

Flying Lead Changes

the CENTAURS 4-H CLUB newsletter

www centaurs4hclub.org "RIDE WITH PRIDE" COUNTRY CARE CODE: Centaurs



"The horse stopped with a jerk, and the jerk fell off." - Unknown

March 2011

Our next Club meeting: Thursday, March 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the Howard County Fairgrounds.

Don't forget to bring:

- ✓ *Your assigned Banquet food item.*
- ✓ *Come dressed in your "country" outfit!*



This Month's Highlights:

- *Maryland State 4-H Horse Bowl Competition*
- *Centaurs 4-H Club Banquet*
- *Maryland State 4-H Horse Judging Clinic*
- *Howard County Horse Judging*
- *T-Shirt Logo Contest*
- *4-H Basket Bingo*

THE MANE EVENT



Our March Club Meeting: Club

Banquet - Our next Club meeting will be held on Thursday, March 17th at 7:00 at the 4-H Building located at the Howard County Fairgrounds. We are proud to announce that our Club Banquet will be held at the March meeting. Centaurs Club members worked very hard in 2010. Now it is time to reap the rewards. **Even if you**

are new to the Club, come and see what goodies are in store for you next year.

This year's banquet theme is "Down on the Farm". We are asking that everyone wear blue jeans and a country style top to reflect our theme. We will be serving Fried Chicken and other delectables. Club members signed up for dishes to bring to our banquet at the February Club meeting. If you were not at the meeting, a food item was assigned. If you would like to bring something other than what was assigned, just let Marcie Barnard know what you would like to bring.

Following is a list of items each family should bring and banquet responsibilities:

Decoration Committee (Arrive at 6:00 to decorate the 4-H Hall): Danielle Wheelbarger, Britta Hart, Morgan Martin
Setup Committee (Arrive at 6:00 to set up the 4-H Hall): Katie and Lauren Hollidge, Kathleen and Camille Pereira
Food Table Committee: (Arrive at 6:45 to help get the Food Table set up): Sarah Butler

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Centaurs 4-H Club Leaders: Marcie Barnard 410-461-3985 Barb Dashiell 301-262-4549
Sue Hart 301-776-8134 Beckie Peregoy 410-635-3281

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Clean Up Committee (Help Clean Up the 4-H Hall): Szyperski Family and Sullivan Family
Barnard Family – Dessert and Coleslaw
Beklik Family – Side Dish
Butler Family – Dessert
Dashielle Family – Side Dish
Farling Family – Side Dish
Hart Family – Macaroni and Cheese
Hollidge Family – Potato Salad
Martin Family – (2) Liter Sodas
Pecukonis Family – (2) Liter Sodas
Peregoy Family – Dessert
Periera Family - \Dessert
Sullivan Family – (2) Liter Sodas
Szyperski Family – Dessert
Wheelbarger Family – Side Dish
Vickers Family – Dessert

If we have left anyone off by accident, please bring either a side dish or a dessert.

We hope to see everyone at this very exciting Club meeting!

Maryland State 4-H Horse Bowl Competition - Good luck to **Danielle Wheelbarger and Maddie Farling** at the Maryland State 4-H Horse Bowl Competition to be held in College Park at the University of Maryland on Saturday, March 19th. We know how hard you have worked for the past four months and wish you the best of luck. Good luck to everyone who is competing and have a great time. We are so very proud of you!

4-H Horse Judging Clinic Date Set – The Maryland State 4-H Horse Judging Clinic will be held at the Carroll County Agricultural Center, 700 Agricultural Center Dr., Westminster, Maryland 21157 on Saturday, April 9, 2011. The objective of the Maryland 4-H Horse

Judging Clinic is to provide an opportunity for Maryland 4-H youth, Maryland 4-H volunteers, and UME Educators to acquire skills and knowledge about conformation and judging of horses. Participants will hear talks from industry professionals with special breakout sessions for beginner, advanced, and volunteer/coach tracks. All attendees will judge live horses after attending the morning workshops. Participants will learn valuable information that they can use when showing their own horses. Adults interested in coaching judging teams are encouraged to enroll in the volunteer/coach track. Enrollment will be limited to 100 individuals.

Featured Topics:

- Quick tips for horse judging
- Judging performance horses
- Evaluating halter horses
- Building a winning set of reasons
- Fundamental skills to becoming a successful judging coach
- Reinforcing positive coaching.

Fees:

Registration for the one-day clinic is \$25.00, which includes lunch. Registrations are to be postmarked by Friday, March 25, 2011.

Go to:

<http://www.4horse.umd.edu/activities/judgingclinic.html> for registration information and forms.

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2011 Schooley Mill Horse Show Dates

Released – Following are the dates for the 2011 Howard County Youth Horse Show Series (Schooley Mill):

April 3rd - at Schooley Mill Park
Rain date: April 16th at Schooley Mill

May 15th - at Schooley Mill Park
Rain date: May 29th at Howard County Fairgrounds

June 12th - at Schooley Mill Park
Rain date: June 18th at Howard County Fairgrounds

July 16th - at Schooley Mill Park
Note: Show begins at 8 a.m. Flat show with Showmanship
Rain date: July 30th - at Howard County Fairgrounds

Sept. 18th - at Schooley Mill Park
Rain date: Sept. 24th - at Howard County Fairgrounds

Oct. 16th - at Schooley Mill Park
Rain date: Oct. 30th - Saturday at Howard County Fairgrounds

For more information about this 4-H show series, go to
http://centaurs4hclub.org/Schooley_Mill/Schooley_Mill.html

Announcing . . . The 2011 4-H Horse Jamboree T-Shirt Logo Contest

Five Southern Maryland Counties will be hosting the 2011 MD State 4-H Horse Jamboree July 8-10, 2011 at the Patuxent River 4-H Center in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Horse Jamboree is a two-night event held each year that provides the opportunity for 4-H members interested

in horses to gather and learn about them, while having lots of fun. Participants do NOT bring horses, but have the opportunity for hands-on activities during the entire Jamboree. The planning committee is asking 4-Hers to help design the t-shirt logo for the event. Let your creative juices flow. Express yourself in art and submit an entry for this contest. All submissions must be original works. Each 4-H member may submit only one entry. The logo must be reproducible in black and white; no color images can be used. The logo will become the property of University of Maryland Extension. Maximum size of entries is 6" x 8."

Who? Maryland 4-H members, 8 to 18 years old

What? Maryland State 4-H Horse Jamboree T-Shirt Logo Design Contest

When? Deadline to submit an entry is April 18, 2011

Why? To showcase the creativity of one of our 4-H members in a lasting way.

Send entries to:

Elaine Long Bailey
University of Maryland Extension,
Calvert County
P. O. Box 486
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

elbailey@umd.edu
301-855-1150
410-535-3662

What Is A 4-H Project Horse - Now that spring is just around the corner, many of you are getting ready to register your 4-H Project Horse. The Maryland 4-H project year runs from January 1st through December 31st. 4-Hers must be enrolled in a project by May 1st to exhibit

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their project at the Howard County Fair and the Maryland State Fair. The project is a teaching tool used to apply knowledge learned and to practice life skills. Project work is important in helping 4-Hers reach their maximum potential. ***The primary objective of 4-H is the development of the young person.*** Our goal is to develop blue-ribbon youth, not blue-ribbon projects at the expense of the child.

Projects are real life experiences that help 4-Hers learn to make sound decisions. Projects put the hands and mind to work.

The purpose of a 4-H Horse Project is to allow the 4-Her to have positive learning experiences that will enable 4-Hers to grow and learn in their horse experiences. The Howard County Fair and the Maryland State Fair are two avenues in which 4-Hers can demonstrate the growth that they have accomplished with their project horse.

Remember, the emphasis is on learning and growing, not the number or color of the ribbons.

Here are a few reminders about your project horse and the general rules of showing at a 4-H Horse show as taken from the Maryland 4-H Horse and Pony Rule Book:

II.b. To be considered for a bona fide 4-H Horse Project, the member must own the horse(s) or have a lease, signed by the member and the owner with copies filed with the Extension Office.

III.c. Only a Maryland 4-H member may school a horse, and it must be shown by the 4-H exhibitor.

V.4 Any discourtesy by an exhibitor, parent, or leader displayed towards show officials, other exhibitors, parents or leaders, may result in forfeiture of ribbons, trophies, and/or premiums.

V.5 Assistance or coaching from the outside the ring is prohibited. Such aid is cause for disqualification or dismissal.

VI.1 For showmanship classes, the exhibitor must groom his or her horse without assistance.

The latest version of the Maryland 4-H Horse and Pony Rule Book can be found on the Centaurs website.

Things to Think About ... - Here are some things that are in the works:

Sign Up for Horse Judging. Howard County 4-H Horse Judging will be starting again in March. It will be led by **Diana and Bud Cullum**. It meets every week for five or six weeks for principles of judging theory. After that, it is off to the farms for live judging. Even if you do not want to participate in the Maryland State 4-H Horse Judging competition, it is a great way to learn more about horses, conformation and faults. This knowledge is especially helpful when buying a horse. So join your other Club members and sign up for the Horse Judging classes. ***The first class will be held on Monday March 21st at 6:30 at Diana Cullum's home.*** For directions to Diana Cullum's home, contact Diana Cullum at 410-598-2163.

Note: If you are interested in participating in the Maryland State 4-H Hippology and or Judging competition,

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you must attend the Howard County 4-H Horse Judging classes.

Any general questions about Horse Judging or Hippology - ask Marcie Barnard.

Cushing's Challenges by Jennifer Walker in America's Horse - This hormone disease can cause diabetes-like syndrome, weight loss, chronic laminitis and a long, shaggy, curly hair coat.



A curly, shaggy coat can be a Cushing's symptom.

Autumn's chill does not just mean your horse will grow a longer coat. It can also mean he'll have higher natural levels of the hormone plasma adrenocorticotropin, which, in conjunction with other factors, can lead to flare-ups of laminitis.

Cushing's is a hormone disease that is the result of a pituitary gland tumor. The disease causes a variety of problems that can include diabetes-like syndrome; weight loss; chronic laminitis; and a long, shaggy, curly hair coat that fails to shed. There is no cure, but in some cases the signs can be lessened by the administration of medications to suppress overproduction of certain hormones and stimulate production of that neurotransmitter dopamine, according to

the American Association of Equine Practitioners, an alliance partner of the American Quarter Horse Association.

Veterinarians recommend that owners test, monitor and manage horses with metabolic problems carefully during this time of year, realizing that ACTH levels and their effects can be horse dependent.

Since high levels of ACTH can be indicative of Cushing's disease, also called pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction, veterinarians often use that parameter as a test for the disease. However, the spikes in ACTH occur even in healthy horses from September until January and can cause false positives.

"We generally recommend not testing (for Cushing's diagnostic purposes) during these months," says Dr. Anne Wooldridge, assistant professor of equine medicine at Auburn University. Instead, she recommends that owners of older horses that exhibit any of the classic signs of Cushing's during the fall months work with their veterinarians to determine whether they should test or treat horses until diagnoses can be confirmed.

Clinical signs of Cushing's can include:

- Excessive hair growth
- Muscle wasting
- Abnormal fat deposition.

Horses with Cushing's disease are at particular risk of laminitis, but the condition can develop in normal horses as well. Beth Kennalley is with The Founder Rehab Ranch, a rescue organization near Clayton, California, that focuses on horses with laminitis and metabolic disorders. Beth says she avoids feeding hay that could cause a spike in ACTH

levels, and she recommends having every batch of hay tested.

“We shoot for less than 10 percent total sugar plus starch – nonstructural carbohydrates,” she says. If this is not feasible, soaking hay in cold water for an hour might remove up to one third of the sugar.

“Older horses and those starting to develop Cushing’s typically have higher rises (in hormone levels), which can lead to unexplained episodes of laminitis in the fall,” says Dr. Eleanor Kellon, co-owner of the Yahoo Equine Cushing’s and Insulin Resistance Group. “This may occur for years before the horse develops the classical coat changes or tests positive at other times of the year. I recommend treating these horses with pergolide (pergolide mesylate) at least during this high-risk period. Diet control alone won’t be enough.”

Mark Your Calendars!

March 17th – Centaurs 4-H Club Monthly Meeting (Club Banquet)

March 19th – Maryland State 4-H Horse Bowl Competition

March 25th – 4-H Basket Bingo

March 29th – 4-H Communications

Contest April 2nd – 4-H Volunteer Dinner

April 3rd – Schooley Mill Horse Show

April 9th – 4-H Horse Judging Clinic

April 11th – Centaurs 4-H Club Meeting

April 17th – MWA Horse Show



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