

## **UF Equine Research Update**

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Equine research at the University of Florida is conducted by a team of faculty and graduate students working in the areas of nutrition, genetics, reproduction, behavior and welfare, and management. Areas of research include:

### Nutrition and Feeding

The relationship between nutrition and immune function, forage digestibility and the effect of forage type on feeding behavior, and the effects of diet and feeding practices on phosphorus and nitrogen excretion in horses.

### Genetics

The genetic basis for diseases, disorders, and physiological variations in the horse, providing owners and breeders an additional tool for improved horse health and management.

### Reproduction

Applied and basic research on reproductive function in horses with an emphasis on the influence of exercise and stress on mare fertility. Utilizing the horse as a model to investigate and address reproductive challenges in endangered species.

### Behavior and Welfare

Associations between management and stereotypic behaviors in horses, as well as studies designed to investigate horse temperament and to gain a better understanding of horse-human interactions leading to improved rider/handler safety and horse well-being.

### Management

Reproductive management, livestock entomology, forage production, and implementation of best management practices on equine operations to promote profitability, environmental stewardship, and enjoyment of equine.

Our aim in hosting the UF Equine Research Update session as part of this year's Florida Equine Institute program is to share with you some of the current research being conducted by faculty and graduate students in the Equine Sciences program.