



# U of M Horse Newsletter

Providing research-based information to Minnesota Horse Owners

Visit our Website at: [www.extension.umn.edu/horse](http://www.extension.umn.edu/horse) for more information and to subscribe to the newsletter.

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## Winter Regional Horse Owner Programs

The University of Minnesota Horse Team is offering three regional horse owner education programs throughout Minnesota and western Wisconsin in 2009. Each program offers researched based information and knowledgeable speakers identified specifically for that region by a committee of local horse experts and enthusiasts.

Speakers for these programs include University faculty from Minnesota, Wisconsin, and North Dakota, local veterinarians, and area horse professionals. Programs are held on Saturdays and begin at 10:00 am (doors open at 9:15 am) and end at 3:00 pm. The dates, locations, and topics (multiple topics presented at once, can attend four presentations) are:

**Saturday, January 31** at the U of M Leatherdale Equine Center on the St. Paul Campus. Topics include: Manure Management, Winter Care, Common Causes of Equine Lameness and Treatments Options, Cushings and Other Diseases Effecting Elderly Horses, Equine Genetic Disorders, Ask the Vet Roundtable, Pasture Management, Equine Law, Research Updates, and Equine Behavior. An optional tour of the Equine Center will be given from 3:00 to 3:30 pm. There is an additional \$6 parking fee for this program. **Registration deadline is: Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.** Register online at: <http://umnext.cmiregistration.com/ProgramDetail.aspx/StPaulHorse>

**Saturday, February 21** at the University of Wisconsin - River Falls Agricultural Science Building in River Falls, WI. Topics include: Optimizing Your Hay Supply, Improving Your Existing Facility, Lameness in the Performance Horse, Hoof Care Roundtable, Pasture Management, So You Have a Horse...Now What?, Equine Behavior, Metabolic Myths, The Top 10 Things You Should Know About Feeding Your Horse, Western Saddle Fitting, Preventative Medicine, and Rehabilitation

and Complementary Therapies. **Registration deadline is: Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.** Parking available in lots G, H, K, and N. Register online at: <http://umnext.cmiregistration.com/ProgramDetail.aspx/RiverFallsHorse>. The program is co-sponsored by the UW - River Falls and UW Extension.

**Saturday, March 14** at the Thumper Pond Resort in Ottertail, MN (Rush, Walker, and Club House West Rooms). Topics include: Winter Care, Research Updates, First Aid and Wound Management, Manure Management and Composting, Humane Options for Unwanted Horses Roundtable, Equine Genetic Disorders, Poisonous Plants, Ask the Vet Roundtable, Equine Behavior, Elderly Horse Care, Nutrition Roundtable, and Equine Law. **Registration deadline is Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.** Register online at: <http://umnext.cmiregistration.com/ProgramDetail.aspx/OttertailHorse>

Three topics will presented simultaneously at each program. Participants can choose which sessions to attend (see [www.extension.umn.edu/horse](http://www.extension.umn.edu/horse) for specific program agendas).

The cost to attend the program is \$35 per person. The fee includes lunch and a printed proceeding. The proceeding contains factsheets and/or power point handouts from all program speakers. Due to pre-printed materials and lunch arrangements, registration prior to the program is required, and walk-ins will not be accommodated.

Online and mail-in registration forms, maps, parking information, and program agendas are available at: [www.extension.umn.edu/horse](http://www.extension.umn.edu/horse). Contact 800-876-8636 with online registration questions. Contact Krishona at 612-625-6776 with additional questions. In case of cancellation due to inclement weather, an e-mail will be sent to all participants. Programs are recommended for ages 13 and up, but are open to everyone.

### Inside This Issue

Winter Horse Owner Programs	1
U of M To Offer Monthly Webinars	2
Ask the Expert	2
Research Update	2

### Upcoming Events 2009 WINTER HORSE OWNER PROGRAMS

**Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>**  
Leatherdale Equine Center  
Univ. of MN - St. Paul  
St. Paul, MN  
Registration deadline:  
Wednesday, Jan .28<sup>th</sup>

**Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**  
UW-River Falls  
Agricultural Science Building  
River Falls, WI  
Registration deadline:  
Wednesday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>

**Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Thumper Pond Resort  
Ottertail, MN  
Registration deadline:  
Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>

**U of M Horse Team Monthly "Lunch and Learn Webinar"**  
January 21<sup>st</sup> at Noon  
"Optimizing Your Hay Supply"  
<https://umconnect.umn.edu/horsewebinars/>

**Know a Horse Hay Supplier or Auction Site?**  
The U of M is compiling a list of horse hay suppliers and auction sites. Contact Krishona at [krishona@umn.edu](mailto:krishona@umn.edu)



## U of M Horse Team to Offer Monthly Equine Webinars

The University of Minnesota Horse Team will begin offering monthly "Lunch and Learn" webinars (web-based seminars) on a variety of horse related topics in January. The webinars will be held the third Wednesday of each month from Noon to 1:00 pm. There is no charge to participate in the webinars.

The webinars will feature University of Minnesota faculty presenting information on a variety of horse related topics including horse health, nutrition, forage utilization, manure management, and general care.

During the webinars, participants can submit questions that presenters will address at the

end of the webinar. The webinars will also be archived on the horse website and can be viewed any time ([www.extension.umn.edu/horse](http://www.extension.umn.edu/horse)). The January (21st) webinar will feature Krishona Martinson presenting "Optimizing Your Hay Supply". To join the webinars, go to: <https://umconnect.umn.edu/horsewebinars/> and enter as a guest.

## Ask the Expert: Sarcoids

**Q:** I have a horse that has 4 small Sarcoids (pencil eraser size at the bottom of the ear). I put tree tea oil on them and thought they were gone, but over the winter they have come back. Do you have any info about Sarcoids? Specifically where they come from, how to treat them, nutrition information (if related), and are they genetic?

**A:** First, work with your local veterinarian to make sure your horse has sarcoids. Your local veterinarian should also be part of the treatment plan. Sarcoids are the most common skin tumor in horses and can be hard to cure. Sarcoids come in many different shapes and sizes, and the smaller ones are usually easier to cure. If you notice the sarcoids starting to grow larger, it is important that

you start treating them immediately as they can get larger very quickly.

Sarcoids develop after exposure to cow pox virus (warts). Certain horses are probably genetically predisposed to getting sarcoids or are at a higher risk for developing sarcoids. There are multiple treatments that have been studied, and several treatments are effective. However, sarcoids frequently need repeated treatment as they can come back (as you've experienced). I am not aware of any nutritional factors that lead to sarcoids or help in their treatment.

For your specific situation, the sarcoids sound small, but are likely one large sarcoid under the skin with little areas that pop-up. I would recommend cryotherapy (liquid

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nitrogen), CO<sub>2</sub> laser, or the drug Aldara. I'm not sure what is available in your area (in terms of freezing or burning the sarcoids), but because the sarcoids likely have tendrils, you might get the best results with the drug Aldara. Aldara is a prescription cream you can apply at home. Based on our research with Aldara, we recommend treating the sarcoids three times a week for the best outcome. Keep in mind it may take four months or longer to finish the treatment.

You can find more information about sarcoids and Aldara on the website <http://www.cvm.umn.edu/umec/research>. Just click on the clinical research link.

## Research Update: GPS and Pasture Grazing Behavior

Global positioning systems (GPS) are useful tools for measuring distance, speed, and position in grazing horses. These measures were previously estimated through physical observation, which is difficult to standardize, therefore a quantifiable method of determining activity levels on pasture is needed. Improved accuracy and precision from GPS data will be a useful tool to answer questions regarding equine behavior on pasture, examine possible effects of different management strategies,

and provide potentially better estimates of equine energy expenditures and requirements.

Ten Thoroughbred mares were acclimated to a 12 acres pasture. The GPS units were affixed to the horses halters and recorded data for 36 hours. Each GPS unit recorded data (speed and position) every 30 seconds.

During the first 24 hours, the horses traveled an average of 4 miles. Over the entire 36 hour period, the horses traveled an average of 7 miles. The average

speed over the entire period was <1 mile per hour. Analysis of differences between night and day revealed a slight increase in both speed and distance traveled during the night.

Quantitative measurements of speed, distance, and position are exciting additions to equine nutrition and behavior research. Data from this study confirms the usefulness of small, inexpensive GPS units in equine pasture research.

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