Regional Equine Information Network System (REINS) and Benefiting Intracoastal Trails (BITs) are hosting a Fall Trail Ride on Sunday, November 16 in the PineCliffs area of the Croatan National Forest. The morning will begin with a non-denominational worship service at 9:30am with coffee and donuts provided. The group ride will begin at 10:30am with a catered lunch to follow. The cost will be $25 per person or $10 for lunch only. Some exciting improvements are about to take place in the PineCliffs area and we invite all of our fellow horsemen to join us in supporting these activities. If you plan to attend the ride, please contact Emily at (910) 455-5873 or email emily_adams@ncsu.edu so that we can get a headcount for the meal.

How Much Hay Do You Need?

If you haven’t already secured a load of hay for the winter, you need to make plans to do so as soon as possible. How do you know how much hay you will need to get you through the winter?

When using “hay” terminology, “dry matter” is the measurement used to determine how much of the weight of the hay is actually moisture. If we remove all of the moisture from a sample of hay and completely dry it down, the portion of the sample that remains is the dry matter content of that sample. If we talk about an “as fed” basis, this means we’re taking the moisture content of the hay into account when dealing with the weight of the hay. On average, a horse needs to consume about 2% of its body weight each day on a dry matter basis to meet its nutrient requirements. Since most hay is about 90% dry matter (the other 10% is just moisture), we’ll need to factor that into our calculations when determining how much hay the horse will need to eat. So we’ll actually have to feed slightly more than 2% of the horse’s body weight on an “as fed” basis in order to meet the required dry matter amounts because of the moisture content of the hay.

Let’s assume that we have 2 horses who weigh approximately 1000 lbs each. (You can estimate your horse’s weight by using a weight tape, which can usually be...
found at feed stores or ag supply companies. Weight tapes are quite accurate when used correctly.) We need to plan to feed our 2 horses hay for 7 months, which will give us enough hay to get to the end of next April. Let’s assume that our horses are eating 1.5% of their body weight in hay. The rest of their diet is from concentrate (grain or pellets).

Each horse, who weighs 1000 lbs and eats 1.5% of its body weight each day, will eat about 15 lbs on a dry matter basis each day. If we divide the 15 lbs by the dry matter content of our hay (90%), we get roughly 17 lbs of hay. This means that we need to plan on feeding each horse about 17 lbs of hay daily on an as fed basis in order to meet the requirement of 15 lbs on a dry matter basis. Remember, the dry matter value is less because it doesn’t include the weight of the moisture in the hay.

If each horse eats 17 lbs of hay per day as fed, then 2 horses will eat 34 lbs per day. Assuming there are 30 days in a month and we’re feeding for 7 months, we’ll be feeding hay for approximately 210 days. So if we feed 34 lbs of hay for 210 days, we’ll need 7,140 lbs of hay! Since there are 2,000 lbs in a ton, that comes out to be about 3.5 tons of hay.

Keep in mind several things though. Having access to pasture will reduce the amount of hay that needs to be fed each day. Planting ryegrass in your pastures this fall can give you another source of forage for the winter months. You can also reduce the amount of hay in the daily ration by increasing the amount of concentrate. Never feed less than 1% of the horses body weight in forage. This means a 1,000lb horse should be eating a minimum of 10lbs of forage each day, which can include hay and pasture. Lastly, buy a little more hay than you think you’ll need. Some hay will be wasted by the horses and you might lose a few bales to poor storage. It’s better to have a few more bales on hand than you actually need than to get in a situation where you need a few more bales and you don’t have them!

If you need assistance in determining your horse’s hay needs for the winter or want information on how to manage your horse’s diet to conserve hay, please contact Emily at the Onslow Extension office at (910) 455-5873 or email Emily_Adams@ncsu.edu

North Carolina Equine Survey
2008

Under the direction of the North Carolina General Assembly, an economic impact analysis of North Carolina’s equine industry is being conducted by the Agricultural Advancement Consortium. This study is designed to assess the economic influence of the state’s equine industry and identify opportunities for growth.

The study includes all breeds of horses from the three sectors of the industry (showing, racing, and recreation), as well as all associated activities. The survey will examine the people that are involved in equine activities, determine what the economic impact of the industry is in North Carolina, and will include an action plan to help maximize the industry’s contribution to the economy of North Carolina. The long term effects from the collection of this data may include increased job growth and increased preservation of farmland and open space. In order to receive the most accurate information, participation is needed from ALL members of the horse community, including horse owners and stable operators to feed and equipment suppliers. The outcome of the survey is critical to the future of North Carolina’s horse industry.

Some individuals may have already received a copy of the survey through the mail. If you were one of these individuals,
please fill out the survey to the best of your knowledge and return it as soon as possible. If you haven’t received a survey through the mail, you can find a link to it online by visiting the website for the North Carolina Horse Council. http://www.nchorsecouncil.com

If you fully complete the survey, you will be entered in a drawing to win a practice saddle – the style of your choice!!

Your response to this survey is completely voluntary and is not required by law. Your responses will not be shared with anyone outside of the research team, which includes members from East Carolina University, North Carolina State University, Western Carolina University, and the Sanford Holshouser Business Development Group. We encourage you to take the time to complete this important survey, which will ultimately affect decisions made by our state leaders on behalf of the equine industry in North Carolina. If you have questions about the survey or you are unable to access it via the Internet, call the Onslow Extension office at (910) 455-5873.

For more information on this event or to pre-register a large container of pesticides, please contact the Onslow County Extension office at (910) 455-5873.

Pesticide Disposal Day

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture, in partnership with Onslow County Cooperative Extension, will be sponsoring a Pesticide Disposal Collection Day on Tuesday, October 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Onslow County Multipurpose Complex. Anyone with containers of old or unwanted pesticides may bring them by the Extension office during the specified times for proper disposal.

Please note:

- All pesticides (insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, etc) must be in original containers and clearly labeled in order to be accepted.
- Products with unknown identities, products that are unlabeled, or products not in pesticide containers will not be accepted. Materials of unknown identity, paints, or other hazardous waste will not be accepted.
- Participants that have pesticides products that are in containers greater than 5 gallons in size must pre-register in advance of the collection for assistance. Otherwise, the material may have to be collected another day on a special, prearranged date as scheduling allows.

2008 State Fair Horse Show Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 1-5</td>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Hunters &amp; Jumpers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Quarter Horses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 14</td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
<td>Quarter Horses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 14</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>Quarter Horses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
<td>Paints &amp; Palominos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 16</td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
<td>Welsh &amp; Connemara Appaloosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 16</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>Welsh &amp; Connemara Appaloosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 17</td>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Appaloosa Walking &amp; Spotted Saddle Horses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 17</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Appaloosa Walking &amp; Spotted Saddle Horses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
<td>Youth Day Western, Saddle Seat, Non Trotting, Hunt Seat Walking &amp; Spotted Saddle Horses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 19</td>
<td>7:30 a.m. 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Youth Day Hunter Miniature Horses &amp; Miniature Donkeys</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 20</td>
<td>9 a.m. 6 p.m.</td>
<td>Paso Finos &amp; Draft Horses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 21</td>
<td>8 a.m. 6 p.m.</td>
<td>Draft Horses &amp; Haflingers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
<td>8 a.m. 6 p.m.</td>
<td>Carriage Driving Arabians, Half Arabians, Saddlebred, Morgans, Hackneys, Roadsters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 23</td>
<td>10 a.m. 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Arabians, Half Arabians, Saddlebred, Morgans, Hackneys, Roadsters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>10 a.m. 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Arabians, Half Arabians, Saddlebred, Morgans, Hackneys, Roadsters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 25</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. 2 p.m. 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Academy Arabians, Half Arabians, Saddlebred, Morgans, Hackneys, Roadsters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 26</td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mules &amp; Donkeys</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2008-2009 NCSU Extension Horse Husbandry Short Courses**

**October 24-26, 2008 - NCSU Introductory Level Horse Judging Short Course** - Recommended for New Judges and/or Horse Judging Team Coaches - Hampton Inn & Suites, Raleigh, NC

**December 5, 2008 - Ring Steward Program** - Hampton Inn & Suites, Raleigh, NC

**December 6-7, 2008 - NCSU Open Horse Show Judges’ Certification Clinic**
Gov. James B. Hunt Complex, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC  
*Sponsored by Southern States Cooperative*

**December 6, 2008 - Youth Horse Judging Team Training Clinic**
Holshouser Building, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC  
*Sponsored by the NC 4-H Horse Program*

**December 10-12, 2008 - NCSU Horse Breeding Management & Transported Semen Short Course**
NCSU Equine Educational Unit, Raleigh, NC  
*Sponsored by Exodus Breeders*

**December 13, 2008 - NCSU Foaling Management Short Course**
Hampton Inn & Suites, Raleigh, NC

**January 8-10, 2009 - AQHA Specialized Novice Judging Short Course**
Hampton Inn & Suites, Raleigh, NC

**January 10-11, 2009 - NCSU Advanced Level Horse Judging Short Course**
Hampton Inn & Suites, Raleigh, NC

**January 17-18, 2009 - NC Horse Management and REINS Conference**
Contact Mike Yoder, Extension Horse Husbandry, Location To Be Determined

**January 24, 2009 - NCSU Advanced Level Horse Breeding Short Course**
Hampton Inn & Suites, Raleigh, NC

**February 26, 2009 - NCSU Horse Facility Short Course** - Hampton Inn & Suites, Raleigh, NC

**February 27, 2009 - NCSU Business Management for Horse Farm Operators Short Course** - Hampton Inn & Suites, Raleigh, NC

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December 5, 2008 - Ring Steward Program - Hampton Inn & Suites, Raleigh, NC
February 27- March 1 - VA/NC
Volunteer Leaders Conference
March 1, 2009 W.E. Skelton 4-H Center on Smith Mountain Lake in Wirtz, VA.

March 2, 2009 - Introduction to Animal Cruelty Law - Contact Equine Education Alliance, Inc. - In Cooperation with Wake Technical Community College, Raleigh, NC

March 3-5, 2009 - Equine Investigators Short Course - In Cooperation with Wake Technical Community College Hampton Inn & Suites and Equine Educational Unit, Raleigh, NC

March 13-14, 2009 - NCSU Equine Hoof Care and Shoeing Short Course Hampton Inn & Suites, NCSU Equine Educational Unit, Raleigh, NC
Sponsored by Zin Pro Corporation and the NC Horse Shoers’ Association

May 6, 2009 - Equine Ration Evaluation for Veterinarians Short Course - Hampton Inn & Suites, Raleigh, NC

May 7, 2009 - NCSU Horse Feeding Short Course - Hampton Inn & Suites, Raleigh, NC

May 8, 2009 - NCSU Horse Forage Management Short Course Hampton Inn & Suites, Raleigh, NC

* To receive a short course and clinic brochure and pre-registration forms contact:
Extension Horse Husbandry, NCSU, Box 7523, Raleigh, NC 27695-7523
Phone 919-515-5782 Fax 919-515-8518
Or visit:
http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/extension/horse/hhmain.html

Calendar of Events:

October

4th – EDCTSA @ Equine Country – Jacksonville

4th – EHA @ Jasmine Meadows – Vanceboro

4th – NBHA 4D Barrels @ Shingleton Farms – Hampstead

6th – 11th – Onslow County Fair – Jacksonville

16th – 26th – North Carolina State Fair – Raleigh

18th – 19th – EHA @ Williamston Indoor – Bob Martin Ag Center

25th – 26th – Alex Hartner Memorial Show – Shingleton Farms – Hampstead

November

1st – EDCTSA @ Fox Hollow Farm – Washington

15th – Gaming Show – Equine Country – Jacksonville

16th – REINS/BITs Fall Trail Ride – Havelock area

Thanks,

Emily Adams Walton
Extension Agent
Livestock
SPOTLIGHT

October is Energy Conservation Month!

Energy. As a nation, the US uses more energy per person than any other nation in the world. We use a lot! How we produce it, what it costs, and what we can do to use less are issues that are becoming increasingly important. They are also tied to another term: sustainable. “Sustainable energy” refers to the types and amounts of energy that we can reliably produce and use both now and into the future. Currently, only 2.5 percent of electricity in North Carolina is generated using renewable resources. Coal-fired plants generate more than 60 percent of our electricity, with nuclear plants generating roughly another 33 percent of our electricity. The NC State Energy Office website contains additional information (http://www.energync.net/). On August 20, 2007, the signing of Session Law 2007-397 (Senate Bill 3) made North Carolina the first state in the Southeast to adopt a Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS). Under this law, investor-owned utilities in North Carolina will be required to meet up to 12.5% of their energy needs through renewable energy resources or energy efficiency measures. Rural electric cooperatives and municipal electric suppliers are subject to a 10% REPS requirement. Renewable resources include wind, solar, geothermal, hydropower (including tides) and biomass.

Here are some steps that you can take to reduce your monthly energy usage:

1. Crawl into your attic or crawlspace and inspect for insulation. Is there any? Is there enough? Bring your attic insulation level up to snuff. It makes a difference!

2. Turn down the temperature of your water heater to 120°F. You'll not only save energy, you'll avoid scalding your hands. Does your water heater need an insulating blanket? Depending on the age and condition of the water heater, an insulating blanket can pay for itself in one year or less.

3. Check the age and condition of your major appliances, especially the refrigerator. You may want to replace them with energy-efficient models.

4. Start using the energy-saving settings on refrigerators, dishwashers, washing machines and clothes dryers. Run full loads to save on both water and electricity.

5. Check light bulbs for opportunities to replace incandescent with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). These bulbs can save three-quarters of the electricity used by incandescent lights. The best targets for replacement are 60-100W bulbs that are used several hours each day. Home Depot will accept old, unbroken CFLs for recycling.

   According to the changealightnc.org website (http://www.changealightnc.org/), NC could save more than $15 million in annual energy costs if each of us switched just one regular light for a CFL.

6. Clean or replace furnace, air-conditioner and heat-pump filters. The unit has to work harder and longer if the filter is dirty.
7. Seal up the largest air leaks in your house: gaps around pipes and chimneys, and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets. These cracks and holes add up to as much as an open window or door.

8. Install a programmable thermostat that will automatically cut back to preset temperatures during the day while residents are away from home and at night. If you are replacing a mercury thermostat, be sure to dispose of it properly. Johnstone Supply in Jacksonville accepts these thermostats from heat pump contractors.

9. Unplug chargers (battery, cell phone, etc.) when they are not in use. Also, plug the TV, DVD player, stereo, and other such items into a power strip or surge protector. When they are not in use, turn the power off at the power strip. This will prevent the use of “phantom energy” that keeps the item in stand-by mode and the time displayed.

10. Reduce your air conditioning costs by planting shade trees and shrubs around your house—especially on the west side and around the heat pump (but don’t restrict air flow to the unit). You can contact your local NC Cooperative Extension center for plant suggestions.

Diana M.C. Rashash, PhD
Extension Area Specialized Agent
Natural Resources-Environmental Education