Well-managed pastures can go a long way in meeting the nutrient requirements of most horses, resulting in less money spent on feed and horse health. Proper pasture management also promotes overall horse health (minimizing the risk of colic, laminitis and ingestion of toxic plants) and reduces environmental concerns, such as soil erosion and runoff.

In 2011, the University of Minnesota offered a fee-based pasture management program aimed at optimizing the use of Minnesota horse pastures. Based on evaluations complete by participants, the program was a great success! Many participants reported feeding less hay and extending their grazing season after only one year. After receiving much positive feedback, we’ve decided to continue the program.

What will participation in the Pasture Management program include?

• Initial and follow-up visit from an U of M equine specialist
• Area soil map, soil analysis, and fertility recommendations
• Forage quality analysis (if possible) and plant specie identification
• Poisonous plant identification and weed control recommendations
• Overall facilities assessment
• Manure management recommendations
• Phone and e-mail support
• Supporting fact sheets and supplemental information
• **Customized pasture and grazing management plan**
• Cost is $650 and is limited to 40 horse farms in central and eastern MN and western WI

To register for the program, visit: http://www.regonline.com/EquinePastureManage

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