

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

September 1999

Julie Wolf Joins K-State Faculty as Extension Youth Coordinator



The Department of Animal Sciences and Industry welcomes Julie Wolf as the new Extension Youth Coordinator. The position became available when Matt Teagarden resigned to assume his position with the Kansas Beef Council.

Julie is not new to the department, as she has been serving as the Horse Judging Team Coach for the last two years, and is in the process of completing her M.S. degree. In her new position, she will continue to coach the horse judging team and will be in charge of coordinating all youth extension activities for the Department of Animal Sciences & Industry.

Julie is originally from Galva, IL. She received her Associate in Science degree from Black Hawk East and her B.S. in Animal Science and Agricultural Education from Oklahoma State University.

You can contact Julie at: 785-532-1264 or jrwolf@oz.oznet.ksu.edu

Teresa Douthit Joins Ranks to Assist With Horse Judging Team & Horse Show Team



Teresa Douthit of St. Francis, Kansas starts her graduate studies this fall and will serve as assistant coach for the K-State Horse Judging Team. In addition, Teresa will coach the K-State Horse Show Team, which will compete in its inaugural show this October (see Page 2).

Teresa graduated from K-State with her B.S. in Animal Sciences.

As an undergraduate, she had a very successful career on both the horse and livestock judging teams. She was an active participant in the Kansas 4-H horse project.

Teresa will be working on her M.S. degree with Dr. Randy Raub in the area of equine nutrition. Teresa can be reached at: 785-532-1271 or tdouthit@oz.oznet.ksu.edu

Animal Sciences & Industry's Equine Educational Activities Center Receives Final Approval From K-State Administrators

For several years, K-State AS&I faculty, along with K-State alumni and supporters, have been envisioning a facility that would allow K-State to conduct animal courses and activities in an environment suitable for a leading Land Grant University. The proposed facility would serve as home for the K-State Rodeo Team and would house all of the Department of Animal Sciences & Industry's animal courses and activities.

The facility would also be used for the Department's continuing education programs such as Horsemen's Conference, Cattleman's Day, and others. When not in use by the Department, the facility will be available for rent to the public and could be used to host major horse events, livestock shows, car shows, etc. The proposed facility would be one-of-a-kind and would provide K-State students with a state-of-the-art equine center for a broad spectrum of equestrian studies.

Currently, the planning committee is working with administrators on final planning and have begun a financial feasibility study, as funding for the project will be raised from donors. For further information regarding the new center, or for possible donor opportunities, contact Dr. Jack Riley, Head, Department of Animal Sciences & Industry, (785-532-7624); or Dee James, Executive Director, Livestock and Meat Industry Foundation, (785-532-1226).

Students Will Compete on First K-State Collegiate Horse Show Team

Students from a number of colleges across the country have been participating in a sport that few K-State students know exists: Intercollegiate Horse Show Team Competition. That is about to change as several K-State undergraduates are joining ranks to form K-State's inaugural team. The students will compete for points in western and English events. Those contestants obtaining enough points will be eligible to attend the regional show which is held at the end of the season. Individuals winning at the regional show go on to zones, then on to compete at the national show in January in Atlanta, GA.

Julie Wolf will serve as the faculty advisor and Teresa Douthit will serve as coach for the team consisting of 20 members from Kansas, Nebraska, Illinois, Missouri, and Colorado.

Leaders' Training Workshop Set for February 12

A Leaders' Training Workshop will be held on February 12 at the Rock Springs 4-H facility. This workshop will feature (tentative) sessions on Scoring Horsemanship for the New Kansas Standard of Excellence Program; Preparing Youth for Showmanship; Opportunities Available for Students at K-State; Developing the Proper Seat; Why Did My Kid Receive a Red Ribbon?: An Explanation of the Danish System From the Judges Perspective; Developing Your Own Lead Ropes & Lounge Lines.

The workshop will be held during the Horse Panorama. County Research and Extension offices will receive the final program schedule and registration information for this program in late November. Participants will need to be pre-registered by January 13.

Southwest Horsemen's Conference October 2

The Southwest Kansas Horsemen's Conference will be at the Finney County Fairgrounds Livestock Pavillon & Horse Palace on October 2. The conference will begin at 10:30 a.m. and includes a demonstration by the renown trainer and breeder, Billy Allen (Scott City). Mr. Allen will have two sessions entitled "Basics to Developing a Young Horse". The first half will kick off the program at 11:00 and the second half will occur at 3:30.

In between Allen's presentations will be two educational sessions consisting of three presentations each. The first session features concurrent presentations on: Nutritional Management for Geldings & Brood Mares (Dr. Mark Arns, K-State), Show Ring Tips from the Judges Perspective (Julie Wolf, K-State) and First Aid for Horses (Dr. Tami Radney, Scott City). The second session will focus on Forage Basics (Dr. Lance Huck, K-State & Dr. Phil Sloderbeck, K-State), Colic in Horses (Dr. Tami Radney) and Shoeing for a Sound Horse (Dr. Randy Raub, K-State).

A registration fee of \$5 is required by September 30 for the hamburger lunch and can be made by contacting Mary Ann Harris at 316-355-6551 or Dr. Lance Huck at 316-275-9164. Commercial booth space is also available for \$25. Interested parties can contact either Harris or Huck.

Eastern Kansas Horse Conference October 30

K-State Research & Extension will host an Eastern Kansas Horse Conference on October 30 at the Miami County Fairgrounds. The conference will include demonstrations, a trade show and 12 educational sessions that participants can choose from. The trade show and registration opens at 3:00 p.m. with demonstrations beginning at 3:15. Sessions currently scheduled include topics on showing, judging, liability law, small acreage management, nutrition, forage evaluation, wrapping the equine leg, equine vital signs, loading and trailering and round pen reasoning.

Many of the sessions will feature live demonstrations. The program is scheduled to conclude at 7:30 p.m. with a prize drawing. The prize drawing is being sponsored by the trade show exhibitors. Purina will be sponsoring a hamburger dinner beginning at 5:00 p.m..

A pre-registration fee of \$5 is required by October 25 and can be made by contacting Herschel George at the Miami County Research and Extension Office (913-294-4306). Trade Show space (indoor and outdoor) is available for \$25 plus a "gift" for the prize drawing. Vendors should call Herschel George to reserve a spot.

Clinics to be Offered to Prepare Youth for Kansas Standard of Excellence Program

K-State Research and Extension will be conducting horsemanship clinics to aid Kansas 4-H members in preparing to take the horsemanship tests associated with the new Kansas Standard of Excellence Program. Kansas 4-H members have two years to prepare for the new program, which goes into effect in 2001. The clinics will be offered at the county level, and will be geared toward helping horse project members successfully pass the horsemanship exam.

Clinicians will consist of K-State faculty, graduates, and current students. Each of the clinicians will be state-certified to administer riding exams and will be approved to test participants wishing to be tested that day. Participants do not have to be tested and may use the clinic as a warm up for the horsemanship exam. Costs for the clinic will be determined based on the number of participants and should provide participants with low-cost instruction.

For further information or to schedule a clinic, contact Dr. Mark Arns (785-532 1246 or marns@oz.oznet.ksu.edu) or Julie Wolf (785-532-1264 or jrwolf@oz.oznet.ksu.edu).

AQHA Champion & 12 Time ABRA World Champion, The Coosa Connection, will Stand the 2000 Breeding Season at K-State



Roy Ratliff and family have agreed to let Kansas State University stand their great stallion, “The Coosa Connection” for the upcoming breeding season. The stallion is an AQHA Champion, AQHA National Top 10 High Point Stallion, AQHA Multiple High Point All-Around Horse, 12 Time ABRA World Champion (seven events), Two Time Open All Around ABRA World Champion, and a World Champion sire.

The stallion is an HYPP N/N son of the great World Champion Halter Stallion and Sire, Coosa, and out of the Sir Impressive daughter, Impressive Morn. Although the stallion carries world champion halter bloodlines, he has proven himself as a performance horse and sire. The stallion will be a great asset to the K-State breeding program and will be available to the public for a fee of \$1000. The stallion will also be available through the K-State transported semen program. For further information regarding breeding contracts, contact Jason Turner, K-State Horse Unit and Breeding Manager at 785-537-0966.

Motivating to be Motivated: Helping the beginner or youth to practice and enjoy oral reasons

Julie R. Wolf

More and more youth today are beginning oral reasons at an earlier age. Therefore, it becomes difficult and often challenging for coaches in preparing these students for judging competition. Coaches must take different strategies in both motivation and preparation of these younger judges. The future of these youth in oral reasons is in their hands.

Why are oral reasons important? This question has been addressed thoroughly by others involved with judging and coaching. Other than to successfully compete at judging contests, oral reasons can be a great way to improve personal communication skills.

Motivating the beginner or youth to give and practice oral reasons can become quite challenging to the coach or parent. What exactly is motivation? Motivation can best be described as an internal force that challenges you to strive for the best in whatever you are doing. Coaches cannot force students to be motivated, but they can provide the right atmosphere and setting for motivation to develop. This setting begins on the first day of practice and continues until the last contest. The goal of this discussion, therefore, is to help you get your students motivated and loving what they are doing. The motivation you give the students as a coach should not only be the kind to succeed at reasons, but to succeed at life.

There are many possibilities in developing motivation within your team. Some of my personal findings will be discussed here. However, you are free to create your own personal motivational ideas. First, make the student's feel comfortable speaking one-on-one with you. Start by asking questions about the class, then move on to asking them why they placed 1 over 2. Once they are somewhat relaxed, have them write their reasons word by word and allow them to read the reasons to you. Some believe that a coach should never let the student write their reasons word for word, but I disagree. This will develop the ability to recognize proper sentence structure and grammar before they develop bad habits in the reasons' room. After this step is accomplished, have the student prepare their reasons using abbreviations and incomplete sentences to force the student to remember the class. Incomplete sentences will help the students remember transitional terms and phrases without having to write them down. Start out with opening statements and gradually add more content until the student can give a full set of reasons. Getting the students to gain confidence by feeling comfortable speaking in front of you is a key step in the motivational process.

Focusing on the benefit of judging is another way to increase the motivational factor of your students. Tell and show youth what scholarships and awards can be obtained through judging. Personal success stories are also good motivational tools for youngsters. Have someone that has ‘been there and done that’ talk to your group about the fun of judging. Also, have that person tell about the places they have traveled when on judging trips. Show a video of your speaker giving reasons, or have that person give a set to the group. Have the students set individual goals for each practice. For example, get through one comparison, or one paragraph. Reward these students—especially orally—for achieving those goals. Handout ‘motivational sayings for the day’ at the beginning of each practice. Books containing sayings and phrases can be found at all major bookstores.

continued on page 4

Make practices as fun as possible. Do not burn them out at an early age. Try to portray to your students that judging is fun. If it is fun for you, then it will be fun for them. If you hate coming to practice, they will, too. Some parts of the practice can be made into a competition. When learning parts of the horse or steer, the students could match the name to the correct part. Also, when learning reasons, pick a body part and have the students give as many terms as possible to describe that area on the animal.

Above all, you have to be willing to help. You have to be willing to spend the time with beginners to help them set up and develop their reasons correctly. If you don't care, they won't care. You also have to be willing to give a set of reasons to your team. They will need much assistance in their early days of practice, and they expect you will be there to give that needed assistance.

Motivating to be motivated is not an easy task. You can't be positive and cheerful one day, and the next resemble the terminator. Before your students can become motivated—you have to be motivated. Good luck with your future team, and may they enjoy oral reasons.

Feed Tags: Are They Worth Reading?

Mark J. Arns

Have you ever stopped to read the tag on the bag of feed that you picked up for your horse? Most horse owners don't always look to see what they are buying, when in fact, the information could save them money, and/or provide their equine friends with a more nutritious feed. Having said this, many feeds contain minimal information on the tag and many producers are left wondering about the quality of the product.

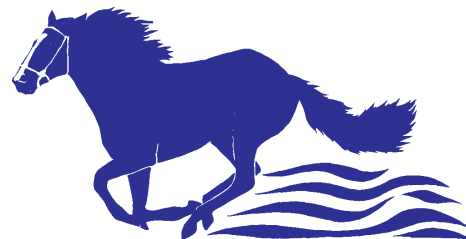
The information that must be supplied on the tag includes minimum crude protein and crude fat, and maximum crude fiber concentrations, along with the list of ingredients. Although not always the case, the cheaper, lower quality feeds will only contain this information. Further, instead of listing individual ingredients, "type" is listed instead (such as grain products, grain by-products, etc.). This allows the manufacturer to use a least cost formulation that can change from batch to batch.

Higher quality feeds will list the required information, plus will list mineral and vitamin content as well. Commonly, minimum and maximum concentrations of calcium and phosphorus are listed along with vitamins A, D and E. For ingredients, the actual grains and products are listed, rather than the type of ingredient. These feeds will be more consistent from bag to bag than those that are least cost formulated.

How do you determine if a feed is an acceptable quality or not? Visual inspection of the feed should provide the horse owner with some information. If the feed contains unidentifiable ingredients, it more than likely contains a lot of plant by products. An important analysis, that must be listed, is the percent crude fiber (CF). If the crude fiber content is high, more than likely the feed contains plant by-products, which are usually low in nutrient content and quality. Keep in mind that for a normal grain mix, as fiber increases, the digestible energy of the feed decreases. A 6% CF generally has 1.4 to 1.45 Mcal DE (digestible energy) per pound, while a grain mix with 16% contains 1.1 to 1.15 Mcal DE per pound. For most non-performance mature horses, the main nutrient that we are supplying through the grain mix is energy, and, thus, one should estimate the amount of energy and calculate its cost, rather than looking at the price of the bag. For example, if two feeds are available that contain the same protein concentration, but one has 7% crude fiber and sells for \$7 per bag, while the other has 18% fiber and sells for \$6.15 per bag, the cost of the DE is \$0.10 per Mcal DE for the \$7 per bag feed, and \$0.12 per Mcal DE for the \$6.15 per bag of feed. Although not greatly different in price, this will add up over time. Moreover, it illustrates that the more "expensive" bag of feed is actually "cheaper".

Recently, I had a producer change to a higher quality feed only to switch back to his original feed, because his horse was getting too fat on the new feed. Higher quality feeds often are more nutrient dense (as illustrated above) and, thus, require less to get the same nutrient intake. In the example above, if 5 Mcal of DE was being supplied by 4.5 pounds of the lower quality feed, only 3.5 pounds of the higher quality feed is required to maintain the same DE intake. We must always remember to feed horses by weight, not volume, so that differences in nutrient densities are taken into account.

Regardless of whether you are comparing forages or grains, always look at the quality of the feed and the price of the feed in terms of nutrient cost. If you are feeding young horses and protein is the primary concern, calculate the price of that nutrient to help decide which feed meets your horses' needs, as well as your pocket books.



K-State Horse Judging Team Starts Season With Win

This past April the K-State Horse Judging team traveled to Fort Collins, CO, to compete in the Southwestern Intercollegiate Horse Judging Contest. Team members were rewarded for their travels by being named the High Team Overall for the contest. The team placed first in reasons, performance and halter to accomplish this task. Team members include Dale Brown, Chris Blevins, Megan Douthit, Tanya Draper, Shanna Miller and Keegan Halterman.

4-H Horse Show Judges Seminar & Certification to be Offered on March 11 and 12

Many counties have trouble finding horse show judges for their county and open 4-H horse shows. In an effort to help identify qualified people, K-State Research & Extension will be hosting a one-day seminar on March 11 for horse show judges. The seminar will be held at Weber Hall and Arena on the main campus and will feature Jon Wolf of Galva, IL. Jon is a carded judge and the coach of many world champion junior collegiate horse judging teams. He has conducted judging workshops nationally and should provide a good perspective for Kansas 4-H judges. Mr. Wolf will cover the criteria for judging the judged (versus timed) classes currently offered in the Kansas 4-H program.

For those participants wishing to be included on a judge's list (that will be circulated to all of the county Research and Extension Offices), a certification exam will be offered on the following day. The exam will include a written exam on 4-H rules, and on knowledge of judging criteria for the 4-H horse classes, an interview phase where the participant will be scored on his/her professionalism (appearance, communication skills) and ability to address questions regarding the judging of youth contestants. A final portion of the exam will consist of placing and ribbon grouping several performance and showmanship classes.

The seminar is open to anyone and the certification is open to those 18 years and older attending the seminar. Fees for the workshop are \$15 per person and include lunch and materials. The certification fee is \$10 per person. The seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m. (registration opens at 8:00 a.m.). Pre-registration will be required by March 1 to get an accurate count for meals and materials. Participants can register by contacting Dr. Mark Arns (785-532-1246 or marns@oz.oznet.ksu.edu) or Julie Wolf (785-532-1264 or jrwolf@oz.oznet.ksu.edu) or by sending a list of names and appropriate fees (checks payable to Research and Extension Animal Sciences) to Horse Judges Seminar, C/O Lois Schreiner, AS&I, Weber Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506.

Kansas Standard of Excellence Program Off to A Good Start

Kansas 4-H members have had the last 6 months to get a head start on the new Kansas Standard of Excellence Program that will be implemented in 2001. As of press time, 122 have taken the written exam for Level I and 51 have taken the riding exam for Level I. 95% have successfully passed the written and 100% have successfully passed the riding exam. Six have taken the Level II written exam and have yet to take the Level II riding exam. Of those attempting Level II testing, all have passed.

Level III material will be available to the counties this fall and Level IV materials this winter. Current 4-H members have until event entry time in the year 2001 to achieve their necessary achievement level: Senior members will need to have Level II certification to participate in most state-sponsored events, while junior members will have to be Level I certified. Additional information regarding the Kansas Standard of Excellence program can be found in the level I and II study guides available through the County Research and Extension office.

K-State Research & Extension and Colby Community College to Host Equine Reproductive Management School

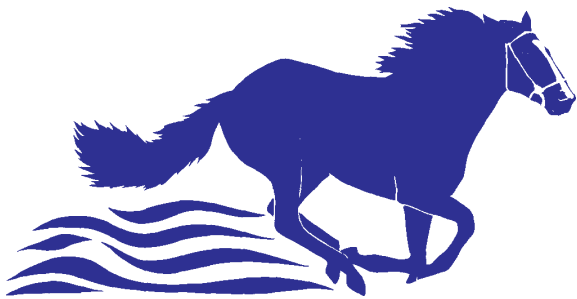
The KSU Equine Reproductive Management Schools will enter its 11th season with two schools currently scheduled for October 16–17 and March 18–19. Both schools will be held in conjunction with Colby Community College and will be held at the CCC Agricultural Farm in Colby.

The schools are designed to provide participants with up-to-date information and hands-on experience in breeding horses. An emphasis is placed on artificial insemination (AI) practices and the use of cold-stored stallion semen. The schools consist of approximately eight hours of lecture and eight hours of hands-on instruction. The lecture material reviews the basics of reproductive physiology and anatomy of the stallion and mare. Hands-on activities include semen collection, evaluation and processing; artificial insemination, hygiene of mare and stallion, teasing, etc.

Each day, participants will practice procedures that are required of producers who are using A.I., so that when they leave, they will have the basic skills necessary to begin their own program.

Schools are limited to 10 active participants and 10 audits (strictly observation, no hands-on activities). Fees are \$450 per active participant and \$150 per audit. Fees include lectures, meals and text (hands-on). Group discounts are available. For additional information or registration contact Dr. Gary Webb (785-462-3984 or gwebb@katie.colby.cc.ks.us) or Dr. Mark Arns (785-532-1246 or marns@oz.oznet.ksu.edu).

Department of Animal Sciences & Industry
231 Weber Hall
MANHATTAN, KANSAS 66506-0202



Equine

UPDATE

Cooperative Extension Service

K-State Research and Extension
Equine Update
Kansas State University
Weber Hall #244
Manhattan, Kansas 66506-0201
785-532-6131



Mark J. Arns, Ph. D.
Extension Specialist, Horses

K-State, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating.
All educational programs and materials available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability.