Program Objectives

Nothing is more important in maintaining the health and productivity of a horse than proper nutrition. Horses are unique with regards to their nutritional requirements, because the demands placed on them are so varied. Age, reproductive status and their type of athletic performance, all play a part in making feeding decisions. Horses evolved over time to eating for 12-18 hours a day, in small frequent meals. Modern management practices of prolonged confinement and the feeding of infrequent large meals, predispose to development of problems, including bouts of colic.

Horses are now living longer, with the number of animals between 20 and 30 years of age in the total population, having increased dramatically in recent years. Improved health care and nutrition, together with a willingness of owners to maintain older animals may account for this increase. These “senior citizens” are prone to a number of disease conditions that require special care and nutrition.

An understanding of body condition scoring is a good way to determine the energy needs of an animal, whether it be an adult or foal. Evaluation of different types of hay will provide an indication of its nutritional value, enabling you to match it to the needs of your horse. We will discuss normal plants that may be found in pasture and hays, and highlight toxic plants to beware of.

The afternoon session will focus on the two most common hormone related conditions, Cushing's Disease, a disease of the older horse and Equine Metabolic Syndrome / Insulin Resistance. What are they, and how do you manage their feeding? While we are often focused on correct feeding practices for the “easy keeper”, unfortunately there are a number of animals in the state that are starved, with some that have to be removed from their owners by enforcement agencies. You will learn how this is done, and how challenging it can be to feed these animals back to health.

The goal of this program is to provide insight on the nutritional needs of your horse.

Program Agenda

Morning Sessions

8:50 Introductions (M. Livesey)
9:00 Body Weight & Body Condition Scoring (L. Sandberg)
10:00 Hay & Matching to Your Horse’s Needs with Examples & Problems Associated with Feeding (C. Sandmire)
11:00 Break
11:20 Recognizing the Normal Plants in Hay & Pasture (M. Renz)
11:50 Q & A for Morning Talks
12:20 Lunch Break (a sandwich vendor will be on site).

Afternoon Sessions

1:30 The Laws About Horse Neglect & the Laws for Removing Horses from Unhealthy Living Environments (T. Meinholz)
- Including a video of working with blind horses
2:15 Cushing’s Disease & Equine Metabolic Syndrome (S. Jacob)
- How to Feed the Horse that has been Neglected/Stared
- Feeding the Cushingoid Horse
3:30 Break
3:45 Panel Discussion and Q & A
4:15 Adjourn

Silent Auction...

The Student Chapter of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (SCAAEP aka Equine Club) holds an annual silent auction during the Seminar for the Serious Horse Owner. This is the club’s largest fund raiser of the year. All of the items are donated and the club members volunteer their time to run the auction.

With the funds that are raised, the club is able to provide small scholarships for students to attend meetings and educational activities. Proceeds from the auction also help pay for speakers and labs to provide more opportunities for students interested in equine medicine.

They are a large, very active club and greatly appreciate all the financial support they receive. Some items you may find at the silent auction are: Stained glass; hand-crafted wooden bowls; jumps, helmets; boots; jewelry; books; pet food; toys; videos; gift certificates; tack; and much more!

Bid high and bid often!!
Mark Renz, PhD
Assistant Professor
Extension Weed Specialist
University of Wisconsin - Madison

Mark Renz (PhD) is an assistant professor and extension weed specialist with the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Renz researches and extends information about the biology and management of weeds in perennial cropping systems and natural areas. Mark is originally from California, where he completed his bachelor's degree and PhD at the University of California Davis. Mark has over 15 years of experience conducting weed management research throughout the United States, and has enjoyed the last six years working in Wisconsin.

J. Liv Sandberg
WI State Equine Extension Specialist
UW Madison

Liv Sandberg has been an Extension/teaching faculty member in the Department of Animal Sciences at UW Madison for the past 10 years. She serves both youth and adult equine organizations and clients across the state, developing and delivering educational programs and events as well as providing information and research resource information to county agents and individuals. She also teaches equine courses and advises undergraduate students in the Department of Animal Sciences on campus. Prior to UW Madison, Liv received a MS degree from Iowa State University in Nutritional Physiology. While at ISU, she taught undergraduate courses and worked with 4-H horse programs. Following ISU, she was on staff at NCSU for five years where she taught equine courses and managed the equine teaching farm.

Craig Sandmire
Equine Nutrition Specialist
Doctors Choice Supplements
Prairie du Sac, WI

Craig attended the University of Wisconsin - River Falls where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Science Horse Concentration. Since college, Craig has been involved in all aspects of the feed industry. In 1999, Craig joined Doctors Choice Supplements in the role of Equine Nutrition Specialist. Craig and his family enjoy raising and showing Quarter Horses.