

Raising Your Equine Experience To A Higher Level

2021 Stallion Issue— Volume 22 No. 1

# BETTERHORSES™

KANSAS' PREMIER  
All-BREED HORSE FAIR & EXPOSITION



EQUIFEST  
OF KANSAS



MARCH 5-6-7, 2021

SCHEDULE INSIDE!

P.O. Box 11794, Kansas City, MO 64138.

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# Better Horses NOW

## Broadcasting Nationwide on TV & Radio

Special announcement: "Better Horses" will now be airing five days a week nationwide on "The Cowboy Channel" Monday – Friday 3-3:30pm Eastern Standard time beginning February 22nd

## BETTER™ HORSES RADIO SHOW

**KFKF 94.1FM**  
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**KKOW 860AM**  
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Saturday 11:00am

**WGVA 1240AM**  
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Sunday 6:00pm

**WIBW 580AM**  
Topeka, KS  
Saturday 7:00am

**Regional Radio**  
Paola KS

**Rural Radio Sirius XM**  
Wednesday & Thursday  
8:00pm

**KUBF 1030AM**  
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Sunday 10:00am

**KMA 960AM**  
Shenandoah, Iowa  
Sunday 5:05am

**KMA 99.3FM**  
Shenandoah, Iowa  
Sunday 5:05am

**KFRM 550AM**  
Clay Center/Salina/Wichita  
Sunday 4:00pm

**KMDO 1600AM**  
Fort Scott, KS  
Saturdays 5:00am

**K252FYFM 98.3FM**  
Fort Scott, KS  
Saturdays 5:00am

**KOFO 1220AM**  
Ottawa KS  
Sunday 4:00pm

**KOFO 103.7FM**  
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Sundays 4:00pm

**KBST 1490AM**  
Big Spring, TX  
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**KMHT 103.9FM**  
Marshall, TX  
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**KWLS 107.9FM**  
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**WAUB 1590AM**  
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**WAUB 98.1FM**  
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Sunday 6:00pm

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# Saddle up with Better Horses TV!

## Sunday in

Kansas City	<b>KCWE-TV29</b>	8:00am
Topeka, KS	<b>KTMJ-TV43</b>	6:00am
St. Joseph	<b>KQTV-TV2</b>	10:00am
Oklahoma City	<b>KOKH-TV25</b>	5:30am
Wichita, KS	<b>KSNW-TV3</b>	5:30am
Tucson, AZ	<b>KVOA-TV4</b>	3:00pm

## Monday - Friday on

Nationwide	<b>Cowboy Channel</b>	2:00pm CST
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## Monday on

Nationwide	<b>RFD-TV</b>	2:00pm & 10:00pm CST
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## ON THE WEB

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Hello Friends!

Welcome to our first edition of our 22nd year for Better Horses. I hope all of you are staying safe from Covid. Obviously we are in different times. It is great to see more and more horse events being put on whether it be Live or Virtual.

Make sure you visit our website [www.betterhorses.com](http://www.betterhorses.com) and check it out. Always plan to post your events on the calendar tab. It is free to post on the calendar. You can always contact me at [ernie@betterhorsesradio.com](mailto:ernie@betterhorsesradio.com).

Our Better Horses TV and Better Horses Radio Show continues to grow.

Special Announcement: Better Horses will now be airing five days a week nationwide on "THE COWBOY CHANNEL" Monday-Friday 3:00-3:30pm Eastern Standard time beginning February 22.

Better Horses is excited to have Ron McDaniel join the team on Better Horses Radio. He is a great man and we are happy to have him join us.

We continue to expand our markets with Radio and TV and look forward to what 2021 is going to bring us. Better Horses Publication is beginning its 22nd year and still seems to fly off the racks and out of the stores. If you want it delivered make sure you sign up for a subscription in the lower corner of this page.

We hope to see you all at Equifest this March 5th,6th & 7th in Salina at the Tony's Pizza Event Center. Information inside this issue. It is going to be a great time.

Keep Safe and Enjoy your horses. I look forward to seeing you this year.

Happy Trails & God Bless!

Ernie Rodina

785-418-6047

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**For advertising Information contact:**

<b>Ernie Rodina</b> 785-418-6047 <a href="mailto:ernie@betterhorsesradio.com">ernie@betterhorsesradio.com</a>	<b>Ed Adams</b> 816-830-1998 <a href="mailto:Eadams2@outlook.com">Eadams2@outlook.com</a>
<b>Connie Rodina</b> 785-418-2615 <a href="mailto:csrodina5@gmail.com">csrodina5@gmail.com</a>	<b>Jennifer Mitchell, Graphic Designer</b> 913-485-6495 <a href="mailto:jennifer.rodina@gmail.com">jennifer.rodina@gmail.com</a>

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Return this form with payment to: Better Horses, LLC, P.O. Box 11794, Kansas City, MO 64138.

# 'Premier All-Breed Horse Exposition' Is Equifest Of Kansas At Salina

By Frank J. Buchman

Just about everything anybody would want to know about horses is set for Salina.

It's the 24th annual Equifest of Kansas, according to Justine Staten, executive director of the Kansas Horse Council (KHC).

The "Kansas' Premier All-Breed Horse Fair & Exposition" will be at Tony's Pizza Events Center and Saline County Expo Center March 5-6-7.

"No stretch of the imagination there'll be educational and fun activities for everybody with the slightest affection for horses," Staten assured. "Equifest serves as the main fundraiser for the KHC serving all levels and interests of horse enthusiasts."

Featured clinicians are Chris Cox, Robin Groves, and Jackie Jatzlau. "We are so excited to have such a top lineup of clinicians," Staten pointed out.

However, probably anticipated most of all is the wall-to-wall shopping for anything to do with horses and the Western way of life. A silent auction of donated artwork, tack and horse-related specialties will be ongoing as additional KHC fundraising.

Also on the tightly packed three-day schedule will be the second annual Legendary Kansas Horsemen's Panel along with cowboy poetry and music. Tom and Pat Seay representing Best of America by Horseback will present one of several special workshops.

The Nicodemus Buffalo Soldiers Association formed in 1995, by Commander Barrie Tomkins, plans

to present re-enactments.

"Everybody anticipates the Breed Challenge," Staten said. "There'll be horses of all sizes and colors with an educational and fun review of their breed history."

Children are the future of everything horses and with that in mind the Kid's Corral is an annual attraction.

Competitions seem to highlight interests of horse enthusiasts so a number of special events are being planned. Included are state 4-H horse judging, draft teams, light horse and pony driving, ranch rodeo, horseshoeing contests, and barrel racing.

The Grand Finale of Music and Horses is an anticipated Equifest climax on Sunday.

"As a leading clinician, Chris Cox has lifetime learning from the greatest teacher of all, the horse,"

Staten said. Influenced by both English and Western traditions, Cox has implemented a proven style and technique applicable to all disciplines.

"With his practical, straightforward approach, Chris teaches horse people how to achieve results," Staten added.

Having successfully competed in riding and driving disciplines, Robin Groves is a two-time national champion in combined driving. She was a member of combined driving teams competing at world championships in Poland and Italy.

"Both Robin and husband Wilson compete at the advanced level in combined driving," Staten said. "They are knowledgeable in dressage, eventing, jumping, competitive trail, endurance and pleasure show driving."

Jackie Jatzlau is a two-time



*Justine Staten is executive director of the Kansas Horse Council sponsoring the Equifest Of Kansas at Salina March 5-6-7.*



*Chris Cox will be a featured clinician at the Equifest Of Kansas in Salina.*



*With nationwide success in driving competitions, Robin Groves will share her knowledge at the Equifest Of Kansas.*



[www.equifestofks.com](http://www.equifestofks.com)

 A promotional graphic for Equifest of Kansas. It features a woman in a cowboy hat and plaid shirt smiling, standing next to a red pillar. To her right is a blue banner with the text "EQUIFEST OF KANSAS" and a silhouette of a horse. The background shows a yellow wall and some equipment. The bottom right corner of the graphic contains the text "EQUIFEST 2021 MARCH 5, 6, & 7".

## Jackie Jatzlau

*World-renowned professional barrel racer, Jackie Jatzlau is to be a clinician at the 24th annual Equifest Of Kansas.*

National Finals Rodeo (NFR) qualifier winning nearly a half million dollars barrel racing. “With her husband Lane, their kids and many horses, they have a podcast called Married With Horses,” Staten said. “It connects everyone with rodeo greats and highlights key equine nutrition and helpful product information.”

Training her own horses, Jatzlau gained the nickname “Wild Child” for her NFR riding style rating first place several times. Jatzlau will

share her expertise in a private clinic on Thursday, March 4th, before Equifest with participants invited back for a barrel bash on Sunday.

Complete schedule and details about the Equifest of Kansas can be found at [www.equifestofks.com](http://www.equifestofks.com).



Jackie Jatzlau, 2 x NFR Qualifier, with over \$456K career earnings, resides in Giddings, TX with her husband Lane, their kids and many horses. Together Jackie and Lane have a podcast called “Married with Horses” which connects everyone with many rodeo greats and highlights some key equine nutrition and helpful product information. Jackie’s parents trained racehorses and she and her sister Tammy Fischer got heavily involved in barrel racing. Jackie also trains horses. She gained the nickname “Wild Child” during the NFR for her riding style which gained her first place each time. Jackie will share her expertise in a private clinic on Thursday before EquiFest and those participants will be invited back for a special barrel bash on Sunday during EquiFest where they will compete for the buckle!



**Chris Cox**  
at  
**EquiFest**

**March**  
**5, 6 & 7**  
**2021**

**EQUIFEST**  
OF KANSAS

[www.equifestofks.com](http://www.equifestofks.com)

As one of this country's leading horsemen and clinicians, Chris Cox has spent a lifetime learning from the greatest teachers of all, the horse. Raised on a cattle ranch in the wilds of Australia, Chris has had opportunities that most horsemen of this day and age will never experience. With only horses for transportation, and a cattle ranch as his life, Chris learned at an early age how to appreciate the abilities and tradition of great men and horses around him.

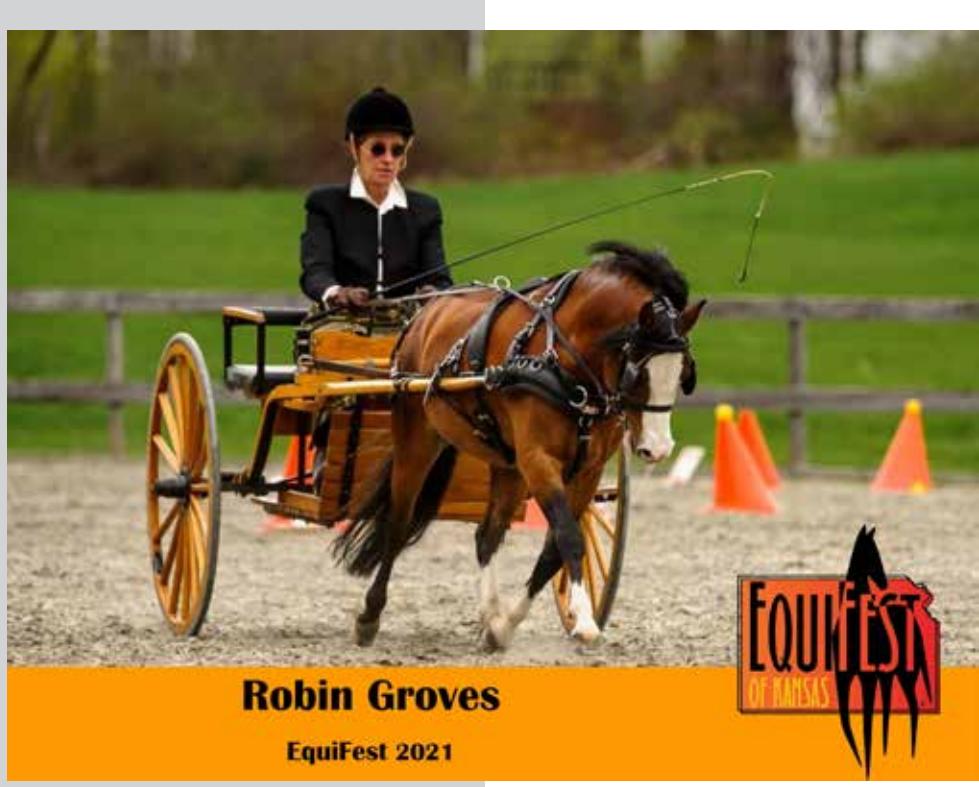
With his practical, straightforward approach, Chris teaches horse people how to achieve results. Influenced in his early years by both the English and Western traditions, he has implemented a proven style and technique that can be applied universally across all disciplines. Chris has travelled throughout the world doing demonstrations and clinics for nearly 30 years.

- 4 time undefeated Road to the Horse World Champion of colt starting
- 2 time Reserve champion Reno Invitational Million Dollar Team Roping
- National Cutting Horse Futurity Finalist
- Monty Roberts Equitation of the Year
- 2015 inductee Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame

Chris Cox and his wife Barbara, daughter Charley and son Case split their time between ranches in Mineral Wells, Texas, and Dubois, Wyoming, where he shares his passion of horses with others.

Robin Groves has successfully competed in many riding and driving disciplines for nearly half a century. Currently Robin is the USEF National Champion in Combined Driving, for the second time. Robin was a member of two US Combined Driving teams that competed at the World Single Championships held in Poland (2008) and Italy (2010). Both Robin and husband Wilson compete year-round at the advanced level in combined driving and can be found on the competition rosters of pleasure shows and distance drives including the Green Mountain Horse Association 100 mile drive each spring. Robin and Wilson are knowledgeable equestrians and over the years have been involved in eventing, dressage, jumping, competitive trail, endurance and pleasure show driving with many championship ribbons in these disciplines.

Get the whole story in the Driving Digest Magazine: Going the Distance with Robin & Wilson Groves - [DrivingDigest.com](http://DrivingDigest.com)



**Robin Groves**

**EquiFest**  
OF KANSAS

# Prairie Land Partners John Deere Presents in the TPEC Arena

## **FRIDAY MARCH 5th**

- 10:15am Fort Riley Commanding General's Mounted Color Guards, Presentation, Prayer & Anthem
- 10:30am Chris Cox-Groundwork in preparation for riding
- 12:30pm Advanced Horsemanship Barrels- J2 Jackie Jatzlau
- 1:30pm Round 1) Draft Feed Team Race
- 2:30pm Chris Cox-Riding with your hands, seat and feet
- 4:15pm Dressage Driving- Robin Groves
- 5:15pm *Bring Cattle In- Announcer Break*
- 5:45pm *Seating for Ranch Rodeo Pre Show and Ranch Rodeo*
- 6:00pm Fort Riley Commanding General's Mounted Color Guards
- 6:30pm *Sponsor Highlights*
- 6:45pm *VIP and Ranch Rodeo Teams Intros, Prayer, Anthem*
- 7:00pm Liberty, Inc. TravAlum RANCH RODEO COMPETITION 2 events
- 8:00pm Draft Horse Roman Riding- Half Time Entertainment Specialty Act  
Liberty, Inc. TravAlum RANCH RODEO COMPETITION 2 events

## **SATURDAY MARCH 6TH**

- 9:30am Fort Riley Commanding General's Mounted Color Guards, Presentation, Prayer & Anthem
- 9:45am Driving Around Cones- Robin Groves
- 11:00am Chris Cox-Regaining your confidence in the saddle
- 12:30pm Surprise...
- 1:30pm Round 2) Draft Horses Feed Team Race
- 2:30pm Chris Cox-Transforming a hard mouth horse to softness
- 4:15pm Drills of Barrel Racing- J2 Jackie Jatzlau
- 5:15pm *Bring Cattle In- Announcer Break*
- 5:45pm *Seating for Ranch Rodeo Pre Show and Ranch Rodeo*
- 6:00pm Fort Riley Commanding General's Mounted Color Guards
- 6:30pm *Sponsor Highlights*
- 6:45pm *VIP and Ranch Rodeo Teams Intros, Prayer, Anthem*
- 7:00pm Liberty, Inc. TravAlum RANCH RODEO COMPETITION 2 events
- 8:00pm Draft Horse Roman Riding- Half Time Entertainment Specialty Act  
Liberty, Inc. TravAlum RANCH RODEO COMPETITION 2 events

## **SUNDAY MARCH 7TH**

- 9:30am Presentation by Freedom Riders Drill Team, then Prayer, then Anthem
- 9:45am Approaching the Barrel Pattern- J2 Jackie Jatzlau
- 11:00am Driving Around Obstacles -Robin Groves
- 12:00pm Nicodemus Buffalo Soldiers
- 1:15pm Chris Cox-Understanding your horse's personality
- 2:45pm SPECIAL GRAND FINALE MUSIC & HORSES
- 3:15pm *Happy Trails To You*



# Prairie Land Partners John Deere Presents in the AG Hall Arena

## **FRIDAY MARCH 5th**

- 9:50am    *Opening Prayer & Anthem*
- 10:00am   Round 1) Gambler's Choice Draft Obstacle Race
- 12:00pm   Round 1) Draft Horse Cultivator Challenge
- 1:15pm   Katelyn Kok- KV Dressage Clinic
- 3:15pm   Amanda Held-Communicating with Equine Partners Exercises
- 4:15pm   Breed Showcase
- 5:00pm   *Open Arena Schedule*
- 6:00pm   Ranch Rodeo Team Meeting

## **SATURDAY MARCH 6TH**

- 9:50am    *Opening Prayer & Anthem*
- 10:00AM   Round 2) Gambler's Choice Draft Obstacle Race
- 12:00PM   Round 2) Draft Horse Cultivator Challenge
- 1:30PM   DRIVING DERBY
- 4:30PM   Breed Showcase
- 5:00pm   *Open Arena Schedule*
- 6:00pm   Ranch Rodeo Team Meeting

## **SUNDAY MARCH 7TH**

- 10:00am   *Presentation by Freedom Riders Drill Team, Prayer & Anthem*
- 10:15am   Amanda Held-Communicating with Equine Partners Exercises
- 11:15am   Breed Showcase
- 12:00pm   J2 Barrel Bash
- 2:00pm   *End of Trail-check out Grand Finale at TPEC!*

**Workshop Presentations will take place both in the upstairs workshop rooms of TPEC and on stage in the 4H building daily.**

**Check website and Facebook soon for details and times.**

- **Best of America By Horseback**
- **Cowboy Entertainer Del Shields**
- **The Legendary Kansas Horsemen's Panel featuring Hall of Famers, Karen Russel, Mark Gratny, & Jerry Riemann**
- **Better Horses**
- **Speaking of Horses with Wayne Williams**
- **Amanda Heald with H.O.O.V.E.S for Vets**
- **Cowboy Church with Pastor Steve Stafford and MORE**



# WESTERN ART CORNER



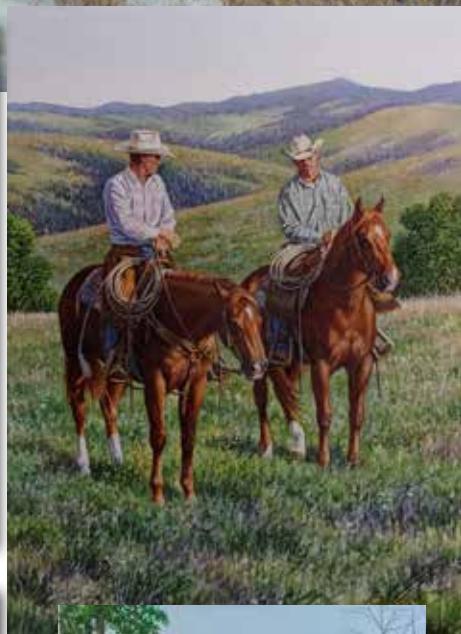
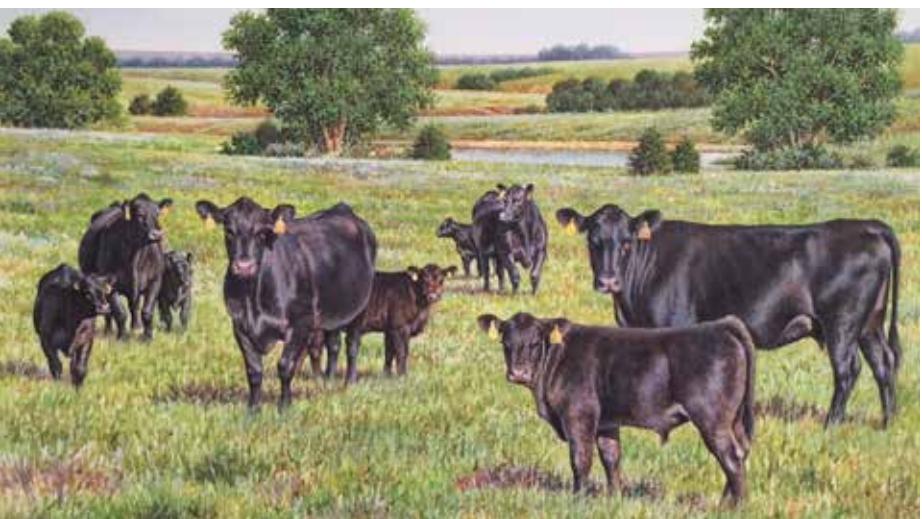
Earl Kuhn's watercolors depict our great ranching heritage, a story about the cowboy way of life. His favorite subjects are the cowboy, his livestock and the landscapes surrounding them. Two key components that are characteristic of his paintings are the strong use of light and shadow.

Kuhn has been the signature artist for America's Horse In Art, sponsored by the AQHA. He was selected "Artist of the Year" at the

American Royal Western Art Show and was chosen to do the 100th Anniversary Commemorative Limited Edition Print for the Kansas Livestock Association. He was inducted into the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2009.

Kuhn has won numerous awards and has been featured in or on the cover of various western art publications. His work can be seen in many corporate and private collections throughout the country.

*Earl Kuhn  
115 E Kansas or PO Box 128  
Medicine Lodge, KS 67104  
Office 620-886-5163  
Cell 620-213-1327  
Email [earlkuhn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:earlkuhn@sbcglobal.net)  
Website [www.earlkuhn.com](http://www.earlkuhn.com)*



# How to Teach Your Horse a Foreign Language

By: Katelyn Victoria Kok

KV Dressage

[www.KVDressage.com](http://www.KVDressage.com)

The training of a horse and the introduction of new concepts to the horse is a very systematic process that requires the trainer to have a clear understanding of what steps and reactions need to occur to develop the desired outcome. It is nearly similar to teaching a human a foreign language, except the student has four legs, more hair, easily outweighs you and doesn't read or speak any language you're capable of communicating in. If you bear with me you'll start to realize my analogy is not as obscure as it seems on the surface.

It seems so daunting to learn an entire foreign language. All the new grammar rules, sentence structure, grammatical genders, the list can go on and on. But what can seem so vast and daunting can be made simpler and tangible when broken down into tiny steps that build on each other to foster greater understanding and proficiency. Much like eating an elephant (OK! I will keep it to just one analogy!). When introducing a new concept to your horse, you must keep the same idea. At first this new thing your horse is being asked will seem impossible or daunting to him. It may cause stress or resistance, but that is a tell tale sign he lacks understanding. You, the trainer in this scenario, must go small step by small step to elicit the correct reactions in the horse to lead him to the correct answer and understanding. For example, teaching the turn on the forehand, a movement that horses at nearly any stage of training can learn, must be broken down to several stages to finally end on an obedient and

forward 180 degree turn around the front legs.

So if our goal is just that, to teach the turn on a forehand to a horse that has never done one, we first must teach him the letters of this foreign language. That means moving away from leg pressure. As the lower leg squeezes the horse adducts the corresponding leg under his body to move away from the leg asking. After one step, you release the pressure and praise the horse, then ask again. When he can sing his ABCs it's time to move on, he showed his proficiency in step one.

Now it is time for step two, basic words. For the horse this will look like creating the first step in the turn. Start from the halt along the rail, slide the outside leg back slightly behind the girth and flex the neck slightly to the outside. Now, with the outside leg ask the hind leg to take one step under his body to start to turn the forehand. When you get the reaction, release the aid and praise. The step should have a forward thought to it, not move backward. Start to string together one step at a time until the haunches are clearly off the rail, then walk off so the horse can have a moment to process mentally. Then repeat step two until it is easy.

Step three is when he really begins to put the knowledge he has to use and form a sentence. At this point he can turn one step at a time, but now we ask of a little more fluency in the turn. String together as many consecutive steps as you can while maintaining the quality of the turn. Give the horse breaks between attempts to keep him fresh and

receptive to the new concept. When you can easily turn 90-100 degrees without losing the forward energy or confusion you can check this step off as mastered.

The final stage is where those sentences can be strung together to create paragraphs or conversations. This is stage four, and your turn on the forehand should be a 180 degree turn around the front legs, keeping forward energy, acceptance in the bridle, light aids and an obedient reaction in the horse. The horse should feel confident in the work and reliability and complete the turn on the forehand when asked.

I could proclaim all day about how these simple and progressive four steps will teach your horse a perfect turn on the forehand, but then I would be a liar and my momma did not raise a liar. You will encounter training hurdles. He will have trouble understanding gender specific nouns or rolling his Rs, but more commonly moving backwards in the turn or the shoulders falling out during the turn. When you run into a hurdle you need to take a step back. Did he truly understand the last step? Where did the breakdown in communication happen? When you have a step by step progressive system to train you can also rely on it to diagnose the training hurdle. So you use that to your advantage. There are a few common problems seen in this movement that have some quick remedies. First, the rider can have the tendency to pull the rein to turn the horse, which pulls the neck off center and the horse pushes through the shoulder and falls sideways instead of turning. The fix is to keep

contact on both reins and be clear with the separation of aids in the legs and hands. The second issue is the rider sacrificing a correct position to make the turn happen, this could look like falling forward or collapsing the torso. The fix for this would be to be aware of your position and go back and work on the horse being more sensitive to the aid. Last common issue, and problem nearly every horse will face in a varying degree at some point is not understanding the forward-sideways leg aid. This is easily fixed by taking a turn step then a forward step and only asking for a few at a time or help the horse find the forward-sideways aid with an experienced helper on the ground assisting with a whip.

The most beautiful thing about this analogy is that it can be applied to teaching your horse anything and it can be expanded to explain training as a whole. In the beginning the training of a young horse is sounds and letters. As they become more proficient they can say words and small phrases. Then sentences and paragraphs. At the pinnacle of the training, Grand Prix in my sport, the horse can author an eloquent novel capable of captivating audiences. So enjoy the process and exercise patience, Rome wasn't built in a day.



# Stifle Joint Lameness

By Dr. Fred Gardner DVM of Garnett, KS

Opinions abound concerning the stifle joint in the problem of lameness. The stifle joint is the largest and most complex joint in the horse. It is located high in the hind limb and is similar in construction and function to the knee joint in humans. The joint is composed of numerous fibrous bands (ligaments), as well as a patella (knee cap), two wedges of fibrous cartilage called menisci, and two separate fluid-filled sacks that are joint capsules. The stifle joint is a very high motion joint and bears great amounts of concussive forces as the horse moves. Due to the stifle's large size, large range of motion and the large amount of force applied to the joint, it is a very common site for

lameness in the horse.

Lameness in the stifle can be caused by either mechanical dysfunction or damage to one of the many parts. The degree of lameness varies widely and may be seen in a very subtle preference in lead changes, changing leads often or more noticeable pain when standing or moving. Swelling in and around the joint is usually subtle and often only detected by veterinarians or others experienced at palpating the stifle joint.

Mechanical dysfunction most often is observed as a catching or locking of the leg in an extended position when the horse is standing or walking slowly. It is most often seen

in young horses less than three years of age or occasionally in adult horses taken out of use and put in a stall for several days. It is not a very painful problem as it is a mechanical locking, but can be frustrating for the horse. Many medical, physical therapy and surgical options now exist to help and eliminate his problem. Locking stifles should be managed and monitored by your veterinarian.

Lameness in the stifle joint caused by damage to one of the many moving parts can have widely different amounts of pain and dysfunction in the horse. Many different types of diagnostic procedures and equipment may

be used to define stifle lameness. Following diagnosis, there are many medical, surgical and therapeutic treatment options available. Often simple diagnostic and treatment procedures bring relief to the horse and resolve the problem. If your horse shows pain or dysfunction in a hind leg, see your veterinarian soon. Most horses can be helped.



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# KEEPING YOUR COOL WHEN A PROBLEM ARISES

By Phil Haugen

Anybody who has competed, trained, or just ridden occasionally for enjoyment will be able to relate to this topic. Any time you are dealing with a horse there are going to be situations where you might get frustrated and not understand what has caused this animal to behave or react the way they do. This is the time when you need to take a deep breath and go back to our fundamental definition of Horsemanship which is

"Communicating with your horse in a way that helps them understand the response you are looking for". For example, I was bringing a recipient mare in from the pasture awhile back on a two year old colt that I have had in training. We had had a lot of rain that month and there were areas in our pastures that are covered in water that are normally dry. The first body of water that I came to that I needed to cross triggered a reactive response in this

colt and triggered this colt's flight instinct. He is a really nice colt and rides really good but this particular situation made him very scared, insecure, and he acted terrified of that small body of water that we had to cross. I had to remind myself that he is just a baby and to give him some time to regain his confidence, I stood him close to the water and just started doing some level one flexing exercises so that I could get him back in the habit of using the "thinking" side of his brain, which will in turn get him back into a state of mind where he is "trainable". Then I walked him back over to the water and let him rest and just stand there for 30 seconds or so. After that I walked him back and forth in front of the water always turning him towards the water when I changed directions. Before long he had a hoof in the water and it wasn't long after that he had his front feet in the water and soon after that we were crossing this small body of water. One thing that you have to remember about crossing water is that you usually have an idea of the depth but the horse does not. This is one of the reasons their

flight response can get triggered. It would be similar to asking them to jump off a cliff. Their God given instincts tell them not to do it or to be very cautious, instincts that God gave them to help them survive in the wild. When we encounter a situation that triggers a negative response in your horse it is real easy for their response to trigger a negative response in us. This is when your horsemanship skills and knowledge need to override our normal emotional responses of reacting negatively when we receive a reactive response from our horse. Being a good Horseman or Horsewoman is a thinking game. We always have to be thinking about how we can help our horse to better understand what responses we are asking for and we always need to be thinking about how we can help them to build confidence in us. The more confidence we build in our horse the less you'll see your horse using the reacting side of his brain in situations like this. I hope this tip helps. Best wishes and safe training!



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# Rolling Acres Pet Memorial Center, Honoring Memories, Repaying Loyalty

By Jenny Hays, BS, CPLP, General Manager

Many of us have loved and lost a horse companion during our lifetime. And we can all agree that losing a loved one is very hard. During that time, we are often called upon to make fast decisions that have lasting effects. When it is time to say goodbye, it can be very difficult to make decisions. At Rolling Acres Pet Memorial Center, we suggest you preplan your aftercare needs.

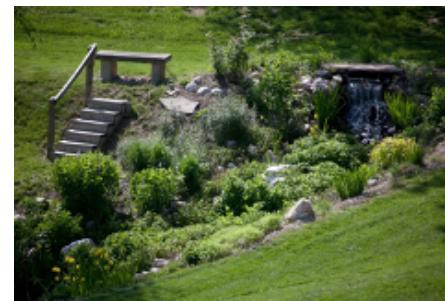
Oftentimes we find ourselves at our veterinary office or stable facing the loss of our beloved horse companion or pet and are not familiar or able to comprehend what is to be done for them. Before this happens, we encourage you to talk with your veterinarian, research options, and ask questions. We also encourage you to come by our

cemetery, walk the grounds, meet with one of our family care team members and educate yourself on what can be done to celebrate the life of your dear one, human or furry.

Many times, we hear from horse owners and pet parents that they wished they had known their options before it was too late. Services available to you include; burial, funeral services, cremation for your pet or horse companion, columbarium vault inurnment, celebration of life ceremonies, graveside service, memorial jewelry, clay and ink paw print impressions, fur or mane clippings and memorial displays. The death of a pet and horse companion is not something anyone wants to think about but being ready when the times comes

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# Is your stallion ready for breeding season?

Jason Grady, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVIM  
Assistant Professor, Equine Reproduction  
Kansas State University

As breeding season approaches, mare owners are making their final decisions on which stallions they will be breeding their mares to. In the equine breeding industry, it is common practice to perform breeding soundness exams (BSE) on broodmares prior to breeding season. Some stallion contracts even require a BSE to be performed on mares, but the reproductive performance of breeding stallions is often overlooked. A BSE is one tool stallion owners can do to make sure their stallion is ready for breeding season. The goal of a stallion BSE is to identify stallions with good fertility, eliminate stallions with heritable defects, recognize stallions that are subfertile, and determine the cause of infertility and treat it if possible.

Breeding soundness exams are useful in determining the reproductive performance of a stallion as well as the number of mares he could potentially breed in a given breeding season. When performed on an annual or routine basis, a BSE can help monitor for changes in semen quality over time and identify problems that may affect fertility. If performed prior to breeding season it is possible these problems could be addressed before breeding season even starts, or the number of mares allowed to breed to the stallion can be altered based on the findings of the BSE. Unfortunately, one of the common times stallions present to the Veterinary Health Center at Kansas State University for a BSE is when the stallion owner has recognized a decrease in fertility or increase in the number of mares returning to estrus during the middle

or end of breeding season. Other times stallions may have a BSE performed as part of a pre-purchase or insurance exam. Stallions purchased for breeding purposes should have a BSE performed prior to purchase to help identify any obvious problems with reproductive and testicular anatomy, semen quality and reproductive behavior.

When scheduling a BSE for their stallions, some stallion owners expect only a semen collection and analysis. However, a thorough BSE should involve more than simply looking at the seminal characteristics of semen collected from the stallion. In addition to the semen evaluation, other components of a routine BSE should include a thorough physical examination, reproductive history, evaluation of the external and internal genitalia, bacteriology, and assessment of sexual behavior or libido.

One aspect of the BSE often performed before evaluating the stallion is gathering a thorough reproductive history. Information obtained at the Veterinary Health Center may include:

- Age
- Health Status
  - o Has the stallion had any recent illness or fever? Any history of lameness?
  - Stallions should be free of Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA), Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA), and Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM).
  - o Any history of lameness or back problems
  - o Currently on any medications
  - Vaccination history

- Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) status or vaccination against EVA
- When was the last time the stallion had bred or been collected?
- How do they intend use the stallion for breeding: natural breeding with live cover, artificial insemination with fresh, cooled semen or frozen semen?
- Foaling rate from previous breeding seasons
- Previous pregnancy rates: per cycle, first cycle, and season ending
- How many mares booked to the stallion?
- What is the reproductive health of mares breeding to the stallion?
- Has a BSE been performed on the stallion previously? If so what were the findings?
- Have changes in semen quality or testicular size been recognized?

A general physical examination and reproductive history should be performed initially. The physical examination should include examination of all body systems, and not just the reproductive organs. This allows the veterinarian to examine the stallion for characteristics that may compromise the stallion's ability to mount the mare or breeding phantom. In addition to a general physical examination, the exam should assess the stallion's body condition, conformation, soundness, vision and neurological function. In order for a stallion to mount the mare or breeding phantom comfortably and ejaculate normally he should be free of pain and neurologically sound. Stallions experiencing pain may become uninterested in breeding or dismount prematurely.

The veterinarian should also evaluate for any genetic defects that are heritable and undesirable. The Society for Theriogenology lists cryptorchidism, combined immunodeficiency, parrot mouth, hemophilia, cataracts and wobbler syndrome as heritable conditions that stallions should be evaluated for and free of any of these defects. Many breed associations will have additional genetic diseases that they will select against as well. Additionally, examination of the external and internal reproductive genitalia should be performed. Both testicles should be descended into the scrotum. The penis and sheath should be evaluated for sores, lacerations, trauma, swelling and tumors. An ultrasound and palpation of the testicles and epididymis should be performed to check for size, shape and consistency. Both testes can be measured via ultrasound or calipers to determine the stallion's testicular volume and calculation of expected daily sperm output. Expected daily sperm output based on testicular size is a calculated method used to predict daily production of sperm. This calculated number can be compared to actual or estimated daily sperm output to monitor for the efficiency or inefficiency of sperm production by individual stallions. This may help identify early indications of reduced sperm production and help manage the number of mares allowed to book to a stallion during a given breeding season.

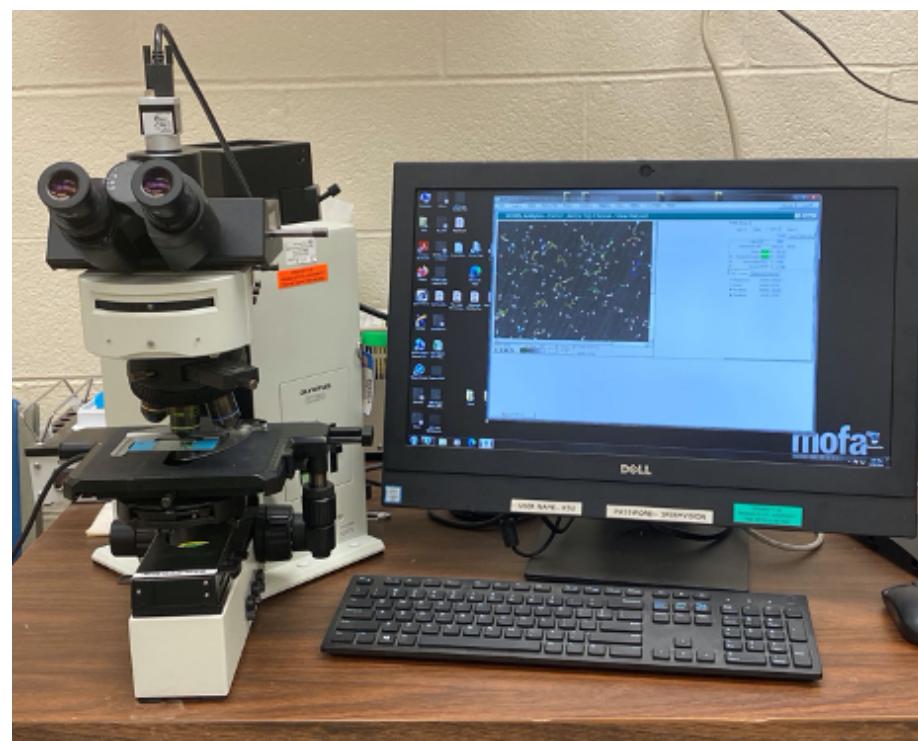
Evaluation of reproductive behavior or libido is evaluated when the stallion is presented to a mare in heat. This can be assessed during the collection process when the stallion is teased to the mare and then allowed to mount the tease mare or breeding phantom for semen

collection via the artificial vagina (AV). Stallions with good libido and lack of physical or reproductive behavioral problems commonly show willingness to mount and ejaculate within one or two mounts. It is important to recognize that some stallions may have an aversion to exhibit breeding behavior due to previous training, or a previous unfavorable experience during the breeding/collection process. Some stallions may fail to mount or ejaculate if the tease mare/breeding phantom is the wrong height or if the AV is not prepared properly.

Following collection, semen should be analyzed with a variety of types of specialized equipment to determine the color, volume, concentration, motility, and morphology of the semen sample. Sometimes semen may contain urine, blood, debris, and/or pus. Contamination of the semen is

likely to be detrimental to the sperm cells and results in infertility. It is important to note any of these changes on visual examination of the collection, and then investigate the cause in hopes of treating and restoring fertility. After determining the volume and concentration, the total number of sperm cells can be calculated. The total sperm count is essential to know when calculating breeding doses for artificial insemination as well as a useful tool when determining the daily sperm output. Motility is evaluated for total motility (percentage of sperm that are moving) and progressive motility (percentage of sperm that are moving in a straight line). Morphological evaluation of sperm cells allows sperm cells to be analyzed for any abnormalities that may affect fertility. Abnormalities seen on morphological evaluation,

*Continued on Page 16*



*Sperm motility and concentration being determined with the use of computer-assisted sperm analysis (CASA) at the KSU VHC. CASA provides a more objective and complete assessment of sperm motion characteristics.*

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may arise at the level of the testicle during sperm production or after sperm production and during sperm storage. Recognizing these abnormalities early through routine BSEs may help you prevent subfertility and prolong the breeding longevity of your stallion. The reproduction laboratory at the Veterinary Health Center utilizes the most current technology through the use of computer assisted sperm analysis, phase contrast microscopy, and immunofluorescence while performing thorough semen analysis.

It is common practice for mare owners, and often required by stallion owners to have mares cultured for bacteria that may result in reduced fertility, but it is less common for stallion owners to have their stallions cultured. However, some stallions may harbor bacteria that can be transferred to the mare through the natural breeding process or through transported semen for artificial insemination resulting in reduced fertility. It is recommended that all stallions be cultured and samples taken from the semen, urethra, urethral fossa and shaft of the penis. As a mare owner breeding to a stallion, I would want to know that the stallion is free of trans-venereal bacteria such as *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Taylorella equigenitalis*.

The Society for Theriogenology suggests that for a stallion to pass a breeding soundness exam he must:

- have normal libido and two scrotal testicles
- have a total scrotal width of both testicles of 8 cm or more
- be free of undesirable, potentially heritable defects, behavioral disorders or transmissible diseases

- not have physical traits that interfere with mating, semen quality or sperm output
- ejaculate one billion progressively motile, morphological normal sperm cells in the second of two ejaculates collected one hour apart after one week of sexual rest
- be able to impregnate 75% of a full book of mares in two or less heat cycles

It is important to recognize that a BSE is a useful tool in predicting the reproductive potential of that stallion on that given day. Conditions may arise after the examination that may affect fertility. Routine BSEs, along with managing the overall health of the stallion in cooperation with your veterinarian can help recognize potential problems early and extend your stallion's reproductive career.

If you are interested in discussing the reproductive services available for your stallion or mare at Kansas State University, contact Dr. Jason Grady at the Veterinary Health Center at Kansas State University at 785-532-5700.



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# Bitting

By Al Dunning

Choosing and using the correct bridle for your horse is a huge subject. It starts with your knowledge about your horse, intended discipline, your experience level, and beliefs.

For me, I was raised using the traditional methods. A colt is started in a rope hackamore or smooth snaffle. During his three-year-old training, he is progressed to the hackamore where he learns further about flexibility, suppleness, and neck rein cues. Depending on the aptitude and training absolution, he now is ready for the bridle stage.

By now you should have a grasp on his ability, feel, and acceptance level. Some horses learn quicker than others. Those are usually lighter mouthed and more fleet-of-foot. Duller horses tend to be heavier footed and have a less sensitive mouth, which are also often characteristics of a slow learner.

Many factors are considered when choosing the proper bit for your horse. Horses with excessive nose bone, thick lips or long mouths are usually prone to not being light-mouthed. These horses will need more patience to train to a higher level. If you go too fast or rush the biting process, you may harm their potential.

Horses that flex at the poll easily are usually more responsive to the bit and it works vise versa. How a horse gives to pressure and flexes his poll has much to do with relaxation of his neck and jaw. When a horse is relaxed he will relate to the pressure and cue better. This is why many Spanish-style bits have rollers or "crickets" as they are sometimes called. When a horse rolls the roller, his tongue is extended which relaxes

the jaw. A tense horse will retract or ball their tongue up and fight the bit action. The old Vaqueros taught that the horse should give their jaw (open the mouth), as they learn to flex at the poll and react to the bit pressure. As they begin to understand the concept of bridling, they will give to the pressure, flex, and keep the mouth closed.

At this stage, don't overlook teeth. They can cause discomfort, pain or aggravation. Sharp teeth, loose caps, wolf teeth, and other dental factors need attention at least once a year to ensure proper comfort while eating and being bitted. I use my veterinarian or a qualified equine dentist to inspect and treat my horses on a regular schedule.

When your horse is solid in the basics and prepared to advance to the shank bit, you have to choose a bit that compliments his previous training. I ride in a 3/8" smooth snaffle initially and thus I like a shank snaffle for the transition. The mouthpiece is the exact same that he has been carrying, so he should be comfortable with it. The major difference is the leverage created by the shanks. I am sure to use a leather curb strap during this process. With this described bit, I can ride in one hand or two hands as needed. It gives me the flexibility to bend or correct with the same feel to the bars of his mouth, tongue, and corners of the mouth that he is accustomed.

After a period of time in the shank snaffle, I can determine the appropriate advancing process. The next step for me is often a ported snaffle/correction bit. I find it suitable to adding some lightness but it still gives me flexibility. As he continues to learn I may change to fixed shank or another type of bit, depending on what event or purpose I am training

for. The choices are many!

The weight of the bit, the length of the shank, the shape of the shank, the height of the port, the type of metal it is made out of, the thickness of the bars, the set to the mouth piece, and more are all to be considered. It takes a huge amount of experience to gain the knowledge of what functions each part of the bit offers. Sometimes a rider's experience is the best indicator. When I ride I consider what the horse feels like and match each individual to another with that same feel that I have trained in the past. Other times, I can just look at a horse's eye, mouth, shape of the head, length of the mouth, thickness of the lips, or study the horse's demeanor to determine a choice of bit.

Always adjusting your equipment properly is important. Snaffle bits should slide across the mouth and are not used the same as a leverage (shank or curb) bit. I adjust my snaffles so that they just touch the corner of the mouth. This lets the bit work as intended and gives the horse relief quickly with slack in the reins. With a curb bit, I like one wrinkle in the corners of the mouth. This lifts the bit so that it sets properly on the bars of the mouth, is high enough for the horse to feel the rotation of the bars of the bit as the rider raises the reins, aids in the bit being steady in one position, and allows a good bit to work as it was created.

A good rule to remember is that merely using a "bigger" bit cannot conquer a tougher or more forward moving horse! The process takes time, consideration, and patience. Great horsemen usually return to a snaffle which is less bit thus it will allow you to correct your horse, pull him around, lighten him up, bit

him up, or other methods that will educate and relax your horse. Good behavior and positive habits in a horse are only achieved by taking each individual forward at the pace that suits him best, which is not always the pace that suits the rider!

A couple of things for you to think about are:

1-Don't see someone using a bit and just go buy it for your horse without proper consideration. I call this, "monkey see, monkey do"! Methods are a higher priority than equipment, although when you have skills, proper equipment can make a major difference.

2-As you gain knowledge about riding, training, and equine philosophy, you will understand that the iron used in the bit makes a difference. Cold steel or sweet iron that rust tastes better to a horse and lasts longer than others. The use of copper adds to salivation and bit acceptance, too. Cheap bits are usually worth what you pay for them.

3-Horses are not born with educated, light mouths. It is the riders responsibility to train them to be obedient, soft, and responding properly to the riders cues. More horses have been damaged by poor use of hands, no proper leg cues, and not spending enough time in training or corrections, than any bit choice.

4-Choosing the right bit is secondary to choosing the right path for your horse. Be sure you are not trying to push a square peg into a round hole. We all have a duty to be sure that our needs and desires don't come before the horse's ability or welfare.

5-The bottom line is that a horse can't talk but their actions can transmit their understanding and

*Continued on Page 18*

acceptance of the bit. I want my horses to be responsive, light, and comfortable. When they are confident and educated they will advance and perform to their maximum. A constantly intimidated horse will eventually find a way to express their displeasure!!!

If you become confused about which bit to use, your horse is probably confused also! I suggest consulting an experienced horseman or horsewoman that has achieved what you dream to.

Proper horsemanship starts with the desire to learn methods that

have been proven to work well. To be a good equestrian, you will never stop learning or trying to understand new ways to achieve a higher level. Each horse is an individual and relies on us to care for them, treat them with dignity, guide them to develop their abilities, and teach them proper behavior, as we would a child. Proper bitting is only one of the many duties we have.

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Al



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# To B-Wrap or Not to B-Wrap: That is the Question!

By Krishona Martinson, Alfredo DiCostanzo, and Craig Sheaffer,  
University of Minnesota

**Feeding Round Bales.** Large round bales are commonly fed to livestock, including horses, and can be stored in various ways. Outdoor storage can be advantageous for farmers with limited indoor storage; however, it has been well-documented that storing hay outdoors has negative impacts on quality and dry matter (DM) retention. The magnitude of loss is affected by many factors, including wrap type. Historically, large round bales were primarily tied with sisal or plastic twine; however, net wrap has grown in use due to faster binding times and reductions in DM losses. Recently, B-Wrap® (Ambraco Inc.) has emerged with potential to further reduce DM losses and retain forage quality. Additionally, reduced-lignin alfalfa varieties are now commercially available; however, little is known about the impact of their outdoor storage. We hypothesized that because of their increased forage digestibility, bales made from reduced-lignin alfalfa could be subject to greater losses when stored outside.

Researchers from the University of Minnesota determined changes in DM and forage quality and examined the economics of hay made from reduced-lignin and conventional alfalfa bound in twine, net wrap, and B-Wrap while in long-term, outdoor storage. We also determined the time required to bind round bales using the three wrap types.

How the Research was Conducted. Conventional (12 bales)

and reduced-lignin (12 bales) alfalfa hay was harvested in June 2017 in Minnesota. For both alfalfa varieties, groups of four round bales were wrapped with either plastic twine (Case IH), net wrap (Ambraco Inc.), or B-Wrap. Bales were stored outdoors on wood pallets, on the rounded side, with ~5" between each bale. At the time of harvest and every three months for one year, individual bale weights were recorded. Stratified hay cores were taken from each bale, including the outer 6" and the inner 6-18".

**Time to Bind Bales.** Twine (56 seconds) required the most time to bind a bale, B-Wrap (28 seconds) was intermediate, while net wrap (18 seconds) required the least amount of time. Time to bind each bale started when the tractor paused to wrap the bale and ended when the bale was ejected from the baler.

**Alfalfa Varieties.** While alfalfa varieties did differ in neutral detergent fiber (NDF) and acid detergent lignin (ADL) at the time of baling, minimal differences were seen throughout the storage period; therefore, data were summarized across varieties. Additionally, minimal differences were observed in the inner 6-18" of the bales; therefore, only values of the outer 6" are discussed.

**DM Losses.** All bales began the storage period at a similar moisture. Starting on day 90, bales bound in twine and net wrap had a greater moisture concentration compared to bales bound in B-Wrap. After one year in storage, the moisture

concentration of B-Wrap bales had not changed, while net wrap and twine bound bales had higher moisture concentrations (27%). Twine-tied bales lost 7% DM, net wrap bales lost 5% DM, while B-Wrap bales maintained DM. Maintaining DM is critical as that represents what farmers are harvesting, feeding, buying and/or selling.

**Forage Quality.** Changes in forage quality were observed at  $\geq 180$  days of storage with a dilution of nonstructural carbohydrate (NSC) and a concentration of insoluble fiber components including NDF and acid detergent fiber (ADF) due to moisture penetration in bales tied with twine or bound in net wrap. After one year, NSC, NDF digestibility at 48 hours (NDFD48), and relative feed value (RFV) were greater in B-Wrap compared to twine-tied bales, while net-wrapped bales tended to be similar to both wrap types. B-Wrap bales were lower in NDF and ADF concentration compared to twine-tied bales. Combined, these results indicate that B-Wrap was better at shedding precipitation and inhibiting moisture penetration compared to the other wrap types. This is critical as moisture can dilute beneficial nutrients leading to a concentration of insoluble fiber values.

**Economics.** The cost of a wrap type is a common concern for farmers. The estimated cost per large round bale when wrapped with B-Wrap is \$8.33, compared to net wrap and twine with estimated costs of \$1.17 and \$1.00/bale, respectively. Bale value was calculated using bale weight, RFV (\$1.28/RFV point), the material costs of the wrap types in excess of twine, and excluded round baler equipment

costs and wrapping time. Starting at 180 days of storage, B-Wrap bales had a greater individual bale value compared to net wrap and twine bound bales  $\geq \$10.84$ .

**Take Home Message.** If storing hay outdoors for more than 90 days, B-Wrap appears to be superior to twine and net wrap in shedding moisture, which helps preserve DM, forage quality, and bale value. Additionally, minimal forage quality differences between conventional and reduced-lignin alfalfa varieties were found after long-term, outdoor storage. Regardless of wrap type, the "weathered layer" of the bales did not exceed 6", likely due to baling a solid, firm bale, and storing the bales on pallets.



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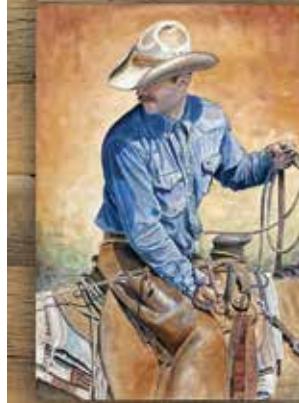
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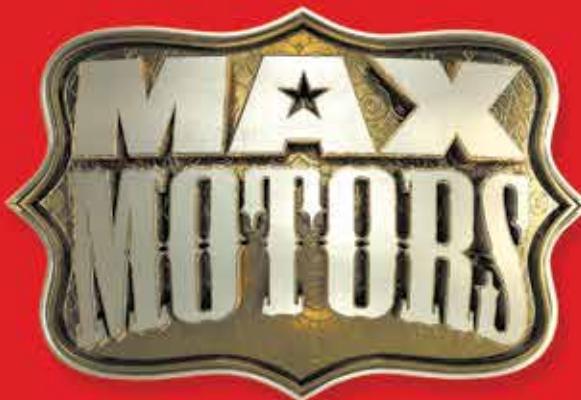


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# Developing a Better Horse With Training

By: Terry Champagne

Better Horses... It's what we all want... Better Horses! To make better horses, we must first, become better horsemen. Many things play into making your horse better: proper equipment, proper care, a good riding and training schedule. Possibly the most important component which pulls all the parts and pieces together in a "better horse" is the result of a rider with a plan who follows that plan consistently, identifies what skills he possesses that will work the best with the skill set his horse has. The successful horsemen will keep an open mind to learning new skills, methods, using different equipment, etc.

Here at Champagne Performance Horses we have a routine we follow each day with each ride on each horse. It will be adjusted depending on the progress the horse is making or the problems we are having with the horse. Our goal is to develop a horse who is light in his response to our cues, understands his job, respects us and is comfortable working with us.

We usually begin our training session with lunging. The first thing we teach our untrained horses is how to lunge. If they haven't been saddled, we wait to saddle and bit until they are comfortable lunging, understand "whoa" and understand cues to walk, trot and lope. We then progress to saddling andbitting. From the ground, we will begin to pressure or pull. You will hear me say frequently, the release is the most important part of training because it is the reward to the horse for responding correctly.

Once they are giving, we progress to ground driving. Ground driving can get a horse used to pressure, to stopping with a backward pull and an extra bonus is they get the feel of the driving lines touching them on their legs and body. It is important that the person doing the driving releases pressure as soon as the horse responds to a pull.

When we move on to riding, we have a series of exercises or moves we do each ride and again, we may spend a lot of time on these exercises, as the horse progress is in his willingness to respond, we may only remind him with a short session. Horses are creatures of habit in every part of their lives and a good trainer will use that trait to his advantage. If you want to develop a dependable horse, you must develop continuity through repetition.

I always say that I am the luckiest person I know because I am living my dream. I take care of horses, ride and train every single day. Usually we have a barn full of around 15 horses. Because these are mostly customer horses, I get to deal with a variety of different horse personalities and characters but there are basic similarities in all horses.

Not all riders get to ride every day, so it is even more important to develop a riding routine and stick to it. And even if you do ride every day, continuity is important. One day, you may decide that you want to take a ride across the pasture at a run, with no concern if your horse is giving to your hands or legs. Then the next day you just want a quiet slow ride. Your horse has no idea that the rules

have changed from one ride to the next and understandably, he may not respond the way you want.

I have riders who are preparing to show and at times their riding schedule is erratic due to jobs, weather, etc. Sometimes this leads to frustration because they try to do too much training and work on too many different maneuvers in the limited riding time, they do have periods the horse becomes confused and the rider becomes more frustrated. I encourage all my riders to have a plan to work on one thing until they are comfortable, they have made progress and then move on. A rider may focus on something as simple as quiet hands or being certain to apply and then release pressure with hands or legs when the horse has responded.

If I am working on the horse and riding it for a customer, I want to be sure I am aware of any challenges or problems. It can even be a good idea to create a journal and keep track of what you want to work on. You can make note of problems and most importantly, make note of good things that you and your horse accomplished. If you have limited time to ride, a good thought

to keep in mind is that it's difficult to teach a horse much in five minutes, but you can sure make him mad and lose all possibility of him or you accomplishing anything in a day's ride.

Horses are complex creatures and those of us who enjoy them are usually complex in what we want to do and what we expect. It will always be best to be aware of what you expect of your horse, of your own skills and limitations, how much time you actually have to devote and what you want your end game to be. I expect a lot from myself. I know I am one of those lucky people who is "Riding the Dream". Hope I see you down the rail or on the trails!



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# Keeping Dogs Safe around Horses and Livestock

**Things to keep in mind when your dog is near large animals, plus dog training tips for your cattle dogs and barn dogs alike**

By Aimee Robinson, Valley Vet Supply

Whether working cattle, or trotting happily alongside you and your horse on the trails – if you have a dog, life on the farm, or time at the barn, means you're likely never alone. And while it may seem commonplace, cattle dogs and barn dogs live a unique lifestyle, being near 1,000-pound livestock, horses and heavy farm equipment. Their lifestyle requires grit, wit and intelligence. Help ensure your dog's safety and well-being; learn what to do should your dog be injured at the farm, and training tips for a dog's safety.

## DEALING WITH ON-FARM PET INJURIES + STEPS TO TAKE

When it comes to injuries stemming from large animals and

livestock, they can range from mild, requiring dogs only rest for a few days, to life-threatening. "We've seen dogs with head trauma from horses or cows, and even limb amputations after getting too close to a mower bar. We've definitely seen some things," said Paul DeMars, DVM, DABVP, clinical associate professor at Oklahoma State University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

All dogs (even those well-trained) can be at risk for injuries stemming from horses and livestock, as their instincts ultimately play the largest role in their behavior.

"My dogs are well-trained, agility dogs. They are always good and are well-trained not to chase horses. However, I had a dog that fell victim

[to injury from livestock]," said Kris Hiney, Ph.D., Oklahoma State University associate professor and Extension equine specialist.

Dr. Hiney was out one evening feeding, with one of her three agility-trained dogs by her side – a Border Collie named Avispa – when her horse at the other end of the field began galloping not toward her and the feed bucket, but straight toward her dog. She gave her command for Avispa to recall, but his Border Collie instincts kicked in, and he crouched into the grass. As the horse neared, the horse lowered his head and curled up his front legs, intentionally coming down directly onto Avispa.

Dr. Hiney quickly bundled up Avispa and went to an emergency

veterinary clinic. Thankfully, he pulled through and is fine today.

"The reality of horses and dogs is something not to take lightly," said Dr. Hiney. "Some owners may not realize how badly a dog can get hurt. A lot of horses are dangerous with dogs. Cattle don't seek them out as much, unless dogs are in their space. It is 100% instinctual, as even well-trained dogs who do this for a living can get kicked, and they can be severely injured when working cattle."

Should your dog experience an injury, Dr. DeMars recommends monitoring immediately if they are:

- Up on all legs and mobile
- Favoring any limbs
- Experiencing any seizures
- Completely conscious

"If the animal is unconscious, get them to your veterinarian right away," said Dr. DeMars. "Even if an animal is up on all four legs, there still could be internal bleeding. Taking your dog to your veterinarian is always the best answer."

Steps to take, should your dog be injured:

Share pictures with your veterinarian. Before driving to the clinic, use your cellphone to take pictures of the injury or wound, and share with your veterinarian. This will help the office prepare for your dog's arrival and for swift treatment.

Have a 24-hour emergency veterinary clinic on speed dial. If your dog experiences head trauma, he requires precise care and likely, 24-hour monitoring, which is not always an option at a primary veterinary clinic. For such cases, it is best to immediately take your dog



to the nearest emergency veterinary clinic or University veterinary school.

Refer to your stocked first-aid kit. Assist wounds to help stop any bleeding. If it's a leg injury, wrap the leg just as you would wrap a horse's leg (apply a sterile lube, then gauze and then cover with vet wrap or bandages, going in the direction of front to back with gentle support – not too tight or too loose).

In some cases, use direct pressure. If your dog experiences heavy bleeding, he could be suffering from a ruptured artery. Apply direct pressure to help stop excess blood loss. Get to your veterinarian, fast.

## INCREASE SAFETY FOR DOGS ON FARM OR IN THE BARN + TRAINING TIPS

For years, Dr. Hiney has trained dogs for agility. She has three Australian Shepherds and one Border Collie. When it comes to working cattle, Dr. Hiney says, "Just because they're a herding dog doesn't mean they are naturally good around livestock. It means they have intense interest in livestock, and that interest has to be channeled through training."

While any dog can learn to be good around livestock, it is important to realize that cattle dogs, for instance, the Blue Heeler, Catahoula and Corgi, will be attracted to it and stimulated by the livestock's movement. "A lot of people think dogs can help while working cattle, but only a trained dog is helpful. An untrained dog creates more chaos and anxiety from both livestock and people. If your dog isn't trained, he needs to be secured. Tie or pen them up safely out of the way, with water," recommends Dr. Hiney.

Training tips from Dr. Hiney to

increase your dog's safety:

For cattle dogs, talk to dog trainers who do herding and cattle dog training. Professional cattle dog training offers a safe space for your dog's learning, by working with livestock that are "dog broke," meaning they know how to move from a dog's pressure. They also can start them on sheep and goats, for a safer option. While a cow dog is bred instinctually to herd, they will benefit both mentally and physically from professional lessons and training to channel their instinctual habits into more strategized skills.

For barn dogs, seek out training options. Check your surrounding area for professional dog training classes. Keep in mind, well-mannered dogs are often welcome at horse shows and barns; however, a misbehaving dog nipping or barking is a quick way to be shown the door. In today's world, there are even online dog training options available, and the World Wide Web is filled with helpful training videos as an option, too.

Teach dogs the basics. Dogs among livestock and horses should know commands for recall, down and stay. Teach them the boundaries of what they can and cannot do. They will look to you for the correct answers.

Don't let "funny" and "cute" behaviors fly. Allow no recreational cattle or horse chasing, barking or nipping at all, if you can avoid it. This 'playtime' can easily turn problematic.

Use positive training methods that reward good behavior. Use treats, toys and your undivided attention to make training the most rewarding and fun part of their day. This will keep them happy and engaged with you to make the best choices.

During training, keep them on a long line before rewarding them with off-leash. For their safety's sake, not returning to you cannot be an option. Using long lines (essentially a long leash) can prevent bad habits from forming. This is a best practice before letting your dogs off-leash.

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# A Day In The Life Of An Equine Veterinary Technician

Kayla Cardinal

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Entering the barn you are welcomed with the excited whinnies and nickers of the horses. You groom your horse, give him treats and prepare for your afternoon visit with the veterinarian. Your vet arrives and together you discuss the agenda for your horse's appointment. In the meantime, you notice a busy body zooming around, preparing a work space, greeting horses and beginning the initial exam. That would be me!

Hi, my name is Kayla, an Equine Veterinary Technician at Wilhite & Frees Equine Hospital. You typically see me holding your horse, handing off instruments, and setting up equipment. But what you may not know is all the detailed work that I put in before and after your appointment. So today I want to take you along for the ride. Here is a look at a day in the life of an equine vet tech.

My work day usually starts at 7:00 AM. The clinic is quiet, lights are off, and the horses have yet to realize I have arrived. Taking a few minutes to myself I check the schedule to plan my day. A lot of my job includes planning and staying a step ahead. Part of those plans include: what patients we are seeing, what barns they live at, appointment details, planning what equipment is needed, and preparing any extra items that might be needed for the day. My priorities quickly shift to our in-house patients. Walking into the barn the hospitalized patients greet me with morning nickers, anxious for

breakfast. I start by reading patients' charts, which are essential for our staff to keep track of what each patient requires for the day. The charts include feeding instructions, tracking vitals, and medications to administer. Our team is hard at work cleaning stalls, filling water buckets, grooming, feeding, and assisting the doctors with any treatments. Charts are filled, the barn gets swept and by 7:45 AM I am off to pack my doctor's truck.

Each of our veterinarians have their own designated work truck which helps to tailor the vet box to their specific needs and preference. Each vehicle has a cooler packed to the brim with our refrigerated medications such as injectable phenylbutazone (Bute) and a variety of vaccinations. The trucks also have individual tool boxes for us to easily access items needed for specific appointments such as: ophthalmic (eye) box, bandaging box, IV catheter box, podiatry (foot) box, dental box, and joint injection box. These trucks stay filled with supplies, instruments and medications that we use most frequently on the road. Equipment such as radiographs, ultrasounds, therapeutic laser, shockwave and dental floats are loaded according to the schedule for that day. Once my teammates and I coordinate the equipment needs for that day I begin to pack my truck. It can be a tight fit with all of that equipment but luckily, we are all professionals at the game of life-size Tetris! With two minutes

to spare, I load my lunch box on the truck and I am on a hunt to find my doctor so we can head out.

By 8:00 AM we are on the road to our first morning appointment. On the drive there the doctor and I discuss the history of the horse and a potential plan for the appointment. Once arrived I grab our work tote full of basic necessities: needles, syringes, sedations, thermometers, stethoscope, hoof pick, hoof testers, and most importantly...treats. This is where you come in. As you and the veterinarian discuss your horse's needs and any of your concerns, you see me begin the initial exam. I am recording pulse rate, respiratory rate, temperature, GI movement, digital pulses, mucous membranes and measuring for a weight tape estimate. We often refer to this process as "TPR", which stands for temperature, pulse and respiration. Also known as vitals, I am keeping track of your horse's baseline and informing the doctor if everything is "WNL" (within normal limits). This is a critical part of patient care as it provides the doctor with information needed to make treatment plans and monitor the progress of your horse.

As our appointment continues, I grab this, hold that, take notes, clean up and calculate the next possible move my doctor might make. I might be silent during our appointments, but I stay very observant to what is happening - and the doctor knows that. We

have our own language and ways of subtle communication that you may not even notice. Say your vet suggests lab work be performed. As you and the doctor are talking about the details and diagnostic plan, I am already prepping blood tubes for our potential blood draw. Once you give the go ahead, a simple head nod from the doctor confirms that I can start collecting the samples needed. Before you know it, the job is done! The award for best charades goes to the veterinarian and their technician! This communication is an important part of not only keeping our schedule on track for the day but making sure that everything needed for a successful appointment is done and the best care is provided to you and your horse! While I am typically the first one to start the exam on your horse, I am often the last one to interact with them too, helping them get back into their stalls and giving them their goodbye treats and wither scratches. I clean up our work space, equipment, then sneak a chocolate break in the truck while you and my doctor finish talking.

Somewhere between 11:30 AM and 1 PM lunch is consumed in the truck on our way to another visit. Our appointments throughout the day might include any of the following: routine vaccinations, a dental float, gait evaluation and joint injections, and usually an add-on emergency or two gets thrown in there somewhere as well. Since our hospital is also a surgical and referral facility, our day can

be flipped at any time if we need to come back for an emergency surgery. On our long days, we can put up to 150 miles on the truck! Around 4:45 PM we start making our way back to the clinic. While you might go home after your afternoon appointment, the doctors and I still have a full evening ahead of us. Throughout the day I have kept a list of items that we took off the truck, so I can restock in the evening. My lists often look like they were written in shorthand: S&A, Equ INJ, Previcox x 2, HA, Amikacin,

Kenalog, 7 st. gloves, blood tubes 4r 2b 4p 2g, e-lytes, e-stalt, U/G x 2, bute paste, 12mls, 20g, 3ml combo, rect. sleeves, r lube, R/F, all the blue towels, blood machines, vacc records...did you get any of that? Luckily, I have some great teammate technicians back at the clinic who can decipher my tech shorthand and have gathered the items I need to restock. As a veterinary technician, organization is an important skill and some of my favorite things to do are staying 10 steps ahead of the doctor I am with and to keep our

ambulatory vehicles organized.

Upon arriving back at the clinic around 5:30 PM I start working on evening duties. I run any lab work from the day - CBC (complete blood count), chemistry, and fibrinogen tests all get completed in our in-house lab. We prepare any samples that need shipped off for testing at a university laboratory by spinning down blood for serum or plasma samples, filling out submission forms and entering the charges in our computer system. I can usually wrap all of that up in 35-45 minutes. I restock my truck as my co-workers help unload and clean equipment, charge batteries and transfer images from our radiograph and ultrasound equipment onto our cloud storage. I tidy our truck and track down any water bottles or candy wrappers that were stashed in the side doors of the truck throughout the day.

Our in-house technicians see to it that our hospitalized patients' stalls are cleaned, dinner was fed, horses hand walked if necessary, vitals taken, medications given, IV fluids hung, and bandages changed. Once that is done, we work together on our night checklist that must be gone through every evening. This is to be sure everything is accounted for in the evenings before we leave. We check that all the doors are shut and locked, all the equipment batteries charged, the trucks unloaded and locked, the spreader dumped, the surgery suite is prepped, emergency

colic and catheter cart are stocked, prescriptions are filled, deliveries unpacked...oh and of course care for our clinic cat, Louie.

By 6:45 PM we wind down our evening and check in with the doctors who are finishing up their responsibilities for the day. After my average 10-12 hour shift, I head home to take care of my own animals and prepare to do it all again the next day. At Wilhite and Frees Equine Hospital the technician schedule consists of four days a week, ~ 10 hour shifts with one on-call evening a week and one weekend a month. The days can be long but when you have a great team like ours and wonderful patients and clients to work with you feel fulfilled. I personally enjoy scrubbing-in on surgeries; and it is so rewarding to see critical cases through, from the first farm call to progress exams several weeks later. I hope you have enjoyed this sneak peek into my average work day, thanks for coming along for the ride!



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(be sure to crush the bay leaves fine).

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# Interscholastic Equestrian Association Show At Westmoreland Ranch Sunday

By Frank J. Buchman

Youth Western horseback competitors from throughout the country are headed to Westmoreland, Kansas.

"They're coming for the Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) Show Sunday, Dec. 6, at 2UW Brush Creek Ranch," announced Mary Ubel, ranch owner-manager.

Iowa Equestrian and Big Red Elite Equestrian are cohosts for the Slide Into Winter competition. Kicking off Sunday morning, with schooling of horses and judges meeting, at 8:00 am, the show begins at 9:00 am.

Western competition is to feature reining and horsemanship classes. Youth in the fourth through eighth grades, and ninth through 12th grades, will compete. Open, intermediate, novice and various levels of beginner divisions are planned.

There'll be individual awards in each class as well as overall team awards. Joe Ammann, trainer at 2UW Brush Creek Ranch, will serve as the show judge.

"Membership in IEA is mandatory. Only teams and individuals who are members may compete," Ubel clarified.

Member paperwork must be processed and the member activated on the team roster prior to entering the show.

"The IEA was established to provide competitive and educational opportunities through equestrian athletics," Ubel explained. "Good horsemanship and honorable participation are priorities at every event."

"It is the responsibility of all attendees to foster a spirit of belongingness, and an atmosphere of community enjoyment. There

must be a mutual respect for all participants and their equine partners," Ubel said.

An IEA rider's journey starts with the desire to be a part of a team, according to Ubel. That's a partnership with the horse drawn at the show or the team of old and new friends at the barn.

"An IEA rider has the opportunity to develop competitive riding skills while making memories lasting a lifetime," Ubel said. "And the best part is IEA riders do not need to own a horse or tack to participate."

For hundreds of years, Western riding has been synonymous with ranch work. "Movements necessary to work cattle can be seen in reining patterns used in competitions today," Ubel said. "A horse changes speed with the slightest touch from the rider, stops and turns quickly with ease."



Western horsemanship provides a rider with a strong foundation that will support seamless communication with the horse. The horse-rider combination executes the walk, jog or lope on the rail and maneuvers in individual pattern work.

"All Western classes are done with zero warmup time allotted to the rider," Ubel pointed out.

Concessions will be available at the show. However, strict coronavirus masking and distancing rules will be enforced. No community or team food tables will be allowed.

Information is available from Ubel at [www.2uwbrushcreekranchks.com](http://www.2uwbrushcreekranchks.com) or [www.rideiea.org](http://www.rideiea.org).



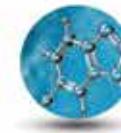
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<sup>1</sup>PANACUR® (fenbendazole) POWERPAC equine dewormer product label.

<sup>2</sup>Reinemeyer CR, Vista, WE. Efficacy of fenbendazole against a macrocyclic lactone-resistant isolate of *Parascaris equorum* in foals. Proceedings of the 55th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists. 2010, Atlanta, GA, p49.

<sup>3</sup>Laney E. Mode of Action of Benzimidaizes. *Parasitology Today*, vol. 6, no. 4, 1990.



# Mare Foaling Advice Given By Veterinarian

By Frank J. Buchman

Foaling season is just around the corner and owners need to be getting ready.

"A few simple precautions can help most mares produce a healthy, vigorous foal," said Dr. Thomas R. Lenz.

While some mares have already foaled, most will foal in April and May, affirmed the semi-retired Louisburg equine veterinarian.

Now is the time to select a foaling location, begin assembling necessary supplies and chart a plan of action. "A foal must ingest colostrum within eight to 12 hours of birth to acquire protection against disease," Lenz explained.

In the final month of gestation, a mare concentrates antibodies in her milk. But she can only produce antibodies against viruses and bacteria either through vaccination or her environment.

"So it is so important to vaccinate a pregnant mare against tetanus, sleeping sickness and other infectious diseases," Lenz said.

She should be moved to the foaling location 30 days prior to foaling in order to produce disease antibodies.

Foaling on pasture is more natural, generally more hygienic and roomier. "It's good to have a grass-covered paddock with a light to check on the mare's foaling progress easier," Lenz

advised.

If the decision is to foal indoors, the mare should be provided a clean 14-feet-by-14-feet disinfected, ventilated stall.

Bacteria encountered by a newborn foal in a dirty, poorly ventilated stall can override antibodies received in the mare's colostrum. High-quality, dust-free straw is the preferred bedding.

"Most mares will foal at night when activity around the barn is minimal," Lenz verified. "It's best to have a dim light near the stall to observe the mare without bothering her. Have your veterinarian's phone number handy in case of a problem."

Foaling supplies should include a flashlight, tail wrap, clean bucket, towels, and a watch to record stages of labor. "Iodine is required for disinfecting the foal's navel as well as a sodium enema for the new born," Lenz said. "Mild soap is needed to wash the mare's vulva and hindquarters."

It is important to have an alternate source of colostrum available from veterinary supply sources.

"Healthy normal foals will begin to breathe immediately following birth," Lenz explained. "They will rest on their sternum before attempting to stand within 30 minutes and usually nurse within two hours."

The mare will usually rest on her chest following delivery and then slowly rise and begin nuzzling the foal.

"If the mare appears agitated or aggressive toward the foal, restrain her and consult your veterinarian for advice," Lenz said. "A single kick from an aggressive mare can seriously injure or kill a newborn foal."



*Now semi-retired at Louisburg, Dr. Thomas R. Lenz served a most notable lifetime career in equine veterinary medicine.*

Once the mare stands, the placenta is usually passed within a few minutes to a couple of hours. "If the mare is stepping on the placenta, tie it up on itself with a piece of twine," Lenz said. "Under no circumstance should the placenta be cut off or pulled out.

"If the placenta is retained for more than three hours, notify your veterinarian," Lenz insisted. "A retained piece of placenta can cause serious uterine infection and prevent rebreeding."

Within about an hour, the mare should be alert, allowing the foal to nurse and looking for something to eat. "Allow the mare to eat and drink as soon as she is ready," Lenz said.

The mare's temperature should be recorded every six to eight hours for the first 24 hours after delivery. Temperature which can be taken with a rectal thermometer ranges from 99.5 F to 101.5 F.

"An elevated temperature can indicate an infection, while decreased temperature might mean a serious blood loss," Lenz said.



*The birth of a foal is one of the most wondrous events a horse owner can experience, according to Dr. Thomas R. Lenz. Good preparation will allow enjoyment to the fullest, he insisted.*

It's also a good idea to check the foal's temperature which should range from 99.5 F to 101.5 F. "Temperatures higher than 103 F indicate a serious disorder," Lenz warned.

"As a general rule of thumb, I conduct a mare-foal examination within eight to 12 hours of foaling," Lenz said. "I check that the mare has not experienced severe trauma to her birth canal and is producing plenty of milk."

"I also examine the placenta to ensure that it is normal in appearance and has been completely expelled," Lenz continued. "The foal is examined to ensure that all body systems are working and verify that the navel is drying up."

According to the veterinarian, a foal should pass the meconium, the first sticky, dark stool, within 12 hours of birth. "If this does not occur or if the foal appears to be straining, a

mild enema may be administered," Lenz suggested.

"Finally, encourage the mare and foal to rest and give them plenty of opportunity to bond," Dr. Lenz advised.

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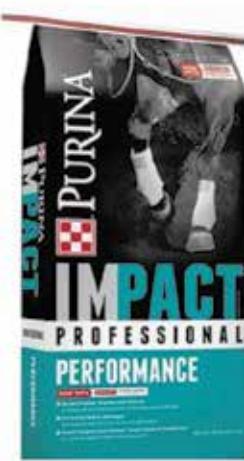
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# Cowboy Church with Steve Stafford

The other morning I was sitting outside, having my first cup of coffee while watching mother nature waking up, when I heard a noise in the clouds. It was a helicopter. I don't know from where it came, I don't know where he was going, I could not see him in the clouds, but I could hear him.

It reminded me of when God speaks to me. I'm not sure where He is, what He is doing, or where He is going, but I sure do hope that I always hear Him speak loud and clear.

The Bible says this: Psalm 99:7 They called on the Lord and He answered them, He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud.

So it should be our prayer here today at Better Horses that we all take time to listen. Just grab a cup of coffee, find a place to sit down, turn everything off, and quit talking so that you can hear. It's not that He is not speaking, it's just that we

never quit talking, and we are not good listeners. Ezekiel 12:25 For I the Lord will speak, and whatever word I speak will be performed.

Jesus taught the disciples a lesson on this in Mark 6:31 Jesus said, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest".

We need to take more time to rest, so that we can hear more of His heart.

Well 2021 is here, we made it, although life is not as it once was. The future is in question - everything normal is interrupted - this is what I call - "The land in between".

There's a phrase we hear more today, "it's a new normal". But the truth is we just want the old normal back. Now we are trying to figure how to navigate the terrain in this "land in between" the old normal and the new normal. And as we pass through this unknown land, it is critical to recognize that not

simply the hardship, but that our reaction to the hardship is forming who we are, in the now, and in the future.

With each discomfort we experience, our responses both reveal the person we are and set the trajectory for the person we are becoming. Whether we age with grace and poise or we become bitter. Being a resentful people is largely determined by our response to disappointment. Jesus had this to say;

John 16:33 CEV I have told you this, so that you might have peace in your hearts because of me. While you are in the world, you will have to suffer. But cheer up! For I have defeated the world.

So cheer up my friends, the Lord has faced the battle, and He has won. Do not give up, do not give in, trust Him, walk with Him, listen to Him, obey Him.

You know every one of us has a story to tell, our "life story" and our "God story". The thing that I want to

encourage you with is that our life story and our God story become the same. Making Jesus our life, our thoughts, our purpose, our life, our story.

All of us here at Better Horses hope and pray that you are doing well. And that your family is positive and productive. But mostly we pray that you and your family know Jesus personally and intimately.

*Pastor Steve Stafford  
Risen Ranch Cowboy Church  
Carthage MO  
417-850-5931*



## Connie's Cooking Corner

### Apple Praline Pie

1 3/4 Cups Flour  
1 teaspoon Sugar  
1/2 teaspoon Salt  
1 Cup Cold Butter, cubed  
1 teaspoon Cider Vinegar  
4-6 Tablespoon Cold Water

#### Filling:

6 Cups Thinly Sliced Peeled Tart Apples  
1 Tablespoon Ginger Ale

1 teaspoon Lemon Juice  
1 teaspoon Vanilla  
3/4 Cup Sugar  
1/4 Cup Flour  
3 teaspoon Cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon Nutmeg  
2 Tablespoons Butter

#### Topping:

1/4 Cup Butter, cubed  
1/2 Cup Packed Brown Sugar  
2/3 Cup Pecan Halves  
2 Tablespoons Heavy Whipping Cream  
1/2 teaspoon Vanilla

In a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar, and salt; cut in butter until

crumbly. Sprinkle with vinegar. Gradually add water, tossing with a fork until dough forms a ball.

Divide dough in half so as one portion is slightly larger than the other. Roll out larger portion to fit a 9-inch pie plate. Transfer pastry to pie plate. Trim pastry even with the edge.

In a large bowl, toss apples with the ginger ale, lemon juice and vanilla. Combine the sugar, flour, cinnamon, and nutmeg; add to the apple mixture and toss to coat. Spoon into crust; dot with butter.

Roll out remaining pastry to fit top of pie. Place over filling. Trim, seal, and flute edges. Cut slits in pastry.

Bake at 400 degrees for 55-65 minutes or until crust is golden brown and filling is bubbly. Cover edges with foil during the last 30 minutes to prevent over browning if necessary.

Meanwhile, in a small saucepan over medium heat, melt butter. Stir in brown sugar, cook until mixture comes to a boil and sugar is dissolved. Stir in pecans; cook 1 minute longer. Remove from the heat; stir in cream and vanilla. Immediately pour over pie. Bake 3-5 minutes longer or until topping is bubbly. Cool on a wire rack.

# National Finals Rodeo Pays Big Money To Kansas Qualifiers

By Frank J. Buchman

Kansas contestants collected major paychecks at the recent National Finals Rodeo (NFR) in Arlington, Texas.

Lighting the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association scoreboard the brightest was Jess Pope, 22-year-old bareback bronc rider from Waverly.

In his first NFR appearance, the five-foot-ten, 170-pound cowboy earned the privilege to compete ranking 11th in regular season standings. Prior to the first NFR go-round, Pope had won \$49,612 riding bareback broncs this year.

When the curtain closed at the 2020 NFR, Pope had a total of \$220,028 in his pocket. That put him third in the PRCA yearend bareback bronc riding standings.

Qualifying on all ten of his bareback broncs at the NFR, Pope scored 853 points to win the average worth \$67,269 alone.

Collecting checks in five go-rounds, his biggest earnings came in the eighth round when he netted \$26,231.

Pope matched moves with Calgary Stampede's Xplosive Skies for 89 points to win the round. "It is pretty awesome to win a round here," Pope said. "It makes you smile all day long. It's very humbling making me quite grateful."

"My main goal going into the victory lap was to not fall off the horse. Another bronc rider yelled at me right before we went around: 'Just don't fall off.' That was really fun, and I can't even put it into words."

Thursday's go-round list of horses was the "Eliminator Pen," the hardest-to-ride broncs in the game, and they proved it. Six cowboys

failed to make the whistle, which is uncommon in bareback riding, even for these types of horses. But Pope and Xplosive Skies got along very well.

Additional go-round money winning scores, placings and earnings for Pope were also announced. First go-round, 87 points, split second, \$18,192; Fourth go-round, 85 points, split fifth, \$3,664; Seventh go-round, 83.5 points, split third, \$13,327; and 10th go-round, 89.5 points, second, \$20,731.

In the Top Gun standings for most winnings at the NFR, Pope was seventh with his checks totaling \$170,410.

Regular season highlights for Pope were winning rodeos in Louisville, Kentucky, Des Moines, Iowa, and De Pere, Wisconsin. He was third at Fort Worth, Texas, pocketing \$4,300, and collected semifinals payback at San Antonio, Texas, worth \$6,500.

Growing up wanting to be a cowboy and from a competitive family attracted Pope to the rodeo arena. He competed in all three rough stock events in high school and was a 2016 National High School Finals Rodeo champion.

Focusing on bareback riding at Missouri Valley College (MVC), Marshall, Missouri, Pope finished third in the 2019 College National Finals Rodeo.

Pope's yearend PRCA ranking becomes most impressive compared to a year earlier. He won \$47,778 to be 28th in the 2019 bareback bronc riding standings. The cowboy had topped the 2018 PRCA Permit Members of the Year Challenge in Las Vegas.

Always humble, Pope insisted: "God's got a plan, and I'm just glad the plan is rodeo for me. It's positive and going to be great."

Kaycee Feild, Genola, Utah, was the yearend bareback riding champion.

Tanner Brunner of Ramona ended the PRCA season 12th in the world steer wrestling standings with \$93,269. Although collecting two go-round checks, no-times in the second and fourth go-rounds pushed him to 13th in the average.

Starting the finals with regular season earnings of \$46,885, Brunner was third in the seventh go-round, 3.8-seconds, winning

\$15,654, and second in the eighth go-round, 3.7-seconds, collecting \$20,731.

Jule Hazen of Ashland dropped all ten of his NFR steers placing eighth in the average while collecting two go-round checks. He was sixth in the fourth round with 4.5-seconds, \$4,231, and third in the sixth round, 3.6-seconds, \$15,654.

Headed into the NFR Hazen was ranked 14th in the world with \$39,730 and ended the season in the same position with \$75,961.

Jacob Edler, State Center, Iowa, was the steer wrestling champion.

Emily Miller-Beizel, originally from the Garden City area now



*Jess Pope, Waverly, won the eighth go-round in bareback bronc riding at the National Finals Rodeo, Arlington, Texas, marking 89 points on Calgary Stampede's Xplosive Skies.*

making her home in Weatherford, Oklahoma, was yearend barrel racing fourth. Winning two go-rounds, the sixth and seventh, 17.01-seconds, and 16.85-seconds, respectively, one barrel down put her fifth in the average.

Hailey Kinsel, Cotulla, Texas, was the champion barrel racer and Top Gun winner with \$270,615.

Cole Patterson, Pratt, was fourth in the world in steer roping following the National Finals Steer Roping in Mulvane with \$87,405. His dad Rocky Patterson, also of Pratt, was steer roping yearend 13th winning \$46.406.

World champion steer roper is Trevor Brazile, Decatur, Texas, collecting \$117,459.

Two bucking bulls with Kansas ties were in the ninth go-round of the NFR. Slinging Rubber, owned by New Frontier Rodeo Company of Gypsum, bucked off Roscoe Jarboe.

Lil Man, raised by Flint Hills Genetics of Strong City, bucked off Boudreaux Campbell. The bull is now owned by Sankey Pro Rodeo and Phenom Genetics.

Stetson Wright, Milford, Utah, was the PRCA yearend all-around cowboy placing first in bull riding and seventh in saddle bronc riding. He was third in the Top Gun standings with \$199,115.

Additional PRCA yearend event champions were Ryder Wright, Milford, Utah, saddle bronc riding; Shad Mayfield, Clovis, New Mexico, tie-down roping; Coby Lovell, Madisonville, Texas, team roping header; and Paul Eaves, Lonedell, Missouri, team roping heeler.

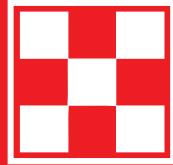
*Average winner with 853 points on ten bareback broncs at the National Finals Rodeo in Arlington, Texas was Jess Pope from Waverly.*



*Going into the National Finals Rodeo ranked 11th in bareback bronc riding, Jess Pope, Waverly, moved up to third in the yearend standings.*



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## All Girl Trail Ride

Barbara Sue Sweetwood 9/25/00



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We all felt really proud and we knew we could sustain,  
Then the Lord looked down and said, “I think I’ll make it rain.”

So we scrambled to our tents with still not one regret,  
But the Lord was working overtime ‘cause everything got wet!  
The thunder clapped the lightning struck and the rain had no reprieve,  
And God made this go on all night but still we would not leave.  
Finally when the daylight came the rain it did subside,  
So we ate some grub and saddled up and all went for a ride.  
I had such fun that I know that I’ll go back next year,  
But next time I’ll be ready ‘cause I’m taking scuba gear!

*Barbara Sue Sweetwood*



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**Dear Maggie,**  
**We are ready to start looking for our dream horse property. We have an idea of what we want but what are some key things we should have on our list? Thanks!**

Great question! It is always better to have your list rather than just 'seeing what is out there'. Purchasing a horse property is not the same as buying typical property. Here are several things I think should be on every list.

Purchasing too much or too little land. It is crucial you first determine how much land you need. Sounds easy but keep in mind not only what your current needs are but also considering what they might be in the future. It is essential you think of a viable plan for the next ten years, for example, and buy your property accordingly. Do you have time for large acreage? Or funds for the larger equipment a bigger farm takes? While small acreage looks attractive, is there enough room for pasture management, riding areas,

etc. Don't compromise on this important decision.

Overlooking zoning restrictions can be a major problem. Always, Always, Always take the time to research the land use restrictions as past use is not always a guarantee that a new owner can do the same. Make sure the owner is not grandfathered in and that stops with a new owner.

Going it alone and not using an agent with experience with buying and selling horse properties. You are making a significant financial investment, and commitment. There is a long list that has to be navigated to get to the finish line! Negotiations, Inspections, Repairs, Title Commitment, Appraisals and the mounds of paperwork that go with it all. An agent helps you get through that list in a businesslike manner working on your behalf. And generally the seller pays any agent commissions so this expertise is generally not a cost to you.

More on Inspections! No property is perfect and you need to know the good, the bad and the ugly going into property ownership. Plan on not only thoroughly inspecting the home but also the barn and any other outbuilding. Only use a professional home inspector. The American Society of Home Inspectors (ASHI.com) provides a zip code search feature for certified inspectors in your area. Don't forget to inspect for Wood Destroying Insects and test for Radon Gas. Once you get your inspection report, your agent can help you decide what needs to be repaired for you to move forward and what you can accept to repair yourself after purchase. Then your agent will handle negotiating with the seller to get to an agreement on repairs. Don't bypass this important process but do be prepared that inspections will cost \$500-\$1000 depending on size of buildings to be inspected.

I hope this has helped you add to your shopping list and key items to do before you sign the check on a

new property.

Good Luck!!

Maggie

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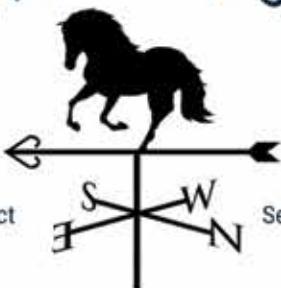




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