

Flying Lead Changes

the CENTAURS 4-H CLUB newsletter

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



"My horse is very quick, sometimes he is so quick he leaves me behind!" - Unknown

September 2011

Our next Club meeting: Thursday, September 15th at the 4-H Building located at the Howard County Fairgrounds.

Don't forget to bring:

- ✓ You're **My Little Pony** donation for the Centaurs 4-H Club Gift Basket

This Month's Highlights:

- **Club Meeting: All About Saddles**
- **Avon Fundraiser**
- **Howard Community College Grand Prix**

In addition, the Centaurs will be creating a Gift Basket for the Maryland State 4-H Horseman's Party.

The theme of our Gift Basket will be **My Little Pony**. We are asking that each Club member bring



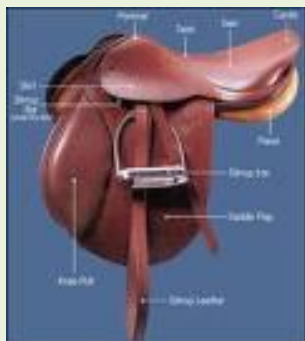
one My Little Pony gift item to place in the gift basket. These should be new items. The money raised from auctioning the gift basket will go towards the Maryland 4-H Horseman's Party.

THE MANE EVENT



Our September Club Meeting: All About Saddles

- Our next Club meeting will be held on Thursday, September 15th at 7:00 at the 4-H Building located at the Howard County Fairgrounds. At this Club meeting, we will be learning all about saddles, both



English and Western.

The following families are responsible for bringing snack items and setting up at the September Club meeting:

- Setup: **Hollidge Family**
- Sweet snack: **Hart Family**
- Salty snack: **Iager Family**
- Drinks (including paper napkins and cups): **Martin Family**

If you are assigned to Setup, you will be required to arrive at 6:45 to get the tables

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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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and chairs set up so that we can start our meeting promptly at 7:00. *You must also stay and ensure that all tables and chairs have been put away.*

Reminder: Centaurs Avon Fundraiser

– The Centaurs 4-H Club is having a fundraiser in conjunction with Avon. It's easy and participation by friends, family members, neighbors, and co-workers is welcome. The Club will benefit 25% of the order total.



Just go to www.youravon.com/mjones1522 and click on ONLINE EVENTS. Then, start shopping. At checkout, use the code CENTAURS and 25% of the purchase price will be donated to the Club. Orders over \$30.00 will automatically get free shipping. No additional code is needed. It's fast and easy. So spread the word and participate in the Centaurs Avon fundraiser.

So far, we have only sold \$108.00. We know we can do better! Come on Centaurs – show your team spirit and participate in this event!

Record Book Reminders - Now that summer has waned, we all need to be focusing on filling out our Record Books for 2011. Record Books are the "window" in which your 4-H participation can be recognized at the Club and County levels. It is a lot easier to work on your Record Books a little bit each week than to try to do it all in one or two days.

Remember: it is your Record Book that is used to calculate points for the Centaurs Club Banquet Awards and the Howard

County Awards. The better you document the Club activities that you have participated in your Record Book, the more points you can accumulate. Many times, we know that a member had participated in a certain event, but we were unable to give them credit for that event because they failed to mention it in their Record Book.

Our Club website located at www.centaurs4hclub.org contains a Calendar of Events that lists each Club activity and where it should be placed in your Record Book. Use this valuable resource wisely. If you have any questions about Record Books, feel free to ask Marcie or Sue. We would be happy to help.

The County will be offering Record Book Workshops for all new Club members in the near future. It is a good idea to come to this workshop so that all of the mysteries of Record Books can be dispelled. Please attend the workshops if you have never completed a Record Book or if you have any questions concerning Record Books.

State Dressage Show - We are excited to announce that the 2011 Maryland State 4-H Dressage Show and Combined Test has been scheduled for Sunday, October 2nd 2011 at the Carroll County Ag Center in Westminster, MD. This event is open to both **English and Western** riders. Registration will be limited to the first 50 rides.

The Maryland 4-H State Dressage Show and Combined Test offers 4-H project members a great opportunity to compete on a statewide level in dressage and jumping. The purpose of the show is to

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encourage 4-H horse project members to develop basic balanced seat riding and training skills and to offer an activity different from the traditional horse show. Judges are encouraged to communicate with the contestants to help make this competition a learning experience. Riders may meet their requirements for portions of their Horsemanship Standards by earning a 60% or higher on specified dressage tests.

If you have any further questions, please contact Diana Cullum at diana.cullum@verizon.net or (410) 442-5849.

More information including registration forms can be found at:

<http://www.4horse.umd.edu/activities/dressage.html>

Horseman's Party Information - The plans are well underway for the upcoming Maryland 4-H Horsemen's Party scheduled for Sunday, October 9th, 2011 at Ten Oaks Ballroom in Clarksville, MD. Our committee has planned a wonderful event, but we need your help to reach our goals!!! The planning committee is in need of items for the silent auction and live auction.

Items can be given to Marcie Barnard at our next Club meeting.

Honored Guests of the 2011

Maryland Horsemens

Party Include:

Rita Anselmo

4-H Horse Program
Volunteer of the Year

AND

Jim Steele

Youth Development Award

This year's party will feature:

- 2011 Ford F-250 4x4 Truck Raffle
- Silent Auction
- Live Auction
- 50/50 Raffle
- Saddle Raffle

Tickets:

- \$30/adult (add \$10 per ticket after Sept. 18th)
- \$20/youth (13 and under) (add \$10 per ticket after Sept. 18th)

This event is a lot of fun to attend: delicious food, prizes, silent auction, cake walk, and other activities. Monies raised from this event supports our National Horse Bowl, Horse Judging and Communications teams. Barb Dashiell and Marcie Barnard will be attending. It would be great to see other Centaur families!

Ticket Forms and Donation Forms can be found at:

www.4horse.umd.edu/activities/HorsemensParty.html

Schooley Mill Update - The next Schooley Mill Horse Show will be held on Sunday, September 18th. The rain date is Saturday, September 24th.

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Volunteer Certification Training – The Centaurs encourages all parent volunteers to become officially certified. You can now do this online. It's quick and easy and only takes a few minutes.

If interested in becoming a volunteer, you must register for the online training offered by the State 4-H program and complete the volunteer paperwork with the Howard County office prior to attending an online class. Once you have registered for a class, please contact Chris Rein at 410-313-1915 or crein@umd.edu to obtain necessary paperwork.

Six Volunteer trainings have been scheduled for 2011:

September 13th 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
October 13th 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
September 15th 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
November 15th 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
October 11th 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
November 17th 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Volunteers may register at the following link:
<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/Seminars/Description.cfm?ID=127>

We strongly recommend that each parent of a Centaur 4-H Club member becomes officially certified so that they can fully understand the responsibilities of being a 4-H Volunteer.

Vaccinations Can Help Protect Your Horse (From Pfizer)



All horses are at risk for developing tetanus. This is why a good vaccination program is so important.

There are a number of diseases to keep an eye out for and help protect your horse against, such as **West Nile virus**, Eastern and Western equine encephalitis, rabies, **strangles** and tetanus. The good news is that tetanus, like the other core diseases, is preventable through a veterinarian-administered vaccination program.

All horses can be at risk for developing tetanus, an often-fatal disease caused by a **toxin** produced by *Clostridium tetani*, a spore-forming bacterium present in the digestive tract of many animals and in the soil¹. Spores of *Cl. tetani* can survive in the environment for many years, resulting in an ever-present risk of exposure in horses at equine facilities. Tetanus is not a contagious disease but can be the result of the *Cl. tetani* toxins entering the horse's body via puncture wounds, open lacerations, surgical incisions or exposed tissues in unvaccinated horses².

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“Tetanus vaccines are very effective,” said Dr. Tom Lenz, senior director of equine veterinary services for Pfizer Animal Health. “However, your horses won’t be protected if they are not vaccinated.”

If tetanus is left untreated, it can be fatal. According to Dr. Nat T. Messer IV, professor in equine medicine and surgery at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary medicine, “usually 50 to 75 percent of the horses that get tetanus will succumb to the disease, no matter what is done to treat them”¹.

Wounds and Tetanus

Wound contamination typically leads to infection, as a well-cleaned wound is not likely to result in tetanus. Rather it is usually a wound that contains foreign matter such as soil¹.

The incubation period for tetanus is usually one to three weeks. Spores can lie dormant in tissues after wound healing and produce toxins if the local oxygen level drops¹. Much of the progression and outcome of this disease depends on how much toxin makes it to the spinal cord¹.

Clinical Signs

Tetanus affects the central nervous system of the horse. Once the toxins reach the central nervous system, they stimulate the muscles to extend, and the characteristic muscle spasms begin¹. Some of the early indications may include a stiff gait, a raised tail or the horse being reluctant to move.

When the muscles are in spasm, the head and face contract, producing a classic facial expression with ears erect, nostrils flared and a sardonic grin — the muscles

of the lips are pulled back like the horse is smiling, showing his teeth¹.

The disease is commonly known as lockjaw, because the jaw muscles become rigid and the horse can’t eat and has difficulty swallowing.

Due to the neurological symptoms such as the stiffness and muscle rigidity, it is important to have a proper diagnosis from a veterinarian, as the disease could be confused with other neurological diseases such as EPM, botulism or rabies.

Prevention

Proper vaccination by a veterinarian is the best way to help protect a horse from tetanus. Vaccines are currently available with inactivated, adjuvanted tetanus toxoids. Tetanus toxoid vaccines administered per manufacturer recommendations are both safe and effective².

According to the American Association of Equine Practitioners vaccination guidelines, tetanus is considered a core vaccination. Core vaccinations are those that help protect against diseases that are endemic to a region and that have potential public health significance³. Core diseases include Eastern equine encephalitis, Western equine encephalitis, West Nile virus and rabies. Due to the variations of vaccines on the market, it is important to consult a veterinarian when developing a vaccination program.

If you suspect that a horse has tetanus, notify a veterinarian to confirm the disease.

References

1. Thomas, Heather Smith. Tetanus in Horses. November 1, 2009. Available at: <http://www.thehorse.com/ViewArticle.aspx?ID=15276>. Accessed August 2, 2011.
2. *Tetanus* American Association of Equine Practitioners. 2008. Available at: <http://www.aaep.org/tetanus.htm>. Accessed on June 13, 2011.
3. *Core Vaccination Guidelines*. American Association of Equine Practitioners. 2008. Available at: http://www.aaep.org/core_vaccinations.htm. Accessed on June 13, 2011.

Mark Your Calendars!

September 11th – MWA Horse Show
September 15th – Centaurs 4-H Club
Monthly Meeting
September 18th – Schooley Mill Horse
Show Series
September 24th – Howard Community
College Grand Prix
September 30th – Howard County 4-H
Achievement Night
October 2nd – Maryland State 4-H
Dressage Show
October 9th – Maryland 4-H Horseman's
Party
October 16th – Schooley Mill Horse Show



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