

Equine

UPDATE

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment
Station and Cooperative Extension Service

Department of Animal Sciences & Industry

http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/dp_ansi/news.htm

May 1998

KSU Horseman's Conference Attendance Down

The KSU Horseman's Conference held on March 7 received high marks from participants, who overwhelmingly supported future conferences hosted by the Department of Animal Sciences & Industry.

This year's attendance was down 450 from 750 attending last year's conference. To avoid conflicts with the KHC program, future date options are currently being evaluated. Based on the survey conducted during the conference, next year's conference will be held either in late April or early November. Watch for next quarter's issue of the Equine UpDate for date and location information.

New Pages Added to K-State Research & Extension's Equine Web Site

Three new pages have been added to the Extension Equine Home Page. The first, "Body Condition Scoring Brood Mares" gives a description of the body condition score system originally developed by Henneke and co-workers. Several photographs are included which give an idea of the "visual aspects" for BCS's ranging from 4.5 to 7.5. The second, "Gestation Calendar for Horses" contains a gestation calendar that producers can use to quickly estimate when mares are due to foal based on their breeding dates. In addition, a table is included that lists common reproductive event occurrences, such as first postpartum ovulation, onset of cyclicity, etc. . . The third "page" added is the "KSU Youth Horse Judging Manual." The manual is presented in a pdf file format and thus appears on screen as it does in the original hard copy. Check out these publications and event/program information at www.oz.oznet.ksu.edu/pr_horse.

KSU Youth Horse Judging Camp to Provide Great Opportunity for Kansas Youth

The KSU Horse Judging Team and the Department of Animal Sciences & Industry are sponsoring a two day camp for youth interested in learning more about judging horses. The camp will allow youth to experience campus life while fine tuning their judging skills.

The camp will cover the basic criteria for evaluating conformation and performance classes, but will focus on the development and delivery of reasons.

The camp is being led by Julie Wolf, KSU Graduate Assistant-Teaching, KSU Horse Judging Coach. Ms. Wolf has a very strong background in horse judging having judging experience at the 4-H, Jr and Sr college levels. In addition, she has the distinct honor of being the "High Point Reasons" person for the AQHA World Championship Collegiate Horse Judging Contest and the Denver Stock Show Collegiate Horse Judging Contest.

The camp is limited to 50 participants and will cost \$75.00 per participant. The fee covers room, board, course materials and video of reasons. For further information, contact Julie Wolf at 785-532-1271.

K-State Research & Extension to Conduct Two Horsemanship Clinics

Two, two day horsemanship clinics will be hosted by K-State Research & Extension. The clinics are open to youth and adult riders and will cover basic horsemanship techniques, supplying and collection, showmanship and pattern work.

The western clinic will be co-hosted by Colby Community College and will be held on June 18 & 19 at the CCC Agricultural Farm. The Eastern clinic will be held on June 11 & 12 at the KSU Horse Unit in Manhattan.

The clinics are limited to twenty mounted participants and the fee is \$50.00 per person. The fee will cover clinician fees and breaks, but will not cover meals. Stalls will be available at both locations for \$20.00. For further information and sign up, contact Dr. Mark Arns at 785-532-1246 or marns@oz.oznet.ksu.edu.

Pilot Testing of New 4-H Horse Curriculum to Begin in June

The first two levels of the new Kansas 4-H Horse curriculum will be pilot tested in 11 counties this June. Each of the four levels include three areas: Subject matter knowledge, leadership, and horsemanship skills. 4-Her's that are enrolled in the Horse Project will complete all three areas, while Horseless Horse members will complete the first two sections only. Advancement to subsequent levels will require certification of competency.

The counties that are involved in the pilot testing are Riley, Thomas, Ellis, Finney, Crawford, Pottawatomie, Johnson, Dickinson, Phillips, Sedgwick and Harvey.

Certification Workshop Scheduled for November 7.

As part of the new 4-H Horse curriculum, horse project participants will be required to pass riding exams prior to advancing to the next level. In order for the new program to work efficiently, leaders are needed to administer the exams to project members that reside outside their county. The evaluators can schedule exams individually or may elect to conduct a "day of testing" at some public location such as the county fairgrounds.

Evaluators will be reimbursed by the 4-H Foundation \$5.00 per participant evaluated. In order to qualify as an evaluator, leaders will have to be certified by the State Extension Horse Specialist. The certification is necessary to assure that participants are being evaluated across the state as consistently as possible. There will be two levels of certification: Level A will be eligible to certify participants for levels I and II of the new curriculum, and Level B will be eligible to certify levels III and IV of the new curriculum. Individuals may become certified at either or both levels.

The first Level A certification school will be held November 7 on the KSU campus in Manhattan. The workshop will consist of lectures and video appraisal of level I and II riding exams. Participants wishing to sit for the exam may do so at the completion of the workshop. The workshop will run from 8:00 am until 2:30 p.m. The exam will be offered from 2:30–4:30 p.m. The fee for the workshop is \$20.00 which includes lunch. For registration or further information watch for the next issue of the Equine UpDate or contact Dr. Arns at 785-532-1246 or marns@oz.oznet.ksu.edu.

District 4-H Horse Shows Set

The district 4-H horse shows are used to qualify Kansas 4-H horse project members for the Kansas State 4-H Horse Show that is held during the Kansas State Fair. The district shows (7) are being held at the following locations:

Southwest District—July 7, Garden City
Northwest District—July 11, Oakley
North Central District—July 8, Saline
South Central District—July 13, Hutchinson
Southeast District—July 8, Union Town
East Central District—July 7, Lawrence
Northeast District—July 8, Topeka

For further information regarding the district shows, contact your county 4-H agent.

New Stalling & Identification Procedure to be Used During State 4-H Horse Show

With the new administration at the Kansas State Fair, several changes are going to take effect with the upcoming fair, including the State 4-H Horse Show. The changes are certainly welcome and should provide for a better atmosphere for Kansas 4-Her's.

The first change is in the health paper requirements: ALL animals being exhibited at the 1998 KSF will have to go through the Animal Inspection Station PRIOR to coming onto the fairgrounds. The inspection station will be located off of

Plumb street. All horses are required to have a negative Coggin's report and a veterinarian's health certificate issued within the last 30 days. Watch for your premium book for instructions.

The second change is in the stalling of 4-H horses. This year, with the use of portable stalls (similar to last year) ALL 4-Her's will be able to stall their horses (maximum of 2). A stall fee of \$20.00 per stall will be assessed to offset the cost of the rental fees. Stalling will be done by the KSF staff and not by 4-H volunteers. A stalling and bedding reservation form will be required at the same time as the State entry form is completed. These will be made available along with the state entry forms.

The third change involves the ID process. Only those horses that were NOT qualified at a district show will be ID'ed at check-in. A check-in desk will be set up at the same location as past years and participants will need to come over to get back numbers and to check their entries, however only those with invitational class horses (yearling halter, roping) that were not qualified in another event, will need to bring horse to the check-in area. All trucks and trailers are to be parked prior to check-in.

More information will be made available on the new procedures as State Show information is developed.

First Call for State 4-H Horse Show Volunteers

Last year's show was easily the best run State Show in the past 10 years, which was due to the number and quality of volunteers that we had. Obviously with the changes in the identification and stalling procedures our requirements for volunteers is lightened considerably. We still need and will rely on qualified volunteers serving as class superintendents, ring stewards, gate personnel, secretaries, announcers, etc.

If you are interested in serving in the position that you filled last year, please let Ann Domsch (316-431-1543, adomsch@oznet.ksu.edu), Mark Arns (785-532-1246, marns@oz.oznet.ksu.edu) or Matt Teagarden (785-532-1264, mteagard@oz.oznet.ksu.edu) know. A volunteer schedule that clearly lists time commitments will be available during each of the district shows. One of the State or Area Extension Specialists will be at each of the district shows and will begin signing up volunteers for the State Show. Further requests will be made by the State 4-H office through the county offices.

Considering the Use of Cooled Transported Stallion Semen? Success Will be Dependent on Team Effort

George Dawson & Mark Arns

The heart of the 1998 breeding season has been reached and many stallion and mare owners are considering cooled-shipped semen as an alternative to shipping mares to a breeding farm. Cooled shipped semen has many advantages for both the stallion and mare owner: Stallion owners can gain access to a population of mares normally not available to them while reducing the number of client mares that have to come onto the farm, thereby increasing revenue and decreasing the possibilities of disease transmission. Mare owners commonly enjoy decreased travel expenses, mare care costs, reduced stress on the mare and/or foal, and greater access to stallions.

Stallion and mare owners both face some additional responsibilities and considerations when using transported semen. First, stallion owners need to be aware of their horse's reproductive capability. Specifically, stallion manager's must be aware of each stallion's genetic ability to produce sperm and the sperm's ability to survive cooling and cold storage. Among the stallion population, large differences exist in the ability to produce sperm, as well as in the ability of the sperm to survive the stresses associated with cooling. **NOT ALL** stallions will produce sperm that can be used in a transported semen program. Stallion owners who identify these males prior to attempting to use cooled-shipped semen will save many dollars and hours of anguish.


Many mare owners fail to recognize that in order for transported semen to be used efficiently, the shipment of semen must be synchronized with the mare's ovulation. Most stallion's spermatozoa only remain in a viable and competent state for 24 to 48 hours. Therefore, mares must be monitored daily to assure that ovulation can be predicted, and so the semen is delivered just prior to the mare ovulating. This does

add some expense to the mare owner, but this cost is recovered when one considers the economic benefits of leaving the mare at home and not incurring normal travel and mare care costs.

If one chooses to utilize cooled-shipped semen they must realize that management skills are important, and working with a veterinarian will be necessary if success is to be achieved. A good part in determining the success of a transported-cooled semen program is in establishing good communication. Each party, stallion manager and mare manager, must clearly understand their responsibilities and any limitations that the other party must work under. Individuals should ask questions that pertain to prior success rates, additional shipping/collection fees, collection schedules, veterinarians's/mare manager's experience, etc.

Cooled shipped stallion semen is an attractive and exciting addition to many horse operations. It continues to be highly advertised and marketed by individuals in the industry and more than likely will increase in acceptance, utilization, and success as more producers learn how to properly use this technology.

Order Forms



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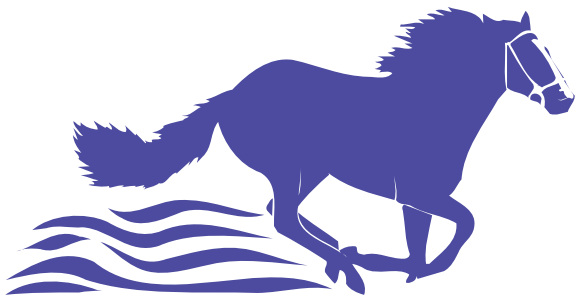
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Equine

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