

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

Kansas State University

Equine

UPDATE

December 1996

Exciting Program Set for 15th Annual KSU Horseman's Conference on March 8, 1997

The 15th Annual KSU Horseman's Conference will be held March 8, 1997, at the K-State Student Union, which is located on the main campus in Manhattan. The popular, industry-sponsored trade show will open at 8:00 a.m. and will be located in the KSU ballroom on the second floor of the union.

The educational sessions will feature a variety of presentations ranging from 30 to 60 minutes in length. The tentative schedule includes: sessions on "Transported-cooled semen: Procedures and economics" (Mark Arns, Ph.D.), "Fitting horses for competition and marketing" (TBA), "Preventative health care" (KSU Equine Clinicians), "Proper fitting of saddle for horse and rider" (L. J. Willemsma, Guthrie, OK), "Feeding the geriatric horse" (Kent Thompson, Ph.D., Purina) and "Horse behavior: The stupid horse" (Randy Raub, Ph.D., KSU).

The trade show will close one hour following the last educational session. The KSU Invitational Horse Sale will follow an hour break, which will give people a chance to eat dinner (on their own). The sale will be in Weber Arena and will begin at 6:00 p.m. The sale will again feature horses started under saddle, with several being graduates of the KSU 'Horse Training & Management' class.

The 1997 conference fee is \$7.50 per person and includes all sessions, the trade show, a noon meal (hot, sit down meal) and program materials. Watch for the January issue of the Equine Update for pre-registration forms and further information. If interested in setting up a booth during the trade show, contact Mark Arns at 913-532-1246. If interested in consigning to the sale, contact Randy Raub at 913-532-1240.

K-State Equine Reproductive Management Schools Begin Seventh Season

The two-day schools that focus on hands-on instruction in the area of artificial insemination of horses, have been a popular program for the K-State Research and Extension. The schools are being held in conjunction with Colby Community College (CCC) and will be held on March 16 & 17, and April 5 & 6, at the CCC Agricultural Farm.

The schools feature approximately eight hours of lecture and eight hours of hands-on instruction. Participants will learn about basic physiology of the mare and stallion, as well as getting the opportunity to practice skills that are used on a daily basis on a breeding farm. Following completion of the school, participants should be comfortable with the collection, processing and evaluation of stallion semen, estrus detection, preparation of mare and stallion for breeding, and insemination of the mare with either cooled-stored semen or freshly-collected semen.

In response to the recent industry acceptance of cooled-transported semen, a session has been added to the school so that each participant can package, and then later evaluate cooled-stored semen. The incorporation of this technology can improve breeding efficiency on the farm, as well as allowing greater access to mares and stallions from across the country.

Fees for the school range from \$150 for participants that select to audit the course, to \$425 for full active participants. The active participant's fee includes lectures, meals, textbook and a semen transportation device. The audit fee includes lectures and meals. For further information regarding the schools, contact Mark Arns at 913-532-1246 or Gary Webb at 913-462-3984.

Kansas Horse Council to Release Equine Service Directory

The Kansas Horse Council (KHC) is putting together a service directory that will cater to horse enthusiasts across the state. Information on businesses and organizations that relate to the horse industry will be readily available through the directory. The KHC intends to publish over 10,000 directories, with over 500 being mailed directly to KHC members.

The KHC is making available a free three-line listing for all Extension offices. If you're interested in having your county Extension office and/or horse group listed, or are interested in receiving a copy of the directory, contact the Kansas Horse Council at 913-887-6391.

State Health Department Investigating New EIA Regulations for Kansas

George Teagarden, Kansas Livestock Commissioner, is seeking input from equine groups from across Kansas regarding the introduction of a bill in the next legislative session that would require more testing of horses for equine infectious anemia (EIA). Several groups and individuals have voiced their concerns with Commissioner Teagarden, and Representative Cindy Empson of Independence, who will be introducing the bill.

Potential requirements of the bill include: Change of ownership testing, where all equidae which are sold, barded, traded or offered for sale privately or publicly within Kansas will have to be accompanied by a record of a negative Coggins. Equine exhibition testing, all equidae moving within the state to equine exhibitions (horse shows, rodeos, etc.) requiring entry fees will have to be accompanied by a negative Coggins. Exhibition sponsors would be responsible for checking that all equidae meet the requirements, but are not responsible for recording or accepting falsified or erroneous information. Such behavior would fall under the responsibility of the person providing the erroneous information and may be punishable under law. If you would like further information regarding these potential changes, or would like to provide comment, please contact Commissioner Teagarden at 712 South Kansas Avenue, Suite 4-B, Topeka, KS 66603-3808 or call 913-296-2326.

Broodmare Vaccinations Should Occur 30 Days Prior to Foaling to Protect Foal

As we approach the period of time where mares are beginning to enter their last trimester of pregnancy, it is important to remember that the foal is born without immunity to disease, and that their immune system does not begin to fully produce antibodies until approximately 3 months of age. Foals obtain immunity from disease initially from the antibodies provided in the colostrum they receive during the first 24 hours of life. It is essential for the health of the foal that adequate, quality colostrum be received during this time, as the foal's gut changes shortly thereafter such that the proteins which provide the protection (antibodies) can longer be absorbed from the foal's gut.

By vaccinating 30 days prior to foaling, the mare's immune system will produce antibodies in response to the vaccinations and will result in an enrichment of colostrum antibodies to these diseases. This enrichment will provide greater protection for the foal. Mares will respond immunologically to naturally occurring organisms as well, and, thus, it is important to make sure that the mare is introduced into her foaling environment 30 days prior to foaling. Moving the mare to a new environment just prior to foaling will not allow for an immune response to new organisms which may be present, and may result in inadequate protection for the newborn foal.

Vaccinations will depend on your location and operation. However, most farms will want to vaccinate for Eastern and Western encephalomyelitis, tetanus and influenza. It is best to check with your veterinarian for the vaccination program most suited for your farm.

New 911 Postal System Forced Many Off Mailing Lists

Due to regulations regarding the changes in rural route addresses and zip codes, many have been inadvertently dropped from the Equine Update mailing list. If you know of someone who is currently not receiving this newsletter, and would like to, please send name and complete address to Equine Update, C/O Monika Walburger, Rm 213, Weber Hall, Animal Science & Industry, Manhattan, KS. 66506.

Transported-Cooled Semen Workshops to be Held in Nebraska and Kansas

For those stallion and mare owners planning on utilizing transported-cooled semen in 1997, the Nebraska and Kansas Extension Services are offering two one-day, limited, hands-on schools covering the methodologies utilized with this "new" technology.

The schools in Nebraska will be conducted by Dr. Kathy Anderson, Ph.D., Extension Horse Specialist, University of Nebraska, Dr. Kelly Anderson, D.V.M., Lincoln, and Dr. Mark Arns, Ph.D., Extension Horse Specialist, Kansas State University. The instructors for the Kansas Schools are Dr. Arns and Pat Kayser, Instructor and Horse Unit Manager, Kansas State University, and Gary Webb, Ph.D., Equine Science Director, Colby Community College.

The schools will feature short lectures on stallion physiology as it relates to utilizing this technology effectively, semen evaluation, semen processing, cooling devices commercially available, preparing the mare for insemination with transported cooled semen, and working with the veterinarian to assure maximum results.

The school will be conducted on January 25 on the University of Nebraska campus in Lincoln, and on February 22 on the K-State campus in Kansas. The fee for the school is \$70 and includes lectures, laboratories, lunch and a Lane STS Semen Transportation Device. For further information and registration, contact Kathy Anderson at 402-472-6414 for the Nebraska school and Mark Arns at 913-532-1246 for the Kansas school.

PAC Minutes from October Meeting

The following is a summary of the minutes which were submitted to Jim Adams by PAC secretary Rita Dawson. If you would like a complete copy of the minutes, contact one of your PAC representatives.

Jim Adams presented the state financial report. Based on this discussion of anticipated expenses and

the removal of the exhibition fee, the group voted to enact a \$4 per class entry fee at the 1997 State 4-H Horse Show to cover show expenses.

Mark Arns reported that the 1997 KSF shows, including 4-H, will require a negative Coggins and a health certificate. This rule will be enforced by the Kansas Department of Animal Health.

Individuals who qualify in a class at district which is later canceled due to insufficient numbers, will be allowed to participate at the State show in halter and trail.

Mark reported on the new hiring procedure for hiring judges (see related article).

A discussion regarding the state show and the problem of adults riding youth horses followed. It was decided that signs should be placed that discourages this behavior. Violations should be brought to the attention of show management (in writing).

The policy of humane treatment was discussed and the problems that occurred at the State show (drugging of horses, blocked tails). A publication is being put together for 4-H to discourage this type of behavior. Mark Arns will further look into how to enforce and handle these situations.

A discussion occurred regarding the use of state funds and the following recommendations were made:

- Purchase equipment needed for state show (Electric timers).
- Pay for district liability insurance for 1997 and 1998.
- Utilize \$7,500 for development of 4-H horse curriculum.
- Increase horse judging contest awards to a maximum of \$350 per year.

Meeting was adjourned. The next PAC meeting will take place during Panorama



Youth Section

Panorama Program Set For February 8 & 9

The educational sessions are coming together for the fourth annual Kansas 4-H Horse Panorama. Sessions scheduled include: "Developing Sportsmanship," Jim Adams; "Using the Leader's Edition of the Horse Judging Manual," Mark Arns; "Effective Leaders," Elizabeth Gregory; "Horse Show Management: Situation Responses & New District Regulations," Mark Arns. Additional sessions are currently being scheduled.

The state competitions for quiz bowl, hippology, public speaking and demonstrations will be held on Saturday and Sunday. A dance featuring a professional disc jockey will be held Saturday evening. Check with your local county Extension agent for registration information.

The fee structure has been evaluated and then reevaluated. Based on the 1997 rates at Rock Springs the following fee schedule has been established:

Full time (Room & all meals)—\$40

Saturday & Two Meals—\$20

Saturday No Meals—\$ 12

Sunday & Two Meals—\$15

Sunday No Meals—\$8

(See entry form at your county Extension office, or from Jim Adams, for additional contest fees for youth participants)

Participants need to remember that in addition to program costs, a facility fee has to be paid in order to utilize the Rock Springs facilities. We certainly recognize that not all of the families can stay the entire weekend or even the entire day. We've established what we feel is fair for everyone. Certainly, the Rock Springs facility and staff provide for a great venue at a very reasonable price for those that can attend all the functions. Alternative sites have been suggested and investigated, and none approach the

cost we are currently paying at Rock Springs. Any suggestions would be considered for the 1998 program. Feel free to contact Jim Adams or myself (Mark Arns) with those suggestions.

District Horse Shows: Districts Get Say in Judges Selection and Scheduling of Shows

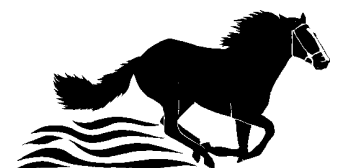
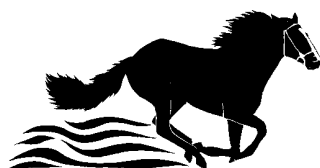
Two new procedures will be implemented this coming year as it relates to the District 4-H Horse Shows. First, districts will hire their own judge and, secondly, districts will be allowed some flexibility on scheduling.

Judges are currently being nominated by districts. The nominated individuals will be screened by the judges committee in mid-December. From the list of nominated individuals, the committee will select 10 individuals from which the districts can choose to hire to judge their district shows. All agreements will be between the district and the judge. The state horse specialist is to be notified once a judge has been secured. A description of the Danish system and a copy of the Kansas Horse Show Guidelines will then be sent to the selected judge.

Because districts will not be limited to two judges, as has been the practice in the past, districts may schedule their show on any date between June 7 and July 13. Many of the districts have elected to host their district show on a weekend. This should allow for more family participation. As we move in the direction of district-managed shows, it becomes extremely important for families to become involved in the planning process. I encourage you to attend and become active within your district committee.

Leader's Edition of the Youth Horse Judging Manual Completed for Volume One

The much awaited Leader's edition of the Kansas Youth Horse Judging Manual has been



mailed. The leader's edition contains a slide set which can be used while instructing youth on horse identification and conformation appraisal. Each chapter contains a brief list of additional references and suggestions and activities. The first volume covers general horse identification (colors & markings), developing a set of reasons, conformation appraisal, western pleasure, hunter under saddle and reining. Only a few of the leader's editions remain available. The first production cost \$75 per manual. For further information regarding manual availability, contact Mark Arns at 913-532 1246.

State Horse Judging Contest to be One Week Earlier

The State 4-H Horse Judging Contest will be held on June 26, approximately one week earlier than when the event is normally scheduled. The date was selected to allow more flexibility with securing horses for the contest and so as not to conflict with fourth of July activities. The contest will be held in Weber Hall and Arena as in the past.

A request for horses to be used in the contest will be sent out in early April. Anyone wishing to supply halter horses or performance horses (western pleasure, hunter under saddle, hunter hack, trail, western riding, reining and/or horsemanship) should contact Mark Arns.

Kansas 4-H Horse Curriculum to be Developed in 1997

Beginning in 1998, the Kansas 4-H Horse Project will take on a new look and direction. The horse project will be based on a level system in which

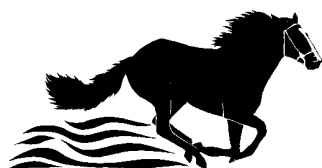
participants will progress through four levels of achievement. In each of the levels, participants will be expected to demonstrate a certain level of accomplishment in general horse production and management, horsemanship and leadership. Each level will have sections to be completed by youth who do not own a horse (Horseless Horse project members). Those youth who have a horse as a 4-H project, will be expected to complete the same sections, in addition to the horsemanship section.

Currently, information is being gathered from state programs that currently utilize a level system. A rough draft of the horse curriculum is expected by late summer or early fall. Although a 1998 implementation may be unrealistic, that is the targeted date for completion. Watch for future editions of the Equine Update for further details.

Summer Horsemanship Program Changes for 1997

Due to equipment and vehicle problems, the KSU Summer Horsemanship Program will be offered at limited sites for 1997. Although the sites and clinicians have yet to be finalized, I anticipate that there will be two schools offered on each side of the state. Each will have limited enrollment and will offer different sections to accommodate everyone's interests and abilities. The two "Eastern" schools will be held at Kansas State University. Weather permitting, the schools will be held at the K-State Horse Unit and Weber Arena only utilized in the case of inclement weather.

Information regarding school content and dates will be available in the next issue of the Equine Update.



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Equine Update

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark J. Arns'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the 's'.

Mark J. Arns, Ph. D.

Extension Specialist, Horses

KSU, County Extension Councils and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating.

All educational programs and materials available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.