



# Univ. of MN Horse Program

*Researched Based Information for Horse Owners*

2008-2009 FACTSHEET

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Minnesota ranks ninth in the nation in number of horses at 155,000. According to the USDA Census of Agriculture, Minnesota has 14,289 horse farms and the number of farms and horses continues to increase. The total estimated economic impact of the equine economy is approximately \$1 billion, about 10% of Minnesota's animal industry.

The University of Minnesota (U of M) Horse Program was developed in 2004, after two separate surveys demonstrated the state-wide need for horse owner education in Minnesota. The U of M Horse Program provides unbiased, research based information to horse owners to increase their knowledge and improve the quality of care for horses and their habitat in Minnesota.

Primary program topics include general horse care and husbandry, horse health, forage utilization, and horse nutrition.

## AUDIENCE

- Horse Owners
- Equine Professionals

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

Provide unbiased, research based information to Minnesota horse owners, focusing on horse care, facilities, health, pasture and manure management that increases the knowledge of horse owners and improves the quality of care for horses and their habitat in Minnesota.

## EQUINE RESEARCH PRIORITIES

- Forage Utilization
- Reproduction
- Genetics and Genomics
- Health
- Care and Husbandry
- Disease and Treatments
- Lameness

## COOPERATORS

- Equine Advisory Committee
- Minnesota Horse Council
- The Equine Industry
- Equine Advisory Committee - Emeritus

## PROGRAM EFFORTS CONSIST OF

- Website ([www.extension.umn.edu/horse](http://www.extension.umn.edu/horse))
- Monthly Electronic Newsletter
- Fall & Winter Horse Owner Programs
- Local Horse Owner Programs
- Factsheets
- Speaking at the MN Horse Expo
- Guest Speaking at State, Regional, and National Horse Events and Programs

## TEAM MEMBERS

The University of Minnesota Horse Team consists of 15 faculty members from 7 different departments or colleges. Team members include:

- Tom Bartholomay - Evaluation Specialist
- Ron Del Vecchio, PhD – UMC Animal Scientist
- Marcia Hathaway, PhD – Animal Scientist
- Scott Madill, DVM – U of M Veterinarian
- Erin Malone, DVM – U of M Veterinarian
- Krishona Martinson, PhD – Equine Specialist
- Roger Moon, PhD – Extension Entomologist
- Paul Peterson, PhD – Extension Agronomist
- Brenda Postels – Extension Educator
- Jan Swanson – CVM Outreach Coordinator
- Kelly Vallandingham – UMC Liaison
- Christie Ward, DVM – U of M Veterinarian
- Julie Wilson, DVM – U of M Veterinarian
- Betsy Gilkerson Wieland – Extension Educator
- Stephanie Valberg, DVM – U of M Veterinarian

## CONTACTS

- Extension Programs ([bjork026@umn.edu](mailto:bjork026@umn.edu))
- Equine Center ([newco046@umn.edu](mailto:newco046@umn.edu))
- Farm Information Line (800-232-9077)
- Large Animal Hospital (612-625-6700)

IN PARTNERSHIP...

Department of Animal Science  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

EXTENSION

College of Veterinary Medicine  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA