



July, 2008

Welcome

I would like to welcome you to the first in a series of bi-monthly equine newsletters. My name is Cleve Weisgerber and I am going to have the privilege of being an area equine agent. My territory will be the central part of the state. This is an expanded effort by the LSU Ag Center to further service the equine clientele throughout the state. The purpose of this program will be: to conduct programs such as the master horseman program, which is designed to educate adults in many facets of the horse industry and develop leaders to assist with equine programs; assist agents in developing local horse clubs; develop programs for the 4-H program such as clinics and youth camps; provide educational material such as this newsletter; work closely with statewide equine organizations and committees; and provide help for producers and horse owners when questions arise.

For more information about the program you can contact your local LSU Ag Center extension agent or me at cweisgerber.agctr.lsu.edu.

New Equine Insurance Available

Due to the efforts of the Louisiana Equine Council, Farm Bureau Insurance Company has introduced new insurance coverage for horse owners and associations.

Your local Farm Bureau Insurance agent has access to an insurance market that specializes in equine coverage.

Some of the coverage's available include:

- ✓ Personal horse owners liability (non – commercial activities)

- ✓ Commercial equine liability, including riding instruction and training, boarding, breeding, and sales
- ✓ Limits up to \$1,000,000/\$2,000,000
- ✓ Mortality Insurance (full mortality covers death due to any cause not specifically excluded and named perils)
- ✓ Independent horse shows and events
- ✓ Care, custody, or control liability, for: boarding and instruction facilities; breeding and training facilities; club associations, clinics and shows
- ✓ Riding clubs and associations

The insurance is not provided by Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company, Louisiana Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance Company, or Southern Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance Company. Farm Bureau agents are permitted to place coverage with another authorized or licensed insurer by using the brokerage facility, Louisiana Brokerage Outlet, Inc.

For more information about this insurance, contact your local Farm Bureau Insurance agent.

New Equine Associations formed

Within the last two years, two new equine associations have been formed in Louisiana.

These are the Louisiana Stock Horse Association (LaSH) and the Louisiana Equine Council (LEC).

With the assistance of the LSU Ag Center, the **Louisiana Stock Horse Association** was formed in March of 2006. It is similar to the Stock Horse of Texas (SHOT) organization. The purpose of LaSH is to provide an avenue for western horse enthusiasts to learn, progress and be able to measure their improvements by competing in events against other contestants with similar

interests. The LaSH philosophy of “riding a better horse” is the foundation of all our educational programs as well as the competitions. LaSH founders were intent on keeping competitions fun, yet challenging and educational. Camaraderie among the contestants and the desire to learn more about how to improve themselves and their horse’s performance is the premise for all LaSH competitive events.

The ideal Western Stock or Ranch Horse must be proficient in many areas of everyday ranch work and to be a true all – around horse. The LaSH program is directed to this type of horse – a “broke, competitive horse”.

LaSH competitions are divided into five divisions:

- Open – professional
- Cowboy – non pro
- Novice
- Jr. Horse – anyone riding a horse five years or younger
- 14 and under youth – as of the day of the first scheduled event

There are four standard events at every competition: Stock Horse Pleasure; Ranch Trail; LaSh Stock Horse Versatility; and Ranch Cutting. During the 2006 – 2007 year, LaSH had over 133 members and breeds competing ranged from Quarter Horses, Arabians, Paints, Missouri Fox Trotters, and Mules.

There are ten competitions each year with very nice end of the year awards given after the completion of the year.

LaSH is growing beyond all expectations. For more information, contact Mrs. Judy Weisgerber, 287 Hickman Rd., Leesville, LA 71446 or jweisger@bellsouth.net.

The **Louisiana Equine Council (LEC)** is an organization established to create a unified voice for all breeds and disciplines, to address industry issues, and to provide for the growth and development of the entire Louisiana equine industry.

The LEC's main objective is to protect the Louisiana horse population and the interests of the state's horse industry. This will be

accomplished through committees of LEC such as: Education/Youth, Horse Welfare, Trails and Public Riding Areas, Legislative, Equine Assisted Riding and others. The LEC also organizes and host an annual horse fair/expo showcasing the horses and horse industry of Louisiana.

Additionally, there are plans for seminars, clinics and other interactive events. The 2nd Annual Horse Expo was held on March 8-9, 2008 at the Lamar Dixon Expo Center. The Expo was designed to bring awareness to the equine industry of Louisiana and the many different breeds and disciplines represented in this great state.

For more information concerning LEC, contact:

Daniel Lyons, President
lyonsdairy@charter.net

John Boudreaux, Vice President
District 5 Representative
agnesplantation@bellsouth.net

Howard Cormier, Secretary
hcormier@agctr.lsu.edu

Pelletizing Feeds

Pelletizing of feeds is a concept that has been around for many years, but it is not something that is taken advantage of by all equine consumers. There are many advantages to feeding pelleted feeds:

- Pelleted feeds are less bulky, they are easier to store and handle
- They have a longer shelf life due to the lack of moisture and a much smaller amount of molasses than the average sweet feed
- Usually will have less waste of feed (elimination of waste, will allow you to feed less to your horse and get the same results)
- Eliminates dustiness of feeds
- More accurate when measuring the amount of feed to be fed (horses should be fed by weight and not by volume)

because different grains weigh different amounts)

- Pelleted feeds are cheaper than all grains
- Some pelleted feeds contain a high percentage of fiber which may allow the owners to feed a smaller amount of roughage.
- One half inch pellets are recommended for mature horses and one fourth inch pellets for weanlings and short yearlings (hard pellets should be avoided, if the horse can't chew them, they will spit them out).



Cleve Weisgerber
Regional Equine Agent
Central Region
LSU AgCenter

Pelleted feeds have been around for a long time and might be worth considering in your equine feeding program.

Horse Tips

- ❖ **When purchasing a horse for a young child, buy a safe, older horse that is solid broke and trained in whatever discipline in which you're are interested. "Don't believe the saying that you can buy a three year old horse so the horse and child can learn together". In this scenario, almost always neither the horse nor the child learn anything and it usually ends up with all parties including the horse becoming frustrated.**
- ❖ **When measuring the height of a horse, you should use a stick or tape and measure from the ground to the highest point of the withers.**

If you are interested in receiving this newsletter, please contact your local LSU Ag Center extension or email me at cweisgerber@agctr.lsu.edu.