

THE LEADING REIN

A UGA Extension Agents' Newsletter for Horse Owners and Professionals



SPRING IS UPON US

By Ashley Best

The shorter days, frigid weather and the inevitable winter mud are all behind us as Spring is approaching. Time for pasture management, new foals and big horse show goals for the upcoming 2021 season. This issue helps horse owners prepare for all things Spring. Gather how to stay ahead of weeds in your pasture and increase grazing potential. Begin the yearly maintenance on your horse trailer and follow the checklist here for a safer hauling experience. Learn about and prepare for the State 4-H Horse Show. Start with a healthy foal by understanding the foaling process and important steps. By preparing for the season, you will have less stress and enjoy more time with your equine partners.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION

**NEXT STEP IN PASTURE
MANAGEMENT**

**STARTING WITH A
HEALTHY FOAL**

HORSE TRAILER SAFETY

TACK CORNER

LONG EAR LOGIC

**GEORGIA 4-H STATE
HORSE SHOW**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MEET THE TEAM

THE NEXT STEP IN PASTURE MANAGEMENT

By Brooklyne Wassel

Don't get caught trying to play catch up this year when it comes to pasture management. Think about setting your pasture up for a successful spring and summer. The best first step is the all-important soil sample. Though a large portion of agricultural operations choose to soil test in the fall, it is never too late to test. Testing your soil through your local Extension office will yield a plethora of information that can be immediately put to work to improve your pastures. Most notably is the soil pH and liming recommendation. Lime will raise the soil pH to desirable levels to allow pasture forage to efficiently utilize nutrients in the soil. Without the proper pH, the process of nutrient uptake is hindered. Once you have your soil pH taken care of, you can turn your attention to green-up.

Spring undoubtedly starts a new phase in pasture management. It is the time of year that brings new growth and new life. As wonderful as it sounds, not all new life in a pasture is welcome. Many warm-season weeds like to start their new journey of life beginning in the spring. This is why early spring is such a vital time for those who maintain pastures. To keep pesky weeds at bay such as the infamous pasture bully, foxtail, utilizing pre-emergent herbicides is a useful tool in producer's tool box.

Pre-emergent is applied before weeds are visible, so it can be easy to miss the timing or think of this control method as frivolous. Believe me, this is not a step you want to skip! Weeds are easier to control before they emerge. If you wait until they are visible, you are already fighting from behind. While some pre-emergence are available to all consumers, some pesticides are specifically labeled for those with special licenses. Don't worry, it isn't as scary as it sounds. A private applicator's license is intended for individuals who produce an agricultural commodity, such as commercial horse farms, and wish to utilize restricted-use pesticides. A license such as this allows producers to utilize a wider array of chemicals to control and maintain their pastures.

"Weeds such as buttercups not only decrease quality forage availability in pastures, but can also cause issues from ingestion."



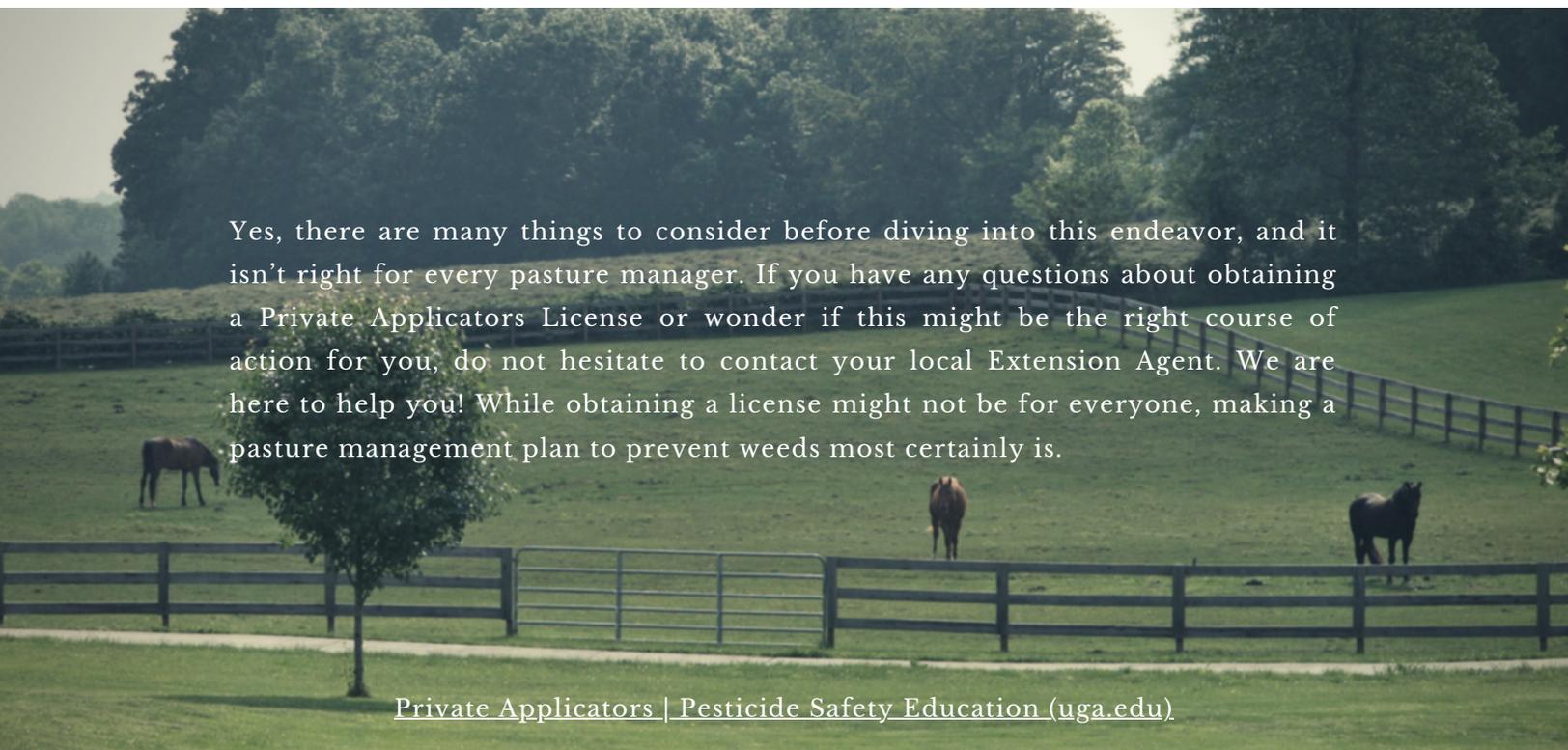
THE NEXT STEP IN PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Continued

This sounds pretty good, but now what do you do? You need to start by completing the Private Applicator training program through the Georgia Professional Certifications storefront on the UGA Marketplace. You can purchase the online course for \$25 and will subsequently receive an email with instructions from Dr. Mickey Taylor. The online course has quizzes and multiple modules that have to be passed in order to progress until the certificate is available at the end. Reattempts are allowed, so there is no reason for test anxiety. Dr. Taylor estimates that it takes novice farmers approximately 4-5 hours to complete the course. Take your printed certificate, license application and driver's license to your local Extension office. Your local Extension Agent will take care of the remainder of the process for you. A license will come to you through the mail in approximately one month.

A Private Applicators License does come with extra responsibility and things to consider:

- The initial license is good for five years.
- Three recertification hours are needed within the five-year timeframe to keep the license valid.
- If enough recertification hours are obtained, the license will roll over for another five years.
- Recertification hours are available year-round through numerous Extension events including webinars, so these are not elusive or difficult to earn.
- Private applicators are not allowed to receive compensation for services. This license is for applying for your operation or supervising on your operation, not for applying herbicide for the farm down the street.
- The label is the law! Be sure to always follow the label on all pesticides.



Yes, there are many things to consider before diving into this endeavor, and it isn't right for every pasture manager. If you have any questions about obtaining a Private Applicators License or wonder if this might be the right course of action for you, do not hesitate to contact your local Extension Agent. We are here to help you! While obtaining a license might not be for everyone, making a pasture management plan to prevent weeds most certainly is.

[Private Applicators | Pesticide Safety Education \(uga.edu\)](https://www.uga.edu/extension/private-applicators)



STARTING WITH A HEALTHY FOAL

By Brenda Jackson

Raising a healthy foal starts with the foaling process. During and immediately after foaling are the two most critical points in that foals' life. Start by considering the actual foaling process in stages. As the expected birth date closes in, start bringing the mare in at night to give her a large, clean, safe stall to foal in. Stage 1 begins when the foal moves into position in the birth canal. You won't know it's happening but the mare does. She will become restless, pacing, maybe kicking at her abdomen or turning to look at her back end. She might even lay down and get up several times or roll as if she's colicky.

STARTING WITH A HEALTHY FOAL

Continued

We switch to Stage 2 as the foal presents – the mare’s water breaks and the foal passes through the birth canal. The foal should appear quickly, within 20 minutes of the water breaking. If it does not, or if you see upside down feet (breech delivery) or red placental tissue (red bag), contact your veterinarian immediately for assistance. In a normal foal birth, you won’t have to do anything but watch.

Once the foal clears the mare, make sure the foal’s airways are clear, the foal is breathing normally and the umbilical cord breaks on its own. This should happen when the mare stands up. You will want to sanitize the umbilical stump but don’t interfere with the bond forming between mare and foal. She’ll be curious and want to sniff the new addition in her life. It is important the mare and foal are allowed time to create a strong bond to ensure the foal is not rejected. If it’s cold and wet, the foal might appreciate your help in drying with an old towel or clean straw, rubbing briskly but gently. This is also an opportunity to begin the imprinting process, where you quietly and calmly introduce yourself to the foal, gently get them used to being handled and give the foal an opportunity to learn you can be trusted. There are books and publications available on how to initiate the imprinting process properly.



STAGE 1
GETTING INTO POSITION



STAGE 2
WELCOME TO THE WORLD



STAGE 3
PASS THE PLACENTA

For Stage 3, the mare should pass the placental mass on her own in 3 hours or less. If it takes longer than that, you should consult your veterinarian to see if oxytocin is recommended. If even a small piece of placenta is left behind, there is the potential for a uterine infection. As far as post-partum care is concerned, making sure the foal nurses and gets that all-important colostrum intake is key to immunity development. It is also important to clean the mare’s udder and legs because as the foal is figuring out where to nurse, it could pick up surface bacteria from the mare.

STARTING WITH A HEALTHY FOAL

Continued

That tiny little foal is your investment in the future. You want to be sure to give it the best possible start on that future so take the time to ensure passive transfer of immunity takes place. What does that mean? Colostrum present in the mare's first milk is key to the development of the foal's immune system. Those colostrum antibodies are indicative of every pathogen that mare has ever been exposed to and are then passed along to the foal. Your new foal should stand within an hour of birth and begin nursing soon after that. Not just nosing around but actively looking for the udder – ensure there is a visible seal from mouth to teat and actual swallowing, you can put your hand on their throat and feel it. If you see an udder that is full and tight, odds are effective nursing has not taken place. Your foal only has about 18-24 hours for the gut to absorb those antibodies before the intestinal walls begin to close. If you know the foal did not get colostrum, maybe the mare died during birth or is otherwise unable to nurse, then it's important to provide supplemental colostrum, preferably from another mare on your farm to ensure the foal gets antibodies from possible pathogens in its current environment. If you are unsure if the foal got the colostrum, maybe the mare foaled in the pasture unexpectedly, your veterinarian can run an IgG test within 48 hours from birth to see what antibody levels are and possibly provide antibody plasma. After this point, you can let nature take its course – keep areas clean but don't obsessively bleach wash everything. The foal needs common environmental pathogens to continue naturally developing its immune system.

The next step in good foal health relates to nutrition. If you are meeting your broodmare's nutritional needs, then she will have no problem meeting her foal's needs. Remember that she is eating for two and should maintain a body condition score (BCS) of 5.5-6.5. For the first 90 days or so, the foal won't need any hay or feed concentrate, just mother's milk. Be sure they are nursing 5-10 times per hour to get the nutrients it needs and prevent digestive upset. After about 3 months, the foal will start exploring feed options, mouthing and tasting what mama is eating. They will start nursing less while eating more hay and feed concentrate.

Healthy Foal Goals

To ensure a healthy foal starts before their feet even hit the ground. Once they get here, all they need are a strong immune system, good nutrition and plenty of room to run and grow. If you ever have any questions about the health of your animals, always contact your local veterinarian or a trusted equine health professional.



HORSE TRAILER SAFETY

By Ashley Best

As show season and warmer weather approaches, traveling with your horses to shows or trail rides will become a regular occurrence. The safety of you, the horse and the equipment is important to focus on before traveling and trailering your horse. By being unprepared and not performing routine maintenance, you can become stranded and as frustrated as a moody chestnut mare. These regular maintenance checks will ensure you have the smoothest travel possible.

Routine Items Include (each time you haul):

Inside Trailer:

- Check for loose or protruding nails, bolts or screws and remove or repair them.
- Check floorboards for any weakness or rotting. Replace shavings if necessary. To help lengthen the life of a trailer floor, mats should be lifted after use and the floor swept or hosed out. If the floor is hosed, be sure it is dry before the mats are replaced.
- Remove debris from drainage holes to lengthen the life of your trailer.
- Check for bees and wasp nests.
- Ensure all locks and partitions are in working order.
- Remove any old hay and replace with fresh hay

Outside the Trailer:

- Tires need a minimum amount of $\frac{1}{4}$ " of tread (check with your state Division of Motor Vehicles for the measurement); they should be adequately inflated and have no signs of dry rot cracks. Spare tires also should be checked.
- Jacks, lug wrenches, and safety triangles or reflectors should be in good working order in case of breakdown. (Ignitable flares should not be stored in the horse trailer because of fire potential.)
- All lights (marker, tail, brake, directional, and interior) should be working and bright.
- Hitch welds, safety chain welds, and snaps should be in good repair.
- Hitch ball should be kept greased as needed.
- Wheel chocks should be in good condition. Use them any time the trailer is unhitched from the towing vehicle.

Yearly Maintenance Checks Include:

- Inspection of frame for cracks and wires for loose connections and frayed covering.
- Replace any rotten floorboards or repair any damage to the flooring.
- Repair or replacement of rotted or rusted metal.
- Greasing of all hinges, springs, etc.
- Inspection of ramp hinges and springs for weakness and cracks.
- Wheels should be pulled and bearings checked and repacked.
- Inspection of spring shackles for wear.
- Inspection of brakes and emergency break-away cable, pin and control box.

This sheet is perfect to print and use as a check-list before traveling with your horse.

HORSE TRAILER SAFETY

Continued

Your horse should be as prepared as you are when hauling. Ensure that your equine partner loads well in advance of any scheduled events. A calm loading experience will minimize the amount of added stress when trailering. Horses should be trailered in a breakaway type halter in case it gets snagged during travel. Leather will break easier than nylon. If the weather is hot, open all vents and windows for adequate air flow. Adding roof vents to your trailer is an inexpensive way to increase airflow for your horses.



When hauling a trailer, it is essential to stay focused and safe. Follow these tips for a safe trip:

- Don't be distracted on your phone.
- Never speed and use the 4 second rule when following other vehicles.
- Drive based on road conditions not the speed limit.
- Anticipate other drivers on the road and be prepared to stop safely at all times.
- Avoid sudden maneuvers, like turns and lane changes.
- Use your mirrors and be sure they are properly set up for you.
- Learn to back the trailer with mirrors.

"Safe hauling is about preparedness and proper planning."

Resources for this article and more information can be found in the [Understanding the Horse Trailer Rig publication from Purdue Extension](#).

Tack Corner

By Ashley Best

It is always best to be prepared when traveling with horses. Always pack at least one day ahead to ensure you have time to locate all items needed. The last thing you want to do is be scrambling the night before (or the morning of)! Here are some essential items to have in your horse trailer when going down the road with horses.

Paperwork:

- Current Coggins
- Registration for Horses
- Health Certificates
- Registration and Insurance for Truck and Trailer
- List of emergency numbers and contacts

Trailer Items:

- Equine and Human First Aid Kit
- A tire iron that fits the tires for your trailer
- Trailer block that you can drive up onto
- WD40
- Flash Light
- Duct Tape
- Electrical Tape
- Knife
- Fire Extinguisher
- Bedding
- Manure Fork

Horse Care Items:

- Spare Halter and Lead
- Extra Hay and Water
- Water and Feed Bucket
- Fly Spray
- Blanket, Sheets if needed
- Mane and tail Brush
- Curry Comb
- Rubber Bands
- Body Brush
- Grooming Towel
- Detangling Spray
- Sweat Scraper
- Hose
- Treats
- Feed
- Tack Items: Bits, Bridles, Saddle and Girth, Pad, Horse Boots and Reins
- Helmet/ Hat

This list can be expanded as needed to fit any sort of discipline. If you check your list each time before you leave, then you will have a more pleasant trip to the show or on the trails.



HORSE CLUB ACTIVITY

TRAILER TALK

Trailer and trailer safety are often overlooked topics. Make it fun by turning it into a "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly" scavenger hunt. Begin by discussing different aspects of trailering such as when to trailer, different types of trailers, matching a truck to the rig, etc. Do this utilizing both a bumper pull and goose-neck if possible. Emphasize safety as you progress through the lesson. Divide the group into teams. Each team should get a piece of paper with three columns and a writing utensil. Giving a set amount of time, let teams write down as many "good, bad, and ugly" portions of the rig as possible. These should all correspond to safety.

Examples:

Good- Truck has adequate tow capacity for trailer

Bad- No trailer block

Ugly- Lights do not function properly



Long Ear Logic

By Dr. Julia McCann

Stubborn as a mule? Is a mule really that stubborn? As a 6 year old girl riding her small donkey “Poncho”, I would have most certainly said, “Yes!”. On a hot summer day I was riding Poncho around the yard bareback having a grand time until the brakes went on. Poncho had decided his entertainment time was over and he was going no further! No problem, I could just get off and start him up again but no, there was a very large and imposing rose bush with exceptionally long, sharp thorns adorning the whole near side! So there I was riding in shorts with no way to properly dismount. I kicked and I kicked and I KICKED! Not a step did Poncho take, and my frustration escalated. But long ears don't really care about your insisting efforts to change their mind in times like this!

You see, long ears have their own perspective on the world and how they should be treated! They are rather firm in their beliefs that have been handed down over 5000 years through some form of domestication and service to mankind. Trouble is, mankind has not always been kind, or thoughtful, or even curious to look at the world through the mind of a long ear. And that is when trouble ensues. Learning the long ear lingo and some of the behavioral differences can give you a leg up on avoiding a standoff that humans most certainly lose when long ears are involved!

For horse handlers, all long ears may look and act about the same and their mere presence can send their horses into the land of snorting! But remember **Rule #1: All long ears are not the same and do not think alike!**

Donkeys shoulder the reproductive aspect for producing long ears via males called Jacks or Jackass and the mares called “Jennets or Jennys”. Donkeys range in size from Miniature (36” or less) to Standard (48-54” for jennets or 56” for jacks) and Mammoth Jackstock at 14 hands and up. Donkeys or burrows as they are sometimes called, tend to be gentle, social, even a bit more flexible until threatened and then donkeys will fight rather than flee as horses have been engrained to do for thousands of years. This protective behavior gives many donkeys the farm responsibility of protecting sheep, goats, or newborn calves from hungry predators.

The other equine in the long ear category are the hybrids that are not reproductively sound. Donkeys have 31 chromosome pairs, horses have 32 chromosome pairs, so the hybrid offspring are sterile.

Long Ear Logic

Continued

Most popular are the mules. Breeding a Jack(ass) to a mare will produce a male “horse mule” or a female “mare mule or molly mule”. The opposite cross of a stallion (horse) with a jenny will produce the hybrid “Hinny”. A male Horse Mule and male hinny are both typically castrated right after weaning to improve their outlook on life and make them safer to be around. The mare mule and mare hinny will cycle like normal horse mares but only very rarely will they become pregnant. Either the mare mule or hinny can be excellent recipient mares, giving birth and raising embryo transfer foals with excellent milk production!

It is interesting that even muleskinners can't distinguish mules from hinnies but the hybrids' true heritage shows when left to their own choice in a herd. Since mules tend to favor horses, packers will turnout a mare with a bell at night to help bind their pack mules for the morning duties. One of the easiest ways to tell if a long ear is a hinny is to turn them out with a donkey or horse. Hinnies also are drawn to their motherly roots and hang with the donkeys! Ahhhh, the power of that early imprinting time is awesome!

How about their means of verbal communication? Who can hold a straight face when they hear a donkey bray, especially when it seems to go on forever? But the genetic heritage of the mule and hinny leaves them a bit more confused. They start out with a nicker and end with the “aw ah aw” of a bray as indicated on the American Donkey and Mule Society web page!

If there is a meaningful buzz word for donkeys and mules, it might be “CAUTION!” All resources reviewed and contacts made for preparing this article quickly shared the same advice for **Rule #2: Long ears prefer a foundation of TRUST that is built on rewards, a gentle touch, and a soothing voice that begins on the day they are born!** Otherwise, they may very well cling to the “Stranger Danger” slogan for life! While donkeys are typically a bit more flexible and forgiving, mules and hinnies tend to be more “structured in their beliefs” and harbor them for years . . . or life! You can even buy mule head stalls that omit the need to push the ear forward when bridling a mule! After all, long ears are rather proud and protective of their crowning glories and it is always best for them to think you also treasure them! Are there differences in those ears too? You bet! Donkeys have the longest ears of all!

So back on that hot summer day as I sat on Poncho worn out from kicking, I finally realized that sliding down the off side was my only option. After I carefully slid down with no fireworks, Poncho followed me for a bit as I grazed him, and then I hopped back on for a ride to the barn and a snack.

Lesson learned? Donkeys can be stubborn, or “confident” to put a more positive spin on it. I am sure Poncho was intentional to not reward my frustrated kicking, no matter the increase in frequency and effort. But ultimately I wore out and thought outside the box for more acceptable communication lines! To this day I value the experience as my first rung on the ladder of “long ear logic” that serves me well when I work with horses, dogs, cats or any behavior modification effort! Hats off and cheers to the ears of Poncho, my first equine teacher! And, I might add, I never went close to that rose bush again!!!





STRAIGHT OUTTA THE HORSE [RIDER'S] MOUTH

Being in Georgia 4-H and showing in 4-H State Horse Shows created some of the best memories of my childhood. Not only was this horse show a great way to meet other like-minded 4-H'ers they also provided me with opportunities to grow professionally through a variety of contests that serve to teach hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship. I would highly recommend the State 4-H Horse Show to any child looking to grow in their horsemanship skills in a competitive and fun atmosphere both in and out of the show ring.

*Chelsea Pusbach
Georgia 4-H Alumni*

GEORGIA 4-H STATE HORSE SHOW: WHY IT'S THE BEST SHOW TO GET INVOLVED IN

By Caitlin B. Jackson

The Georgia National Fairgrounds turn green the second full week June every year as 4-H'ers from across the state travel with their equine show partners to participate in the Georgia 4-H State Horse Show. Over a span of five days 4-H'ers will have the opportunity to compete in six different disciplines, build their equine networks, and make memories that will last long after the fairgrounds gates close. This show for many is the highlight of their horse show career and for many others this show serves as a platform to further their experiences. To be fair, there are many other horse shows for youth to participate in Georgia where they may also reach high levels of success. However, the Georgia 4-H State Horse Show is special and getting your child involved in the show a decision you will not regret. Still not convinced?



“

**The State 4-H
Horse Show
created some of
the best memories
of my childhood**

Chelsea Pusbach showed in the Hunt Seat, Stock Seat, Ranch Horse, and Contest Events at the State 4-H Show and advanced several years to the Southern Region 4-H Championships. Chelsea also won the State, Regional, and National Horse Public Speaking and Individual Demonstration.



VARIETY OF DISCIPLINES

The Georgia 4-H State Horse Show is open to all breeds of ponies, horses, and mules and offers six different disciplines.



HUNT SEAT

Showmanship, Hunter Under Saddle, Equitation, Hunter Hack, Working Hunter Over Fences, Equitation Over Fences, and Open Jumping. Pony classes are also available.



GAITED & SADDLE SEAT

Showmanship, Equitation and Pleasure. Open to all gaited ponies, horses, and mules.



DRESSAGE

Western and English



STOCK SEAT

Showmanship, Horsemanship, Western Pleasure, Trail, Western Riding



CONTEST EVENTS

Barrels, Poles, Cones and Arena Race



RANCH HORSE

Ranch Ground Handling, Ranch Pleasure, Ranch Trail, Reining, Working Cow Horse (Boxing Only), Ranch Roping, and Sorting.

AFFORDABLE

Class Fee - \$15
Stall or Tack Stall - \$40/each
Cattle Fee - \$30/class
Over Fences - \$20 for Division
Administration fee - \$5
Residue Testing Fee - \$5

ADVANCE TO SOUTHERN REGION 4-H CHAMPIONSHIP

Qualifying 4-H'ers have the opportunity to compete against 4-H'ers from across 13 southern states hosted in Perry, Georgia

SCHOLARSHIPS

A \$500 scholarship provided by the Georgia Equine Commission is awarded to the Champion High School age 4-H'er of each division.



HOW TO ENTER THE GEORGIA STATE 4-H HORSE SHOW

[Click Here](#)
[For more information on the Georgia 4-H Horse Show Website](#)

1. **The State 4-H Horse Show is open to 4-H members in the fourth through twelfth grade.** Not a member of 4-H? Membership to 4-H is free! Just go to your County Extension/4-H Office to sign up. If you are not sure where your local office is visit <https://extension.uga.edu/> to find out. Make sure you check if your county has earlier deadlines for the State 4-H Horse Show!
2. **Ponies, horses and mules must be owned or leased by the 4-H'er by March 1st.** It is acceptable for a registered animal to have the parents or grandparents of the 4-H'ers listed as the owner. Siblings can share a horse as long as they are in different age divisions.
3. **Fill out the Intent to Show Form for each horse/rider combination by March 15th.** Only the ponies/horses/mules that have an Intent to Show Form can be registered for the Georgia State 4-H Horse Show. Along with the Intent to Show Form, a color photo of horse, and proof of ownership must be attached. There is not a limit on how many animals a 4-H'ers can submit for Intent to Show.
4. **Complete the requirements for the Georgia 4-H Novice Horseman Handbook.**
5. **Register for classes by May 7th.** A copy of your horse's Coggins, the Georgia 4-H Code of Conduct and Medical Release Form must be submitted along with your registration. A 4-H'er can register up to three horses for the State 4-H Horse Show.
6. **Read through the rulebook for the State 4-H Horse Show, especially the divisions which you will be competing in!**

Mark Your Calendar

3/8

Marketing for Ag Producers 2021

3/8, 3/15, 3/22, & 3/29 | Virtual | Email brooklyne.wassel@uga.edu

Learn how to find customers where they are online. Whether you're new to marketing or need an updated game plan, this series is for you! This program can be put to use by barn managers, riding programs, and even breeding farms. [Register for the series or one session.](#)

3/9

Newton Equine Series 5: Equine Reproduction

6:30 pm | Virtual | Email abest22@uga.edu

As breeding season approaches, get a head start on mare preparations and gather a better understanding of the [whole equine reproduction process](#). Dr. Robyn Ellerbrock from the College of Veterinary Medicine will be the presenter.

3/19

Newton Equine Series 6: Pasture Management

6:30 pm | Virtual | Email abest22@uga.edu

As warmer weather approaches, so does the threat of weeds in your pastures. [Join this webinar](#) to find out how to manage your pastures and increase grazing for your equine partners. Lucy Ray, Morgan County ANR Agent, will be the presenter.

5/1

State 4-H Hippology Contest

5/1 - 5/2 | Athens, GA | Contact Your Local Extension Office

[Hippology contest](#) coincides with horse judging every year. Junior and senior teams participate in the four categories: Examination Phase, Station Phase, Judging Phase and Team Problem for top awards.

5/1

State 4-H Horse Judging Contest

5/1 - 5/2 | Athens, GA | Contact Your Local Extension Office

[Horse Judging](#) is comprised of six to eight classes with two to three halter and four to five performance classes. Junior contestants will give two sets of oral reasons (one halter and one performance) and senior contestants will give three sets of oral reasons.

Thurs

UGA Forages

7:00 pm | Facebook

Join UGA Forage Specialist every Thursday @GeorgiaForages



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Click to follow each event registration **underlined in red**



THE LEADING REIN

Meet the Team

Ashley Best

UGA Extension County Agent - Newton County
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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
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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).



Caitlin Jackson

UGA Extension County Agent - Monroe County
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From Paso Finos to Hunters and everything in-between Caitlin has done “a little bit of everything” when it comes to horses. Caitlin earned a BS in Agricultural Economics from Clemson University and Master’s in Agriculture from Colorado State University. Caitlin, her husband Brennan and their daughter Teagan Rose live on a small horse farm in Jones County with their eclectic small herd of horses.



THE LEADING REIN

Meet the Team

Brenda Jackson

UGA Extension County Agent - Murray County
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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.



From The Leading Rein team: Thank you for reading!

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