

Inside:

- 2014 Dates and Locations

Western National Round-Up Horse Judging Contest Results

Mark Russell, Assistant Professor - Equine



The winners from Arkansas are (from left to right) Stormy Weiland (Randolph County), McKinzie Hummel (Benton County), Hannah Henderson (Benton County) and Emma Waymack (White County).

These teens represented Arkansas at the 2014 Western National Round-Up in early January in Denver, Colorado. There were teams from all over the country, and Arkansas did quite well.

This is how they fared:

Stormy Weiland

3rd Place Performance, 9th Place Halter, 15th Place Reasons, 5th Place Overall

Hannah Henderson

9th Place Performance, 17th Place Halter, 18th Place Reasons, 9th Place Overall

Emma Waymack

18th Place Halter

The group representing Arkansas was awarded 4th Place Team Performance, 5th Place Team Halter and 4th Overall.

Vaccination Guidelines – Developing a Vaccination Plan

Mark Russell, Assistant Professor - Equine

As the weather warms and the grass begins to grow, so does our interest in hauling down the road to a show, rodeo or to our favorite trail. Many folks have already vaccinated their horses, but for

some horse owners, it hasn't been done quite yet. Not to worry, it isn't too late. Before loading up and heading out, there are some important vaccination considerations. The American Association of Equine

Practitioners lays out some principles that every horse owner should keep in mind.

A “standard” vaccination program for all horses does not exist. Each individual situation requires evaluation based on the following criteria:

- Risk of disease (anticipated exposure, environmental factors, geographic factors, age, breed, use and sex of the horse)
- Consequences of the disease (morbidity/mortality, zoonotic potential)
- Anticipated effectiveness of the selected product(s)
- Potential for adverse reactions to a vaccine(s)
- Cost of immunization (time, labor and vaccine costs) vs. potential cost of disease (time out of competition; impact of movement restrictions imposed in order to control an outbreak of contagious disease; labor and medication if, or when, horses develop clinical disease and require treatment or loss of life).

As a horse owner, your best bet is to contact your local veterinarian and discuss what type of program is the most suitable for your horse. The above list is factors that can affect the individual situation of your horse. Planning ahead of time with a viable list of considerations is important to the success of protecting your horse.

Keep in mind that the use of antibody titers or other immunological measurements to determine if booster vaccination is warranted is not currently practiced in the horse, as standardized tests and protective levels of immunity have not been defined in most cases. A correlation between antibody levels and protective immunity under field conditions has not yet been identified.

Horse owners should have realistic expectations and understand that:

- Vaccination alone, in the absence of good management practices directed at infection control, is not sufficient for the prevention of infectious disease.
- Vaccination serves to minimize the risks of infection but cannot prevent disease in all circumstances.
- The primary series of vaccines and booster doses should be appropriately administered prior to likely exposure.
- Each horse in a population is not protected to an equal degree nor for an equal duration following vaccination.
- Protection is not immediately afforded the patient after administration of a vaccine that is designed to induce active immunity. In most instances, a priming series of multiple doses of a vaccine must be administered initially for that vaccine to induce protective active immunity.
- All horses in a herd should be vaccinated at intervals based on the professional opinion of the attending veterinarian.

Ideally, the same schedule should be followed for all horses in a population, thus simplifying record keeping, minimizing replication and transmission of infectious agents in a herd and indirectly protecting those horses in the herd that responded poorly to vaccination, thereby optimizing herd immunity.

- A properly administered, licensed product should not be assumed to provide complete protection during any given field epidemic.
- Although rare, there is potential for adverse reactions despite appropriate handling and administration of vaccines.

With proper management practices and planning ahead, the horse owner can better position himself for success.

The AAEP suggests the following vaccinations for adult horses. **(Many of these can vary depending on history of vaccination and if horse is a broodmare. Please consult with your local veterinarian).**

- Anthrax – Annual. Not recommended during gestation for broodmares and should not be administered concurrently with antibiotics.
- Botulism – Annual.
- Equine Herpesvirus (EHV) – Annual.
- Influenza – Horse with ongoing risk of exposure: Semiannual. Horses at low risk of exposure: Annual.
- Potomac Horse Fever – Semiannual to annual.
- Rotavirus (Broodmares) – Three-dose series: 1st dose at 8 months gestation; 2nd and 3rd doses at four-week intervals thereafter.
- Tetanus
- Rabies
- West Nile

Special thanks to the American Association of Equine Practitioners for their knowledge, expertise and willingness to contribute.

2014 Dates and Locations

Southwest District Horse Show – May 30 at Saline County Fairgrounds

State 4-H Roping – May 31 at Saline County Fairgrounds

Summer Horse Camp (sold out, waiting list only) – June 2-4 at Diamond TR Ranch

Ozark (Northwest) District Horse Show – June 7 at Pauline Whitaker Arena, Fayetteville

Delta District Horse Show – June 17 at White County Fairgrounds

Ozark District Horse Show (Conway) – June 26 at Don Owens Arena

State Horse Show – July 14-17 at White County Fairgrounds

Southern Regional 4-H Horse Show – July 29-August 2 at Raleigh, North Carolina

To learn more about **Extension Horse Programs**, visit <http://www.agriculture.org/horses.htm> or www.arkansas-livestock.com.