Equine Program
Operating Procedures – Animal and Range Sciences Farm Units
Last Revised March 2003

Introduction
Horses owned and managed by the Department are primarily used for teaching purposes. The College of Agriculture provides no operations funds for the horse program. Student equitation fees, and fees charged to groups using the Pavilion fund a major portion of activities associated with horses. The Montana Agricultural Experiment Station subsidizes some horse care via facilities, feed, and labor.

Goals
By establishing written policies the Department of Animal and Range Sciences hopes to achieve the following goals:
- Enhance the quality of research projects and extension and teaching activities.
- Enhance the safety and well being of students, employees, and animals.
- Improve communication within the Department.
- Improve the efficiency of labor use.
- Improve job satisfaction for all employees.
- Identify and minimize inherent risks associated with farm and ranch unit operations.

Responsibilities
General responsibilities of the Department Head, Farm Manager, and Pavilion Manager are outlined in the Animal and Range Sciences Department Farm and Ranch Operations Policies document. This document attempts to clarify responsibilities with respect to the Equine Unit, recognizing the difference relationship that horse have to the Experiment Station compared to cattle and sheep.

Inventory
- The Pavilion Manager is responsible for management of the horse inventory. This includes:
  - Purchases, sales, and donations.
  - A permanent inventory record system.
- The inventory record shall include:
  - Physical identification.
  - Birth date or age.
  - Ownership (e.g., MSU, Lease, Student)
  - Health record.
- The Pavilion Manager shall assign horses to pens or stalls.
  - The Pavilion Manager shall post a written inventory on the tack room wall in the Pavilion, to include:
• Horse descriptions.
• Pen numbers.
• Phone numbers of owners (for student-owned horses).
  o Changes in inventory or animal locations shall be communicated to the Farm Manager as soon as possible:
    ▪ In writing the day changes occur, and posted on the door of the Farm Manager’s office, using a standard record form (example attached).
    ▪ By phone or voice mail, if possible.

**Feeding and Husbandry**
• The Farm Manager (i.e., farm crew) shall be responsible for the regular feeding and care of all horses, regardless of ownership.
• The Equine Unit shall reimburse expenses incurred by the Farm Unit.
  o Feed
  o Student labor

**Grazing and Pasture**
• The Farm Manager shall make decisions regarding the allocation of grazable forage to horses.1
  o Dates
  o Locations
  o AUM

**Health Management – Preventive Medicine**
• The Pavilion Manager shall establish a written vaccination and deworming program.
  o This program shall apply to all MSU-owned and leased horses, and all horses owned and used by MSU employees.
• The Pavilion Manager shall be responsible for administering vaccinations and dewormers for all MSU-owned or leased horses, except those assigned for use by the farm units.
  o The Farm Manager shall be responsible for administering vaccinations and dewormers for all MSU-owned horses used by the farm units.
  o Farm Unit employees that use their own horses at the Farm Units shall be responsible for administering vaccinations and dewormers for their horses.

• Student-owned horses shall have current vaccinations consistent with the Equine Unit Plan (specified in a separate document).
• Horses brought to Equine Unit for any activity shall have current vaccinations consistent with the Equine Unit plan (specified in a separate document).

**Veterinary Care**
• The Farm Manager (and staff) is responsible for the care of injured or sick horses.

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1 Because the MSU Farm Units are part of the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station and horses are primarily used in teaching (i.e., a College or University function), animals used in research have priority for allocation of raised feed resources.
The Pavilion Manager (or staff) may treat horses injured or that become sick during use, but should notify the Farm Manager of the circumstances immediately:
  - By phone.
  - In writing, using the form designed for this purpose (example attached).
Student may treat their own horses that become sick during use, but should notify the Farm Manager of the circumstances immediately:
  - By phone.
  - In writing, using the form designed for this purpose (example attached).
- For MSU-owned or leased horses, the Pavilion Manager shall be consulted before engaging the services of a veterinarian, if at all possible.
- For student-owned horses, the owner shall be consulted before engaging the services of a veterinarian, if at all possible.
- The following veterinary clinics shall be used equally:
  - All West
  - Equine Veterinary Associates
  - Sorensen Veterinary Hospital
- The Stall Barn shall be used to hospitalize injured or sick horses.
  - The Farm Crew shall be responsible for care, feeding, and stall cleaning.
  - Students may assume responsibility for the care and feeding of their own horses only after communicating with the Farm Manager.
    - The Farm Crew shall monitor all horses.
    - If student-owned horses appear to be neglected, the Pavilion Manager should be notified.
- Records of all treatments administered to sick or injured horses shall be:
  - Maintained in a logbook located in the Farm Manager’s office.
  - Posted on the horse’s stall door, if hospitalized.
    - This is to improve communication and avoid duplication of treatment.
- The Pavilion Manager shall reimburse the Farm Unit for expenses incurred in the care of sick or injured horses.
- Students shall reimburse the Farm Unit for expenses incurred in the care of sick or injured their horses.
- The farm crew shall dispose of dead horses, either at the county landfill or the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab.
  - In the case student-owned horses, the owners should be consulted before disposal.

Maintenance of Facilities
- The Farm Manager shall be responsible for the maintenance of all horse facilities, with the following exceptions:
  - Miller Pavilion, including lawn.
  - Round Pen.
- The Pavilion Manager shall reimburse the Farm Unit for expenses for purchased materials and student labor.
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November 6, 2002

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Foals:
- Tetanus Toxoid
- Equine E-coll Endotoxin (to prevent foal scour caused by E-coll)
- Noivasan Solution or Dilute Betadine to navel
- Enema
- IgG Test (to be done after the foal has nursed for 6 hours, to determine if adequate colostrums has been produced by the mare and/or absorbed by the foal)

Weanlings:
- 1st 5-way (Eastern and Western Encephalomyelitis or “sleeping sickness”, Influenza, Rhinopneumonitis, Tetanus Toxoid or “lockjaw”)
- 1st Pinnacle (Intranasal “strangles” vaccine)
- 1st West Nile Virus
- Deworming

*All weanling vaccinations need to have booster vaccinations in 1 month.

Yearlings, 2-year-olds, and Equitation Horses:

Spring:
- 5-way Booster
- Pinnacle Booster
- West Nile Virus Booster
- Deworming

Mid-Summer:
- Flu/Rhino Booster
- Deworming

Fall: (Recommended after 1st or 2nd hard frost)
- Flu/Rhino Booster
- Pinnacle Booster
- Deworming (with an Ivermectin product to kill bots)

Mid-Winter:
- Flu/Rhino Booster
- Deworming
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*Mid-Summer and Mid-Winter dewormings are optional, depending upon the parasite count as determined by a fecal examination. Flu/Rhino Boosters are recommended for stressed or heavily worked horses to prevent any sickness within the equitation or "colt training" herds.

Brood Mares:

Brood mares will have the same vaccination and deworming schedule as the adult and equitation horses, with some additions if they are pregnant.

➢ 5, 7, 9 months gestation Pnumabort K (Rhino PK) to help prevent abortions

Spring vaccinations and deworming is recommended 1 month prior to foaling, this will allow for maximum maternal antibody protection from the mare's colostrum and milk for the foal.

The type of deworming medication should be rotated, from time to time, to eliminate any parasite resistance.

Others:

There are other vaccinations available to help protect against diseases, if exposure warrants: Potomac Horse Fever and Rabies.

There are different health protocols available if geographical locations require different vaccinations.