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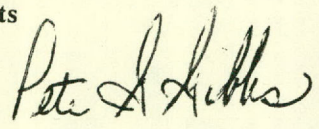
Texas Agricultural Extension Service

# CEA HORSE NEWSLETTER

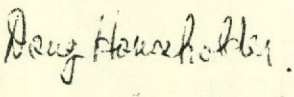
## MEMORANDUM

To: All County Extension Agents

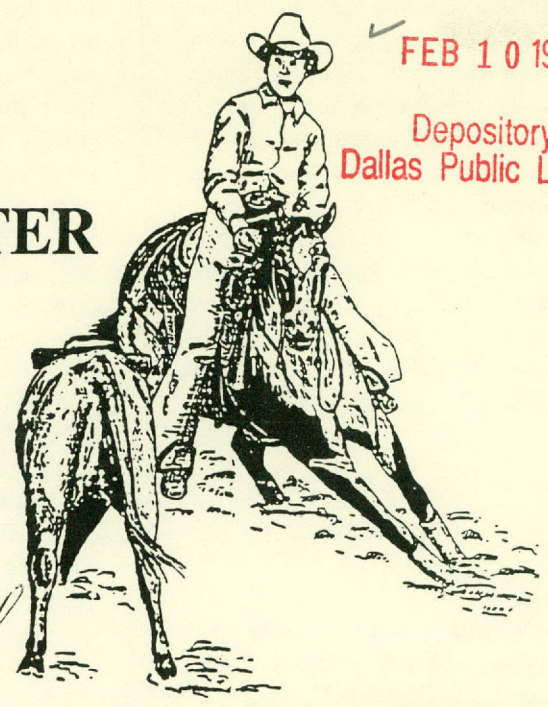
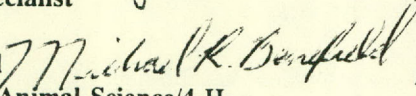
From: Pete G. Gibbs  
Extension Horse Specialist



Doug Householder  
Extension Horse Specialist



Michael R. Benefield  
Extension Assistant-Animal Science/4-H



January, 1997

### TAMU EQUINE REPRODUCTIVE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

January 6-9 will be the next indepth workshop for horse persons seeking hands-on skills improvement in breeding and management. The 3 1/2 days is focused on horse owners and breeding farm managers who want to learn the most effective methods for managing mares & stallions. The last Workshop held in December, had participants from Texas, Mississippi, Colorado and California. Workshop coordinator is Dr. Martha Vogelsang (409)645-7731. Call her to determine space availability for any of your interested horse producers.

### 4TH RACE HORSE CONFERENCE JANUARY 11

Race horse owners and enthusiasts will gather in Austin at the Capital Marriott for a day of varied presentations on equine management, research findings and other racing topics. Summaries of TERAAC funded research will be presented. Concurrent sessions will allow participants to choose a variety of topics on pre-purchase exams, nutrition, sale preparation. early training and other management considerations. Contact JoAnn Weber at TTBA (512) 458-6133 for more information; or call Doug Householder at (409) 845-1562 for conference details. See Attachment #1 for start times and schedule.

### TQHA's YOUTH CONVENTION January 10-11-12

The same weekend in Austin will also be the TQHYA Convention. Extension played a major role in initial development of this convention, which has become an annual event. For detailed information, contact TQHA's Director of shows, Dale Barnett or Youth Coordinator Jennifer Allan at (512) 458-5202.

### BIG HORSE SHORT COURSE

January 14, the annual BIG program will be held in Waco. Afternoon sessions will deal with torages, theft pervention and hoof management. The current status of efforts on the Texas Horse

John McNeill  
Bryan Johnson  
Ronnie Edwards

John Beverly  
Kyle Smith  
Chester Fehlis

Lynn Thibodeaux  
District Extension  
Directors-Agriculture

Livestock Specialists  
4-H Specialists  
Equine Science Section  
Faculty & Staff

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Industry Quality audit will be covered; dealing specifically with recent results of a Quarter horse and Thoroughbred farm survey. The evening program will feature noted judge, breeder, trainer and clinician Jack Brainard. His live demo on performance horse training will be valuable to many horse owners. Contact McLennan CEA Doug Andrews (817) 757-5180 to get more details.

### TAMU EQUINE ULTRASOUND SCHOOL

Ultrasound is used a lot in the process of getting mares in foal. January 23, 24, and 25, a 2 1/2 day short course will deliver 8 hours of seminar and 12 hours of live animal laboratories with hands-on participation relative to the effective use of ultrasound. Pre-registration is required through Martha Voglesang at (409) 845-7731. This is just one of several short courses or workshops that keep Texas A&M a leader in producer education. A recent workshop on Cooled Semen reached professional horse owners from Texas, Oklahoma and Arizona.

### TAMU MARE/FOAL MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP MARCH 18

A new workshop has been developed for mare owners who want to learn more about managing broodmares and developing young, growing horses. The workshop will be held at the Horse Center on the TAMU campus March 18. This is a good opportunity for persons who own a small number

of mares. Participants will learn to use body condition scoring as a valuable management tool. On-the-farm test kits to predict foaling and determine failure of passive transfer will be demonstrated. Other demos will include creep feeding, imprinting, dentistry, hoof care and basic reproductive function. Attached is a pre-registration form. Contact Pete Gibbs or Martha Voglesang (409) 845-1562.

### SPECIALTY SCHOOLS FOR ADULT LEADERS AND PERFORMANCE HORSE OWNERS

The second annual Stock Horse of Texas Clinic will be held March 25-27 in Abilene. This relatively new effort focuses on increased and varied training/use of performance horses. The Statewide 4-H Adult Leader Reining Horse Clinic will be held April 15-17, also in Abilene. This event has a great reputation for furthering knowledge of leaders as they take information back to their county 4-H horse project clubs. Contact Vicki Hoggett in the Somerville County Extension Office (817) 897-2809 to pre-register for either clinic.

### DEADLINES..... DEADLINES..... .....DEADLINES

Perhaps all of us share one common fear in day-to-day operations, that of forgetting an important deadline, especially regarding 4-H activities. Many of your county's 4-H families probably receive Horse Power Newsletter, so they are getting information on activity deadlines. Here's a few really important

ones to keep in mind:

\*January 31 is the last day to request a 2-day or 3-day horsemanship school for your county.

\*March 15 is the absolute deadline for 4-H futurity horse nominations.

\*May 1 is the deadline for owning and certifying 4-H horse projects other than futurity projects.

### 25th TAEX SUMMER HORSEMANSHIP SCHOOL PROGRAM

Attached are forms to use in requesting either a 2-day or 3-day-long horsemanship school for the summer of 1997. This horsemanship school program reached the third largest number of counties in the programs' history in 1996 with 50 schools in 49 different counties. Over 1400 4-Hers, parents and volunteer leaders participated in the schools taught by 12 Extension horse Program Assistants. Evaluation forms indicated the schools were considered "good to excellent" in terms of knowledge gained by participants. The instructors received high scores for their ability to motivate participants and for using creativity in teaching and working with riders. Average attendance per school was 30 persons, with 20 riders and 10 adults watching. Costs for schools in 1997 will remain the same: \$500.00 for a 2-day and \$700.00 for a 3-day school. Based on 30 riders per school, each person can attend for \$17 to \$24. Use the attached forms to request either a two-day or a 3-day school. **The first 40 requests will be accepted, and schools will then be scheduled.** These 40 schools will be

scheduled on a first come, first serve basis. **After the first 40 requests are filled, an alternate list will be compiled.**

As of December 1, 1996, requests for 1997 clinics had already been received by 12 counties. A total of 21 college-aged horse persons have already filled out applications to be considered as instructors. If you have questions about this program, please call Pete G. Gibbs or Michael R. Benefield at (409) 845-1562.

#### **4-H HORSE JUDGING TEAMS SCORE HIGH**

Texas youth horse judging teams were quite visible at the recent All-American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio. The Hood County 4-H team, which judged under the TQHA banner, was high team overall. They also won high point in the Performance category. Parker County 4-H Horse Team was the 3rd high team overall. They earned 2nd in Oral Reasons, 3rd in Performance and 4th in Halter. Quite an impressive showing in this national contest with 28 teams competing.

#### **STOCK SHOW JUDGING CONTESTS GOOD OPPORTUNITY**

Well over 2000 youths will participate in Youth Horse Judging Contests at Fort Worth, San Antonio and Houston Livestock Shows, all during the month of February. Check the calendar in this newsletter for pre-registration deadlines and contest dates. Remember to encourage your 4-H judging team coaches to teach oral reasons. Almost all contests include oral

reasons and there are now 3 sets at State Roundup.

#### **TEXAS HORSE INDUSTRY QUALITY AUDIT**

Efforts continue to better characterize and profile a significant Texas horse industry made up of over 1 million horses. Phase I of the Quality Audit has focused on the early management of young Quarter horses and Thoroughbreds. Data has been summerized from 58 farms out of 110 initial contacts. These data will be presented at the Race Horse Conference in Austin on January 11. After that date, detailed summary information will be available upon request. These results will be useful to County Extension Horse Committees in determining focus for specific educational programs. Phase II of the audit has just been collected and will be completed in a report due February 1, 1997. Eight CEA's played a major role in acquiring detailed information from 56 horseowners out of 160 initial contacts. This survey provided information on type of horse involvement, areas of use, annual expenditures and economic investment. These data will be combined with AQHA, APHA and TTBA membership surveys, as well as other information, in an attempt to better document size, scope and impact of horses in Texas. Special thanks to those 8 CEA's who participated in this phase of the quality audit:  
Wes Allison - Walker County  
Gary Antilley - King County  
Robert Devin - Randall County  
Jerry Jackson - Wood County  
Greg Kaase - Brazos County  
Earnest Kiker - Midland County  
Robert Roark - Andrews County

Doug Shores - Harris County  
The results of that survey will be available in February.

#### **REVISED 4-H HORSE SHOW RULES**

As per State 4-H Horse Committee response in October & November of 1996, revisions were made in December. With type set of changes occurring in January, counties will be able to make copies in the county office or purchase additional copies, hopefully by mid-February. A few revisions have been made that are worthy of mention now. In 1997, long-sleeve shirts will be required in all western judged and timed event classes. Western boots will be defined as a traditional cowboy boot or lace-up roper style boots. All other footwear is prohibited. Team roping and team penning at the State show will change from "teams automatically entered twice with two full-goes" to "each team entered once with one full go and the top 15 advancing to a finals." In 1997, the Invitational class, Western Riding, will not be tied to a hi-point award category.

#### **TAMU EQUINE SCIENCES WEBSITE**

The Equine Sciences Section is at present developing a home page for Teaching, Research and Extension activities. When completed, CEA's will be able to quickly access information from the Equine Sciences Section. The Equine Sciences Web Site's location is:  
<http://catesever.tamu.edu/ansc/equi/equine.htm>

## MANDATORY EIA TESTING IN 1997 INFORMATION & UPDATE

The Sept. 1996 CEA Horse Newsletter provided the subject information. CEA's should have also received information directly from the TAHC. The 1997 regulation changes deal with change of ownership, record keeping and shows, fairs and exhibitions. CEA's are involved directly/indirectly with organizing, conducting or managing horse gatherings in the county. According to the TAHC regulations, effective January 1, 1997, 12 month negative EIA documentation papers will be mandatory for entrance to any horse gathering in the county. The period January 1 through May 6, the TAHC will stress education and voluntary compliance. According to the TAHC, during this period of time TAHC area representatives will contact CEA's with information on checking procedures (who does, how done, record keeping, fine for non-compliance, etc.). Enforcement will begin May 7 with warnings being offered for non-compliance. If further questions or material are needed, contact your area TAHC representative or the TAHC office in Austin @ (512)719-0700. (Note: At the TAHC Meeting, November, 1996 in Austin, a three hour hearing dealt with the regulations and compliance and if and what industry groups would be most impacted. the TAHC has formed a committee at the request of Representative Patterson that will meet in January to discuss the matter.

## STOCK HORSE OF TEXAS (SHOT) PROGRAM - PROGRESS REPORT

Past CEA Horse Newsletters have discussed efforts by Extension in the gathering of a group of breeders, ranchers, horse and cattle associations reps, and college horse program personnel to discuss stock horse industry needs. In 1996 successful activities (Statewide School, two ranch horse workshops and two meetings) were held. At the present time, already 10 activities are planned for 1997, by CEA's, association colleges, and ranches. Unique non-traditional clinics will be held characterized by a very specific curriculum, emphasizing skill training and safety. Practical science topics, and rider/horse evaluation. More detailed information and specific activity materials will be forthcoming soon to CEA's. Call us if questions.

## HORSE NUTRITION & FEEDING PACKAGE SOON COMING TO CEA

In 1996 the subject package was pilot tested in several counties and at several horse activities. The final package contains 5 video tapes with separate printed technical publications plus a feeding Performance Horses Study Booklet and Teacher Supplement Method Demonstration Guides, Evaluation Instruments, Teaching Ideas, etc. Packages will be sent to District offices soon after the first of the year. Packages will also be placed in the visuals library. If interested in utilizing these materials in 1997 give us a call.

## FUTURITY PROJECT NOMINATIONS DUE MARCH 15

TEXAS 4-H horse project members who intend to nominate **yearling halter, yearling longe line, two-year-old pleasure, and three-year-old stock horses** for the 4-H futurity program have until mid-March to purchase a horse, fill out the nomination form and retrieve CEA signature on the form. **NONIMATIONS AND NOMINATION FEES ARE DUE IN THE HORSE SPECIALISTS' OFFICE NO LATER THAN MARCH 15.** Attached is the nomination form that 4-Hers should use in nominating futurity projects. **Please xerox and make available to 4-Hers in your county.** A 4-Her can nominate more than one horse, but must fill out a separate form for each horse. A nomination does not constitute an entry, and 4-Hers will still need to officially enter the respective State Show futurity class later in the year while attending the District Show.

## SUBJECT MATTER ARTICLES

The last 3 attachments of this newsletter are one-page subject matter articles for your use in your own County newsletter, newspaper spots and other correspondence. These 3 articles are very timely as breeding season and foaling time are fast approaching.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT/PROGRAM	CONTACT
January 5	Entry Deadline - Ft. Worth Stock Show Youth Horse Judging Contest	Stock Show (817)877-2400
January 6-9	TAMU Equine Reproductive Management Workshop	Dr. Martha Vogelsang (409)845-7731
January 11	TERAAC Race Horse Conference - Austin	Doug Householder (409)845-1562
January 11	TQHYA Youth Convention - Austin	Dale Barnett (512)458-5202
January 11	Montgomery County Horse Judging Contest	Mike Heimer (409)539-7822
January 14	B.I.G. Horse Short Course - Waco	CEA Doug Andrews (817)757-5180
January 15	Entry Deadline - Houston Stock Show Youth Horse Judging Contest	Stock Show (713)791-9000
January 18	Johnson County Horse Judging Contest (in Cleburne)	Ken Johnson (817)556-6370
January 23-25	TAMU Equine Ultrasound School	Dr. Martha Vogelsang (409)845-7731
January 31	Request Deadline for a Summer Horsemanship School	Pete Gibbs (409)845-1562
February 1	Ft. Worth Stock Show Youth Horse Judging Contest	Stock Show (817)877-2400
February 7	San Antonio Stock Show Youth Horse Judging Contest	Stock Show (210)255-0575
February 8	San Antonio Stock Show Horse Quiz Bowl Contest	Stock Show (210)255-0575
February 9	San Antonio Stock Show Dril Team Competition	Stock Show (210)255-0575
February 18	Houston Stock show Youth Horse Judging Contest	CEA Doug Shores (713)855-5600
February 28-March 4	AQHA Convention - Dallas	AQHA (806)376-4811
March 15	Daedline for 4-H Futurity Horse Nominations (for 4-Hers nominating yearling halter, yearling longe line, 2-year-old pleasure and 3-year-old stock horse projects)	Horse Socialists (409)845-1562
March 18	Mare/Foal Management Clinic - College Station	Pete Gibbs or Martha Vogelsang (409)845-1562
March 25-27	Stock Horse Clinic - Abilene	Vicki Hoggett (817)897-2807
April	Multi - District Horse Judging Contest TAMU	CEA Doug Shores (713)855-5600
April 15-17	Statewide 4-H Adult Leader Reining Horse Clinic - Abilene	Vicki Hoggett (817)897-2807
April 26-27	Brazos County Extension Horse Committee's AQHA All Youth & Amatuer Show - TAMU	Dr. Mike Martin (409)845-9135
May 1	Deadline for owning and cetifying 4-H horse projects (except Futurity projects, see March 15)	County Extension Offices
May 27-31	Equine Nutrition & Physiology Society Meetings - Ft. Worth	Dr. Dennis Sigler (817)726-5335
May 30-June 30	County-wide 25th Annual TAEX Summer Horsemanship Schools	See Jan. 31 Request deadline
June 4	State 4-H Horse Judging Contest - TAMU	State 4-H Office (409)845-1212
June 4	State 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl Contest - TAMU	State 4-H Office (409)845-1212
June 5	State 4-H Horse Method Demonstration Contest - TAMU	State 4-H Office (409)845-1212
June 10-11	District 9 4-H Horse Show - Lufkin	DED Dale Fritz (409)845-6800
June 20-21	District 5 4-H Horse Show - Lufkin	DED Tony Douglas (903)834-6191
June 24-30	TQHA Texas Classic - Ft. Worth	TQHA (512)458-5202
July 20-26	35th Annual Texas State 4-H Horse Show - Abilene	Horse Specialists (409)845-1562
August 4-7	Southern Regional 4-H Championship - Georgia	Horse Specialists (409)845-1562

# FOURTH ANNUAL TEXAS RACE HORSE CONFERENCE

- 8:00 a.m. Registration and Coffee, Visit Commercial Trade Show  
*Moderator - Dr. Nat Kieffer*
- 8:30 Opening Remarks and Introductions - Dr. Nat Kieffer
- 8:35 TERAAC Funded Research Projects - Dr. John Beverly
- 8:40 Effects of Regumate on Behavior and Semen Quality of Stallions - Dr. Corey Miller  
*Race stallions frequently exhibit objectionable behavior thought to affect their performance. Regumate is often administered in an attempt to control this behavior. This study is investigating the effects of Regumate on performance.*
- 9:00 DNA Typing in Horses - Dr. Loren Skow  
*The horse industry needs rapid, accurate, economical genetic tests for registration and parentage verification; tests for identification of defective genes; and marker techniques for assisting with the selective breeding of desirable traits. This horse genome project will study DNA typing as it applies to providing these answers.*
- 9:20 Risk Factors for Musculoskeletal Injuries Incurred During Racing in Thoroughbred Race Horses - Dr. Noah Cohen  
*Musculoskeletal injuries that occur during racing often involve severe trauma to bones and soft tissues of the limb; have a sudden, dramatic onset and are usually observed by large audiences. This study is determining the incidence of injuries incurring during racing at 4 thoroughbred racetracks in Kentucky. The study is characterizing the population of injured horses by individual and race-related characteristics, and is identifying factors associated with injury by comparing injured horses with horses randomly selected from the same races during which injuries occurred.*
- 9:40 Coffee Break - Visit Commercial Trade Show  
*Moderator - Dr. Nat Kieffer*
- 10:00 Together We Can Make a Difference in the Texas Racing Industry - Dr. Barry Thompson  
*Moderator - Lex Smurthwaite*
- 10:30 Use of the High Speed Treadmill to Diagnose Upper Airway Dysfunction in Horses - Dr. Eric Parente  
*Endoscopy during high speed exercise is invaluable to document dynamic changes in the horse's upper airway. Videotaped examples of these abnormalities, as well as tips to help identify some of these horses during standing endoscopy, will be shown in the presentation.*
- 11:05 Horse Information on the Internet - Charles Manson  
*The computer internet has added a new dimension to the horse industry. Advertising a ranch or farm, race results, educational programs/activities, mating services...state, national, international. Manson will give a live interactive demonstration where the audience can ask questions and retrieve answers, shown on a large projection screen, via the internet.*
- 11:40 Adjourn for lunch (conference luncheon or lunch on your own)
- 12:00 Luncheon (ticket required)
- 12:20 p.m. Dedication of Conference to Dr. Bill Romane  
**For outstanding contributions to the Texas race horse industry.**
- 12:35 Luncheon Address - Robert Lewis
- 1:00 Luncheon Adjourns

## Concurrent Sessions

- |   |  |
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| <p><b>Yearling Purchase &amp; Management</b><br/><i>Moderator - Bryan Johnson</i></p> <p>1:30 <b>Prepurchase Examinations: Pros &amp; Cons -</b><br/>Dr. Jeff Watkins</p> <p>2:00 <b>Nutritional Programs for the Yearling -</b><br/>Dr. Gary Potter</p> <p>2:30 <b>Coffee Break</b><br/><i>Moderator - Dr. Bill Moyer</i></p> <p>2:45 <b>Exercising and Fitting Yearlings for Sale -</b><br/>Roger Daly</p> <p>3:15 <b>Breaking and Early Training of the Yearling -</b><br/>Bob Baffert</p> <p>3:45 <b>Conference Adjournment</b></p> | <p><b>Business and Farm Improvement Strategies</b><br/><i>Moderator - Pete Navarro</i></p> <p>Services Available to the Race Horse Industry from TAMU -<br/>Dr. Doug Householder</p> <p><b>The Texas Horse Industry Quality Audit -</b><br/>Dr. Pete G. Gibbs</p> <p><i>Moderator - Dr. Stephen Tomasovic</i></p> <p><b>Cooled Equine Semen - Technology And Implications -</b><br/>Dr. Heidi Brady</p> <p><b>Pasture and Hay for Horses -</b><br/>Dr. Don Dorsett</p> |
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## THE EQUINE RESEARCH ACCOUNT

Pursuant to Subchapter F, Chapter 88, Education Code of the Texas Racing Act of 1991, an Equine Research Account was created by the Texas Legislature to fund equine research and to conduct an annual conference on equine research. Funds for the Equine Research Account are derived from two percent of the breakage plus two percent of the takeout of multiple two and three wagering. The Account is administered by the Director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. The research grants are awarded annually in October. A Race Horse Conference, to disseminate the results of the research projects, is held annually and is coordinated by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

The Advisory Committee consists of eleven members: one each from the Texas Appaloosa Horse Club, the Texas Arabian Breeders' Association, the Texas Paint Horse Breeders' Association, the Texas Quarter Horse Association, and the Texas Thoroughbred Association. In addition, there are two members from the College of Agriculture (Texas A&M University), two members from the College of Veterinary Medicine (TAMU) and two at-large members who must be affiliated with research organizations that have equine research capabilities. The 1996-1997 Advisory Committee members are:

- Nat Kieffer, Ph.D., Chairman, TTA  
Lonnie Jones, Ph.D., Vice Chairman, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, TAMU  
Heidi Brady, Ph.D., College of Agriculture, TT  
Charles Graham, D.V.M., TQHA  
Pete Navarro, TAHC  
John Pipkin, Ph.D., Division of Agriculture, WTAMU  
Gary Potter, Ph.D., College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, TAMU  
Loren Skow, Ph.D., College of Veterinary Medicine, TAMU  
Lex Smurthwaite, TPHBA  
Steven Tomasovic, Ph.D., TABA  
Jeff Watkins, D.V.M., College of Veterinary Medicine, TAMU  
Stephanie Fairhurst (Secretary, appointed by the Chairman)

## BREED ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES all held at Capital Marriott

- TABA Jan. 11 (Saturday)  
4:00 p.m. - Annual Membership Meeting  
5:00 - Members/Board of Governor's Social  
7:00 - TTA Dinner, Awards Banquet Dance (optional)  
Registration Information - *Dr. Steve Tomasovic at (713) 356-1372*
- TQHA Jan. 10 (Friday)  
5:30 p.m. - Reception, Awards and Dinner  
Registration information - See December *Texas Quarter Horse Report* or call TQHA Office at (512) 458-5202
- TTA Jan. 10 (Friday)  
5:30 p.m. - Lifetime Member Reception  
Jan. 11 (Saturday)  
4:00 - Business Meeting  
6:00 - Cocktail Party  
7:00 - Dinner, Awards Banquet and Dance  
Registration information - See December *Texas Thoroughbred Magazine* or call JoAnn Weber at (512) 458-6133.
- TPHBA General Membership Meeting  
Registration information - *Bruce Grider at (903) 967-3278*

## SPEAKERS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

### TERAAC Members

- Doug Householder, Ph.D., Horse Specialist, Conference Coordinator, TAES, TAMUS  
Bob Baffert, Professional Thoroughbred Trainer, California  
John Beverly, Ph.D., Deputy Vice Chancellor/Deputy Director, TATS, TAMUS  
Zerle Carpenter, Ph.D., Director, TAEX, TAMUS  
Edith Chenault, Communication's Specialist, TAEX, TAMUS  
Noah Cohen, D.V.M., Ph.D., Asst. Prof., Large Animal Med., College Veterinary Medicine, TAMU  
Roger Daly, Professional Horse Fitter, Aubrey  
Don Dorsett, Ph.D., Forage Specialist, TAEX, TAMUS  
Buddy Faries, D.V.M., Project Leader, Veterinary Medicine, TAEX, TAMUS  
David Freeman, Executive Secretary, TRC, Austin  
Pete Gibbs, Ph.D., Horse Specialist, TAEX, TAMUS  
Ed Hiler, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Agriculture and Life Sciences, TAMUS  
Jeff Hooper, Executive Secretary, TTA, Austin  
Brian Johnson, Ph.D., Head, Department of Animal Science, TAMU  
Joe Joyce, D.V.M., Professor, Large Animal Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, TAMU  
D. C. Kraemer, D.V.M., Ph.D., Assoc. Dean - Veterinary Administration, TAMU  
Robert Lewis, Thoroughbred Breeder/Owner, California  
Charles Manson, Director of New Media, *Blood Horse*, Kentucky  
Corey Miller, D.V.M., Intern, Large Animal Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, TAMU  
Bill Moyer, D.V.M., Head, Large Animal Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, TAMU  
Eric Parente, D.V.M., Asst. Professor, School of Veterinary Medicine, New Bolton Center, PA  
Bill Romane, D.V.M., Professor Emeritus, Large Animal Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, TAMU  
John Shaddock, D.V.M., Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, TAMU  
Loren Skow, Ph.D., Prof., Dept. Veterinary Anatomy, College of Veterinary Medicine, TAMU  
Barry Thompson, Ph.D., Chancellor, TAMUS  
Jeff True, Executive Director, TQHA, Austin  
JoAnn Weber, Sales/Race Assistant, TTA, Austin

# MARE/FOAL MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

MARCH 18, 1997

Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

**Where:** Texas A&M University Horse Center  
George Bush Drive on South side of road between Wellborn Road  
and Loop 2818. Only .1 mile from the TAMU Baseball Field (Olsen  
Field) on the West Campus.

**When:** Coffee and Donuts - 8:00 am.  
Start Time - 8:30 am.

**Topics:**

Body Condition Scoring	Moderate vs. Rapid Growth
Broodmare Nutrition	Selecting Good Feeds for Foals
Reproductive Function	Imprinting/Restraint
Milk Strip Test	Dental Care
Immunizations	Hoof Care

**Cost:** **\$30.00 per person.** Includes refreshments, noon meal and all printed materials. Pre-registration requested by March 3, 1997. **Make Check Payable to: TAEX Acct. # 229202**



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## Registration Form: TAMU Mare/Foal Management Workshop

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/Town/State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

**If more than one person is attending, list names below:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Attach Check for \$30.00  
per person, made  
payable to: TAEX Acct.  
# 229202*

*Mail to:  
Pete G. Gibbs  
249 Kleberg Center  
TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843*

## TWO-DAY HORSEMANSHIP SCHOOLS REQUEST FORM

**GROUP -** \_\_\_\_\_ County would like to host a 1997 Summer Horsemanship/ Horse Training School to be held in \_\_\_\_\_(town).

**DATES -** Rank choices of dates: (Note: Request **must** have at least three choices filled in to be considered)

- 1 - 1st choice
- 2 - 2nd choice
- 3 - 3rd choice
- 4 - 4th choice

<u>Choice</u>	<u>Mon/Tues</u>	<u>Choice</u>	<u>Wed/Thur</u>	<u>Choice</u>	<u>Fri/Sat</u>
___	May 26,27*	___	May 28, 29*	___	May 30, 31*
___	June 2, 3	___	June 4, 5	___	June 6, 7
___	June 9, 10	___	June 11, 12	___	June 13, 14
___	June 16, 17	___	June 18, 19	___	June 20, 21
___	June 23, 24	___	June 25, 26	___	June 27, 28
___	June 30, July 1	___	July 2, 3	___	July 4, 5
___	July 7, 8	___	July 9, 10	___	July 11, 12

\* please check to make sure that area schools are not in session before requesting these dates.

### SCHEDULING FEE

Please send this form along with a \$250.00 check made payable to **TAEX Account #229104-0000** by **January 31**. This \$250.00 serves as a deposit for scheduling. The remaining \$250.00 balance is due in the Horse Specialists' Office by **April 15**. The deposit will be refundable **only** in the event that a date cannot be scheduled for your county on one of the four choices marked above. Once the schedule has been finalized and sent to County Extension Agents, there will be no refund of the deposit or balance. Complete refunds will be made if a clinic is completely rained out and a rain date cannot be scheduled.

### COUNTY CONTACT PERSON

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 County Extension Agent

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date form returned

Return to : **Dr. Pete G. Gibbs, Extension Specialist - Horses, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Kleberg Center, Room 249, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843-2471. Phone (409) 845-1562.**



### THREE-DAY HORSEMANSHIP SCHOOLS REQUEST FORM

**GROUP -** \_\_\_\_\_ County would like to host a 1997 Summer Horsemanship/Horse Training School to be held in \_\_\_\_\_ (town).

**DATES -** Rank choices of dates:

- 1 - 1st choice
- 2 - 2nd choice
- 3 - 3rd choice
- 4 - 4th choice

(Note: Request must have at least three choices filled in to be considered)

<u>Choice</u>	<u>Mon.-Wed. School</u>	<u>Choice</u>	<u>Thur.-Sat. School</u>
___	May 26, 27, 28*	___	May 29, 30, 31*
___	June 2, 3, 4	___	June 5, 6, 7
___	June 9, 10, 11	___	June 12, 13, 14
___	June 16, 17, 18	___	June 19, 20, 21
___	June 23, 24, 25	___	June 26, 27, 28
___	June 30, July 1, 2	___	July 3, 4, 5
___	July 7, 8, 9	___	July 10, 11, 12

\* please check to make sure that area schools are not in session before requesting these dates.

#### SCHEDULING FEE

Please send this form along with a \$250.00 check made payable to **TAEX Account #229104-0000 by January 31**. This \$250.00 serves as a deposit for scheduling. The remaining \$450.00 balance is due in the Horse Specialists' Office by **April 15**. The deposit will be refundable only in the event that a date cannot be scheduled for your county on one of the three choices marked above. Once the schedule has been finalized and sent to County Extension Agents, there will be no refund of the deposit or balance. Complete refunds will be made if a clinic is completely rained out and a rain date cannot be scheduled.

#### COUNTY CONTACT PERSON

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 County Extension Agent

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date form returned

Return to : **Dr. Pete G. Gibbs, Extension Specialist - Horses, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Kleberg Center, Room 249, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843-2471. Phone (409) 845-1562.**

**FUTURITY PROJECT NOMINATION FORM**  
**for**  
**YOUNG HORSE TRAINING PROJECT**  
**(MARCH 15 DUE DATE)**

(Yearling Halter, Yearling Longe Line, Two-Year Old Pleasure,  
 Three Year Old Stock Horse)

This form must be completed and accompanied by a \$10.00 nomination fee and must be received in the State Extension Horse Specialists' office not later than March 15.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 4-H Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_ County

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Complete Address, City, State, Zip Code

( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Area Code and Phone Number

- Nomination for: (circle one)
- \* Yearling Halter Only
  - \* Yearling Halter and Longe Line
  - \* Yearling Longe Line Only
  - \* 2-year-old Pleasure
  - \* 3-year-old Stock Horse

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Horse's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Registration #

Circle:  
Filly      Gelding  
 Sex of horse

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Birth date of horse \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Owner

If owner is other than the 4-Her, signify whether it is brother, sister, parent or legal guardian.

- Attention 4-Her: Your signature at the bottom of this form verifies that:
- 1) The above named horse is **owned solely by you** or your brother, sister, parent or legal guardian as of **March 15**.
  - 2) The above named horse is **in your management and care as of March 15**, and will remain so from March 15 through the State 4-H Horse Show.
  - 3) You agree to do **all of the riding** and training on this horse from March 15 through the State 4-H Horse Show, and at **no time** will allow **any** other person to ride or train this horse.
  - 4) You have read the rules regarding futurity horses in the Texas State 4-H Horse Show Rules and Regulations, and **agree to follow all rules without exception**. Failure to abide by these rules shall cause you to withdraw yourself from entering or showing in this class at the State 4-H Horse Show.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 4-H Member's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent or Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 County Agent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date

\* Reminder: This is your nomination and does not constitute an entry. **Nominated horses must still be entered in the respective State Show class.** Make entries at your District Show.

Please make checks payable to: **TEXAS 4-H FOUNDATION**  
 Mail To: Pete G. Gibbs, Kleberg Center, Rm. 249, TAMU, College Station, Tx. 77843

## FEEDING MARES AS BREEDING SEASON APPROACHES

Pete G. Gibbs  
Extension Horse Specialist

As a mare enters the last few months of pregnancy, nutrient requirements increase because the unborn foal is growing more rapidly, averaging 1 pound/day. During this time, a mare in good condition will not require more total feed daily, but the concentration of protein, energy, calcium, phosphorus and Vitamin A in the feed must increase. Nutrient balance is of major importance, since most fetal growth occurs during the last 4 months of pregnancy. It is during the tenth month that the largest amount of mineral retention occurs in the unborn foal. Therefore, adequate nutrition of the mare is critical for normal fetal development.

In late gestation the mare should receive about 1.5 to 2.0 percent of her body weight in total feed daily. If top quality (minimum 18 percent crude protein) alfalfa hay or legume grazing is the source of roughage, the concentrate being fed should usually contain about 10 percent crude protein. Mares receiving typical quality (7.5 percent crude protein) grass hay or grazing, or average quality alfalfa (15 percent crude protein), will usually require a higher protein concentrate such as a 14 percent mix. Careful attention to the protein balance of the diet at this stage can help prevent problems with foal growth.

Brood mares that were previously maintained solely on hay or grazing should be introduced to grain feeds slowly. Likewise, mares being switched from grass to legumes should be changed over gradually so as to minimize digestive upset.

Some brood mare operations may use small grain pastures for mares in late pregnancy, in which case mares will normally receive most of their requirements from oats, ryegrass or wheat pastures. However, some supplemental feeding (10 percent crude protein) may sometimes be needed to maintain body condition.

Fat can be incorporated into the concentrate to increase the energy content of the grain feed rather significantly. When such a ration is prepared, the owner should not mix large amounts of feed that will require lengthy storage. These fat added rations can become rancid and cause mares to go "off feed." Some feed manufacturers offer fat supplemented feeds that contain animal fat, vegetable oil, or both.

Research has shown that high fat diets can put weight on mares that are in unsatisfactory body condition. The advantage of feeding fat in late pregnancy is that body condition can be improved without having to feed excessive amounts of concentrate on a daily basis. With a 5 percent added fat ration, a mare usually can be maintained in the same body condition with 7 to 15 percent less feed (by weight) compared to a similar grain mix with no added fat. However, fat-added mixes should be introduced to horses slowly and the grain mix should not contain more than 10 percent added fat.

Mare owners can save money in annual feed/hay costs by keeping mares in good shape as opposed to letting them get thin before improving their condition. It may take 120 days or longer and cost \$300-\$400 to get a thin mare with a body condition score of 2 or 2½ up to an acceptable body condition score of 5½ or 6. That improvement costs money and often requires feeding 3 or 4 times daily.

For more information on broodmare management, contact the County Extension Office and request publication #B5025 entitled Nutritional Management of Pregnant and Lactating Mares.

## Take Good Care of That Newborn Foal

Martha M. Vogelsang, Ph.D., PAS  
Department of Animal Science, Equine Sciences  
Texas A&M University

Broodmare owners are always delighted when foaling season arrives and their year-long anticipations of new foals are realized. It is unfortunate for some that the newborn foal does not arrive healthy or remain completely healthy after arrival. Up to 25% of the wastage in the horse industry has been attributed to or related to or neonatal disease. Because signs of neonatal disease are often subtle and non-specific, it is important for the owner or foaling manager to pay very close attention to the foal in the first few days after its birth.

Diseases that affect the newborn foal do not always present the same series of symptoms and progress in the same manner as they might in the adult horse. Additionally, foal diseases may not respond to treatment like diseases of the juvenile or mature horse. Diseases that affect the neonate can develop during gestation, at parturition, or after the foal has been born. Difficulty in detecting and diagnosing neonatal disease requires careful evaluation of the newborn so that inadequacies are found early enough for treatment to be effective for the survival of the foal. Under normal circumstances, attendants at foaling observe the foal's respiration to be sure that it is getting adequate oxygen, treat the naval stump and administer tetanus anti-toxin as a preventives to infection, make sure the foal nurses and later test immunoglobulin (IgG) levels to determine whether the foal received sufficient antibodies from the colostrum for passive immunity. Frequent observation for the first 7-10 days of the foal's life are necessary in order to detect any indication that the foal may be in danger of developing life-threatening diseases.

If there is a reason to believe that the foal may be suffering from the initial onset of neonatal disease, an experienced veterinarian should be contacted to perform other diagnostic procedures that can identify the presence of infection. The veterinarian will be able to determine fibrinogen and white blood cell counts that would indicate infection, perform cultures to identify infectious organisms, diagnose respiratory tract disease by doing blood gas analyses, radiograph areas that seem to be the source of pain for the foal, and evaluate serum electrolyte and glucose balance. If neonatal disease is suspected, a complete examination of all systems should be performed because it is unlikely that problems will be limited to one specific system in the newborn foal. Foals succumb to disease very rapidly so it is imperative that treatment of foals with neonatal diseases or dysfunctions begin early after detection of a problem.

Supportive nursing care is both time-consuming and labor-intensive but without attention to every aspect of the foal's condition, the chances for survival are diminished. The following list provides a guideline to follow in caring for sick foals.

1. Keep the foal warm, dry and clean.
2. Provide adequate nutrition either orally or parenterally.
3. Position in sternal recumbency to maximize ventilation.
4. Prevent self-trauma such as corneal ulcers.
5. Maintain cleanliness and integrity of intravenous catheters.
6. Provide sufficient exercise (active or passive) to prevent limb deformities.

Although most foals are born healthy and continue to do well as they adapt to their new environment, it is important that they are carefully observed so that early treatment can be utilized if a neonatal illness is detected.

## **CREEP FEEDING FOALS**

**Pete G. Gibbs**  
**Extension Horse Specialist**

Spring is foaling time for mare owners across Texas. And, like always, this year's colt crop will be prospects for the future. Some will be conditioned for futurities and sales, while others will be raised for eventual use as mature performing athletes. Regardless of a foals projected use, now is the time to insure adequate growth and sound skeletal development through a good feeding and management program.

Nursing foals will show an interest in eating soon after birth, often consuming small amounts of feed along with the mare. However, there are two problems associated with allowing foals to eat out of the same feeder with the mare. Some mares display agonistic behavior at feeding time and may injure a foal that is competing for feed. Secondly, a marked difference exists between nutritional requirements of the mare and nutrient needs of the foal. Broodmare rations contain the energy needed for foals to gain weight, but sometimes lack the relative amounts of protein and minerals needed for proper structural development. Therefore, some broodmare rations may actually promote skeletal misdevelopment if fed to foals over an extended period of time. In these situations, the foal will sometimes deposit fat and gain weight while experiencing subnormal skeletal growth. A recent survey indicates many farms allow foals to eat from the same trough as the mare. Therefore, owners should contact the feed manufacturer to find out if the feed provided for the mares will support quality growth in youngsters.

To help avoid such problems, a creep feeder should be constructed and a balanced creep feed made available to foals. A creep feeder is a facility consisting of a perimeter fence with a feed trough located internally. It is used to provide a place where nursing foals can begin eating balanced, high quality feed prior to being weaned. The practice of creep feeding serves to supply nutrients beyond what a foal receives from the milk. Secondly, creep feeding minimizes the intake of broodmare feed that can sometimes lack the protein and minerals needed by foals. And thirdly, creep feeding can make the weaning process more trouble free since foals are already accustomed to eating.

Creep feeders should be placed in areas where horses normally congregate and spend time. They should be easily accessible by foals and be mare-proof. The perimeter should have as many entrances as possible, with openings regulated both by height and width. For typical stock-type and thoroughbred foals from mares weighing between 1,000 and 1,300 pounds, the height should usually be approximately four feet. Width of openings should usually be between 22 and 26 inches. A trough should be provided inside the area, taking care to be sure it is situated where foals can access the feed and exit easily and safely.

Young foals often nurse as much as 70 times daily, indicating they prefer frequent, small meals. With that in mind, creep feed should be introduced gradually and eventually be available at all times. Any spoiled feed should be removed daily and fresh feed added as necessary. The creep feed should contain at least 16% crude protein, .75% calcium and .50% phosphorus with at least 6% crude fiber. Feeds containing lesser amounts of fiber will need to contain higher levels of protein and minerals. So, even if a horse owner opts to not practice creep feeding, then a feed suitable for foals should be fed to the mares when the foals are allowed to eat from the same trough alongside the mare.

Properly managed creep feeding programs will let foals learn to eat concentrates safely and to good benefit regarding early growth and development. With some planning and limited cost, horse owners can establish creep feeding practices that will help in the effort to wean foals and produce a horse with greater longevity and usefulness as a mature individual. For more information on meeting nutritional needs of foals, weanlings, and yearlings, contact your local County Extension office and request TAEX Publication B-5043, Feeding Young Horses For Sound Development.

