

The Brooks Hoofbeat



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BROOKS PERFORMANCE HORSE FEEDS
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Coming Events

Hawks Landing Horse Supply Store

May 10, 2012 Cindy Schickendanz from Alltech will speak about the value of chelated minerals and the risk posed by mycotoxins.

Dan Irwin from Brooks Feeds will speak about developing a feeding program. Omega Alpha will speak about natural horse products.

Everything Equine Exposition and Trade Show

The Uxbridge Horsemen's Association will be presenting the fourth annual Everything Equine Exposition and Trade Show in Uxbridge's Elgin Park on Saturday June 16th 2012. www.uxbridgehorsemen.com

All About Horses - Lindsay Fairgrounds

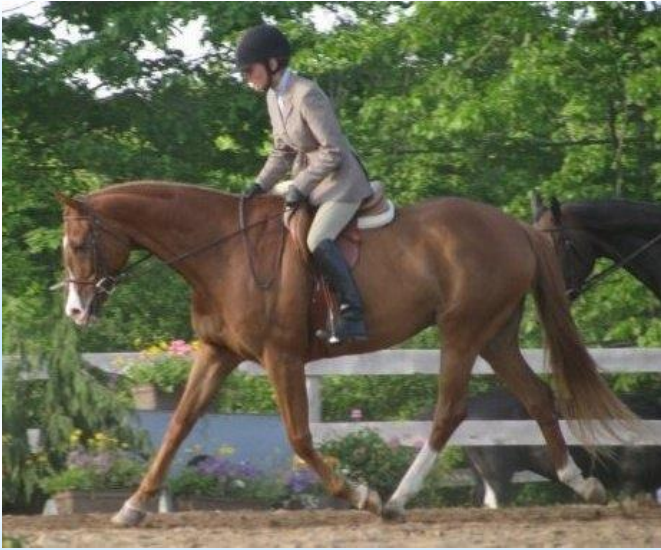
May 26 & 27 2012– Rodeo, breed shows, Mantracker and more. Call Vern Avery for more information. 705-928-1288

Wednesday, April 12, Hamilton City Council decided to unanimously throw its support behind both gaming at Flamboro Downs and the horse-racing industry within its jurisdiction. Further to voicing support for Flamboro Downs as Hamilton's No. 1 gaming priority, and to the vibrant and lucrative local horse-racing industry, councilors took the opportunity to publicly state how important the racing industry is to the area.

“As Mayor of the City of Belleville I provide this letter of support as it pertains to the Slots at Racetracks issues and the domino effect this will have as a whole on the entire Horse Racing Industry, in all of Ontario and especially in the City of Belleville, where many horsemen have been waiting for years for the final approvals of our racetrack.” (Mr. Neil Ellis – Mayor of Belleville Ontario.)

On Tuesday, April 18 in Toronto's Queen's Park Legislature, Liberal MPP Kim Craiton (Niagara Falls) stood up for both his convictions and those of many of his constituents when he read petitions into record in support of Ontario's horse-racing industry, a bold move in direct opposition to the political stance of his party.

Dedication and exceptional care are the keys to young equestrian's success



Nestled on a quiet setting in the rolling hills of the Niagara Escarpment is a stable dedicated to exceptional horse care and maximum enjoyment for riders. Every comfort is considered for the 25 horses, and a relaxed setting ensures a great learning environment for the many students and boarders.

Ashblue Equestrian is the creation and passion of Alyssa Blumberg, an accomplished rider in her own right but also someone with a unique ability to teach and create a symbiotic relationship between horse and rider.

Ashblue horses receive individual attention with daily turnout; spacious stalls with rubber matted floors and generously applied bedding. Two indoor arenas, a large outdoor sand ring, wash stalls and a heated lounge complete the all-round experience for boarders and students.

Getting the most out of her feeding program is a must as far as Alyssa is concerned.

*“I like to see my horses reflect the quality of their diet, Alyssa explains. At the same time I can't have them excitable from feed that is too hot. **Fit & Fibre** and **Flax Appeal** work really well for me. The horses look great and seem to stay calm and focused for my students and boarders. I'm very happy with Brooks Feeds.”*



Energy You Can Ride On!

The Function and Health of the Cecum and Large Intestine

The horse's digestive system is made up of several organs, each of which provides an important function in digesting and utilizing the nutrients that are in the feed and forage ingested by the horse. Anything the horse eats goes first to the stomach and then to the small intestine. Material not digested in the small intestine passes through the ileo-cecal orifice into the cecum and then to the large intestine.

The health and vitality of these essential microbes is dependent on the proper acidity or pH of this part of the intestinal tract.

The cecum and large intestine (hindgut) house billions of bacteria and protozoa that enable the digestion of cellulose and other fibrous fractions of the feed. From microbial fermentation of feeds, the horse is able to derive energy and other nutrients. Energy is constantly available to the horse in the form of volatile fatty acids from this soup of microbes and fiber found in the hindgut. Additionally, these hindgut microbes synthesize B vitamins and vitamin K, which are available to the horse to help meet its requirements for these nutrients under normal circumstances. A significant amount of microbial **protein** is also synthesized in the horse's hindgut.

The health and vitality of these essential microbes is dependent on the proper acidity or pH of this part of the intestinal tract. Large fluctuations in the pH can cause changes in the population of microbes, which can ultimately interfere with nutrient utilization in the horse. Feeding large grain meals can strongly influence this portion of the digestive tract by lowering the pH. Chronic exposure to low pH in the cecum predisposes the horse to **anorexia** and other metabolic disturbances. Interestingly enough, horses consuming high-concentrate, low-forage diets also spend more time chewing wood and practicing coprophagy (eating of manure) than do horses on mostly forage diets. This may be an indication that the low pH causes discomfort, and the horse tries to remedy the situation by attempting to get more fiber in its diet.

Normal pH in various regions of the equine digestive tract are stomach (nonglandular), 5.4; stomach (glandular 2.6); small intestine, 7.4; cecum, 6.6; and small colon, 6.6.

In the worst-case scenario, a sudden drop in pH in the hindgut from the fermentation of an excessive amount of starch, such as when a horse accidentally gets into the grain bin, can have catastrophic effects. The drop in pH kills off the fiber-digesting bacteria, release an endotoxin as they die. This endotoxin gets into the bloodstream and can cause laminitis and colic.

Obviously, keeping a feeding program as close to the natural manner in which the horse evolved would minimize the effect on the delicate balance of the microbial population in the hindgut. Radical departures from small continuous meals consisting of predominantly forage result in detrimental effects on gut function and stability. Horses on an all-forage diet will not experience wide fluctuations of pH in the cecum and large intestine that can be experienced when large amounts of grain are added to the diet. The effect of grain on the pH can be minimized by feeding smaller and more frequent grain meals and keeping forage available to the horse at all times.

Another advantage to keeping the hindgut full of forage is that it allows the hindgut to be a storehouse of water and electrolytes for the horse. The presence of fiber in the diet will also increase the water intake of the horse. During exercise when dehydration may be an issue, such as distance riding, a good supply of fiber in the hindgut will help to keep the horse hydrated and supply him with electrolytes that are lost in sweat.

However, during competitions, the long duration of exercise and environmental factors can so deplete the horse of water and electrolytes that the animal cannot get enough from the hindgut without additional supplementation. This storehouse also adds weight to the animal, so for short-term sports where quick bursts of energy are needed, reducing the amount of fiber in the gut may be appropriate prior to the competition. A note of caution: this practice is not ideal on a day-to-day basis and should only be considered an option for competitions.

Article courtesy of Kentucky Equine Research Dr. Kathleen Crandell

October 2011



February 2012



April 2012



Deb Hayes shared these photos with Brooks Feeds. They are photos of the foot of Deb's ten year old Thoroughbred gelding Nkosi. Deb had glowing words to describe the benefits of supplementing with **Ker A Form** during Nkosi's recovery from a serious hoof infection.

"There isn't a person who has not been amazed with Nkosi's progress. The Ker A Form seemed to start working within a few short weeks. I wanted to share this as the old saying "no foot – no horse" is true and this product is just amazing. The quality of the hoof is perfect now after a few months."



Something to chew on!

Pasture season is great for a horse in so many ways but I still like to see them fed some hay especially when their system is adapting to the spring grass in a few weeks. **EquiShure** can help prevent acidosis in pastured horses.

Dan Irwin – Nutritional Consultant

An ounce or two of salt sprinkled on the grain ration helps to keep horses drinking enough water. While working hard, an electrolyte like **Summer Games** helps to replenish salts lost in sweat.

Vern Avery – Nutritional Consultant

Fibre Omega Plus is a terrific feed that should be considered for hard working horses in dressage or jumping. The 12 % fat level with good quality fibre provides lots of manageable energy.

Laurie Bishop - Nutritional Consultant

I suggest checking out **Neigh Lox Advanced** at www.kppusa.com It works in the stomach and in the hind gut to maintain a healthy digestive system.

Greg Watson – Nutritional Consultant