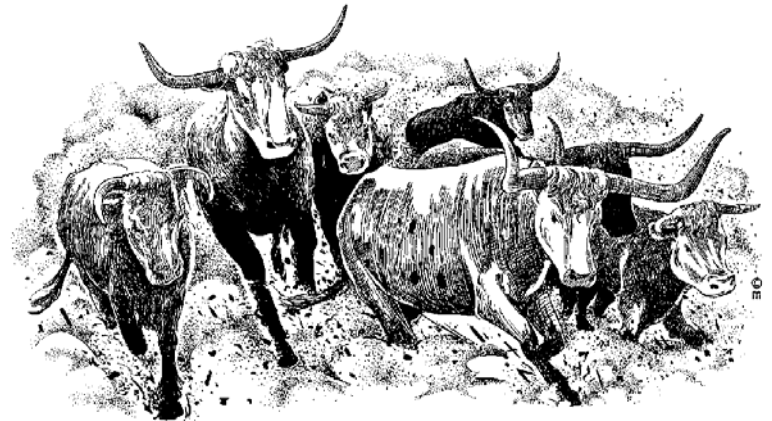


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MARION COUNTY LIVESTOCK NEWS

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The Unwanted Horse Coalition

U.S. horse organizations and individual horse owners and breeders are mindful of their responsibilities to breed, use and care for their horses humanely, whether involved in racing, showing or recreation.

Nonetheless, some in the horse industry may be unaware that tens of thousands of horses end their days unwanted, unneeded or unusable. These are so-called “unwanted horses.”

Unwanted horses may be sick, injured or old. They may be unmanageable or dangerous to people or other horses. They may be horses that an owner is no longer economically able to care for. They may no longer be wanted because they do not meet an owner’s expectations and have become more of a burden than a joy. Or, they may simply be horses that an owner does not know what to do with. Regardless of how horses reached this state, every owner — and the industry at large — has a responsibility to ensure that everything possible is done to guarantee the humane care and treatment of unwanted horses.

Mission

The mission of the Unwanted Horse Coalition (UHC) is to reduce the number of unwanted horses and to improve their welfare through education and the efforts of organizations committed to the health, safety and responsible care and disposition of these horses.

The UHC is concerned that some horses may slip through the various safety nets within the equine industry simply because too many owners are either unaware of, or do not give enough thought to, the options, services or assistance available to help them ensure that their horse has caring and humane support through out its life.

(see The Unwanted Horse Coalition pg. 2)

Win a 2007 Gator™

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2007 John Deere Gator™ XUV 4x4

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Only 250 tickets will be sold

Tickets \$100 each

Contact:

Craig Carpenter
352-369-1000

Mark Shuffitt
352-671-8400

David Stephens
352-427-2295

The Unwanted Horse Coalition

Goals

The Unwanted Horse Coalition is committed to helping unwanted horses by:

- Educating current and future horse owners on responsible ownership, proper care and breeding, and options available before a horse becomes unwanted
- Raising awareness of the issue and its consequences to horses and the horse industry
- Reducing the number of unwanted horses and working toward eliminating the problem
- Ensuring that horses are treated humanely and with dignity
- Facilitating the exchange of information on adoption, care and alternative careers
- Providing information on end-of-life decisions, including veterinary decisions, euthanasia and disposal
- Explaining the issue through presentations at industry gatherings, such as symposiums and horse fairs

An Alliance of National Equine Organizations

The Unwanted Horse Coalition represents a broad alliance of equine organizations that have joined together under the American Horse Council to educate the horse industry about the unwanted horse issue.

By educating existing and potential owners, breeders, sellers and horse organizations about the long-term responsibilities of owning and caring for horses, and focusing on opportunities available for these horses, such as retirement, retraining, new careers or uses, donation and euthanasia, the coalition hopes to help horses before they become unwanted. The UHC hopes to utilize industry resources to put owners of these horses in touch with individuals and facilities that will welcome them.

The UHC grew out of the Unwanted Horse Summit, which was organized by the American Association of Equine Practitioners and held in conjunction with the American Horse Council's annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in April 2005. The summit was held to bring key stakeholders together to start a dialogue on the plight of the unwanted horse in America. Its purpose was to develop consensus on the most effective way to work together to address this issue.

In June 2006, the Unwanted Horse Coalition was folded into the American Horse Council and now operates under its auspices.

Unwanted Horse Coalition Member Organizations

- American Association of Equine Practitioners
- American Paint Horse Association
- American Quarter Horse Association
- American Veterinary Medical Association
- The Jockey Club
- Masters of Foxhounds Association of America
- Mustang Heritage Foundation
- National Horsemen's Benevolent Protective Association
- National Thoroughbred Racing Association

- Professional Rodeo Stock Contractors
- AHC State Horse Council Committee
- Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association
- United States Equestrian Federation
- U.S. Trotting Association

If you wish to help fund this important effort, please contact the American Horse Council:

Unwanted Horse Coalition
1616 H Street, N.W.
7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 296-4031
(202) 296-4031 (fax)
<http://www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org>

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 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 Service

**The Unintended Consequences
of a Ban on the Humane Slaughter**

Executive Summary

Federal legislation has been proposed to amend the *Horse Protection Act* to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be humanely slaughtered (processed) for human consumption, and for other purposes. The intent of the legislation is to enact a ban in the United States on processing horses for human consumption. The legislation does not provide fiscal support that would likely be needed to respond to an ever increasing number of unwanted, neglected, and abused horses. Often times horse neglect and abuse cases originate from a lack of economic resources needed to adequately maintain a horse's health. While everyone fully supports and is committed to the humane treatment of all horses, there are unintended consequences of banning horse processing.

The purpose of this paper is to identify and review the unintended consequences of a ban in the United States on the processing of horses for human consumption:

1. The potential for a large number of abandoned or unwanted horses is substantial.
2. Public animal rescue facilities are currently saturated with unwanted horses. No funding has been allocated to manage a large increase in horses that will likely become the responsibility of these facilities.
3. Cost of maintaining unwanted horses accumulates over time:
 - A conservative estimate of the total cost of caring for unwanted horses, based upon 2005 statistics, is \$220 million;
 - Cumulative annual maintenance costs of otherwise processed horses, since the year 2000, would have exceeded more than \$513 million in 2005.
4. The export value of horse meat for human consumption was approximately \$26 million. A ban on processing would eliminate these annual revenues.
5. The option of rendering equine carcasses is decreasing. Private-land burial and disposal in landfills have a negative impact on the environment.
6. The Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Program may be negatively impacted by a ban on horse processing. BLM horses and an increasing number of unwanted horses will be competing for adoption homes.

Tens of thousands of horses could be neglected or abandoned if a processing ban were imposed.

Read the entire paper at

http://najaonline.org/pdfs/AWC_UnintendedConsequences_5%5B1%5D.16.06.pdf

Source: May 15th, 2006
Animal Welfare Council, Inc.
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Disaster Preparedness For Horses

Disaster preparedness is important for all animals, but it takes extra consideration for horses because of their size and their transportation needs. It is imperative that you are prepared to move your horses to a safe area.

During an emergency, the time you have to evacuate your horses will be limited. With an effective emergency plan, you may have enough time to move your horses to safety. If you are unprepared or wait until the last minute to evacuate, you could be told by emergency management officials that you must leave your horses behind. Once you leave your property, you have no way of knowing how long you will be kept out of the area. If left behind, your horses could be unattended for days without care, food, or water.

Horse Evacuation Tips

Make arrangements in advance to have your horse trailered in case of an emergency. If you do not have your own trailer or do not have enough trailer space for all of your horses, be sure you have several people on standby to help evacuate your horses.

Know where you can take your horses in an emergency evacuation. Make arrangements with a friend or another horse owner to stable your horses if needed. Contact your local animal care and control agency, agricultural extension agent, or local emergency management authorities for information about shelters in your area.

Inform friends and neighbors of your evacuation plans. Post detailed instructions in several places—including the barn office or tack room, the horse trailer, and barn entrances—to ensure they are accessible to emergency workers in case you are not able to evacuate your horses yourself.

Place your horses' Coggins tests, veterinary papers, identification photographs, and vital information such as: medical history, allergies, and emergency telephone numbers (veterinarian, family members, etc.) in a watertight envelope. Store the envelope with your other important papers in a safe place that can be quickly reached.

Keep halters ready for your horses. Each halter should include the following information: the horse's name, your name, your telephone number, and another emergency telephone number where someone can be reached.

Prepare a basic first aid kit that is portable and easily accessible.

Be sure to have on hand a supply of water, hay, feed, and medications for several days for each horse you are evacuating.

It is important that your horses are comfortable being loaded onto a trailer. If your horses are unaccustomed to being loaded onto a trailer, practice the procedure so they become used to it.

There may be times when taking your horses with you is impossible during an emergency. So you must consider different types of disasters and whether your horses would be better off in a barn or loose in a field.

Drought and Weed Control

Weed control under dry conditions can be problematic, and the reason is two-fold. Weed competition with crops and forages is more detrimental to yield than under normal or wet conditions. Additionally, weeds are less affected by herbicide applications under dry conditions.

Preemergence herbicides. Preemergence herbicides require rainfall for incorporation into the soil. Without rain, the herbicide will be less active and will result in more weed escapes. Additionally, many of our soil applied herbicides are degraded by sunlight. So, without incorporation by rainfall, less herbicide will be available for uptake by weedy species and will be lost through degradation from sunlight.

Postemergence herbicides. Postemergence herbicides are also affected by drought. This is due to decreased growth of the weeds we are trying to kill. Under dry conditions, weeds have more wax on their leaf surfaces, which restricts movement of the herbicides into leaf tissue. Also, drought-stressed plants often grow slower due to decreased metabolism and less air exchange as plants close their stomates to conserve water.

For postemergence applications, the addition of the correct adjuvant system can help weed control operations under dry conditions. Some herbicide labels specifically list which adjuvant should be used under such conditions. In any case, it is best to be familiar with

the label to optimize herbicide activity under any environmental condition.

Some believe that plant growth regulators (2,4-D, etc.) are not affected by drought conditions. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Under normal conditions 3 pt/acre of Pasturegard provides >95% control of dogfennel. In research plots last year, this same rate of Pasturegard provided <80% control under drought conditions. Once rainfall occurred and plants resumed normal growth, control returned to >95%.

The shortage of rainfall this year is similar to that of last year. However, we are already short of rainfall for the year, further complicating the drought condition compared to last year. Therefore, I expect that any herbicide applications in pastures will result in less than satisfactory results, especially compared to “normal” years.

If weeds are actively growing, herbicide applications will continue to work adequately. However, if weeds are wilting during the day and recovering overnight, an herbicide application should be delayed until rainfall has been received and weeds are actively growing.

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