

UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDES ASSOCIATION



RIDE SCHEDULE!

A more detailed Ride Schedule can always be found at UMECRA.com!

Date	Ride Name	Ride City	State
7/29-7/31	Bonecrusher Ride	Palmyra	WI
8/5 & 8/6	Detroit Horse Power Metropark Express	Milford	MI
8/6 & 8/7	Rock River Charity Ride	Franklin Grove	IL
8/12 - 8/14	Louise Riedel Memorial	Arkdale	WI
8/20 & 8/21	Bearfoot Boogie	Hinckley	MN
8/27 & 8/28	DRAW's Northern Highland	Gleason	WI
9/5/2022 Labor Day			
9/3-9/5	White River Fall	Hesperia	MI
9/10 & 9/11	Charity Cup	Pillager	MN
9/10 & 9/11	Keweenaw Ride	Marquette	MI
9/10 & 9/11	Lincoln Trails AHA	Kinmundy	IL
9/16 & 9/17	DRAW's Colorama Classic	New Prospect	WI
9/24 & 9/25	Pine Marten Run	Wetmore	MI
10/1 & 10/2	DRAW Finale	Palmyra	WI
10/1 & 10/2	Huntersville Hundred	Menahga	MN
10/8 & 10/9	Iron Oak	Arkdale	WI

10/8 & 10/9	Oak Leaf Run	Hamilton	MI
10/21 & 10/22	Point Chaser	Theilman	MN
10/29 & 10/30	AHDRA - Big River	Keithsburg	IL

Congratulations to UMECRA Tevis Riders Emma Christopherson and Sarah Maass!! Both completed and now have the coveted Tevis Belt Buckle! This is Sarah's 3rd buckle and Emma's first!

Emma and Diesel



Sarah and Opie



RIDE RESULTS

SE MN - 6/18/22 - Comp HW 25			
Bonnie	Mielke	BNB Khrome Azrael	1
Kristen	Hedeon	Firecreek Casper	2
Janessa	Palmer	YM Sienna	P
SE MN - 6/18/22 - Comp Jr 25			
Fiona	Robillard	Bullseye	1
Elena	Aragon	Cadys Roll in the Thunder	2
Toria	Robillard	Fergus	3

SE MN - 6/18/22 - Comp LW 25			
Katie	Vogl	My Name Is Bob	1
Olivia	Christenson	Tamanni BLM	1
Katie	Robillard	Bonnie	1
Aga	Lisa	Noble Emotions CRF	4
Candy	Barbo	SR August Breeze	5
Stephanie	Granke	Ruby	6
Joely	Palmer	Krosswind Kadence	P

SE MN - 6/18/22 - End HW 50			
Sheryl	O'Brien	Wild River Sundancer	1
Rebecca	Horihan	LC Ernani	2
Karin	Lupo	VC Premier Eddition	3
Sarah	Carlson	FPH Second Badge	4
Mandie	Roggenkamp	The Outlander	5
Kimberly	Fosler	BZ Cojeseryn Sahar	6
Maria	Enge	Faustos Flame	C
Crystal	Esqueda	Lopin in Diamonds	C
Sherry	Aune	Lily Creek Rhythm	P

SE MN - 6/18/22 - End Jr 50			
Miley	Eischens	Ozy	1
Colton	Eischens	Sir Fettuccine Alfredo Tortellini	2

SE MN - 6/18/22 - End LW 50			
Bobbi	Belz	Duke	1
Sarah	Maass	Kestreliera	2
Emma	Christophers	Integritys Deluxx	3
Kasey	Corcoran	Sharif El Moniet	4
Karla	Ovsak	Dobella NPA	5
Elizabeth	Frieders	UpUp And Away JIF	6
Chip	Jack	Brunello NA	C
Amy	Ellingson	Gideon	C
Jodi	Johannessen	SC Izzabella	P
Michelle	Splonskowski	Nasar IBN Moniet	P
Darlene	Molitor	VC Auralia	P
Dannielle	Lease	Boo Kids Aster Knight	P
Samantha	Hayne	Londons Dark Night	P

SE MN - 6/18/22 - LD HW 25			
Joshua	Ramon	TRJ Just Jake	1
Jennifer	Frerichs-Ram	Halley's Comet	2
Matthew	Splonskowski	LK Willy Willy Cool	3
Barry	Saylor	Victoro GRK	4
Ruby	Filhart	Hannah Rose	5
Dana	Gasner	Whispering Echo	6
Carl	Hoeft	Chase	C
Jesselyn	Grimshaw	Snow	C
Judy	Hoeft	Romana Johar (Romeo)	P
Becca	Johnson	Donald	P

SE MN - 6/18/22 - LD LW 25			
Linda	Jacobson	AE Gimli Strength	1
Miranda	Williams	CR Zohlaraaz	2
Suzanne	Warren	PPF Geyms Sonly	3
Jessi	Vinkemeier	Mystic Dynasty PF	4
Sophie	Gustafson	HJ Nikeshah	5
Nancy	McCoy	Khepera Immileegy	6
Shea-Lynn	Ramthum	SS Butter Me Up	C
Hannah	Knutson	SB Sedona	C
Kristine	Jubeck	Silver	C
Andrea	Miller	William	C
Leslie	Lloyd	Spot	C
Kristine	Jubeck	Silver	P

SE MN - 6/19/22 - LD Jr 25			
Anna	Desouza	Peyton Afire	1

SE MN - 6/19/22 - LD LW 25			
Karla	Ovsak	Patches MN	1
Jesse	Shaddrick	Jinjersnapp	2
Sophie	Gustafson	HJ Nikeshah	3
Shelly	Carroll	PV Ghazna	4

SE MN - 6/19/22 - Novice 10			
Lisa	VandeBerg	Squirt	1
Jennifer	Boettcher	Cooper	2
Nola	Westphal	Chloe	3
Ben	Davidson	NFF Hawkeye Taylor	4
Riley	Hennig	Lucky Henry	5
Noah	Delk	Skye	6
Evan	Meeker	YM Sienna	C
Janessa	Palmer	Krosswind Kadence	C
Melia	Hennig	PAA Baylyn Seer	C
Paula	Brummel	Natasha	C
Joely	Palmer	Dusty Bar Sunup	C
Amber	Hennig	Lucky John	MO
Jennifer	Frerichs-Ram	Halley's Comet	MO
Montana	Storm	Macks Great Threat	MO

Grand Island North - 6/25/22 - End HW 55			
Sherry	Aune	Lily Creek Rhythm	1
Brandon	Brunner	La Grange RTA	2

Grand Island North - 6/25/22 - End Jr 55			
Ilona	Jarvi	Liberdee	1

Grand Island North - 6/25/22 - End LW 55			
Diane	Meinders	Yo Dusty	1
Karen	Bahrman	Westwind Little Big Man	2
Shanon	Ployhart	BBA Fahad Al Hadi	3
Karen	Jarvi	Sony De Mayo Rose	4

Grand Island North - 6/25/22 - LD HW 30			
Diane	Maxey	LW Constant Sohn	1
TJ	Edwards	Decorah's Double Delight	2
Jeanne	Aslakson	Midnight Confession	P

Grand Island North - 6/25/22 - LD Jr 30			
Grace	Carter	Corona Breeze	1

Grand Island North - 6/25/22 - LD LW 30			
Linda	Hamrick	Cash	1
Rebecca	Bond	Quincey QT	2
Erica	Pinette	Rembrandt's Twist of Fate	3
Alyssa	Carl	Wouldja Like A Half Pint	4
Grand Island North - 6/26/22 - LD Jr 30			
Ilona	Jarvi	Trinadee	1
Grace	Carter	Corona Breeze	2
Grand Island North - 6/26/22 - LD LW 30			
Wendy	Maas	Marvelous Maven	1
Rebecca	Bond	Quincey QT	2
Karen	Jarvi	Austdee	3

Dead Dog Creek - 6/25/22 - Comp LW 25			
Jennifer	Haras	Maverick	1
Lori	Windows	Ella N Fires Jane Doe	2
Dead Dog Creek - 6/25/22 - End HW 50			
Gerald	Cummings	Easi Goer	1
Carol	Weber	Belesema Exclusiva	2
Lucy	Stafford	H WineGlass Sangria	P
Dead Dog Creek - 6/25/22 - End LW 50			
Wendy	Minnick	Stardust Serenade TM	1
Dead Dog Creek - 6/25/22 - LD HW 25			
Monicka	Remboldt	Teddy	1
Tracy	Bridges	Phillies April Rhythm	2
Kimberly	Rosecrans	Magic	3
William	Byman	Affirmed Victory TL	4
Diana	Hayes	Ima Tiki Too	5
Marge	Dixon	Bethany Jet	P
Brooke	Moeller	Aurora's Magical Luv	P
Dead Dog Creek - 6/25/22 - LD Jr 25			
Katrina	Martin	Polly	1
Dead Dog Creek - 6/25/22 - LD LW 25			
Pamela	Garrison	DB A Bayberry	1
Michaela	Costello	Fable Tucson	2
Alyssa	Chute	Finesse MSF	3
Carrie	Thompson	Lapcos	P
Christina	Byman	DB Fatin	P
Dead Dog Creek - 6/25/22 - Novice 13			
Michaela	Treimer	Bebe	1
Carrie	Taft	Bear	2
Sloan	Horsman	RSR Sarah's Lilly	3
Skylar	Tolbert	Cheyenne	4
Trudy	Horsman	Shahniah Norsk	MO
Brittany	DeBord	Stormy's Night Magic	MO
Kaylie	Hulsey	Lilly	MO

Dead Dog Creek - 6/26/22 - Comp HW 25			
Mike	Mocilan	Count On Psyche	1
Kellie	Eckmann	Chevy	2
Dead Dog Creek - 6/26/22 - LD HW 25			
Gerald	Cummings	Easi Goer	1
Dead Dog Creek - 6/26/22 - LD LW 25			
Amy	Betzelberger	Lexus	1
Vera	Betzelberger	Chico Gaited Pony	2
Dead Dog Creek - 6/26/22 - Novice 13			
Gwen	Paschall	Molly	1
Lauren	Glowzenski	Oles Duallin Cat	2
Christina	Poetzl	Bouble Hombre Time	3
Nancy	Bressler	Dakota	4

Endless Big Valley - 7/1/22 - Comp HW 25			
Bonnie	Mielke	BNB Khrome Azrael	1
Sarah	Mowrer	A Time To Shine	2
Andrea	Pfeifer	Mytalisha's Titan	3
Endless Big Valley - 7/1/22 - Comp LW 25			
Jennifer	Haras	Maverick	1
Lori	Windows	Ella N Fires Jane Doe	2
Debby	Weisbecker	JM Cest La Vie	3
Endless Big Valley - 7/1/22 - End HW 50			
Sherry	Aune	Lily Creek Rhythm	1
Guy	Worthington	JG Randie	2
Kimberly Ann	Fosler	BZ Cojeseryn Sahar	3
Amber	Erickson	Ophelia Kkan	4
Endless Big Valley - 7/1/22 - End Jr 50			
Alice	Erickson	Rushcreek Calia	1
Endless Big Valley - 7/1/22 - End LW 50			
Bobbi	Belz	Duke	1
Ann Marie	Barnett	VA Chazzmyne	2
Lindsay	Jackson Nichols	Ravenswood Nevermore	3
Sheila	Schneider	Gypsy B Miss Behavin	4
Endless Big Valley - 7/1/22 - LD HW 25			
Melissa	Lange	Joe	1
TJ	Edwards	Decorah's Double Delight	2
Peter	Dordal	Amaz'n Grace	3
Endless Big Valley - 7/1/22 - LD Jr 25			
Grace	Carter	Corona Breeze	1
Endless Big Valley - 7/1/22 - LD LW 25			
Linda	Jacobson	AE Gimli Strength	1
Kristine	Jubeck	William	2
Bettina	Koehn	JBK Zum-Bayou	3
Katie	Bachhuber	Indiana	4
Ainsley	Suskey	Madras NA	5
Pam	Cotton	Rio BA	6
Jane	Kirkeide	Bassim	P
Eileen	Kirsch	Hansi	P
Endless Big Valley - 7/2/22 - Comp HW 25			
Sarah	Mowrer	A Time To Shine	1
Endless Big Valley - 7/2/22 - Comp LW 25			
Lori	Windows	Ella N Fires Jane Doe	1
Jessica	Sonnek	Jazmine	2
Endless Big Valley - 7/2/22 - LD HW 25			
Guy	Worthington	Spirit	1
Amber	Erickson	Ottalia Mystic	2
Brooke	Moeller	Aurora's Magical Luv	3
Sherry	Aune	SA Rhythms Sky Rocket	P

Endless Big Valley - 7/2/22 - LD LW 25			
Jan	Worthington	Golden Lightning	1
Marie	Barry	Valleyofthesun	2
Kitt	Schaller	Millie	3
Amy	Betzberger	Lexus	4
Vera	Betzberger	Cisco Quarter Pony	5
Pam	Cotton	Wyatt's Dire Straits	6
Roberta	Harms	Lady Jane	P
Endless Big Valley - 7/2/22 - LD Jr 25			
Alice	Erickson	Rushcreek Calia	1
Grace	Carter	Corona Breeze	2
Endless Big Valley - 7/2/22 - Novice 10			
Melia	Hennig	PAA Baylyn Seer	1
Erika	Leighty	Chex	2
Madeline	Spence	Vinny	3
Julia	Martin	Black Satin	4
Jennifer	Boettcher	Cooper	5
Shannon	Walsh	Joe	6
Riley	Hennig	Lucky Henry	C
Gracyn	Schneider	Bataania KSR	C
Savanna	Amschl	Dancer	C
Amber	Hennig	Lucky John	MO
Debby	Weisbecker	Hotsprings Fandango	MO
Allison	Goetz	Shadowtrax	MO
Samantha	Miller	McGregor	MO
Linda	Jacobson	Hazelrun Mighty Roark	MO
Bobbi	Belz	Spiderman	MO
Kristine	Jubeck	Silver	MO
Ann	DeLang	My My My My My Boogies Shoes	P

Mosquito Run - 7/9/22 - Comp Jr 25			
Elena	Aragon	Cadys Roll in the Thunder	P
Mosquito Run - 7/9/22 - Comp LW 25			
Jessica	Sonnek	Jazmine	1
Katie	Vogl	My Name Is Bob	2
Aga	Lisa	Noble Emotions CRF	3
Olivia	Christenson	Tamanni BLM	4
Debra L	Juettner	Lacy	5
Mosquito Run - 7/9/22 - Drive 15			
Ray	Hubert	JimmyCrackedCorn	1
Alice	Hubert	Gridlock	2
Mosquito Run - 7/9/22 - End HW 50			
Sheryl	O'Brien	Wild River Sundancer	1
Rebecca	Horihan	LC Ermani	2
Brandon	Brunner	La Grange RTA	3
Mandie	Roggenkamp	The Outlander	4
Karin	Lupo	VC Premier Eddition	5
Crystal	Esqueda	Lopin in Diamonds	6
Jennifer	Frerichs-Ramon	Halley's Comet	C
Barry	Saylor	Victoro GRK	P
Mosquito Run - 7/9/22 - End Jr 50			
Brak	Schramm	Cyes Mark of Praise	1
Ruby	Thorp	Jupiter	2

Mosquito Run - 7/9/22 - End LW 50			
Karla	Ovsak	Dobella NPA	1
Nikki	Blake	Londons Dark Night	2
Jesse	Shaddrick	Ice Falcon LRA	3
Teresa	Fett	CR Mistiraaaz	4
Shanon	Ployhart	BBA Fahad Al Hadi	5
Darlene	Molitor	VC Arieon	6
Margaret	Reynolds	VA Caradelle	C
Lori	McCutchen	Allumination MCS	C
Chip	Jack	Brunello NA	C
Abbie	Schramm	Shakers Raindancer	C
Theresa	Meyer	Sirius Encore	C
Sandi	Hanly	Rushcreek Ether	C
Karinna	James	Almanzo	C
Amy	Ellingson	Gideon	P
Jodi	Johannessen	SC Izzabella	P
Mosquito Run - 7/9/22 - LD HW 25			
Charlotte	Tuhy	Raffimas Image	1
Ruby	Filhart	Hannah Rose	2
Janet	Sarver	Legacy of Khouorage	3
Judy	Hoeft	Romana Joker	4
Jill	Piechowski	Tucker	5
Sarah	Carlson	FPH Second Badge	6
Jutta	Schmidt	AF Go For Gold	C
TJ	Edwards	Decorah's Double Delight	P
Becca	Johnson	Donald	P
Carl	Hoeft	Chase	P
Dale	Lunde	HMR Sshameus	P
Mosquito Run - 7/9/22 - LD Jr 25			
Grace	Carter	Corona Breeze	1
Mosquito Run - 7/9/22 - LD LW 25			
Anne	Anderson	SH After Midnite	1
Jessi	Lipponen	Mystic Dynasty PF	2
Kathryn	Vadnais	Nobel Effects	3
Karrie	Halbur	Karma's Alluring Lady	4
Pamela	Coolidge	Snappy	5
Angela Flores	Hershey	Pavaratti	6
Shea-Lynn	Ramthum	SS Butter Me Up	C
Jane	Malischke	Hollywoods Brightest	C
Megan	Anderson	Zorra	C
Sherry	Legatt	SBF Capaccino	C
Victoria	Robison	Bullett	C
Nancy	McCoy	Khepera Immileegy	C
Megan	Thomas	Baskin Dream	C
Hannah	Knutson	SB Sedona	C
Suzanne	Warren	CR Zohlaraaz	C
Mosquito Run - 7/9/22 - Novice 15			
Jacki	Devine	Jet	1
Rachel	Temp	Triumphant Echo	2
Jack	Suggs	Rocket	3
Kelley	Suggs	Flicka	3
Melissa	Ashbough	Victorious Luck	5
Jennifer	Boettcher	Cooper	6
Mary	Lambert	Wild River Racer	MO
Paula	Goligowski	Ms Lightening	MO
Mosquito Run - 7/10/22 - LD HW 25			
Taryn	Lindbeck	TKO Rhio Bask	1
Jennifer	Frerichs-Ramon	Lads Switch Blade	2

Mosquito Run - 7/10/22 - LD Jr 25			
Anna	DeSouza	Peyton Afire	1
Grace	Carter	Corona Breeze	2
Mosquito Run - 7/10/22 - LD LW 25			
Karla	Ovsak	Patches	1
Jesse	Shaddrick	Jinjersnapp	2
Sarah	Louise	CR Mistiraaz	3
Shelby	Nelson	Ice Falcon LRA	4
Shelly	Carroll	PV Ghazna	5
Megan	Thomas	Baskin Dream	P
Mosquito Run - 7/10/22 - Novice 10			
Raina	Gasser	Daisy	1
Rachel	Temp	Triumphant Echo	2
Madeline	Boie	Joker	3
Noah	Delk	Skye	4
Ritta	Gasser	Miss Missouri Star	5
Valerie	Temp	Peace Be Still	6
Jennifer	Lisowe	Ace	6
Kathy	Zachman	Cowboy	C
Linda	Kotzer	Willow	C
Valerie	Waller	Patriot	C
Denise	Retka	Bandit	C
Meisha	Kuttner	Carrot	C
Jennifer	Boettcher	Cooper	C
Nicole	Klein	Jax	C
Erika	Achberger	Jetla	C
Cara	Dahl	Junebug	C
Mike	Whiteford	Maggie	C
Elizabeth	Sanders	Taj Mahal	C
Avery	Alberts	Katalina	C
Melissa	Ashbough	Victorious Luck	C
Jacki	Devine	Jet	C
Karrie	Halbur	Eraf Sanlamara	MO
Ari	Norgren	Vondar Leonardo	MO
Kasie	Thomas	Indy	MO
Mandie	Roggenkamp	Hank's Temptation	MO
Abbie	Schramm	Faith	MO
Paula	Goligowski	Ms Lightening	MO
Olivia	Christenson	Tamanni BLM	MO
Kristen	Hedeem	June	MO
Crystal	Esqueda	Cyes Mark of Praise	MO
Jessica	Sonnek	Jazmine	MO
Aga	Lisa	Dessa Darling	MO
Elena	Aragon	Noble Emotions CRF	MO
Tanna	Houlton	MS Famous Fancy Nancy	P
Mosquito Run - 7/10/22 - Drive 10			
Sharon	Hahn	Gemini	1
Ray	Hubert	JimmyCrackedCorn	2
Alice	Hubert	Gridlock	3

**Looking for point
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standings at
UMECRA.com!!**

Avoiding Dehydration in Sport Horses During Summer

Keeping competition horses well-hydrated isn't always easy. Our nutritionist offers tips to help prevent dehydration.

Posted by Clair Thunes, PhD | Jul 22, 2022 | Commentary, Horse Care, Horse Nutrition Commentary Series, Monitoring Exercise Performance, Musculoskeletal System, Nutrition, Seasonal Care, Sports Medicine, Sports Nutrition, Summer Care, Water & Electrolytes

<https://thehorse.com/110704/avoiding-dehydration-in-sport-horses-during-summer/>

Equine sweat contains significant amounts of electrolytes, and the electrolyte concentration in sweat mirrors or is slightly more concentrated than equine blood (around 6 grams of chloride, 3.5 grams of sodium, and 1.2 grams of potassium). Therefore, in those 5 liters of fluid, about 50 grams of body salts are lost. Of course, not all horses sweat that much but no matter how much sweat is generated, chloride is lost in the greatest amounts followed by sodium and potassium. While hays and feed do contain these electrolytes, they are not present in amounts that can replace such losses. As such, in many cases, your horse will need an electrolyte supplement.

Adequate sodium keeps horses drinking the same way eating salty chips make us thirsty. If blood sodium levels drop due to losses in sweat, horses can lose their desire to drink. (Hence, after work you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink.) Avoid getting to that stage through daily salt supplementation to provide maintenance sodium and chloride, as well as an electrolyte to replace sweat losses.

Giving your horse 1 tablespoon of table salt per 500 pounds of body weight each day will help ensure your horse is covering daily maintenance sodium needs. Many people reply on a salt block for this purpose. While I believe horses should always have access to salt either

as a block or in loose form, many do not use blocks consistently. For this reason, I prefer to give the maintenance dose each day in a form that's easy for me to tell whether it's been consumed.

On days when your horse is sweating, you will need to add a well-balanced electrolyte in addition to the salt. Avoid electrolytes in which dextrose or glucose (i.e., sugar) are the first ingredient; while these will likely be highly palatable, they might not contain adequate concentrations of the necessary minerals. The electrolyte's purpose is to replace sweat losses, so it is important that whichever product you choose contains adequate amounts of chloride, sodium, and potassium. Many do contain these key electrolytes but not in great enough concentrations to have a major impact. Find an electrolyte that delivers at least 12 grams of chloride, about 6 grams of sodium, and 4 grams of potassium. Some products might also provide small amounts of calcium and magnesium, as these are also lost in sweat, but in relatively small amounts.

Feed the electrolyte in addition to the salt. Typically, the product will give several feeding levels depending on level of sweating, and you should feed according to the instructions for your horse's body weight and work level.

If you can tell a horse is dehydrated using the skin test or capillary refill test, that means he's already 5-6% dehydrated. I have read that for every percent dehydration you lose 4% performance ability. So, beyond health risks, even a mildly dehydrated horse will not be able to give its best performance and likely accounts for reduced performance over the length of a competition.

Horses also need water to replace muscle stores of glycogen, the storage form of carbohydrates. So, with mild dehydration, it becomes harder for them to replenish energy stores, which leads to earlier onset of fatigue and decreased performance.

Don't forget: Do not just rely on salt and electrolytes during the competition season.

Provide salt year-round and add electrolytes anytime your horse has obviously been sweating. If you can keep your horse's electrolyte levels up during training, you will not need to increase them during competition. Keep in mind that horses can lose a considerable amount of sweat during transportation, so be sure to supplement accordingly during travel to and from events.

When it comes to dehydration, an ounce of prevention is definitely worth a pound of cure!

You and Your Horse Can Become Environmentally Friendly

Here's a brief look at "green" horse keeping techniques you can implement on your farm this summer.

<https://thehorse.com/136134/you-and-your-horse-can-become-environmentally-friendly/>

Have you ever wondered whether the new neighbors in the expensive subdivision might complain about odors, dust or flies from your horse property? Maybe it's crossed your mind that there might be something useful to do with that big manure pile behind the barn. If either are true, then you're ready for eco-friendly horse keeping!

The quality of water in local streams, lakes and other water bodies affects and is affected by all who work or live in your watershed. A watershed is a valley or low area of land where all the water in the area eventually drains. John Wesley Powell, a U.S. geologist and explorer of the American West, described a watershed as this: "That area of land, a bounded hydrologic system, within which all living things are inextricably linked by their common water course and where, as humans settled, simple logic demanded that they become part of a community."

No matter where we live or what we do for a living, all the choices we make affect water quality in our watersheds—either negatively or positively.

As horse owners, we need to be especially aware of how we impact the environment and take steps to minimize impacts. The end result helps preserve our equestrian way of life.

Here's a brief look at "green" horse keeping techniques you can implement over the summer:

Create a sacrifice area or paddock to be used to keep your pastures from becoming overgrazed, particularly during winter. This area should be on higher ground, away from ditches, creeks, or water bodies. Using a sacrifice area keeps horses from destroying pastures. It also confines manure and urine to an area where you can more easily manage it. Surround this area by a grassy buffer such as lawn or pasture to act as a filter for contaminated runoff. Using a footing in this area such as coarse washed sand or crushed rock will help cut down on mud problems in the winter months and will make it easier for you to remove manure.

Install rain gutters and roof runoff systems on all barns, sheds and outbuildings to divert the clean rainwater away from high traffic areas. This will reduce the amount of nutrients (from manure and urine) and sediments (from soil) washed off into surface waters. This also has the added benefit of substantially reducing the amount of rainy season mud created in your sacrifice areas.

Cross fence pastures and rotate horses in order to prevent overgrazing and soil compaction. At least three inches of leafy material is needed for rapid regrowth and for the biofiltration of nutrients, sediments and chemicals in your pastures. Compaction of the soil makes water infiltration and root growth difficult. Poor pasture management results in reduced quality and quantity of grass, increased soil erosion, nitrogen runoff (from manure and urine) and weeds. It also increases feed costs because of the reduced pasture productivity and potentially

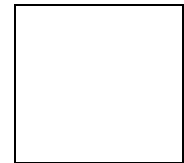
increased vet bills if your horse eats toxic weeds.

Implement a manure management program. Begin by picking up manure on a regular basis in all confinement areas and high traffic sites. Stockpile manure away from ditches or water bodies and consider beginning a composting system. Compost is a rich soil amendment which improves the productivity of pastures, making grasses healthier and better able to hold moisture.

In this age of more and more development, we as horse owners need to consider the impacts we have on our neighbors and the environment. Are we contributing to reduced water quality in our watershed, creating an eyesore and a fly haven? Or, is our horse operation pleasing to look at, healthy for our horses and a home for wildlife? To ensure horse owners a place in the future of your community, take steps toward becoming an asset to your watershed.



UMECRA Newsletter
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