When feed is inexpensive, we barely give the cost issue a second thought. However, federal farm policy and a historic drought converged to create significant price increases in feed costs for horse owners. Finding suitable & affordable feed was and continues to be a challenge.

This educational series will help owners understand equine requirements for energy, protein and other nutrients. Evaluate horse feeds based upon their nutritional value and help decide whether that hay you purchased was really a good deal, and share ideas with one another for reducing the cost of feeding our steeds.

All sessions will be from 6:30—8:30 p.m. at the Iowa County Extension Office, 303 W. Chapel Street in Dodgeville.

Feb 4 - Life Stage Horse Nutrition – Liv Sandberg, Wisconsin State Equine Specialist

Read any good feed tags lately? Horse nutrition can be a confusing topic. Every company has a better silver bullet to improve your horse health and performance. What does the label tell you and how do you compare feeds? What feeds do your horses need - lactating mares, growing foals, working horses, stallions - do they all need the same type and amount of feed? Separating the hype from the facts on horse nutrition.

Feb 25 — Why Hay Prices Are So High:
Gene Schriefer, Iowa County Ag Agent

Forage Testing and Understanding the Results – Gene & Liv

Not all hay is created equal. Hay from Seller A offering premium alfalfa at $5/bale, Seller B has grass hay at $200/ton. Which is better? Several laboratories in Wisconsin can analyze your forage and tell you exactly what your horse is getting and allow you to make better feeding decision.

Hay Is for Horses –

If we are in a position to have a larger land base, we can make our own hay and maybe sell it to other horse owners. What should we make and do we really need equipment?

Mar 4 - Managing Pastures for Horses – Rhonda Gildersleeve, PhD.

Pasture, and allowing your horse to graze part of the year is your single cheapest way to feed your animals. Learning how to manage your pasture to grow more grass will reduce your feed bill and your annual cost of ownership.

Plants Toxic to Horses – Gene Schriefer

Some plants contain anti-quality factors that may make them toxic in certain amounts. Which plants grow here in Wisconsin and do we need to be aware of when we turn horses out? How much is toxic a dose?
Wisconsin Horse Industry
Horse owners in Wisconsin spend about $800 million dollars per year having a direct impact on rural economies.

A 2008 UW-River Falls survey of horse owners revealed that the average owner spent $2100/horse on feed and board. This represents roughly 50% of the annual ownership costs.

Presenters

Liv Sandberg is the University of Wisconsin—Extension Equine Specialist. She earned a B. S. in Animal Sciences from Montana State University with an emphasis in Equine and Beef Management, A M.S. from Iowa State University (ISU), in Animal Science - Nutritional Physiology, with an emphasis in Equine Exercise Physiology. Liv taught at North Carolina State University and was also the head of NCSU's Equine Educational Unit.

Gene Schriefer, Iowa County UW-Extension Ag Agent. Gene was raised showing and training Arabian horses in New Jersey and competing in endurance trail rides. He previously worked as a regional Grazing Specialist. Gene earned both B.S. and M.S. from Purdue University in Agriculture Education and Farm Management.

Rhonda Gildersleeve, UW-Extension Grazing Specialist has worked with producers in California and Wisconsin on the use of grazing-based production systems for livestock. A native of Grant County, Wisconsin, Rhonda earned her M.S. (University of Florida) and Ph.D. (Texas A&M University) degrees in the areas of pasture and rangeland management/utilization. An avid horsewoman, Rhonda moved her equine from California to Fennimore.

Registration - due January 31st

Name __________________________________________
Address _________________________________________
Phone _____________ E-mail ________________________
Number of Horses _____ Years as a Horse Owner _________

Registration—$30 Make Checks Payable to: UWEX, 303 W. Chapel Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533 (608)930-9850