



Saddle Chatter

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2008 Officers

President - Jo Boucher
jboucher1@nc.rr.com
919-552-4509

VP - Pam Holland
kountry22001@yahoo.com
336-349-3642

Secretary - Teresa Barham
cowgirlthunder2@yahoo.com

Treasurer- Paula Jackson
paulajackson61@aol.com
336-255-3475

Points Secretary / Newsletter
Webmaster- Mary Murray
mfsm2001@yahoo.com
336-613-4938 (cell)



Happy Birthday

Maria Windsor 1/1
Megan Kelley 1/9
Jacey Monahan 1/9
Clark Morton 1/13
Carly White 1/17
Brian Wood 1/18
Catherine Pittard 1/22
Marsha Ferguson 1/30
Blair Morton 1/31

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day."

Edith Lovejoy Pierce

News in Short

:: **2008 CLASS LIST** ~ suggestions are now being requested for the 2008 Class List and show season in general. Please submit your suggestions to one of the 2008 BOD members or Officers ASAP. Please be aware that these suggestions will be considered, but not all can be or will be implemented. There is a considerable amount of balancing that must be maintained to remain an All breed and All age association.

:: **2008 MEMBERSHIPS** ~ it's time to join PHA for the 2008 season. A membership form will be included in this newsletter and also available on the website

:: **SOUTHERN STATES Label Program** ~ save your Proof of Purchases off your Southern States feed for the benefit of PHA. Send your POPs to Julie Ross (address on BOD page).

:: **Jan BOD Meeting** ~ Next BOD meeting will be Jan 17; K&L cafeteria Burlington 6pm to eat; 7pm to eat -- they close at 830pm so come prepared to stay on target and get the tasks completed.

2008 membership DUE NOW
forms available on website

Mailed Newsletters will stop with 2007 members
after the March newsletter - emails may continue
until asked to stop

A Guide to Composting Horse Manure

by Jessica Paige, WSU Cooperative Extension, Whatcom County

<http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/compost/horsecompost.htm>

2008 Board of Directors:

1st year of term

Melinda Bullard
1224 Ponderosa Height Pl
Asheboro 27205
336-625-3833

Ed Cimler
525 Kallam Mill Rd
Madison 27025
336-548-2224

Jackie Daughton
7398 Town & Country Rd
Liberty 27298
336-622-3133

Summer Pourpore
3336 Bethany Church Rd
Franklinville 27248
336-498-9984

Sheila Scott
3282 Robbins-Scott Rd
Randleman 27317
336-498-3398

2nd year of term:

Alan Puffenberger
PO Box 503
Brown Summit 27214
336-314-4626

Julie Ross
2112 Guerrant Springs Rd
Ruffin 27326
336-939-3027

Cherie Webber
6 Broadleaf Ct
Summerfield 27358
336-430-5958

If you've been stockpiling your manure in a single pile for as long as you can remember, you may have found that if you dig into the middle of the pile, you'll find something that resembles dirt more than it does manure. If this is the case, at least some of your manure has already gone through the decomposition, or composting, process. Manure that has been left uncovered in large, spread out piles will eventually compost. However, this version of composting often creates unpleasant odors because there is not enough air reaching the inside of the pile. These piles also rarely reach high enough temperatures to kill parasites, fly larvae, weed seeds, and pathogens. The following information on composting will help you learn how to compost all of your manure, instead of what's just in the middle, speed up the process dramatically, and help heat manure up to temperatures that will kill parasites, fly larvae, weed seeds, and pathogens.

The Benefits of Composting

Horse Health

Reduce flies. A well-managed compost pile will reach temperatures high enough to kill fly eggs and larvae in manure. By reducing the amount of uncomposted manure you have, you'll also reduce breeding grounds for flies.

Kill parasites and pathogens. The high temperatures achieved through composting also kill worms and pathogens (organisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and protozoa that are capable of producing an infection or disease). This is especially important if you are spreading your manure in the same fields your horses graze in or on vegetable gardens.

Convenience and Aesthetics

Reduce odors. A well-managed compost pile will be free of the odors often associated with an uncomposted manure pile.

Cut your pile in half. Composting reduces bulk and has 40 to 60 percent less volume and weight than uncomposted manure. That means you can reduce the amount of your manure pile by about 50 percent by composting!

Kill weed seeds. The high temperatures achieved through composting will kill most weed seeds.

Improve marketability. Compost is much more marketable than uncomposted manure and is often used by topsoil companies, landscapers, nurseries, and organic farmers. You may be able to sell your compost and actually make money out of that mountain of manure!

Even out grazing patterns. Horses grazing in pastures spread with composted manure (instead of fresh manure) are more likely to graze normally and are less likely to restrict grazing to areas with the thinnest application rates.

Healthy Soil

Improve aeration and water retention. Adding compost to soil builds good soil structure and texture, increasing the amount of air that can infiltrate and the amount of water it can hold. Adding compost to heavy clay soil loosens the packed

soil by opening up pore spaces that, like little tunnels, carry air and water down into the soil. Sandy soils, which tend to let water drain away too rapidly, are also improved with the addition of compost. The fine particles are united into larger ones that can hold a greater amount of water-100 pounds of compost can hold about 195 pounds of water! By increasing the soil's moisture-holding capacity, compost also helps control erosion that would otherwise wash topsoil away.

Supply nutrients. When fresh manure is spread on a field, about 50 percent of the nitrogen is in a highly soluble form and will be washed out by rain when it is spread on a pasture. In compost, however, 95 to 97 percent of nitrogen has been converted to a much more stable form and will be slowly released, allowing plants to use it over a longer period of time. Compost doles out nutrients slowly when plants are small and at greater rates as soil temperatures warm up and the major growth period begins. (Soil microorganisms that release the nutrients from compost work harder as temperatures increase.) The benefits of adding compost will also last for more than one season. Composted manure releases about 50 percent of its nutrients in the first season and a decreasing percentage in the following years. This means that with constant additions of compost, the reserves of plant nutrients in the soil are being built up to the point where, for several seasons, little fertilizer of any kind may be needed.

Bacteria, earthworms, and pH. Compost also supports essential soil bacteria; feeds earthworms and allows them to multiply; and gradually changes soil pH levels that are either too low (acidic) or too high (alkaline).

The Environment

Protect water quality. Because the composting process converts nitrogen into a less soluble form, it is less likely to be washed out of manure and into ground water and surface water. Excessive amounts of nitrate in drinking water can cause health problems such as blue baby syndrome and may be linked to cancer and birth defects.

Protect fish and shellfish. When rain falls on soil rich with compost, raindrops seep into it. When rain falls on packed soil rain runs off the surface, creating erosion and carrying soil particles to nearby waterways. Sediment can smother trout and salmon eggs and make water cloudy, making it more difficult for fish to find insects to eat. Raw manure also contains fecal coliform bacteria which is commonly used to measure contamination of water from human or animal waste. The coliform bacteria may not necessarily produce disease, but can indicate the presence of other bacteria that may cause infections, hepatitis, and other illnesses. When coliform bacteria is found in the water around shellfish growing areas, it often leads to shellfish bed closures. Composting kills most of these coliform bacteria as well as viruses and parasites that may be a concern to human health.

Conserve our natural resources. Using compost instead of chemical fertilizers can reduce our use of non-renewable resources like natural gas. Approximately two percent of the natural gas consumed in the United States goes into the manufacturing of nitrogen fertilizer.

A Guide to Composting Horse Manure by Jessica Paige, WSU Cooperative Extension, Whatcom County

[How to Make Compost Happen \(Part Two\) in the February Newsletter](#)

“Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.” Oprah Winfrey



Piedmont Horseman's Association
Mary Murray
175 Newton Road
Ruffin, NC 27326

**2008 membership DUE NOW
forms available on website**

Phone: 336-613-4938
Email: mfsm2001@yahoo.com
<http://www.phasince1971.com>

Ronnie Isley, Palomino Halter trainer and show person is currently accepting halter show prospects for the PHA coming show season. Call to reserve your spot in the show barn to get your horse fit and ready to show with PHA for the 2008 show season. Along with your horse, training will be provided for the owner as well. We also have a few boarding spots available. Call to work out a training or boarding package that will work for you.

Isley Quarter Horses
Gibsonville, NC
336-601-2275 (cell)