What's Coming Up?

We have many events coming up that are likely to interest the horse enthusiast (youth and adult alike!), so read on to discover more about these upcoming activities and think about adding them to your calendar!

March 27th: Norma Agnew Memorial MSU Hairy Horse Show.
This event is your opportunity to participate in a warm-up show, all while receiving valuable feedback from actual judges! Space is limited and you must have a stall to participate. If you can’t bring your horse, attending as a spectator is sure to be a valuable experience as well, all of the judges use microphones to provide feedback!

April 9th: Spotlight on Speed!
Are you looking for an opportunity to get your horse out and warmed up for the season? Hoping to shave a few tenths off your best run? This “hairy horse show” is a great chance to get some coaching and feedback on technique in your gymkhana events. Space is limited and you must have a stall to participate. Again, the judges use microphones when providing feedback so spectators can share in the learning experience!

June 10th: Adult Riding Clinic
See the story on page 4 of this newsletter to learn more about this exciting event for 4-H Horse leaders!

June 17-19: State 4-H Trail Ride
Have you ever been to the State 4-H Trail Ride? Recently? If not, (or of course if you have), think about attending this year! The 2011 State 4-H Trail Ride is June 17-19. This is a fun-filled event that YOU should add to your calendar this summer! The event takes place at the beautiful Goose Creek Trail Camp in Grayling, MI.

Don’t have a horse? No worries! There are plenty of activities for non-riders. Plan on attending to meet other horse-enthusiasts, camp, and make great memories. This is a great event for the whole family to share! Camping fees and 6 meals are included with your low registration fee. Call your local county extension office for registration details. Registration deadline is Monday, May 23rd.

To learn more about ANY of these events, and many others, check out our website (www.msue.msu.edu/horsekids) for more information!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 11-13</td>
<td>AYHC Leader’s Symposium</td>
<td>Lansing, MI</td>
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<td>March 19</td>
<td>MHC Stallion Expo</td>
<td>MSU Pavilion</td>
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<td>March 27</td>
<td>South West Regional Horse Bowl Contest</td>
<td>Host—Eaton County</td>
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<td>April 16</td>
<td>Norma Agnew Memorial MSU Hairy Horse Show</td>
<td>MSU Pavilion</td>
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<td>April 24</td>
<td>4-H State Horse Jamboree</td>
<td>MSU Pavilion and Anthony Hall</td>
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<td>June 10</td>
<td>MSU Horse Farm’s Annual Arabian Horse Sale</td>
<td>MSU Horse Teaching and Research Ctr</td>
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<td>June 17-19</td>
<td>Adult Riding Clinic</td>
<td>MSU Pavilion</td>
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<td>June 22-24</td>
<td>State 4-H Trail Ride</td>
<td>Goose Creek Trail Camp, Grayling, MI</td>
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<td>4-H Exploration Days and State Awards</td>
<td>MSU Campus</td>
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**The Website with Answers**

*Have a burning equine-related question? Visit www.eXtension.org/horses and have a nationally-recognized What is eXtension?*

eXtension is an interactive learning environment delivering the best, most researched knowledge from the smartest land-grant university minds across America. eXtension connects knowledge consumers with knowledge providers - experts who know their subject matter inside out. This interactive website provides fantastic resources and a learning environment for visitors of all ages on a variety of subjects, including horses (www.eXtension.org/horses).

eXtension is unlike any other search engine or information-based website. It's a space where university content providers can gather and produce new educational and information resources on wide-ranging topics. Because it's available to students, researchers, clinicians, professors, as well as the general public, at any time from any Internet connection, eXtension helps solve real-life problems in real time.

All resources on eXtension are FREE, so get to a computer and check it out for yourself! To further stay in touch with eXtension horse community “like” their facebook page (Horses—eXtension) or follow them on Twitter (eXtensionHorses).

**What does eXtension offer?**

**Articles:** Search for an article from just about anything related to horses! From common diseases and ailments to grooming do’s and don'ts you can find more information on just about any area of equine-interest you might have!

**Answers:** Didn’t find the answer to your question by searching the “Articles” or even “Frequently Asked Questions” sections? Feel free to ask your specific question and a Nationally-recognized equine expert will answer your question directly!

**Learning Lessons:** These self-guided lessons provide the opportunity for more in-depth learning on a specific topic. Topic areas range greatly from “How to Body Condition Score Horses” to “Understanding Bits for Horses”.

**Calendar:** Visit the calendar to see what horse events are coming up in your area and around the nation.

**eTips Newsletter:** Subscribe to this monthly email newsletter to receive even more useful eXtension information!

**YouTube Channel:** Visit the eXtension—Horses YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/exhorses) and browse the selection of informational videos! Click HERE to go to the YouTube Channel.
Common Springtime Woes

Most of us are very excited to see the days getting longer and the temperatures getting higher, but of course with all good things, there can be a downside to Spring. Read on to discover more about a few Springtime equine issues that many of us may encounter.

Shedding is something that all Michigan horse owners will likely be quite familiar with in the coming months! So, how do you go about helping your horse shed out his Winter coat? It’s important to recognize what causes your horse to shed its Winter coat. Not only the warmer temperatures, but even more importantly, the increase length of day is signaling our horses’ bodies to release all of that hair! If you’re feeling antsy, you can help your horse shed faster by adding light at night to give a total light exposure of 14 to 16 hours out of 24 hours. Using artificial light to help a horse shed will not occur overnight. It will take a month or longer to initiate shedding of the hair coat. Additionally, this light doesn’t have to be extremely bright, just enough to read a newspaper comfortably.

Conditioning yourself and your horse is likely to become a high priority in the coming months. For those of us who haven’t been able to keep ourselves or our equine friends in tip top shape this Winter, planning an effective conditioning regimen is crucial. Pace yourself is some of the best advice that I’ve been given regarding getting back into the saddle. Remember that you and your horse need to build your strength and endurance over time, not overnight. Click HERE for several articles on “Conditioning Horses for Performance”.

Thrush is the destruction of the frog by anaerobic bacteria. This infection is usually black and strong smelling. If the thrush infection is severe enough, it may penetrate the sensitive structure in the hoof and form an abscess. Thrush is an anaerobic bacteria that is not contagious. The best control for thrush is proper sanitation. Be sure that the horse’s hooves are cleaned daily and that the stall is cleaned daily with removal of wet spots and manure. If the horse is kept in a run-in shed, the area should be cleaned weekly to help minimize the buildup of organic matter. Proper sanitation can help prevent this common issue. Copper Tox and Thrushbuster can work well for treating thrush. Click HERE to watch a video on identifying and treating thrush in horses.

Colic and Laminitis are common ailments year-round for our equine friends, however the Springtime weather can bring new challenges to the fight against these serious problems. It is important to remember that as the weather changes, our pastures are also changing. Be sure to transition your horses slowly onto this new, green pasture and allow their diet to adapt as you let them munch on the yummy green stuff! Click HERE to read an article on “The Role of Nutrition in Horse Colic and Laminitis”.


The Michigan Equine News website and an electronic newsletter for Michigan equine enthusiasts! Visit the “Michigan Equine News” on facebook, “like” it and be sure to sign up your email address to receive the first edition of this e-newsletter coming soon! While visiting the facebook page, share what you’d like to see included on the site or read in the newsletter. This community is designed for Michigan equine enthusiasts to engage in discussions, share ideas, and learn the latest news impacting the equine industry.
As a junior at Michigan State University, I look back and realize the integral part my 4-H experience has played in my life. Starting as a Young Clover in 1995 and staying active through 2009 I participated in Non-livestock, Horse, and Poultry project areas. These three projects have taught me Leadership, Self-Confidence, Respect, Patience, Work ethic and Responsibility and countless other valuable lessons.

4-H taught me to take responsibility as I cared for my animals, preparing them for the show ring.

One of the most important skills I learned in 4-H was leadership. 4-H allowed me to serve as a Teen Leader and to hold multiple officer positions. Through the leadership positions I was able to work with younger members teaching them about Showmanship and their desired species either horses or poultry. I was also able to develop my communication skills while working with the executive committee, giving officer reports, and leading club meetings; skills that helped prepare me to take on leadership roles as Treasure-Elect in MSU’s Block and Bridle club and to be a member of the 2010 National Championship MSU Horse Judging Team.

Finally, 4-H has taught me to have a strong work ethic. 4-H has proven to me time and time again that anything is possible when I put my mind to it and work hard. This was proven in my final year of showing when I won Senior Horse Showmanship and was able to show in our Show of Champions and go onto be the first person from the Horse species in my county to win Show of Champions. Winning this was a dream of mine through my whole 4-H career.

4-H has laid a strong foundation for me as I finish up my Bachelors degree and continue on with my career. As an Animal Science/pre-vet major at Michigan State University, I know that I want my career to involve caring for and making a positive impact in the lives of animals. I also know that, like those who were role models for me, I want to be a leader and role model for our youth, as they are our nation’s future.

The Details of Dressage: Adult Riding Clinic—June 10th

MSU Extension will provide a one-day riding session for adults (18 years and over) who are working with youth and horses, Friday June 10, 2011. The clinic is limited to 15 horses/rider and open to all auditors.

This year’s clinic will focus on the basics of the increasingly popular dressage classes. Many of the themes covered will prove useful in many other riding disciplines.

The objectives of the clinic are:
1. Promoting safe teaching and handling techniques to adults working with youth.
2. Develop progressive horsemanship skills and knowledge for coaches and leaders, regardless of discipline or activity.

Benefits of participation: Clinic participants will learn the basics of a progressive training system that will benefit any horse and rider, at any skill level. Instructors will consist of faculty, staff and partners of the MSU Department of Animal Science. Certificates of completion will be awarded to all participants (riders and auditors).

Cost: The costs are $100 for each horse/rider and $40 for auditors. Registration includes box lunch and break, and a clinic proceeding.

For more details visit our website (www.msue.msu.edu/horsekids) for more information as the date approaches.
Tips for Responsible Trail Riding
(adapted from www.treadlightly.org)

**Travel Responsibly**
- Stay on designated roads, trails, and other areas open to horses.
- Ride single file to reduce trail damage. Spread out in open country where there are no trails. Spreading out, rather than following each other’s footsteps, disperses impact and avoids creating a new trail.
- Comply with all signs and respect barriers.
- Riders should match their skill level to the temperament and ability of the horse they ride.
- At trailheads or staging areas, park vehicles and secure horses in a manner that provides a safe distance between the horses and passing traffic.
- Less experienced horses and riders should ride behind more “trail-wise” horses and riders.

**Respect the Rights of Others**
- Be considerate of others on the road or trail.
- Be prepared to let other trail enthusiasts know what needs to be done to keep you, the horse, and other passersby safe when you meet on the trail.
- Be alert and aware of the presence of other trail enthusiasts. If possible, pull to the side of the trail when you hear oncoming off-highway vehicles or bicycles.
- Leave gates as you find them. If crossing private property, be sure to ask permission from the landowner(s).
- Do not disturb historical, archeological, or paleontological sites.

**Educate Yourself**
- Avoid “spooking” livestock and wildlife you encounter and keep your distance.
- Water animals in areas where stream banks and water access can withstand hard use and are downstream from campsites.
- Obtain a map of your destination and determine which areas are open to your type of pack animals.
- Make a realistic plan and stick to it. Always tell someone of your travel plans.
- Contact the land manager for area restrictions, closures, and permit requirements.
- Check the weather forecast for your destination. Plan clothing, equipment, and supplies accordingly.
- Carry a compass or a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit and know how to use it.
- Carry water and emergency supplies even on short trips.
- Keep groups small and carry lightweight gear to reduce the number of animals needed.
- Pre-plan camp locations that provide plenty of room and the proper environment for confining animals.
- Take responsibility for your horse’s education. Introduce it to vehicles and situations it may encounter on shared trails.

**Do Your Part**
- Pack out what you pack in. Carry a trash bag and pick up litter left by others.
- Practice minimum impact camping by using established sites and camping 200 feet from water resources and trails.
- When selecting a campsite, first consider your horses; the site should accommodate them without damaging the area.
- When breaking camp, remove or scatter manure, remove excess hay and straw, and fill areas dug up by animal hooves.
- Observe proper sanitary waste disposal or pack your waste out.
- Bring pellets, grain, or weed-free hay to areas where feed is limited or grazing is not allowed. This helps reduce the spread of invasive species.
- Wash your gear and support vehicle and check your animal before and after every ride to avoid the spread of invasive species.
- Build a trail community. Get to know other types of recreationists that share your favorite trail.
Want to see YOUR picture in this Newsletter??

Help make this newsletter more interactive! Send me a picture of you and your equine friend with a description of why you should be our featured 4-H Youth Spotlight! After all, this newsletter is for YOU! We want to include our readers in the fun!

Are you or your club doing something exciting that you want to share with the rest of the Michigan 4-H world? Do you know of a special 4-Her or 4-H leader that deserves a little time in the spotlight? Well, I want to hear about it!

Email me your latest and greatest news and it could appear in the next issue of the Michigan Youth Horseman Newsletter! Michigan 4-H youth are doing great things all the time, and these things should be shared! Let me know if you had a successful fundraiser, a great community service project, tried something new or even accomplished a difficult goal, I want to hear from YOU!

To share your stories or pictures email me at tenlenta@msu.edu or mail your stories to Taylor Fabus at 1287 Anthony Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824. Be sure to include pictures if you can!

Coming soon >>>

In The Next Issue

Scrapbooking 101
Horse Showing on a Budget
What’s Coming Up
Calendar of Events
And MORE!!