



Saddle Up Niagara

S.U.N.

Volume 2, Issue 6

December 2009

Merry Christmas

and

Happy New Year

to all of you from all of us here at

Saddle Up Niagara!



We need your pictures.... (please)

We really need some pictures to put in our newsletters...if you have some of yourself or others from a S.U.N. event and don't mind sharing them with us...please email them to me at sheltieluv@sympatico.ca Photos add life to the newsletter so please share yours with us!

Congratulations to the following High Point Year End award winners:

Open Western Performance — Tim Martinak, Watch Wendell Step

Sponsored by: Meridian Credit Union

Youth Western Performance—Jessica Cieri, Gauchos Sly Image

Sponsored by: Mary and Keith Seabrook

12 & Under— Rachel Barich, Indian Ribbons

Sponsored by: Little Oak Farm

Open Games—Shannon Mossey, Healey Falls Cajun

Sponsored by: Lee & Sue Jackson

Youth Games—Heather Triska, Copy Cat

Sponsored by: Spirit Horse Farm

Open English—Jodie Raymond, Heza Fancy Firefly

Sponsored by: Canadian Tire Financial

Youth English—Breanne Lywood, Fjord Mustang

Sponsored by: Scotty & Ruth Gordon



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We still require one more director...if you would like to be more involved in your club and have fun doing so, call Connie Lywood or Trace Patterson.

Thank you to our sponsors:

- Little Oak Farm
- Cedar Ridge
- Mary & Keith Seabrook
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- Purina Feeds
- Ringside Ribbons
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- Canadian Tire Footprint
- Hare's Harness
- Talk Wireless (Motorola)
- Greenhawk Equestrian
- Irene Manuel
- Shelley Hamilton (Spirit Horse Farm)
- Almatay's Fine Foods
- Bellestar Photo

Your name can be here too!

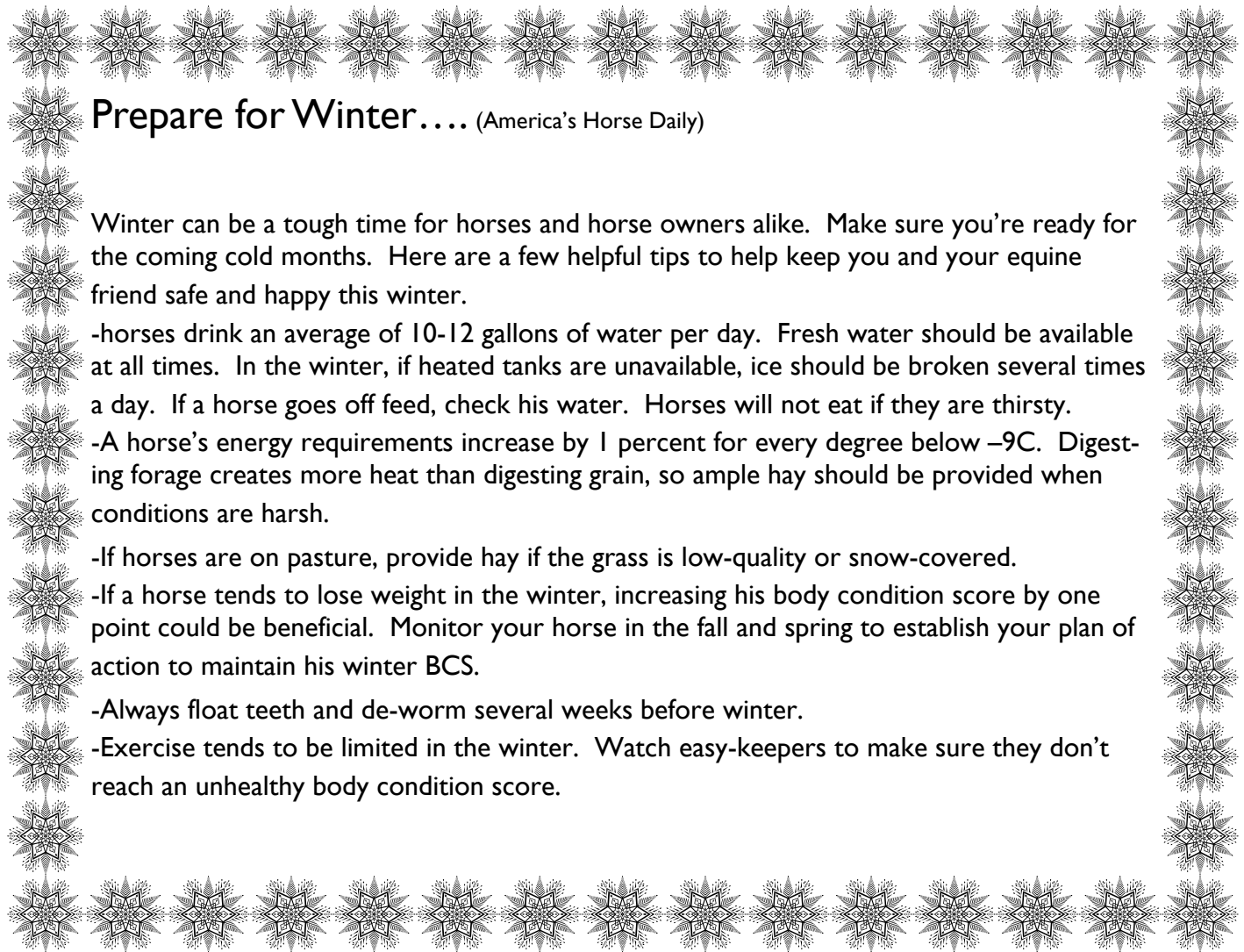
Call a director to see how you can make it

Sponsorships

Thank you so much to all of our sponsors from 2009!
Without your support we wouldn't be where we are today...

As most non-profit organizations, we rely on sponsorships for the financial aspect of our club. We would like to thank our sponsors for their continuing support and we welcome our new sponsors to Saddle Up Niagara.

If you are interested in sponsoring a very enthusiastic, successful club, please contact a director above. The sponsorship forms for 2010 will be available in January.



Prepare for Winter.... (America's Horse Daily)

Winter can be a tough time for horses and horse owners alike. Make sure you're ready for the coming cold months. Here are a few helpful tips to help keep you and your equine friend safe and happy this winter.

-horses drink an average of 10-12 gallons of water per day. Fresh water should be available at all times. In the winter, if heated tanks are unavailable, ice should be broken several times a day. If a horse goes off feed, check his water. Horses will not eat if they are thirsty.

-A horse's energy requirements increase by 1 percent for every degree below -9C. Digesting forage creates more heat than digesting grain, so ample hay should be provided when conditions are harsh.

-If horses are on pasture, provide hay if the grass is low-quality or snow-covered.

-If a horse tends to lose weight in the winter, increasing his body condition score by one point could be beneficial. Monitor your horse in the fall and spring to establish your plan of action to maintain his winter BCS.

-Always float teeth and de-worm several weeks before winter.

-Exercise tends to be limited in the winter. Watch easy-keepers to make sure they don't reach an unhealthy body condition score.



Winter Weight Loss... (America's Horse Daily)

Temperatures between -9°C and -10°C are considered energy neutral for horses. This means that within that temperature range, horses don't require extra energy or calories to stay warm or cool. However, this assumes that the wind is not blowing and the horse's hair coat is not wet, because both conditions increase the horse's caloric needs.

Horses instinctively know when they need extra calories to increase body temperature and maintain weight. Unfortunately, most horses are on a fixed diet and when additional calories are required to keep them warm or to maintain body weight, they are at the mercy of their owner's ability to adjust the feed ration.

When feeding horses in cold weather, it is important to know two things:

1. Don't be deceived by woolly winter hair coats that can make a horse look fat. During cold weather, horses that are not receiving adequate rations first burn stored fat and then protein from muscle tissue to fuel daily activities. Initially, fat reserves stored along the ribs, crest of the neck and rump are used. Then the muscles in the neck, shoulder and hindquarters are sacrificed. So when trying to assess body condition on a winter-coated horse, run your hands over the horse's back, hips and ribs to determine if he is losing weight. If you are uncomfortable estimating weight loss through palpitation, use a weight tape to check the horse's weight in the late fall and then weekly throughout the winter.
2. Keep in mind that hay-not grain-is the best feed to help a horse generate body heat. The heat of digestion from five pounds of extra hay will raise the average horse's core body temperature 1.2 degrees for near four hours. Forage is digested in the horse's large intestine through bacterial fermentation, which not only provides nutrients but also generates heat. Concentrates such as corn and barley are low in fiber and are digested in the small intestine through enzyme activity, producing little heat.

Winter Goals—When it's cold, focus on providing plenty of long-stemmed hay, preferably free choice. Unlike grains, additional hay can quickly be added to a horse's diet without risk of colic or founder. When faced with cold weather, many horse owners tend to keep their horse's hay intake constant while increasing the grain portion of the diet. Although grains are very calorie dense (a pound of corn contains 1,800 calories; a pound of oats contain 1,500) and work well to fatten a horse, they are low in fiber and generate little heat. However, additional grain provided in the fall will add a layer of fat that serves to insulate the horse and does help him retain heat.

Summary – Good quality hay should be the foundation of any equine diet and the first component to be increased to generate heat or regain body condition. If a horse continues to lose weight on hay, add grain to increase the caloric supply. Remember that the sudden addition or increase of grain in a horse's diet—especially of corn or barley-can cause colic or founder, so add grain slowly over several days. Towards winter's end, give your horses a thorough going-over to make sure that the cold winter months have not taken a toll on body condition. Pay particular attention to very old or young horses.



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