
Huron River Riders

HORSEY HEADLINES

January—March 2008

Quick Tips to Help Keep Your Horse or Pony Happy & Healthy in Cold Weather

- **Adjust Feeding Programs:** As pasture quality or accessibility declines consider increasing hay and concentrates.
- **Help Horses Keep Warm:** Horses kept outside need to eat more fodder. Horses produce a lot of heat during digestion. A generous supply of hay helps keep the horse's internal furnace stoked.
- **Add Minerals:** If your feeding program does not include a mineral supplement consider adding one.
- **Have Teeth Checked:** Make sure your horse's or pony's teeth are looked after by an equine dentist. The inability to grind food properly will prevent a horse from getting all of the nutrients and energy it needs--especially if energy needs increase during colder weather.
- **Prevent Snowballs:** If snow packs into your horse's hooves try smearing the bottom with petroleum jelly.
- **If You Ride Frequently:** Drying a horse out after a workout is difficult. Consider clipping a heavy hair coat. A clipped horse, without natural insulation, will require stabling and blanketing to keep warm.
- **Add Insulation:** Consider blanketing during wet, very windy, or frigid weather. A wet coat loses its loft--like a wet down jacket, and won't hold body heat. Windy weather pulls warmth away. Some horses are comfortable during very cold weather; some will be more comfortable in a warm winter blanket.
- **Provide Shelter:** Even if your horses are stabled over night, provide them with a windbreak or shelter especially if you are away most of the day.
- **Continue Deworming:** Continue a regular deworming program throughout the winter months.
- **Don't Let Hooves Get Overgrown:** Keep you horse's hooves clipped. Clipped hooves will chip less, hold less snow, and will provide a bit more grip on slippery ground.
- **Check Under Blankets:** If your horse or pony wears a winter blanket (or rug) during the winter remove it daily and check for chaffing and irritation. Daily grooming keeps coats cleaner and your horse more comfortable if he wears a blanket.
- **Make Cleaning Frozen Water Buckets Easier:** Rubber buckets are easier to knock the ice out of if they become frozen. Plastic buckets used as water buckets can shatter when they freeze. This can create a hazard and wastes money when replacing them. Rubber buckets may cost more initially, but last longer.

Upcoming Events:

- ☉ **Thursday, January 17th**
HRR Meeting at 7pm
Iron Mike's (22900 Waltz Rd)
Corner of Waltz & S. Huron
- ☉ Saturday, January 19th
Hell Creek Ranch Tack Sale
248-521-0364
- ☉ Saturday, February 17th
Washtenaw County Tack Sale
11am-3pm @ Fair Grounds
- ☉ **Thursday, February 21st**
HRR Meeting at 7pm
Iron Mike's (22900 Waltz Rd)
Corner of Waltz & S. Huron
- ☉ March 7, 8, 9
MSU Horse Expo
www.michiganhorsecouncil.com
- ☉ **Thursday, March 20th**
HRR Meeting at 7pm
Iron Mike's (22900 Waltz Rd)
Corner of Waltz & S. Huron
- ☉ March 28, 29, 30
Mid-Michigan Horse Expo
www.michiganhorseexpo.com

JOKE OF THE MONTH

A man was driving into town, and he fell in a big ditch in the middle of the road. A farmer came up and said, "My horse Sebastian can pull you out," the man said ok and the farmer got Sebastian. When Sebastian was hooked up, the farmer said, "Pull Ranger! C'mon Benny! Lets go Delilah!!!!" Then the farmer said, "Pull Sebastian, pull!" Then the car was out of the ditch, the man said, "I have a question, why did you say the wrong name three times?"

And the farmer said, "Because Sebastian is blind, if he knew other horses weren't pulling, he wouldn't even try..."

Happy Birthday:

- ☺ Cherie Stump—January 5th
- ☺ Demetria Janus—February 24th
- ☺ Gordon Stump—February 25th
- ☺ Justin Janus—February 27th
- ☺ Alana Plock—March 22nd
- ☺ Terry Sormors—March 31st
- ☺ Did we miss your birthday...please let us know!

Check out our website:
www.huronriverriders.org

Happy Birthday:

- ☺ Galaxy—February
- ☺ Nite—March
- ☺ Did we miss your birthday...please let us know!

Questions....e-mail
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