Fly Control Tips

Fly season is here and the swishing of horses’ tails and the grumbles of unhappy horse owners can be heard all over the area. Here are some tips that may help you control the flies in your area this season:

1. **Practice good sanitation!** The single most effective method of fly control is good sanitation around your barn area. Wet bedding and manure should be removed at least once a week from stalls and areas where horses often stand. During peak fly season, it is best to remove it at least once every 2-3 days in order to reduce fly breeding. Material that is removed should be land applied within a few days or composted. Composting areas should be covered and well drained. It’s also helpful to remove water buckets from stalls that are not in use. This keeps the water (especially water that has become dirty!) from becoming a breeding ground for flies and mosquitoes.

2. **Use methods of mechanical control!**
Water traps (Terminator, Trap-N-Toss, etc) or sticky ribbons help reduce the need for pesticides. Hang these throughout the barn - one per every 1,000 square feet of area that flies may breed. Be sure that traps are hung in a way that they can be easily inspected and managed but are out of the way of traffic in the barn area. Water traps and ribbons will probably need to be cleaned and recharged/replaced about once every two weeks. If put in place early and maintained correctly, the traps and ribbons can be very effective in controlling flies.

3. **Pesticide Use:** Scatter baits containing methomyl (Apache or Blue Malrin) are very effective. The bait can be sprinkled in areas throughout the barn where flies tend to gather but where humans and animals won’t be at risk for exposure to the bait. Avoid sprinkling the bait under the horse’s feed trough or hayrack. It’s not likely that the horse would eat enough of the bait to become sick, but it’s better to be safe than sorry. The bait also works well when sprinkled over wet zones in the horse’s stall after these areas have been cleaned and covered with fresh bedding. Pyrethrum is commonly used in fogging systems. Since
it is non-residual, continuous misting or fogging about once a week may be needed during the peak fly season. Feed through insect growth regulators (IGR) are also available but must be fed continuously and to all horses in the barn for it to be most effective. The IGR prevents fly larvae from developing into adults but adult flies will continue to be a nuisance for several weeks after treatment has begun. Fortunately, this type of treatment has little or no effect on beneficial insects that might feed on flies in the barn.

4. Biological control: Parasitic wasps are effective in reducing the need for pesticides when used along with good sanitation practices. In fact, pesticides should not be used in areas where parasitic wasps have been released. Female wasps deposit eggs in fly pupae and when the wasp eggs hatch, the larvae consume the fly pupae from the inside out. Therefore a new wasp will emerge in about 14 days instead of a new fly. Contact your local extension office for a list of suppliers for parasitic wasps.

**New REINS Volunteer Training Scheduled**

If you are interested in meeting new people, expanding your knowledge about horses, and serving your community by helping provide educational opportunities to horse owners, perhaps the REINS program is for you.

REINS, the Regional Equine Information Network System, is a program of North Carolina Cooperative Extension that trains volunteers to assist Extension in educating the horse community. The next new volunteer training is scheduled for August 18 & 19 and September 8 & 9 in Raleigh. Volunteers will attend both sessions and complete a total of 32 hours of training.

New volunteers are particularly being sought for New Hanover, Pender, Duplin, Onslow and Carteret Counties. Other counties in the Southeast District REINS organization include Lenoir, Craven, Pamlico, Carteret, and Jones. New volunteers are always being accepted from these counties as well. For more information and to receive an application, contact Emily Adams, Region 5 REINS coordinator, at (910) 455-5873 or visit the REINS website at [http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/extension/horse/NC_Adult/reins.htm](http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/extension/horse/NC_Adult/reins.htm)

**Hurricane Preparation for Horse Farms**

Now that hurricane season is here, the following are recommended preparations that horse owners can enact prior to a storm.

- Secure structures on your farm: move loose objects indoors, tie jumps and poles together, and fill all water tubs.
- Store drinking water: if possible a 7 day supply. Allow for 20 gallons of water per horse per day. Line garbage cans with plastic bags and fill with water.
- Order and store a 7 day supply of feed and hay. Place water-repellent tarp over feed bags and store on pallets to reduce the likelihood of water damage.
- Bed all stalls and barn aisles for pastured horses to be tied during the storm. Store additional bedding in plastic bags indoors.
- Secure a generator (4 horsepower or greater) for use as an electrical reserve unit.
- Make certain the generator is large enough to run your water pump while providing electrical outlets for a refrigerator and lights. Store a large supply of gasoline.
- Place fly masks on pastured horses to reduce the incidence of eye injuries from flying debris.
Identify your horse:

- Most feed stores carry blank cattle ear tags which can be written on with a permanent marker and braided into the mane or tail. The name tag should include: your name, delivery address, phone number(s) and horse's name.
- Consider spray painting your phone number in white or blaze orange paint on both sides of the barrel or hip of your horse.
- Microchips inserted in the neck muscle are also an excellent way to identify an animal.
- It may be helpful to have pictures, identification and/or registration papers on your animals should you need to verify ownership. Be sure to store these items in an area that will remain dry.
- Make certain if you halter your horse that the halter will break if caught on an object.
- Be aware of rapidly rising water. If you are located in an area prone to flooding, evacuate your animals with a seven day feed/bedding supply prior to the storm. If you are unable to evacuate, remove horses from their stalls and barns to higher ground prior to a rising water threat.
- Being trapped in stalls or barns with hinged doors is a leading killer of animals immediately following a major storm. If you are unable to coordinate a move to higher ground, leave your animals in a pastured area.
- If practical, evacuate yourself and your horse at least four days in advance of the storm to a safe holding area. It is extremely difficult to pull a horse trailer during gale-force winds! Note: Your normally docile mount may become upset and difficult to handle with the environmental changes. Loading a horse during extreme weather may be impossible.
- If your barn is well constructed, leave your horse inside to minimize injury from flying debris. Example: pole barns with posts concreted in the ground or cinder block barns with a history of routine roof maintenance and built according to code.

- If your barn is poorly constructed or in poor repair, leave your horse in a naturally protected, well fenced pasture area. Select a low area protected by rises (elevations) when possible. Make certain the area will not be subject to flash flooding and avoid streams, ponds, etc. Keep horses away from shallow-rooted trees or trees which had been damaged in previous storms. Keep horses away from old dilapidated structures to minimize flying debris injuries.
- Secure and store temporary fencing materials to permit quick temporary fence repairs. Select fence systems that will contain the horse without access to electricity. Permanent repairs can be made at a later date.
- Obtain film for your camera and camcorder to document storm damage. If time permits, take pictures of your structures prior to the storm. Review your insurance policy to determine storm coverage and later document damage accordingly.
- Develop an emergency stable first aid kit.

### Building a First Aid Kit

A first aid kit for horses should be placed in a waterproof storage case and include:

1. Information sheets: important phone numbers, signed permission forms to allow treatment of horse, etc.
2. Flashlight and extra batteries
3. Stethoscope
4. Thermometer
5. Scissors or knife
6. Hoof pick and hoof knife
7. Surgical scrub preparation (povidone iodine, chlorhexidine gluconate)
8. Wound dressings: gauze sponges, Telfa® pads
9. Bandage material:
   - 12 sheet cottons
   - (2) 1 pound packages of roll cotton
   - 2-6 Vetrap® bandages or similar product
- 4-8 cloth leg wraps
- White tape, 1” width
- US Army field bandage (22”x 24”)

10. Eye cover/protection

11. Medications:
   - Antiseptic ointment: Betadine® or similar product, Silvadene® or similar product, or triple antibiotic ointment
   - Other medications: to be arranged based on attending veterinarian's recommendation.

Evacuation Stabling

Five permanent sites are available for the evacuation of horses from coastal North Carolina. Please do not reserve accommodations unless you intend to and are able to meet your commitment.

**Pioneer's Harness Track, Southern Pines.** Current negative Coggins required. Stall is free - owner to supply feed, bedding and water. Feed store located in town. Must sign release form. (910) 692-8640.

**NCSU Veterinary Equine Research Center (VERC), Southern Pines.** Current negative Coggins required. Use of stalls or paddocks is free - owner to supply feed, bedding and water. Feed store located in town. Must sign release form. Contact Dr. Jim Hamilton at (910) 692-8640.

**Senator Bob Martin Eastern Ag. Center, Williamston.** Current negative Coggins required. Boarding fee is $20.00 per horse. Owner must supply feed, bedding and water. Limited bedding is available with a feed store being located in town. Must call for reservations. If the facility is not in use, 296 stalls are available. Contact Brian Dygert at (252) 792-5802.

**Governor James B. Hunt Horse Complex, Raleigh.** Current negative Coggins required. 485 stalls are available when facility is not in use. Horse owners must supply feed, bedding and water. Boarding fee is $20.00 per horse. Must call for reservations. Contact Wesley Watt, NC State Fair Manager or Sherri Bridges Horse Complex Secretary, at (919) 821-7400 or (919) 733-2145.

**Western NC Ag Center, Fletcher** will not be available September 10-19 due to Mountain State Fair. Boarding fee is $10.00 per horse. Must have proof of negative Coggins. Call (828)687-1414 for reservations.

After the Storm

In many cases, wind and rainfall during the storm do not create as many problems as the aftermath of the storm. Prolonged power interruptions, blocked roadways, downed trees (often across fencing and structures), and increased populations of biting insects are all challenges facing the horse owner. The following recommendations will help reduce the effects of a storm and protect your horse's health.

- After the storm has subsided, immediately check your horse's welfare.
- Take pictures of storm damage to facilities, fences and roadways.
- Due to the damage to trees, be aware of the possibility of Cyanide Poisoning due to the ingestion of wilted wild cherry (Prunus species) leaves, twigs, bark or seeds and/or red maple leaves (Acer rubrum). Symptoms include: weakness, excitability, gasping for breath, in coordination, collapse, convulsions, constipation or diarrhea, bloody urine, and death. Symptoms may result from as little as 1-2 cups of leaves on an empty stomach.
- If your power is out, persistently notify the power company. Advise them of the number of horses on your farm and importance of electricity to their well-being.
• Check your horse's vaccination schedule against diseases caused by biting insects. Horses should be vaccinated annually for Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE) and West Nile. The increased mosquito population that occurs immediately after a storm has typically resulted in an increased incidence of encephalomyelitis. Horses located in areas with high mosquito populations should be vaccinated twice per year, six months apart.

• Contact your county Extension agent for information concerning storm related agricultural assistance programs for livestock or horse owners. In Onslow County, contact the Onslow County Extension Center at 910-455-5873.

Emergency situations may force horse owners to make the difficult but practical decision of putting human life above that of your horse. Animal owners are encouraged to care for themselves first and their animals second. The horse has demonstrated a remarkable survival ability in the face of natural disaster which far exceeds those of humans.

Who may enroll: Any youth in Onslow County may enroll in one or more workshops. You do not have to be a 4-H'er. The programs are open to youth 5-19 except where age restrictions are noted.

Registration: To register, come by the 4-H office at 4024 Richlands Hwy. Or call us at 455-5873. You can also check our website to see if classes are full (http://onslow.ces.ncsu.edu/)

All programs have registration fees which must be paid when you register. Registration will not be held at the workshop or activity.

Call 455-5873 or come by the 4-H office today to pick up a brochure.

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A summer program for all youth ages 5-19 (youth must be 5 on or before January 1, 2006) will be offered by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, Onslow County. The 4-H motto is “To Make the Best Better” and you can make the best better by enrolling now to learn something new and meet new people. We invite you to join us for an exciting summer!!!
Calendar of Events

**JUNE**

4   Take Sale, 1pm-5pm, Equine Country, Jacksonville
12-14 Western NC Horsemanship Camp, Western Ag Center, Arden NC
18-24 NC State 4-H Camp, Millstone 4-H Camp, Ellerbe, NC
17   Game Show, Equine Country, Jacksonville
24   Crystal Coast Open Show Series, Sunnyfield Equestrian Center

**JULY**

5-9   State 4-H Horse Show, James B Hunt Complex, Raleigh
15   Game Show, Equine Country, Jacksonville
25-30 Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships, James B Hunt Complex, Raleigh

Recommendations for the use of chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Individuals who use chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage and examine a current product label before applying any chemical. For assistance, contact an agent of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service in your county.

Sincerely,

Emily M. Adams
Agricultural Extension Agent
Livestock

“Helping People Put Knowledge to Work”