

STALLION SERVICES, Inc.

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BREEDING
MANAGEMENT

WE REPRODUCE SUCCESS !!

WELCOME !!

THANK YOU for choosing Stallion Services! Whatever your breeding management needs, our experienced staff is ready to help. We customize our program for each client and horse.

OUR LABORATORY offers the latest in semen evaluation and processing. Phase contrast microscopy, Animal Reproduction Systems Model 534 B densimeter and centrifugation capabilities mean accurate breeding doses for shipped

semen. We use the Hamilton Thorne Equitainer for shipping semen to your clients to make sure they will receive a quality product.

OUR BREEDING SHED as well as our pastures are designed with safety in mind to protect your valuable stock. The indoor palpation chute, phantom mare and tease wall keep horses and handlers safe. Pastures are fenced with 5' "safety fence" and equipped with automatic heated waterers. In addition our winter paddocks are weather proofed

with geotextile and fine gravel, so we have no mud.

ARRIVALS. Contact us early for your arrival packet and your most convenient arrival date. We look forward to working with you this season !!



HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR ARRIVING HORSES

Before bringing your mare or stallion to Stallion Services to reside for management services, their vaccinations and deworming must be up to date.

We require all vaccinations be current. These include Flu, Rhino, EWT, West Nile Virus, Rabies and Strangles plus a current negative Coggins. Most yearly boosters are done in the spring months. If your yearly booster anniversary date is within 30 days of your arrival, PLEASE, re-boost your horse prior to arrival. If your anniversary date is greater than 30 days from your arrival date we will accept that as current. Deworming should be within 30 days. Keep in mind

this not only protects your horse from disease but also other horses residing at the farm.

Please also have your horse's teeth and feet checked prior to arrival. Teeth are especially important for pregnant and post partum mares. These mares cannot successfully conceive without proper condition. One of the easiest and most important steps to maintaining weight is good dental care. Front shoes will be put on any mare we feel needs them for well being.

PREGNANT MARES to be foaled at Stallion Services should have 3rd, 5th, 7th and 9th month rhino vaccinations. In addition they should also have 8th, 9th

and 10th month vaccinations for Rota virus. This vaccine protects the foal from one of the contagious forms of diarrhea. Pre-foaling boosters should be given 4 to 6 weeks prior to the estimated due date. These consist of routine spring vaccinations. Check with your veterinarian for any other recommendations pre-foaling or during your mare's pregnancy.

FEEDING THE PREGNANT AND LACTATING MARE by Robin De Rue

One of the questions I am asked most frequently is “What should I feed my mare now that she is pregnant?” Many factors such as age, overall health, availability of feed, etc. contribute to the formulation of a feed program for individual mare. There are, however, some generalizations that can be made and sources of information available to help make sure that you do the best you can to supply your future athlete with everything necessary nutritionally.

Let me first touch on some sound sources of information available to guide you. The National Research Council is a cooperative of university and independent researchers who have published feeding guidelines for several animal species including the horse. The most current soft cover book available is published by the Washington D. C. Press and is called *Nutrient Requirements for Horses*, 1989. (The NRC’s update is due out late 2005/early 2006). This pamphlet contains lists of tables naming the different classes of horses, in other words, growing horse, lactating mare, working horse, etc., and their daily MINIMUM nutrient requirements. Also listed are what is known as “Book Values” for the analysis of hays and whole grains (there are no analysis for mixed feeds contained in this book). These researchers have had hundreds of samples of hays and whole grains analyzed and have listed average values for protein, calcium phosphorus, energy, etc. While it is not overly expensive to have feed-stuffs analyzed, this book provides you with that ready information. It is a very good idea to familiarize yourself with feed analysis and what the different values mean. For mixed grains such as sweet feeds or pellets, you can read the label on the package. Mixed feeds are researched carefully, formulated for certain

classes of horses, so nutrient values vary quite a bit.

Another good source of information is *Feeding and Care of the Horse*, Lon D. Lewis, DVM, PhD. Dr. Lewis explains in greater detail how to read and use these feeding tables. He also explains how to interpret the data you would receive from a feed analysis. This book is more thorough and in depth if you want to pursue the intricacies of nutrition and ration formulation. It also includes a chapter on poisonous plants with colored pictures which is an excellent reference.

Your agricultural extension agent, universities and feed companies are also very good sources of information should you have questions on feeding. Most of the time, consultation services are provided free of charge. Yes, feed companies are trying to sell their products, but a tremendous amount of research goes in the development of their feeds and this information can be available to you at no cost. In the summer of 2000, I attended a brood-mare nutrition and management seminar at Purina’s research center in St. Louis, Mo. Several short lectures were given by some of the research staff and we were provided hard copies of these lectures in a notebook to take home. We were also given a tour of the research facility. This trip was arranged by my local feed dealer. The bottom line was that a lot of research and development goes into making these products and Purina wanted us to know that their company and staff were available to support us with feeding problems we may encounter in the field.

Talk to your veterinarian about your pregnant mares. Routine medical care such as floating teeth, deworming and a good vaccination program will impact your horse’s condition.

These are just a few sources of information on feeding your horse. There are many more available

sources including your local agricultural extension agent, current journals, etc.

FEEDING BASICS. You must begin by knowing what you feed, how much you feed, the quality of your feed and how much your horse weighs. What you feed means energy and protein content, calcium, phosphorus, vitamins, etc. This information is available on the feed tag or you can use “book values” for whole grains. Again, you will not find any book values for mixed or pelleted feeds so you will have to rely on the label or get additional information from the company of manufacture. How much you feed means by weight in pounds, not coffee cans or scoops. How many pounds of grain or feed mix is your horse receiving at each feeding? How about hay? How many pounds of hay is your horse eating at each feeding? Since horses are fed according to how much they weigh, you will need to get a fairly accurate estimate of weight. This can be done with a weight tape. Weight tapes are available at most feed stores and they are accurate and inexpensive.

The next question you must ask is, what is my horse’s condition now? To assess body condition, we use *Body Condition Scoring* (BCS). This is a tool that was developed to help you judge the condition, i.e., thinness or fatness of your horse in a standard way. Then you can determine your objective, whether it is to increase or decrease your horse’s weight or allow the condition to remain the same. See, *Body Condition Score* on page 5.

Amount and quality of feed. How much can a horse eat? Horses can consume anywhere between 2.5% to 3.5% of their body weight in “dry matter.” What is dry matter? Dry matter is what is left of a feed if you remove all of the water, so feeds are always referred to with regards to dry matter. As a reference point, we can use a 1000

(Continued on page 3)

pound horse and a 3% dry matter intake. In dry matter consumed, this would be 30 lbs. of total feed, hay plus grain. This amount will vary depending on stage of pregnancy or lactation, weather conditions, etc.

Quality is important also. When a mare is heavy in foal, her physical capacity to consume a great deal of feed may diminish, so a better quality feed may be necessary. Quality may also be necessary from the standpoint of delivering vitamins and minerals for the growing foal as well as calories for the mare.

Management. *How* are your mares being fed? Are they in a group where they have to fend off other mares? Are they living outdoors? Are they on pasture or a dry lot? Is the person in charge of feeding scooping a big scoop or little scoop? These are the type of questions posed by good management to tailor to individual mares.

THE MARES. Brood-mares can be divided into several classes when devising rations: 1. Open mares, non-pregnant, 2. Pregnant mares, and 3. Lactating mares. Additionally pregnant mares are usually divided according to stage of pregnancy, feeding programs differing between the first two trimesters and the last trimester.

Non-pregnant mares and mares in their first two trimesters of pregnancy are generally fed the same. It does not take any extra energy, protein or minerals to grow a foal in the first two trimesters of pregnancy. This is because the foal is growing very slowly. You must make sure however, that you are feeding a good balanced diet at that time. Therefore, they can be fed as any mature horse either for maintenance or for work.

Last trimester mares see an increase in the amount of protein, calcium and phosphorus to sustain a rapidly growing fetus. Nearly 2/3 of the growth of the fetus occurs at this time.

Feeding the lactating mare is the most critical. "A common error is to under-feed her because many owners don't recognize the level of production in which

she is involved. The daily milk production of a lactating mare can be competitive with some dairy cows (25-30 lbs./day). Her energy needs are doubled and her protein, calcium and phosphorus requirements are increased considerably."

It is crucial to make sure your mare is getting enough calories during her last trimester and during lactation to maintain herself and sustain her reproductive job. "Fleshy' mares have as good or better reproductive performance than thinner mares. It takes considerable amounts of feed to cause weight gains in thin lactating mares. Potential health hazards (colic, founder) exist when feeding large amounts of concentrates. Therefore, it may be better to carry the mares into the breeding season in a moderately fleshy condition."

The above statement deserves some additional comment. When a mare's body condition score is below 5 at the time of foaling, your mare may well end up looking like she is a case for animal rescue in a very short time. One must be able to anticipate the additional calories necessary during the last trimester and when lactation begins. Therefore a BCS of 6 or 7 should be the goal for foaling mares. If you are asking that mare to raise a foal and to be re-bred on a BCS of 5, she can have a very difficult time conceiving in this thin condition. In addition, her milk producing capabilities are diminished for the foal on her side if her calorie requirements are not met. You are probably not going to be able to feed her enough for both weight gain and lactation at this time without risking colic or founder.

A change of one BCS unit means gradual weight gain over a number of months anticipating the estimated foaling date. Maintaining her weight and overall condition should then prove much easier and safer. See *Nutritional Technicalities* on page 5 for help with changing BCS units. Keep in mind, a mare should not and does not have to look like a rescue case with a foal at her side. Additionally, there is no mare

whose foal is too large for her to sustain if she has been and is receiving the proper number of calories !!

CHOOSING A DIET. You will have to take into consideration many factors in order to choose the correct diet for your brood-mare. Again, her overall health, age, breed, size, etc. will factor into your feeding program.

Mares in their last trimester and lactating mares should be fed as much high quality hay as they will consume. Alfalfa and alfalfa-mixed hays are an excellent diet for mares in these categories. Feeding several times a day in small quantities is an excellent program for horses. Since this is not always possible, make sure you give adequate quantities when you do feed. The addition of fat to a diet will increase calories without the carbohydrate overload.

There are many grains and grain mixes from which to choose. Which one is right for your mare? First, decide whether or not your mares are in the condition you would like them to be in. Begin by weighing your mare. Determine how much, by weight, you are currently feeding. Using the body condition score chart, decide where you want to go from here. There is no need to change what you are currently using if your mares are in good condition. A fancier label does not mean a better feed. Read, read, read. Read the labels and compare it to what you are currently feeding. Become familiar with feeds and their contents. Observe the condition of other horses and ask questions. Armed with all of this information, you will be better able to keep your mares on the right track.

Further reading:

1 Lewis, Lon D.: *Equine Clinical Nutrition* 1995

COLOSTRUM – WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT ? By Noreen Neary DVM

Colostrum is the first milk secretion produced by the mare immediately post foaling. Its appearance should be opaque, yellow, thick and sticky. Normal colostrum contains high levels of antibodies specifically known as IgG, IgM and IgA, the greatest quantity being IgG. These antibodies are very important because they aid in protecting the foal against infections. Infections occurring after birth (parturition) are most likely due to inadequate colostral antibody transfer from the mare to the foal.

The foal is born immunocompetent, i.e., it has an immune system. However, the foal's immune system is not completely functional at birth. It is slow to respond to and has low antibody production against infection, therefore it is quickly overwhelmed by bacteria found in the normal environment. Unlike many other animal species where the mother can transfer these all important antibodies to its fetus(es) in utero through circulation, this does not occur in the horse. This is because the mare's placenta is thicker than other animals, effectively separating the maternal and fetal circulation. Thus, there is no transfer of maternal antibodies to the fetus in utero and the foal is born without circulating IgG.

Protection against infections, or at least a fighting chance, occurs when the foal nurses and thus ingests colostrum enriched with the infection fighting IgG antibodies. This is known as **Passive Transfer** of antibodies. Colostral antibodies are absorbed through the foal's GI tract, specifically the intestines. Failure to get sufficient amounts of antibodies can lead to serious consequences such as septicemia, multiple localized infections or death. This inadequate transfer of antibodies is known as partial or complete **Failure of Passive Transfer (FPT)**.

Absorption of antibodies through the foal's

GI system occurs for the first 24 hours of life, however, the peak absorption time appears to be within the first 8 hours after birth. If your foal hasn't received colostrum by the first 12 hours of life it may be too late to use this mode of antibody transfer. Some of the reasons FPT occurs include; failure of the mare to produce antibody-rich colostrum, premature lactation (the mare drips milk before giving birth), the foal fails to nurse or the foal nurses and does not absorb the antibodies.

A foal that ingests 1 to 2 liters of good quality colostrum should have an antibody level of 800 – 1000 mg/dL. There is some controversy about what level is considered adequate for protection since not all foals with low levels of IgG will become septic. However, the majority of septic foals have IgG levels below 800 mg/dL. Other risk factors which can influence whether or not a foal becomes ill are unsanitary housing conditions, age of the mare, gestational age of the foal (premature or post mature foals are at greater risk), health and condition of the mother, difficult birth and presence of new bacteria or pathogens in the environment for which the mare has no antibodies (that is, moving a mare to a new place less than one month before delivery).

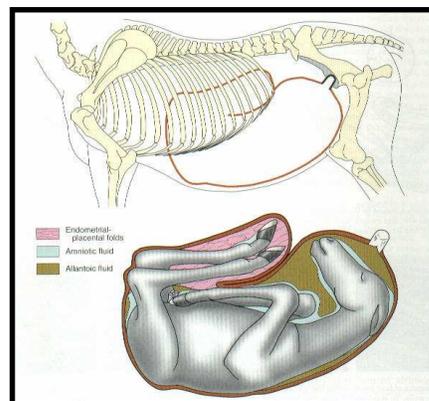
You can check your foal for adequate protection by having your veterinarian draw blood and check the level of IgG. The blood sample is drawn post foaling after the foal has nursed. In order for the test to detect the antibodies, the blood is drawn no earlier than 12-14 hours post nursing. This gives the antibodies time to be absorbed through the intestinal wall and enter the blood stream. If you know ahead of time there is a chance your foal will not be protected, such as premature lactation, failure to nurse or the mare dies after giving birth, there are other means to provide antibodies.

Colostrum banks are generally available on a local basis. On large farms, foaling mares

are milked a short time post parturition. This colostrum is tested for adequate levels of IgG by use of a device which measures specific gravity. The specific gravity should be greater than 1.060 to benefit the foal in question. Once the colostrum is found to be of good quality, it is frozen for future use. If no colostrum is available, enriched plasma can be given orally if the foal is less than 24 hours old (preferably within 8 hours of birth) or intravenously if greater than 24 hours after birth.

You can do your best to help your mare produce adequate antibodies by implementing a regular vaccination schedule throughout her pregnancy. Pre-foaling boosters 4 to 6 weeks prior to her estimated due date will help to boost the antibody level in her colostrum. Also, be prepared by observing your mare as she approaches foaling. Is she developing an udder? Is she dripping milk as she approaches foaling?

If you have any questions or at the first sign of trouble, contact your veterinarian straight away. Your best source of information is your veterinarian. The sooner problems are addressed the better. Remember, your foal's life is counting on you!



Fetal Positioning
O. J. Ginther, VMD, PhD

Nutritional Technicalities

Most feeds are generally referred to in terms of digestible energy. Simply put, DE is the “fuel” used to run the horse’s life processes. When feeds are consumed, they are broken down in the digestive tract and in a round about path produce heat and chemical reactions that give an organism the energy to function.

Another term you will see when reading about feeds and feed composition is *Calorie*. For nutrition in general, the amount of heat required to raise one kilogram of water 1° C is called a Calorie. Since we can measure heat, we can determine the Calories in foodstuffs. For large animals the megacalorie (Mcal) is usually used. One Mcal is equal to 1000 Kilocalories (Kcal). One Kcal is the same as one Calorie.

Examples of DE and Mcal’s follow: The DE of most grass hays run from about .7 to 1 Mcal/lb. Alfalfa runs from about 1.0 to 1.1 Mcal/lb. Grains are higher at 1.7 Mcal/lb for corn and 1.45 Mcal/lb for oats. From this information one can see that eating a pound of corn gives more calories than eating a pound of grass hay. However, we are dealing with horses. Even though this may be

true, horses can gain weight by eating hay alone. It will take longer and most of time longer means safer.

FEEDING FOR WEIGHT GAIN.

The following information appears in *The Horse*, and pertains to feeding horses in general. This is a wonderful example of how to feed horses based on sound feeding principles.

“How much to feed? Estimated increase in digestible energy (DE) intake necessary to change body condition score of an 1,100 pound horse (500 kg) from 4 to 5. It is assumed that: 1) The horse is at a maintenance nutrition level; 2) The one-unit change in condition score is equivalent to about a 40-pound 918 kg) gain in body weight; and 3) Each pound of weight gain requires 5-6 Mcal of DE above maintenance needs (which are 16.4 Mcal/day for an 1,100 pound horse). If the weight gain is over a 60-day period, only 75% of the 5-6 Mcal is required per day, giving a rate of gain of 0.75 pounds per day. Similarly, there are proportional decreases in the caloric requirements for a 90-day or 120-day timeframe. The equation for calculating DE required follows:

$$\text{DE/day} = \frac{\text{weight to be gained}}{\text{number of days for gain}} \times$$

DE needed to gain one pound

TIME PERIOD FOR WEIGHT GAIN	ADDITIONAL DE (Mcal/DAY)*	TOTAL DE INTAKE
60 days	3.3-4.0	19.7 – 20.4
90 days	2.2-2.6	18.6-19.0
120 days	1.6-2.0	18.0-18.4

Example: $\frac{40 \text{ lbs.}}{60 \text{ days}} \times 5 \text{ Mcal} = 3.3 \text{ Mcal}$

* to increase the horse’s body condition score by one unit

Source; Adapted from Lawrence, L.M. Advance and Gaps in Energy Nutrition. Advances in Equine Nutrition II, Pagan, J.D. and Geor, R.J. (eds), Nottingham Press, 227-236, 2001.”¹

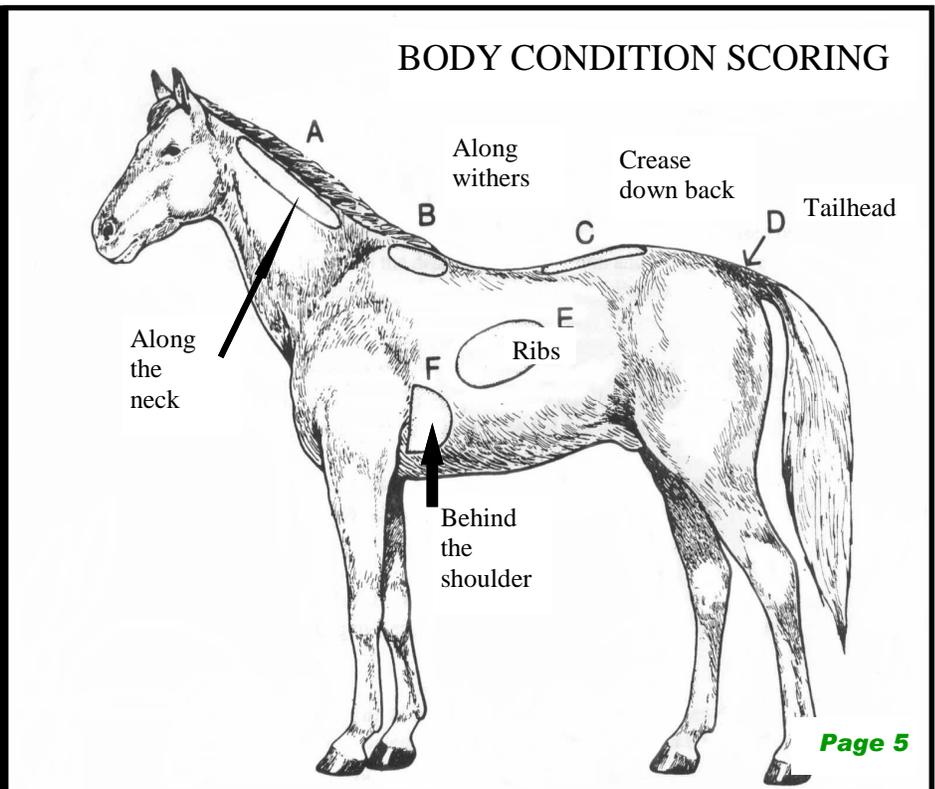
1. Geor, Ray J.:Putting Weight on Hard Keepers. *The Horse*, September 2002, 59-66 .

1. POOR. Extremely emaciated: spinous processes, ribs, tailhead, tuber coxae (hip joints), & ischia (lower pelvic bones) projecting prominently; bone structure of withers, shoulders and neck easily noticeable.

2. VERY THIN . Animal emaciated; slight fat covering over base of spinous processes, transverse processes of lumbar vertebrae feel rounded; spinous processes, ribs, tailhead, tuber coxae and ischia prominent; withers shoulders & neck structure faintly discernable.

3. THIN . Fat buildup half-way on spinous processes; transverse processes cannot be felt; slight fat cover over ribs; spinous processes & ribs easily discernable; tailhead prominent, but individual vertebrae cannot be identified visually; tuber coxae appear rounded but easily discernable; tuber ischia not distinguishable; withers, shoulders and neck accentuated.

4. MODERATELY THIN . Slight ridge
(Continued on page 8)



VETERINARY SERVICES

We are pleased to have our farm's veterinary care provided by Noreen Neary DVM, Buckeye Veterinary Service. Dr. Neary has been servicing our farm for 8 years (see bio below).

Additionally, we are located only 20 minutes east of the Equine Specialty Hospital. This equine medical surgical facility provides us with 24 hour emer-

gency care plus routine care. The Hospital is owned by William Jackson, DVM, ACVS and Cynthia Jackson, DVM, ACVIM.

Ultrasonography, both rectal and trans-abdominal plus video endoscopy are key diagnostic tools available. The clinical laboratory provides immediate access to critical blood counts, chemistries, IgGs, cytology, etc.

Hospital information can be obtained by calling 440.834.0811. The Equine Specialty Hospital is most happy to confer or consult with your veterinarian. Tours are available upon request.

LASER ABLATION OF UTERINE CYSTS by Noreen E. Neary, DVM

As mares age, some have a tendency to form intrauterine cysts. These cysts may not interfere with conception but may interfere with the implantation of the embryo to the uterine wall. Early in the pregnancy the conceptus migrates throughout the uterus searching for a point of implantation. When cysts are present, this point of implantation is often against a cyst which can impede the embryo's ability to attach. Cysts can be of any size, shape or number and can be located anywhere within the uterus.

How do we know that a mare has uterine cysts? We are able to "see" and diagnose them with the use of ultrasonography. It is a good idea to have your veterinarian perform an initial or "base line" ultra-sound examination of your mare's uterus prior to beginning any breeding activity. The reasons for this pre breeding check are twofold. First, some cysts may look exactly like early pregnancies and distinguishing between a cyst and a pregnancy may be difficult unless you know

what is present in the uterus ahead of time. Second, the illusion of twins can be present if the embryo settles against a cyst. With advanced cases, cysts can be so severe, i.e., increased size or number, that undertaking any breeding activity would not be feasible. Your veterinarian can take pictures and "map" the cysts for reference during pregnancy checks via ultrasound.

Can anything be done to help a mare with uterine cysts? Yes, The Equine Specialty Hospital, William Jackson, DVM, ACVS, offers laser ablation of uterine cysts. Ablation meaning removal or destruction of function. A decision to remove uterine cysts would be made upon review of the mare's reproductive history. Small or few cysts are usually not harmful and do not seem to interfere with conception and subsequent implantation. If the mare has a prior history of early embryonic death and cysts are diagnosed, this may be part of her failure to conceive. A uterine biopsy and culture can be performed as part of your pre-season repro-

ductive examination to give a more complete picture of your mare's status. The ablation procedure is usually done on an outpatient basis. Mild sedation is required to make sure your mare is quiet. Discomfort is minimal. Post treatment requires reproductive rest and uterine flushing. A pre breeding examination can be scheduled at Stallion Services or you can contact the Equine Specialty Hospital directly .

Noreen E. Neary, DVM is a 1996 graduate of Ohio State's College of Veterinary Medicine. She completed her internship at the Equine Specialty Hospital. A Kettering, Ohio native, she showed Morgan horses and groomed Thoroughbred racehorses for a prominent Ohio trainer. She is a Distinguished Alumni of Otterbein College with a BA in Equine Science and Business. We are happy to have Dr. Neary as our farm veterinarian.

INSEMINATING YOUR MARE WITH FROZEN SEMEN

When considering frozen semen for your breeding program there are several factors you must weigh before deciding to proceed.

ADVANTAGES to frozen semen include all those attributed to artificial insemination and transported semen, which are cleanliness, safety, keeping mares and foals home or close by and access to a greater variety of stallions. Since the semen is frozen and stored, it can be ordered ahead of time so that it is on hand when the mare needs to be bred. There is no shipping "rush" as sometimes occurs with fresh cooled transport.

DISADVANTAGES involve increased management which results in increased costs. Frozen semen post processing is weaker than fresh or fresh cooled semen. Also, due to the expense of processing frozen semen or the limited number of doses which may be available, stallion owners want to conserve the number of doses when semen is sold. These factors result in the critical timing of insemination necessary for success. Additional palpations and/or ultrasonography can be required to pinpoint ovulation. All of this tends to drive up costs substantially.

MARE HISTORY. Is your mare a good candidate for frozen semen? Aged maiden mares or mares with poor reproductive histories are not good candidates. For instance, an aged mare who has been "open" for an extended period is not a good

candidate. We suggest a veterinary examination on your mare before you consider purchasing frozen semen. This evaluation should include a culture and ultrasound evaluation of the reproductive tract. Even with all of this, many older mares do not possess good uterine contractility. What does this

TIMING = SUCCESS

mean? Mares produce uterine fluids as a matter of course during their estrus cycles. Excess fluid is squeezed out of the uterus at intervals throughout the mare's heat cycle by the squeezing activity of the uterus. With any breeding activity additional fluid production is incurred due to inflammation caused by the very act of the insemination. Younger mares manage this well, older mares do not. We can diagnose this pooling of fluid by use of ultrasonography. If fluid is discovered, we must help that mare clear out the fluid so that the embryo will have the correct environment in which to settle. We can do this by administering either oxytocin or estrumate with or without a uterine lavage (flush). The combination of flushing plus the mild contractive action of the hormones help provide the proper uterine environment. You can see why the decision to use frozen semen must be a careful one.

If you have bred a mare with transported fresh cooled semen, then you are familiar with "appointment breeding." You know that in order to be successful you must have your mare palpated regularly by your veterinarian during her cycle so that insemination can take place close to ovulation. This precision is taken a step further with frozen semen. Ideally, inseminations should occur within 12 hours prior to or 6 hrs. post ovulation. To accomplish this degree of precision, your mare must be checked via rectal palpation and/or ultrasonography about every 12 hours once her follicle grows over 35 millimeters and begins to soften.

Our protocol for inseminating mares with frozen semen has resulted from a Colorado State University study in 2001. This study assumes you have adequate insemination doses. If less doses are present, the clinician must use judgement as to the best protocol. This protocol involves once or twice daily palpations and inseminations timed at 24 and 40 hours post administration of an ovulatory agent.

Our job is to help you make a decision on whether to use fresh cooled or frozen semen. Call us and we will be glad to discuss your options.



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WE REPRODUCE SUCCESS !!

Neil and Robin DeRue began Stallion Services in response to the growing number of registries permitting the use of fresh cooled transported and frozen semen for their members. Stallion Services resultant laboratory facility now services the Northeast Ohio equine community.

Robin DeRue graduated from Michigan State Univ.. In 1983 with a BS in Animal Sciences. She managed breeding farms in Dallas, Tx., Raleigh, N.C. and Novelty, Oh. Reproductive short courses attended have been Ohio State Univ.. 1989, Colorado State Univ. 1984, 86 ,97 and 99. Society for Theriogenology 2000. Hagyard-Davidson & McGee Bluegrass Equine Symposium 2002. Texas A&M 2002. Robin & Neil taught Equine Reproduction at Lake Erie College in Painesville, Ohio.

Neil received an Associates Degree in 1977 from Ohio University and an Associates in 1985 from Kent State Univ. in computer sciences. Neil managed Sahbra Farm Standardbred horses in Streetsboro, Ohio from 1991 to 94. Neil worked as hospital manager at the Equine Specialty Hospital in Troy, Ohio for nine years.

(Continued from page 5)

along back; faint outline of ribs discernable; tailhead prominence depends on conformation, fat can be felt around it; tuber coxae not discernable; withers, shoulders and neck not obviously thin.
5. MODERATE . Back is flat (no crease or ridge); ribs not visually distinguishable but easily felt; fat around tailhead beginning to feel spongy; withers appear rounded over spinous processes; shoul-

ders & neck blend, no fatty tissue felt.
6. MODERATELY FLESHY . May have slight crease down back; fat over ribs spongy; fat around tailhead soft; fat beginning to be deposited along the side of withers, behind shoulders and along sides of neck.

7. FLESHY . May have slight crease down back; individual ribs can be felt but noticeable filling between ribs with fat; fat around tailhead soft; fat deposited

along withers, behind shoulders and along neck.

8. FAT . Crease down back; difficult to feel ribs, fat around tailhead very soft; fat area along withers & behind shoulder filled with fat, noticeable thickening of neck, fat deposited along inner thighs.

9. EXTREMELY FAT . Obvious crease down back; patchy fat appearing over ribs, bulging fat around tail-head. along withers, behind shoulders and

TRAINING YOUR STALLION TO USE A PHANTOM MARE

Through the years, we at Stallion Services have trained many stallions both young and old to use a phantom mare. Most stallions will mount readily and can be collected successfully with relatively few attempts. It is difficult to predict how a stallion will act until training begins. A stallion whose behavior is “quiet” or those stallions slow to breed may take more time due to their timidity, however they will eventually use a phantom just as well as any other stallion once confidence is gained.

In our experience, the average stallion will take approximately three training sessions prior to a successful collection. Those stallions who have previously live covered mares may take additional training sessions since they are initially confused when they are not permitted to mount the tease mare. Once a successful collection is achieved, two to three more collections to reinforce the behavior will provide us some predictability and reliability that he will perform when necessary.

We maintain an ovariectomized mare for training and general collecting purposes. This mare is quiet and shows estrus well which encourages each stallion and gives him confidence. Each training session takes a team of three people; the stallion handler, mare handler and the collector. The mare handler strategically places the mare next to the phantom (artificial) mare on the opposite side from where the stallion will be presented. The stallion has already been prepped and is led up so that he can tease the mare over the phantom. The person handling the artificial vagina must be prepared to collect the semen wherever the stallion mounts. A young stallion does not always mount on the proper end and to insist that he does can result in frustration. Stallions are quick learners, once success is attained there will be improvement with each subsequent session.

If you are planning to stand your stallion, this training period is an excellent time to test your stallion’s semen for fresh cooled transport. Our 48 hour semen viability test will provide you with valuable information for marketing. Please refer to our rate sheet for current pricing.