June 2019

Welcome to the Oklahoma Horse Health Newsletter, a joint effort between Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service and the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences.

We are pleased to provide tips for new horse owners, the latest research on horse health, as well as updates on current events and workshops for horse owners.

Tips for New Horse Owners

Flooding in Oklahoma

The recent flooding in Oklahoma is unprecedented and has taken a toll on our agriculture communities. Please know that the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service is here to assist you wherever possible. The following site contains information on flooding resources. If you have any questions on how to care for animals or property during this time, please reach out to your local county educator for assistance.

Link to flooding resources

Link to county directory:
http://countyext2.okstate.edu/
**Arthritis in Horses**

Dr. Daniel Burba, equine surgeon at the Center for Veterinary Sciences provides some tips for horse owners on arthritis and its prevention.

**Determining Body Weight**

Dr. Kris Hiney shows owners how to determine their horse's body weight without a scale.

**Choosing and Fitting a Halter**

Brittani Kirkland, masters student at Oklahoma State University, discussed selecting and fitting a halter for your horse.
Latest Research on Equine Health

Predicting Foaling: What method is the most accurate?
The ability to predict foaling in mares is critical to avoid excessive sleepless nights and to be there when she needs you. Gestation length itself is very variable, from 320 - 365 days, so a little help in narrowing that down is much appreciated. Known methods include measuring pH, electrolyte or calcium concentrations in mammary secretions or even the use of electronic transponders sewn into the vulva. So which is best? Researchers in Canada compared methods to determine which were the most effective and accurate in predicting foaling. Overall, mares carrying male foals, and maiden mares had longer gestation lengths than others. The overall winner in sensitivity and ability to predict when a mare was NOT going to foal were the calcium titration kits (my personal favorite) while changes in pH were the most accurate in predicting when she would foal. Using both methods together give managers the best information on when to skip sleep and hang out with the mare.


Bits and Pieces
Todd Crawford

Todd Crawford, professional horseman and NRCHA 2 million dollar rider, discusses his favorite bit at the Oklahoma 4-H/NRCHA Cowhorse clinic.

OSUHorse Webinar Wednesdays

Join us on the first Wednesday of the month, except for June!, for a free webinar series on equine health, research updates and youth activities.

June webinar: June 12 at 6 pm. Dr. Kris Hiney will share the latest in equine research from the 2019 Equine Science Society symposium.

Join via Facebook live or Zoom links: https://dasnr.zoom.us/j/996542224
Joining via a zoom link allows participants to directly ask questions.

Archives webinars can be found at OSUHorse.com

Winter Horse Care
State 4-H Horse Show
End of Life Decisions
Internal Parasite Management
Breeding Soundness Exams
**Upcoming Events and Industry Updates**

**Continuing Education:**

**Adult/volunteers**
June 22 - 4-H Parent-Volunteer Conference, 4-H volunteers travel to Stillwater to learn the latest in incorporating STEAM into 4-H projects. [http://4h.okstate.edu/parents-volunteers/conferences/](http://4h.okstate.edu/parents-volunteers/conferences/)

July 16-18 - Big Three Field Days. Agriculture educators are invited to participate *at no cost* in workshops to utilize SCRUB (Science Creates Real Understanding of Biosecurity) curriculum. This fun, interactive hands on STEM based lessons teach students the how and ways of biosecurity in keeping animals healthy. For more information, contact Dr. Kris Hiney: khiney@okstate.edu

**Youth Events**
June 29 - Finals of the Nexus Oklahoma 4-H Equine Makeover. 10 youth will present their horses to a panel of judges and the public to show the results of their 90 day challenge. Nexus Equine is a non profit organization which connects horses to new owners. The next round of the Equine Makeover will begin July 20. For more information: [http://osuhorse.okstate.edu/4-h-and-youth-activities/nexus-equine-4-h-equine-makeover](http://osuhorse.okstate.edu/4-h-and-youth-activities/nexus-equine-4-h-equine-makeover)

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