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Include Farm Animals in Disaster Preparedness Plan

By Lauren Bryan University of Illinois,
College of Veterinary Medicine

When tornado sirens become frequent and sudden storms appear out of thin air, it becomes apparent there is a need for a disaster preparedness plan for farmers and large animal owners alike. What happens when disaster strikes and a herd of cattle are grazing pasture?

Dr. Yvette Johnson-Walker, a faculty member at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, has decades of experience training organizations on animal emergency preparedness. She outlines important points for making an agricultural animal disaster preparedness plan.

The Disasters

While farmers are no stranger to natural disasters, the increase in frequency and destruction of climate-related disasters have been catching many off guard.

"One of the big concerns resulting from climate change is that we are seeing a lot more extreme weather events," Dr. Johnson-Walker explains. "So even in places where they typically anticipate certain types of natural disasters, we are seeing these events much more frequently, and they are much more severe."

From wildfires that ignite forests in an instant, to slower moving but still devastating floods, to ice storms that damage infrastructure, many disasters force people to evacuate their homes. But what about their livestock, which represent their livelihood or may feel like family members? Caring for these animals in extreme situations requires creating a disaster preparedness plan long before the problems arise.

Animal Health and Welfare

A disaster preparedness plan puts animal health and welfare at the forefront.

"One of the biggest things that we often overlook is simply the mental stress and strain on owners of the animals, and the stress and anxiety and fear on the part of the animals," Dr. Johnson-Walker states. "Animals may need some behavioral health and support from that trauma and understanding from people that the behavior may or may not be impacted by that stress."

It is also important to follow an appropriate vaccination protocol, because the risk of infectious disease increases with natural disasters due to stress, environmental conditions, and contact with other domestic or wild animals.

"There's always the risk of disease transmission or, if there is an infrastructure failure, the potential for domestic animals to be exposed to wildlife who are also trying to make it through the disaster."

In certain circumstances when domestic animals between farms or locations must commingle, proof of vaccination is required to have access to an available shelter.

The Plan

It can be a big challenge for producers with large numbers of animals to evacuate them quickly, or even to evacuate them at all. Nevertheless, steps can be taken to ensure safety and return of livestock to owners quickly after a disaster happens.

"Make sure each and every individual animal is identified and that you have proof of ownership," Dr. Johnson-Walker advises. "If you are separated from your

animals during that recovery phase, and if first responders can rescue your animals, then there's an opportunity for them to be returned to you."

Additionally, the decision should be made whether to enclose the animals or to let them go and allow them to find their own shelter or high ground in events such as flooding. This decision may depend on the disaster.

If evacuation is feasible and possible in the time provided before the disaster, then it is important to have a designated evacuation route already in mind.

"Think about what your evacuation route might be and also plan for an alternative route in case that primary route is not available due to roads having been blocked off or traffic diverted," says Dr. Johnson-Walker. "However, often a limiting factor is having access to trailers and vehicles that can move large animals."

How to Go, Where to Go, Whom to Know

To navigate this challenge, as well as others surrounding the disaster, it is important to rely on neighbors and community to help. "Perhaps make some arrangements and plans or have agreements in place with someone who might be able to haul your livestock in a disaster and have personnel who are able to drive and transport livestock safely during an emergency," Dr. Johnson-Walker says. "When those agreements are made in advance, it's much more likely that they'll be recognized and upheld."

The same should apply to having a designated destination or safe place for the animals. "If you are planning to evacuate and you've identified the destination, make sure that, when they get there, needed supplies such as feed, water, and access to veterinary care are available."

Other tips include keeping a weather radio, downloading and subscribing to notifications from apps for weather information, and following recommendations from local authorities.

"Lastly, I'd say have contact information for your local emergency manager or animal control so that they can give you information on resources that may be available in your community. They are going to be working in collaboration with state, federal, and other local agencies that are involved in coordinating a response, and so they will have information about how to best access aid and prepare for a disaster."

Prioritize Human Family Members

In the end, keeping the human family safe is the ultimate goal. Owners should take risk assessment and assure human safety during a disaster, and especially when aiding or transporting the animals.

"It's going to be important for you to take the steps that you can to protect yourself. If you don't survive, then there's no one to take care of your animals even if they do make it."

Dr. Johnson-Walker continues, "If you can protect the human members of the family, it increases the chance of animals also having a positive outcome."

If you are seeking more information on care of your animals, before or after a disaster, contact your local veterinarian, University of Florida livestock Extension agent, the Florida Department of Agriculture, and USDA veterinarians.

This article provided by the University of Illinois, College of Veterinary Medicine.

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Riding Toward Joy: How Our Horse Barn Program Serves Children with Serious Illnesses



At Camp Boggy Creek in Eustis, Florida, the horse barn is more than just a place to ride—it's where children facing serious medical conditions like cancer, spina bifida, and epilepsy get to experience freedom, confidence, and connection on horseback. For many of our campers, riding a horse is not just an activity; it's a milestone—one that fosters courage, independence, and unforgettable joy.

Each summer, our barn comes alive with the sounds of hooves and laughter as we welcome a carefully selected group of leased horses, chosen for their calm temperaments and gentle spirits. These incredible animals become trusted partners for our campers, and our dedicated barn team ensures both campers and horses receive exceptional care and attention.

We're thrilled to share that Indy, a charismatic horse who "volunteered" at camp last summer, will be returning to our herd this year. Named after the Indy 500, Indy is a former endurance horse whose strength and patience are matched only by his charm. His owner once thought he'd retire quietly to pasture life—but Indy had other plans.

One camper, Mo, was unsure about coming back to camp last year. "Maddie, I've been before. Has anything changed? Is anything new?" they asked. Mo had never



been to the barn when horses were present due to the pandemic, and they weren't interested in the usual camp activities. That all changed when Mo saw Indy from across the fence. "When do we get to go to the barn?" they asked with excitement.

On the third day, as their cabin approached the barn, Indy—being his silly self—stuck his tongue out at the campers. While others shied away, Mo lit up. "I love Indy because he is spicy! He has a fire in him. Can I ride him?" they asked.



time about favorite foods, games, and camp memories. Afterward, standing next to Indy, Mo shared, "I love Indy. He's so nice to me, so I know he loves me too. I am so glad I came this year and saw Indy—he's new."

While not every camper will get to ride him, to some, like Mo, Indy might just be the best part of their Camp Boggy Creek experience.

This year, we're also proud to offer more accessibility than ever before, thanks to the addition of the SafeHands Sure Lift—a mechanical lift that allows campers with limited trunk control to mount and dismount horses safely and with dignity. Paired with scenic trail rides through the Seminole State Forest, the barn experience is one filled with empowerment, healing, and joy.

To keep our horses healthy and our barn program running smoothly, we gratefully accept donations. We are currently in need of fly spray, lead lines, adult-sized riding boots for our staff, and horse-friendly treats like apples and carrots.



Every contribution helps us provide magical experiences for campers and keep special horses like Indy happy and healthy. For more info: www.Boggycreek.org

Thank you for being part of the ride.



Camp Boggy Creek Wish List

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Ticks: Nature's Most Annoying Arachnid



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Ticks have a well-deserved bad reputation. The bloodsucking parasites spread Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and Alpha-gal syndrome, which triggers an allergy to red meat. Their only possible redeeming quality is that turkeys, possum, and Guinea hens eat them. (They are also a popular snack for fire ants, which may be the only positive attribute for that insect.)

During their two-year lifespan, ticks are almost indestructible. They can survive up to 72 hours in water and hibernate in extreme cold. They creep through hair, crawl up pants legs and under collars, latch onto skin with powerful pincers, burrow deeply, and start gorging on blood. Highly sensitive to body heat, they like areas



where blood is near the surface like ears, the head, and groin. They feed until they are so

large that they fall off.

Typically, ticks lay eggs in batches of 3,000 or more. They don't build nests; they disgorge the mess along trails, in leaf litter, or in tall grass. The eggs look like brownish-red fish roe. If you see a mass, do not touch it. Scoop it with a shovel and dump it into a bowl of alcohol or bleach. That kills them immediately.

Since they live in grass and brush, it's almost impossible for horse people to avoid

ticks. The best way to limit exposure is to remove as much of their habitat as possible:

- * Clear tall grass and brush around barns and outbuildings.

- * Place a 3-foot-wide barrier of gravel or sand around structures.

- * Mow pastures and lawns frequently.

- * Stack wood, jump poles, and other equipment neatly and don't let grass or weeds grow around them.

- * Limit your activity in swampy areas.

- * Remove standing water. (This also helps keep down the mosquito population.)

Permethrin is a chemical that kills ticks. It is usually applied as a spray around barns. When used as directed, it is safe around horses, dogs, and humans. However, it is highly toxic to cats, and they should be kept away from treated areas until the spray has completely dried.

Check yourself and your animals frequently for ticks. To prevent them from getting on you:

- * Wear high boots and tuck your pants legs inside them.

- * Wrap fly paper around your ankles and the top of your boots.

- * Use fly leggings for horses around your pants legs and secure the top with strips of fly paper.

- * Run a lint roller over clothes, shoes, saddles, and saddle pads.

- * Some commercial bug repellents target ticks. Read the labels to make sure they are safe around animals.

Tick bites are not usually painful. You might not realize you've been bitten unless you notice a red lump and itchiness. The general consensus is that a tick must be



attached for at least 24 hours before it can infect you with Lyme Disease. A rash might be an early sign of an infection. In that case, a visit to the drop-in clinic is a good idea. Definitely

contact a medic if you run a fever, have flu-like symptoms, or have swollen lymph nodes.

The time-honored folk methods of removing ticks are not recommended. Touching it with a hot matchhead or 'suffocating' it with petroleum jelly or nail polish just encourages the tick to dig deeper.

To safely remove a tick, use fine-tipped tweezers. Pinch it at the head, and pull upward with steady, even pressure. Twisting can cause the head to break off and the mouth parts to remain in the skin. Clean the area with rubbing alcohol and antibiotic cream. To kill the tick, submerge it in alcohol or bleach or burn it with a match.

Since ticks don't drown, washing your clothes does not kill any ticks that are hiding in pockets or seams. Instead, tumble dry the clothes on high heat before you wash them. The heat will kill them. Then wash the clothes.

Natural oils from rosemary, cedar, lemongrass, peppermint, citronella, and geranium kill ticks. Planting those around the barn is an eco-friendly way to reduce the tick population. While it doesn't kill them, ticks hate the smell of lemon, orange, cinnamon, and lavender. You can mix and match the oils to make effective and nice-smelling tick repellents.



Note: Essential oils are highly concentrated and must be diluted in a 'carrier oil' – like almond, coconut, or argan oil.

Here are a few recipes to help keep your life tick-free.

- 1 oz. carrier oil
- 7 drops geranium oil
- 4 drops peppermint oil
- 4 drops thyme oil
- 4 drops cedarwood or lavender oil
- Shake well
- Fill a spray bottle 1/3 with apple cider vinegar
- 10 drops *each* geranium, cedarwood, citronella, and lemongrass oil.
- Top off the bottle with water.
- Shake well.
- Cedar oil both repels and kills ticks.
- 4 oz of distilled or purified water
- 1 oz witch hazel
- 40 drops of cedar oil
- Shake well.

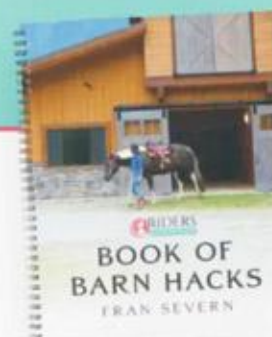


Happy 4th of July!

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From the Equine Disease Communication Center: Cluster of EIA Cases Highlight Need for Proper Training at Clinics

By Leslie Barlow and Dr. Angela Pelzel-McCluskey

A recent cluster of Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) cases has once again highlighted the importance of proper training of the individuals that work in equine veterinary clinics to help prevent the spread of disease via iatrogenic transmission.

A cluster of EIA-positives that were infected throughout May 2024 and another cluster from mid-June through the end of August 2024 were found to have originated at a Texas equine clinic. All of the EIA-infected horses had been hospitalized in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the clinic and had an IV catheter placed and flushed.

As of May 30, 2025, the United States Department of Agriculture- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) has identified 21 horses confirmed positive for EIA in four states- California, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Texas. The affected horses are of varying ages, breeds, and disciplines.

"I don't believe we have found all of the exposed horses for testing just yet," said Angela Pelzel-McCluskey, USDA-APHIS equine epidemiologist. "I think there are more that need to be added to the list." She added that anyone who is concerned that their horse might have been exposed should contact their veterinarian and have their horse(s) tested.

The incubation period of horses infected with EIA is usually 15 to 45 days and horses that have been infected with the virus are lifelong carriers. Horses showing clinical signs of the disease are more of a threat to healthy populations because of higher levels of the virus circulating in the blood.

Horses that survive the initial clinical phase of the disease usually become outwardly inapparent carriers and remain a life-long reservoir for the disease. There is no treatment for the disease and no vaccine to prevent an EIA virus infection. If confirmed positive, horses are usually euthanized for the disease to prevent ongoing transmission to other horses. If not euthanized, horses must be permanently quarantined with separation from non-infected horses by at least 200 yards to prevent spread of the disease by biting flies. Infected horses cannot be moved from quarantined premises except by approval of state and federal animal health officials. Clinical signs of EIA may include fever, depression, low platelet count, anemia, red or purple spots on the mucous membranes, edema, muscle weakness and atrophy, although chronically infected horses often show no obvious clinical signs of the disease.

EIA is diagnosed by testing antibody levels in the blood. The most common test used is the Coggins Test, which is an agar gel immunodiffusion (AGID) test. ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) test is also available to detect EIA antibodies. Veterinarians must collect blood and submit it to certified laboratories for testing.

The USDA-APHIS has reviewed the complete medical history of the 21 horses confirmed EIA positive that were treated at the Texas clinic. All of the horses had been hospitalized in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the clinic and had an IV catheter placed and flushed.

The current investigation indicated at least one or more

employees of the clinic were reusing needles or syringes to draw up and flush IV catheters with heparinized saline in the ICU as a routine procedure which caused repeated instances of blood contamination into the bottles. "The original sources of the EIA-virus were likely bush track or other high-risk horses that were admitted to the clinic ICU just prior to each cluster of cases in May and August," said Pelzel-McCluskey.

The USDA-APHIS began investigating the cases in September 2024 when a 3-year-old Quarter Horse mare located in Wise County, Texas, was confirmed positive. The horse was used for barrel racing and had no flat track racing history, and its cohorts were EIA negative. Another Wise County case, an 8-year-old Andalusian mare with no racing or import history and with all negative cohorts, was found EIA-positive the following month. The next two months brought three more cases from the same county. There were no commonly encountered EIA risk factors among any of the horses and no contact with each other.

"The only thing we could come up with is that all of the horses were seen by the same veterinary clinic," Pelzel-McCluskey said. "That for a small county area is not strange, so it was a head scratcher." Pelzel-McCluskey said the horses home premises were not located adjacent to each other, so it was not a local geographic focus of natural fly-bite transmission.

Through investigation, it was determined that the only common factor was that the horses had been hospitalized in either two clusters May 2024 and August 2024; three horses in May and two in August for other reasons and EIA was not diagnosed.

At the request of the USDA-APHIS, the horse owners began sharing medical records of the five infected horses. At the same time, four more cases with connections to the same veterinary clinic were discovered in January, February, and March of this year. Two more horses from Wise County, one from Denton County, and one located in Oklahoma.

Pelzel-McCluskey said the next step in the investigation is to compile a more complete list of exposed horses from the clinic's appointment book to identify horses that had an IV catheter placed at the clinic during the affected time range while completing regulatory EIA testing of all horses that were potentially exposed. Testing will also be completed on cohorts of any new EIA positive cases.

About 1.3 million horses per year are tested for EIA. So far in 2025 there have been 44 EIA positives. In 2024, there were 147 positive cases and 120 of those were in the primary high-risk category of Quarter Horse racehorses which contracted the disease via iatrogenic transmission by unhygienic injection practices of owners and trainers, not veterinarians.

The rate of EIA positives has been on the rise since 2016 when there were only 44 cases recorded with the majority being natural transmission via fly bites. The iatrogenic transmission EIA cases now being found in Quarter Horse racehorses frequently have ties to unsanctioned or bush track racing.

"I believe that veterinary clinic owners and employees have become complacent, and people don't believe that something like this could happen, but it does happen, and it

is happening at a very large scale with a lot of negative outcomes," Pelzel-McCluskey said. "I would like state animal health officials to reach out to remind people that we do have iatrogenic transmission of EIA and this can occur in clinics if the expected procedures for sterile technique are not being followed by all employees at the clinic."

This article was provided by from the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP). For more info go to aaep.org.

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Technique Training in Agility

By Christy Gammage, Practice Makes Pawfect

Megan Foster of Fostering Excellence in Agility (<https://fxagility.com/>) has a wonderful podcast. A recent episode was talking about 'Technique Training' in which she describes introducing a new handling technique to the dog. She breaks this training down into very specific steps.

First she focuses on Handler Fluency. The handler must be able to consistently perform their physical cues with unconscious competency. The practice needed for the handler to learn any new movement will take multiple attempts. And then to become fluent (where you can do the move correctly 5-10 times in a row) takes even more repetition. All of these repetitions should be done without the dog. Why? If the handler is struggling to figure out what they should be doing, they are not giving the dog clear direction and therefore essentially training the dog to ignore the handler as they flounder around. Also, dogs can get bored after a few repetitions, losing interest and will disengage from the handler. To get those 5-10 clean repetitions, you should practice with minimal distraction so you can focus on that one thing. Have your dog put away, break up your practice across multiple training sessions if needed, and don't try to add in other skills. "Blocked or repetitive practice" means you focus solely on the pieces of what you are trying to learn. Once you, as a handler, can perform correctly, cleanly and smoothly 5-10 times in a row, you are ready to move on.

Now we add the dog into the practice session. Evaluate the dog's existing knowledge and experience. What foundational pieces and pre-requisite skills do they need to perform this new technique and do they have them? For novice dogs, the foundational pieces may be what we are training. You can often start training the new technique on the flat (no jumping needed). For other skills you may need a wing or a tunnel. We will again be doing multiple repetitions, so we initially want it easy on the dog's body and mind.

Beware the pitfall of doing the same thing over and over.

You should always be adjusting the training to vary the challenge; change or increase the challenge if the dog is succeeding, decrease or split out skills if the dog is struggling. Make micro-changes in every single repetition to keep the training fresh and progressing.

Back chaining is very useful when teaching a new skill. Train the very last part of the skill where the dog gets the reward. Then add the next-to-last piece of the skill, to the last part and then reward. With each repetition, another part of the skill is added on to the beginning. The dog is then consistently working from newer skills through more familiar skills to the reward.

If you start teaching something using a lure, change it into a reward as quickly as possible. If the behavior falls apart, there may be some prerequisite skill missing that needs to be trained first. Something like driving to a placed reward, committing to the obstacle or following more basic handling.

The next step in technique training is to introduce Either/Or scenarios. Is the dog really following our cues, or are they just patterned to do the skill we've been working on? Pick the opposite of what you have been training and ask the dog to do that instead. An example would be if you've been working on a "wrap" where the dog takes the jump but immediately turns around the wing and comes back, then ask them to 'go on' where the reward will be thrown or placed far past the jump away from you. Or if you have been training a "backside" where the dog goes around the wing to the backside of the jump and jumps towards you, ask them to just go straight over the jump away from you. Now mix it up; wrap to the right, backside, wrap to the left, straight jump, etc.

OK, we have handler fluency. We've trained the skill in small increments to the dog. We've tested that they are following our handling with either/or scenarios. Now we start adding this new skill into sequences that really focus on that new skill. Example, if you've been working on blind crosses, have a short sequence where you can do 3-4 blind crosses. Don't get distracted by other things, like if your dog breaks his start-line stay. Plan the sequence to

avoid any other known short comings. Once the short sequence with the new skill is successful, add in an either/or challenge by mixing the new skill in with the opposite or variation. Example: do the sequence by alternating front and blind crosses.

Finally, let's take our shiny new skill into the real world. We've been practicing on tailor-made applications of the technique. Now we have to fit it into a not-so-perfect scenario. Look at actual course maps for where this new technique makes sense. Build just the part of the course to practice the new skill, with a couple of obstacles prior so you have comparable speed coming into the situation. Are you still getting a high rate of success performing that technique? If not, find some more courses to try. After effectively performing the new technique in multiple real-world course segments, it should be very comfortable and ready to add into your trialing tool box.

Check out Megan Foster's Fostering Excellence in Agility podcast on your preferred system for the full episode. After listening, make a training plan and Better Practice.

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Keeping Your Horse Healthy In The Summer Months

By Dr. Suzanne Mund, DVM.

It's that time of year again! Summer in Florida is notoriously hot and humid and although we people can escape the heat by hiding in air conditioned homes, our horses don't always have that privilege. There are several things about summer in Florida that we need to remember in order to keep our four-legged friends happy and healthy during the summertime.

As the temperature rises, our horses' water needs increase as well. The average horse will consume 10-12 gallons of water a day and that requirement can increase to 15-20 gallons of water in very hot weather. Always make sure your horse has access to plenty of fresh water. An extra pail of water with electrolytes added to it should also be readily available to help your horse replace electrolytes that are lost while sweating. During very hot days, monitor your horse's hydration status by pinching the skin on their neck and counting the seconds it takes to return to normal. A skin tent longer than 2 seconds may be indicative of dehydration. It is important that a horse maintains good hydration or he may become susceptible to developing intestinal impactions.

Typically mature horses do not need to be dewormed during the summer months of May to September as the temperature is too hot to facilitate parasite transmission. At the beginning of the summer season, a fecal egg count should be performed to determine your horse's parasite burden. If the fecal egg count is above 500 eggs per gram, your horse should receive an effective dewormer as recommended by your veterinarian. In order to not contribute to parasite resistance to dewormers and to

decrease cost, your horse should not need any further deworming during the summer months unless recommended by your veterinarian.

Many horses that have Recurrent Airway Obstruction (RAO) or "heaves" tend to have flare ups during the summer months, especially if they are maintained on pasture. This is known as summer-associated RAO. Molds, pollens, heat and humidity are believed to be the triggers for pasture associated RAO. Clinical signs of RAO include exercise intolerance, coughing, laborious breathing at rest and nasal discharge. Management of the horse with summer associated RAO include avoidance of pasture turn-out during the summer months, turn-out on a pasture with rye grass, a known low-allergy grass, and stabling in a low-dust environment. Horses that have summer-associated RAO often are sensitive to other allergens such as dust and hay mold, so feeding soaked hay or a complete pelleted feed should also be considered. In the event of an acute episode, your veterinarian can prescribe a steroid and a bronchodilator for a short time while environmental changes are being made.

In addition to the heat of the summer months, there is also plenty of rain. All of the extra rain can cause a wet environment for horses that predispose them to conditions such as rain rot, hoof thrush, white line disease, and seedy toe. In order to prevent these conditions, your horses should always have access to a dry covered area with food and water during sudden downpours. If you notice crusting sores on your horse's skin or if he becomes lame, contact your veterinarian as he may have developed a fungal

condition as a result of wet weather.

Although the summer months can be very hot and humid, we must do our best in order to keep our horses comfortable. Do not hesitate to contact your veterinarian if you have any questions concerning management of your horse during the summer.

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Western Dressage: Tips From a Judge's Perspective

By Lynn Palm

In this series, Western Dressage from a Judge's Perspective, I will give you tips from my point of view as a judge that may help your scores and learn to ride with more accuracy and precision. I find there are common challenges that everyone has learning the discipline, or common movements that riders have difficulty learning, which leads to horse and rider frustrations.

This part of the series will address Level 2, the first in which collected gaits are introduced. There are many new requirements in Level 2 so let's break it down in two parts.

Tips for the Collected Jog and Lopec:

In the collected jog you will see horses that are not in a correct outline in one of two ways.

1. The horse will be too long and flat in the spine and out beyond the vertical with their head, not having an uphill energetic gait and balance.

2. The horse will be too tight in his body with a short neck, tight back, on or behind the vertical with the head, and will not be engaging the hind legs with freedom.

Anything in between is what is sought after in Level 2. A horse with a collected outline will bear more weight to the hind legs, engage easily and with energy, with the forehead is lighter, and the poll higher than the wither. The head of the horse will be on the vertical with a light contact of the bit and a relaxed neck and body.

At the collected lopec we are in search of the same outline, only a bit more obviously uphill self-carriage and balance. The horse must show:

1. A three-beat gait at all times
2. Staying straight while bending and straight at all times to carry the correct body alignment to be balanced and keep the three-beat gait.

After the collected gaits, I have a few tips for the specific required movements in this level. Follow for the Shoulder In and Haunches In or Travers.

Tips for the Shoulder In:

1. The weakest area in this movement is riders not having the correct angle. Usually there is too much angle and the horse is on 4 tracks. The horse should be on 3 tracks at a 30-degree angle.
2. It is necessary to keep the bend of the horse during the movement.



3. Also commonly the horse loses tempo as the movement starts or as it continues.

4. The most common error is that the rider pulls with the inside rein. This only bends the neck, not the body. When this happens all 3 of the above errors can be seen-not enough angle, not enough bend to the horse, and a slow tempo.

Tips for the Haunches In or Travers:

1. The most common weak area of Haunches In is there is not enough bend to the horse and the movement then becomes leg yielding.

2. To earn the highest scores, your horse must have correct bend and balance while going straight. He travels on 4 tracks with the front legs on the track.

3. If the rider is trying to get too much bend, again pulling with the inside rein too much, the horse resists in some way as he shifts the haunches back to the rail!

Coming soon, in Part 2 I will address the Simple Change of Lead through the Walk, the 10 Meter Circle at the Working Lopec and the Sidepass.

Have fun practicing the collected gaits and the first new requirements at Level 2!

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Keep Cooler in the Summer Heat

By the Friends of Colt Creek

We may not ride as much in the summer heat, but that doesn't mean we're not out at the barn slaving away to keep our horses comfortable. Fortunately, there are a number of products for humans now that can help keep us from overheating.

1. A "cool-dry shirt: Available in multiple retail locations, these shirts can wick sweat away and allow air flow to your skin. A bonus is that many are UV protective and help prevent sunburn. They are frequently marketed to fishermen.


2. Cooling towel: Soak the towel (often more like a scarf) in cool water, then wear it around your neck.

3. Cooling cap: Like the towel, soak the cap in water before wearing. These caps can also fit under your helmet or hat.

4. Cooling vests promise to keep the wearer more comfortable in hot weather. It's a quilted type of material that needs to be soaked before wearing. This rider's experience with it is promising; the water remained in the vest without dripping, and my shirt was even dry at the end of the ride.

With the exception of the cooling vest (that runs between \$35-50), these products are relatively inexpensive and well worth the money for the Florida heat. All are, not surprisingly, available on Amazon.





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Hurricane Season Is Here- Are You Ready?

The 2025 Hurricane season began on June 1, so now is the time to make a plan for your family and animals. First find out what your evacuation zone is and have an evacuation plan, then you should prepare a hurricane survival kit. Even if you're not ordered to evacuate, a strong tropical storm or hurricane may leave you without power, food and other supplies for several days and possibly longer. Being prepared means having your own food, water and other supplies to last for at least several days.

Hurricane Survival Kit

A hurricane survival kit is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Ready.gov recommends you have two kits: a basic kit and a kit with additional emergency supplies.

Basic Disaster Supplies Kit

To assemble your kit, store items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supplies kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers such as plastic bins or a duffel bag.

A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items: * Water (one gallon per person per day for several days, for drinking and sanitation) * Food (at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food) * Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and an NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert * Flashlight * First aid kit * Extra batteries * Whistle (to signal for help) * Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air) * Plastic sheeting and duct tape (to shelter in place) * Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties (for personal sanitation) * Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities) * Manual can opener (for food) * Local maps * Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery Additional Emergency Supplies * Masks (for everyone ages 2 and above), soap, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes to disinfect surfaces * Prescription medications * Non-prescription medications such as pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids or laxatives * Prescription eyeglasses and contact lens solution * Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes and diaper rash cream * Pet food and extra water for your pet * Cash or traveler's checks * Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records saved electronically or in a

waterproof, portable container. * Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person * Complete change of clothing appropriate for your climate and sturdy shoes * Fire extinguisher * Matches in a waterproof container * Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items * Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils * Paper and pencil * Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

Pet Hurricane Survival Kit

- * Bottled water
- * One to two weeks' worth of your pet's food
- * Collapsible food and water bowls
- * Blankets
- * Cat litter and pan
- * Leash, collar and harness
- * Pet life jacket and paw protectors
- * Basic pet first-aid kit
- * Vaccination records and medical history
- * Veterinarian's contact information
- * List of medications
- * Emergency contacts
- * Photos of your pet in case of separation

If you do have to evacuate, take your pet with you. If it's unsafe for humans, it's unsafe for pets. Emergency shelters and hotels may have limited space and pets might not be allowed, so find a boarding facility along your evacuation route and make arrangements before a storm threatens. Once your kits are assembled, it's important to maintain them for the entire season.

Maintaining Your Kit

- * Keep canned food in a cool, dry place.
- * Store boxed food in a tightly closed plastic or metal containers.
- * Replace expired items as needed.
- * Re-think your needs every year and update your kit as your family's needs change.



How Good is Your Helmet???

By the Friends of Colt Creek

Virginia Tech has updated its helmet ratings in a 2025 edition. It rated a total of 45 equestrian helmets using the STAR evaluation system. The impact tests evaluate a helmet's ability to reduce linear and rotational acceleration of the head from a range of head impacts a rider might experience. Helmets with more stars provide a reduction in concussion risk for these impacts compared to helmets with fewer stars. Remember helmets should be replaced every 5 years even if they haven't had an accident, and should be replaced immediately if they have.

<https://helmet.beam.vt.edu/equestrian-helmet-ratings.html#>



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References: (1) The Veterinary Clinics of North America Vol. 18, #2, Aug. 2002, Pg. 355-369 (2) "No Sweat" Denise Steffanus, EquineAthlete, July/Aug. 1998, pg. 25-28

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July 25-27: Ocala, FQHA Summer Sizzler (ad Front Cover).

August 28-31: Venice, FQHA Fox Lea Farm Aloha Show Circuit (ad Front Cover).

August 29-31: FQHA Cowtown Classic, future dates 10/24-26, 12/19-21 (ad Front Cover).

September 4-7 Ocala Arabian Horse Assoc & FL Morgan Horse Assoc Summer's End Horse Show. WEC, Ocala. Go to: www.fmha.net/summers-end-horse-show

September 9-14: Ocala, FQHA Championship Show (ad Front Cover).



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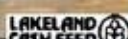
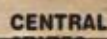
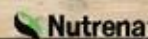
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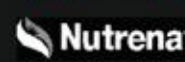


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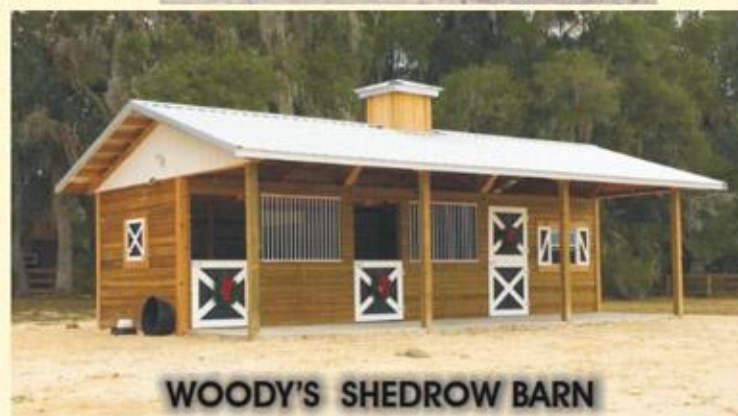
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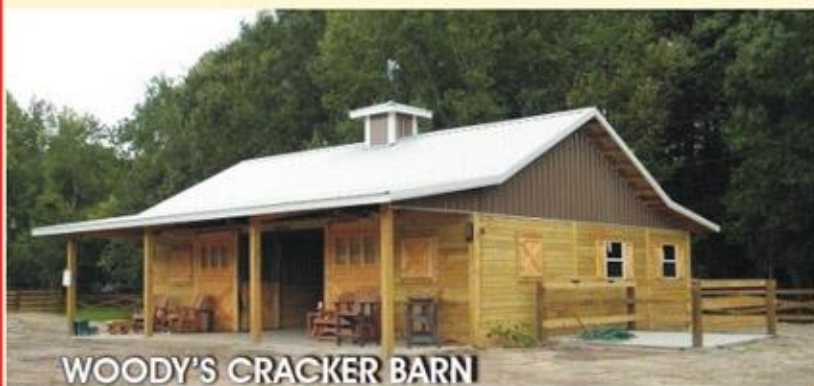
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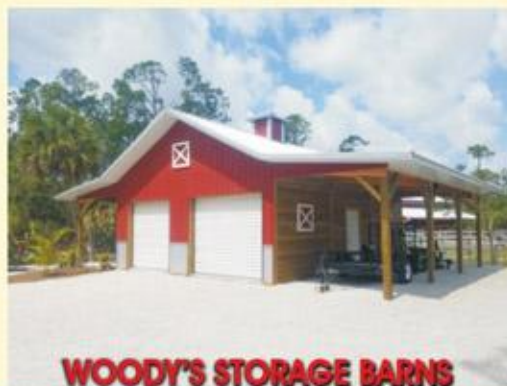
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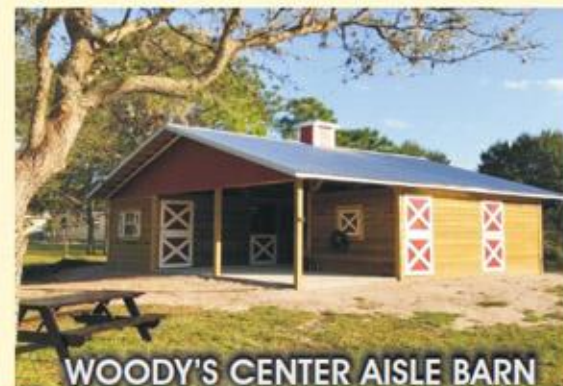
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