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# Equine

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## UPDATE

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K-State Research and Extension  
Department of Animal Sciences & Industry

Kansas State University

March 1997

### **KSU Horseman's Conference Attracted Near Record Crowds**

The 15th annual KSU Horseman's Conference was held Saturday, March 8, at the K-State Student Union. The educational sessions and Industry-sponsored trade show attracted between 750 and 800 horse enthusiasts from Kansas and Missouri. Plans are already beginning for next year's program, which will be held on March 7, 1998, at the K-State Student Union.

Anyone who has ideas for next year's educational sessions should contact Mark Arns.

### **NE Horse Extravaganza Set For April 26**

Jackson county volunteers have organized a one-day horse extravaganza for April 26, 1997. The program will be held at the county fairgrounds in Holton and will feature a trade show, tack sale and educational sessions.

The program is free and lunch will be available on the grounds. The educational sessions include a round pen demonstration by Dr. Randy Raub, K-State Professor; Equine Acupuncture and Chiropractic Medicine, Dr. Jeff Van Patten, Meriden; Bits & Bitting, Dr. Gerhard Malm, Valley Falls; Management of the Mare at Foaling, Dr. Mark Arns, K-State Extension Horse Specialist; Sportsmanship in the Arena, Terry Champagne, Champagne Trailer Sales, Hoyt; and Equine Nutrition, Dr. Katie Hoyt, Farmland Industries, Kansas City.

The trade show and tack sale begin at 8:00 a.m. and the educational program is set to begin at 9:00 a.m. For further information, contact Jody Holthaus, Jackson County Extension Office (913)364-4125.

### **KSU Equine Reproductive Management School Re-Scheduled for April 5 & 6**

Due to a conflict with the National Youth Horse Leader's Symposium, the Equine Reproduction Management School has been rescheduled for April 5 & 6. The school will be held in conjunction with Colby Community College and will be held at the CCC Agricultural Farm.

The school features approximately eight hours of lecture and eight hours of actual hands-on instruction. The school's focus on artificial insemination practices cover just about anything that a producer would be expected to do in an active horse breeding operation. This year's program will feature added sessions on transported-cooled semen.

The fee, which includes meals, text, STS Semen Transportation Device, and all laboratories, is \$425. An audit fee schedule can be arranged. For further information and/or registration call Mark Arns (913)532-1246.

### **Canada Customs Bond Lifted for One Year**

The American Horse Council has learned that the security deposit imposed by Canada Customs on U.S. horses entering Canada on a temporary basis for racing, showing, breeding, competition, pasturage or training has been lifted for one year.

The policy was originally instituted to address the problem of temporarily-imported horses not being returned and the Canadian Goods and Services Tax applied to permanently imported horses not being paid. (AHC News, 1997. 24:4)

## Caring for the Newborn Foal

As spring approaches many of us are anxiously awaiting the arrival of new foals. Although Mother Nature normally does a good job on her own in terms of getting these new arrivals on the ground and off to a good start, there are several things producers can, and need to do, to assure that everything proceeds smoothly for these anticipated foals.

Planning for a good beginning for the foal actually starts with management that begins with the broodmare. Remember, during the first 2 to 3 months, most all of the foal's nutrients are derived from the mare's milk. It is essential that mares receive adequate nutrition during her lactation period and that she has adequate flesh or body fat at the time she starts her lactation. Stored body fat serves as an important energy reserve for meeting the tremendous energy demands associated with milk production.

It is also critical to realize that foals are born immunologically incompetent and receive their initial protection from the antibodies they receive from their dam's first milk (colostrum). In order to assure that the milk is properly fortified, mares should be present at the foaling site at least 30 days prior to expected foaling. This will allow for her immune system to respond to organisms present and the subsequent secretion of antibodies into her colostrum against said organisms. Similarly, to assure that the colostrum offers maximum protection for foals, mares should receive their annual booster approximately 4 to 6 weeks prior to expected parturition. This again will boost the quality of the colostrum and will enhance the protection that foals receive from this passive transfer of antibodies.

Recognize that the foal's ability to receive this protection from colostrum is short lived. The lining of the foal's gut changes during the first 24 to 36 hours of life, such that by the end of this time antibodies are no longer able to be absorbed. Foals, therefore, should receive quality colostrum during the first 8 hours of life.

Once the foal has arrived, producers should treat the foal's umbilical stump with a 2.7% tincture of iodine. This should be done twice a day for the first 2 days of life. Producers should pay attention to the umbilicus to assure that it has closed properly. If fluid (urine) drips from the stump when the foal urinates, the foal has a patent urachus and should

receive veterinary attention. Many times the stump can be treated on the farm, however, in some cases surgery is necessary. Failure to treat can result in loss of the foal.

Many producers want to administer antibiotics and/or vaccines to their newborn foal. This should only be done if the foal is in a problem environment and under the advice of a veterinarian. It is important to realize that the foal's immune system does not really begin to function until about 8 to 12 weeks of age. Vaccinations given during this initial stage of life, therefore, will not elicit the production of antibodies as done in mature animals. The exception to this rule is in the case of tetanus. If the mare was not vaccinated for tetanus prior to foaling, passive protection can be given to the newborn by administering tetanus antitoxin.

Many producers administer enemas to the newborn foal. Certainly if the foal is observed straining and no meconium has been observed to have been passed, this is a necessary and recommended procedure. However, recognize that foals who receive good colostrum and who have free exercise with their dam, more often than not, do not require enemas. If an enema is given, it is essential that a soft tip/applicator be used and that the fluid administered is nonirritating and administered without force. To do otherwise may result in injury to the foal.

Although it is a good idea to have a veterinarian check out the newborn foal, especially for first time "parents," many producers find that schedules do not always permit this. In order to determine whether or not a veterinarian should be called to inspect the new arrival, producers should be familiar with the neonate's vital signs and normal behavior. Knowing the vital signs and normal behavior will allow producers to monitor the newborn closely and determine if anything abnormal begins to occur.

Newborn foals should try to stand within the first 60 minutes of life and exhibit a suckling reflex during this time. The foal should actually nurse within the first two hours of life. It is not uncommon for foals to be unsuccessful at their first attempts at nursing. However, it is important that they have a good suckle within this time. If the foal does not have a strong suckling reflex, or has not nursed during this time, it is essential to get veterinarian attention promptly.

The vital signs that are normally monitored include body temperature, heart (pulse) rate, respiration rate, hydration status and mucous membrane color. The newborn's body temperature, ~101 to 101.5 F, is about one degree Fahrenheit higher than the mature horse's resting body temperature. The newborn's heart rate will increase over the first several hours of life from ~60 beats per minute, to about 80 to 120 beats per minute during the first several days of life. Once the foal is 2 to 4 weeks of age, the resting heart rate should be 60 to 80 bpm. The resting heart rate will drop to 40 to 50 bpm once the foal is 6 to 12 months of age. This again is higher than one would expect for the resting HR of the mature horse.

The respiration rate is considered normal when in the range of 20 to 60 breathes per minute. Similar to the heart rate, it is generally higher at birth, and gradually declines to about 20 to 40 breathes per minute.

The hydration status of the foal is determined by performing the "Tent Test." This refers to the pinching of the foal's skin on the neck. If the foal is properly hydrated, the tent formed does not remain. However, if the foal is dehydrated, the skin is no longer elastic and the tent remains for greater than two seconds.

The normal color of the mucosa, which is normally evaluated by looking under the foals lip and at his/her gums, is a pale pink. A dark bluish color is abnormal and indicates that the foal is ill and a veterinarian needs to be called. When the gum is pressed the color immediately following the removal of the pressure is white. The color should return to it's normal pale, pink color within 2.5 seconds. This is referred to as the capillary refill time.

Producers need to recognize that abnormal values for any of the vital signs may be indicative of a serious problem. If there is any doubt at all regarding the health of the neonate, a veterinarian should be immediately called. Delaying help for too long may jeopardize the health of the foal.

### **ENPS Meetings to be in Fort Worth this May**

Equine educators, students, practitioners and industry representatives from across North America will be attending the Equine Nutrition & Physiology Symposium in Fort Worth on May 29-31. The program will feature 5 invited speakers and 137 papers dealing with equine nutrition, reproduction, exercise, production & management, and teaching & extension. A special seminar for equine practitioners will be held on May 27. For further information on the program and registration costs, contact Mark Arns (913)532 1246. Please note that ENPS registration is due April 10.

# **Overstock Winter Sale!**

## ***Horse Industry Handbook A Guide to Equine Care and Management***

This handbook will be marked for sale at \$48.95 through June, 30, 1997.  
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## *Upcoming Events*

### **April**

- 5-6 Equine Reproductive Management Schools, Mark Arns (913) 532-1246
- 11-12 National Horse Leader's Symposium, Kathy Anderson (402) 472-6410

### **May**

- 17 Judging Contest, Montgomery County
- 27-31 ENPS Meetings, Fort Worth, Mark Arns (913) 532-1246

### **June**

- 10 SE Area Horse Judging Contest, Coffey County
  - 17 Judging Contest, Chase County
  - 21-22 KSU Horsemanship Camp
  - 25 Judging Contest, Lyons County
  - 26 State Judging Contest
  - 28-29 KSU Horsemanship Camp
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# Youth Section

## **National Youth Leader's Symposium to be Held in Lincoln, Nebraska, on April 11-13**

The American Youth Horse Council's Annual National Youth Leader's Symposium will be held at the Cornhusker Hotel and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Animal Science Complex on April 11-13, 1997. The annual program features academic and industry speakers from across the United States.

The program begins with tours on Friday and a Welcome Reception that evening. The program actually begins on Saturday and goes through mid-Sunday. Saturday's program includes 22 different sessions with two concurrent sessions being held during each time slot. Session topics are quite varied and include "Linking Laughter to Effective Leadership," "Are You Liable?" "Nutrition & Feeding of Performance Horses—Package for 4-H," "Horseless Horse Develops Leaders," "Horsemanship," "Vaulting," "Hippology," "Model Horse Showing," "Risk Management in Riding School," etc... The Saturday evening program features a demonstration by the National Reining Horse Association and the United States Dressage Federation. Preregistration is \$25 (adults) and \$15 (youth), and at the door registration is \$30 and \$20. For a complete schedule and registration information, contact your county extension office, or call Mark Arns at (913)532-1246.

## **New Judges Nomination Form Introduced During February PAC Meeting**

To simplify the procedures for nominating district 4-H Horse Show Judges, a nomination form has been developed. Each district can send in three nominations and only those forms which are completed will be accepted. The forms are due July 17 in the Extension Horse Specialist's office. Most dis-

tricts are planning a short meeting during their district shows to complete the forms and to select the three individuals they wish to nominate for the judge's committee. The state judge's committee will select the final candidates and the 1998 judges list will be available by August 1. This should give the districts plenty of time to secure a judge for the 1998 district show.

For information on when and how your district is going to prepare their nominations, contact your district chairperson. The district chair, judge committee chair, or PAC (agent) representative at the time of this writing are:

NW—Byron Hale (913)475-8121

SW—Darl Henson (316)356-1721

NC—Jacque Karl (913)263-8583

SC—Eric Otte (316)722-7721

NE—Beth Hecht (913)684-0475

EC—Holly Applegarth (913)755-4044

SE—Ann Domsch (316)431-1530

## **KSU Horsemanship and Training Workshop Scheduled for June**

K-State Research & Extension will be conducting 2 two-day workshops on horsemanship, horse training and management. The workshops, scheduled for June 21 & 22 in Manhattan, and June 28 & 29 in Colby, will feature three sections: Intermediate Horsemanship, Advanced Horsemanship and Horse Behavior & Training. The lead clinicians for the workshops include George Dawson (Intermediate Horsemanship), Mary Ann Papay Harris (Advanced Horsemanship), and Drs. Randy Raub and Gary Webb (Horse Behavior & Training).



For each workshop, each section will be limited to 12 mounted participants and will run from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. For the Manhattan workshop, stalls will be available on a limited basis on campus (\$20), however there will be plenty of stalls available in the local Manhattan area at the same price. Stalls will be available (\$20) at the CCC Agricultural Farm and at the county Fairgrounds for the eastern clinic.

The fee for the two-day clinic is \$45 per mounted person and includes lunch each day. Unmounted observers can attend for the cost of the meals and breaks if they're preregistered (\$15). For further information and registration, contact Mark Arns (913)532-1246.

### **State Judging Contest to be Held June 26 in Weber Arena**

The State 4-H Horse Judging Contest will be held in Weber Arena on June 26. Registration and instructions will take place in room 123 in Weber Hall. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the contest to follow at 9:15 a.m.

Volunteers will be needed during the contest to serve as group leaders and horse handlers (halter). In addition, anyone who has halter and/or performance horses that can be available for several hours in the morning, would be greatly welcomed. Performance classes that may be held include Hunter Under Saddle, Western Pleasure, Trail, Western Riding, Reining, Hunter Hack, Horsemanship, and Hunt Seat Equitation. The performance classes will be held first. Riders will be done by 10:30 and halter horses done by 12:00. If you have an interest in helping with this contest please contact Pat Kayser (913)537-0966 or Mark Arns (913)532-1246. If you need contest and/or registration information, contact your local 4-H agent or Jim Adams (913)532-5800.

### **State 4-H Horse Show Under New Leadership**

Beginning with the 1997 Kansas State 4-H Horse Show, Ann Domsch, Southeast Area 4-H Specialist, will assume the responsibilities of Super-

intendent of the State 4-H Horse Show. Ann has been associated with horses for many years and has been involved with the planning and organization of several district 4-H horse shows.

With any change of leadership, comes the chance to implement changes to increase the efficiency of operation. One of the targeted areas that Ann would like to start restructuring is in the area of volunteer support. Anyone that has attended the State Show recognizes the need for volunteers if a quality show is going to be conducted. Our goal is to implement a system where open communication exists between State Show organizers and potential volunteers, such that volunteer assignments and responsibilities are clearly identified prior to the start of the show.

In order to accomplish this goal, Ann will be working with Mark Arns and Matt Teagarden, Extension Youth Assistant, Animal Sciences & Industry, this spring to identify volunteer positions and associated responsibilities. These will be put together in the form of job descriptions and made available to district committees and to potential volunteers through this publication and county publications. Suggestions are welcome and can be made by contacting Ann Domsch at (316)431-1530, Matt Teagarden at (913)532 1264, or Mark Arns at (913)532-1246.

### ***4-H Youth Judging Manual***

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