



# The BEA Hub Spring News Edition

## Managing Your Pregnant Mare and Her Foal

Proper mare management is essential to ensure the birth of a live, healthy foal with the greatest probability of survival and success in performance. To breed efficiently, your mare must be in proper body condition. Thin mares do not become pregnant or maintain pregnancy as readily as moderate or fleshy mares; however, lower mild production and foal growth are observed in very fat mares.

**Health Care**—Keep your mare in a consistent body condition rather than allowing her to gain or lose weight. If your pasture is questionable, adjust your horse's diet according to its individual needs as assessed by body

condition. Make sure clear, fresh water and trace mineralized salts are available at all times, and at all ages, weights and period of gestation.

Mares have only a maintenance nutritional requirement during the first 8 months of gestation. Most fetal growth occurs during the last third of pregnancy, thus nutritional requirements, especially for proteins, minerals, and vitamins are greatest during this period. Pregnant mares need to be in desired body condition prior to the last trimester, thus the second trimester is the best time to feed them to achieve the desired healthy condition.

**Foaling Preparation**—As the day approaches for your mare to give birth to her foal, preparation should be made to create a warm and healthy environment. About 30 days prior to foaling, introduce the mare to the stall where she will foal. This allows her to produce protective antibodies against the microorganisms in the environment. She will then be able to pass these antibodies on to her foal in the colostrums. Providing your mare with her own stall will help her stay relaxed, provide her with a place to rest, and give her a quiet place to bond

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## Bedford County Wants to Hear From You

**By: Steve Stevick, Planning Commissioner, 5th District, Bedford**

Bedford County is in the process of making major changes in its Zoning Ordinance. The Zoning Ordinance is an important means by which Counties manage growth. It defines land uses to coincide with the vision and goals of its citizens, as

expressed in the County's Comprehensive Plan. In 2007, the County Board of Supervisors updated the Comprehensive Plan to reflect the findings of extensive public surveys. The Comprehensive Plan reflects a strong community interest

in the preservation of farming and open space, while protecting fresh water resources, providing quality schools and emergency services. Land use zones are applied to appropriate areas for purposes of compatibility and convenience. Cont. pg5

## Breed Spotlight—The Standardbred

Standardbreds are a breed best known for their ability to race in harness at a trot or pace instead of under saddle at a gallop. They are a solid well built horse with a good disposition. They are also used under saddle in a variety of equestrian activities, particularly in the mid-west and eastern US. In the 17th century, the first trotting races were held in the Americas, usually in fields on horses under saddle. However, by the mid-18th century, trotting races were held on official courses, with the horses in harness. Breeds that have contributed foundation stock to the Standardbred breed include the Narragansett Pacer and the Canadian Pacer, Thoroughbreds, Norfolk Trotter, the Hackney and the Morgan. Breeders selected

bloodlines that would produce the fastest horses, with one of the most notable sires being the gray Thoroughbred stallion Messenger, who was exported to the US in 1788. The name Standardbred was first used in 1879, due to the fact that in order to be registered, every Standardbred had to be able to trot 1 mile within a standard 2 minutes and 30 seconds. Today, many Standardbreds race much faster than this original standard, with several pacers the mile within 1 minute, 50 seconds, and trotters only a few seconds slower



Standardbred

than pacers.

Standardbreds tend to be more muscled and longer bodied than Thoroughbred's. They are considered people oriented, easy-to-train horses. There are two basic types, trotters and pacers. As the

name suggests, the trotter's preferred racing gait is the trot, where the horses' legs move in diagonal pairs, when the right foreleg moves forward so does the left hind leg, and vice versa. The pace is a two beat lateral gait; Pacers' forelegs move in unison with the hind legs on the same side. However, the breed can perform all other gaits.

## Managing Your Pregnant Mare, cont'

With her foal.

**Foaling**—Labor occurs in three distinct stages. In stage one, the mare is restless. This may continue for 12 to 24 hours. During this period, the fetus is positioned for delivery and the cervix is dilated. This stage ends with the rupture of the chorio-allantoic membrane (breaking of the water bag), which lubricates the birth canal and aides in delivery of the foal.

The actual birth or hard labor is stage two. It is usually rapid, with most foals born in 20–30 minutes in a normal presentation, the foal's front feet appear first, with heels pointed down toward the mare's hocks. The foal's hind feet usually remain in the mare 5–10 minutes after foaling, while the foal and mare lie resting. In a normal delivery the foal's

nose should be lying on or about the knees. If the clear membrane surrounding the foal's legs and head does not rupture during delivery then open it and free the foal's head so the foal can breathe. It's best not to disturb them while the umbilical cord is still connected. Premature breaking of the umbilical cord by the mare, foal or human may result in a loss of very important fetal blood supply.

**After-Foaling Mare Care**—It's important to monitor the mare and foal for the first 48–72 hours. Even though foaling takes only 20–30 minutes, it tires the mare. It's important that the dam and foal bond, so it's best to leave them alone if there is no problem requiring immediate attention.

Some maiden mares try to move away

from the foal. It's advisable to attend the foaling of all maiden mares to ensure safe delivery and bonding. If the mare does not accept the foal readily, you may need to restrain the mare while the foal nurses its first few times.

Foaling is an incredible experience that is worth careful consideration. Allowing your mare to breed requires a strong dedication to the process. By ensuring that you are able to provide your mare with the necessary elements for a healthy pregnancy, you can aid your mare in the foaling process and reduce the risk of complications. Providing your mare with an adequate supply of vitamins and minerals, exercise, good quality health care and safe sanitary environment will make the process easier and more enjoyable for both you and the mare.

## Upcoming Events

### Bedford County Hunt Point to Point & Hunter Pace

Wolf Branch Farm—May 8, 2010  
Forest VA,

### VA Draft Horse and Mule Association's Annual SW Draft Horse & Mule Show

May 8, 2010—Green Hill Park in Salem, VA. A full day of riding, driving and showing! Come join the fun.

### Campbell County Heritage Festival

August 14, 2010—Community Part at William Campbell High School. More details to follow

### 2010 Membership:

Please remember it's time to renew your BEA membership. Dues for 2010 are due now. You can either mail in your payment or turn it in at the member's meeting!

We have a lot of things in store for the new year and we need your support to make them happen.

Our web page has a list of all of the upcoming events with details on time, location and contact information. Please keep checking on a regular basis to keep up with all of the great equine activities in our community and surrounding areas.

If you have an event you would like to share please be sure to send the information to our e-mail and we will get it out.

## BEA Technology Update

Our BEA Facebook page now has 59 members and continues to grow. We continue to post all up coming events and reminders on Facebook and our member photo album continues to grow. If you have not already joined Facebook please come check us out. We encourage everyone that has news or photos of their equine family to please share with us.

Our web site is finished and is available

at [www.bedfordequine.org](http://www.bedfordequine.org). We are hoping to have this become a great resource for information, sharing thoughts, idea's, asking questions and keeping everyone informed of what's happening with the Association and around the equine community. Our old newsletters will be archived as well as monthly meeting minutes.

Please continue to support these efforts

### BEA Board Officers

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**"When you are on a great horse, you have the best seat you will ever have." Sir Winston Churchill**

## Horse Treat Recipe — Apple Cookies

1 cup margarine  
1 cup flour  
1 cup brown sugar  
1 cup bran  
1 cup diced carrots  
1 cup apples  
1 tsp. baking soda  
2 cups quick cooking dry oatmeal  
2 eggs

Cream margarine & sugar until light & fluffy. Beat in eggs. Combine flour, bran & baking soda. Blend into a creamed mixture. Stir in oats, carrots & apples. Drop by spoonfuls onto ungreased baking sheet. Bake @ 350° for 10–12 minutes or until lightly browned



## Tracy Barton Teaches You the Skills to be Mentally Prepared for the Show Pen—written by Lisa Grow

To be competitive in the show pen in any event the first lesson to learn is everyone is a winner and everyone has the ability and desire to win, as well as the mental capability to be competitive. Remember, competition is mental, and who can out think. It's not who has the best horse, who can ride the best, out spur, or who has the fanciest tack. In the game of cutting if you can control your mind and body in a 2.5 minute environment and know where your legs and arms are, you can win at cutting.

The difference in winning and being a winner is showmanship. When the chips are down and you have a bad draw or a weak horse you can still get a check. It's not who can outride, it is who can out show. You want to show the Judge you are in control, which will mask a negative situation. Everyone has a different style or technique, and everyone makes mistakes, the think is to learn from your mistakes. If things are going wrong and you lose control, STOP, don't just whirl around and pick another cow. Stop, think and recompose and don't do it again. Get back in control.

In everything you have to have a plan on what you want to achieve to do. Horses and people learn by repetition, in steps and by staying in a positive environment

and frame of mind. You always want to end on a good note. A positive that goes to a negative never goes back positive, so stop and start over. Once it becomes negative always stop.

In the game of tennis there is a term called "scatoma". Scatoma means to block everything out except the endeavor you are fixing to achieve. In competition block out the crowd and coaches, and focus on what you are prepared to do.

Before you go in the pen, run through your mind a 71 run, and keep your mind in a positive frame and mentally vision a smooth run. Know which cattle you are going to cut, have your help where you need them and have a plan. Sometimes it doesn't work, but you are better to have a plan and most of the time it works verses having no plan and having fewer chances of it working. You wouldn't go to a gun fight without a plan, and you don't want to go to the show pen without a plan.

Know your horse and make adjustment to ride your horse to the best of your ability. If you are riding a horse that's a little fresh, lope him down more, or if he's tired don't lope, if he's fractious or edgy ride with graceful movements even if it means taking off your spurs. There

is no law that says you have to wear spurs.

Once you have gone to the show pen and everything works the way you envisioned it and you stayed in control of your emotions and the situation that arose, from there it is up to the Judge. The one who showed the Judge, I am here to show my horse and I am in control is the one that will get the Judge's attention and it's up to him to give you a higher score. Being prepared and having a plan will give you the confidence to achieve your goals and be a winner.

For these topics and online interactive cutting instruction on preparing your horse for the show pen, starting colts on cattle, tuning the cutting horse, working cattle in the round pen and to enjoy online clinics go to [www.ttbcuttinghorses.com](http://www.ttbcuttinghorses.com) to join the fun.

*Tracy Barton's accomplishments include: Congress Champion 34 times, Reserve-Champion—Augusta 3 times, Affiliate Champion 127 times, National NCHA Champion 1993, Southern Futurity 2 times back to back, made finals on every futurity East of the Mississippi and NCHA Hall of Fame 2005.*

## Bedford Equine Association Gives Back

The BEA is actively looking at generating educational scholarships that will be available for a variety of different activities. These scholarships will be limited to our current membership so if you know of anyone that may be interested in participating in this upcoming program please point them in our direction.

Forthcoming we will have an application

available and will introduce our first scholarship. We are hoping to be able to offer more to our equine community in the near future.

Educating and preserving the equine community is a commitment of the BEA and one that we hope our members will embrace.



## Bedford County Wants to Hear From You, continued

So for example, industrial areas will be located in areas that are most beneficial for commercial and industrial uses, near transportation hubs, away from residential areas, etc. Similarly, areas designated for agricultural uses will be rural areas that are devoted to the production of food and fiber and animal husbandry, while scenic areas will receive a conservation designation favoring areas to be held in their natural state. Horse owners should take note of these developments.

Horses requires special land requirements and thrive best in rural areas. Horses provide an additional dimension to agricultural, not just as a means to protect agricultural lands, but also as a rapidly growing rural oriented equine industry. The high rate of growth in the number of horses in Bedford County in recent years indicates that the County is on its way to becoming the heart of Central and Southern Virginia's horse country. Still much can be done to assure this trend continues. Bedford Citizens have to be imaginative and vigilant to make sure that the county's policies and practices promote a quality environment for horses. For example, reflecting the growing importance of horses in the County, Bedford has added "Equine Husbandry" to its definition of agriculture, which previously focused on food production. This means that equine interests retain the same rights as more standard agricultural pursuits. Much more can be done to promote equine interest, but first and foremost, the County has to "lay the groundwork" in friendly zoning to allow horses to thrive.

The Zoning Ordinance currently being developed has been the subject of exhaustive review and revisions by the County's Planning Commission. The drafts have been forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for further review and comment, after which, the Planning Commission will consider changes and present the draft for public comment, which should take place later this Spring. In the mean time, those interested (i.e., everyone reading this article, I hope) can obtain a copy of the draft under current consideration, or you may wish to wait until the copy is available for public comment. In either case, the members of the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors will benefit from your comments, with special attention given to the importance of policies and practices that will make Bedford County the heart of South and Central Virginia's horse country.

For additional material on the current draft of the Zoning Ordinance and procedures and schedules for its adoption contact Chief of Planning, Mary Zirkle at (540)586-7616, ext. 1248. You may also wish to contact your Supervisor (refer to listing at <http://www.co.bedford.va.us/Res/Supervisors/index.asp>) and/ or Planning Commission, (<http://www.co.bedford.va.us/Res/Planning/Planning%20Commission/PlanningCommission.asp>) to express your opinion regarding the importance of horses in Bedford and the need to have policies friendly to horses. Given that the Planning Commission and members of the Board of Supervisors represent a specific district, there are seven of them, you may wish to contact the County web page noted above to make a copy of the Bedford County District Map and locate who is your Supervisor and/ or Planning Commissioner. Bedford County always benefits from the input of its citizens. You can make the difference.

