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Texas Agricultural Extension Service

# CEA HORSE NEWSLETTER

## MEMORANDUM

To: All County Extension Agents

From: Pete G. Gibbs  
Extension Horse Specialist

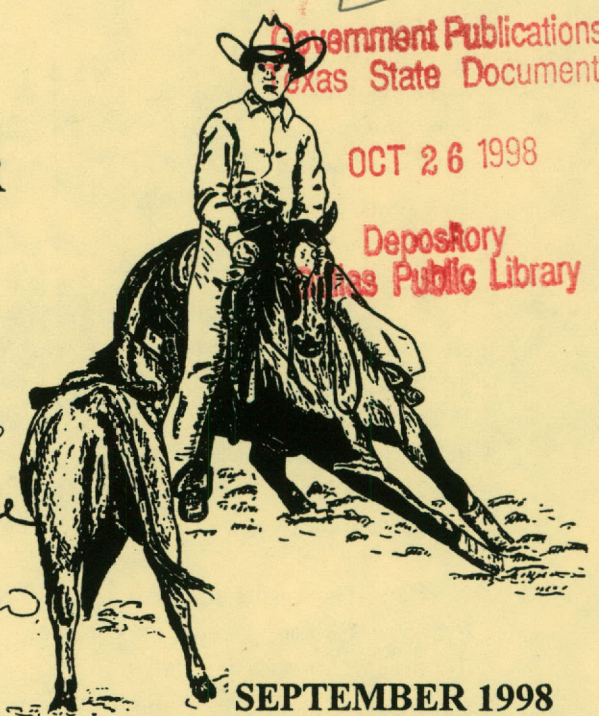
*Pete G. Gibbs*

Doug Householder  
Extension Horse Specialist

*Doug Householder*

Vanessa Mason  
Extension Assistant - Animal Science/4-H

*Vanessa J. Mason*



### NEW PUBLICATIONS RELATED TO PREVENTING HORSE THEFT

Two new TAEX publications are now available that address **Horse Theft Prevention & Awareness**. CEA offices are encouraged to obtain both from Publication & Supply Distribution. They are #L-5210 - '15 Steps to Minimize Theft of Horses, Facilities & Equipment' and #L-5211 - 'Permanent Identification of Horses.'

Both of these publications, as well as a third paper 'Freeze Branding Horses' are also available on the Extension Animal Science Web page at <http://animalscience-extension.tamu.edu>

### DOWNING EXHIBITS ADDRESS HORSE THEFT PROTECTION

Within 60 days, every District Extension office will have a new downing exhibit for County use at horse programs. The exhibits are easy & quick to set up and should be useful at horse meetings, equine events and 4-H horse club activities. The exhibit, when accompanied by the new publications, offers horse owners a good update on Horse Theft Awareness and Prevention.

### FUNDING OF HORSE THEFT PROGRAMS

Several counties or groups have held programs/activities this year

addressing horse theft awareness or prevention. In some cases, funding has been available to pay for speaker costs and for technicians who specialize in permanent identification.

The **B.I.G. Horse Committee** hosted a program at the Red Barn in Waco that included various methods of Freeze branding, as well as presentations by TSCRA reps related to recovery of stolen horses.

The **TETRA Trail Riders** group held an informational meeting for over 60 of its members that covered methods of permanent ID.

- |                  |                |                         |                        |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| cc: John McNeill | Chester Fehlis | Martha Couch            | Livestock Specialists  |
| Bryan Johnson    | Kyle Smith     | District Extension      | 4-H Specialists        |
| Ronnie Edwards   | Bill Harris    | Directors - Agriculture | Equine Science Section |
|                  |                |                         | Faculty and 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 Systems, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

The current legislation and awareness information was shared with 140 owners with 957 head of horses at the **TAMU Mare/Foal Workshop**.

**CEA Scott Anderson** shared theft awareness information with 33 adults at a **Brown County Ranch Horse Program** where **Paul Riggs** freeze branded 28 horses from 5 different counties.

**Sheriff's Associations** in Brazos, Burlison, Leon and Robertson Counties, combined efforts with the **TAMU Police Department** and the **Texas Horse Owner's Association** to conduct an **Operation Horse ID** clinic in College Station. Theft awareness information was given to 50 horseowners, and **Tom Flemming** freeze branded 27 horses from 6 counties.

**CEA Glen Avriett** and the **Ft. Bend County Horse Committee** combined theft awareness with a colt breaking seminar. Theft information was shared with 40 participants.

In August, 100 ranch horse owners received information on permanent identification and ways to minimize theft at the **TAMU Beef Cattle Short Course**.

Horse theft awareness has also been addressed at programs such as the **Tarrant County Horse-O-Rama**, and permanent ID of horses will be covered at a day long horse short course, **West Texas Equine Conference** this October in Odessa.

As per legislation enacted one year ago, some funding is available for horse programs that directly address Horse Theft. **Funding Preference is given to programs that reach horseowners in more than one county. Contact Pete G. Gibbs at (409) 845-1562 for more information on program development and funding opportunities.**

### HORSE WEB SITE

The address is <http://animalscience-extension.tamu.edu> and provides access to numerous publications and subject matter for horseowners. From nutrition to herd health to important activities, this web site offers useful information for horse owners, both youth and adult. **Adobe Reader** is needed to view publications from this site. This is a free download and can be downloaded directly from the "publications" section of the website.

### CEAS CAN RECEIVE TEXAS HORSE OWNERS REFERENCE GUIDE FREE - FREE - FREE

Thanks to funds made available for Horse Theft Protection, each CEA office can now receive 1 complimentary copy of the **Texas Horse Owners Reference Guide**.

Ever since the notebook was being developed, hopes were to be able to supply one copy to every office. But until now,

the lack of funding prohibited this.

The copy you receive will also contain the newest publications related to **Horse Theft Awareness & Prevention**.

To receive a copy, you must detach, complete and return the attached form by October 30.

### TAEX "HORSE NUTRITION AND FEEDING PACKAGES" CONSIDER FOR 1998/1999 PLAN OF WORK

October 25, 1997  
Texas CEAs received a memo "CEA Support Packages - Nutrition/Feeding of Performance Horses and Feeding Broodmares and Young Growing Horses." The packages were designed so that CEAs could professionally teach, assist with teaching or facilitate programming in nutrition and feeding horses in the most efficient manner, with the highest rate of adoption, of recommended science-based practices, for their clientele. CEAs have utilized the packages in a variety of ways and provided materials to a variety of allied industry partners over the last 8 months. An example was reported in the May CEA Horse Newsletter where Denton CEA Rebecca Parker conducted a Performance Horse Nutrition Teacher Session one afternoon and an Owner session that night. The accountability document measuring program impact

was included. CEAs with horse clientele might want to again review this complete teaching package and consider its use in 1998/1999. The complete package costs just \$38.00 for Texas CEAs. Livestock Specialists will be discussing this package at district planning conferences. If questions, please call us. [Note: In the late Fall and early Spring of 1999, the packages will be advertised to allied industry teachers (veterinarians, feed companies, colleges, Agricultural Science programs) and directly to horse owners. Questions may come to your office from these groups, about this teaching package.

#### **VANESSA MASON ACCEPTS EXTENSION ASSISTANT POSITION**

Vanessa Mason has just started her new responsibilities as **Extension Assistant for Animal Science - 4-H**, officed in the Equine Section of the Animal Science Department.

She moved into this position that became vacant when Lee Wall left in August to assume an equine teaching job at Louisiana Tech.

Vanessa grew up in Los Alamos, New Mexico, where she was an active 4-H horse club member. She is a recent graduate in Animal Science here at Texas A&M.

She worked one summer as a TAEX Horse Program Assistant & traveled the state teaching two-day &

three-day-long horsemanship schools. This knowledgeable horse woman rides reining horses and has competed in numerous NRHA competitions. In 1997, she was instructor also in New Mexico's 4-H Horsemanship camp.

Vanessa has served as an official at the S.A.L.E. Youth Horse Judging Contest and has assisted with classes at the HLSR Youth Contest and State 4-H Roundup.

In this position, her responsibilities will include working closely with the 4-H horse program in curriculum, horsemanship schools, the judging program, horse theft awareness & the State 4-H Horse Committee.

#### **MARE/FOAL PROGRAMS AND BREEDERS SCHOOLS**

Over 266,000 broodmares and stallions make a multi-billion dollar contribution to the overall economy of Texas each year. The Equine Science Section in the Department of Animal Science remains committed to providing education for mare owners and horse farms. To meet that commitment and service the needs of the industry, several Mare/Foal Management meetings or workshops are being held over the next 6 months.

The Permian Basin Horse Task Force has planned the **West Texas/Southeastern New Mexico Equine Conference for October 21**. It will be held at the Ector

County Coliseum Complex in Odessa. Among the variety of topics covered will be information on Preparing Mares for the Breeding Season. **Contact CEAs Robert Roark, Jim Word or Sam Field** for details.

December 8, a **Mare/Foal workshop** will be held at **North Central Texas College** in Gainesville. This cooperative effort between TAEX and NCTC will be a one-day workshop. **Contact Michael Benefield at (940) 668-7731 ext. 454** for pre-registration.

Also on December 8, **Collin County CEA Eddie Baggs** has planned an evening meeting in McKinney for horse owners that will include discussion of broodmare nutrition. **Contact Eddie Baggs @ (972) 548-4233** for information.

**A TAMU Equine Reproductive Management Workshop** will be held in College Station on December 15-18. This workshop has a great reputation for hands-on skills improvement and provides direct training for both broodmare and stallion owners. **Contact Martha Vogelsang at (409) 845-7731**. Pre-registration is required.

A couple of programs or workshops are already scheduled for 1999. **Wise County CEA Gary Clayton** will have an evening **Mare/Foal program** in Decatur on January 12. The annual **TAMU Mare/Foal Workshop** will be held at Texas A&M on Friday, March 12. This day-long program

covers nutrition, basic management tools & herd health. A pre-registration form will be included in the December CEA Horse Newsletter. For more information, contact Pete G. Gibbs at (409) 845-1562.

### MANAGING THE EQUINE ATHLETE WORKSHOP

October 6 in Gainesville, this workshop will present current techniques in conditioning and managing the performance horse to optimize the performance in a given discipline. Current theories in exercise physiology, regimens and nutritional management will be presented. Participants will have the opportunity to evaluate heart rate and other indicators of fitness and discuss how to use these measures in daily conditioning of horses. This workshop is a joint effort of North Central Texas College and TAEX. Contact Michael Benefield (940) 668-7731 Ext. 454.

### DISTRICT 1 EQUINE INFO FAIR OCTOBER 24

Volunteer leaders and CEAs in District 1 are planning an Equine Info Fair, designed to provide educational ideas and subject matter for anyone who is teaching others about horses. Set for Saturday, October 24 at the West Texas A&M University Horse Center in Canyon, the Info Fair will offer a variety of useful information. Resources available through TAEX will

be identified, helping volunteer leaders, parents, 4-Hers and teachers better know how to obtain and utilize materials. Information will also include Horse Quiz Bowl, Horse Judging, basic horse management, practical horse nutrition/feeding, hoof care & horse handling. Horse theft awareness and prevention will also be addressed. For more details on the Info Fair, contact Randall CEA Robert Devin at (806) 655-6325.

### PERMIAN BASIN CEAS PLAN DAY-LONG HORSE CONFERENCE

Horse enthusiasts in District 6 can take advantage of a great opportunity on Saturday, October 31 in Odessa. The West Texas /Southeastern New Mexico Equine Conference may offer something for just about everybody with an interest in the Texas horse industry. A trade show, live demonstration and presentations will be included. Horse Theft Awareness information will be available, as well as a freeze branding demonstration. Horse Health and equine dentistry will be covered. The Stock Horse of Texas Association will be explained and there will be a cattle handling demonstration.

Contact CEAs Robert Roark (915) 524-1421, Jim Word (915) 498-4071, Sam Field (915) 687-1351 or District 6 Livestock Specialist Bruce Carpenter (915) 336-8585 for details.

### TAEX PROVIDING LEADERSHIP TO EDUCATIONAL EFFORT AT TEXAS RACE HORSE TRACKS

In January 1998 a Texas Race Horse Industry Education Alliance was formed. Programming partners are TAEX, 5 horse assns. (AQHA, APHA, TABA, TTA and TApHC), 3 race tracks (Retama, Lone Star Race Park and Sam Houston Race Park) and the Race Track Chaplaincy Assn. During 1998 four Backside Personnel and Trainers Seminars have been conducted at horse race tracks to help these clientele improve their horses' performance and welfare. The attendees have been enthusiastic and positive about Texas A&M serving them where they work and live. These programs are being opened up to off track race horse enthusiasts in 1999. A program calendar will be made available to CEAs when it becomes available.

### 44th TAMU BEEF CATTLE SHORT COURSE - RANCH HORSE COMPETITION AND WORKSHOP

This August 2 and 3 activity, sponsored by the Animal Science Dept., SHOT, TSCRA and the TCFA was a big success. Sunday included a Cowboy Church Service, SHOT Ranch Horse Competition (4 classes) with 37 entrants, industry partners input meeting with 250 persons. 135 attended the Ranch Horse Workshop. A strong informal educational

coalition is becoming organized within the ranch horse industry. There is great interest among ranchers in horse activities, particularly for income generation. **CEAs should consider ranch horse topics in beef cattle programs.** Contact us or your livestock specialist for programming ideas.

### **STOCK HORSES OF TEXAS OFFERS PACKAGED HORSE PROGRAM**

Past newsletters have discussed the SHOT Assn. and their primary objective which is education. In 1998 TAEX faculty such as Dr. Bruce Carpenter and Rick Hirsch partnered with SHOT to conduct educational clinics in their districts. The 1998 TAMU Beef Cattle Short Course Ranch Horse competition was a SHOT function in conjunction with TSCRA and the TCFA. **CEAs interested in these services might want to get SHOT clinic information by calling Kim Lindsey @ (806) 888-1062.** The clinics are curriculum-based, educationally sound, professionally taught, and economically very reasonable to conduct. This approach may allow a CEA to meet the needs of the adult horse audience with high quality programming in a time efficient manner.

### **SHOT ASSN. PUTS TOGETHER PROGRAM TO BENEFIT PROFESSIONAL HORSEMEN IN TEXAS**

One of the responsibilities of the TAEX is to be a problem solver or facilitate that process with various commodity groups in the industry. In 1997, the SHOT Assn. identified workers' compensation insurance (high accident rates; poor or non-existent data; no common denominator group to focus on problem; insurance companies lack of knowledge about horse industry and opportunities for educational safety programs, etc.) as a high priority problem within the Texas horse industry. The SHOT assn, facilitated by the TAEX, developed a strategy to solve this problem. Meetings were held with professional horsemen. Livestock cattle assns. were consulted. Horse breed assns. provided input. Trial applications were gathered from a representative horse industry sample. Insurance companies were asked to design a horse industry program. Heartland Lloyds designed and customized a package to fit professional horse trainers, ranchers, race tracks, farriers, saddle shops, etc. Many of these were paying extremely high rates or couldn't get insurance due to business horse involvement. Ten(10) major Texas horse organization CEO's have made input into the program. Equine Partner Services of Heartland Lloyds will administer the program for horseowners in Texas. Horse

safety programs (customized to fit various disciplines) may be a large part of the total program. For example, the Texas Race Horse Industry Educational Alliance is already exploring track "safety" as a focus area for 1999 seminars. It is anticipated that other disciplines may follow to cut their accident costs and protect their workers. CEAs will be sent more information on customized educational programs, as they become available.

### **CEAS AND LEADERS RECOGNIZED AT STATE 4-H HORSE SHOW**

The size and strength of the Texas 4-H horse program can be credited to the efforts of many people who have worked over the years to make opportunities available to boys and girls.

At the 36<sup>th</sup> Texas State 4-H Horse Show, 2 men were recognized with special awards for their years of service to 4-H horse programs. **Tarrant CEA John South** and retired youth specialist, **Dr. Bill Jackson** were recognized for their work years ago in helping start the Statewide 4-H Calf Roping School. **Brown CEA Scott Anderson** was acknowledged for his current involvement with the roping school.

**Hardeman CEA Dink Wilson** was called out into the arena during the roping classes to receive a sculpture for his many years support of roping activities for 4-Hers.

**Volunteer Debbie Gill**, wife of Livestock Specialist Ron Gill, received an appreciation buckle for her annual role on the Horse Show Management Team. **John Miller**, a Drill Team Leader, was recognized for his support & leadership for expanded drill team opportunities. The State 4-H Horse Program also recognized Taylor County Expo Center employee, **John "Pops" Jones**, for his continuing work during the State Finals.

#### **1999 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 1999. This past summer the horsemanship school program reached 39 counties. Over 1100 4-Hers, parents and volunteer leaders participated in the schools taught by 8 Extension Horse Program Assistants. Average attendance per school was 29 persons, with 19 riders and 10 adults watching. Special thanks to Purina Mills, Inc. for their in-kind support for the 1998 program.

Costs for the schools in 1999 will be **\$550 for a 2-day** and **\$750 for a 3-day** school. Use the **attached forms** to request either a two-day or a three-day school. The first 40 requests will be accepted, and schools will then be scheduled on a first come, first serve basis. After the first 40 requests are filled, an alternate list will be compiled. Deposits which

accompany those requests on the alternate list will be refunded in the event that the school is not scheduled. Only requests which are accompanied with a deposit of \$250.00 will be accepted. Deadline is January 31, 1999.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> TEXAS STATE 4-H WORKING COW HORSE CLINIC**

The 4th annual cow horse clinic is set for October 13, 14, 15 in Abilene. Instructor will be Jim Simpson from Phoenix, Arizona, a talented horseman with many years experience. To be eligible, adults must be interested or involved in working with 4-Hers at county and district levels. Youth who are 4-H members are also eligible to attend. Cost is only \$85 if you register by October 1 and includes the cattle charges and stalling. Late registration is \$100. **Contact Vicki Hoggett, Somervell Co. (254) 897-2809** by October 1 to pre-register.

#### **STATEWIDE FALL HORSE JUDGING WORKSHOP**

November 21 will be the date for the Statewide Practice Horse Judging Workshop, held at Freeman Arena, Texas A&M. This workshop will be held as a judging practice. Participants will get to judge a variety of halter and performance classes. Critiques will follow. **This activity will be the most useful to judges, only if they**

**are accompanied by their county judging team coach or leader.**

There will be no official contest tabulation but placings and cuts will be announced. Coaches can conduct their own tabulation. Counties need to pre-register and pay \$5.00 per participant, by November 7. The fee is \$10.00 per person if you register after November 7. To pre-register, complete the attached form and send a check made payable to Judging Contests for \$5.00/person to **Debbie King, Dept. of Ag.Ed., TAMU, College Station 77843-2116**. For registration info, call Debbie King (409) 862-3003. For info on classes & format, contact Dr. Gary Potter (409) 845-7731.

#### **STATEWIDE YOUTH REINING CLINIC**

The annual Texas State Youth Reining Horse clinic for 4-H members will be held December 19-20 at the Taylor County Expo Center in Abilene, Texas. The cost of the clinic is \$60/4-H member, which includes a stall. Terry Thompson, noted horseman and reining horse trainer, will head up the instruction again this year.

Youth attending must be bonafide 4-H members and bring a horse they want to improve in executing all basic maneuvers. The horse does not have to be a reiner. If under 16, 4-H members must provide their own parental or volunteer supervision. Stalls will be available on Friday,

December 18. The clinic will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 19. Topics will be lateral and forward momentum, circles, spins, stops, rollbacks, and lead changes. All participants will receive "hands-on" practice and assistance throughout the clinic. This clinic is a project of the Texas State 4-H Horse Committee. For further information on this youth reining clinic or the 1998 adult Reining Clinic, **contact Vicki Hoggett**, Somervell CEA's office, P.O. Box 895, Glen Rose, Texas 76043. (254) 897-2809

**INPUT NEEDED FOR  
PLANNING 1999  
CONFERENCE**

The May CEA Horse

Newsletter briefly made CEAs aware of the November 5-6, 1999 Texas Horse Industry Conference at TAMU. This announcement was made so the dates could be placed on 1999 county calendars. Although a year off, conference planning has started and will continue this Fall and Spring. **Input is sought from CEAs as to how this conference can be structured and what topics need to be offered, to help CEAs strengthen their county programs both from a programmatic and technical standpoint. Possibilities include:**

- Tour to TAMU with county delegation (adults and/or youth),
- Extension Horse Committee Person

- Training,
- 4-H Horse Leaders Training Activities,
  - Kid's Horse College,
  - 4-H Members Involvement (Horse Bowl Exhibition, Demonstration, Record Book Display, etc.),
  - Extension Horse Committeeman presentations,
  - Other

**SUBJECT MATTER  
ARTICLES**

The last three pages of this newsletter contain subject matter articles for your use in your own county-wide newsletters and/or newspaper spots. Hope they are of some benefit.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
Remainder of 1998

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PROGRAM/ACTIVITY</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
October 6	Managing The Equine Athlete Workshop - Gainesville	Michael Benefield (940) 668-7731
October 10	Heart-O-Texas Fair Horse Judging Contest - Waco	CEA Donald Kelin (254) 883-1410
October 13-14-15	4 <sup>th</sup> Texas 4-H Working Cow Horse Clinic - Abilene	Vicki Hoggett (254)897-2809
October 15	Horse Nutrition & Management Program - Hamilton Co.	CEA Danny Phillips (254) 386-3919
October 24	District 1 Equine Info Fair - Canyon	CEA Robert Devin (806) 655-6325
October 31	West Texas/S.E. New Mexico Equine Conference - Odessa	CEA Robert Roark (915) 524-1421 or CEA Jim Word (915) 498-4071
November 7	Pre-registration Deadline - Statewide Practice Judging Workshop	Debbie King (409) 862-3003
November 11	Lone Star Race Park Trainers' Seminar - Grand Prairie	Doug Householder (409) 845-1562
November 21	Statewide Practice Judging Workshop - College Station	Dr. Gary D. Potter (409) 845-7731
December 1	<b>Entry Deadline</b> - San Antonio Stock Show Horse Quiz Bowl	Stock Show (210) 225-0575
December 1	<b>Entry Deadline</b> - San Antonio Stock Show Horse Judging Contest	Stock Show (210) 225-0575
December 8	Mare/Foal Workshop - Gainesville	Michael Benefield (940) 668-7731
December 8	Horse Nutrition & Management Program - Collin Co.	CEA Eddie Baggs (972) 548-4233
December 12	Harris County Open Horse Judging Contest - Houston	CEA Doug Shores (281) 855-5600
December 15-18	TAMU Horse Breeders School - College Station	Martha Vogelsang (409) 845-7731
December 19-20	Texas State 4-H Youth Reining Clinic - Abilene	Vicki Hoggett (254) 897-2809

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 1999

DATE	PROGRAM/ACTIVITY	CONTACT
January 5	<b>Entry Deadline</b> - Ft. Worth Stock Show Youth Horse Judging Contest	Stock Show (817) 877-2400
January 12	Mare/foal Program - Wise Co.	CEA Gary Clayton (940) 627-3341
January 13	B.I.G. Horse Short Course - Waco	CEA Doug Andrews (817) 757-5180
January 15	<b>Entry Deadline</b> - Houston Stock Show Youth Horse Judging Contest	Stock Show (713) 791-9000
January 16	TRHA Annual Reining Horse Seminar - College Station	Viola Scott (281) 346-2115
January 23-24	Trails Across Texas Seminar - Belton	Roger Raser (830) 460-8270
January 31	Request Deadline for a Summer Horsemanship School	Vanessa Mason (409) 845-1562
February 6	Ft. Worth Stock Show Youth Horse Judging Contest	Stock Show (817) 877-2400
February 12	San Antonio Stock Show Youth Horse Judging Contest	Stock Show (210) 225-0575
February 13	San Antonio Stock Show Youth Horse Quiz Bowl	Stock Show (210) 225-0575
February 23	Houston Stock Show Youth Horse Judging Contest	Stock Show (713) 791-9000
March 12	TAMU Mare/Foal Management Workshop	Pete G. Gibbs (409) 845-1562
March 15	<b>Deadline 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)</b>	Horse Specialists (409) 845-1562
March 23-25	Stock Horse of Texas (S.H.O.T.) Clinic - Abilene	Vicki Hoggett (254) 897-2809
March 26-28	Tarrant County Horse-O-Rama - Ft. Worth	John South (817) 884-1946
March 27	Multi-District (5,9,11) Horse Judging Contest - TAMU	Jeff Howard (409) 845-6800
April 27-29	State 4-H Adult Leader Reining Clinic - Abilene	Vicki Hoggett (254) 897-2809
May 1	<b>Deadline for Owning and Certifying 4-H Horse Projects (Except Futurity Projects, (See March 15))</b>	County Extension Office
May 29 - June 30	County-wide 27 <sup>th</sup> Annual TAEX Horsemanship Schools	See Jan. 31 Request Deadline
June 9	State 4-H Horse Judging Contest	State 4-H Office (409) 845-1211
June 10	State 4-H Horse Bowl Contest	State 4-H Office (409) 845-1211
June 10	State 4-H Horse Demonstration Contest	State 4-H Office (409) 845-1211
June 20-24	State 4-H Roping School - Stephenville	Scott Anderson (915) 646-0386
June 24-27	State 4-H Team Roping School - Lleveland	Hockley County (806) 894-3159
July 25-31	36 <sup>th</sup> Texas State 4-H Horse Show - Abilene	Horse Specialists (409) 845-1562
August 2-5	Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championship Show - Montgomery, Alabama	Horse Specialist (409) 845-1562



(Please print clearly or type)

## Texas Horse Owners Reference Guide

### Complimentary CEA Copy - Order Form (to be completed by CEA office)

County Name: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City or Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Fax or Mail this form by October 30, 1998 to:**

Vanessa Mason  
Extension Assistant - Animal Science/4-H  
Kleberg Center, Room 249  
TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843-2471

Fax (409) 845-6433

TWO-DAY HORSEMANSHIP SCHOOL REQUEST FORM

GROUP - \_\_\_\_\_ County would like to host a 1999 Summer Horsemanship/Horse Training School to be held in \_\_\_\_\_ (town).

DATES - Rank choices: (Note: **must** have at least three choices filled in to be considered)
1 - 1st choice
2 - 2nd choice
3 - 3rd choice
4 - 4th choice

Table with 3 columns: Choice, Mon/Tues, Wed/Thur, Fri/Sat. Rows include dates like May 24,25\*, May 31-June 1, June 7,8, etc.

\*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 check made payable to TAEX Account #229104-0000 by January 31. This \$250 serves as a deposit for scheduling. The remaining \$300 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 Count 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Vanessa Mason, Extension Assistant - Animal Science/4-H, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Kleberg Center - Room 249, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843-2471 Phone (409) 845-1562.

1999  
**THREE-DAY HORSEMANSHIP SCHOOL REQUEST FORM**

**GROUP -** \_\_\_\_\_ County would like to host a 1999 Summer Horsemanship/Horse Training School to be held in \_\_\_\_\_ (town).

**DATES -** Rank choices: (Note: **must** have at least three choices filled in to be considered)  
 1 - 1<sup>st</sup> choice  
 2 - 2<sup>nd</sup> choice  
 3 - 3<sup>rd</sup> choice  
 4 - 4<sup>th</sup> choice

<u>Choice</u>	<u>Mon-Wed. School</u>	<u>Choice</u>	<u>Thur.-Sat. School</u>
_____	May 24,25,26*	_____	May 27,28, 29*
_____	May 31, June 1,2	_____	June 3,4,5
_____	June 7,8,9	_____	June 10,11,12
_____	June 14,15,16	_____	June 17,18,19
_____	June 21,22,23	_____	June 24,25,26
_____	June 28, 29,30	_____	July 1,2,3

\*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 check made payable to **TAEX Account #229104-0000 by January 31.** This \$250 serves as a deposit for scheduling. The remaining \$500 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 Count 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: Vanessa Mason, Extension Assistant - Animal Science/4-H, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Kleberg Center - Room 249, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843-2471 Phone (409) 845-1562.**

# HORSE JUDGING CLINIC

November 21, 1998

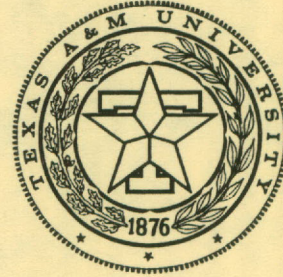
9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Freeman Arena

Texas A&M University - College Station

Must be postmarked on or before Friday, November 7, 1998 to avoid late registration charges.

Mail to: Debbie King  
Texas A&M University  
Department of Agricultural Education  
College Station, TX 77843-2216  
Phone: 409-862-3003  
Fax: 409-845-6296



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County Office/School                      Home                      Fax

## Is This Horse Really Yours?

Pete G. Gibbs  
Extension Horse Specialist

Most horse owners would argue that they know their horse better than anybody else. Many would say that they'd recognize their horse in a pen with a hundred other horses. While that might certainly be the case, some horse owners have given little thought to the process of having to prove that a horse actually belongs to them. With stolen horses, owners have to be able to clearly demonstrate that a recovered horse is, in fact, their horse. More importantly, owners need to have information and documentation to improve the chances of finding a missing horse.

The first step to accomplishing this is to maintain a horse file. Paperwork such as a bill of sale, transfer form and registration papers should be maintained along with clear photographs of horses. Photos should show both sides, a front and rear view, and close up shots of any unique, identifying characteristics such as a scar, mark or brand. Close-ups of color markings such as a star, stripe or snip in the face or other color patterns should also be photographed and kept on file.

The second step is to consider some form of permanent identification. Horse owners can choose from various types of branding, from microchip implantation (electronic identification) or even a lip tattoo. A horse that is permanently marked is easier to identify and can typically be recovered more successfully. In many cases, they are less likely to be stolen at all.

There are several steps that horse owners can take to make it more difficult for horses to ever be stolen at all. For more information on prevention of horse theft, contact your County Extension Office. Two new publications are now in distribution that address horse theft awareness and prevention. Ask for TAEX Publication #L-5210 entitled '15 Steps to Minimize Theft of Horses, Facilities and Equipment' or #L-5211 entitled 'Permanent Identification of Horses.'

Remember, many horses are stolen simply because it was made easy for thieves. Taking steps to prevent theft can help keep your horses and equipment in place.

## TARGET: 1999 BREEDING SEASON

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

It is not too early to begin working toward a successful 1999 breeding season. Once the foals are weaned, such issues as health, nutrition, and breeding soundness can be evaluated. Time spent on these conditions now can result in time saved later on when foaling and breeding are foremost on the agenda.

In the fall, broodmares should be given a routine health check-up, including dental examinations and hoof care. It is a good time to administer pertinent immunizations as it will allow time for the mare's body to develop the antibodies to protect against various infectious diseases to which she might be exposed during the upcoming breeding season. Deworming also falls into the schedule during this time, especially pertaining to the *Gasterophilus* species.

The fall, after weaning, signals the need to adjust feeding programs to meet the requirements of the pregnant or barren mare. Many factors will affect the type of feeding program needed for broodmares. Mares in first or second trimesters of gestation will do quite well on maintenance rations. Amounts of concentrate and hay fed will depend upon available forage quality. Mares which are due to foal early (January and February) may require concentrate supplementation during the fall and early winter months in order to maintain adequate body condition for optimal rebreeding in the upcoming season. With respect to reproductive efficiency, the positive effects of maintaining broodmares in fleshy condition are well-documented and have become the norm in many segments of the horse industry.

Mares that are not pregnant should be evaluated for breeding soundness prior to the onset of the winter anestrus period. Examinations should include assessment of both the external genitalia and the internal reproductive organs. Treatment for subfertility should be completed before anestrus sets in so that the mare is healthy and ready for breeding when she begins to have estrous cycles in the spring. In many cases, treatment of the mare may be relatively simple. However, mares that are chronic problem breeders should be carefully evaluated with respect to their overall performance and production.

Attention to the health, nutrition and in some cases, the reproductive soundness of your mares should result in a smooth transition into the upcoming breeding season. Fall is the best time to prepare broodmares for a successful breeding season. Mare owners should invest time now to save time and expense later. Good preparation and elimination of known problems will go a long way toward making the 1999 breeding season a successful one.

## FINDING and FEEDING HORSE HAY

Pete G. Gibbs<sup>1</sup> and Gary D. Potter<sup>2</sup>

Perhaps one of the biggest challenges faced by horse owners the last several months has been finding and affording horse hay. The drought impacting much of Texas caused hay prices to soar, tempting many horse owners to consider feeding different types of hay and even hay of questionable quality. Typical, good quality grass hay doubled or tripled in cost. And, at these higher prices, it is often available only in very small amounts. While recent rainfall has strengthened the promise of September or possibly even October cuttings in some areas, the demand is still very high, prices are expected to remain somewhat elevated and many horse owners will need to find enough hay to get through the winter. There are several things to consider as hay is selected during this type of situation.

First, horse owners must remain aware of those hays that can cause problems. Some of these are fescue, kleingrass, foxtail millet, hybrid sorghum/sudans and johnsongrass, all of which have a history of being potentially harmful to horses. Even at a comparatively cheaper cost, such hays are usually just not worth chancing, when it comes to feeding horses. Of course, any hay containing mold, regardless of whether it is a grass or legume hay, can be dangerous to horses.

Next, it's a good idea to make projections on how many bales of hay it will take to get from early fall of 1998 to late spring of next year. For performance horses and brood mares that are eating grain, daily hay intake will usually need to be at least .75% of body weight daily. So, an 1,100 pound horse needs at least eight pounds of hay each day, unless some grazing is available. This equals about 240 pounds per month. More realistically, with hay intake at 1% of body weight, most owners will be feeding about seven bales per month. With four horses, this amounts to somewhere between 20-28 bales per month.

In certain areas of Texas, alfalfa hay is fed routinely to horses. While alfalfa can provide more protein than some horses need, it may actually be a better buy than average to below average quality grass hay. In fact, it may be a better buy than some commercial horse feeds. Compared to most grass hays, alfalfa provides 20% more energy per pound of hay and a larger amount of soluble carbohydrate and protein available for digestion in the small intestine. So, it makes sense to strongly consider alfalfa, especially for brood mares and for young, growing horses. Obviously, horse owners will want to avoid alfalfa that contains blister beetles. This can be best accomplished by making it clear to hay growers/brokers that horse quality alfalfa is required. Also, asking questions about time of cutting and method of harvest can help determine if the hay is more likely to be free of beetles.

Some nearby states have produced a lot of good hay this summer. In some cases, horse owners can benefit from getting together and having an entire semi-load hauled in from another state to be divided among horse owners.

Lastly, horse owners also have the opportunity to select from several commercial feeds that are designed to be feed with no hay. These "complete" feeds are high in fiber and processed in a fashion that usually causes horses to eat more slowly, compared to consumption of typical grain mixes. These feeds may be worthwhile for consideration when acceptable hay just isn't available in your area.

For more information on roughage selection and feeding, contact your County Extension office or the Equine Sciences Section in the Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M.

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