



U of M Horse Newsletter

Providing research-based information to Minnesota Horse Owners

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Equine Science Programs in Minnesota

Equine science is the study of horse management, health, disease, anatomy, nutrition, riding, training, and business practices. If you have plans to own a horse business, teach riding lessons, or train horses, this is a program that you should consider. Equine science programs give students the tools they will need to succeed in the horse industry and an opportunity to network with other students and professionals. Minnesota is home to three College Equine Programs. Programs are located at the University of Minnesota - St. Paul (U of M), University of Minnesota - Crookston (UMC) and Rochester Community and Technical College (RCTC).

Students can now study Equine Science at the U of M in St. Paul. The Animal Science Equine Option offers a great educational opportunity for students who want to obtain a 4-year Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science, and would also like to sub-specialize in the study of Equine Science. For students interested in pursuing a career in veterinary medicine, the Animal Science program has a close relationship with the College of Veterinary Medicine, and advises a Pre-Veterinary Club that brings together students with similar career goals and helps them prepare for veterinary college admission. For more information contact Christie Ward at malaz002@umn.edu or visit the website at: www.ansci.umn.edu/prospective_students.htm

UMC offers both a 4 year Bachelor's of Science degree and a 2 year Associates degree in Equine Science. In addition, within the Bachelor of Science degree program, UMC offers an emphasis in Pre-Veterinarian studies. All students participating in the 4 year program are also required to complete an internship in the horse industry, one of the most vital components of the degree program.

Participating in an internship gives the student an opportunity to make contact with established professionals in the horse business community. For more information about the UMC equine program please contact Ron Del Vecchio at 218-281-8109 or delve004@umn.edu or visit the website at: <http://academics.umcrookston.edu/agri/EquineIndustries/>

RCTC, located in Rochester, MN, has a new equine science associate program (about 2 years to complete), and the only equine program that offers certificates (which take about 1 year to complete). The degree majors at RCTC are Horse Husbandry, Riding and Training, and Equine Business Practices. These programs offers courses in western horsemanship, hunt seat equitation, colt starting, and internship programs. Students who wish to complete a 4-year equine science degree can take 2 years of classes at RCTC and transfer directly to UMC to complete the degree in four years. For more information contact Julie Christie at 507-398-2326 or Julie.Christie@roch.edu or visit the website at: www.rctc.edu/program/eqsc/

U of M, UMC, and RCTC also offers its equine students the opportunity to participate in the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). IHSA is even considered a NCAA college sport at UMC. The IHSA has a circuit of Hunt Seat and Western shows at various campuses in the Midwest throughout the school year. As a team, students travel to horse shows and compete against riders who are at a similar level. These riders build lifelong friendships and acquire priceless competition experience.

Authors: Julie Christie, RCTC; Ron Del Vecchio, PhD, UMC; Christie Ward, DVM, U of M; and Krishona Martinson, PhD, U of M.

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Up Coming Events 2008 Regional Horse Owner Programs

St. Paul, MN
Equine Center
February 2

North Mankato, MN
South Central College
February 9

Morris, MN
UM - Morris Science Bld.
March 1

Bemidji, MN
Northwest Tech. College
March 1

St. Paul, MN
Advance Program
Equine Center
March 15

On-line Registration Available:
www.cvm.umn.edu/outreach/events/horseowner

Questions? Contact Kristi at 888-241-0719. Advance program \$50, all others \$35.

Pasture Management Class
Clearwater Saddle & Tack
Saturday, February 2nd
1:00 pm
Questions?: 763-682-7381

Managing Established Horse Pastures
Tuesday, February 26th
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Cambridge Intermediate School Lecture Hall
Cost: \$15
To Register: 763-689-6189



When is a Health Certificate Necessary?

MN and WI Boards of Animal Health

Recently, there have been numerous questions regarding health certificates and interstate travel with horses.

All horses entering Minnesota must have a negative Coggins test within 12 months of the date of entry. All horses must also have a certificate of veterinary inspection with the exception of horses entering Minnesota for participation in trail rides, exhibitions, and horse

shows where the horses are examined by an official veterinarian.

Horses originating from Minnesota should meet the requirements of the final destination state. Contact the animal health agency in the state of final destination for more information.

As of July, 2007, horses going to Wisconsin for less than 7 days and for the purpose of recreation or show DO NOT need a health certificate

provided the horse has a current negative Coggins test. However, breed associations or shows may still require a health certificate.

If you have questions regarding health certificates in MN, please contact Ted Held at ted.held@bah.state.mn.us.

If you have questions regarding health certificates in WI, please contact Robert Ehlenfeldt at robert.ehlenfeldt@wisconsin.gov.

To Blanket or Not to Blanket

By: Marcia Hathaway, PhD, U of M

We have received numerous questions lately regarding blanketing. A horse's winter coat can be an excellent insulator, but its insulating value is lost if it gets wet. It is important to keep the horse dry and sheltered from moisture.

Research has been conducted on the benefits of blanketing a horse to reduce the effects of cold weather. However, most horses are blanketed for various reason (show schedules) and/or personal beliefs of the horse's owner. Blanketing a horse

is necessary to reduced the effects of cold or inclement weather when:

1. There is no shelter available during turnout periods and the temperatures drop below 5°F, or the wind chill is below 5°F.

2. There is a chance the horse will become wet (not usually a problem with snow, much more of a problem with rain, ice, and/or freezing rain and chilly temps).

3. The horse has had its winter coat clipped.

4. The horse is very young.

5. The horse has not been acclimated to the cold.

Keep in mind a horse will continue to develop a natural winter coat until December 22 (Winter Solstice), when days are becoming shorter. Horses begin to lose their winter coat (and start forming their summer coat) as the days begin to get longer (starting on December 23). Blanketing before December 22 will decrease a horse's natural winter coat.

Research Update: Using Round Bale Feeders

Round bales are a common bale type in MN. Past research has focused on reducing round bale waste associated with proper storage (stored inside or tarped on a pallet).

Research recently conducted at Texas Tech evaluated waste associated with feeding round bales. Both alfalfa and grass round bales were fed with and without a round bale feeder.

The alfalfa round bales fed with a

feeder had a 9.1% loss, compared to a 31.5% loss without a feeder. The grass round bales fed with a feeder had a 1.8% loss, compared to a 38.1% loss without a feeder.

As with feeding any bale type, some loss is expected. It is not clear why there is a difference is loss when comparing alfalfa and grass. The round bales fed in a feeder lasted 8 to 9 days, compared to only 6 days without a feeder. The reduction in days is a reflection of the increased

waste that was either soiled by manure and urine or trampled, and was no longer suitable for consumption.

This research may not be surprising, but draws attention to the importance of using a feeder when feeding round bales.



Correction. There was an error in the December Newsletter article "Recommended Equine Winter Care".

Based on the newly released National Research Council's Equine Nutrition Report, an adult horse requires 1.4% (not 0.7%) more energy each day for every degree below the critical temperature (5°F). For example, if the temperature is -5°F, the additional energy requirement would calculate out to about 2 Mcals or about 2 pounds of additional (in addition to the amount of hay they were already receiving) high quality hay for a 1,000 pound horse.