

EQUINE LINE



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Time, Money, and “Give a Dang”

By Mick Bessire, Extension Educator

An awkward realization came to me on August 14th. On that date, I found that I had officially run out of time and money, simultaneously. Being faced with that reality, one might be driven to certain acts of desperation, but in addition to running out of time and money, I also discovered that I had also run completely out of “give a dang” too. Not chronic fatigue syndrome or anything like that, just “out of gas,” with no real ambition to “re-fill the tank”... Similar to the day in May that we all supposedly work until to pay our yearly taxes, or the day in February that we all work until to pay our food bills for the year, August 14 is the day (for me, anyhow) that no time nor money was left to work with, or even for... I now believe a person has to have at least a modicum of all three “commodities” in order to progress. Now, a week later, at least some of my “give a dang” is coming back, prompted by reports of recent actions by the Bureau of Land Management...

The BLM and their wild horse program have also come to such a fork in the road. They have no time or money to deal with the issues concerning the problem of increasing wild horse populations on public lands. Additionally, the BLM also seems to suffer from a severe shortage of “give a dang,” too. Madeleine Pickens’ elaborate proposal/plan early this year to solve at least a portion of the over-population, over-concentration issue - was met with a politely terse refusal by the BLM. “Interesting offer,” they say, “but we don’t need no ‘stinking’ new tax-free plan that might actually work, thank you.” Their immediate reaction to “solve the

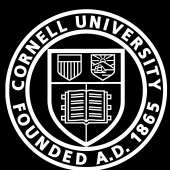


problem” was to form an “unholy alliance” with the Humane Society of the United States and to administer birth control to 70+ mares in the mountains in Utah. That’ll sure enough fix our problems. The BLM, “our” federal agency that deals with administering land and livestock management issues - working hand in hand with the

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HSUS, is ominously similar to a farmer letting a fox into the hen house to help count his chickens. When asked why he'd do that, the farmer replied, "I really need the help." When asked how many chickens he currently has, the farmer says, "It really depends on what 'count' the fox takes"... Oh, he'll (they'll) take a count all right...

Next thing you know, there will be a referendum vote on whether or not folks can own, adopt, or take care of wild horses, or even own horses, Period... Whoa, back! Be real careful, now! This opens the door to animal rights, agenda-induced problems for agricultural interests, for livestock producers, and even for the American public in general. Those that watch reality-enhanced TV commercials that incessantly depict isolated, unsanctioned atrocities committed upon our livestock animal charges – will then be asked to vote on whether or not they think we should treat our livestock the way it was shown on screen... What can they say? What can anyone with even the least amount of moral or ethical turpitude say to that? "Well, we'll just vote to make doing that kind of business wrong." Thankfully, we have citizenry that think cruelty to animals (and people) is wrong. Conversely, getting all their information about such a subject from an overtly, anti-livestock-biased organization should never happen; but it seems to be, with increasing regularity. In Florida, Arizona, California, and be sure and look for it, soon to be playing somewhere near you – the HSUS is spending a lot of time and money to convince voters to stop normal, caring livestock producers from taking care of their animals in the best, most proven ways they know how. This direction, or misdirection will also be leveled at the people that work with horses, care for them, and love them too, eventually - if the HSUS decides to spend some of its abundant time and free-flowing money on such a campaign. Unlike our government, and many of us private citizens, HSUS has lots of time and money, and lots of zealous "give a dang" in their arsenal. So, we need to be very wary of "those that come bearing gifts," and keep the foxes away from the hen houses, and livestock management referendums from off the ballots. We don't need no "stinking" help counting our chickens, and particularly from foxes, thank you. The "give a dang" is still there, but most of us aggies could use a little more time and money... Until next time, you all take real good care.

The Unwanted Horse Coalition Releases National Survey Results

WASHINGTON, D.C. - July 9, 2009 - The findings from the Unwanted Horse Coalition's (UHC) Study on Contributing Factors Surrounding the Unwanted Horse Issue are now available at www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org. The study is the first of its kind to assess the causes and magnitude of the unwanted horse population in the United States.

Results indicate that the problem of unwanted horses is perceived to be growing on many fronts. More than 90% of participants believe the number of unwanted horses, as well as those neglected and abused, is increasing. Almost all participants (87%) indicate that in the past year, the issue of unwanted horses has become "a big problem," compared with only 22% who said the problem was important three years ago. Respondents also report that the number of horses being euthanized is increasing.

In light of one of the worst economic downturns in U.S. history, the economy is considered to be a significant contributor to the unwanted horse problem. The closing of the nation's processing facilities, changes in breed demand/indiscriminate breeding, as well as the high costs of euthanasia and carcass disposal are also cited by respondents as major contributors.

Regarding placement options for unwanted horses, 63% of equine rescue/retirement facilities polled report they are at near or full capacity and, on average, turn away 38% of the horses brought to them. Capacity is clearly the issue in that as many horses stay for life at the facilities as are adopted out.

Survey respondents believe the top solutions for solving the problem of unwanted horses are to educate owners to purchase and own responsibly, increase the ability of private rescue and retirement facilities to care for unwanted horses, reopen the U.S. processing plants, and increase options and resources for euthanizing and disposing of unwanted horses.

"One of the highlights of the survey is the willingness by all respondents to resolve the unwanted horse problem," said Tom R. Lenz, DVM, chair of the UHC. "We believe these findings will be useful in identifying common ground for all interested groups and aid us in developing solutions that will have a profound and lasting impact on the lives of unwanted horses and the horse industry at large."



The survey was conducted from November 2008 to January 2009 by an independent market research company. More than 23,000 horse owners, equine industry stakeholders and non-horse owners participated. For more information, contact Julia Andersen, UHC director, at 202-296-4031 or jandersen@horsecouncil.org.

Clearing The Air: Reducing Harmful Stable Odor Is Easy

By Rebecca Colnar; <http://www.horses-and-horse-information.com>

As your eyes meet, there is a compelling attraction. Without loss of eye contact, you stride to his side, tears welling in your eyes. You love your horse, but you realize, as your nostrils are assaulted by ammonia fumes, that these are not tears of endearment.

The spell is broken. "Must love entail such torment?" you ask yourself, turning to the task of stall cleaning.

As annoying as they can be, the smells associated with barns -- especially ammonia smells -- are often the least significant problem from prolonged exposure to ammonia inhalation. Ammonia poses a threat to health -- yours and your horse's-- when the smell becomes noticeable.

Fortunately, a regular maintenance program that draws on common sense with products to control odor will handle the threat. Daily cleaning of stalls is a must. But how you control odors does matter. For example, hydrated lime, which is caustic, can cause problems for mature horses and is very risky with foals. The substance can burn the soft part of a horse's hoof, and lime dust poses difficulty for the horse's respiratory system and eyes.

Natural substances that absorb water without breakdown -- thereby extending bedding life -- make good sense.

The better ammonia-absorbing products effectively eliminate the odors at their source by locking up the molecules of ammonia and hydrogen sulfide -- or, in some cases, changing the bacteria population -- so less ammonia is released into the air. Several products on the market are natural, non-toxic and non-caustic. One either sprays or sprinkles the ammonia-absorbing products on the stall floor, concentrating especially on the wet areas.

Besides better smells, you'll enjoy the added benefit of lessening the fly population in the barn and adjacent areas by creating an inhospitable environment for insect egg-lay-

ing and maggot growth. When buying an ammonia-controlling product, consider your objectives -- less dampness, less ammonia, safety (non-toxicity), economy and environmental compatibility.

Six Simple Tips for Buying Good Hay

By University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
August 11 2009, Article # 14704

As bales of hay roll in from the fields on the back of farmers' wagons, it's again time to start staking your claim so that your hayloft remains full over the coming winter months. Here are some tips to help you select hay for your horses.

1. Remember that quality forage should be the backbone of your horse's diet (a minimum of 2/3 of their nutrition).
2. Have a good working relationship with a hay supplier to ensure a consistent and reliable source of hay.
3. Consider adding hay storage space to reduce the effects of price and seasonal fluctuations (i.e. hay is sometimes more expensive in the winter versus the summer).
4. Buy hay early. Do not wait until late summer or fall to buy hay. This year has been and will be especially difficult to find quality hay in the Northeast.
5. Plan in advance. Budget for any price increase and re-evaluate how many horses you can afford to feed.
6. Try to keep your hay type (i.e., grass or alfalfa) consistent. Constantly changing hay types can lead to horse health problems, specifically colic.

Finally, have hay analyzed so you know what you're getting. What do hay analysis numbers mean, and how do they relate to your horse's health?

Horse hay should be 10-17% moisture and about 10% crude protein. Crude protein is not likely to be a limiting part of the diet except in lactating mares, foals, or performance horses, which would require higher levels.

Hay with an acid detergent fiber (ADF) value of 30-35% is good for horses. The lower the ADF value, the more digestible the nutrients in the hay are. Hay at 45% or more ADF is of little nutritional value. Neutral detergent fiber (NDF) levels should be 40-50%, and most horses won't eat anything above 65%.

Equine feed analyses also provide non-fiber carbohy-



drate (NFC) estimates to help select feed for horses that show sensitivity to starches and sugars and measure digestible energy (DE) in the hay. For a light working horse, DE should be about 20 Mcal/day, and most hays range from 0.76 to 0.94 Mcal/lb of DE. Calcium and phosphorus ratios can vary among different types of hay, an adult horse in a maintenance phase should have a calcium-to-phosphorus ratio of 3:1 to 1:1.

One resource for purchasing hay or determining the going price of hay and straw in your area is havexchange.com.--Krishona Martinson, PhD, Equine Extension Specialist, University of Minnesota.

Ventilation Helps Horses Breathe

When it gets cold, the temptation is to keep your horse barn as airtight as possible to keep your horses cozy. That's unwise. Proper ventilation keeps healthy, fresh air moving in the barn to remove odors and stale air.

Use common sense. If you have stall windows, open them. If you have doors, open them. Strive for cross-ventilation. Fresh air has never hurt a horse, but dusty, stale air can. The trick is to have fresh air without the barn being drafty and uncomfortable. If you have a full loft, put a window in each stall to allow for cross-ventilation. You might also want to consider having doors at each end of the barn that can be left all or partially open, depending on the weather.

Horse Handbook: Housing and Equipment offers detailed suggestions for adding ventilation. It's available for \$7 through Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service, 152 Riley Robb Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, (607) 255-7654.

Guidelines to Follow During Equine Emergencies

If you own horses long enough, sooner or later you are likely to confront a medical emergency. There are several behavioral traits that make horses especially accident-prone: one is their instinctive flight-or-fight response; another is their dominance hierarchy -- the need to establish the pecking order within a herd; and a third is their natural curiosity. Such behaviors account for many of the cuts, bruises, and

abrasions that horses suffer. In fact, lacerations are probably the most common emergency that horse owners must contend with. There are other types of emergencies as well, such as colic, foaling difficulties, acute lameness, seizures, and illness. As a horse owner, you must know how to recognize serious problems and respond promptly, taking appropriate action while awaiting the arrival of your veterinarian.

Recognizing Signs of Distress

When a horse is cut or bleeding, it's obvious that there is a problem. But in cases of colic, illness, or a more subtle injury, it may not be as apparent. That's why it's important to know your horse's normal vital signs, including temperature, pulse and respiration (TPR), as well as its normal behavior patterns. You must be a good observer so that you readily recognize signs of ill health.

What Is Normal

There will be variations in individual temperature, pulse and respiration values. Take several baseline measurements when the horse is healthy, rested, and relaxed. Write them down and keep them within easy reach, perhaps with your first aid kit, so you have them to compare to in case of an emergency.

Normal ranges for adult horses are:

- ◆ Other observations you should note: Pulse rate: 30 to 42 beats per minute.
- ◆ Respiratory rate: 12 to 20 breaths per minute.
- ◆ Rectal temperature: 99.5° to 101.5° F. If the horse's temperature exceeds 102.5° F, contact your veterinarian immediately. Temperatures of over 103° F indicate a serious disorder.
- ◆ Capillary refill time (time it takes for color to return to gum tissue adjacent to teeth after pressing and releasing with your thumb): 2 seconds.
- ◆ Skin pliability is tested by pinching or folding a flap of neck skin and releasing. It should immediately snap back into place. Failure to do so is evidence of dehydration.
- ◆ Color of the mucous membranes of gums, nostrils, conjunctiva (inner eye tissue), and inner lips of vulva should be pink. Bright red, pale pink to white or bluish-purple coloring may indicate problems.
- ◆ Color, consistency, and volume of feces and urine should be typical of that individual's usual excretions. Straining or failure to excrete should be noted.
- ◆ Signs of distress, anxiety or discomfort.



- ◆ Lethargy, depression or a horse that's "off-feed."
- ◆ Presence or absence of gut sounds.
- ◆ Evidence of lameness such as head-bobbing, reluctance to move, odd stance, pain, unwillingness to rise.
- ◆ Bleeding, swelling, evidence of pain.
- ◆ Seizures, paralysis, or "tying up" (form of muscle cramps that ranges in severity from mild stiffness to life-threatening illness).

Action Plan

No matter what emergency you may face in the future, mentally rehearse what steps you will take to avoid letting panic take control. Here are some guidelines to help you prepare:

1. **Keep your veterinarian's number by each phone**, including how the practitioner can be reached after-hours. If you have a speed dial system, key it in, but also keep the number posted.
2. **Consult with your regular veterinarian regarding back-up or referring veterinarian's number** in case you cannot reach your regular veterinarian quickly enough.
3. **Know in advance the most direct route to an equine surgery center** in case you need to transport the horse.
4. **Post the names and phone numbers of nearby friends and neighbors who can assist you** in an emergency while you wait for the veterinarian.
5. **Prepare a first aid kit and store it in a clean, dry, readily accessible place.** Make sure that family members and other barn users know where the kit is.
6. **Also keep a first aid kit in your horse trailer or towing vehicle**, and a pared-down version to carry on the trail.

The primary equine first aid kit should consist of:

- ◆ 1 roll of cotton wool (30 cm wide, 375 g in weight)
- ◆ 1 roll of cotton gauze or crepe bandage; (7.5 cm wide)
- ◆ 1 or 2 rolls of self-adhesive bandaging tape (10 cm wide)
- ◆ 1 or 2 multipurpose dressings
- ◆ 1 adhesive stretch bandage (7.5 cm wide)
- ◆ antiseptic spray
- ◆ antiseptic wash (Betadine or other antiseptic preparation may be used)
- ◆ some type of antiseptic soothing preparation
- ◆ jar of petroleum jelly (100 g)

- ◆ 1 pair of 15 cm curved, blunt-edged dressing scissors
- ◆ fly repellent
- ◆ pack of salt (can be mixed in water to form a saline cleaning solution for wounds)
- ◆ epsom salts
- ◆ a bottle of sterile water (in case there is no water supply available)
- ◆ extra-thick leg bandages
- ◆ newborn infant diapers (to use as bandages)
- ◆ human thermometer (with a string attached to prevent loss in the rectum)
- ◆ 1 small plastic bowl
- ◆ 1 used, clean worming syringe (for pressure-irrigating wounds)
- ◆ instant cool pack or some ice or cold gel packs kept in the freezer
- ◆ a halter and lead rope
- ◆ a twitch (in case restraint is needed)
- ◆ phone numbers for veterinarians
- ◆ a waterproof box for storage of all the items.

The second, smaller first aid kit should consist of:

- ◆ a hoof pick and pocket knife (or a handypick-- a hoof pick and knife combination)
- ◆ 1 or 2 bandages
- ◆ antiseptic spray
- ◆ baling twine for tying your horse safely
- ◆ phone numbers for your veterinarians
- ◆ money (for emergencies)
- ◆ notes on essential first aid
- ◆ a listing of your name/age/phone number/and any other medical specifications in case you are found unconscious
- ◆ human first-aid items (e.g., Band-Aids, etc.); and
- ◆ a small, durable bag to be put in a saddle bag or backpack while riding.

Tips & Warnings

Check your equine first-aid kit for expired contents on a regular basis.

Remember to always replace materials you have used.

Store your kit at room temperature when you are not on the trail.

Resources:

*American Association of Equine Practitioners; www.aaep.org
eXtension; <http://www.extension.org>*



West Nile Virus: 35 States Active, First Reported 2009 Horse Death in California

By Kimberly S. Brown, Editor August 07, 2009, Article # 14681

The first horse death due to West Nile virus was reported near Tracy, Calif., on Aug. 6. There has also been one human case reported in San Joaquin County, where the horse resided, according to an article on recordnet.com

Other states with West Nile Virus activity (positive samples, cases, or testing due to concern about WNV) this year, according to the Centers for Disease Control, include: Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Horse owners are encouraged to talk to their veterinarians about vaccination protocols to protect horses from West Nile virus.

Fall Pleasure Ride

The 41st Annual New York State Horse Council Fall Pleasure Ride will be held October 9-12 at Madison County Fairgrounds in Brookfield, NY.

Look forward to these events:

- Bon fire**
- Scavenger Hunt**
- Fun Bingo Game**
- Guest Speaker**
- Jar Wars & 50/50 raffle**
- Fun Country Pace**
- Auction**
- Social Hour**
- Awards Program**

NYSHC general members are covered by the \$1 million 24/7 equine activities liability insurance is purchased to cover no-members who participate in the ride. We would like to suggest that you join the Council to benefit from this insurance, which will cover your personal equestrian activities year round: and to support the goal of the NYSHC, "To create a strong unified voice for all horse interests toward the preservation of a future for horses in New York State." Please see our web site www.nyshc.org for further information.

Equine Calendar

For more information call 845-344-1234. Get your copy of the 2009 Equine Activity Calendar online at cce.cornell.edu/orange

OCTOBER 2009

2	Weekend Dressage Clinic With Holger Bechtloff	Frog Hollow Farm, Esopus, NY
3	Clover Hill Team Penning	Clover Hill Farm, Wallkill, NY
3	SDHPA Gymkhana Show	Hosner Mt Road, Hopewell Jct., NY
3	Open Schooling Horse Show	Schunnemunk Shadow Stables, New Windsor, NY
3	PAHC Schooling Dressage Show	Aeolian Acres, Montgomery, NY
3	WHH Opening Day Formal Hunting	Westtown, NY
3	Open Horse Show - Western	Stone Wall Farms, Jeffersonville, NY
4	Tri-County Horse Show	Black Ridge Stables, Slate Hill, NY
4	G & M Riding Club Horse Show	Orange County Park, Montgomery, NY
4	Open Horse Show - English	Stone Wall Farms, Jeffersonville, NY
5	Monday - Thursday Racing	Monticello Raceway, Monticello, NY
7	Cow Sorting Practice	Falcon Ridge, Walden, NY
10	Children's Workshop	Harness Racing Museum, Goshen, NY
10	Fall Classic 2-Day Show to benefit Equine Rescue Inc.	Willow Hill Farm, Montgomery, NY
11	Gymkhana Show	Town of Thompson Park, Monticello, NY
13	Tuesday - Thursday Racing	Monticello Raceway, Monticello, NY



Equine Calendar, Continued

OCTOBER 2009 CONTINUED

14	Cow Sorting Practice	Falcon Ridge, Walden, NY
17	Clover Hill Team Penning	Clover Hill Farm, Wallkill, NY
17	Fall Gala	Winslow Therapeutic Center, Warwick, NY
17	Gardnertown Farms B Rated Show	Gardnertown Farm, Newburgh, NY
17	Horse Adoption Fair	Historic Track, Goshen, NY
18	Fall-Winter Schooling Show	Old Field Farm, Goshen, NY
18	G & M Riding Club Playday	Orange County Park, Montgomery, NY
18	WHH Fall Pace II	Westtown, NY
19	Monday - Thursday Racing	Monticello Raceway, Monticello, NY
21	Cow Sorting Practice	Falcon Ridge, Walden, NY
25	Cow Sorting Competition	Falcon Ridge, Walden, NY
25	OCHC 2nd Annual Horse Show & Expo	Orange County Park, Montgomery, NY
26	Monday - Thursday Racing	Monticello Raceway, Monticello, NY
28	Cow Sorting Practice	Falcon Ridge, Walden, NY
31	Gardnertown Farms C Rated Show	Gardnertown Farm, Newburgh, NY

NOVEMBER 2009

2	Monday - Thursday Racing	Monticello Raceway, Monticello, NY
4	Cow Sorting Practice	Falcon Ridge, Walden, NY
6	Friday & Saturday Racing	Vernon Downs, Vernon, NY
6	Weekend Dressage Clinic With Holger Bechtloff	Frog Hollow Farm, Esopus, NY
8	Gardnertown Farms Schooling Show	Gardnertown Farm, Newburgh, NY
8	Tri-County Awards Banquet	Otterkill Country Club, Campbell Hall, NY
9	Monday - Thursday Racing	Monticello Raceway, Monticello, NY
11	Cow Sorting Practice	Falcon Ridge, Walden, NY
14	Children's Workshop	Harness Racing Museum, Goshen, NY
14	Gardnertown Farms C Rated Show	Gardnertown Farm, Newburgh, NY
16	Monday - Thursday Racing	Monticello Raceway, Monticello, NY
18	Cow Sorting Practice	Falcon Ridge, Walden, NY
21	Catskill Equine Center Year End Award Banquet	Friar Tuck Inn & Spa, Catskill, NY
22	Fall-Winter Schooling Show	Old Field Farm, Goshen, NY
23	Monday - Wednesday Racing	Monticello Raceway, Monticello, NY
27	SDHPA 4th Annual Wild Turkey Ride	Ward's Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River, NY
30	Monday - Thursday Racing	Monticello Raceway, Monticello, NY
TBD	WHH Fall Pace III	Florida, NY

DECEMBER 2009

2	Cow Sorting Practice	Falcon Ridge, Walden, NY
4	Weekend Dressage Clinic With Holger Bechtloff	Frog Hollow Farm, Esopus, NY
6	Telethon to benefit Winslow Therapeutic Center	WVT Channel 12, Cablevision 77
7	Monday - Thursday Racing	Monticello Raceway, Monticello, NY
8	Equine Science Center Equine Science Update	Rutgers' Cook Campus, New Brunswick, NJ
9	Cow Sorting Practice	Falcon Ridge, Walden, NY
12	Fall-Winter Schooling Show	Old Field Farm, Goshen, NY
12	Children's Workshop	Harness Racing Museum, Goshen, NY
14	Monday - Thursday Racing	Monticello Raceway, Monticello, NY
16	Cow Sorting Practice	Falcon Ridge, Walden, NY
21	Monday - Thursday Racing	Monticello Raceway, Monticello, NY
28	Fall-Winter Schooling Show	Old Field Farm, Goshen, NY
28	Monday - Thursday Racing	Monticello Raceway, Monticello, NY
TBD	WHH Landowners Picnic	Westtown, NY



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EQUINE LINE



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