

Marion County Extension Service  
2232 NE Jacksonville Road  
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## MARION COUNTY LIVESTOCK NEWS

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JUNE 2006

### Hurricane Season Preparation for Florida Horse Farms

The impact of 2004/2005 hurricane season on the horse industry underscores the importance of disaster planning. The leading cause of death of large animals during hurricane Andrew in 1992 included animals killed in collapsed barns, electrocution, kidney failure secondary to dehydration and animals hit and killed on roadways or tangled in barbed wire after escaping from their pasture. In the recent storms several horses died when trees fell and crushed the barn in which they were stabled. During hurricane Katrina many horses died when left in the barn as flood waters entered the area. Prolonged power outages caused a water shortage on farms that did not have a generator to run their well. Each farm should have a written disaster plan to optimize safety and survival of all animals.

#### *Before the Storm* Horses

- **Vaccination:** All horses should have a tetanus toxoid vaccine within the last year. Due to the significant increase in mosquitoes after massive rainfall, all horses should receive West Nile virus and Eastern / Western Encephalitis vaccinations at the beginning of hurricane season. If your horse has not been vaccinated in 4-6 months, they should receive a booster now.
- **Coggins test:** A negative Coggins test is necessary if the horse needs to be evacuated to a community shelter or cross the state line. In the recent hurricanes the Commissioner of Agriculture (Charles Bronson) has waived this requirement for exit from the state under evacuation circumstances.

(Cont. on pg. 2 see **Preparation for Florida Horse Farms**)

### Emergency Management For Horse Farms

July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
8:30 am - Noon

Location  
**Marion County Agriculture Center**  
2232 NE Jacksonville Rd., Ocala 34470

From 301-US 441, Exit onto 200A (alt 301) heading East. Pass Magnolia Avenue on your right and pass the Livestock Pavilion on your left. The next building to the left is the Extension Office. It is a beige, one-story, brick building.

#### Topic Outline

Emergency Management Planning –  
Overview

Hurricane Planning for Horse Farms

Learn How Vets & SART  
work together during an Emergency

Basic Medical Needs for Injured/Stressed  
Horses

Incident Command System

Basics of Large Animal Emergency Rescue

#### Speakers

Dana Zimmer (DVM), UF/IFAS Equine  
Veterinarian  
Mark Shuffitt, Marion County Extension

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## Preparation for Florida Horse Farms

- **Health Certificate:** A health certificate is required to cross the state line. This may be necessary for evacuation of coastal areas.
- **Identification:** Each horse should be identified with at least one, if not all of the following:
  - A leather halter with name/farm information in a zip lock bag secured to the halter with duct tape.
  - A luggage tag with the horse/farm name and phone number braided into tail. (Make sure this is water proof).
  - Photos of each horse as proof of ownership highlighting obvious identifying marks.
- **Evacuation:** Evacuation of flood planes and coastal areas is recommended. Evacuation must occur 48 hours before hurricane force winds occur in the area. Transportation of horses when wind gusts exceed 40 mph is dangerous.
  - Contact the Emergency Evacuation Relocation List at [http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/ai/adc/adc\\_emerg\\_manag\\_links.shtml](http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/ai/adc/adc_emerg_manag_links.shtml) for the entire southeast
- **Should horses be left in the pasture or placed in the barn?**

If the pasture has good fencing and limited trees, it is probably best to leave the horses outside. Well constructed pole-barns or concrete block barns may provide safety from flying debris, but the horses may become trapped if the wind collapses the building.

  - Electrical lines: Keep horses out of pastures with power lines.
  - Trees with shallow roots will fall easily under hurricane force winds and can injure the horse or destroy the fencing.
  - Fencing: Do not keep horses in barbed wire or electric fencing during a storm.
  - Fire Ants and snakes will search for high ground during flooding. Carefully look over the premises and feed for these potential dangers.
- **Water**
  - Each horse should have 12-20 gallons per day stored.
  - Fill garbage cans with plastic liners and fill all water troughs.
  - Have a generator to run the well if you have large numbers of horses.
  - Keep chlorine bleach on hand to add to contaminated water if necessary. To purify water add 2 drops of chlorine bleach per quart of water and let stand for 30 minutes.
- **Feed storage**
  - Store a minimum of 72 hours of feed and hay (7 days is best). It is very possible that roads will be closed because of down power lines and trees, limiting access to feed stores. Cover hay with water proof tarps and place it on pallets. Keep grain in water tight containers.

- **Secure all movable objects**
  - Remove all items from hallways.
  - Jumps and lawn furniture should be secured in a safe place.
  - Place large vehicles/ tractors/ trailers in an open field where trees cannot fall on them.
- **Turn off electrical power to barn**
- **Emergency First Aid Kit**
  - Bandages (leg wraps and quilts)
  - Antiseptics
  - Scissors/Knife
  - Topical antibiotic ointments
  - Tranquilizers
  - Pain Relievers (phenylbutazone or Banamine®)
  - Flashlight and extra batteries
  - Extra halters/lead ropes
  - Clean towels
  - Fly spray
- **Emergency Tools**
  - Chain saw / fuel
  - Hammer/nails
  - Fence repair materials
  - Wire cutters / tool box / pry bar
  - Fire Extinguisher
  - Duct tape

### After the Storm

- Carefully inspect each horse for injury to eyes and limbs.
- Walk the pasture to remove debris. Make sure that no Red Maple tree branches fell in the pasture. Just a few wilted leaves are very toxic to horses. Clinical signs of Red Maple toxicity are dark chocolate colored gums, anorexia and red urine.
- Inspect the property for down power lines.
- Take pictures of storm damage.
- If your horse is missing, contact the local animal control or disaster response team.
- For more information regarding general emergency management in the state of Florida contact <http://www.floridadisaster.org>

### Who is available to help?

Each county in the state of Florida has an Emergency Support Function officer (ESF-17) in charge of animal emergencies. They report to the Emergency Command Officer for the county who reports to the state veterinarian Dr. Holt. The College of Veterinary Medicine has formed an Emergency Response Team per the request of the Governor. This team "VETS" Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service will provide immediate veterinary care until the community is able to stand on its own.

Under severe conditions Dr. Holt can activate the federal veterinary rescue team VMAT (Veterinary Medical Assistance Team) <http://www.avma.org/disaster/vmat>.

Written by: Dana N. Zimmer, DVM  
Diplomate ACVIM, ABVP (Equine Practice)  
University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine

## UF/IFAS Pesticide Information Office Offers On-line Presentations

A new feature of the Pesticide Information Office website is on-line, interactive presentations available for public viewing. The presentations include voice narration, interactive quizzes, and video footage. At the present time, there are 9 presentations completed and available for public use and comment. Users must have Macromedia Flash Player to run each program; users who do not presently have that system may install it from the Pesticide Information Office site. Each program takes between 30 and 50 minutes to complete, excluding time needed for the interactive quizzes.

**The following are now offered:**

- **The Value of Pesticides in Florida**
- **Understanding Agricultural Pesticide Applicator Licenses under FDACS**
- **Agricultural Crop Pest Control**
- **The Worker Protection Standard**
- **Pesticide Labeling: The Label**
- **Notice of Applications/Posting and Information Display under the WPS**
- **WPS Training: A Worker Protection Standard Training Component**
- **Agricultural Row Crop Pest Control Application Equipment**
- **Agricultural Application Equipment Calibration**

To access these presentations go to  
[http://pested.ifas.ufl.edu/pio\\_presentations.html](http://pested.ifas.ufl.edu/pio_presentations.html)

Provided by:

Fred Fishel, Associate Professor, PhD  
UF/IFAS Department of Agronomy

The majority of Dr Fishel's responsibilities are extension with educational activities in the safe and proper use of pesticides. A major activity is development of written web-based guides that address pesticide issues. Another major activity is development of study manuals and certification exams for licensing commercial and private applicators of pesticides in Florida.

## "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 1<sup>st</sup> for calves starting March 11<sup>th</sup>.

### 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 foot rot 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.

John Mark Shuffitt  
Livestock Agent III  
Marion County Extension

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## **The Novice**

The novice decides to try horseback riding, even though she has had no lessons or prior experience.

She mounts the horse, unassisted, and the horse immediately springs into motion. It gallops along at a steady and rhythmic pace, but the novice begins to slip from the saddle.

In terror, she grabs for the horse's mane, but cannot seem to get a firm grip. She tries to throw her arms around the horse's neck, but she slides down the side of the horse anyway

The horse gallops along, seemingly impervious to its slipping rider. Finally, giving up her frail grip the novice attempts to leap away from the horse and throw herself to safety

Unfortunately, her foot has become entangled in the stirrup; she is now at the mercy of the horse's pounding hooves.

Her head is struck against the ground over and over.

As her head is battered against the ground, she is mere moments away from unconsciousness when to her great fortune . . .

Frank, the Wal-Mart greeter, sees her dilemma and unplugs the horse