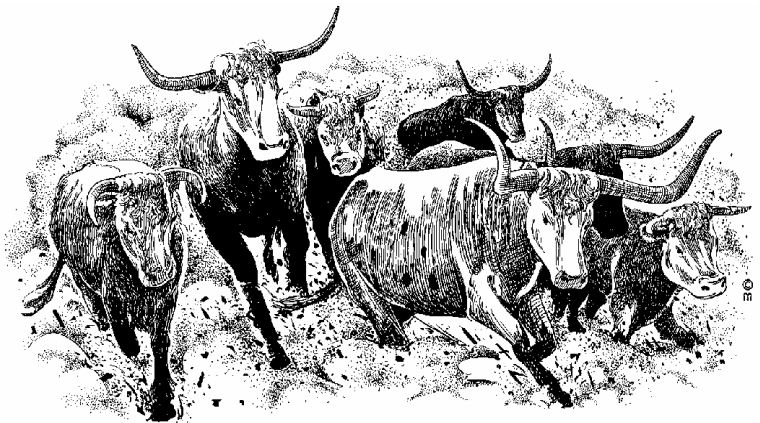


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Equine Conformation “Unsoundness” or “Blemish”

When purchasing a truck, one that has all the bells and whistles and is mechanically sound has great value. One that has scratches or dings and is mechanically sound has less value because it is not as visually appealing even though it will perform just as well as the truck with all the atheistic extras. However, a truck that has mechanical problems that prevent it from performing to its fullest potential will have significantly less value and depending on the extent of the mechanical problem(s) may not be marketable at all. Similarly, horses that are in perfect condition have great value. Ones that have blemishes usually have less value than comparable horses with no blemish(es). Horses that exhibit unsoundness have less value than horses with blemishes. Unsoundness usually affects the value of a horse in relation to the severity and prognosis of the problem. Additionally, horses with severe unsoundness(es) may not be marketable at all. Simply stated, blemishes are physical defects which may detract from the appearance of a horse, but do not interfere with the horse's usefulness. Unsoundnesses are defects in form or function that interfere with a horse's usefulness. Additionally, unsoundnesses that are due to faulty conformation are the most serious because they continue to recur and are most likely inherited.

Determination of the seriousness of a defect requires experience and judgment. For example, a splint could be considered either a blemish or

unsoundness, depending on the location and whether or not the horse exhibits any lameness. Even though there is no absolute classification of defects, the following list describes some of the more common blemishes (B) and unsoundnesses (U).

Forelimb

Splints (U) / (B) - A bony enlargement in the groove formed by the splint and cannon bone. May be high or low, inside or outside of the cannon bone both front and rear. A developing splint can cause pain and lameness, but once the splint has “set” it rarely causes problems.

Bowed tendons (U) - An inflammation and enlargement of the flexor tendons, which lie behind the cannon between the knee and fetlock. Healing is slow due to poor circulation in the area and treatment requires a long period of time. The horse may eventually return to normal service but will likely experience some diminished use depending on the location and severity of the bow.

Sidebones (U) / (B) - Calcifications of the lateral cartilages of the coffin bone. Lameness may occur during ossification, however the horse can usually return to normal activity once the condition has healed.

Ring bone (U) - A bony enlargement surrounding the bones of the pastern. Lameness, heat and swelling are usually present. Bone growth close to the joint is more serious than if no joint is involved. Treatment is not always effective because of continued trauma to the location of this problem.

Osselets (U) / (B) - An inflammation of the periosteum of the fetlock joint, appearing as bony outgrowths. If the moving surfaces of the joint are not affected, the horse may return to normal activity once the osselets

have healed. Older horses could experience enlargement of the ankle resulting in decreased flexibility.

Sesamoiditis (U) - An inflammation of the sesamoid bones that usually results in chronic lameness.

Navicular disease (U) - Inflammation and deterioration of the navicular bone resulting in lameness.

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Carpitis / popped knee (U) / (B) - An enlargement of the knee joint as a result of inflammation to the joint capsule. An unsoundness if the horse is lame or exhibits an altered way-of-going, a blemish if the horse performs normally.

Capped elbow / shoe boil (B) - Bursitis or swelling at the point of the elbow. Caused by a horse's shoe or hoof rubbing on its elbow when lying down. Swelling is common but serious lameness is rare.

Sweeney (U) – Lameness results from atrophy of the muscles of the shoulder due to paralysis of the suprascapular nerve.

Wind puffs (B) - Soft, fluid-filled enlargement that occurs around a capsule tendon sheath or bursa.

Hind limb

Knocked down hip (U) – When viewed from the rear, one hip is lower than the other. Caused by direct trauma to the hip, horses affected by this condition usually develop permanent lameness behind and/or a crooked gait.

Stifle lameness or Gonitis (U) – Inflammation of the stifle joint affecting the patella ligaments, or joint capsule causing lameness.

String halt (U)/(B) – A sudden spasmodic, involuntary jerking and an excessive flexion of one or both hocks.

Capped hock (U) / (B) - An enlargement on the point of the hock usually caused by bruising as a result of kicking a solid object. The horse may experience some temporary lameness, but the scar tissue remains as a blemish.

Curb (U) / (B) - An enlargement of the tendon sheath below the point of the hock. As with a capped hock, the horse may experience some temporary lameness, but the scar tissue remains as a blemish.

Thoroughpins (B) - A mobile puffy condition in the hollows of the hock.

Bog spavin (U) / (B) - Inflammation or swelling of the soft tissues of the hock.

Bone spavin (U) – A bony enlargement that appears on the inside and front of the hock at the point where the base of the hock tapers into the cannon bone.

Occult spavin (U) – “Blind” spavin, hock lameness without visibility.

Hooves

Laminitis or founder (U) - A noninfectious inflammation of the sensitive laminae of one or more hooves causing lameness. Depending on the severity, some horses may recover, but are usually predisposed to this condition.

Contracted Heels (U) - A condition in which the frog is narrow and shrunken and the heel of the foot is pulled together. Lameness can result if the problem is not corrected.

Cracked hooves (U) / (B) – Depending on length and depth, cracks in the hoof can be either an unsoundness or a blemish. If the crack reaches the sensitive structures of the hoof, the horse may become lame. Most hoof cracks can be managed in such a way as to allow the horse to return to normal use.

Quittor (U) - Inflammatory swelling around the coronary caused by a puncture, bruise or laceration.

Head

Eyes (U) - Blindness, cloudy eyes, cataracts, and conjunctivitis (an irritation of the eye).

Mouth (U) - Overshot jaw (parrot mouth), undershot jaw (monkey mouth)

Poll (U) - Poll evil, an inflammation and infection of the bursa at the poll that becomes infected.

Body

Fistula of withers (U) - An inflammation and infection of the bursa at the withers.

Saddle and girth sores (B) - galls and callous.

Hernia (U) - A protrusion of all or part of an organ through a tear in the wall of a surrounding structure.

John Mark Shuffitt

Livestock Agent II

Marion County Extension Service

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Preparing For The Storm

In addition to being equipped for the “normal” emergencies associated with raising horses, Florida Horse owners need to be prepared to handle the fury of a tropical storm and/or a hurricane.

The following recommendations will help you prepare for many types of disasters and storms.

- ✓ Install a generator or hand pump on farm wells. Well water will not become contaminated unless it is submerged by floodwaters.
- ✓ Avoid damage from flying debris. Tie down and/or secure everything you can. Turn over and tie down anything too large to store.
- ✓ Get mobile home tie-downs for your livestock trailer and other vehicles. Move vehicles into the middle of the largest open areas away from trees and tie them down.
- ✓ Have on hand a box packed with halters, leads, tape, rope, tarps, fly spray, and animal medical supplies. Keep in your house.
- ✓ Have on hand in the house: several hurricane lamps, lamp oil or kerosene, fire extinguishers, batteries, battery operated radio, matches, gasoline, and chlorine bleach.
- ✓ Keep two-liter soda bottles filled with water in the freezer. They can be thawed in the refrigerator when electricity fails to keep the refrigerator cold and be used as a water source when thawed.
- ✓ City water becomes contaminated when purification systems are inoperable. To purify water, add two drops of chlorine bleach per quart and let stand for a half-hour.
- ✓ Fill any large outside vessels (rowboats, canoes, feed troughs, etc.) with water. This keeps them from becoming debris and provides a source of water for animals after the storm. Pool water and collected water should be kept chlorinated so it remains usable.
- ✓ Shut off main electrical breakers and close gas and water valves. Unplug appliances and turn off air conditioning.
- ✓ Chain propane tanks to the ground with tie-down stakes and label them “propane”. Label any other hazardous material containers.
- ✓ Bring chain saws, ladders, axes, shovels, metal cables, block and tackles; wire cutters, toolbox, grill, charcoal and lighter fluids into the house.
- ✓ A two-week supply of animal feed and medications should be stored in waterproof containers in a safe location.

- ✓ Contact out-of-town friends and relatives and keep them informed of your plans. It will be easier for you to contact them than for them to contact you.
- ✓ Make sure your insurance is adequate and up-to-date. Photograph or video tape all property and animals, and take the photos or tapes with you if you must evacuate.
- ✓ Remember that after the storm all transactions will have to be made in cash and that banks and gas stations will be closed.
- ✓ Close barn and/or stall doors. Open all interior pasture gates. Put identification tags on all animals, and turn your large animals out.

**For Assistance During a Disaster Contact:
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
(352) 622-3205**

Beef Cattle Management Tips

JUNE

- Check and fill mineral feeder, use at least 8% phosphorus in mineral and not over 2 ½ to 1 calcium to phosphorus ratio.
- Check pastures for spittlebugs, mole crickets, and armyworms. Treat if necessary; best month for mole cricket control.
- Check dust bags.
- Observe cattle for evidence of pinkeye and treat.
- Utilize available veterinary services and diagnostic laboratories.
- Get heifers vaccinated for brucellosis if not already done.
- Pregnancy check cows.
- Update market information and plans.
- Make first cutting of hay.
- Put bulls out June 1st for calves starting March 11th.

JULY

- Control weeds in summer pasture.
- Apply nitrogen to warm season pastures, if needed.
- Check and fill mineral feeder.
- Inspect pastures for armyworms and mole crickets, and treat if necessary.
- Wean calves and cull cow herd.
- Observe cows for evidence of footrot and treat.
- Consider preconditioning calves before sale including vaccination for shipping fever and IBR at least 3 weeks before sale.
- Check dust bags.
- Update market information and plans.
- Revaccinate calves at weaning for blackleg.

“THE LAST WORD”

A wise old farmer went to town to buy a pickup truck that he saw advertised in the paper for a certain price. After telling the salesman which truck he wanted, they sat down to do the paperwork.

The salesman handed the farmer the bill, and the farmer declared, "This isn't the price I saw!" The salesman went on to tell the wise old farmer how he was getting extras such as power brakes, power windows, special tires, etc., and that was what took the price up.

The farmer needed the truck badly, paid the price and went home. A few months later, the salesman called up the farmer and said, "My son is in 4-H and he needs a cow for a project. Do you have any for sale?"

The farmer said, "Yes, I have a few cows, and I would sell for \$500.00 apiece. Come look at them and take your pick." The salesman said he and his son would be right out.

After spending a few hours in the field checking out all the farmer's cows, the two decided on one and salesman proceeded to write out a check for \$500.00. The farmer said

"Now, wait a minute, that's not the final price of the cow. You're getting extras with it and you have to pay for that too."

The farmer gave a list to the salesman for the final price of the cow.....

BASIC COW.....	\$500.00
Two tone exterior.....	\$45.00
Extra stomach.....	\$75.00
Product storing equipment.....	\$60.00
Straw compartment.....	\$120.00
4 Spigots @\$10 ea.....	\$40.00
Leather Upholstery.....	\$125.00
Dual horns.....	\$45.00
Automatic fly swatter.....	\$38.00
Fertilizer attachment.....	\$185.00
 GRAND TOTAL.....	 \$1,233.00