What’s Coming Up?

We have many events coming up that are likely to interest every horse enthusiast. Read on to discover more about these activities and think about adding them to your calendar!

July 17-19: Ag Expo

This year, MSU’s Ag Expo will bring the latest technology in agriculture production, current research findings from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources faculty and a full schedule of demonstrations and educational sessions to help you manage your farms and businesses at their best. Across the expo grounds, you can meet with more than 200 exhibitors to learn more about products and services that help Michigan agriculture producers continue to succeed. It’s your opportunity to check out the latest models of tractors, sprayers and dairy equipment or compare seed and fertilizer varieties. You can sit in on more than 50 educational sessions about everything from rotational grazing and energy audits to hoop houses and social media. Demonstrations on tillage, mortality composting, sprayer calibration, cattle handling and equine management are available too. Or take a minute to test-drive what could be your next large frame tractor or skid steer!

Think about visiting the Ag Expo this year! Check out this website for more information: http://www.agexpo.msu.edu/

August 17-19: MI 4-H State Horse Show

Over 550 youth from the four corners of Michigan will be travelling to East Lansing, MI to participate in the 2012 State 4-H Horse Show! This annual, 3-day event brings together youth from counties across the state. Members are selected by their county 4-H programs to participate in the show. Competing at the show and being able to represent their county is an honor for the youth involved!

A unique aspect of the State 4-H Horse Show is that it is almost completely run by volunteers! Without their help, and the support of the many sponsors and commercial vendors, the event could not be as successful as it is.

Please plan to stop by the MSU Pavilion to visit this event (which is FREE to spectators). There will be plenty of great opportunities to watch Michigan 4-H youth demonstrate their skills with their equine partners! Of course, the shopping is great too!

December 16-18: Teen 4-H Horse Leaders’ Conference

This workshop takes place at the beautiful Kettunen Center in Tustin, MI. The conference is designed for teen horse leaders who are involved with their county 4-H Horse Programs. This year’s conference will focus on a variety of exciting topics. The agenda includes; ice breakers, meet & greets, a judges’ roundtable, a veterinary update, and so much MORE!!

This conference proves to be a great opportunity to build leadership skills while meeting 4-H horse leaders from throughout Michigan! Attendees are encouraged to share the information and experiences gained at this conference with fellow leaders in their counties.

To learn more about ANY of these events, and many others, check out our website (http://www.ans.msu.edu/ans/youth_extension_programs) for more information!
### Calendar of Events

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<td>November 2-4</td>
<td>National 4-H Horse Bowl, Judging, Hippology and Public Speaking Contests</td>
<td>Eastern National 4-H Roundup (Louisville, KY)</td>
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### Did You Know??

Ivermectin and other equine medications can have deadly consequences for some popular dog breeds!

An active ingredient in many equine deworming products (ivermectin) can have potentially deadly side effects if ingested by common dog breeds with MDR 1 Mutations.

Do you have horses and a Corgi, Border Collie, Australian Shepherd or other herding-type dog? In a recent edition of *Equus Magazine* an article discusses the potential effects of dogs accidentally ingesting a equine deworming ingredient, ivermectin. As you may already know, ivermectin is an active ingredient in several popular equine deworming products, but is this the first you’ve heard of this potentially deadly combination? Be sure to check the medication’s label to review the active ingredients. In this article, Dr. Deb Eldredge describes the effects of ivermectin toxicity on a Border Collie who luckily only experienced temporary side effects. Another case describes an Australian Shepherd who was not so lucky. Ingesting only dribbles from a horse’s dose or even the feces of a recently dewormed horse can cause this ivermectin toxicity. Although this medication can be very useful in equine parasite control it may require some additional steps to ensure the safety of all animals on the farm. Not all breeds of dogs are effected the same, only dogs with a MDR 1 Mutation experience these side effects. Dog breeds with MDR Mutations. Furthermore, this isn’t the only medication that can negatively affect these breeds of dogs. Common equine medications such as acepromazine and butorphanol can too have deadly interactions with the MDR 1 Mutation dogs. I urge you to visit this article as it provides useful information for horse and dog owners. Dr. Eldredge discusses the importance of following all medication guidelines, and to be sure to use them only for their intended purpose.
Help your Horse Handle the Heat

As you already know, it looks like this summer will be another scorcher! Horses can be especially susceptible to heat stress (thermal stress), so here are a few tips that will keep you and your horse safe in this season’s heat.

**Water is Your Friend**

Be sure to keep lots of water available to your horse (and yourself) at all times. If your horse seems uninterested in drinking, adding some electrolytes to the water can give it a more appealing taste while providing some extra nutrients to your horse. If you are traveling long distances, don’t forget to stop and water your horse frequently (at least every 2-3 hours). Be sure to keep the water clean and cool. Check out your waterers to be sure that they are reachable to all of your horses. Keep in mind that accommodations may need to be made for some shorter ponies or foals. After a heavy workout, it can be a good idea to give your horse a quick “shower”. Spray your horse down, aim for the large blood vessels to cool your horse the best (ex. the neck, legs, and belly). Click [HERE](#) for more tips on spraying your horse down after exercise.

**Don’t Overdo It**

When planning your riding or exercise times, schedule wisely. It is cooler early in the mornings or evenings. Additionally, be sure that there is some type of shade in each turn out area. After you ride and dismount, loosen the girth slightly and walk your horse. This will be a great time for both you and your horse to loosen up those muscles that you just worked! If you are planning to show this summer, don’t use your horse as a “couch”. That’s right - don’t hang out on your horse all day while you watch the show. Make sure that your horse has time to rest and relax too. When is it likely too hot to exercise your horse? Click [HERE](#) for your answer.

**Other Helpful Hints**

Fly sheets are a great way to keep those pesky bugs away while providing a small heat block for your horse. Remember that lighter colors are better for keeping the heat away. Don’t forget that your horse can get sunburned too! If your horse has a white or pink muzzle, put a little SPF sun block on as a precaution.

Want to learn more about how a horse’s body cools itself? Click [HERE](#) to discover more about equine thermoregulation.

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**ask the experts>>>**

**Q:** Should I remove horses from a pasture when I spray for weeds and, if so, how long should I keep them off the pasture?

**A:**

With any herbicide or pesticide, you should carefully read and follow the label directions. If the label does not contain specific information about horses, look for livestock recommendations. If there are none, you should contact the manufacturer about recommendations for safe application to horse pastures. It is always a good practice to remove horses from a field while spraying.

(This question and response was taken from the Frequently Asked Questions on [www.extension.org/horses](http://www.extension.org/horses))

Have a question that you want answered? Visit [www.extension.org/horses](http://www.extension.org/horses) and ask a nationally recognized equine expert YOUR question!
While many teens may be more interested in spending a weekend relaxing on the couch, Michigan 4-H’ers are much different! Nearly 300 4-H youth from the four corners of Michigan spent a weekend in April demonstrating their equine expertise in a variety of contest areas at the 2012 State 4-H Horse Jamboree! Youth had the opportunity to exhibit their equine knowledge through competing in public speaking, presentations, horse bowl, hippology, and horse judging. Through these contests youth show their competencies in equine care and management, reproduction, welfare, physiology, and other science-related areas. It was a great event and the participants all did a fantastic job challenging themselves!

The top winners in each of these contest areas are then eligible to represent Michigan 4-H Horse Programs at one of three national contests. Each year Michigan 4-H helps send qualified youth to Louisville, KY for the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup, Columbus, OH for the All-American Quarter Horse Congress and Tulsa, OK for the Arabian/Half-Arabian Nationals. Over 30 youth representing 10 counties throughout Michigan have qualified to compete in these prestigious events, and we wish them the best of luck!

For a list of complete results visit our website: www.ans.msu.edu/ans/horse_youth_programs. If you are interested in any of these contest areas talk with your 4-H club leader and get a team of your peers together and start brushing up on your equine knowledge! Haven’t joined 4-H yet, not a problem! Visit this site to discover how you can become a 4-H member: http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/join.

Contact your local County Extension Office about opportunities throughout Michigan!

2012 Qualified:

**Horse Bowl Teams:** Leelanau County, Calhoun County, Genesee County

**Hippology Teams:** Berrien Team A, Calhoun County, Berrien Team B

**Horse Judging Teams:** Oakland County, Ottawa County, Kent County

**Public Speaking Teams:** Shannon Ervin (Oakland), Samantha Ludlam (Allegan), Andrew Turner (Cass)

**Individual Demonstration:** Emma Johnson (Oakland), Alyssa Tomei (Oakland), Santana Mosher (Cass)
Use Caution When Driving or Following Horse/Livestock Trailers

By: Karen L. Waite, M.S.

Recently, a tragic mid-Michigan automobile accident resulted in the loss of the best Christmas present a little girl could ever receive: her horse. Unfortunately, this accident was allegedly caused by an incident of road rage. When an impatient driver frustrated, with the slow speed of the truck and horse trailer, cut the truck off sharply. The driver of the trailer was forced to brake suddenly; the horse scrambled, lost its footing and ultimately had to be euthanized.

This terrible incident serves as a sad reminder during the busy summer travel season. Many drivers do not realize how challenging it is to drive a truck hauling horses or other livestock, or even large motor-homes and other recreational vehicles. When involving a horse or livestock trailer however, both human and animal lives can be lost.

When following horse or livestock trailers on the expressway, it is important to remember that the combined weight of the truck, trailer, horses and equipment make it extremely difficult to stop quickly, or even slow down substantially.

Further, a livestock producer is always thinking about the health and safety of their animals while driving, resulting in driving slightly slower than posted speeds and leaving a great deal of stopping distance between their vehicle and the vehicle in front of them. When passing trucks hauling trailers, please leave much more space between you and the truck you are passing than you would with a car, before pulling back into the lane.

Although an impatient driver caused this particular incident, there are several other issues that may result in horse trailer accidents. Regular trailer maintenance is a key part of owning and hauling animals, using an appropriate-sized vehicle to haul the trailer and making certain that those responsible for driving have experience driving such rigs (without animals) prior to setting out. To learn how to deal with horse trailer safety in an emergency situation, view this article on trailer safety.

Again, none of the previous information can change the loss of this little girl or what happened to her horse, but it serves as a reminder to people with or without horses, or other animals, to use the utmost care when traveling.

When passing trucks hauling trailers, please leave much more space between you and the truck you are passing than you would with a car, before pulling back into the lane.
Horsey Humor >>>

coming soon >>>

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Summer Event Wrap-Up
And MORE!!

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