NCSU EXTENSION HORSE HUSBANDRY WEBINARS

A series of webinars (live Internet broadcasts) will be offered by the Extension Horse Husbandry office at NCSU in upcoming months. They will be shown simultaneously in multiple counties across the state. Several of our local counties will be broadcasting one or all of these webinars so check with your county to determine if the training you’re interested in is being offered where you are. All webinars will run from 7:00-8:00pm.

October 20 – Basic Horse Nutrition to Reduce Colic  
Dr. Bob Mowrey
November 17 – Economical Horse Feeding – Dr. Mike Yoder  
January 19 – Vaccinations and Deworming Programs – Speaker TBA  
February 16 – Pasture Management – Dr. Mike Yoder

2009 NORTH CAROLINA STATE FAIR HORSE SHOW

The 2009 North Carolina State Fair runs from October 15 through October 25 at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. The State Fair Horse Show will be held at the James B. Hunt Horse Complex with shows on the following dates:

- Sept 30 - Oct 4 - Hunters/Jumpers
- Oct 12 -13 - Quarter Horses
- Oct 14 - Paints, Palominos
- Oct 15 - Welsh and Connemara Ponies, Appaloosas
- Oct 16 - Appaloosas, Walking Horses, Spotted Saddle Horses
- Oct 17 - Youth Day, Walking Horses, Spotted Saddle Horses
- Oct 18 - Youth Day, Mini Donkeys and Horses
- Oct 19 - Paso Finos, Draft Horses and Hitch classes
- Oct 20 - Draft breeds, Hitchs and Light Drafts
- Oct 21 - Carriage Driving
- Oct 21-14 - Saddlebred, Morgan, Hackney, Roadster, Arabian, Half Arabian
- Oct 25 - Mules and Donkeys

North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation. North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.
If you have a warm season grass such as bermuda or bahia in your pastures, you’re probably aware that these grasses will go dormant this fall and won’t start growing again until next spring. Horses that are pastured in these fields may be tempted to graze on the dormant grass and could cause severe damage to your pastures. In order to avoid this, and to provide your horses with some winter grazing, plan to plant a winter annual this fall. Possible planting dates for our area are September to mid November but due to late September heat waves common in our area, it may be best to wait until late September or October to plant.

The two types of winter annuals commonly planted in our area are ryegrass and rye. Both of these winter annuals can provide high quality forage for your pasture if managed properly. Although both are commonly referred to as “rye”, there are differences between the two.

Annual ryegrass (Lolium multiflorum) is often called Italian ryegrass and grows more rapidly from late April through May. In forage variety tests conducted at NCSU in 1997, the varieties that produced the greatest yields were Marshall, Passarel, and Big Daddy. Annual ryegrass has a recommended seeding rate of 30-40 lbs of seed per acre for broadcast and 20-30 lbs per acre drilled. Rye (Secale cereale), which is a large-seeded small grain, is most productive from December through February. Rye has a recommended seeding rate of 120 lbs per acre for broadcast and 100 lbs per acre drilled.

If you choose to overseed ryegrass on bermudagrass, remember that winter annuals can shade bermuda after it begins to break from dormancy in the spring. This can stunt the growth of the bermuda and cause weakened stands. In severe cases, it can cause complete stand loss. In order to avoid this, be sure to keep the rye mowed or grazed down when the bermuda begins to green up in the spring around mid-March and April.

The following courses will be offered in the upcoming year by NCSU Extension Horse Husbandry. For more information about these courses or for registration information, contact: Extension Horse Husbandry, North Carolina State University, NCSU Box 7523, Raleigh, NC 27695-7523. Or by phone (919) 515-5784. Website: http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/horse-husbandry/

- NCSU Introductory Level Horse Judging Short Course Oct 23-25, 2009
- Ring Steward Program Nov 13, 2009
- NCSU Open Horse Show Judges’ Certification Clinic Nov 14-15, 2009
- NCSU Horse Breeding Management & Transported Semen Short Course Dec 10-12, 2009
- NCSU Advanced Level Horse Judging Short Course Dec 12-13, 2009
- NCSU Foaling Management Short Course Dec 13, 2009
- AQHA Specialized Novice Judging Short Course Jan 7-9, 2010
- REINS Conference/Unwanted Horse Symposium TBA
- NC/VA Horse Volunteer Leaders Conference Jan 30-31, 2010
- Youth Horse Judging Team Training Clinic Feb 6, 2010
- NCSU Equine Hoof Care and Shoeing Short Course Mar 12-13, 2010

Deworming can become a confusing issue with so many products to choose from. How do I know if my horse has worms? Which products control which types of worms? Which worms should we be concerned about? It’s enough to stress out any horse owner.

Worms should definitely be a concern for horse owners. They can play a major role in feed efficiency, intestinal health, use of available
nutrients, immune health, and general appearance. Horses that have heavy worm loads can show symptoms of weakness, anemia, rough hair coat, cough (due to worm migration), digestive disturbances, pot belly, and poor appearance. But in some cases, especially if there isn’t a heavy infestation, horses may not show any symptoms at all.

The biggest issue with deworming that livestock and horse owners face today is parasite resistance. This means that the worms are developing a resistance to the drugs that we are using and are able to survive deworming treatments. We’re also starting to see that even if the worms are killed off, the egg reappearance periods are beginning to get shorter. At this point in time, all of our current dewormers have reported parasite resistance problems of some degree in the United States. This is a major problem because the drugs available to us for deworming are all that we have. There are no promising alternatives on the horizon, so we need to be smart about how we use what is available to us now.

It is important to realize that no matter what brand name the dewormer is sold under, there are only 3 classes of dewormers: benzimidazoles (fenbendazole), tetrahydropyrimidines (pyrantel salts), and avermectins/milbemycins (ivermectin, moxidectin). Horse owners are strongly encouraged to rotate dewormers to avoid parasite resistance, and this means rotating between different CLASSES of dewormers and not just brand names. The biggest factors contributing to parasite resistance are 1) only using one class of dewormer, 2) high frequency of doses, 3) underdosing due to misjudgement of weight, and 4) losing product during administration.

The worms most common in horses are bots, threadworms, pinworms, ascarids (roundworms), and small and large strongyles. Most of the current research is focusing on small strongyles, which appear to be the biggest threat to adult horses in terms of control. During stage 1 through stage 3 of larval development, the small strongyles are found on the grass. After ingestion by the horse, stage 3 (or L3) can migrate to the horse’s cecum and colon where it can then encyst and remain protected in the gut for quite some time. Encysted strongyles can cause frequent colic or diarrhea in an infected horse and many dewormers are unable to control them. Other signs may include weight loss or decreased rate of weight gain. Current methods of control for encysted strongyles are the use of moxidectin (Quest) or a double dose of fenbendazole for 5 days in a row (Panacur PowerPac).

Tapeworms are also a common problem and are difficult to detect in live horses. Their eggs often go undetected during a routine fecal egg floatation, giving the false impression that they are not present in the horse. It’s a good practice, however, to target tapeworms in your deworming program at least once a year. A product that contains praziquantel will control tapeworms (Zimectrin Gold, Quest Plus, Equimax, etc) and many dewormer rotations will include these in the spring and fall of the year.

There are 3 types of deworming programs. A scheduled program includes either a fast rotation of dewormer classes used 4-6 times per year or a slow rotation where each class is used 1 time per year. These schedules can be based on the egg reappearance periods of the various dewormers. On average, the egg reappearance period (ERP) after use of pyrantel or fenbendazole is approximately 5 weeks. For ivermectin, the ERP is approximately 6 to 8 weeks, and for moxidectin, the ERP increases to approximately 10 to 12 weeks. Daily deworming involves the use of a daily low dose feed through dewormer and treatment with a second class of dewormer once or twice a year. There is some debate as to whether there is an increased instance of parasite resistance with this method. Veterinarians at NCSU recommend that horse owners using a daily deworming program also use fecal egg count reduction tests to monitor possible parasite resistance and to use other methods of control, such as pasture rotation or manure removal, to help reduce parasite populations. A targeted deworming approach is the method that researchers and veterinarians are beginning to promote over traditional methods. This method uses fecal egg count tests (FECs) to determine which horses have worms and what type of worms are present. In reality, a small number of horses on the farm carry the majority of the parasite load, so these are the horses we should target in our deworming program. They will be the ones shedding eggs and continually reinfecting the rest of the herd. This method avoids the excessive deworming of horses who don’t need it and allows you to select the dewormer that will best control the parasite.

Pasture management also plays a role in
parasite control. Most parasite larvae will not survive temperatures above 85°F so it is not necessary to deworm adult horses as often during hot, dry summers. When temperatures are consistently below 45°F, larval development stops but the larvae do not die. Unfortunately, in coastal NC, we don’t often stay consistently below 45°F for very long in the winter, so the larval development is probably not completely halted as it might be in colder climates. Although dragging pastures is recommended in terms of forage management, it may not be a good idea in terms of parasite management. The ideal time to drag pastures is during periods of hot or dry weather when the larvae can be exposed to sunlight and killed. Pastures that are overstocked with too many horses will have a higher parasite load than those that are lightly stocked or on a long pasture rotation schedule.

Note: The article above is meant for informational purposes only and should not replace the advice of a veterinarian. The brand names mentioned are for reference purposes only and should not be considered as an endorsement by NC Cooperative Extension. Please work closely with your personal veterinarian to design a deworming program that is most appropriate for your herd.

Upcoming Events

**OCTOBER**

10th – Eastern Dressage and Combined Training Assoc (EDCTSA) @ The Preserve, Washington
10th – Coastal Carolina Saddle Club fun show @ Barker’s Farm, Vanceboro
10th - Tarheel Horsemans Assoc show @ Sunnyfield Equestrian Center, Peletier
17-18th – Eastern Hunter Association show @ Bob Martin Ag Center, Williamston
17th – Gaming Show @ Equine Country, Jacksonville
20th – NCSU EHH webinar – “Basic Nutrition to Reduce Colic”

**NOVEMBER**

17th - NCSU EHH webinar – “Economical Horse Feeding”
21st – EDCTSA @ Equine Country, Jacksonville
21st – Gaming Show @ Equine Country, Jacksonville

**SPOTLIGHT**

SSDRIP $50 Rebate

Attention all Onslow county residents with a septic system! Onslow County received funding from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund to establish the Septic System Database, Repair, and Information Program (SSDRIP). One of the components of this program includes a $50 rebate to septic system owners for maintaining their septic system by having the septic tank pumped. After the tank is pumped, the resident and pumper complete the rebate form and mail it to the Onslow County Health Administration Department. Rebate forms and a brochure about the SSDRIP program are available from NC Cooperative Extension, Onslow County Health Department, Onslow County Planning Department, and various septic tank pumpers.

Septic systems do require maintenance. One of the simplest practices is to not add anything to the system that may harm it. This includes harsh chemicals, large amounts of disinfectants, grease, and solids (bones, eggshells, cigarette filters, etc.). It is also recommended to have the septic tank pumped every 3-5 years, depending upon homeowner practices. The use of “additives” is NOT an alternative to having the tank pumped.

The NC Cooperative Extension Service has several publications to help homeowners learn about their system: *Septic Systems & Their Maintenance, Septic System Owners Guide,* and *Why Do Septic Systems Fail?* It is also recommended that homeowners obtain a copy of their septic system permit from the health department. For more information, contact the Onslow County Cooperative extension office at (910) 455-5873.
“HELPING PEOPLE PUT KNOWLEDGE TO WORK”