

THE LEADING REIN

A UGA Extension Agents' Newsletter for Horse Owners and Professionals



FALL IN LOVE WITH HORSES AGAIN

By Ashley Best

As Fall is upon us, we take reprieve in the cooler weather for riding and being with our horses. This time of year we love those lazy Sunday trail rides, but need to be prepared for hurricane season. Some of us may take advantage of the cooler weather to update fencing and make barn improvements. In this issue, we will cover equine fencing, trail ride safety, and natural disaster preparedness. Feeding the performance horse has many challenges and timing can be one of them. Find out the research behind feeding for peak performance.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
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TRAIL RIDING SAFETY

By Ashley Best

Enjoying the Fall colors while on the trail is an ultimate way to relax and bond with your horse. However, there are some things you need to consider while trail riding to remain safe and have an enjoyable trip. Before you head out on the trails, be sure that your horse is conditioned to be out on the trails. Also, ensure your horse has the preparation in training to safely navigate trails and other obstacles before you head out. Riding a level headed horse that is sturdy, well conditioned, and doesn't fight for his head all day will provide the most enjoyable ride. Be sure to have a Coggins test if you plan on riding at any of the state parks.

Here are some tips and tricks to keep you safe and happy out on the trail:

Check Equipment and Tack

We all have heard that we need to check our equipment and tack before every ride. You need to thoroughly check your tack especially if you will be riding trails far from your trailer. As the weather goes from hot and humid here in the Southeast to dry and chilly, leather tack takes the brunt of the weather change. Ensure your tack is properly oiled and maintained to ensure longevity.



Bring Hay String

Tack can break unexpectedly and we need to be prepared to mend it while on the trail. If you bring along some hay string in your saddle bags, it can save you in a pinch. There are several ways you can use it and I have personally used it to keep a headstall together after we lost the screw in the concho.

What to pack?

Pack a trail riding kit that includes snacks, water for you, a hoof pick, a knife (preferably one with pliers and other tools all in one) and an extra lead rope. You never know when a rock may get in your horse's hoof or if you decide to take a longer trail mid-ride. By having these things you will be prepared to get by in most situations. Also, if you are riding during hunting season, you will definitely need to wear **blaze orange** no matter where you are riding.

Communication

Have a plan for your trail ride. Communicate with your family or friends where you will be going and what time you will be back. Be sure this person will reach out if they haven't heard from you. Whether you are riding alone or with a group, someone at home will be able to send help if you aren't back at the expected time.



TRAIL RIDING SAFETY

Continued

Bring a Cellphone

When you bring your cellphone, always try to have it on your body. It will do no good in your saddle bags if you are chucked off your pony and he takes off running carrying your only communication device with him. There are many products on the market that attach to your hip, leg or ankle that will ensure you have your cellphone in the case of a fall. Your cellphone can also be used if you are lost. It is a good idea to take a picture of the trail map or save a copy on your phone incase you lose cell service. If you plan to ride in the back country away from cell service, consider getting a satellite phone for emergencies.

Ride with Others

When trail riding, I always ride with others. It is not only safer in the event of an accident, but I love the camaraderie. I know in today's busy time, it may be hard to schedule times to get together, but in the end it is the safest trail riding option. Plus, it is a great way to unwind and have someone to talk with (other than your horse).

What to Wear?

First and foremost, wear a helmet while on the trail. My husband always says "You're too smart and too pretty to not wear a helmet." This is true for everyone. Even the most experienced horse rider can have a trip or fall. When looking at attire, be sure to check the weather for the whole day. You may find that it is warmer in the morning and then it will cool off as the day goes by. Be sure to pack the appropriate clothing to get you through the total trail ride length. It is easier to remove layers than to add (especially if you forgot it at home). Also bring extra clothes to keep in the truck. I learned this from experience. I was allowing my horse to drink from a creek and before you knew it she was rolling and I was soaked and muddy.

Over the years, I have encountered a few situations that I was glad to be prepared for out on the trail. These safety tips will help keep you and your horse safe while out. When you are prepared, you can enjoy the trail ride even more knowing you have a plan. Happy Trails!



Trail Check List

1. Check Tack
2. Hay String
3. Trail Kit
4. Communication
5. Bring a Cellphone
6. Ride with Others
7. Dress Correctly

HORSE FENCES

By Brenda Jackson

While fences can be an attractive feature for your farm, it's more important that they are functional and suitable for your favorite horse. Three things you'll want to take into consideration when building (or repairing) your fences – safety, effectiveness and appearance.

Fence visibility is important for horses - avoid barbed and high-tensile wire where possible as they are difficult for horses to see. They tend to become caught and tangled or can tear their skin on the barbs. If you do use wire fencing, either hang something from the wires like ribbon or flagging tape so that horses can see the wire or use a single board along the top of your wire fence. It will improve visibility of the fence as well as prevent them from leaning on and stretching the wire.

Board fences, on the other hand, are a strong and safe fence option but can be expensive. Boards that are 1-2 inches thick and 4-6 inches wide are easy to see and difficult to break through. Nail or screw your boards to wooden posts that are 8-10 feet apart. The total fence height should be 60 inches for perimeter fence and 54 inches for cross fencing within pastures, with your bottom board 6 inches from the ground. Cost will vary depending on treated or untreated wood, paint, nails or screws as well as the cost of labor.

Resources:

["Fences for Horses." The University of Georgia Extension, Bulletin 1192.](#)

["Fence Planning for Horses." PennState Extension.](#)

Mesh wire fencing might be a more cost effective alternative but the conventional 4-6-inch openings like those for cattle are too large for horses – hooves are easily caught. Instead, use either the diamond mesh or square knot mesh that has 2-4-inch openings. You'll want to use a minimum of 12 1/2-gauge wire or 14-gauge high tensile steel. These types of fences are strong, durable and one of the safest to use.

Set your fences back far enough from roads and driveways to account for right-of-way. This means at least 7 feet on each side of the driveway! Make sure to check your zoning easements to be sure of your right-of-way widths. Also consider room within pastures – place your equipment access gates in the middle rather than a corner so you have turning room with tractors and towed gear. A tractor with a manure spreader will use at least 16 feet, sometimes more depending on size, to make a 90-degree turn. Set your gates back from the road at least 40-feet to allow room to pull off and park to open the gate. Also make sure you maintain clear visibility in the gate access area for entering and exiting the road.

HORSE FENCES

Continued

Comparison of Common Fences			
Types	Comparative Cost Index (Material Only)	Approximate Life (Years)	Upkeep
4-Rail (Posts Spaced 8 Feet)			
1' x 6' Treated	200	10 - 20	Medium
2' x 6' Treated	350	10 - 20	Medium
PVC Rails	500 - 600	20	Low
High Tensile Polymer Coated			
5" Rail Width	330	33	Medium
Mesh Wire (Diamond or 2" x 4" Rectangle)			
12.5 Gauge	150	38	Low
High-Tensile Electric (12.5 Gauge)			
4 Strands	20	25	Medium
1 Strand	7	25	High
Reflective Tape or Rope (Electric)			
0.5" 1 Strand (Temporary)	11	25	Medium
1.5" Heavy Duty 2 Strand (Permanent)	33	25	Medium

We all know that we have to have gates too but did you know they must be just as safe as the fence? Most commonly, gates are made of either wood or metal tube, hung on a post that is set deeper than fence line posts because they have to be able withstand constant swinging activity from the gate. Aluminum is not recommended as they don't hold up well. Also, diagonal cross brace wood gates are not recommended as legs, feet or heads can get caught in narrow angles. Cattle guards don't work well either because horses will often try to jump across or walk through, again tangling and injuring legs. The gate should be just as tall as the fence so they don't lean over or try to jump. A handy width for main gates would be 12-16 feet wide so you can get equipment as well as animals through. If you are planning a handler gate for walking horses in and out regularly, it should be 4-5 feet wide. It's also a good idea to have two-way gates (swings both ways) for ease of in and out of pastures and it should be designed so that one person can unlock, open, shut and lock with one hand (your other hand will likely have a horse or a bucket in it).

NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

By Ashley Best



With Hurricane Ian in our past, many horses were displaced along the coast of Florida. As hurricane season is upon us, it is time to start thinking about how to prepare and develop a plan to keep you and your livestock safe in the event of a natural disaster like a hurricane. Catastrophic weather events like fire and storms can have a terrible outcome for horses and owners if a plan is not in place. In the Southeast, we need to be prepared for tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, thunderstorms, ice, and fire. These all seem like unimaginable right now during fair weather, but some time and planning ahead of time can save you and your horse's life.

The ultimate goal is to reduce stress during the ultimate stressful situation of trying to ensure you and your animals are safe. You can reach out to your local animal control or even the UGA Extension offices to find evacuation options as well as help with devising a plan for your barn if you need to keep animals safe at the barn or pasture.



Additional Resources:

[University of Kentucky: Equine Emergency and Disaster Preparedness](#)

[University of Tennessee Extension: Equine Disaster Preparation and Response](#)

[University of Minnesota Extension: Preparing for a barn disaster](#)

Natural Disaster Preparedness

Continued

The Plan

Our equine partners are family, but they are still animals and will have a vastly different reaction to handling under the stress of an imminent storm or pressing fire. Be sure that you have a practiced plan in place that will allow you to remain calm and keep your horses stress free while implementing the plan. Have an evacuation route in place and know where you can house your horses outside of the danger zone. Share your evacuation plan with friends and family as well. Discuss with your family and team how you will transport, load and what you will need to take. Do not wait until the last minute to evacuate or try to create a plan.

Plan more than one route of evacuation from your barn. Ensure your horses all load easily and are easy to catch in the pasture. Ensure your truck and trailer are in good working condition and are fueled up. Heed warnings from weather officials and evacuate early. Be sure to turn off the circuit breaker in your barn if you evacuate. Power surges could cause a fire.

Have at least a week's worth of feed and hay in a dry area in case of floods or power outages. If you plan to evacuate without the animals, they must have access to the stockpiled hay. Remember to remove the hay string or nets before you leave. Also consider storing water. You will need 12-20 gallons of water per day per horse. There is potential for water lines to break, become contaminated or for the power to be out for pumps. All horses should receive West Nile and Eastern and Western encephalitis vaccinations at the beginning of hurricane season, due to increased mosquito populations.

Keeping an emergency kit is a great plan. This kit should include medications like Banamine and phenylbutazone, salves and other first aid items discussed in [Volume I of The Leading Rein](#). Other items to have on hand include a generator for power, a chainsaw and fuel, emergency fencing materials, flashlights, and batteries, as well as other tools for quick emergency repairs of stalls and fencing.



Items to have on hand:

- Hay and Feed for 1 Week
- Fresh Clean Water
- Information Binder
- Generator
- Chainsaw and Fuel
- Fencing Materials
- Fire Extinguisher
- Flashlights and Batteries
- First Aid Kit
- Sharp Knife
- Leather Halters
- Hammer and Nails
- Duct Tape

To stall or turnout?

Many people ask me if it is better to put the horses out or keep them in the barn. I usually say, "It depends." Be sure to use common sense when making the decision. Consider the barn structure, trees, and powerlines in the vicinity, lightening potential, and flood potential. Will your barn be able to withstand high winds? If not, then consider turning them out. Are there trees or powerlines that could fall on the barn and start a fire? If there is potential for lightning to strike your horses, consider keeping them up. However, if the flood potential is greater, turning them out is the safest so they can get to higher ground. In the case of a tornado, out may be the best option. With the unpredictability of a tornado, horses left outside will instinctively find cover and survive. If there is time, evacuate out of the storm's path, but beware of being caught traveling with a trailer and high winds.



Natural Disaster Preparedness

Continued

Documentation and Identification

You need to take quality photos of your horses from all sides, also with you and your horse. Put them in a binder with all the horse's information like age, breed, sex, and color and markings. You will also need registration papers, Coggins tests, health certificates if you are crossing state lines, medical history, and emergency telephone numbers. If your horses were to go missing or escape, you will have documents to show proof of ownership once they are found. You can use halters with luggage tags, neck collars, leg bands, or livestock marking sticks to write your phone number on in case you must leave the horses out. You can also fill out the card below and stick it in a Ziploc bag then duct tape the information to a non-nylon halter.

Insuring Animals

Casualties, unfortunately, can happen in the event of a natural disaster. Consider options for insurance policies on your animals with this in mind. Protect your equine and your lifestyle with insurance. In the next issue, we will dive deeper into insurance and all the terminology that goes with the different policy options.

The Aftermath

Be sure to carefully assess your horses for injuries or dehydration. Walk the fence line before turning horses out to repair any broken areas. Be sure to remove any and all Red Maple limbs or leaves that may have fallen. These leaves are extremely toxic to horses in even small amounts. If your horse is missing, contact the local animal control and make a post on social media to share.

Emergency Equine Contact Information

Equine Name: _____

Owner Name: _____

Contact #: _____

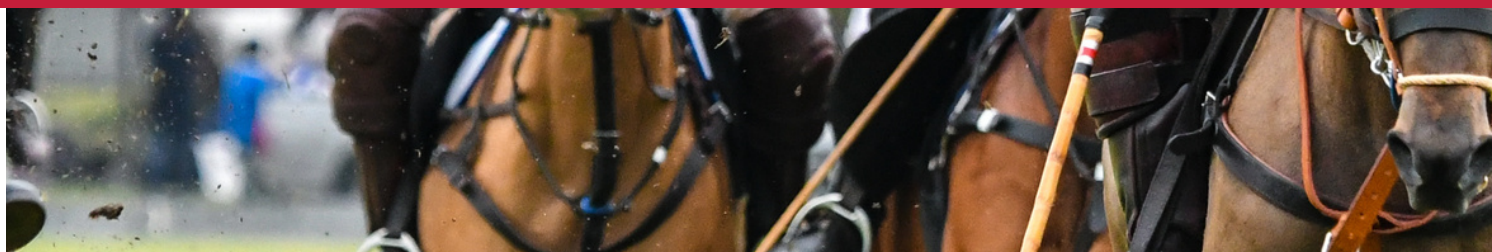
Vet Name: _____

Allergies: _____

Special Instructions:



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FEEDING STRATEGIES FOR PEAK PERFORMANCE IN HORSES

By Kari Turner, Ph.D. Extension Animal Scientist - Equine

A horse's athletic performance can be altered or affected by many things such as genetics, training, environment, health and nutrition. In particular, nutrition can play a large role in achieving peak athletic performance in horses by providing the necessary fuels (energy). The main fuels are fats and carbohydrates, in the forms of free fatty acids and glucose. The type, intensity and duration of exercise will determine the amount of each form of fuel used. Aerobic activities (long duration, low intensity) use more free fatty acids as fuel than anaerobic activities (short duration, high intensity), which use more glucose. However, the horse is almost always using both types to some degree, at the same time. Therefore, we need to make sure that our horse's diet contains enough energy, in the form of fat and carbohydrates, to ensure that the horse can perform like we need it to. Not only is what we feed our horses important, but how we feed our horses can be just as important. Feeding at inopportune times, or feeding too much, can be a detriment to athletic performance. We don't want to undo all of our hard work and time spent training our horses to achieve peak performance by feeding them incorrectly.

FEEDING STRATEGIES FOR PEAK PERFORMANCE IN HORSES *Continued*

Feeding Prior to Performance

An often-asked question is, “When should I feed my horse before exercise or a competition?” The answer depends on what the horse will eat and how it will be exercised. Research has shown that a grain meal, either with or without hay, fed two hours prior to an exercise bout similar to the endurance and speed phase of a three-day event decreased free fatty acid availability and plasma glucose concentration (Pagan and Harris, 1999). Moreover, grain meals fed three hours prior to exercise also decreased plasma glucose and free fatty acid concentrations, which serve as fuels for the horse (Lawrence et al., 1993). Limiting two necessary fuels for energy is a detriment to performance, particularly higher intensity performance such as eventing, fox hunting or racing. Additionally, feeding a grain meal two hours prior to exercise, and ad libitum hay, resulted in decreased plasma volume and elevated body weights, making the blood thicker and the horses heavier (Pagan and Harris, 1999). This also could be a detriment to peak performance. Feeding hay alone did not decrease free fatty acid and glucose availability; therefore, performance will not be limited by the decreased fuels as seen with grain meals prior to exercise. The hay alone may produce a decrease in plasma volume and elevated body weights, similar to the grain meals. However, feeding hay in small amounts may reduce the effects, and the consequences of withholding hay to stalled horses (ulcers, vices) may outweigh the effects.



“
Feeding at inopportune times, or feeding too much, can be a detriment to athletic performance.
”

Not only does a grain meal affect fuel availability, but it also may affect heart rate. Higher heart rates during the first five minutes of exercise were found in ponies that had consumed grain meals at 0.7% of their body weight prior to exercise (Duren et al., 1992). Similar results were seen in horses that consumed grain meals two hours prior to exercise. However, horses that were fed less than 0.5% of their body weight in grain did not have higher heart rates during an exercise bout (Lawrence et al., 1995). Higher heart rates at a given speed could have an undesirable effect on performance, as the heart would be working at a faster rate than it should. In essence, the conditioning put into a horse to decrease his heart rate at a given speed would be undone. Even though research results are inconclusive, the potential for increased heart rate should be avoided by giving the horse forage only (ad libitum or up to 1% of body weight) prior to competition.

FEEDING STRATEGIES FOR PEAK PERFORMANCE IN HORSES

Continued

Most of the research has focused on feeding horses a grain meal two to three hours prior to exercise, but a definitive “cut-off” time has not been established. Therefore, if a competition starts early in the morning, it is best to give the horse a last grain meal the previous evening. If competition starts later in the day, the last grain meal should be given early in the morning. Forage may be provided throughout the day in small amounts; however, if a grain meal is missed during the day, do not attempt to “make it up” during the next feeding by offering twice the amount. Offer the normal amount at the scheduled time.

Most of these recommendations are applicable for intense exercise of longer duration, such as racing, polo, fox hunting and endurance racing. Most of the drawbacks to a grain meal prior to exercise, such as decreased fuel availability or increased heart rates, should not adversely affect horses in low intensity or short duration exercise, such as pleasure, equitation, or even short, timed events such as barrel racing.

Feeding After Performance

So now that we know a little bit about feeding our horses prior to performance, what about feeding them after exercise? If the horse is exercising at high intensities, or for long durations, it is imperative that it receives forage and grain (if needed) after a bout of exercise, particularly if it is competing for multiple days. Concentrates should be fed two hours after intense exercise. Feeding forage and grain following an intense or long duration bout of exercise is essential to restoring glycogen (stored carbohydrate) pools in the liver and muscle. Glycogen is a primary fuel for exercise, and is comparable to gasoline for automobiles. Once the gasoline runs out, the car stalls. Once glycogen is depleted during exercise, the horse fatigues and can no longer continue. Thus, it is very important for horses that compete over multiple days, such as eventers, endurance racers or competitive trail horses, to replenish their depleted glycogen stores so that they have enough “gasoline” to perform the following day. However, it takes several days of rest, relaxation and adequate carbohydrates to completely refill the “gas tank.”



FEEDING STRATEGIES FOR PEAK PERFORMANCE IN HORSES

Continued - [Visit UGA Extension Bulletin 1365 for Full Article](#)

General Feeding Management

As with all horses, it is important to feed a balanced ration to a performance horse. Improperly balanced rations can lead to a decrease in performance, metabolic stress and digestive upsets. Be sure to either purchase commercial feed designed for performance horses or formulate specialized feeds with the assistance of an equine nutritionist.

Assuming a horse is healthy, sound and disorder-free, and is consuming a balanced ration, most supplements are not needed and are simply a waste of money; they could also potentially cause problems such as detrimental mineral interactions and toxicities. Possible exceptions to this may include joint and ulcer medications/supplements. If the horse is unwell, it is best to work under a veterinarian's direction.



Remember:



No make-up meals. Keep meal sizes the same and do not double-up following performance.



High intense exercise requires feed within two hours following activity to refuel.



Keep all rations balanced.



Most supplements are unnecessary, but electrolytes do help replenish lost minerals.



A body condition score of five is appropriate for most equine athletes.



Fat supplementation may increase the time to fatigue.

Another exception to supplements is electrolytes. Horses working under hot and humid conditions for long periods of time and sweating excessively may need some form of electrolytes. Horses lose a lot of minerals through sweat, and those need to be replaced. Horses that sweat heavily during exercise may not be able to recoup the lost minerals through their normal diet, and may require a dose of electrolytes. Electrolytes come in various application forms, such as a paste or granules to be added to feed or water. It is not recommended to put the electrolytes in the water, as this will make the water rather salty and the horse may not want to drink it. Providing electrolytes in a paste will ensure the horse receives the proper dose in a timely fashion, and won't affect water intake, which can be difficult to control. Furthermore, electrolytes should only be provided when the horse is sweating excessively, as horses cannot store the electrolytes and excess electrolytes will be excreted. Horses that are not sweating heavily usually can replace their electrolyte loss through their normal diet.

Nutrition can play a key role in achieving peak performance. Fat supplementation may increase the time to fatigue, reduce the amount of carbohydrates needed and help horses get a beautiful, shiny coat that sparkles under arena lights! Timing of feeding is also crucial to performance since grain meals fed too close to performance can lower necessary fuels and possibly increase heart rates. We must always strive to keep our horses in prime condition. Perfecting our feeding strategies will help us maximize our training and conditioning programs and keep our horses in peak physical condition.

MANAGING THE MUD

By Brooklyne Wassel

While many Georgians are praying for rain, all equestrians know the troubles that come with that double-edged sword, the mud. It never seems to matter how much or when, the mud always makes an appearance. More than simply a nuisance, muddy conditions can be unsafe for horse and rider causing slips and falls, create health conditions such as thrush and pastern dermatitis, and decrease feed efficiency of ground feeders and hay. What is a horse owner to do?

1 Try to mitigate the problem before it starts with facility layout and management. If possible, put feeding areas, barns or shelters, and high traffic areas on higher ground to decrease water accumulation and muddy conditions.

2 Embrace that high-traffic areas will likely always be high-traffic areas. When these areas experience repeated use, especially in wet conditions, the likelihood of vegetation holding in place is low. These areas are now susceptible to mud unless treated and managed. Try designating an area as a sacrifice paddock to decrease the number of high-traffic areas you are managing. Think about a high-traffic pad or alternate footing to help improve drainage.

3 If timing is not on your side or permanent mud fixes are not in place, you may need to turn to temporary solutions to aid in mud alleviation. If you need to bring in amendments to combat the water and mud, be sure to only use materials such as gravel, dirt, or sand that will not break down quickly. Adding shavings to these areas can result in a soupy mess that doubles as a bacteria farm. Keep in mind that materials can still create runoff in heavy rains, so this technique should be used with caution.

4 Think outside of the box. Mud is a formidable foe, so you might have to get creative to find the strategy that works for your barn. That might mean investing in gutters to divert rain away from structures. You may have to designate different feeding routines in the heavy rain months to rest paddocks or use higher ground. If mud still sticks around, just remember to stay safe! Slow horses down to reduce fall risks and check them regularly for signs of wet-weather health conditions.

Resources:

["Managing Mud on Horse Farms" University of Minnesota Extension.](#)

["Managing the Mud at Your Horse Farm" Michigan State University Extension.](#)



Tack Corner

By Ashley Best

MOHAIR TACK

The performance of your tack is just as important as the performance of your horse. When choosing tack, consider the comfort of the horse first, then the durability, and finally the maintenance. Mohair is the natural hair-fiber from the Angora Goat. It is highly sought after in the equine industry for cinches, breast collars and other tack due to its many benefits including:

- All Natural Renewable Fibers
- Soft and comfortable, yet extremely durable
- Little to no shrinkage since it is hair fiber (unlike wool or cotton)
- Relatively easy to clean and maintain
- Excellent at wicking moisture and keeping the horse cool
- Comes in many different vibrant colors

Mohair Care Tips

- Mohair only needs cleaning if extremely dirty. Over washing will result in fading of colors or felting. Felting will happen over time and does not impair the functionality....
- DO NOT put mohair in washing machine or dryer.
- Horse hair will embed on the backside. This is normal and will add to the comfort and durability for the horse.
- Mohair should be stored in a dry place away from rats and or insects.
- Avoid spraying with fly spray or other chemicals.

Cleaning Mohair

If your mohair is extremely dirty, fill a bucket with cool water and about 2-3 tablespoons of a mild detergent like Woolite. You can even use a gentle horse safe shampoo. Mohair will shrink with hot water. Agitate it by hand to loosen the dirt. Let it soak up to 30 mins and rinse with cool water until it is no longer soapy. Lay flat to dry on a towel but not in direct sunlight as it might cause fading. If horse hair is still on the back side of the fibers, it is just added strength. Be careful not to rub the front too much as it will cause felting and blur clean lines.



Photo from The Back Tack, Josh's Mohair



HORSE CLUB ACTIVITY

TACK CLEANING DAY

Materials:

- Saddle Soap
- Leather Conditioner
- Leather Oil
- Sponges
- Rags
- Buckets of Warm Water
- Soft Bristle Brushes
- Dirty Tack

Cleaning tack can be a daunting task, but when you gather your horse club friends, it can be a fun beneficial activity. Learning how to properly care for your tack is a lifelong skill that equestrians will utilize. Be sure to wipe your tack clean after each use to prolong its useful life.



Mark Your Calendar

11/07

The Equine Exchange: Extending Forage Resources

12:00 pm | Virtual | [Register Here](#)

What should you do if you can't find or purchase enough forage to meet the needs of your horses? Is it better to feed hay cubes, hay pellets, or beet pulp? Join Robyn Stewart to learn about different forage alternatives available for the use in equine diets.

11/19

4-H Thanksgiving Throwdown Horse Show

8:30 am- 4:00pm | Morgan County Agricultural Center | [Show Registration](#)

This 4-H show invites youth participants from all over the state of Georgia to practice their skills in a show following the state show guidelines. Disciplines include: Huntseat, Stockseat, Contest and Trail.

11/29

Pasture Management for Livestock Series

6:00pm | Virtual | [Register Here](#)

This 3-week webinar series discusses pasture management for livestock producers. Whether you have sheep, cattle, or horses, proper pasture management is critical for maximizing your forage resources.

12/01

Elevated Equine: Feeding the Performance Horse

7:00 pm | Virtual | [Register Here](#)

We all want the peak performance out of our partners and deciding what to feed can make a difference. Join Newton Extension Agent, Ashley Best and guest speaker Dr. Gary Heusner for a more in-depth look at feeding for performance.

1/28

Georgia 4-H State Horse Quiz Bowl

All Day | Morgan County High School | [Contact Your Local Extension Office](#)

Horse Quiz Bowl teams of either four or five members from one county compete against each other answering questions in a game show format. Play consists of double elimination tournament-style matches where two teams compete at a time.

**Fall
2023**

Master Equine

Times TBD | Newton County & Virtual

Are you interested in taking your equine knowledge to the next level? If so, please email the Leading Rein team!



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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).



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.



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