

Utah State University Extension

Equine News

Educational Newsletter for Utah's Equine Industry

July 2007



Upcoming Extension Educational Events:

July:

MOAB- 13th First Aid for Your Horse, 4-H Youth only

MOAB-14th Training through your Horses Eyes, English riding lesson for youth

For more information on these and other clinics go to: extension.usu.edu/equine

Upcoming 4-H Events:

July 9-11 USU State 4-H Contests, Logan, Utah

August 14-15

State 4-H English Show Ogden, Utah

September 20-22

State 4-H Western Show Vernal, Utah

For more information go to Utah4horse.org

USU Undergraduate Equine Emphasis

USU will offer a new 4-year Equine Emphasis beginning fall of 2007. The emphasis is in equine business/management which will prepare students for careers in the equine industry.

A new Equine Educational Center will be developed to broaden the scope of the emphasis.

Welcome to the first addition of the EQUINE NEWS.

We are very excited to begin producing a quarterly newsletter that will be sent out through email and will also become a part of our traveling equine program display.

We plan on promoting upcoming events offered by the USU Extension Equine Team, County Extension Agents and 4-H events, along with what is happening in our undergraduate equine program.

In upcoming newsletters we will address many equine related topics with local, state and regional contributors. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Bits
- Dental Care
- Hoof Care
- Saddle Fitting
- Saddle Pads
- Body Condition Scoring
- Nutrition
- Reproduction
- Waste Management
- Horse Boots
- Pasture Management
- Fencing

If you have topics you would like to see covered in this forum, please contact us as we would appreciate your input.

Meet the Editors

Dr. Patricia A. Evans
Extension Equine Specialist
Assistant Professor, ADVS Department
Utah State University



Pat comes from a very strong and diverse horse background. She has worked with a variety of breeds including Quarters and Paints, Warm bloods, Arabians, Morgans and Thoroughbreds. She has competed in a variety of events including speed events, western pleasure, hunter under saddle along with training youth and amateurs for showmanship, horsemanship, english equitation, halter, trail, western riding and reining. Pat has had the opportunity to ride several different styles

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including dressage, cross country, show jumping, western and hunter. This allows her to appreciate many breeds and riding styles. Pat has worked in the industry for many years as a trainer on the east coast. She has also worked for three university equine programs, including North Carolina State, Clemson and now Utah State. Pat's responsibilities at USU include developing extension programs for adults horse owners or enthusiasts and assist in the 4-H equine program across the state. Pat also teaches in the undergraduate equine program on campus. She is the program director for the new equine emphasis that will be introduced at USU fall semester 2007. The new emphasis is a four year program that will give students the opportunity to pursue a career in the equine industry. Along with the new emphasis, USU is working towards building a new equine facility that will greatly expand the opportunities offered in the undergraduate program. More information about extension programs and the undergraduate emphasis can be found at: extension.usu.edu/equine

Scott S. McKendrick brings over 32 years of Extension experience to the USU Equine Teaching and



Extension Team. Scott's experience ranges from a 4-H Agent in the County to Director of the Utah 4-H Program and from a Regional Extension Director of both Co-op Faculty and a Continuing Education campus to his current assignment as Coordinator of Equine and Small Acreage Programs for USU Extension.

Scott gives major leadership to the Utah 4-H Horse Program and supports and coordinates other equine programs with Dr. Evans. Scott currently serves as the USU representative on the Board of Directors of the Utah Horse Council and also serves on the Utah Farm Bureau Federation's Equine Policy Committee. Scott's personal background in the horse industry includes training and showing, roping, judging, teaching and ranch work. Scott is a Certified Farrier with the American Farrier's Association with nearly 40 years of horseshoeing experience.

Along with his equine assignment Scott also coordinates educational programs for small acreage owners throughout the state, helping them make their "dream property come true" through the help of other USU Extension Specialists. Scott also brings the Extension Program Development experience to the Equine Team to promote moving the Equine educational experiences off campus to the entire state and horse owning public. In deed the State of Utah is OUR campus.

Taking Care of Your Horses Hooves!

By Scott S. McKendrick

Equine hoof care is too often "out of sight, out of mind." However horse owners must realize that for maximum horse health and longevity, through hoof and leg soundness, regular hoof care is a must. To some owners the only desired hoof care is trimming, while others require shoeing for their horses. No matter your personal preference, the main thing ALL horse owners must realize is that regular and proper hoof care is a must.

For those who keep their horses barefoot, a more rigorous trimming schedule must be met, while at the same time paying particular attention to controlling the environment and corral surface where the horse is kept as much as possible. While practicing the barefoot philosophy owners actually have horse's hooves trimmed at more frequent intervals than those who keep their horses shod, but less is taken off each time, and in many cases regular rasping and remodeling of the hoof is all that is needed.

Owners with horses that are non-use or little use may get by with the traditional 10-12 week interval for trimming and 6-8 week (or slightly less depending on the age of the horse and current climate and environmental affects) interval for re-shoeing.

A recently peer reviewed fact sheet published by Utah State University titled: **Proper Basic Hoof Care**

By Scott S. McKendrick, Dr. Patricia Evans, and Dr. Clell Bagley is designed to help owners of horses, particularly those who shoe their horses better understand what a proper trim and shoeing job should look like and most importantly why. The article address the importance of an early trim

for foals in creating and maintaining correct leg and hoof structure for the rest of their lives. The article also explains the importance of the correct balance of hoof, including proper alignment of shoulder, pastern, and hoof angles when trimming and shoeing. Pictures aid the readers in seeing the proper shoe application and better understanding what a professional and proper horse shoeing job should include. The concept of "heel expansion" of the shoe is introduced to insure the shoeing job lasts the horse the suggested shoeing interval with comfort and maintenance of hoof quality. The paper is concluded with a listing of suggested practices that owners and farriers should be willing and able to do in providing the optimum care for the horse's hooves and legs. Remember that horse owners have a responsibility to take care of their horse's hooves year round, not just when they are using them. Best of luck!

Readers can access the complete article for reading or download at <http://extension.usu.edu/equine/> and click on publications.

Summer Heat and Your Horse

By Patricia A. Evans

As the weather becomes warmer some simple measures can help your horse be more comfortable and healthy. If a horse is healthy it can usually handle the heat in its normal environment. This may not be true with a horse that is in work or stabled in a poorly ventilated barn. In their natural environment horses will seek shade and will drink more water to replenish the fluids lost through respiration and sweating. A horse in work will produce more body heat due to the muscles working to produce movement. Cool weather aids the horses in dispensing much of this heat but with higher temperatures or with added humidity the horse has more difficulty expelling this heat. In response to increased body heat the horse increases its sweating rate, moves more blood to the capillaries under the skin and increases its rate of breathing in an effort to release this build up of heat. Signs of heat stress include profuse sweating or no sweating, rapid breathing rate- panting, rapid heart rate, skin that is dry and hot, and an unusually high rectal temperature. To determine if

your horse is dehydrated due to heat stress a pinch test on the neck or shoulder can be performed. Pinch a fold of skin between your thumb and pointer finger and when released it should resume its original position immediately. If it remains tented out the horse is at some level of dehydration.

Horses that are not physically fit and are overweight are more prone to having problems dealing with the heat. Keeping a horse at a body condition of 5 will allow them to dispense heat more readily than a horse whose body condition is at a 7 or 8. With added condition (fat) the horse has a difficult time remaining cool and so will over heat more quickly. Typically these fat horses will also not be fit which also increases the chance of difficulty dealing with increased exercise in warm temperatures. On the other hand, a horse with too little body condition, below a 4.5, does not have the reserves to call upon with extended work and so will fatigue more quickly. Readers can access more information on Body Condition Scoring at <http://extension.usu.edu/equine/> and click on publications.

Treatment

Horses that have labored breathing, appear distressed, become weak or act colicky or stop sweating are in serious distress and need immediate veterinary attention. The horse should be put in shade and cool or cold water should be hosed or sponged on the horse. Important areas to direct the cold water include the inside of the legs, head and neck where large blood vessels are close to the surface. The horse should be offered water, one bucket of plain water and one with electrolytes. Hot horses should only be allowed to drink cold water in moderation to avoid foundering or colicking. Fans on the horse would also be beneficial. Normal vital signs should return within an hour or so. If the episode was severe the horse should have 10 -14 days off work and returned to work gradually. A horse that has had a heat stress episode is more prone to another episode.

Equine News is a quarterly newsletter written and produced by Utah State University Extension.

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Scott McKendrick, Coordinator, Statewide Equine and Small Acreage Programs*

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