THE LEADING REIN

A UGA Extension Agents' Newsletter for Horse Owners and Professionals



FALL FUN

By Ashley Best

As things cool off, our calendar begins to heat up. With shows and equine events underway, it can be easy to get too busy for the day-to-day tasks. This Fall take time to make your equine management practices more efficient and fit you and your horse's schedule. In this issue, we will discuss manure management and how to assess and change the footing in your arena for a safer riding surface. Many people are in the search for a new horse and Fall is a great time to buy. Learn how to judge a horse based on form to function and learn about the genetic testing provided by many breed associations.





MANURE MANAGEMENT FOR EQUINE

By Brenda Jackson

I bet while you are cleaning your stalls, you didn't think of yourself as a manure manager, did you? The average stalled horse can produce 50 lbs. of manure per day and that doesn't even include the bedding material, whether it be shavings or straw. Taking that into consideration, add another 10-20 lbs., giving a total of about 12 tons of waste per horse stall per year!

There is much more to managing manure on a horse farm than you thought and it is different than what is implemented on a confined animal feeding operation (CAFO). When it comes to water quality, there are concerns related to point source (a single identifiable point of pollution) versus nonpoint source, aka NPS (non-specific source of pollution such as collective run-off from agriculture land). Main water pollutants from NPS would be things like nutrients, primarily nitrogen and phosphorus, organic matter and pathogens. Some basic management practices can be implemented on farm to protect surface water resources.

While you might be exempt from getting an animal manure handling permit from the GA Department of Agriculture, as

"Persons who solely handle animal manure that originates from their own livestock/poultry operation and that is deposited on property under their ownership, lease agreement or otherwise control or is deposited on other property included in such producer's nutrient management plan."



You are still responsible for following the rules regarding storage, land applications, buffers, etc. Animal manure, whether solid or semi-solid must be stored in a site/facility designed to prevents discharge of that manure. The covering must prevent run-off and limit insect breeding.

MANURE MANAGEMENT FOR EQUINE

Continued

Elevation and slope must divert water away from the storage site/facility. The site/facility must be a minimum of 200 feet away from the property line unless otherwise approved by the GA Department of Agriculture. The manure is not allowed to come in contact with ground water or be exposed to excessive run-off. Land application shall be at least 100 feet of non-vegetative distance or 35 feet of perennial vegetative buffer from any down-gradient surface water, including but not limited to, streams, ponds, springs, sinkholes or wetlands; at least 100 feet from any well; and applied in a manner such that manure does not leave the property on which it was intended to be applied.



The Scoop on Poop

Some basic strategies for managing your manure:

Have a sound manure storage structure where no storm water enters and has no leaching or surface



MANURE MANAGEMENT FOR EQUINE

Continued

For more information on GA Department of Agriculture Rules for Animal Manure Handling, contact Courtney Wilson, Compliance Specialist, Agriculture Inputs Division at <u>courtney.wilson@agr.georgia.gov</u>. To do your own self-assessment for your horses and pastures, see the Georgia Farm *A* Syst publication on Healthy Horses, Healthy Land, <u>https://richvigue.com/documents/healthy_horses.pdf</u>. If you need cost share assistance for manure storage structures or creek crossings, contact your local USDA NRCS office or Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission. If you do not have their numbers, your local county extension office can provide them.





Proper application with tractor and spreader provides a thin layer of stable waste over the soil to improved manure drying and fertilization application along with decreased fly breeding. Adapted from On-Farm Composting Handbook, NRAES-54

Excerpts from UGA Bulletin 1400 by Dr. Kylee Jo Duberstein

When examining horses for conformation, either when considering a purchase or competing in horse judging contests, it is important to break things down into key principles to avoid becoming overwhelmed when putting the overall picture together. There are five main criteria to evaluate when examining a horse's conformation: **balance**, **structural correctness**, **way of going**, **muscling**, **and breed/sex character (also known as type)**.

BALANCE

Balance is arguably the most critical aspect to evaluate when examining the horse. Balance is essential for both quality of movement and performance in any event, and is determined by the horse's bone structure. Balance refers to equal distribution of muscling and weight from the front of the horse to the back of the horse, from its top to its bottom and from side to side. However, balance is not determined by the horse's weight but instead by proper angles and proportions of different parts of the body. In other words, a horse can be light bodied or heavy bodied and still be balanced if its bone structure allows for equal distribution of that weight. Proper balance enables the horse to carry itself in a

manner to allow for easy maneuverability, greater power and smoother movement.

The first priority when looking at a horse is to determine if it is balanced. To begin with, the horse should carry equal weight on his front end and back end and on his topline and underline. This is determined by the skeletal structure of the horse allowing for correct proportion of the horse's parts. The neck, shoulder, back and hip should all be approximately equal lengths and the horse's topline should be shorter than its underline (Figure 1).

A common flaw that negatively affects the horse's balance is a back that is long in relation to the neck and hip. An important ratio to consider when analyzing balance is the ratio of the topline to the underline. The topline is measured from the withers to the point of coupling. The underline is measured from a point under the belly between the horse's front legs to a point roughly even with the stifle (Figure 2). The topline should always be shorter than the underline in a balanced horse. A longer topline indicates that the horse has a long, weak back, which is often problematic due to long backs having weaker muscling.



1- Ideal balance, all solid white lines are roughly equal length. The dashed white line (topline) is shorter than the dashed purple line (underline). 2- The horse represents a long, weak back — the topline and underline are similar lengths.

Continued

STRUCTURAL CORRECTNESS

Structural correctness is critical for soundness as well as correct and clean movement. This is determined by proper structure and alignment of bone, particularly pertaining to the legs. Structural correctness is tied very closely to balance and influences the way a horse moves.

After examining the horse for balance, a close second in importance is structural correctness. A horse's structural correctness is mainly determined by the structure and position of the bones in the legs. This is critical because the horse's legs take incredible impact in most riding disciplines. Any conformational flaw causes deviations in where the horse absorbs concussion. Conformational defects affect the horse's way of moving and can also lead to future lameness due to excessive stress placed on certain areas of the body during athletic movements. A horse carries approximately 65 percent of its weight on its front legs, thereby making the front legs the most likely area for injuries resulting from trauma or concussion. Conformational defects cause deviations in the way the horse moves and places its hooves on the ground, and therefore affects the way impact travels up the leg. The more structurally correct the horse's legs are, the more evenly distributed the impact will be and the less likely the horse will be to have chronic or acute injuries.



Vertical line from point of buttock should fall in center of hock, cannon, pastern, and foot.

Continued

WAY OF GOING

Leg conformation significantly impacts **the way the horse moves**. A horse with straight, correct legs has maximum range of motion and moves cleanly and correctly without any interference (hitting one leg against another). Horses with structural deviations in their legs do not generally move their legs straight forward when traveling. Horses with pigeon toes typically "wing out" when they move. As the horse has its knee bent and its leg brought back behind it, it must swing its lower leg to the outside of a straight line to place it back in front of itself. This is due to the natural angle that the horse's legs are set at due to the pigeon toes. It is not, however, as serious a problem as the mature horse that toes out. These horses will "wing in" as they move forward. This causes the horse to potentially interfere and hit its other leg as it is moving one leg forward. (Side note—toeing out slightly in foals will often not persist into adulthood as the foal ages and fills out muscularly). Horses that are base narrow tend to "rope walk," or cross one front leg over the other when moving, and also have a tendency to interfere.

In addition to watching the horse from the front and rear to determine its footfall, it is also important to watch the horse move from the side to determine stride length and quality. In some disciplines and breeds, such as Quarter Horses and Thoroughbreds, the horse should have a long, smooth stride that is very flat with very little knee action (Figure 19a). For certain breeds such as Arabians, Morgans and Saddlebreds, the horse should have more knee flexion and raise its legs higher (Figure 19b). It is important for all horses to bring their hind legs well underneath themselves to power their movement. It is also important when watching the horse move from all angles to be sure that the horse does not "interfere" or hit its legs together at any point in its stride.





Figure 19a

Figure 19b

Continued

MUSCLING

Quantity and quality of **muscling** can be another important consideration when evaluating conformation, though not to the same extent as balance, structural correctness and way of going. It is important to recognize that degree of muscling is largely determined by breed, with some breeds naturally being more heavily muscled (e.g., American Quarter Horse) than others (e.g., Thoroughbred).

Points on the horse to evaluate muscling include the chest and forearm, loin, stifle and gaskin. In these areas, quantity and quality of muscling can be evaluated. A deep pectoral "V" is desirable in the chest (Figure 20). It is also desirable for the forearm and gaskin muscling to have definition and be long and smooth versus short and bunchy. When examining the horse from the side, the muscling over the back and loin area should be smooth and defined rather than weak. The back should tie smoothly into the hip without severe angles or bumps. The muscling over the entire topline should be smooth and flow together seamlessly (Figure 21).

On the hindquarters, the muscling over the stifle and gaskin should also be well defined but not bunchy. The muscling around the stifle should be the widest part of the horse when viewed from behind (Figure 22). The muscling around the inner and outer gaskin should also be wide and well defined. In general, it is desirable to have a smooth, well-defined muscle pattern over the entire horse.



Continued

SUMMARY



Evaluating conformation involves analyzing a particular breed and type of horse for balance, structural correctness, way of going, muscling and perhaps breed and sex character. Breed and sex character were not discussed in this publication, as they are typically the least important consideration in evaluating conformation and can vary greatly between breeds. Essentially, breed character simply refers to how well an individual horse represents the ideal standard for its breed. Pictures of ideal breed individuals can typically be found on breed organization websites or brochures. Breed characteristics should not take precedence over balance, structural correctness or way of going.

Proper conformation is important to allow the horse to be balanced, powerful and maneuverable as well as to maintain soundness over its lifespan. Evaluating a horse based on its conformation should give an idea of how the horse might perform a given task and how sound it will stay. There are exceptions to every rule, and there are definitely horses with poor conformation that go on to be great performers, and horses with crooked legs that never take a lame step. However, looking at conformation is one of the most reliable predictors of both athletic ability and soundness in the majority of horses.

It is a useful skill to develop an educated "eye" and be able to knowledgeably assess conformation. In youth and collegiate horse judging competitions, it is critical to be able to place classes and give reasons using the five main criteria of balance, structural correctness, way of going, muscling and breed/sex character.

GENETIC TESTING AND BREEDING

By McKenzie Wheeler, Rockdale County ANR Agent, Guest Writer

Hyperkalemic periodic paralysis (HYPP), glycogen branching enzyme deficiency (GBED), hereditary equine regional dermal asthenia (HERDA), malignant hyperthermia (MH), polysaccharide storage myopathy type 1 (PSSM1) ... These are some intimidating words that horse owners are likely to come across at some point or another, especially if breeding is on the yearly agenda. So, what exactly do these equine diseases entail? What do they mean for breeding? How can you know for sure that you are breeding to avoid these diseases?

When it comes to genetics, a recessive trait can be carried without showing any signs of disease because the horse would need two copies of the gene for it to cause the disease. So, the horse may have one copy and be a carrier but have a perfect bill of health (these horses may pass that carried gene onto offspring). However, for dominant traits, just one copy means that the disease will likely show through. PSSM1, MH, and HYPP are all autosomal dominant traits, meaning only one copy of the gene is needed to cause problems. GBED and HERDA are both recessive traits.



These five diseases are common in the quarter horse world, which why the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) offers what they call their 5-panel genetic test, which will check for these five diseases. Currently, in order for a horse to be marketed as an AQHA stallion for breeding, the stallion must have the 5-panel genetic test on file and it will be open for viewing for potential breeding opportunities. This way, those choosing to breed can make informed breeding decisions for their potential offspring. The test can be ordered through the AQHA website (you can also test your mares), and requires a hair sample to be sent in. This way, if a stallion is a carrier of one of these diseases, you will know and know your risks for breeding. It will also show if there are any dominant traits. So, breeding decisions can be made to avoid these diseases all together.



THE LEADING REIN

GENETIC TESTING AND BREEDING Continued

Hyperkalemic periodic paralysis (HYPP)

Hyperkalemic periodic paralysis (HYPP) is a disease where you may see your horse have random muscle spasm attacks and the muscles will tremble and shake. Sometimes, the horses will end up getting weak and falling. It is caused by a mutation in the sodium channels within the body, which means too much potassium ends up in the blood. This disease is traced back to the stallion Impressive, so any horse from this bloodline is required to be tested for HYPP, and any horse that is H/H (homozygous dominant) for the trait, cannot be registered through the AQHA. These results will show N/N (normal), N/H (has a copy of dominant trait, but symptoms may not be as severe), and H/H (homozygous dominant for the mutation and will show severe symptoms).

Glycogen branching enzyme deficiency (GBED)

Glycogen branching enzyme deficiency (GBED) is fatal. You will not see a mature horse with GBED. These horses do not have the enzyme that they need to get the right kind of glucose (sugars) to their muscles that they need to survive and operate organs, meaning organ failure is inevitable. Often times you will see abortions, stillborn foals, or if the foals are carried to term, they typically die soon after birth. With GBED being recessive, the results would look like this: N/N (normal), N/G (carrier, not affected but can pass to offspring), or G/G (affected, and will not live past a few months of age). The above are examples of both a dominant trait, like HYPP, and a recessive trait, like GBED.



Polysaccharide storage myopathy (PSSM)

PSSM1, which is a mutation that causes excess glycogen (sugar) to be stored in the muscle that can cause severe muscle cramping, especially after exercise, will follow a similar genetic pattern as HYPP when it comes to breeding. The severe muscle cramping is called tying up. This disease can effect draft horses and stock type horses. Type 2 PSSM occurs without any genetic mutation and is often seen in warmbloods.

GENETIC TESTING AND BREEDING

Continued

Malignant hyperthermia (MH) and HERDA

So will MH, which is a mutation that can cause death if the horse receives certain anesthesia (can also happen from extreme stress or excitement), but the horse's body will release an excess of calcium which causes cramping, extremely high body temperatures, sweating excessively, and breathing problems. HERDA, which is a skin condition where collagen formation is impacted between layers of skin, so the horse is more prone to injuries as well as skin that is oddly stretchy, is recessive so it will follow the same genetic patterns as GBED. This disease is often not evident until the horse is started under saddle and the saddle starts to cause tearing and scarring of the skin.



These diseases are still out there and impact more horses than you would think. Luckily, there are resources available so that responsible and informed breeding decisions are possible, and these diseases can be monitored.

Breed associations like AQHA and APHA offer genetic testing to help breeders and buyers make an informed decision about a horse and it's career. Many times these genetic diseases will influence performance and often longevity and quality of life for the animal. Many stallion owners will offer the results for the 5 panel genetic testing when advertising the stud service. Be sure to check those results with your mare to ensure there is no chance of a genetic disease in the foal.

In addition to genetic disease testing, horses can also be color tested. In the next issue, we will dive deeper into color genetics and discuss what makes a pretty palomino so golden.



University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine

EQUINE GENETIC DISEASES RESOURCES:



Kentucky Equine Research



UC Davis Equine Health Topics

http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/ID/ID265/ID265.pdf

THE DIRT ON ARENA FOOTING

Exerts from University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service Riding Arena Footing: Materials and Characteristics (ID-265)



STRUCTURE OF ARENA SURFACES

The *footing* is comprised of the following three layers (Figure below).

<u>**Top</u>**: The actual riding surface. This layer is lighter, less compact, and can be composed of many different primary components and additive combinations. Depending on use, this layer is often two to six inches thick.</u>

Base: The solid, compacted layer between the sub-base and the top layer. Usually, this layer is six to eight inches thick, depending on arena use.

<u>Sub-base</u>: The lowest part of the arena surface, usually made up of the existing soil structure or added rock to promote drainage. The sub-base can include multiple layers.

The <u>crown</u> is a raised area in the middle of the arena that promotes drainage to the sides and outside of the arena. Crowns are only necessary in outdoor arenas, due to variable rainfall. The suggested slope for the crown is 1 to 2 percent. Outdoor arenas can be built with either a crown or with an elevated, well-drained surface. Crowns are often used in arenas with less permeable surfaces to eliminate ponding of water. The crown is typically developed during the initial earthwork and is present in both the sub-base and base layers. A crown will affect maintenance protocols; one must be sure not to damage the crown by not crossing over the center of the arena and by dragging from end to end whenever possible.

CROWN

TOP 2-6 in

BASE 6-8 in SUB-BASE

THE DIRT ON ARENA FOOTING

FOOTING MATERIALS

Sand

Sand is a very common footing material due to its availability, durability, and drainage capacity. It is a granular component; often described as broken-down rock particles characterized by size, shape, and composition.

Particle Size: Sand particles can be broken down into fine, moderately coarse, and coarse particles. Most arenas utilize coarse sand to promote drainage and reduce dust concerns.

Shape: Particles are either angular or rounded (Figure 2). Shape is often a product of the weathering mechanism that acts to shape the grains of sand. More angular particles pack together easily; rounded particles remain spaced apart.



Scientific Figure on ResearchGate.

Composition reflects the origin of the sand or mineral particle (location and geologic layer) and affects the durability of the sand. The most common origin rocks for arena use are sedimentary (commonly known as limestone), quartz (found in igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks), feldspar (found in both igneous and metamorphic rock), and river rock (mineral composition dependent on location).

The primary type of sand used in arena footing is mineral sand, which is formed by the weathering of igneous, metamorphic, or sedimentary rocks.

- River sand: Sand sourced from riverbanks and riverbeds. It is usually of varying origin, and this variance depends on the location of the river source. River sand particles tend to be rounded, as they are smoothed by the action of water sweeping particles downstream over time.
- Silica sand: A type of sand composed of quartz, which tends to be very hard and resistant to breakdown.
- Class I sand: A limestone-based sand. Can be an inexpensive option but will be softer and less resistant to breakdown.

THE DIRT ON ARENA FOOTING

Continued

FOOTING MATERIALS

Crushed Rock/Construction Aggregate

Crushed rock or construction aggregate is more common in outdoor arenas because it can be very effective at draining water. It does not compact easily if it is poorly or uniformly graded, but well-graded mixtures can be compacted. This tendency for crushed rock to become compacted is dependent upon the size, sorting, and gradation. The characteristics of crushed rock are similar to that of sand in the variation of size, shape, and composition. Often, crushed rock or construction aggregate is used as the sub-base or base for the footing.

Rubber

Rubber is often seen as a footing additive, but some choose to use it as a primary component. As a primary component, crumb rubber or shredded rubber can have relatively little dust. It is believed to increase shock absorption, which is a common reason it is used as an additive to the primary component. It has a low freezing point, which is beneficial in cold climates where riders want year-round arena usage. Rubber is also affordable.

Rubber is commonly sourced from recycled materials. The source is especially important when the rubber is a recycled material, as it can potentially contain toxins or even metal particles. It is important to determine that the recycled rubber used as a footing material does not contain any materials or additives that may pose health concerns for horses or humans. Rubber will break down with time, as will any primary component, but it can last longer than other materials.



Soil Mixtures

Soil is a highly variable material that refers to a mixture of sand, silt, and clay. The mixture within the soil can vary greatly and is dependent on the soils that are regionally available.

High proportions of clay in soil tend to produce a footing that is slippery when wet and solid and hard when dry. It is highly compressible, making the management of compaction important.

Loam is simply a specific blend of sand, silt, and clay, usually with a lower percentage of clay and higher capacity for holding water

Wood Chips

Wood chips are a softer footing material that can provide a lot of cushion. Wood chips retain water well but break down relatively quickly and thus pose dust concerns. As a primary component, wood chips require a greater amount of water for dust suppression, which can contribute to freezing in cold climates. Riders in certain disciplines prefer this surface because it tends to be softer. It is generally considered a more affordable option for arena footing.

THE DIRT ON ARENA FOOTING

Continued

COMMON ADDITIVES



Fiber

Fiber is added to arena surfaces to add stability, to cushion the surface, and to increase the lifetime of the footing. The fibers act similarly to the root system of a plant in soil, which prevents erosion and gives a firmer surface. Fiber can also promote proper drainage of water throughout the footing material. Fibers are said to increase the shear strength of footing, meaning that the addition of fiber to a primary component will increase the primary component's resistance to force.



Rubber

While sometimes used as a primary component, crumb or shredded rubber is also incorporated into other primary components as an additive. Adding rubber can reduce compaction and concussion and increase drainage.



Crushed Rock/Construction

Aggregate

Adding crushed rock as an additive can help promote drainage of the primary component, reduce compaction (depending on particle size), and is dependent on many of the factors discussed above (size, source rock, etc.).

Considerations

The primary component of arena footing will break down over time with repeated concussion from the working horses as well as the addition of organic material (manure, bedding, and mud) over time. Even with manure removal, some degree of organic material will be introduced into the footing. Stronger sands may hold up better, and additives will increase the longevity of arena surfaces, but all surfaces will eventually break down. When this happens, it is usually best to add more footing to refresh the surface, or to replace the surface entirely, depending on the state of the primary component and additive. As the primary component of arena footing breaks down, dust often increases in the arena.

Different footing types also wear differently on arena maintenance equipment. Different types of hard sand and gravel can degrade arena equipment, especially with the frequent use required by arena surfaces. Tines and teeth should be monitored regularly to determine any necessary changes in depth setting or required replacement of parts.

The ideal surface for any horse depends on many different factors, such as discipline and environment. Because arena surfaces continually change with use and maintenance, it is important to evaluate the current footing and adapt the maintenance protocol to suit the needs of the horses using the arena.

EXTENSION SPECIALIST SPOTLIGHT

By Ashley Best

Kylee Jo Duberstein

Extension Specialist and Associate Professor - UGA Animal and Dairy Sciences

<u>Brief Bio:</u>

Kylee Jo Duberstein was born in Missouri, but grew up in Gainesville, FL on a small horse farm where she competed jumping horses at a national level for over 15 years. She showed at the Grand Prix level for over 10 years and has won 4 USEF national standard Grand Prix events, as well as medaled for two years in the North American Young Riders Championships, with many of her accomplishments coming aboard her home raised American Quarter Horse, Whatazan. She resides just outside of Athens with her husband and two children on a small horse farm where she continues to enjoy horses.

Position:

Kylee is a professor in the Animal and Dairy Science department at UGA where she instructs in the equine science program as well as serves as a state equine extension specialist. Kylee teaches courses such as Equine Nutrition as well as Anatomy and Biomechanics of the Horse. She leads the applied, hands-on equine science curriculum by teaching introductory horse handling and riding courses as well as an advanced course on horse behavior and training to students from many different majors across campus. As part of her equine nutrition research program, Kylee conducts research in the area of forage selection and pasture management for horses, with a recent focus on managing horses with metabolic disorders. Additionally, Kylee has worked extensively in the area of equine biomechanics where she enjoys studying potential impacts of nutritional, farrier, and training factors on the equine gait.

<u>Goal:</u>

Her main focus right now is to develop research-based recommendations for grazing horses with metabolic disorders involving insulin dysregulation. She has a large research project going on in collaboration with a faculty member at the vet school. They are wrapping up phase 1 of this project and planning to continue working in this area.



Kylee rode horses professionally during and after completing her Ph.D. in equine nutrition at the University of Florida.



THE LEADING REIN

Tack Corner Wool Saddle Pad Care

By Ashley Best

The saddle pad is the important piece of tack and comes in contact with the horses skin the most. They must be kept clean and soft to prevent rubs or saddle sores. Keeping your saddle pad clean will protect your investment and prolong the life of the pad. Never use a high powered pressure washer to clean your pads. This will push the dirt deeper into the wool fibers and prevent proper wicking of sweat.

To properly clean your western saddle pad, follow these steps:

Remove hair and dirt: Scrub the underside of the pad with a curry comb to loosen the sweat, dirt and hair. Be sure not to destroy the fiber material and curry only enough to loosen the caked-up dirt and hair.

Vacuum: Use a hose attachment with a vacuum and remove as much of the loose dirt and hair as possible. This will make it easier to rinse and prevent it from going deeper into the pad we you begin washing.

Wash and Soak Pad: Begin from the center of your pad and and spray at an angle with luke-warm water if possible. Never spray directly into the pad. Then apply Woolite or a soap that is specifically formulated for horses or natural fibers. Let the pad soak for 15-20 minutes.

Rinse, Rinse, Rinse: You want to rinse your pad starting from the center working to the outer edges. Continue to rinse until the water runs clear and clean. If you leave any soap, your horse could develop irritation. Try to continuously push the dirty soapy water to the edges of the pad rather than soaking in the middle.

Dry: Never hang your pad by a corner or on a clip. This will cause distortion of the fibers. Only set it on a saddle rack or fence rail with the right side up to air dry so the pad can maintain it's shape.

Leather Care: Once the pad is dry, you can then apply quality leather conditioner to the leather wear strips on the pad.





HORSE CLUB ACTIVITY

PATTERN PARTY

Patterns are a vital part of numerous riding and inhand classes, but they can often be more intricate than they appear at first glance. Understanding patterns can be a fun activitiy that fills club meetings during those rainy days.

Break the meeting into parts. Start bv introducing patterns and the symbols you will be utilizing while giving each student a key to use.

- 1. Play a quick game of matching where students must match the written instructions with the pattern diagram.
- 2. Read through a pattern and have students draw it out as it is read aloud. Be sure to review each step several times and explain the correct pattern at the end.
- 3. Have a pattern to practice on foot. This can be with a stick horse or without.

AQHA Show Patterns





Elevated Equine

Elevated Equine is a web-based resource for horse owners and professionals provided by University of Georgia Cooperative Extension.



The Elevated Equine website is designed to allow you to search all equine resources offered by UGA Cooperative Extension.

The Home page features articles from the latest newsletter issue. Meet the Team and see what each agent is working on currently. Check out and print archived issues of The Leading Rein. Our resources page offers publications form UGA Extension as well as other trusted institutions and research based organizations. Finally stay up to date with the latest equine events from UGA and other equine groups around.



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The Leading Rein Articles

A UGA Extension Agents' Newsletter for Horse Owners and Professionals



Tack Corner: Bit Basics



Bit selection is a critical area of consideration for riders of all disciplines and levels. Bit selection is often regulated by various breed and/or horse show associations. For many horse enthusiasts lack of knowledge about bit types and functions as well as common misconceptions held in the horse industry, can make choosing an appropriate bit... Posted in: Vol. 81 Winter 2023 Subscribe

Form coming soon!

Newsletter Archives

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Horse Club Activities

Tack Corner

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Mark Your Calendar

1/27	State 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl All day Madison, GA Contact your local Extension office Teams of 4-5 members from one county compete against each other answering questions in a game show format. Participants compete with their team to answer questions on anatomy, conformation, feed and nutrition.
March	 State 4-H Horse Show: Intent to Show Deadline 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Statewide Contact your local extension office 4-H members are encouraged to participate in the State 4-H Horse show. To be eligible, an intent to show form must be completed the first week of March. To learn more about state horse show opportunities and deadlines, contact your local 4-H office.
3/30	West Georgia Equine Symposium All day Carrollton <u>pjburke@uga.edu</u> Carrol and Coweta Counties are hosting a full day event focusing on all equine topics. This symposium offers numerous speakers and opportunities.
4/20	4-H State Horse Judging and Hippology All day Athens, GA Contact your local Extension office Acquire a better knowledge of horses and develop skills in the selection of horses, while learning the basic principles of animal science.
Spring	Elevated Equine: Dental Do's and Don'ts 7:00 pm Virtual <u>Register Here</u> This Elevated Equine program is designed to give you the dos and don'ts about equine dentistry so your horse can have a long useful life. Learn more about the equine mouth from DVM and certified equine dentist, Dr. Diane Febles of Veterinary Equine Dentistry.
Varies	Horse Judging Clinics Variable Statewide Contact local Extension Carrol and Coweta Counties are hosting a full day event focusing on all equine topics.
	Follow us on Social Media Facebook Instagram YouTube



Click to follow each event registration underlined in red

THE LEADING REIN

Meet the Team

Ashley Best

UGA Extension County Agent - Newton County abest22@uga.edu

Ashley received her BS in Agricultural Education from UGA and her MS in Agriculture Communications, Leadership and Education from University of Missouri. She enjoys teaching and presenting equine topics, barrel racing, and other equine endeavors. She has two horses, Dally (APH) and Dino (AQH), as well as a miniature donkey. She has been a lifetime equine enthusiast and loves all equine disciplines.



Brooklyne Wassel

UGA Extension County Agent - Pike County brooklyne.wassel@uga.edu

Brooklyne grew up surrounded by horses in Gainesville, GA. She received her BS and MS in Animal Science from Auburn University where she focused on non-structural carbohydrates and hay soaking. She enjoys educating the public on numerous agricultural topics, spending time with her family and taking care of Catalina (AQH) and Yankee (MH).

Brenda Jackson

UGA Extension County Agent - Murray County bljack@uga.edu

Brenda Jackson is the County Extension Coordinator, Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent for Murray County Extension. Brenda is a graduate of Berry College with a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science and Equine Science. Her Master's degree is also in Animal Science, from University of Georgia. Prior to coming to UGA, she was the assistant breeding manager on an Arabian farm.





THE LEADING REIN Meet the Team

Robyn Stewart

UGA Extension County Agent - Lincoln County rlstew2@uga.edu

Robyn is a life-long equestrian with a passion for translating technical research into everyday, applicable practice, particularly equine nutrition and feeding. She is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Georgia, holds a M.S. in Equine Science from Middle Tennessee State University and a B.S.A. from UGA. Prior to coming to UGA, Robyn worked for Purina Animal Nutrition. When not working or studying, she enjoys spending time with her Arabian gelding, Webb.



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