections to peers and mentors.

Thanks to generous sponsors and other people who are involved, the Grow by FarmHer event is sure to be a day to remember. The event will be filled with positive and fun learning experiences, guiding women in their journey to becoming a young woman in agriculture.

You can email grow@farmher.com with any questions or call 319-461-8088.

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12. 2018 Piedmont Regional Beef Conference

Guilford County Agricultural Center
3309 Burlington Rd Greensboro, NC

March 1, 2018

Join us for the 2018 Piedmont Regional Beef Conference to be held on Thursday, March 1, 2018 at the Guilford County Extension Office. If you are a beef cattle producer or connected to the beef cattle industry you will not want to miss this event!

Conference topics include:

- Cattle Industry Structure and Changes
- Panel Discussion on Feeder Calves
- Cattle Market Outlooks
- Hoof Anatomy, Care, & Management with Demonstration
 - Vendor Trade Show

The North Central District Livestock Extension Agents have teamed up to bring you the best speakers in the country on the topics presented.

**Duane Lenz, Cattle-Fax
Chris Jeffcoat, American Angus Association
Ritchie Roberts, Double R Cattle Services, Inc.**

- **and a Guest Speaker Panel on Marketing Feeder Cattle in NC**

Speaker Bios

Pre-registration is encouraged, but not required. If you pre-register before February 16, the cost is \$15 (non-refundable), whereas cost is \$20 at the door.

Conference Information & Registration Form

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13. Regional Sheep & Goat Producer Training

***DATE CHANGED DUE TO WEATHER!**

Will Reschedule in MARCH & let you know

**Location: Guilford County Extension Office,
3309 Burlington Rd., Greensboro, NC 27405**

Registration at the door is \$20/person.

<http://go.ncsu.edu/2018goatsheeptraining>

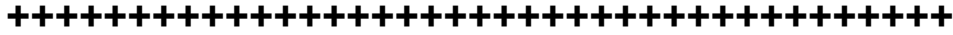
Agenda

- 8:30 a.m. Registration
- 9:00 a.m. Opening Session – Predator Control – NC Wildlife
- 9:45 a.m. Break
- 10:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions:
 - Session 1A: Purchasing Practices – Joe Hampton
 - Session 1B: Animal Soundness – Dr. Jesi Leonard
 - Session 1C: Artificial Insemination Part 1 – Dr. William Farmer
- 11:00 a.m. Break
- 11:15 a.m. Concurrent Sessions:
 - Session 2A: Hoof Health – Sara Beth Routh & Lauren Langley
 - Session 2B: Biosecurity – Dr. Jesi Leonard
 - Session 2C: Artificial Insemination Part 2 – Dr. William Farmer
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Closing Session – Producer Panel Discussion – Problems Faced & Conquered in Small Ruminant Production
2:00 p.m. Wrap-up & Evaluation

Sheep-and-Goat-Training-Flyer-2018

Questions? Please Call: 336-318-6000
For Inclement Weather Status: 1-800-666-3625



14. RECYCLE

GUILFORD COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Contact: Clyde Harding 336-641-3792

THINK GREEN This Holiday Season – For PETE’s sake RECYCLE your Christmas trees, obsolete electronics, old appliances and other holiday relics! Each year between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day we Americans throw away 25% more trash than at any other time of the year! Give a gift to the environment this year by making sure the trash you throw away is truly trash, and by recycling those holiday items that can be recycled.

Christmas Trees – Please remove all lights, decorations, stands and covers from trees before dropping them off to be recycled. Wreaths, garland and artificial trees are not accepted. The County will turn the trees into mulch for use at County parks and other facilities. Guilford County residents can drop off their Christmas trees through January 15th at:

· Guilford County Farm (formerly Sheriff’s Prison Farm), 7315 Howerton Road, Gibsonville. Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Drop off hours are Monday through Saturday 7am to 6pm. From Highway 61, take County Farm Road then turn right onto Howerton Road. The drop-off location is ¼ mile on the right. Business waste is not accepted at this site.

· Please note that trees will no longer be collected at Piedmont Triad Farmers’ Market (off I-40 at Sandy Ridge Road) or at Tabernacle United Methodist Church (at the corner of Woody Mill and Methodist Roads). Some towns and cities within Guilford County provide residential curbside collection of Christmas trees:

· The City of Greensboro collects trees curbside. Be sure that you conform to the city’s yard waste collection procedures to take advantage of this service. Call 336-373-CITY for more information.

· The City of High Point collects trees curbside. Call 336-883-3111 for more information.

· Jamestown residents also have curbside tree collection available. Call the town hall at [336-454-1138](tel:336-454-1138) with questions.

· Town of Gibsonville residents may put their trees out at the curbside for collection. Call the town hall at [336-449-4144](tel:336-449-4144) for more information.

Cans, Glass and Plastic Bottles – Your holiday parties probably include beverages in aluminum cans and glass or plastic bottles. All of these can be recycled.... just rinse and let dry before tossing them into your recycling container.

E-Waste – Did you replace old gadgets with new ones this year? All of your out-of-date electronics, or e-waste, can be recycled, including computers, televisions, games, toys, cell phones -- anything with a plug! Take them to one of the FREE disposal sites:

· Guilford County Scrap Tire & White Goods Collection Facility, 2138 Bishop Rd., Greensboro. Open 8am to 4pm, Monday through Friday. (Call [336-294-9431](tel:336-294-9431) for more information.)

· Guilford County Farm, 7315 Howerton Road, Gibsonville. Open 8am to 4pm Monday through Friday.

· HHW Collection Center, 2750 Patterson St., Greensboro. Open 10am to 6pm, Wednesday through Friday and 8am to 2pm on Saturday (call [336-373-2196](tel:336-373-2196) for more information).

Appliances – Were you the recipient of a new washer, refrigerator or other large appliance for Christmas? You can recycle your old appliances for free at the Guilford County Scrap Tire/White Goods Collection Facility, located at 2138 Bishop Road, Greensboro. It's open 8am to 4pm, Monday through Friday. Call [336-294-9431](tel:336-294-9431) for directions or information.

Remember, throwing away TVs, computer equipment, large appliances, plastic bottles and aluminum cans is prohibited by law in North Carolina! Cardboard & Chipboard– Many gifts are shipped in cardboard boxes and wrapped in chipboard boxes. Both are also recyclable.

Corrugated cardboard is made from two strips of flat cardboard on the top and bottom, and a wavy “corrugated” or fluted strip running through the center. Chipboard is the flat material that's finished on one side and unfinished (brown or gray in color) on the other. Break down all boxes before recycling.

Paper Products – What to do with all those out-of-date catalogs? Recycle them, along with your newspapers, office paper, junk mail and magazines. Lots of garbage collectors now accept greeting cards and wrapping paper for recycling too. Check with your service provider about their policy. For more information, please call Clyde Harding at [336-641-3792](tel:336-641-3792)

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15. HAY

Please let me know if you have hay to sell. 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 have hay to sell (or removed from this list) please call me at [1-800-666-3625](tel:1-800-666-3625) or [342-8235](tel:342-8235) and let me know your name, address & phone #, type of hay, number of bales, (square or round bales) and weight per bale.

MANAGE YOUR PASTURES!

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16. Swap Shop

FIORE FARMS

Premiere Equestrian Facility, turn key

is FOR SALE

~117 Ac total. Min available purchase ~92 Ac.

www.fiorefarms.com

Please contact Lori Greene: bestroad2horse@gmail.com

- Free to a good home - Jasper is a pony sized gelding mule 12 hands tall and approximately 500 to 600

pounds. We think that he is about 10 years old. He is very shy and has basically no training. He does come into his stall every day. We are looking to rehome him. I would love to see him as a companion to a single horse or a protection animal for other livestock.

He is an easy keeper. We feed him a small handful of grain daily just to insure that he comes in to his stall every day.

He is up to date on his shots. If interested or for more information contact:

Doug Garrison, Call or Text: 336-295-1240

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17. Take A Load Off

Janitor Dog

A salesman dropped in to see a business customer. Not a soul was in the office except a big dog emptying wastebaskets. The salesman stared at the animal, wondering if his imagination could be playing tricks on him. The dog looked up and said, "Don't be surprised. This is just part of my job."

"Incredible!" exclaimed the man. "I can't believe it! Does your boss know what a prize he has in you? An animal that can talk!"

"No, no," pleaded the dog. "Please don't! If he finds out I can talk, he'll make me answer the phone as well!"

A Dinner prayer at Grandma's

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away. "Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer." said his mother.

"I don't need to," the boy replied.

"Of course, you do." his mother insisted. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house."

"That's at our house." Johnny explained. "But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook!"

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!!!!

Please remember our Troops who are serving our Country (and their families), those who have come home with wounds, and the families that paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Have A GREAT SAFE Weekend!

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North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University

Is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students, or employees based on race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, age, or disability.

Moreover, North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University is open to people of all races and actively seeks to promote racial integration by recruiting and enrolling a larger number of black students. North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University regards discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation to be inconsistent with its goal of providing a welcoming environment in which all its students, faculty, and staff may learn and work up to

their full potential. The Universities values the benefits of cultural
diversity and pluralism in the academic community and welcomes all men
and women of good will without regard to sexual orientation.

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- This includes all printed and non-printed public communication resources, such as pamphlets, brochures, newsletters, letterhead, websites, news releases, advertisements, outreach letters and so forth.
 - It may appear in the most convenient spot on your communication piece and can be as small as 6pt type.

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In Rockingham County - Will Strader, County Extension Director, at (336) 342-8230 or by email at william_strader@ncsu.edu or In Guilford County – Karen Neill, County Extension Director, at (336)641-2400 or by email at karen_neill@ncsu.edu

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Ben Chase

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Agriculture & Livestock

North Carolina State University

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<http://rockingham.ces.ncsu.edu/index.php?page=animalagriculture>