

HORSE BITS

EQUINE NEWS FOR WHARTON COUNTY & BEYOND



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023



FALL HORSE SEASON IN SOUTHEAST TEXAS

WRITTEN BY JILLIAN LAITKEP

After surviving one of the hottest summers on record in our area, we have made it to September. We will soon get a break from the scorching heat that put all of us and our horses into an idol state of being. Our area of Texas is currently facing yet another severe drought and our pastures show proof of this. Early fall is the proper time to start planning for winter. What state is your pasture in? How much hay do you have on hand? What is the body condition of your horses? All of these are great questions that should be addressed well before the first frost sets in.

Mid-October is the recommended time of year to plant rye grass in our area. Gulf and Jumbo are two varieties that are widely available and perform well. Rye is easy to plant and has a great germination rate. Fertilizer is highly recommended as soon as the seeds sprout and will improve the quality and the success rate of the grass.

(continued)

WELCOME TO HORSE BITS!

Hey there! I am Jillian Laitkep, the creator and writer of *Horse Bits Newsletter*. I am a Texas 4-H Equine Ambassador, a member of Texas High School Rodeo Association and of several local playday associations. In addition to competing in the arena, I also participate in other 4-H Horse Project contests at various levels.

Horse Bits Newsletter was created to connect, inspire and inform the horse community in southeast Texas. Whether you are a equine athlete, a pleasure rider, or even just a horse lover, I hope you find *Horse Bits* beneficial and joyful to read.



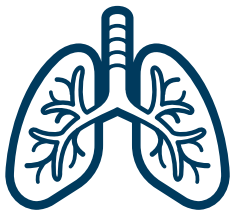
Another important consideration for the upcoming winter season is purchasing hay. Bermuda type is common in our area and alfalfa is another favorite of many horse owners. Both types provide adequate protein. It is important to plan out how much you will need for the winter. Remember that it is recommended that horses eat 10% of their body weight in forage per day. For an average 1000 lb. horse, this is 10 lb. of forage. It is a great idea to get an average bale weight to determine the quantity of hay you will need. Be sure to find a reliable source or retail store to purchase hay from.

Feeding multiple horses through the winter is not necessarily a "one size fits all" task. Each horse may very well have different needs when it comes to feeding. Senior horses may require different feeding throughout the colder months to maintain a healthy body condition. Pay attention to each horse that you own and feed them according to their particular needs.

Having a healthy pasture, an adequate supply of good quality hay, and taking each horses' needs into consideration will ensure that no matter what type of winter we have this year, each horse that you own will stay healthy and thriving until the lush spring grasses begin to grow. By the way, the 2024 Farmer's Almanac is predicting an unseasonably cold and stormy winter for Texas.

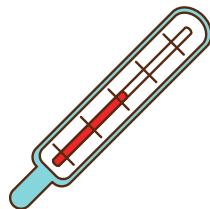
DO YOU KNOW YOUR HORSE'S VITAL SIGNS?

Normal Resting Adult
HR = 28-40 beats per
minute



Normal Resting Respirations
8-16 breaths per minute

Average normal temperature
range is 99.5° F to 101.5° F



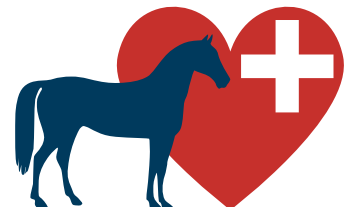
A normal capillary refill
time should range from 3-5
seconds.

ASK THE VET

Dr. Randy Volkmer
Bay City Vet Clinic-Bay City, TX

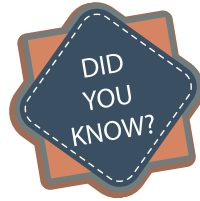
Recently I've heard that deworming your horse too often can cause worms to become resistant to the medication. Is there any truth to this, and how often should owners in our part of Texas be deworming their horses?

"Deworming when not necessary can lead to parasites developing resistance to medications over time. Routinely horse owners should have an intestinal parasite screening done at least once a year. Therefore, you are using deworming medications strategically and not indiscriminately. Based on the results of the parasite screening along with environmental conditions and husbandry, horses may need deworming frequently every 6-8 weeks or just annually. These factors should be used to determine the frequency and type of product to be used."



TACK TIPS

Your saddle is perhaps your largest tack investment. Properly taken care of, it can last a lifetime. It is recommended that saddles be oiled and conditioned twice a year. Wait for a hot, sunny day and set your saddle out in the sun for a while to help soften the leather. Oil your saddle first- oil cleans the leather. Let the oil soak in, then follow with a leather conditioner.



According to the National Horse Council the United States is home to 7.2 million horses. State by state—you guessed it—Texas reigns in at number one for the number of horses with 767,100. California takes second with 534,500 and Florida rounds out third with 387,100 horses. It's true, everything is bigger and better in Texas.

One of the first rodeos on record was the West of the Pecos Rodeo held in Pecos, Texas on July 4, 1883.

EVENT CALENDAR



Hallettsville Playday Association 2023/2024 Series

Sept. 9, Oct. 21, Nov. 11, Dec. 2, Jan. 6 & Feb. 10
Wilbur Baber Mem. Complex- Lavaca Expo Center
www.hallettsvilleplayday.com

Tejas Ranch Horse Show Association

Wharton County Fairgrounds
Sept. 16, Oct. 14 & Dec. 3
www.tejasranch.org

Rogue Rodeo Productions 2023 Fall Series

O.D. Tucker Arena-Fort Bend County Fairgrounds
Oct. 15 & 29, Nov. 5, 12, & 19, Dec. 3
www.roguerodeoproductions.com

Lucky Rose Rodeo Assoc. Winter Series

Wharton County Fairgrounds
January 13, 20, 27 and February 3

WCYF Horse Progress show and entry deadline

Jan 28 / 9:00 AM
Wharton County Fairgrounds
www.whartoncountyyouthfair.org



HORSE SOURCE



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Vet



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