



July - 2009

State Horse Specialist Retires

Dr. Clint Depew, state horse specialist with the LSU AgCenter Cooperative Extension Service has retired with over 30 years service to the people of Louisiana. Dr. Depew, a noted equine educator, has been known all over the united states for his ability to judge horses, and design and carry out equine programs. Dr. Depew was instrumental in developing the horse area of the eXension website and was the person that put together the curriculum for the first Master Horseman program that has been widely accepted throughout Louisiana. Not only is Dr. Depew a skilled educator, he is also an excellent horse trainer. Dr. Depew uses the method of pressure and release and he tries to let the horse figure things out on his own, a method that is rapidly becoming accepted throughout the country.

4-H, FFA state horse show set for July 6-11 in West Monroe

Organizers expect 600 youth from across Louisiana to compete in the 40th annual Louisiana 4-H and FFA State Horse Show July 6-11 in West Monroe.

Coordinated by the LSU AgCenter, the event will be held at the Ike Hamilton Expo Center. The youngsters who gather for the state horse show already will have competed in parish and district shows.

“Not only will the show feature a variety of events showcasing the many high-quality horses and exhibitors from all over the state, but we will also have public speaking, demonstrations, quiz bowl, horse judging and the Gerry Lane Premier Exhibitor contest,” said Dwayne Nunez, show manager for the LSU AgCenter.

Competitions include breakaway roping, team penning, pole bending, western riding, reining and barrel racing, and many others.

Dr. Paul Coreil, LSU AgCenter vice chancellor and director of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service stated “The horse industry is a very important part of Louisiana’s diversified agriculture, with the latest figures showing that the total economic impact of the industry meant about \$2.45 billion to the state’s economy in 2008. With the dollars spent on more than 207,540 horses owned by almost 50,000 Louisianans and with the dollars generated by horse production, horse racing and other aspects of the industry, the economic impact of the horse

industry is tremendous in Louisiana. Of course, what horses mean to the state goes well beyond dollars spent. They are a source of significant pleasure for youth and adults – something everyone should appreciate. These activities are helping to develop youth with character and leadership skills that are crucial to the future of our state”.

An awards banquet is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on July 9.

The West Monroe Convention and Visitors Bureau is a major sponsor of the show.

For more information, contact Dwayne Nunez at (225) 578-2255 or dnunez@agcenter.lsu.edu

By

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Cutting the Cost of Horse Ownership in Tough Financial Times

In a May 2007 www.extension.org article entitled, “Horse Experts See More Unwanted Horses, Abandonment, Neglect,” it was reported that “Some owners are dealing with hard times by abandoning their horses on federal land. Others are selling horses at auctions, and the animals end up being slaughtered in Mexico or Canada.” These unwanted horses, and the closing of slaughterhouses in this country, have also caused the bottom to drop out of the horse market. Grade horses and registered horses are bringing much less at sales. And even though there are some excellent articles available on the Internet regarding the costs of keeping a horse, in the current turbulent economic situation, what horse owners really need are tips on how to cut horse maintenance costs in order to be able to keep their horses. According to one eXtension response (faq/47), the annual cost of caring for each horse can easily be \$500-\$3,500 or more depending on confinement/pasture, feed, bedding, labor, veterinary care, etc., and that is not including emergencies. So what are some things a financially strapped horse owner can do to cut costs in these hard times? Here are some *horse owner and equine specialist tips for saving money:

Blankets - Horses don't need blankets. Blankets make humans feel better. However, if you clip your horse, then, yes, put a blanket on him when it gets cold. Also consider blanketing if you haul during cold weather.

Board - Board horses for other people. It's not usually a profitable business, but you can set prices so that your own horse care is paid for by your boarders. If you are stall boarding your horse, consider pasture boarding if it is a less costly alternative in your area.

Composting - If you can, set up a composting pile. You may actually be able to make some money with your horse. Local greenhouses and gardeners may be interested in buying the compost.

Feed - Some horses do very well on hay alone. No oats, sweet feed, supplements, etc. Note that the hay has to be of sufficient quality to do this with your horse. Old hay that is low in nutrients could spell disaster. It really helps to educate yourself on what is good hay and what is bad hay. The best way is to send a sample of hay in to the LSU Forage Testing Lab to get an analysis before you buy it. This also helps you avoid buying poor-quality hay for \$10/bale. If it doesn't look/smell/test good, don't buy it. Sweet feed prices continue to rise. One average horse will probably go through a bag a week (\$936/yr). Depending on the price of hay, the size of the bale and the quality of the hay, the cost for feeding hay alone may be more than the sweet feed. Some higher-priced pelleted feeds are a better value because you can feed much smaller amounts for the increased nutritive value.

Fencing - As reluctant as one horse owner was to recommend it, electric fencing might save money. Bored horses tend to lean over fences, pushing them to their limits. The best fencing in the world is the one that they never touch (or only touch once). Unless the fence is the only thing separating your horse from a highway, you can turn the charger off sometimes for days. When you see the horse starting to lean against the fence to get fresh grass, turn it on. The horse will soon quit trusting the fence, even when it appears to be off. This can save on utility costs.

Hay - Buy hay in bulk. This, of course, requires the ability to store it. Most dealers won't say "If you buy 100 bales, it's less money." Like all things, the price can be negotiated -- it doesn't hurt to ask. In an area where hay is premium, they know that they can sell it to the next person, so they are typically very strict on their price. Some dealers let you get it out of their fields for less money.

Not really a money-saving note, but have several suppliers and rotate through them. Don't rely on just one. If he's out of town for two weeks or he's out of hay, it's easier to go down your speed dial list to the next one than

to try to find and build a relationship with a new supplier. Don't try to play them against each other - they all know each other and talk on a regular basis.

Always check the hay for mold. Although they will eat it, horses cannot tolerate moldy hay. Avoid the temptation to buy the large round bales, unless they have been stored out of the weather and you can also store it out of the weather. Round bales can be a source of food poisoning from contamination if the bales have gotten moldy sitting out in fields. Cows have the ability to process moldy hay, but not horses, due to their simple stomachs.

Hoof Care - Do some research and explore barefoot as an option for your horse. It is cheaper than shoes. Learn to trim your own horses' feet. A rasp is inexpensive, and you get better at it the more you use it. Also, if you must shoe, consider putting shoes only in the front, where the horse bears 60% of its weight.

Pasture - Have the soil tested before you fertilize the pasture so you will only spend money on the nutrients that are needed. Fertilizing makes best use of the native grasses or improved grasses. Spray weeds with herbicides early in the season to keep them from competing. Plant ryegrass for winter grazing, and fertilize it generously with nitrogen, but limit grazing to a couple of hours a day. Remove horses to prevent trampling. If you leave them on it full time, they will ruin it in a matter of weeks.

Rodeo and Horse Show Participation - Continue to participate if you can afford to support the organization or event. Just be more selective.

Tack Maintenance - Keep tack clean and in good repair. It will last for years if it is cleaned and oiled regularly and repaired quickly if it breaks. Instead of buying new, consider buying good, used equipment.

Trailer Pool - Consider hauling with a friend or neighbor if you are both going to the same trail ride or event. Fuel is one of the greatest expenses for recreational events, so if you can reduce it by half, that is significant.

Turnout - Keep your horse turned out as much as possible. First off, this makes the horse much happier than if it is kept in a stall where boredom can lead to vices such as cribbing. Second, there are no stalls to clean, saving the cost of shavings/bedding, and no one has to pick out stalls every day (time savings).

Vaccines - Pick and choose your vaccines. Horses do not need all the vaccines that are available, especially if they are not being hauled where they will be in close contact with other horses. Check with your local vet or supplier to see what the most-threatening diseases are for your area. Also, if the owner is able to do the vaccinations

her/himself, they can be purchased from vet suppliers for less money, and the owner saves her/himself the vet's trip fee.

Veterinarian - Get your horse's teeth checked at least once a year; poor teeth will reduce feed efficiency. Serious injuries need immediate attention. Learn to check your horses' heart rates, temperatures and capillary refill time to determine the extent of any injury. You don't need a veterinarian for every scrape, scratch, limp, bruise or snuffle. Horses heal very well with little human intervention. This is a HARD thing for us humans to do, though, when your horse is apparently hurt. Two or three weekend emergency vet calls where the horse is not seriously injured and the vet charges are \$500 or more will cure most horse owners of the desire to put the vet on speed dial. If you must go to the vet, take your horse to the vet. This will save the vet's trip fee.

Worming - Research shows that tube worming is no more effective than paste worming, as long as the wormer gets into the horse. Although many popular Web sites recommend worming every two months, Dr. Denny French at the LSU Vet School cites research that indicates this can lead to more resistance from the parasites we are trying to control. Due to our weather patterns, he advises worming in January, then every three months, depending on the level of parasites your horses have. Moxidectin has shown excellent control for a three-month period. Do not typically worm during the summer, since the heat will kill parasites during the hot months. Resume worming in early October when the weather turns cool again.

Horse rescue organizations nationwide are reporting they are at capacity and cannot take additional animals. These are unusually hard economic times, and it is important for horse lovers to enter into conversations via the web, in their horse owner organizations, or through their local county or parish Cooperative Extension Service to offer tips and to identify ways horse owners can cut costs. If you have found ways to cut horse care costs, then this is the time to share that information with others in the horse owner community.

Gloria T. Nye, Ph.D., Family & Consumer Sciences Agent, St. Landry, St. Martin & Evangeline Parishes

Howard J. Cormier, Regional Equine Agent, Southwest Region

***Acknowledgment to horse owner:**

Kent Woodward, Waypoint Farm, Inc., Timberlake, NC

Horse Pasture Establishment and Management

Horses and pastures seem to go together. Pastures provide exercise and a low-cost feed source, but unless productive, they provide only exercise. To achieve both goals, however, they must have a good start. These steps will help:

1. **Soil Test** – A test is the best guide for correcting soil pH and soil fertility needs. Louisiana parish extension offices have soil sample kits and instructions. Soil pH should be between 5.8 and 6.5. Lime reacts slowly with soil and is best applied several months before seeding; therefore, test soil early. Lime applied in the right amount according to your soil test, can raise the pH level of the soil and this also has the added benefit of allowing the applied fertilizer to be more effective.
2. **Apply Lime and Fertilizer** – Apply according to soil test. If large lime applications are needed, plow some down and disc some in. Disc the fertilizer into the soil after plowing. If using nutrient sources such as manure, apply before plowing or other soil preparation. To start a vigorous crop, correct lime and nutrient needs before seeding. Annual fertilizer applications are required for maintenance. Soil testing is recommended to perform about every 2 to 3 years.
3. **Prepare a Good Seedbed** – Most forage seeds and seedlings are small and require a fine firm seedbed. Finely worked soil allows close seed-to-soil contact for germination, and close root-to-soil contact for early growth. A firm seedbed allows close depth control for shallow seed placement. Loose and cloddy seedbeds waste seed and do not sustain early growth well.
4. **Buy High-Quality Seed** – Use species and varieties which are adapted to the area. Your county extension agricultural agent can supply appropriate information. Avoid shopping for “bargain” seed. The cost difference between bargain and high-quality seed is very small when the entire expense is considered.
5. **Forage Crop Adaptation** – It is extremely important to plant a forage crop only where it is adapted to be grown. Failure to adhere to this concept results in many disappointments each year. Some forage crops that make excellent pastures or hay crops in some parts of the United States simply are not well enough adapted to be grown in Louisiana. Examples include timothy, Kentucky bluegrass, alfalfa and smooth brome grass. Adaptation is determined primarily by soil moisture availability throughout the growing season and by temperatures, particularly temperature extremes. Thus, many factors, including soil type, topography and area of the state, greatly influence adaptation.

Categories of Forage Crops – More than 40 species of forage crops are commonly grown in Louisiana. Each is

normally distinguished as being (1) a grass or a legume, (2) an annual or a perennial and (3) a warm-season or cool-season plant.

Use the Most-Suitable Species – Most Louisiana horse enterprises utilize a warm-season perennial grass for grazing during the spring and summer months, and then a cool-season winter annual is planted in the fall for grazing during the winter and early spring months. The most common warm-season perennial grasses used are bermudagrass, bahiagrass and dallisgrass. The most popular winter annual grass used is annual ryegrass. Clovers such as white, crimson and berseem are sometimes planted in combination with annual ryegrass for winter grazing. Clovers are beneficial because they are high in quality, they are able to “fix” their own nitrogen and they can extend the grazing season of cool and warm-season grasses. Clovers, however, are more site-specific than are most grasses. Individuals may have to experiment with several species of clover to determine which one(s) perform well on their own particular farm or ranch.

Warm-Season Perennial Grasses to Choose From

Bermudagrass – It can be grown throughout Louisiana and is one of the most widely used forage species in the state. It can be used for hay or pasture. Bermudagrass can be planted with seed or vegetatively propagated. For horse pasture, it is probably best to plant a seeded variety, such as common Bermudagrass. This grass produces a resilient sod that “heals” well when cut by horses hooves. Vegetative varieties such as Alicia, Russell and Jiggs are more suited for hay production.

Bahiagrass – Bahiagrass is planted with seed, and is adapted to many soil types in Louisiana. Individuals must be patient when attempting to establish bahiagrass as it contains a large percentage of dormant seed that germinate over a period of months. Once established, however, bahiagrass provides a very good sod for grazing. Bahiagrass is more adapted to sites of low soil fertility than bermudagrass is.

Dallisgrass – It is an adapted grass that is very productive on alluvial soils and more fertile upland soils in Louisiana. It has good drought tolerance but does not do well on deep sandy upland soils of northern Louisiana or soils with low fertility in other areas. It is noted for having good to excellent forage quality. Dallisgrass also suffers from ergot problems in the seed head, which can be harmful to horses. This problem can be controlled in pastures by clipping to remove the seed heads.

Cool-season Annual Grasses to Choose From

Annual ryegrass – This is by far the most popular winter annual species for forage. Its high yielding ability, ease of establishment, high forage quality and tendency to form a dense sod make it a good choice. Its peak growth is in the

spring, but it has good fall growth if planted early and weather is suitable. Ryegrass can be planted in mid-September on a prepared seedbed, or it can be over-seeded over the summer sod in mid-October.

Small grains – These include such species as wheat, oats or rye. They must be planted deeper than annual ryegrass and generally do not provide as much forage production as annual ryegrass does. Oats can be planted in early September to provide early grazing in the fall.

Legumes to Choose From

White clover – There are more acres of white clover in Louisiana than any of the other forage legumes. It is best-suited for use as a companion species to annual ryegrass. It is particularly well-suited to be grown in pastures because it is quite tolerant of close defoliation.

Crimson clover – It is an upright-growing annual clover. It produces some fall and winter growth but produces most of its growth in early spring. Crimson clover is a very good re-seeder.

Berseem clover - This species is best suited to be grown on heavy soils. It has an erect growth habit, and can be damaged by close continuous grazing. Berseem clover is classified as a non-bloating clover.

Other clovers – Other species that can be grown in Louisiana include arrowleaf clover, red clover, subterranean clover and ball clover. These clovers act as annuals, and will need to be seeded every fall.

Establishment – The establishment process is critically important because mistakes made here will have long-lasting effects. Establishment is not a good time to cut corners or take shortcuts. In some situations where there is little or no existing competing vegetation, it is possible to use no-tillage drills to establish forage crops. Control or suppression of existing vegetation, planting at the proper depth and possibly controlling harmful insects are keys to successful no-tillage establishment. In many other cases, however, some amount of tillage is used to prepare a good seedbed for establishing the new forage stand. Most forage seeds are small and therefore only need to be planted at a depth of ¼ to ½ inch. Seeds can be broadcast on the top of the soil and then a cultipacker or roller can be used to press the seed into the soil.

Suggested Pasture Seeding Rates

SPECIES	GROWTH TYPE	POUNDS/ACRE	SEEDING DATES
Bermudagrass	Warm-season	5	March 1 – June 1
Bahiagrass	Warm-season	15	March 1 – June 1
Dallisgrass	Warm-season	5	March 1 – June 1
Annual Ryegrass	Cool-season	30	Sept. 20 – Oct. 15
White Clover	Cool-season	5	Oct. 1 – Nov. 15
Crimson Clover	Cool-season	15	Oct. 1 – Nov. 15
Berseem Clover	Cool-season	20	Oct. 1 – Nov. 15

Control Weeds – Early weed growth can ruin a pasture. Either use herbicides or clip closely as often as needed. If using herbicides, read and follow all label instructions.

Grazing – Do NOT begin until there are 3 to 4 inches of growth. The root system must be well established or horses will pull the plants out while grazing.

Grazing Management - Horses graze selectively, often eating one kind of plant and passing over others. This leaves unutilized areas that become unpalatable and can eventually eliminate the most palatable species. Good management can reduce these problems and make the pasture more useful.

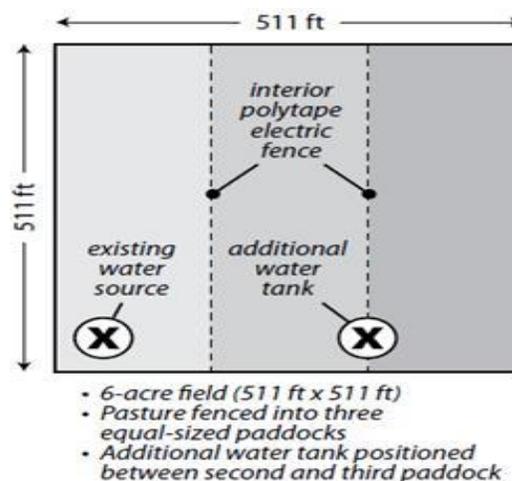
Delay Early Grazing – A common cause of pasture failure is grazing too early. This can occur in early life of new pasture or any pasture in early spring. Keep animals out of a pasture until there is at least 3 to 4 inches of growth. Young plants are easily damaged by horses' hooves earlier, and the root systems are not sufficiently developed to prevent the whole plant from being pulled out as horses graze. Avoid use of the pasture in early spring when soil is soft. Sod will be cut by hooves, and compacting of the soil will cause additional damage. Wait until soil is dry and firm before beginning spring grazing. Better yet, wait for 3 to 4 inches of growth.

Fertilize Annually – To keep a pasture productive, fertilize it annually. Again, start with a soil test. Louisiana Parish Extension Offices have soil test kits and instructions. Base fertility applications on test results and retest every 2 to 3 years. Lime may also be needed as well. The soil test will also provide this information. Take horses out of the pasture when liming or fertilizing and keep them out for several days or until after a rain. The most appropriate times for making these applications are in the spring before grazing begins. In pastures with only grasses, nitrogen can be applied just after a grazing period in a rotational system, or in continuously grazed pastures to stimulate growth for the next 5 to 6 weeks.

Manage Grazing – Many pastures are over-grazed, but few are under-grazed. Either situation is undesirable. Unfortunately, seasonal growth variations also contribute to these problems. Overgrazing is probably the more common problem for the owner of one or two horses and limited acreage. As a guideline, it takes about 2 acres of pasture to support one horse for an entire grazing season. Frequently,

there are two or more horses on less than 1 acre. The available forage gets “eaten into the ground,” and these areas become exercise lots. Not much can be done except to provide more space. Under-grazing results from having too few animals in a pasture. Parts of the pasture are not eaten, and the grass becomes coarse and stemmy, and is wasted. The solution is to force the animals to consume the feed while it is palatable. Confine the animals to a portion of the pasture; overgrazing it for a short time. When the forage is consumed in that area, let the horses graze the rest of the pasture. This is a good time to clip the first area, spread the manure droppings so they will dry, apply fertilizer, and allow the area to recover. This is called rotational grazing and is one of the most efficient ways to manage a pasture. A series of small pasture or paddocks may also be used. In effect, each area is overgrazed for a short time, and then allowed several weeks to recover. The last areas to be grazed may need early clipping to keep them palatable. The time for grazing any one paddock is determined by the amount of forage available, the size of the area, and the number of horses.

The accompanying diagram below shows a system for rotational grazing. Put the animals in paddock A and allow them to graze until the forage is consumed to about 1 to 2 inches. Leave the gate to paddock A open so horses have access to shade and water. Some areas may not be eaten well, particularly around droppings. When Area A is grazed down, move the horses to Area B, repeating the procedure as in Area A. While the horses are in Area B, clip and fertilize Area A, spread droppings, and let Area A recover. When Area B is grazed down, move all the horses to Area C. Continue to rotate the horses from one area to another throughout the grazing season. This system is much more efficient than constantly grazing the entire pasture for a whole season. This system, does however, require more labor and management than a continuous grazing system.



Clip The Pasture – Regular clipping is one of the least expensive (but most useful) practices in pasture management. Clipping an entire pasture after a period of grazing removes the unused forage and allows all of the

plants to start new palatable growth. Previously under-grazed areas will be grazed after clippings. Many weeds will be controlled, and droppings can be spread to dry. Clip several times during the grazing season.

Weed Control – Clipping will help to control weeds that appear in pastures. However, it will not remove all weeds. Those that persist in spite of clipping may need to be controlled by using herbicides. Louisiana parish extension agricultural agents have information about herbicides to be used in these cases. Remove animals from the pasture when herbicides are used and **keep them out** for the time specified on the herbicide container. Whenever using any pesticide, **read and follow instructions on the label.**

By

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Horse Insects in Summer

Summer time has arrived, and horsemen need to consider a few items in caring for their horses.

First of all, there are more insects, especially horseflies, in warm weather. Trying to do intensive training or light trail riding can be discouraging when the horse is constantly shaking, swishing, kicking, and even bucking. Black horse flies get between the teats of mares, or in the sheath of males, and cause a great deal of discomfort. Worse yet, in those places, the horse's tail is not effective in reaching them.

There are many good fly spray products on the market, but they won't work if they are not applied correctly. A light hit or miss spray that covers only parts of the horse will be ineffective, and is simply a waste of time and money. Read the label, and one is usually instructed on how to do a thorough job. A fine mist that is not rubbed in disappears as soon as the spray evaporates. For a better job, I like to treat for flies after I have bathed my horse. This works well if you ride and rinse daily. The animal is wet, and the fly spray attaches to the wet hairs more readily than when it is dry. Spraying around the eyes and face is tricky to avoid getting product in the eyes, but you can spray a rag or soft brush, and brush the face, ears, muzzle, etc.

If you don't have to bathe the horse, consider spraying with fly spray, then brushing the horse down immediately to get the fly spray in the coat, and not merely on the surface of it. Even a slight breeze will move a lot of the product off if the mist is fine. Brushing gets it where it needs to be to give longer fly protection. I am amazed at how difficult it is for children to brush a horse completely. They always miss a lot of spots. If we tell them they are "coloring" the horse, they seem to understand that concept better. With fly spray, the same rule applies. Be thorough, or flies will attack the areas you miss.

The legs and under the belly are especially important. You can do the same side of both legs on one side, and then move to the other side. Spray down to the fetlock area, and even behind the pasterns. Spray under the belly, too, and watch for summer sores that start under the belly, but can also be found around the hock area, where flies continue to go to the same spot until a sore is formed. A product called Swat works well for those areas, as it repels flies, and also sticks to the wound for long lasting protection. If you see horses roll and rock back and forth from a sitting position, they are trying to scratch an itch they can't reach any other way.

Fly masks provide protection to facial areas, especially when grass is tall and seedheads irritate eyes. Gently washing the area around the eyes helps keep problems from becoming worse.

Ticks can be worse in summer, especially if you ride in wooded areas. They seem to be worse on the trailboss' horse that is leading the group through the brush. Ticks assume a resting position on shrubs with forelegs outstretched, and a reflex helps them attach to any warm blooded creature that comes along. The first horse usually gets more ticks than others down the line.

There are many tricks to removing ticks, but the simplest is just to use a good fly spray. If it requires diluting with water, use the more concentrated solution and apply directly to the tick, which will usually release within a couple of hours. Trying to pull a tick off a horse can result in an irritated horse, the head of the tick still in the skin, and a bump that will last for months before healing and going away. Spraying before going to the woods will help, especially around the front legs, shoulders, neck, flanks, and in the girth area. Don't forget the inside of the rear flank, too. The sensitive skin there is a magnet for ticks. Check your horse the day you get home from the woods, and each day after that for a few days, as ticks take some time to begin feeding after they attach. One of the best times to check is right after the horse is wet down. Even the small ticks are easier to spot when the horse is wet. Don't look for a large round ball. Instead, look for a small pink or orange bump that is about the size of pencil lead, but can be found with the naked eye when the coat is wet. Spray those spots after the water is removed by a sweat scraper. Be careful not to scrape that spot, as the area can be painful for the horse.

Horsemen should pay attention to their horses during this time of the year to address the discomfort from flies, ticks, mosquitoes, and other pests. With regular fly spraying and common sense, we can reduce the problem, although we will probably never eliminate it.

By

By Howard J. Cormier
Southwest Region Equine Agent
LSU AgCenter

Ranch Horse Clinic to be held in New Iberia

The Louisiana Stock Horse Assoc. will be conducting a ranch horse clinic on July 11, 2009 at SugArena in New Iberia, LA. The clinic will begin at 10:00am. The clinic will cover Ranch Cutting, Ranch Trail, Ranch Pleasure, Working Cow Horse, and Roping.

The cost of the clinic is \$40.00 for pre – entry and \$60.00 for clinic day entry per person. To pre enter or for more information, contact Judy Weisgerber at (877) – 335 – 3072 or jweisger@bellsouth.net.

LaSH will move three competitions

According to the board of directors for the Louisiana Stock Horse Assoc., three of the 2009 shows are going to change locations. The dates of the shows will stay the same but the locations will change.

The changes are as follows:

August 8, 2009 – Farr Arena (Brec) – Baton Rouge, LA

September 12, 2009 – West LA Forestry Festival Arena – Leesville, LA

November 14 & 15, 2009 – LaSH Finals - West LA Forestry Festival Arena – Leesville, LA

All other competitions remain as scheduled.

LEC Hodges Gardens Activity Big Success

Peggy Bianchi, LEC trails committee chair, reported that 47 riders attended the Hodges Gardens 75th Anniversary Celebration and ride.

The next trail committee activity will be a ride in the Forest Hill area of Kisatchie this fall. Although a date has not been set, it will probably be in October, so plan to join them for a ride when things are cooler.

For more information, go to the Louisiana Equine Council website.

Horse Tips

- **Always remember that horses learn from the release of pressure. Whatever the horse is doing at the precise time that you release the pressure is what the horse learns. Timing of the release to make sure the horse is exhibiting the desired response is very important.**
- **If you ask a horse for a particular movement and then give him a chance to figure out what you are asking for rather than trying to force the horse to perform the movement can be a better way to get the proper response.**
- **Both ability and endurance are lowered by not having your horse in the proper condition.**

Horses that are too thin or overly fat cannot perform to the best of their ability. With the high summer temperatures that we are experiencing, this is even more important.

Calendar of Events

July

- 1-2 Northeast District 4-H Horse Show
Monroe, LA
- 2-4 Acadiana District 4-H Horse Show
Lafayette, LA
- 4 - A Camelot 4th of July Trail Ride
www.camelotwildernessranch.com
- 6-11 LSU State 4-H Horse Show Monroe, LA
- 11-12 LA Stock Horse Assoc. Clinic and Competition
New Iberia, LA
- 25 - Louisiana's first Craig Cameron's EXCA Extreme Cowboy Race
www.myspace.com/cowboyshowdown

August

- 8 – La Stock Horse Assoc. competition
Baton Rouge, LA
- 22 - Extreme Cowboy Race

September

- 26 – 27 Extreme Cowboy Race

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