VOL. 5

THE LEADING REIN

A UGA Extension Agents' Newsletter for Horse Owners and Professionals



FALLING FOR FALL

By Ashley Best

The perfect weather is finally here for equestrians all across Georgia. Fall offers not only great colors on the trail, but also wonderful weather to get out and work with your horses. In this issue of The Leading Rein: use the Fall checklist is for timely tasks. Stallions are half of the breeding equation and breeding soundness can be measured. You and your equine partner shouldn't stress about parasite management with the helpful research offered from UGA. However, if you find your equine partner stressed, learn ways to manage the stress levels. As winter approaches, consider body clipping as a way to manage your equine athletes, finally the tack corner offers ways to tie slip knots for your equine.



BREEDING SOUNDNESS IN STALLIONS FALL EQUINE CHECKLIST EQUINE PARASITE CONTROL EQUINE STRESS MANAGEMENT WINTER BODY CLIPPING TACK CORNER MARK YOUR CALENDAR MEET THE TEAM

THE LEADING REIN

BREEDING SOUNDNESS IN STALLIONS

By Brenda Jackson

We've already talked about getting your mare ready for breeding, making sure she is healthy, vaccinated and ovulating. Now let's talk about stallions. Whether you are using a stallion on your own farm or shipping in semen from across the country, a viable foal depends on two healthy parents.

If you are breeding your stallion for the first time, start with a general wellness check before moving to the reproductive evaluation. Sounds strange when you talk of horses but you want a stallion that has the physical and mental aptitude to "deliver" semen when needed. A good pedigree or winning lots of competitions doesn't always mean he'll be successful at breeding. Does the stallion have an active interest in mares, can he perform under stressful conditions without getting overly aggressive with the mare or the handler?

A veterinarian's physical exam should include a complete health and wellness check of the stallion and include palpation of the genitalia. Particular attention should be given to the back and legs as well as any conformation defects that could be inherited by offspring. Testicular development is an important characteristic of a breeding stallion as both should be descended and adequately sized (potential influence to sperm production) with no swelling (possible indicator of infection/painful) which could eventually lead to breeding difficulty. Stallions with a single descended testicle can still be fertile but this physical trait could be passed on to offspring.

There are pathogenic organisms that can cause venereal disease in horses – bacteria, viruses and protozoa should all be tested for by culture swab. There can sometimes be obvious signs of infection but more commonly, asymptomatic stallions carry and spread disease during breeding. A pre-ejaculate swab and a post-ejaculate swab will give indications of potential genital infection after culture in a lab.

Leg soundness is just as important as breeding soundness. When mounting, whether it's live cover or a breeding dummy, all a stallion's weight shifts to the back end. If a stallion has lameness issues or physical defects in the hind legs, the very act of breeding can be painful. You end up with a negative association with the act – if it hurts when he mounts, the stallion could lose his desire and refuse to complete the ejaculation.

Next comes evaluation of the semen itself – sperm morphology and motility, semen volume and sperm concentrate all should be evaluated. Are these new terms for you? Morphology is the sperm structure – are there any bent tails, coiled tails, abnormal heads, or detached heads. Motility is the viability of the sperm – can they move/swim progressively (in a straight line). Semen volume and concentrate deal with the total sperm per ejaculate.

THE LEADING REIN

BREEDING SOUNDNESS IN STALLIONS

Continued

Top 5 Tasks from the Stallion Owner Perspective:

Make sure to give the stallion owner notification that you need semen by the deadline specified in the contract. Not every stallion spends the season at a collection station. Even if they do, it's easier on everyone involved to be able to plan the day rather than rush to collect at the last minute.

When booking a stallion please read the contract. Understand the guidelines the stallion owner has set beforehand to make the breeding season move smoother, including black out/no-ship dates ahead of time.

Get a uterine culture on your mare. Just because she is a maiden mare or is not exhibiting any outward signs of infection, does not mean that there is not an issue. Some infections (like E. Coli) are easy to treat but can prevent pregnancy if left untreated.

If there is a problem with the semen, let the owner/collection station know (politely) as soon as possible, preferably as soon as it arrives. Please don't yell at the stallion owner about the quality of the semen 3 weeks after the fact, when your mare comes up open.

Check your mares on proper days. If a stallion's collection days are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, you need to have your mares checked Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Horses have been breeding without assistance for years but an annual physical and breeding soundness exam will give a better idea of how many mares could be serviced in a single breeding season. The information collected isn't always precise but instead is an estimate of the stallion's capability. As indicated previously, both stallion fertility and management partnered with mare fertility and management are both important to the business of foal production.

FALL EQUINE CHECKLIST

By Brooklyne Wassel

Fall is the perfect time to be getting organized for the inevitable cold weather and additional barn chores. Take this time to make your life easier while bundled up like a marshmallow. Additionally, don't forget about typical fall to do list items such as vaccinations. Don't put these off while the weather is still beautiful. Complete your checklist now, so it won't bite you later.



FALL VACCINATIONS

Spring and fall are important times to continue a routine vaccination schedule with your veterinarian. Yes, twice a year.

PARASITE CONTROL

While it is not quite time to deworm due to the temperature, this is a great time to be conducting fecal egg counts and coming up with a game plan for when the weather is right.

EVALUATE CONDITION

Evaluate your horse's body condition now to plan ahead for winter. If their condition is right, keep on keepin' on, but if they need more condition, now is the time to be building them up before winter hits.



DENTAL CARE

Take full advantage of that farm call for fall vaccinations and have your horse's teeth examined and floated if necessary.



PREVENT COLIC

Fall can be a tricky time of year. Horses are sensitive to sudden changes including: exercise, diet and weather.

Procure hay now to prevent stress later. This also allows you to purchase the quality you need because you are not limited on options.





GET ORGANIZED

SECURE HAY

Time to sweep, dust, clear out old hay and clean and inspect blankets. These tasks help prevent barn fires and pasture accidents.



MANAGE MUD

Mud is coming... Improve footing in high traffic areas that are prone to becoming muddy in the winter to prevent slips, falls and thrush.

CONTROL RODENTS

Your horse is not the only one who might want to enjoy a warm barn. Secure feeding storage, discourage hiding places and rid current unwelcome inhabitants.

*Adapted from the American Association of Equine Practitioners' Fall Equine Checklist

By Dr. Kylee Jo Duberstein, Madison Fagan, Marrissa Blackwell | UGA Circular 1193

In the equine industry, parasite control is primarily accomplished using anthelmintics (dewormers). Still commonly used, the previous recommendation for treating parasites was a rotating program of dewormers on an approximate eight-week schedule. Many horse owners implement this outdated recommendation today without realizing that newer recommendations have been released by the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) due to increasing incidence of parasite resistance to dewormers.

In the 1960s, rotational deworming practices gained popularity when a significant reduction in the most prevalent parasite, large stronglyes (Strongylus vulgaris), was noted in response to deworming treatments. Due to the widespread use of dewormers, the large strongyle population was virtually eradicated. Today, the most predominant parasitic threat to mature horses is small stronglyes (cyanthostomins). Figure 1 outlines the life cycle and transmission of small strongyles in horses.



Cyathostomins have a unique life cycle. Eggs are passed from adult worms through the feces to begin their development in the pasture. Larval stages one through three take place in the pasture and their rate of development is highly dependent on climate; ambient temperatures and adequate moisture correlate to faster maturation to the third larval stage. Once this infective third stage is reached, the larvae become encased in protective membranes, which equips them to withstand freezing temperatures and remain in the pasture for longer periods of time. The larvae are ingested by the horse, allowing for the removal of the protective sheath as they enter the mucosa of the large intestine. The third-stage larvae have the distinct ability to encyst themselves in the intestinal wall for further protection. They can remain here for up to two years before they emerge and continue developing to their fourth and fifth stages, eventually reaching maturity as an adult parasite in the cecum or colon. At this stage, they lay eggs to be passed through the feces as the next generation of small strongyles begin.

Continued

Small stronglyes play a role in an array of health problems for horses, although they produce milder disease conditions compared to large strongyles. Similar to other parasites, if present in high enough levels in the gut, they can cause lethargy, weight loss, and debilitation. However, their special ability to encyst in the gut wall allows for a multitude of other problems regarding parasite management in horses. The encysted larvae can number in the millions, yet the animal can read as a low shedder on a fecal egg count test. A 1999 study found that if there is a sudden, substantial reemergence of encysted parasites, numbering the several millions, larval cyathostominosis occurs. This inflammation of the intestines can have profound pathological effects, such as sudden weight loss, edema, diarrhea, and even potential death. An additional study in 2002 reported that the encysted larvae can number high enough to cover a great majority of the gut wall, resulting in damage and inhibiting nutritional uptake.

From a treatment and management standpoint, small strongyles' unique ability to encyst themselves in the gut wall until conditions are favorable for their survival makes them problematic. This distinctive trait has led to the development of small strongyle resistance to rotational deworming because most dewormers are only able to kill the parasites in the lumen of the intestine (e.g., not the encysted strongyles). This development has resulted in the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) no longer recommending an eight-week rotational deworming program.

TYPES OF CHEMICAL DEWORMER

There are currently three main classes of dewormers:

benzimidazoles (fenbendazole, oxibendazole) tetrahydropyrimidines (pyrantel) macrocyclic lactones (ivermectin, moxidectin)

The World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology considers resistance to occur if there is a 95% or less effective rate of the drug to the target parasite load (meaning that less than 95% are killed after treatment). Resistance is an inherited trait that can be passed from one generation of parasite to the next. The great population size in conjunction with high levels of genetic diversity has allowed small stronglyes to rapidly develop resistance to dewormers. For example, the high genetic diversity of these parasites may allow for a select number of them to be naturally resistant to a drug. Once the drug treatment is administered, the naturally resistant worms have survived, mated with each other and passed their genome to the next generation, which is then born with the genetics for resistance. When several doses of drug treatment have been administered, the number of resistant worms continues to rise, because the drug only wipes out those worms that are not able to withstand treatment.

Continued

Resistance to dewormers is assessed using a fecal egg count reduction test (FECRT) in which fecal egg counts are assessed before treatment (deworming) and again at 14 days after treatment. Resistance would be defined as the failure of the drug to have a high fecal egg count reduction in this 14-day period. In a 2004 study, it was shown that the percentage of farms in the Southern U.S. harboring resistant small strongyles was 97.7% for fenbendazole, 53.5% for oxibendazole, and 40.5% for pyrantel pamoate.6 In this study, 0% of farms harbored small strongyles that were resistant to ivermectin. However, the effectiveness of a deworming agent can also be measured by the egg reappearance time (ERP), which assesses the length of time after deworming before eggs are present again in the fecal samples of a treated horse. The ERP for small strongyles after treatment with ivermectin or moxidectin has been decreasing, meaning that parasites are coming back faster than they did when the drugs were first marketed. For all of these reasons, the current recommendations for deworming programs are much different from the rotational deworming program that was implemented 40+ years ago. In spite of all of the recent compelling evidence to move away from regular rotational deworming, many horse owners still adhere to this outdated method. If this trend continues, the equine industry may be faced with a similar problem that sheep and goat owners have today—high parasite resistance to all classes of dewormers with almost no effective treatment to combat parasitic infections.

So what are the current deworming recommendations and how can horse owners help in preventing continued resistance problems?

Move away from rotational deworming. It has been shown that rotating classes of dewormers does not result in less appearance of parasite resistance. Since small strongyles show significant resistance to two of the three main classes of dewormers, rotating anthelmintics is not recommended. Ivermectin (or moxidectin) should be the basis of a deworming program for adult horses. In many cases, one to two deworming treatments per year is sufficient to control large strongyles and to treat for other parasites such as tapeworms and bots (treating tapeworms requires the use of praziquantel, which is included only in some ivermectin/moxidectin dewormers).

Perform fecal egg tests to develop a deworming plan. An individual horse owner can learn to perform these if they have access to the correct tools (10X microscope, slides, fecal flotation solutions). Alternatively, a licensed veterinarian can perform these when doing spring and fall vaccinations. It is important to collect fecal samples at an appropriate time after administering a dewormer. If fecal samples are collected and analyzed too soon after deworming, a low fecal egg count is more likely to be representative of the action of the dewormer rather than the horse's innate egg shedding characteristics. Appropriate timing when collecting fecal samples varies based on the dewormer used. The AAEP recommends waiting at least 16 weeks following administration with moxidectin, at least 12 weeks for ivermectin, and at least 9 weeks following benzamidazoles.

Deworming treatments for all horses should occur when parasite loads are highest, typically in the fall and spring in the Southeastern U.S., as extreme heat or cold reduces pasture levels of infective parasites. Any treatment beyond this should be done based on the small strongyle egg shed rate (determined by the fecal egg test) of the individual horse. This means that rather than deworming all horses beyond once or twice a year, collect individual fecal samples and count the eggs so that only those horses with moderate to high fecal egg counts are dewormed.



THE LEADING REIN

Continued

Horses are typically classified as low, moderate, or high egg shedders based on the amount of small strongyle eggs per gram (EPG) present in their feces, with Table 1 showing a scale that is commonly used to classify horses. Horses typically have fairly consistent egg shed rates, regardless of parasite treatment, as long as their health and stress levels remain the same. What this means is that high shedders will likely always be high shedders, even when dewormed at more frequent intervals, while low shedders will likely remain as low shedders for most of their lives. It is important to understand that horses that are higher shedders don't necessarily have higher populations of internal parasites. The differences in age and immune status of each horse influences the number of eggs they shed. However, moderate and high egg shedders result in greater transmission of infective parasite larvae in pastures and therefore are the target of selective deworming programs at more regular intervals throughout the year. Some low shedding horses may only need to be dewormed once a year to maintain their health, whereas high shedders may need to be dewormed multiple times throughout the year to reduce pasture transmission of parasites. In most cases, you cannot visually distinguish a high shedder from a low shedder, so performing fecal egg counts is important. Working with your veterinarian to develop a selective deworming plan is the best way to combat parasite resistance on your farm.

Horse classification bard on small strongyle egg counts analyzed in fecal samples.

	Low Shedders <200 epg	Medium Shedders 200-500 epg	High Shedders >500 epg
Deworming recommendation	One to two times per year with ivermectin/ moxidectin and praziquantel (tanguarma)	One to two times per year with ivermectin/moxid ectin and praziquantel	One to two times per year with ivermectin/moxid ectin and praziquantel
	(tapeworms)	Additional ivermectin/ moxidectin treatments recommended based on FEC	Additional ivermectin/ moxidectin treatments recommended based on FEC

Fecal egg count reported as eggs per gram of feces (epg).
Deworming recommendations are based on general recommendations.
Owners are encouraged to work with their veterinarian to develop a deworming program specific to their individual horses.

Continued

Deworm based on the life stage of your horse. Young horses (particularly foals) are more prone to ascarids (small intestinal roundworms) than older horses. Due to the fact that ascarids show high resistance to ivermectin, deworming programs for foals, particularly prior to weaning, should implement the use of benzimidazoles starting at about 2 to 3 months of age and again around 4 to 6 months of age. Following weaning, a fecal egg count can help assess whether ascarids or strongyles are more prevalent in the individual horse and guide which anthelmintic is the best choice. Since younger horses are considered more susceptible to parasites, yearlings and 2-year-olds should be classified as high shedders and dewormed more frequently with the appropriate dewormer based on the most prevalent parasite quantified in fecal egg tests.

Implement other nonchemical methods of parasite control in addition to deworming. Removing manure from pastures can be an extremely effective way to control parasite transmission if manure is removed quickly (multiple times per week). Properly composting manure before it is applied to pastures also significantly reduces pasture transmission because the heat from the composting process will kill parasite eggs. Uncomposted manure should not be spread on pastures. Rotational grazing and grazing with other ruminant species may be beneficial in some areas, depending on the climate.



Recommendations for parasite control have changed in recent years, but the equine industry as a whole has been slow to implement current recommendations. It is important to recognize that the goal of a deworming program is to maintain the health of the entire herd of horses rather than eliminating the parasite population in a single horse. All mature horses need to be dewormed with an appropriate dewormer once to twice per year to maintain their individual health. Beyond that, deworming should be selectively applied, keeping in mind that the goal of the deworming program is to reduce egg transmission to pastures from higher shedding horses. Implementing good pasture management practices while working with a veterinarian to develop individualized deworming plans will go a long way in combating parasite resistance so that dewormers remain effective for years to come.

EQUINE STRESS MANAGEMENT

By Ashley Best

I recently entered my 6 year old AQHA gelding in his first rodeo barrel race. As we were warming up and preparing for the grand entry before the rodeo started, I noticed that my relatively quiet gelding was amped up and shaking. He wouldn't stand still, and he was visibly nervous. He even urinated while we were waiting for the Grand Entry. At normal barrel races without the cattle and ropers, he is calm cool and collected. I then started thinking about stress management in horses and when is too much stress.

Whether you are simply transporting your horse for a simple trail ride, or you are taking them to a three-day competition event, the amount of stress that our equine partner(s) can handle depends on several factors. Horses are still considered a prey animal and they rely on their fight or flight instincts to stay hyperalert to their surroundings. Equine welfare is a major concern when we are asking our horses to compete and perform to our standards.

Cortisol is known as the stress hormone and increases as the stress level increases. Researchers have measured the cortisol levels in horses' saliva prior to, during and after stressful events and found that stress increased during events like competition. The highest levels were found in young horses being started under saddle and horses being transported. When starting a young horse, you have to consider their stress level and gradually introduce new things to build a trusting relationship. Because my young horse Dino had never been in a rodeo environment, he was visibly stressed and I closely monitored his behavior and overall appearance once returning to the trailer.

Most cortisol levels return to normal within two hours after a stressful event. Older horses are often less stressed because of the experience and knowledge of traveling and showing. The horse's social rank has also been found to have an effect on how they handle stress. The higher the rank the lower the stress. Horses that are lower in the herd tend to be more stressed when presented with new things or asked to perform in an unfamiliar setting.



Some stressful situations to be mindful of include but are not limited to:

- Confinement and or restriction of movement
- Social conflicts, like being pastured with aggressive horses
- Work overload beyond the physical capabilities of the horse
- Chronic pain and or illness
- Previous trauma or bad experiences with hauling and traveling

EQUINE STRESS MANAGEMENT

Continued

External signs of stress should be assessed. Extended periods of stress can lead to long-term negative health conditions. Some common signs of stress are:



To maintain the balance of wellbeing and performance, there are several positive ways to manage stress. For Dino in his stressful rodeo experience, I returned him to the trailer where he had a fresh bag of alfalfa hay and clean water. I also parked next to a friend who has a horse that is familiar and friends with Dino. He quickly returned to normal and calmed down as the evening continued.

WAYS TO REDUCE STRESS AT HOME AND AT AN EVENT:

PRACTICE AT HOME: Practice stalling overnight, hauling to local low-stress events, and removing pasture mates to reduce separation anxiety. Consider adding flavored Gatorade to your horse's water at home occasionally to get him used to drinking it if you have to use another water source away from home.

REGULAR TURNOUT: Allowing horses to freely graze and walk is so important. Increase turnout time and allow them to be a horse.

MAINTAIN A ROUTINE: Horses are creatures of habit and enjoy a routine. Having a regular feeding and exercise schedule will reduce stress.

MONITOR SOCIAL BEHAVIOR: Be aware of bully horses in the herd and pair horses that are compatible and agreeable.

ADJUST EXERCISE: If you find your horse is stressing due to increased pressure form training, consider giving them a break or decrease training.

EQUINE STRESS MANAGEMENT

Continued

TRAVEL SAFELY: Make the trailer ride as smooth as possible. Provide hay during the trailering and offer water often if going long distances. This helps keep the horse's stomach settled while traveling.

GASTRO-SUPPORT: If you have a particularly nervous horse, consult with your veterinarian about ulcer prevention. Always providing fresh clean forage for your horse is essential while showing and traveling.

ENSURE PROPER TACK FIT: Comfortable tack for your horse is essential for optimum performance. If tack is poor fitting, his stress levels will rise.

CALM MOMENTS: At shows there are many people and horses hustling up and down the stalls getting ready for their class. Try to find a calm quiet place that you can take your horse to hand graze or just walk and relax. Giving cookies and brushing to ease their mind is great for bonding and relaxation (for you too).



In summary, recognizing the individual personalities of your horses and adjusting your timeline and expectations based on that observation will greatly reduce the overall stress of performing and riding your horse experiences. In the next issue, we will discuss how to manage your stress and the science behind horse therapy!



By Caitlin Jackson



SUPPLIES FOR SUCCESS

WHY WOULD A HORSE NEED TO BE BODY CLIPPED IN WINTER?

The days are getting shorter, the weather has finally started to cool off, and Fall is officially here! Before we know it, winter will be beating down our barn door and we'll be bundled up while completing chores. We won't be the only one's preparing for winter. Our horses, ponies, and mules will be growing their winter coats too. For our equine friends that get to frolic outside all winter, their long coats are necessary. However, if horses are still in training, heavy work, or showing, they should be body clipped so that they are able to easily diffuse heat and maintain a comfortable body temperature. Additionally, a clipped horse has a very tidy and neat appearance that is ideal for the show ring.

Collecting all the clipping supplies and setting your space prior to starting will set you and your horse up for success. The supplies needed to clip a horse are relatively easy to acquire: shampoo, towels, chalk, clippers and lubricant.









READY, SET, CLIP!

Making sure that your horse is clean and dry prior to clipping will help keep clipper blades from dulling. You can then use sidewalk chalk to assist in making the lines for the type of clip you would like to give your horse. Be sure to choose a color that stands out on your horse. Once all your lines are set, start clipping! Most people will start at the rear and move forward and save the horse's head for last. While clipping, be sure to hold the clippers evenly and close to the body so that all hair is cut evenly.

TYPES OF BLADES

#10 - Course Cut: This is the standard size blade that comes with most clipper. The blade size leaves hair the longest and is commonly used for body clipping.

#15 - Medium Cut: This size blade cuts the hair a bit shorter than the #10 blade, making it the choice for clipping a horse's head.

#30 - Medium or Fine Cut: This size blade is shorter than the #15 blade. Typically used to remove hair from the horse's face, insides of horses' ears, around the eyes and nose.



TYPES OF CLIPS

Choosing the right clip for your horse is dependent on activity level. If the horse is in heavy work and is sweating consistently, more hair should be removed so the horse may cool more rapidly. It should be noted that clipping a horse, especially a clip where a lot of hair is removed, will result in the horse needing a blanket in cold weather.









HUNTER CLIP HEAVY WORK

The hunter clip is useful for those horses in heavy work. All hair is removed except from the legs. This originates from Fox Hunter that would need to protect the legs from water and mud. A saddle patch is optional to leave and will help protect the back from the saddle. If you are looking for a more polished look then you can lightly trim the hair down the back of the horse's legs to clean them up.

BLANKET CLIP MEDIUM TO HEAVY WORK

For horses in more moderate to heavy work, the blanket clip is an excellent option. Hair is left on the horse's legs and on the back from wither to croup where an exercise sheet would be. This clip provides cooling but offers enough coverage for those turned out regularly.

TRACE CLIP MEDIUM WORK

The origins of this horse clip come from harness as the hair is clipped along areas where the harness traces would have touched the horse. Hair is clipped along the underside and sides of the neck, shoulders and belly and is left intact on the legs and body. The trace clip is a popular one because it removes hair from the areas where horses perspire most and keeps the top of the neck warm.

IRISH CLIP LIGHT TO MEDIUM WORK

The Irish clip is ideal for young horses and those in light work as it is quick and easy to do. Hair is clipped from the neck and behind the elbows, where a horse is susceptible to sweating the most, but there is still plenty of coat left on for warmth.

CLIP TIPS

- 1. Use a clipper model appropriate to the task at hand. You will not want to use a small clipper that is not meant to be operated for several hours.
- 2. For clipping the body it is wise to choose a wider blade so more hair can be removed per pass.
- 3. Practice, practice, practice! In order to become an expert clipper, it will take lots of practice.
- 4. Not all horses like the clippers, and it may take a lot of desensitizing to get your horse used to the clippers.
- 5. Horse hair clippings have a life of their own and will get stuck on any surface, especially fleece and similar fuzzy materials. Take extra care with planning what clothing you will be wearing while clipping your horse.

Tack Corner

By Ashley Best

KNOT SO FAST

This quick release knot is fast and easy to tie but it can easily be untied in case of an emergency. Horses spook or do something silly and then panic while being tied. When tying horses or ponies, quick release knots are always the go-to for safely tying. Horses should be secured at the withers level or higher to a strong fixed object.

I always like to have a hay string to tie to just in case the horse were to pull back (1). This is an added safety precaution. That way the animal wouldn't harm himself or break what they were tied to.

The lead rope should have enough slack for the horse to hold it's head level but not lower it to the ground. Begin by passing the lead rope through the hay string loop(2), cross over the horse end(3), and then behind both strands(4). Pass a loop through the loop on the right side(5). Secure and tighten the finished knot (6).



Photos from: https://www.animatedknots.com/halter-hitch-knot





HORSE CLUB

TIE THE KNOT

The safety in knowing how to properly tie your horse is irreplaceable. Quick release knots are essential in cases of emergency.

Horse clubs can offer a quick knot tying challenge activity for youth.

Examples:

- Make a knot board with different stages of the quick release knot
- Create a game to see who can tie the quick release knot the fastest with their eves closed
- Learn to tie other, more complicated knots like the clove hitch or the fiador knot for tying rope halters.



Mark Your Calendar

Elevated Equine: Vaccinations and Yearly Care

7:00pm| Virtual | Email abest22@uga.edu

This presentation from the Newton County Extension Office will cover common questions for first time horse owners about the yearly care concerns for equines including, vaccinations, dental care and general maintenance. <u>Register Here</u>

Elevated Equine: The Equine Hoof

12/20

11/22

7:00 pm | Virtual | Email abest22@uga.edu

Join us to hear about the science behind the equine hoof and its relation to soundness and balance. We will discuss how to ensure healthy hooves. <u>More Info here.</u>

Georgia International Horse Park Events

Oct-Dec

1/29

1/14-

16

Thurs

Times Vary | Conyers, GA | Phone 770-860-4190

To spectate horse shows in this great Fall weather, check out the calendar of events form the Georgia International Horse Park <u>here</u>. Events are multiple disciplines.

State 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl

Rock Eagle 4-H Center | Email hkalino@uga.edu

Horse Quiz Bowl teams of either four to five members from one county compete against each other answering questions in a game show format. Participants compete as a team to answer questions on anatomy, conformation, feed and nutrition. <u>Register here.</u>

4-H New Year Showdown Horse Show

9:00 am | Madison, GA | Email crbenn@uga.edu

New year, new 4-H horse opportunities! <u>4-H New Year Showdown</u> will take place January 14-16, 2022 rain or shine and begin at 9 am each day of show. Come practice before State Show or come see what 4-H horse project is all about!

UGA Forages

Media

YouTube

7:00 pm | Facebook Join UGA Forage Specialist every Thursday @GeorgiaForages

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THE LEADING REIN

Meet the Team

Ashley Best

UGA Extension County Agent - Newton County abest22@uga.edu

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 brooklyne.wassel@uga.edu

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 crbenn@uga.edu

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 bljack@uga.edu

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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