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## Horse Management Tips for Cooling Temperatures and Extending the Grazing Season

Mark Russell, Assistant Professor - Equine

As the weather begins to cool, horse owners should start to shift gears in terms of how they care for their horses. For instance, the amount you feed your horse may change, depending on how much grazing is available to your horses. The majority of the state has been fortunate this year to enjoy ample amounts of rain. This has allowed for greener pastures with greater amounts of grazing capabilities.



However, with the cooling temperatures we are certain to experience, grass will soon be fading away for the next few months. Hopefully, in anticipating this change, you have been purchasing hay to subsidize for this lack of grazing and possibly increasing or adding a concentrate to your horse's diet.

In speaking about my own feeding program, we have had ample amounts of pasture to graze for the last several months, allowing us to not need to feed any hay and only small amounts of a

concentrate to the older horses. Knowing that grass would soon become limited, we have purchased hay to begin feeding, probably in December.

However, there are ways to lengthen the grazing season. The University of Arkansas has utilized and promoted the 300 Days Grazing Program for several years. This program has traditionally been directed to cattle producers. Recently, horse owners have begun to inquire about how they can stretch their grazing season to help cut costs of feeding hay. Over the next several months, trial grazing projects will be employed to determine methods for stretching the grazing season as long as possible. The results of these projects will be published and made available to horse owners across the state. In the meantime, here are a few considerations and methods for stretching the grazing season.

- **Consider rotational grazing.** Move your horses around several times throughout the year to allow the pastures to grow to their full potential.
- **Employ weed control practices.** Contact your county extension agent to determine the best product to spray your pastures with to maintain weed control.
- **Brush hog if possible.** One of the best and easiest management practices is to keep your pasture mowed during the growing season. This will also help control weeds.

- **Avoid overgrazing.** Too many horses in a small pasture can not only keep your horses from getting the proper amounts of forage but can damage the pasture.
- **Utilize fertilizers.** Horse pastures can be fertilized to maximize growth. Similar to weed control, contact your county extension agent to formulate a plan of action.

Visit your local co-op or contact your county extension agent to help you formulate a plan for pasture management that can begin even during the fall or winter.

***To help your horse be healthier during colder months:***

- Hay keeps horses warm, not concentrates. Horses are able to save energy needed to produce body heat by consuming hay. Shop around to find the highest quality hay possible for your horses. Also, ask if hay has been tested and what the results were.
- If hay is in short supply, consider integrating alternative forage sources – such as hay cubes, beet pulp and complete feeds – to help stretch the forage supply.
- Round bales are fine to feed horses. Feeding all at once will work, but much of the hay is wasted. Consider feeding small amounts at each feeding. This can be accomplished by peeling hay off with a pitchfork and tossing over the fence or keeping the round bale in a separate pen and allowing horses to only eat on the bale for short amounts of time.

- Monitor your horses' water intake. During colder temperatures, horses tend to drink less water, thus making dehydration a concern. Ensure that your horses' water is always made available and is never frozen.



- Also consider adding electrolytes and/or warmer water to encourage drinking. It is a good practice to provide a second watch bucket in case the animals won't drink the flavored electrolyte water.
- When hauling your horse during cooler months, take water from home to offer your horse when possible.

*Special thanks to thehorse.com for additions to this article.*

## 2014 4-H 4x4 Chute-Out Results – Texas State Fair

Mark Russell, Assistant Professor - Equine

The second annual 4-H 4x4 Chute-Out at the Texas State Fair in Dallas took place on October 8. Nearly 20 participants from Arkansas participated in barrel racing, pole bending, team roping and breakaway roping. A big congratulations goes to Jessica Rowland from Garland County for winning the All-Around for the Girls Division and Britt Driggers, also from Garland County, for winning Reserve All-Around for the Boys Division.

Here is a breakdown of the Arkansas results:

### ***All-Around Boys***

2nd – Britt Driggers, Garland County  
5th – Dawson Ghormley, Hempstead County

### ***All-Around Girls***

1st – Jessica Rowland, Garland County



**Jessica Rowland (first place All-Around Girl) with the saddle she won, along with fellow competitors and 4x4 4-H Chute-Out competition organizers.**

**Barrel Results: Top 20**

- 9th – Jessica Rowland, Garland County
- 10th – Lacey Lively, Grant County
- 11th – Walker Davis, Ashley County
- 15th – Justice Pullin, Ashley County
- 16th – Bailee Ory, Benton County

**Pole Bending Results: Top 20**

- 2nd – Jessica Rowland, Garland County
- 12th – Lacey Lively, Grant County
- 14th – Taylor Rainbolt, Ashley County
- 17th – Colt Smith, Hempstead County
- 19th – Katelyn Danzy, Pope County
- 20th – Karadie Ory, Benton County

**Breakaway Results: Top 20**

- 13th – Britt Driggers, Garland County
- 15th – Dawson Ghormley, Hempstead County
- 18th – Myles Neighbors, Saline County
- 19th – Ashley Newcomb, Garland County

**Team Roping Results: Top 20**

- 1st – Britt Driggers, Garland County
- 5th – Brody Smith, Sevier County
- 6th – Dawson Ghormley, Hempstead County
- 8th – Ashley Newcomb, Garland County

**Razorback Stallion Service Auction**

Mark Russell, Assistant Professor - Equine

Coming this January 1-15, the Razorback Stallion Service Auction will take place online and will assist the Arkansas 4-H Horse Program as well as the University of Arkansas Horse Judging Team. We have a variety of cutter, working cow, halter and pleasure stallions. These breedings will be available for 2015.

For the 4-H Horse Program, proceeds go primarily to fund:

- Scholarships
- Internships
- Learning opportunities such as camps, workshops
- National travel to various competitions
- Equipment for activities
- Books and other learning tools for 4-H Horse Clubs in Arkansas

For the U of A Horse Judging Team, proceeds go primarily to fund:

- Travel costs associated with judging competitions
- Registration fees
- Scholarships

**Cutting/Cow Type Horses**

1. HIGH BROW CD, Grace Ranch, Chris and Staci Thibodeaux
2. SPOTS HOT, Sunrise Ranch
3. FANTASTIC CAT, Karhan Ranch
4. LOTTASHINEYCASH, Double J Ranch
5. MONARCAT, EE Ranches
6. LAKER DOC, EE Ranches
7. NEAT LITTLE CAT, Jim and Judy Spaulding
8. STYLISH REY GAY, Nelle Murphy



9. HYDRIVE CAT, SDP Buffalo Ranch
10. TR DUAL REY, SDP Buffalo Ranch
11. HOLD THAT COW, Tracy and Julie Leonard



12. DUAL R SMOKIN, J Five Ranch
13. TRAVELIN JONEZ, Chris Dawson
14. MANDALAY REY, Vick Etheridge
15. MISSISSIPPI CAT, Vick Etheridge
16. LENA PEPTOLENA, Beechfork Ranch
17. BAMA CAT, The Bama Cat Syndicate
18. ROCKIN W, Rockin W Ranch

**Western Pleasure Horses**

19. DOUBLE UP INVESTMENT, Jeff Burley
20. SL ALLIANCE, Marilyn Akire
21. A DREAM REMEMBERED, Pearson Family
22. CERTAIN POTENTIAL, Darol Rodrock

**Halter Horses**

23. ENQUEST, Double J Ranch
24. PLAYGIRLS RC RENEGADE, Jerry Wright

4-H Horse Program activities are designed to teach youth leadership, responsibility, pride, respect, initiative and self-reliance. The 4-H Horse Program provides dedicated, hard-working youth with an opportunity to learn the

tools to enhance horse ownership. Participants in youth programs develop skills in communication, decision-making, problem solving, self-discipline, self-motivation, teamwork and organization. All of these have proven to be important factors to the participants in career preparation.

A University Judging Team offers students a rare opportunity to receive a head start into the horse industry before leaving college. Students gain knowledge in areas such as evaluating, decision making, communicating and teamwork among other benefits. These students receive a “leg up” on the competition when seeking employment in the equine industry. Team members also develop contacts while on judging trips to the AQHA World Show, AQHA Congress, NCHA Triple Crown Events and the NRHA

Futurity, along with other regional judging contests. These contacts will be a valuable resource as they continue their endeavors after college.

We hope that this auction will continue for many years and become a tradition in Arkansas. A big thanks needs to go to Lewis Wray and Chad Vanlandingham for their help in getting quality stallions for the auction.

You can visit [www.arkansasstallionauction.com](http://www.arkansasstallionauction.com). To keep up with the latest information, like our Facebook page: “Razorback Stallion Service Auction.” For specific questions, contact Mark Russell, 501-590-5748 or [mrrussell@uaex.edu](mailto:mrrussell@uaex.edu).

## 2015 DATES AND LOCATIONS

### DISTRICT SHOWS

- SW District Show: May 29 at Saline County Fairgrounds
- Ozark NW District Show: June 6 at Pauline Whitaker Arena in Fayetteville
- Delta District Show: June 16 at White County Fairgrounds
- Ozark Central District Show: June 23 at White County Fairgrounds

### STATE SHOWS AND SOUTHERN REGIONALS:

- State Roping: May 30 at Saline County Fairgrounds
- State Horse Show: July 14-17 at White County Fairgrounds.
- Southern Regional Horse Show: July 28 - August 1 in Perry, Georgia

To learn more about Extension Horse Programs, visit <http://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/animals-forages/horses/> or [www.arkansas-livestock.com](http://www.arkansas-livestock.com).