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MARYLAND COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
COLLEGE PARK • EASTERN SHORE

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DAIRY ADDITIVE TOXIC TO HORSES

Q I understand that the FDA has approved Rumensin® as an additive in feed for dairy cows, and that while it increases milk production in cows, it is extremely toxic in horses. Don't some feed mills in Maryland and surrounding areas mix feed for both cows and horses in the same bins? How can I ensure that my horse's feed is not contaminated? What questions should I be asking of my feed dealer? Will any of the feed mills guarantee that their feed is Rumensin® free?

A You are correct and your concerns are valid. Rumensin® given to cows increases the amount of milk a cow produces per pound of feed it consumes. However, Rumensin® given to a horse is usually fatal. The health risk to a horse increases if a feed mill were to use the same production line to mix feed for horses and feed with Rumensin® fed to cows. It would likely spell disaster for a horse if its feed were contaminated during production, and for the future of that business if the horse became ill. Separate mixing lines, and if possible, separate mixing facilities should be used to prevent contamination of horse feed with Rumensin®. I cannot attest to whether all feed mills in our area are taking the necessary precautions although there are many that assure me they are. The best thing for you to do is to call your feed company (look on the feed tag for the phone number) and ask them whether they add Rumensin® to any of their products and/or feeds and whether they take special precautions to eliminate the risk of contamination to their horse feeds. The only way to ensure a zero risk of contamination to your horse is to buy feed from a company that uses a Rumensin®-free mill.

MARCH EXTENSION HAPPENINGS

CALL THE EXTENSION OFFICE TO REGISTER

Canceled Event— *Chesapeake College Horse Basics Class and Horsemen's Event,*

March 5 Winter Wednesday Series – (Carroll County 410-386-2760) 10:00 – noon, March 2 – “Changes and Updates on Carroll County Ag Land Preservation Program” with Ralph Robertson, Jr.

Pennsylvania Forage and Grazing Conference, (Open to MD residents) March 2&3, Contact Les Vough for more information (301-405-1322)

Private Applicator Re-Certification

March 1, 7-9 pm, Harford County

Nutrient Management Voucher Training

March 2, 1:30 – 4 pm, Baltimore County (410-666-1022)

Maryland Horsemen's Party

March 6, 2-6pm, \$25/person, Wilhelms in Westminster, MD (301-314-7821)

Private Applicator Certification Training

March 7, 7-9 pm, Carroll County (410-386-2760)

Private Applicator Certification Test

March 3, 9-11:30 am, Baltimore County

March 16, 7-9 pm, Carroll County

March 7, 7-9 pm, Harford County (410-638-3255)

Maryland 4-H State Horse Bowl Contest

March 12, 8am-4pm, University of Maryland, College Park, MD (301-314-7821)

Equine Session of Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference

March 24, 8am-4:30pm, Timonium, MD (301-405-1368)

Mid Atlantic Nutrition Conference

Don't miss your opportunity to learn about the most current information on *Tying-Up, Cushings, Development Orthopedic Disease, and the relationship between Laminitis and pasture consumption* at the Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference. This year's equine session will be held on March 24, 2005 at the Holiday Inn Select in Timonium, MD from 8am-4:30pm. Registration is \$65/person which includes a lunch, proceedings, and participation in the round table discussion when questions can be asked of our expert panel. For more info or to register, contact Clare Capotosto at (301)-405-1368 or visit <http://www.agnr.umd.edu/MNC/>.