



Small Acreage Animal Husbandry



Tami Parrott, DVM

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Horses - Spring Pasture Reintroduction

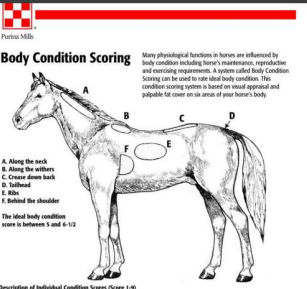
- **SLOWLY!**
 - 15 minutes/day
- **WHY?**
 - prevent sudden diet change and shock to the digestive system microbes
 - Sudden diet change → sudden gut microbial change → colic +/- laminitis

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Horses – Body Condition Scoring

- When should you consider feeding hay?
 - Pasture quality and quantity
 - Horse body condition



Body Condition Scoring Many physiological functions in horses are influenced by body condition including their's maintenance, reproductive and exercising requirements. A system called Body Condition Scoring can be used to rate a horse's body condition. The condition scoring system is based on visual appraisal and palpable fat cover on six areas of your horse's body.


The ideal body condition score is between 5 and 6-1/2

Description of Individual Condition Scores (Score 1-9)

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Horses – Vitamin E

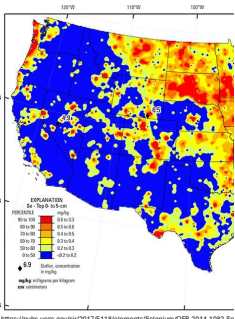
- **Vitamin E**
 - Imperative for normal cell function – especially nerve and muscle cells
 - Vitamin E – most important antioxidant
 - Produced by photosynthesis in plants → **fresh green grass** best source!



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Horses – Se Selenium

- Selenium
 - Imperative for normal cell function – especially nerve and muscle cells
 - Grass and hay content dependent on soil content
 - Hay Analysis!
 - Soil Test!
- Vitamin E + selenium = antioxidant team

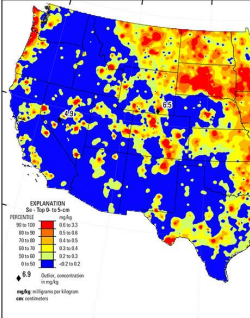


<https://yrc.usgs.gov/hor/2017/01/16/elements/Selenium/CFR-2014-1082-Se.pdf>

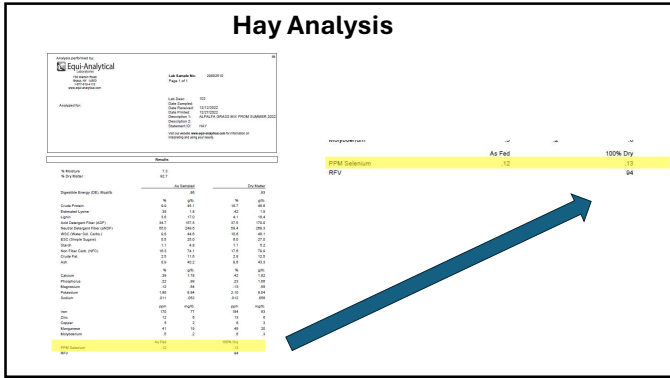
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Horses – Vitamin E and Selenium

- Why are we talking about this in a small pasture conference?
 - Do your horses graze year-round on fresh green grass?
 - Do you know the selenium content of your soil?
 - Do you know the selenium content of your hay?



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Horses – Vitamin E and Selenium Supplementation

- Vitamin E
 - Natural form, not synthetic
 - Test individual horses
 - Liquid best, powder too

- Selenium
 - **TOXICITY CAN OCCUR!**
 - Test individual horses
 - BE VERY CAREFUL AND WORK WITH VET






BLOOD TEST!

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Horses – Irrigation or Running Water? Puddles?

- Vaccination!
 - Potomac Horse Fever (PHF)
 - West Nile Virus (WNV)
 - Eastern and Western Encephalitis Virus (EEE/WEE)
 - “Sleeping Sickness”






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Sheep and Goats – Parasites

- **Haemonchus contortus**
 - Barber Pole Worm
 - FAMACHA Scoring: deworm 3's and 4's
 - Overgrazing = reinfection





Bottle Jaw

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Sheep and Goats – Hoof Care

- Hoof Trimming
- Hoof Rot/Scald



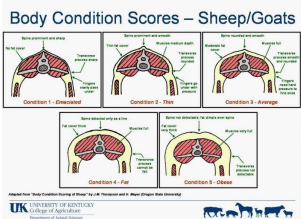




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Sheep and Goats – Body Condition

- When should you feed hay?
 - Pasture health
 - Animal BCS



Body Condition Scores – Sheep/Goats

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Sheep, Goats and Cattle– Vaccination

- Clostridium haemolyticum
 - **Liver Fluke – irrigation/creeks/fresh water**
 - Vaccination!

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Sheep, Goats and Cattle - Overgrazing

FIGURE 1 Nitrate toxicity

A buildup of nitrates in the rumen can lead to methemoglobin, a form of hemoglobin that lacks oxygen-carrying ability.

<https://www.agproud.com/articles/53991-nitrate-toxicity-in-cattle-grazing-cover-crops>

- Consuming drought stressed plants or toxic plants that they would normally not select based on palatability
 - Nitrate Toxicity
- Minimize risk through monitoring pastures and providing supplemental feed

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Cattle - Bloat

• Especially steers on a high concentrate ration for weight gain!

Signs of Bloat

- Depressed left flank
- Stops grazing
- May lick at their belly
- Reluctant to move

As Bloat Advances:

- Animal may appear depressed
- They vocalize, open their mouth,
- Stand up and lie down repeatedly
- Strain to urinate and defecate
- Exhibit rapid and open mouth breathing, grunting
- Staggering

Advanced Cases:

- The animal will go down

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Sheep, Goats and Cattle– Lambing, Kidding, Calving

- Clean birthing area!
 - Mud/Manure = increased risk of:
 - Hypothermia
 - Failure of Passive Transfer
 - Infectious disease
 - Rotavirus, Clostridial Disease, coronavirus
- Check pregnant animals frequently when close to due date
 - Help neonates get **colostrum!**



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All species – Manure Management!

- Hoof health!
 - Thrush
 - Scald
- Reduction of parasite exposure
- Reduced disease and infection
 - Salmonella, E. coli
- Pest control
 - Pink Eye in Cattle



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