

# Summer Hauling

The Educated Horseman: Management Series



Opportunities for “horsing around” are endless in the summer. Horse shows, competitions, sales and trail rides are just a haul away. But hauling your horse during the hot and humid Louisiana summer can pose serious health risks, including dehydration, heatstroke and exhaustion. Follow these hot-weather hauling safety tips to prevent detours from summer fun:

- **Open trailer vents to create airflow.** Do not allow your horse to ride with its head out of the trailer window. Flying debris and bugs can cause serious eye injuries. If you are stuck in traffic on a highway, do whatever you can to ventilate the trailer without unloading the horses.

- **Carry ample drinking water for your horse.** But



don't leave water buckets hanging in the trailer while hauling. Sudden stops can lead to spilled water, slippery floors and other potential hazards.

- **Make sure your vehicle is in top towing condition.** Ensure all tires on your truck and trailer are fully inflated before traveling. In hot weather, fully inflated tires flex less and lessen the chance of a blowout.

- **Stop and check your horse's vitals and offer water every four to five hours.**

Each stop should last a minimum of 20 minutes to allow your horse to relax and rest.

- **Use two rubber mats on the trailer floor.** This will reduce the heat on your horse's legs.

- **If your destination is more than 12 hours away,** unload your horse and give it an eight-hour break from the trailer.



- **Avoid hauling during the warmest time of the day. Park in shaded areas with air movement.**



As always with horses, expect the unexpected. While you cannot plan for every situation, by taking a few precautions and practicing some common sense, you can help to ensure that you and your horse arrive safely at your destination.

The Educated Horseman: Management Series | [www.LSUAgCenter.com/Horses](http://www.LSUAgCenter.com/Horses)

For more information, contact Neely Walker,  
LSU AgCenter Equine Specialist, School of Animal Sciences  
[nwalker@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:nwalker@agcenter.lsu.edu)

William B. Richardson, LSU Vice President for Agriculture  
Louisiana State University Agricultural Center  
Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station  
Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service  
LSU College of Agriculture

Visit our website: [LSUAgCenter.com](http://LSUAgCenter.com)

The LSU AgCenter and LSU provide  
equal opportunities in programs and employment.