

UNL Animal Science Connections for Prospective Students

by Anita Ferrell, Admissions Coordinator, Department of Animal Science

Do you love horses? Are you interested in a lifelong career in the horse industry? If so, sooner is better to get connected to UNL's Equine Science Option. The Department of Animal Science can help prepare students for careers in all facets of the equine industry. Whether the goal is to become a trainer, a veterinarian or anything in between, the education needed is at UNL.

UNL's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources offers equine-specific courses in equitation, evaluation and judging, management, nutrition and reproduction. Students also benefit from experiential learning through internships and study tours. Students in the animal science major with the Equine Science Option take core classes in the sciences and management, in addition to their equine classes. Also, students in majors other than animal science can complete a minor with the Equine Science emphasis.

Equine Science Option students participate in several activities, in addition to their classroom experience. Through the Equestrian Team, Horse Judging Team, Block & Bridle Club, Pre-Vet Club, Rodeo Club and more, students pursuing a career in the horse industry can get involved on campus. Students also benefit from gaining hands-on experience in the horse industry through job shadows, internships and study tours.

Future issues of *Nebraska Equine News* will include more topics relative to becoming a student at UNL and preparing for a career in the horse industry.

For more information about the UNL Department of Animal Science and the Equine Science Program, please contact Anita Ferrell at (402) 472-0204 or aferrrell2@unl.edu.

UNL Student Recruitment Event
July 17, 4:30 - 6 pm at the Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Show and Exposition at Grand Island.

Horse Donation, Anyone?

by Libby Lugar, UNL Equine Lecturer

Be a supporter of the UNL Equine Program! A number of ways are available on how you can help. As the program grows, needs expand. The following examples are some ways you may be able to help.

1 Donate your horse. Not riding as much as you used to and want to see your horse go to a good home? A tax-deductible horse donation to UNL may be just the answer. Donations are accepted as needed. As new horses come to the program, often older horses are retired or sold.

2 Having a hard time keeping your horse ridden over the winter months? Consider leasing your horse to the UNL Equine Program. Again, as needed, horses are taken in on lease during August, and returned to their owners at the end of April. This is a great way to keep your horse ridden over the winter months when it can be hard to keep up. Let us take care of your horse and return it to you ready to go!

3 Help students fund their education. A development fund through the University of Nebraska Foundation now is available to assist students on the Equestrian Team. Funding opportunities also are available through the animal science department to assist with scholarships and other areas.

4 As the UNL horse herd expands, more tack and equipment are needed. Donations of tack in good working order are greatly appreciated.

Please contact Libby Lugar or Kathy Anderson for more information.



Lindsey Salestrom, UNL Senior, president of the Equestrian Team.

Salt Needs of Working Horses

by Kathy Anderson, UNL Extension Horse Specialist

The salt need of working horses in summer months is a common concern. A horse trying to lick a person's hands is a common indicator of a deficiency of salt. Left uncorrected, a salt deficiency can result in weight loss and dehydration, as a horse's consumption of feed and water may be reduced.

A salt deficiency in horses is easy to correct. A non-working horse's total diet should contain at least 0.1% sodium (0.25% common salt), but a sweating, working horse needs 0.3% sodium (0.75% common salt). Most feeds naturally contain very low levels of salt; therefore it must be made available. Commercially prepared feeds often contain 0.5% to 1% salt. The general recommendation, however, is that ad-

ditional, free-choice salt be available. When a horse begins to sweat for whatever reason (work, hot weather) the salt requirement will increase.

A horse's salt requirement is proportional to its amount of sweating. A working horse can lose as much as 35 grams of salt when sweating. This increased loss of salt due to work isn't commonly replaced by the amount of salt as NaCl in commercially prepared feeds. Therefore, it is suggested that salt also be made available for free-choice consumption. Salt has been found to be the one mineral supplement of which horses will consume only as much as needed. Sodium is the only mineral found for which horses have a specific appetite and will self limit the amount

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