

Equine Updates

Transylvania County, NC

Spring 2016

Pasture Management Equipment!

Transylvania Soil and Water Conservation District has the following equipment for rent which may assist with a pasture maintenance program:

Bulk lime spreader
Post driver or post auger
Fertilizer spreader
Conservation seeder
Manure spreader

For more information
contact:
(828) 884-3230

Contact Us

For further information
about services contact:
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Spring Pasture Management

To ensure both a healthy horse and a healthy pasture, it is necessary to consider certain pasture management practices:

- Complete a soil test to determine if the pasture requires fertilizer or lime. The cost of the test is \$4.00 until April 1, 2016 and will be free of charge after April 1, 2016 until November 30, 2016. Soil testing supplies are available at the Transylvania County Cooperative Extension Office.
- Introduce horses to grazing spring pastures slowly. When the grass reaches 6 inches in height, limit grazing time to 15 –20 minutes on the first day, and increase by 5 to 15 minutes intervals per day until the horses have adapted to the lush grass.
- Maintain vigorous pastures through a pasture rotation program. Dividing a large pasture into smaller paddocks through cross fencing may prevent pastures from becoming overgrazed. Grass should not be grazed shorter than 3 inches.
- Overseed and renovate bare spots in the pasture. To seed pastures utilize a driller if available, if not spread grass seed. Tall fescue and orchard grass are popular forages for horse consumption.
- Control weeds with a combination of techniques. Properly identify weeds to determine the most effective herbicide. Adequate fertilization and liming, and a controlled grazing practice create conditions for preferred vegetation to thrive over unwanted vegetation.

Upcoming Events:

- Western Carolinas Arabian Spring Show April 1-3, 2016 at the W.N.C. Ag Center
- 4-H Horse Show April 30 and May 1, 2016 at the W.N.C. Ag Center
- Open Horse Show April 9, 2016 at the Foothills Equestrian Nature Center
- Saturday Night Lights Event at the Tryon International Equestrian Center, for information visit:
<http://tryon.coth.com/page/saturday-night-lights>



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Greetings!

For those of you who attended the Transylvania County Cattlemen's Association meeting last month, thank you! There was a large crowd and I appreciate the invitation to introduce myself. For those of you who were unable to attend, I am the new Livestock/Row Crop Cooperative Extension Agent in Transylvania County. I am originally from the Little River Community, but have lived elsewhere for the past few years. Prior to my hire with N.C. Cooperative Extension, I was employed by Berry College in Georgia as the Business Manager of Agricultural Operations.



I am very excited to be in Transylvania County and my purpose is to serve you to the best of my ability. Although there are many different methods of farming, the goals for the majority of farmers are healthy animals, safe practices, sustainability, and profitability. My intention is to assist you as necessary to achieve these goals.

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide each of you with useful and pertinent information. Please email me if you do not wish to be included on the mailing list or if you have updated contact information. Also, please send any ideas for articles or questions you would like addressed and I will include those (for example: herbicide application or soil sampling).

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to serve each of you. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.
