

Hooves of Heaven help youth Department of Agriculture clarifies proposed cattle health regulations

By Ron Wilson
Huck Boyd Institute

Can you hear the sound of thundering hooves? It's the sound of a horse galloping. Those hooves and the horses who have them might be just the thing that some children need. Today we'll meet a man in rural Kansas who has seen first-hand the beneficial effect of horses on troubled youth.

Chuck Matke is the founder of Hooves of Heaven, an equine assisted learning organization in northwest Kansas. Chuck has a heart for troubled youth, having had some challenges as a young person himself.

"I have dyslexia and had trouble in school, got into fights," Chuck said. His father traveled all over the world in the military before retiring to the family farm near WaKeeney. WaKeeney is a rural community of 1,850 people. Now, that's rural.

In big city schools, Chuck had seen - and experienced - how some youth were treated as dumb and given no respect. He always had a knack for relating to troubled kids. Chuck studied criminal justice in college and became a truck driver. He and his wife raised their two children. "Once our kids were grown, we decided to get into foster care," Chuck said.

While Chuck's daughter was still in high school, she started giving riding lessons as her supervised agricultural experience in FFA. "I noticed that she might have 25 kids for riding lessons, and some were driving fifty miles to get here," Chuck said. He noted this strong interest in the horses as well as beneficial effects on the children.

Chuck did some studying and learned about a program called Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association (EAGLA). The Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association is an international nonprofit association for professionals using equine therapy to address mental health and human development needs. He and his daughter became certified in Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association.

Chuck has seen these benefits first-hand. "One time I lied about my age to get a job at a camp, but on the day I was to report to work, I got a call saying there was no job," he said. "Then they told me I could be a horse wrangler instead.

Every time I've had trouble, it seems horses would show up. This is my time to give back."

In 2005, Chuck established Hooves of Heaven, a foundation created with the vision of bringing people and horses together. Hooves of Heaven offers riding lessons and human-horse interaction for troubled youth.

"One of the gifts God gave these horses is to mirror the handler," Chuck said. "These horses have a knack for reading these kids." Giving a kid time to work with a horse and express his or her own voice appears to help. The kids might be foster children, juvenile justice clients, or local families. Chuck has worked with kids on suicide watch and gang members from Kansas City with amazing results.

Following the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association principles, youth might be introduced to horses and assigned tasks with a given horse while other horses remain in the same pen. "It helps them deal with having other issues intervene when you're trying to get something done," Chuck said.

Often the youth get their first ride on a well-trained horse so it is a really positive experience. Then untrained colts are brought in and the youth experience the challenges of trying to train them. The lessons of the training can benefit the youth themselves.

"You don't tell the kids what to do," Chuck said. "You have them tell you what's going on, and then you use what they're telling you to help them."

As the kids give voice to what is happening in the human-horse interaction, it seems to help them understand how human relationships can be improved as well. For more information, go to www.hoovesofheaven.com.

Can you hear the sound of thundering hooves? It's the sound of a horse galloping. Those hooves might be carrying a rider, but they may also carry solutions for troubled youth. We salute Chuck Matke and all those involved with Hooves of Heaven for making a difference with equine-assisted learning.

And there's more. We'll learn about life-changing examples from this program next week.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture is re-proposing proposed regulation K.A.R. 9-7-4, relating to Trichomoniasis (Trich) testing requirements for cattle in Kansas, to clarify the types of bulls to which the intrastate testing will apply. Kansas Department of Agriculture originally published a notice of hearing on the proposed Trich regulation in the September 27, 2012, Kansas Register.

Trich is a disease that results in infertility in cows and heifers. The disease can be economically devastating to affected herds and is a major concern of the Kansas cattle industry. To address the issue, Kansas Department of Agriculture created a working group including cattle farmers and ranchers, industry partners and veterinarians from across the state. The proposed regulation is the result of the working group's recommendations.

The proposed regulation will require any non-virgin bull, bull 19-months of age or older, or bull of unknown virginity status that changes ownership in Kansas by private sale, public sale, lease, trade, or barter but does not go directly to slaughter, be certified negative for Trich. Previously, this certification was only required for bulls being imported into Kansas from other states.

The regulation is being proposed to clarify that the new intrastate testing requirements were intended to apply to bulls 19-months of age or older and

bulls of unknown virginity status in addition to non-virgin bulls. The new, re-proposed regulation is available online at Kansas Department of Agriculture's website.

Kansas Department of Agriculture will host a public hearing on the proposed regulation at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 10, 2013, in the 4th floor training room of the Kansas Department of Agriculture, 109 S.W. 9th, Topeka. This hearing replaces the originally scheduled hearing that was to be held November 27.

Kansas Department of Agriculture is accepting written comments on the proposed regulation until January 10. All

interested parties may submit written comments to the Secretary of Agriculture, 109 S.W. 9th, 4th Floor, Topeka, 66612, or by e-mail at leslie.garner@KansasDepartmentofAgriculture.ks.gov. Additionally, interested parties will be given a reasonable opportunity to present their views orally at the hearing. If you have any questions on the Trich regulation, please contact Dr. Bill Brown, Kansas animal health commissioner, at William.Brown@KansasDepartmentofAgriculture.ks.gov or (785) 296-2326.

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Deadline nears for mobile radio operators

Farmers, fleet operators, schools and government agencies operating business band or Private Land Mobile Radio systems are facing a critical January 1, 2013, deadline. By that date, the FCC has mandated that all private Private Land Mobile Radio licensees operating on frequencies below 512 MHz move to 12.5 kHz narrowband voice channels.

Nex-Tech Mobile Radio Supervisor Ryan McClung urges Private Land Mobile Radio operators to act soon, as the narrowbanding licensing process can be time consuming. "Since everyone is required to make this change, the FCC's approval process timeframe continues to lengthen," he said.

"Affected licensees have two choices to remain in compliance," stated McClung. "Make the transition to narrowband technology or get a waiver from the FCC."

McClung said operators most significantly impacted by the narrowbanding mandate are those who are using older radio equipment. "Most radios purchased within the past five years will be narrowband compliant," stated McClung. "The manufacturers have known since 1997 that this date was coming and that these mandates were going into effect in 2013."

"Licensees should be prepared for enforcement consequences if they do not meet their obligations or secure a waiver,"

warned McClung.

Nex-Tech Mobile Radio will provide free narrowband walk-throughs for all customers, law enforcement agencies and schools, and will provide them with a current list of radios they have, indicate which radios are compliant or non-compliant, and provide them a solution to become narrowband compliant by the 2013 deadline."

With the narrowbanding deadline less than three months away, McClung encourages all Private Land Mobile Radio operators to visit www.nex-tech.com/narrowbanding or to call Nex-Tech Mobile Radio toll free at (800) 542-1315 for more information.



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CLUB NEWS

By Beverly Kindler

Members of GFWC Mid-Century Club and their guests observed Federation Day on October 25. Special guests were Jeanne Urban, president, GFWC of Kansas and husband, Richard; Sabra Clarke, president-elect, GFWC of Kansas and husband, John. Other guest were members of Jennings Study Club, GFWC Helios Club, Hill City, Shari Archer and husbands of club members-Warren White, David Will and Dick Hahn.

Virginia Will, president, introduced Marcia and Richard Wiltfong for their program on "Vintage Cars." Through stories, pictures and books Marcia and Richard shared some of their experiences at car shows and rallies with their vintage cars. They told of winning a ribbon with their 1934 Dodge at a car show at Cranbrook in Detroit, Mich.

They explained the process of participation in Sugar Valley Rallies, which is a race against the clock. The clock and a stop watch are the only timers one can use. In one rally they traveled 450 miles and were off only 28 seconds. Marcia serves as the navigator. The rallies are held in the area near Scottsbluff, Neb. into Colorado, Wyoming and South Dakota areas. During a rally they travel

through small towns where special celebrations are held to welcome rally participants and cheer them on. Teams come from all states.

Participation in these rallies has been a family affair, as their children Susan, David and Julie and their grandchildren have participated.

In the parking lot at the United Methodist Church, the Wiltfongs had on display four of their vintage cars, a 1948 Chevrolet pick-up (a most desirable five window model); a 1936 black 2-door hump back Ford which has original upholstery; a 1935 Ford roadster in original condition and a 1938 Ford pick-up.

During the business meeting, Virginia asked members to report the amount they had spent to fill the seven Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes that were being contributed this year.

Beverly Kindler reported about GFWC News Notes, bringing homemade Christmas cards to the November meeting and that the order of grape hyacinth bulbs had been received and would be distributed to members.

Roll call was answered by 19 members. Hostesses were Lynn Nelson, Eunice Neiltopp and Beverly Kindler.

The next meeting of the club will be on December 13.

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By Beverly Kindler
The GFWC Mid Century Club met at the home of Lynn Nelson, with Virginia Will as co-hostess, for the meeting on November 8.

Virginia Will, president, conducted the business meeting. Plans for the Indian project and the "Random Acts of Kindness" activity were discussed. Judy Davis presented a report from the GFWC Clubwoman. Beverly Kindler reported on the Mississippi Valley Regional Conference and the Sixth District Veterans Project.

New members of the GFWC Mid Century are Melba Witt and Donna Thomas.

reviews. Cheryl Scott reviewed "Mrs. Kennedy and Me" by Clint Hill. The author was a Special Agent, United States Secret Service, assigned to guard Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy during the time the Kennedys were in the White House.

Margaret Thomas reviewed the book, "Mrs. Lincoln and Mrs. Keckley" by Jennifer Fleischner. The story in this book was about the unusual friendship of these two women as they forged a bond between blacks and whites in nineteenth century America. Fifteen members answered roll call by sharing the title and a brief comment about a book they would recommend.

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