



Connecticut Horse Council

"Horsemen United in Leadership, Service and Education"

Check out our website at www.cthorsecouncil.org

2012 SPRING NEWSLETTER

Hello Everyone,

Thank you to all who have joined the CT Horse Council for 2012. A reminder for those that have not paid their dues – please take the time to send in your dues. The 2012 application is on pages 27-28 of this newsletter. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Our supporting organizations and business members are listed on pages 16-24 and are also posted on our website.

We again have a Calendar photo contest for 2013– See page 4 for details!

Have a fun and safe Spring & Summer !

Attention All Trail Riders – A friendly reminder to “Share the Trail” and use trail etiquette, respect the trails and other people out on the trails. Please clean up at trail heads and on well used trails and Greenways. Please be very diligent about beach rides and picnic areas.

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By Cathy Sautter

Your CHC Representation around the state...

CONNECTICUT HORSE COUNCIL

VOLUNTEER HORSE PATROL

CONNECTICUT EQUINE ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONNECTICUT GREENWAYS COUNCIL

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**Recreational Trails Program Advisory Committee
Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Committee**

[Your CHC Representation around the state...](#)

Legislation

The Connecticut Legislative session is a short session this year. Connecticut Horse Council is tracking a number of bills which may potentially impact our members. CHC urges our members to testify at the hearings or submit written testimony to the committees.

Members should also email their own legislators to ask for their support and/or cosponsor the bills listed below. Some have already had public hearings

NOTE: *Even though a bill has already been “Heard”– you can still ask your legislators to support the bill as a hearing does not mean that the bill passed.*

To see the full text of the bills, please visit the Connecticut General Assembly website at www.cga.ct.gov and type the bill number into the search box. You may also obtain contact information for your legislators on this site. CHC encourages our members to contact their elected officials to express opinions. Should you have any questions or need assistance, please contact CHC at president@cthorsecouncil.org.

Please go to the CHC website for updated Alerts and additional information on addressing the legislation: www.cthorsecouncil.org

Please contact your own legislators to ask that they support and/or cosponsor HB 5262, SB262 and SB111. When contacting legislators remember to be respectful and polite, and use the bill number and title. Remember to sign your name and full address. Should you have any questions or need assistance, please contact CHC at president@cthorsecouncil.org.

THE FOLLOWING BILLS ARE PRIORITY ISSUES FOR CHC:
Please contact your legislators and ask they SUPPORT the bills below

Connecticut Horse Council Legislative Update 3/15/12

H.B. No. 5262 (RAISED)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF CERTAIN TRAILS AND AREAS FOR EQUINE USE.

Purpose: To preserve certain areas as horse trails.

NOTE: CHC Supports HB 5262: This bill would ensure that equestrian access to multi-use trails in Connecticut is protected. This bill had a public hearing on March 2nd and was voted out of committee with some language changes.

SB 262 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ASSESSMENT OF FARM MACHINERY AND LIVESTOCK AND THE TRANSFER OF LAND CLASSIFIED AS FARM LAND, OPEN SPACE LAND, FOREST LAND AND MARITIME HERITAGE LAND.

Purpose: To make all horses and ponies exempt from property taxation; to increase the property tax exemption for farm machinery; to amend the date on which a qualified foresters report must be submitted; to require property owners to provide notice of an excepted transfer of land classified as farm land, open space land, forest land or maritime heritage land, and to make other changes concerning the assessment of such classified land.

NOTE: CHC supports SB 262: the current property tax on horses is arbitrary and we feel it should be eliminated.

This bill had a public hearing on March 2nd and was voted out of committee with some language changes.

SB 111 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR CAUSING HARM TO A VULNERABLE USER OF A PUBLIC WAY.

Purpose: To protect vulnerable users of a public way by enhancing penalties for operators of motor vehicles whose careless driving causes serious physical injury or death to a pedestrian, bicyclist or other vulnerable user of a public way.

NOTE: CHC Supports this legislation: It enhances penalties for operators of motor vehicles whose reckless actions cause serious harm or injury to bicyclists, pedestrians and equestrians when they are on roads or public ways.

This bill had a public hearing on Feb 22nd and was voted out of committee with some language changes.

Calendar Photo Contest

Seeking entries for the 2013 CT Horse Council Calendar contest!

You've always known it, but now you can prove to everyone that your horse is truly a picture of beauty. Submit an original photo of your horse (or other horse related photo) to us by August 15, 2012 and yours may be selected for inclusion in the 2013 CT Horse Council Members Calendar. If we select your photo, you'll win more than just bragging rights – you'll also receive a free calendar and your membership dues will be covered for one year. You'll also be recognized in the CT Horse Council Newsletter as a contributor and receive attribution for your photo in the calendar.

This is a great way for you to not only show off your horse, but help the CT Horse Council in the process.

Please note you must be a CT Horse Council member to participate.

We can only accept high resolution electronic submissions in JPG format, (at least 1 meg – Set your camera to the highest setting) and that all photos submitted for judging become the property of the CT Horse Council. It is important that you submit only original work, and include the following:

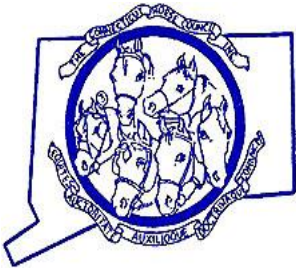
- Name and contact info of person submitting photo (phone & E-mail)
- Name of photographer
- Name of Horse
- A one-paragraph explanation of your photo

So start searching for those precious shots you always wanted to show your friends – perhaps your photo will hang on the walls of barns throughout the state for the entire year!

Entries will be received until August 15, 2012. All entries received after that date will be considered for next year's calendar.

By submitting a photo, you also agree to transfer copyright for the photo to the CT Horse Council for reproduction in the CT Horse Council calendar and other promotional and fundraising materials.

Please submit photos via email to: Laurianne Goulet at lgoulet@att.net



CT Horse Council TRAIL NEWS Volunteer Horse Patrol SPRING 2012



Submitted by Diane Ciano

Your CHC Representation around the state...

Volunteer Horse Patrol Statistics for 2011

The VHP has come a long way from its small start in 2003 of 5 patrol areas to over 70 areas around the state, including town parks, open spaces and land trusts. As we continue to grow, we are expanding our riding opportunities and helping to create long distance connecting trails. Congratulations to you all, because each of your patrol logs, no matter how many hours you patrol and maintain trails adds to the grander total of statewide hours. This service provides CHC, DEP and other Land Management Areas with information on how the equestrian community is continuing its effort to maintain trails for multiple use, while promoting and educating the community and other equestrians of our volunteer efforts.

For 2011, we had a total of **1,909 patrols** with **59 patrol locations** around the state:
There were 37 areas of DEEP lands: 19 State Parks, 13 State Forests & 5 Wildlife Management Areas.
22 other areas included 11 Town Parks/Open Spaces, 5 Land Trusts, and 6 private lands.

There were **4,207 patrol hours** logged with **1020 hours of trail maintenance**, saving the state (that's you and me!) **\$82,037.00** for **2011** alone!

80 of the 120 volunteer members were out on patrols for 2011.

The total savings of our 9 years in volunteer service hours is **\$473,246.00** !

The 9 year totals include **11,378* Patrols**, **24,269 Patrol Hours**
with **4,632 Trail Maintenance Hours**.

2011 VOLUNTEER HORSE PATROL MEMBER RECOGNITION HOURS

Patrol Hours - Over 100		
NAME	# of Patrols	HOURS
Meg Sautter	107	336
Jim Griffin	107	245
Phyllis Alexander	120	237
Debbie McConnell	72	180
Gail Miller	61	162
Jane Samuels	96	148
Bonnie Herideen	59	132
Vevette Greenberg	40	130
Melissa Evarts	46	128
Diane Ciano	39	118
Lynda Perry	36	115
Penny Foisey	59	112
Jean Morrison	57	111
Alesia DiFederico	36	109
Susan Crawford	84	108
Gina McManus	82	108
Cathie Mestmaker-Harris	51	107

Patrol Hours - Over 50		
NAME	# of Patrols	HOURS
Ginger Tullai	62	97
Kristin Elliott Leas	42	94
Barbara White	42	93
Gloria Coles	36	80
Lori Osowski	28	62
Patti Crowther	23	61
Michael Marcus	34	55
Diane Morton	24	54
Daisy Gmitter	18	50

Most Maintenance Hours	
NAME	HOURS
Meg Sautter	108
Melissa Evarts	79
Gina McManus	79
Phyllis Alexander	60
Kristin Elliott Leas	52
Vevette Greenberg	35
Diane Ciano	35
Gail Miller	33
Bonnie Herideen	33
Penny Foisey	32
Lori Osowski	30
Ginger Tullai	30

Most Areas Patrolled	
NAME	AREAS
Meg Sautter	33
Diane Ciano	17
Vevette Greenberg	11
Daisy Gmitter	10
Gail Miller	8
Alesia DiFederico	7
Denise Ciano	7
Lori Gmuer	7
Phyllis Alexander	7

CHC-Volunteer Horse Patrol Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting was held on March 3rd in Newington. We had 55 members attending and raised over \$412.00 for the Trails Committee for the VHP and Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp.

A Big Thank you to Daisy Gmitter who created an on-line logging system for VHP members to log patrol hours. Please go the CHC website under Volunteer Horse Patrol for instructions and directions to this system. There is a free download to access and create your logs. Remember to always print a hard copy and save your logs to a file in your computer.

New Volunteer Horse Patrol Members for 2012

Chuck Sharples & Tuesday, Killingworth, CT 06419

Howard Tunick & Emma, Essex, CT

Bunny Joseph & Dickens (Returning member), Colchester, CT 06415

SAVE THE DATES:

Sunday, April 22nd – DESENSITIZING YOUR HORSE CLINIC - Clinton, CT
with Kristin Elliott Leas & VHP Horse & Rider Assessment

Gain a new perspective on how your horse perceives the world. Then build a better trusting relationship with your horse by exposing him to all his worst nightmares.

See flyer on page14

Saturday, May 5th –SHOW N' GO RIDE – 10:00 AM –

Roraback Wildlife Management Area, Harwinton, CT. This a fun ride for those that want to explore a new area to ride for patrols. Contact Meg Sautter to RSVP and directions.

Sunday, May 6th – SPRAGUE PRESEVE BENEFIT RIDE

This is a CHC sponsored event. We need horse people to come out and support this event that will help raise money to purchase an additional 230 acres to add to the land preserve. Pre-Registration is required by May 2nd.

See flyer on page15

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY EVENTS

Saturday, June 2, 2012

Don't let another acre or trail slip away. Be proactive and help protect trails for equestrian use. Be a good steward and "pay" your dues by dedicating your time to working and clearing trails. Join in on one of 3 activities sponsored by equestrian organizations around the state.

Cockaponset State Forest – Chester, CT

The Lower Connecticut River Valley Horsemen's Club and the Bridle Path Conservancy will be teaming up with the Connecticut Forests & Parks Association and the Connecticut chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association for a joint work party in Cockaponset State Forest in Chester on Saturday, June 2, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Follow signs from the Commuter lot at Beaver Meadow Road and Route 9 to the work area. We will be working on upgrading an old trail to a multi-use trail. Projects include trail and stream bank armoring, blazing, and brushing. Tools will be provided, but participants are encouraged to bring their own as well as water, snacks, bug spray, sunscreen, and food for a potluck cookout after the work. Hotdogs and beverages will be provided. Be prepared for a day in the field; long sleeved shirts, long pants, a hat, work gloves, and appropriate footwear are recommended. Heavy rain postpones to June 3. Pre-registration is RECOMMENDED. Questions and to register: contact Robert Butterworth (860) 526-3210.

LCRVHC is also hosting a trail ride. Our plan is to meet up with the work party for lunch. Pre-registration is REQUIRED. E-mail host: Pam Cameron at pc.services@comcast.net for parking location and time. Approved helmet and appropriate shoes required for riders. Picnic hosts: Kathy and Bill Schuyler (860) 663-1412.

Rockland Preserve – Madison, CT

The CHC/Volunteer Horse Patrol will be partnering with the Connecticut Forests & Parks Association and the Towns of Madison, Guilford and Durham for a joint "meet and greet" and "work party" beginning in Rockland Preserve, Madison, CT on Saturday, June 2, 2012 beginning at 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. We will meet at the Renee's Way Trailhead off of Route 79. Horse trailer parking is limited, and pre-registration is required. We will be working on clearing the existing multi-use trails of storm debris and damage. Bring clippers, as tools are limited. Water and snacks will be provided. Participants are encouraged to bring, bug spray and sunscreen. Long sleeved shirts, long pants, a hat, work gloves, and appropriate footwear are recommended. Rain date will be June 3rd. Pre-registration is RECOMMENDED.

Questions and to register: contact Marylou Millett @ (860) 349-2341 as horse trailer parking is limited to 5 trailers.

Also, Marylou will be hosting a trail ride after the work party through the connecting bridle path located in Braemore Preserve and into James Valley. Our plan is to meet up with the work party at 1:00 and leave shortly thereafter. Pre-registration is REQUIRED. E-mail host: Marylou Millett for parking location and time : mistymeadowfarmct@gmail.com. Approved helmet and appropriate shoes required for riders.



Natchaug State Forest

Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp, Hampton, CT

Horse Camp Work Day – Camp Out - Blessing of the Mounts

Trail Ride weekend

The CT Horse Council Volunteer Horse Patrol is planning a whole weekend of activity!

We'll camp, *ride*, have a work day, *ride*, **AND** you and your mount can get Blessed! There will also be ***plenty of riding*** on the newly marked, 5 and 10 mile loops. Join us for the weekend or any part there of.

Friday June 1st : Arrive at Lost Silver Mine, set up camp, and get a ride in.

Saturday June 2nd : We'll start the day with a Blessing, just in case... Camp Work will include installation of campsite markers; cutting up downed branches/small trees and general cleanup. Please bring saws, rakes, shovels, loppers, etc. Bring lots of bug spray and gloves, too! We can get in an afternoon ride if all the work gets done!!

Pot Luck Dinner

Sunday June 3rd : ***Blessing of the Mounts*** followed by riding.

Your CHC Representation around the state...

No Child Left Inside



On February 4th, the CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol participated in the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection's No Child Left Inside Program at Black Rock State Park in Thomaston. VHP members, Ann & Monty Moses, Kowboy Ken Forcier, Judy Beliveau and Meg Sautter brought their patrol horses for the public to meet and greet them. There were over 100 people attending the event.

Friends of CT State Parks Day



Meg Sautter, Eric Hammerling and Shirley Vicchitto

CHC-VHP members Meg Sautter and Shirley Vichitto represented the equestrian community at the Capitol on March 21st with the Friends of CT State Parks groups. The groups organized the event to promote the benefits of our State Parks, Forests and Wildlife Management Areas and to raise awareness on the historically low levels of funding provided to the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection. A recent economic study released by UConn in December documents annual revenues of over \$1 billion and 9,000 jobs.

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Capewell Horse Nails Company leaves Connecticut.

The Hartford area's 131-year tradition as a dominant maker of horseshoe nails is ending, as the company that owns the Capewell Horsenails business in Bloomfield moves production elsewhere.

Mustad Hoofcare, owner of the historic Capewell franchise that was founded in Hartford in 1881, said it will consolidate its nail production at a facility in Sweden, shutting down production at its Bloomfield plant on Blue Hills Avenue. The move will cost 26 workers their jobs.

Around 1900, before the advent of cars, Capewell shipped 20 million pounds of nails a year. In the late 1990s, the volume was far less than at the height, although the company would give sales figures

VHP Member Jim Griffin with his Delta Society Therapy horse Yankee



Photo taken from the New Haven Register: James Griffin of Branford, Conn. A CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol member and a writer of westerns, taking his Delta Society therapy horse, Yankee, out for a ride in Clinton, Conn. where he boards. Griffin and Yankee go to nursing facilities and put on a demonstration for the clients there.

Jim Griffin is an active CHC-VHP member. He has been part of the Horse Patrol since 2003. This year, Jim and his trusty steed, Yankee, along with Dogie, were featured on the front page of the New Haven Register (March 31, 2012)

By Sandi Kahn Shelton, Register Staff
sandi@sandishelton.com / Twitter: [@sandishelton](https://twitter.com/sandishelton)

James Griffin, 62, of Branford has loved horses his whole life. He said it started in 1956, when he went to see Roy Rogers and Trigger and saw how truly awesome animals could be. Since then, he's blamed Roy Rogers for the fact that he's owned four horses and can't seem to be happy without one.

In 2004, Griffin realized that the love he had for his equine friends was something he could share with others. That was when a friend suggested that he and his horse, Yankee, could visit residents in nursing homes as well as children who were hospitalized.

He knew his horse always made him happy, but he was amazed to see what Yankee could immediately do for other people.

Yankee has been tested and certified by the Pet Partners program, formerly known as Delta Society, to make sure he is disease-free, well-behaved, comfortable in lots of situations and doesn't spook easily.

Griffin, author of 13 books about horses and the Wild West, could tell from the beginning that this was going to be a wonderful experience.

Therapy animals are a growing phenomenon in the U.S., said Bill Kueser, vice president of marketing for Pet Partners. He said there are about 50,000 human/animal teams currently registered. While most national organizations for therapy animals register only dogs, Pet Partners registers all domestic species, including dogs, cats, horses, mules, donkeys, llamas and pot-bellied pigs — and even chinchillas and chickens.

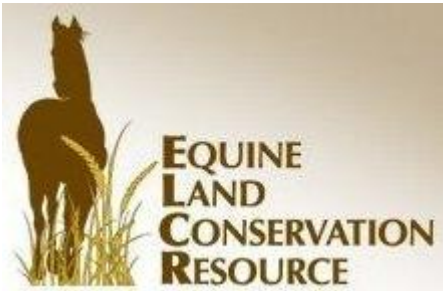
"To register, the human must successfully complete a workshop or an online course that covers grooming, infection control and visiting techniques for different environments: hospitals, nursing homes, hospice, schools and libraries," Kueser said. "Then the team must pass a skills and aptitude evaluation that measures their readiness."

Yankee even has passed an additional test that shows he can be trusted around complex cases, said Griffin. “Sometimes, patients might be screamers, or tend to lose control, and Yankee is fine with that,” he says. “The only thing he can’t stand is gunfire, so I don’t take him to parades.”

Since Yankee has been such a hit, Griffin has entered his 6-year-old Shih Tzu, Dogie, as a therapy dog. Dogie likes to climb up on the bed next to patients and sit with them while they pet him.

XXX THANK YOU ELCR

Equine Land Conservation Resource (ELCR)



The CT Horse Council wishes to acknowledge and thank the Equine Land Conservation Resource (ELCR) for yet another contribution to help our organization better achieve its goals. A while back, when asked to produce an educational brochure to address zoning and trail issues, ELCR produced a booklet “Horses Make Good Neighbors”. Recently asked if they would transform that information into a power point presentation, they again came through and created one for us. We will now be able to use this information as a tool when presenting equestrian education. This will help us immensely when we are called to attend various zoning or trail planning meetings around the state to make presentations.

We will certainly always acknowledge the ELCR in our presentations for allowing us to utilize this material to educate public officials, town & regional planners, and zoning commissions and trail planners.

A special thank you to Denise O'Meara, RLA, Education Coordinator for ELCR for creating the presentation

The booklet can be purchased through ELCR. www.elcr.org

ELCR is a Kentucky 501 (c) (3) organization, not affiliated with any governmental entity.

Leaders from a wide range of equestrian and conservation groups advise and support the ELCR.

The goal of ELCR is to share information and networking as they seek to become a part of the larger “horse industry” and educate their specific constituencies of the need to become involved in protecting riding lands and offer them the tools necessary to protect their activities and favorite riding areas Equine Conservation Resource

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Sunday, APRIL 22, 2012



Desensitizing Your Horse Clinic

with Kristin Elliott Leas

Sunday, APRIL 22, 2012

10:00 AM – Noon

24 River Rd, Clinton, CT

Gain a new perspective on how your horse perceives the world. Then build a better trusting relationship with your horse by exposing him to all his worst nightmares.

Clinic format

- ☐ Discussion on horse psychology and behavior
- ☐ Then watch and practice with “Hands on” demonstrations. Exposing your horse to scary obstacles and practicing techniques in desensitizing. (Bringing a horse is not required).

Great for first time clinic participants or those returning for more fun!

Great for first time clinic participants or those returning for more fun!

LIMITED SPACE...Enroll early. \$30 Current LCRVHC member or \$35 Non member

Bonus: A *CT Volunteer Horse Patrol* evaluation will follow the clinic.

For more information: <http://cthorsecouncil.org/home/publications/trails/volunteer-horse-patrol>

For those interested in participating in evaluation, contact Lynda Perry at cymaronfarm@snet.net

Contact Information: Kristin Elliott Leas

(860) 510-2262

EquineInsight@gmail.com

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Street: _____ Town: _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address: _____

Horse's Name: _____

Specific Issues? _____

Return:

1) Clinic Form, 2) Release, 3) Coggins and Rabies certificates 4) Check payable to: **Equine Insight**

Sprague Land Preserve

“ SPRING FLING” Benefit Ride

Sunday May 6, 2012 rain date Saturday May 12

Benefit ride to assist the Town of Sprague, CT to purchase additional 230 acres of land from the Watson Heritage Farm to add to the existing 275 acres to the land preserve. Open land is disappearing fast but our trails can be preserved. Let's make a difference! Please come and ride these beautiful trails and save them for the future.

“Save our trails...leave only hoof prints...”



\$25 per Rider Junior Riders \$10

9am sign in, 10am ride out

5, 10 or 20 miles marked trails. NEHT mileage. Ride along the Shetucket River, Scotland Dam, and view of waterfall. Pre-Registration required by May 2nd. Free T-shirt to first 50 pre-registered riders.

Ride is limited to first 80 riders to accommodate for parking at Konow Camp Area (Trailer with a friend if you can, as parking space is limited.)

BBQ lunch at 1:00 with dessert and drinks provided. Coffee, drinks and snacks before ride.

Raffle and prizes. Tickets \$1 each Ride or just attend and have lunch for \$5 donation

Sponsors: Town of Sprague, J&D screenprint, CT Horse Council/ Horse Patrol

Parking at Konow's Trout Camp Area-Sprague,CT

Directions: for GPS use address-211 Pautipaug Hill Rd Baltic CT 06330 and follow signs

From South- I-395 north Exit 81 W, merge onto Rt 2, take right off the exit 25 onto Rt 32 north, then right onto Baltic Rd. Left at the T onto Rt 207. Take first right onto Pautipaug Hill Rd. Follow to stop sign, take left. Follow signs to Konow Trout Camp area parking.

From North- I-395 S toward Norwich CT-exit 83 (Taftville Occum), left on Route 97, left at stop sign, take sharp right staying on Route 97 for 2.4 miles to stop. Left onto Route 207, right onto Pautipaug Hill Rd and follow trail ride signs.

(This is a new, easier shorter access road to Konow's parking area for 2012)

Sprague Land Preserve Trail Ride

Name _____ Phone _____

Street _____ Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Horses Name _____ Age _____ Coggins# _____ Breed _____

Adult/Junior Rider NEHT # _____ Horse # _____

Email: _____

Ride Fees: Pre-entry and payment must be received by May 4 to guarantee lunch. Pre-entry consist of a completed entry form and payment by the date stated above.

Coggins and rabies certificates required

Pre-entry: \$25.00 Junior (rider 18 and under) \$10.00

Lunch for non-rider: \$5.00 T-SHIRT: \$10.00 each x-large large medium small

Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each OR 6 for \$5.00

**Amount Enclosed: _____ Make checks payable to “Town of Sprague” Send entry with payment to: Loree Osowski,
211 Pautipaug Hill Rd, Baltic CT 06330 Email: Todd_loree@comcast.net Questions? 860-822-1989**

Horse Owner's Corner: Vermiculture: Reduce Your Manure Through Worm Composting Dr. Jenifer Nadeau, Equine Extension Specialist, UConn; Education Committee Chair

What is vermiculture? “Vermi” is the Latin for worm. Vermiculture is the use of worms to break down the organic wastes in compost and decaying matter. The worms break down the organic matter via their digestive processes. These earthworms are a specific type known as red worms, tiger worms or red wigglers (*Eisenia spp.*). In this article we will also discuss the use of other beneficial insects such as nematodes and preying mantises.

What are the advantages of vermiculture?

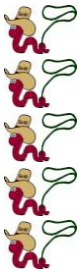
There are the advantages of vermiculture:



- It can reduce labor and equipment costs of regular composting in windrows since there is less need for aeration.
- There are no nitrogen costs since supplemental nitrogen is not needed
- There is no unpleasant odor since it is an aerobic process.
- Worm castings (worm feces) improve plant growth even more than regular compost.
- Worms will double their population every 4 months under ideal conditions.
- Dramatically speeds up the decomposition process, resulting in quicker time to a useful product.

What are the disadvantages of vermiculture?

There are some disadvantages of vermiculture:



- Initial cost of red worms may be cost prohibitive (up to \$22/lb for bulk orders plus shipping).
- Need to care for and monitor worms year round.
- Decomposition depends upon the number of worms in the pile.
- The market is less developed for worm castings than for regular compost.
- Weed seeds or parasites may not be killed using this method.

How do you use and manage vermiculture?

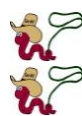
One horse produces about 350 lbs of manure per week. One pound of *Eisenia* (approximately 1000 worms) will eat approximately 3.5 lbs of material per week. So you will need 100 pounds of *Eisenia* per horse to digest each week's manure. If the manure is mixed half and half with bedding, 200 lb of *Eisenia* will be needed per horse (Card et al 2007). You can also start with as many as you can afford and slowly double the population, but you do not want to overwhelm the worms with too much compost. Start small and increase when you have more worms.

Most vermiculture users use either a worm bin or a windrow method. A worm bin would be for a smaller operation and will be more management intense than a windrow method. It may be possible to add worms to a manure pile as well but there is no literature on this method.

The directions that follow on worm bins come from Earth911. Worm bins are usually 8-16 inches deep with one square foot of surface area per pound of compost or bedding per week. Other bedding additives include:



- black and white newspaper torn into strips one inch wide and moistened to the dampness of a wrung out sponge
- leaves that are broken up as much as possible and kept from matting together so that air can circulate through the pile
- sawdust used in a method similar to the leaves
- a handful or two of soil, ground limestone, or crushed eggshells for grit and calcium
- peat moss
- coconut husks (coir)

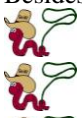


torn up cardboard

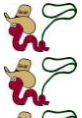
shredded paper

added every few months.

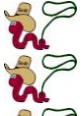
Besides manure, for food for the worms you can add



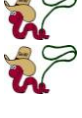
stale bread



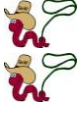
fruit and vegetable scraps



coffee grounds and filters



non-greasy leftovers

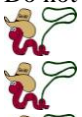


grains

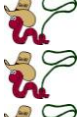


tea bags

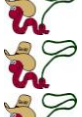
Do not feed the worms:



meat



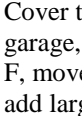
cheese



yogurt



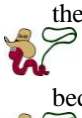
fish



butter, oily foods



plastic bags

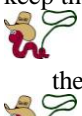


other plastic, metal



pet waste (dogs, cats, hamsters, etc.)

Cover the food with bedding after you have added it. Place the bin in a shady location where it will not freeze or overheat such as a garage, basement, patio, or outside the back door of the barn. Keep them out of hot sun or heavy rain. If temperatures drop below 40° F, move bins indoors or keep well-insulated outdoors. Begin feeding the worms only a little at a time. As they increase in number, add larger quantities of manure and food. That is all that is needed for maintenance. After 3 to 6 months, the bedding or manure will have been eaten and you can begin to harvest the brown, crumbly worm compost. It is necessary to do this at least twice a year to keep the worms healthy. There are four possible methods for harvesting when using worm bins:



Move the contents of the worm bin to one side, place fresh manure and bedding materials in the newly created space. Harvest the other side once the worms have migrated to the new food and bedding.



Add the worm compost to your garden soil by removing 1/3 to 1/2 of the contents of the bin, including the worms. Add fresh bedding and manure to the bin.



Spread a sheet of plastic out in the sun or under a bright light. Dump the contents of the bin into a number of piles on the plastic. The worms will crawl away from the light into the center of each pile and you can brush away the other material on the outside by hand.



Place a decomposing melon on one side of the bin. The worms will go to the melon (they love it!).



Place food scraps in an onion bag and the worms will enter the bag to reach the food and then remove the bag.

According to the fact sheet by Colorado State University (Card et al. 2002), with the windrow method you can use one of two options:



Create an initial manure base 6 feet wide, 18 inches tall, and 6 feet long oriented east/west so it receives sunlight on the south side all day and wet it so that the moisture content is wetter than a wrung out sponge. Divide the worms and spread them evenly over the top of the moistened base material; they will migrate into the material. Then add a 3 inch layer of material weekly to the start up pile and moisten as before. After the pile reaches a height of 3 feet, add new material to the end of the pile in the direction that the windrow will be built, matching the height of the start up pile and with a height of 3 feet

and turn or water it to facilitate a maximum temperature of 145° F. The worms will move into it once it has cooled to 90° F and has ideal moisture levels. Continue lengthening the windrow until out of space, then you can U-turn back parallel to the first windrow.

The advantages of this option are that it involves less hand labor, the worm population grows more rapidly and there is pathogen and weed seed reduction. The disadvantages are that there is a higher chance of the windrow becoming dangerously hot and digestion is not as complete.



Create an initial manure base 6 feet wide, 18 inches tall, and 6 feet long oriented east/west so it receives sunlight on the south side all day and wet it so that the moisture content is wetter than a wrung out sponge. Make it as long as six weekly volumes of material will allow. Divide the worms and spread them evenly over the top of the moistened base material; they will migrate into the material. Allow the worms to colonize the windrow and digest most of the base material (time required depends on number of worms). Add water as needed to the proper moisture content and monitor for digestion. Then add a 3 inch layer of material on top of the base layer down the length of the windrow and moisten as before. Make additional 3 inch layers at a frequency determined by how quickly the worms digest the material. After the first windrow reaches 3 feet in height, build the second base layer parallel to and touching the first windrow. Then add a 3 inch layer of material on top of the base layer down the length of the windrow and moisten as before. Add more layers as the worms digest the material.

The advantages of this method are that there is less of a chance of the windrow becoming dangerously hot and there are more castings with more thorough digestion. The disadvantages of this method are that more hand labor is involved and the worm population does not grow as rapidly.

To harvest the castings from the windrow method, check to be sure that worms have migrated into the new material and till the castings directly into the soil or screen it to add it to pastures, soil mixes, potted plants, lawns, and gardens.

Where do I get the worms?

There are many online sources for *Eisenia*. Do an internet search for red wiggler worms, red worms, or tiger worms. You may already have them in your manure pile or compost bin.

Are worms temperature sensitive?

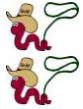
Eisenia prefer temperatures of 65° to 75° F, but can tolerate temperatures from 39° F to 90° F. *Eisenia fetida* and *Eisenia andrei* were proven in Colorado to withstand near freezing conditions, making them the best choice for outdoor vermicomposting. At higher temperatures, make sure the worms do not dry out. In freezing temperatures, leave the worms alone. They will migrate to the most comfortable areas for them in extreme temperature conditions, hot or cold. Cover with insulating materials such as old blankets, vacuum cleaner bags, sheep's wool etc. for the worms. Feed them at reduced levels in the winter but do continue to feed them.

Will deworming products negatively affect the worms?

No, dewormers are deactivated up to 95% after passing through the horse's digestive tract and are further deactivated by sunlight so dewormers should cause minimal to no harm to the worms.

What are the warning signs that worm composting is not going well?

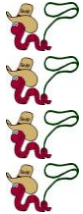
These are some warning signs that worm composting is not going well:



Worms are dying

Bin/windrow smells rotten/attracts flies

Causes of dying worms may include (solutions in parentheses):



Worms may not be getting enough food (bury more into the bedding).

Worms are too dry (moisten to wrung out sponge level (40% moisture)).

Worms are too wet (add bedding).

Worms are too hot (put bin in the shade).

Causes of bin/windrow smelling rotten/attracting flies may include (solutions in parentheses):



There is not enough air circulation (add dry bedding under and over the worms and do not feed them for 2 weeks).

There are non-compostables included such as meat, pet feces or greasy food (remove them).

Exposed food is in the bin (secure the lid, cover food scraps with bedding, and cover worms and bedding with a sheet of plastic).

What do you do with the worm compost?

Worm compost can be used as a fertilizer and soil amendment. Add it to soil mixes, pastures, potted plants, lawns, and gardens.

What about the use of beneficial nematodes?

On a horse farm, the most likely application of beneficial nematodes would be to kill fly larvae and ticks. You apply them early in the morning or at night. Wet the soil first, then apply them by mixing them with water and using a watering can, irrigation or mist system, hose end sprayer, backpack or pump sprayer. Once they find the pest, they will enter it through a body opening or directly through the body wall. The nematode will then release a toxic bacterium which will kill the host within 24-28 hours. This bacteria will provide a food source for the nematodes, allowing them to reproduce until the food resources are depleted, at which time they will exit the dead host and immediately look for a new one. A common nematode variety used to kill fly larvae is *Steinernema carpocapsae* and *Steinernema feltiae* to kill ticks.

What about the use of preying mantises?

On a horse farm, the most likely application of preying mantises would be to kill mosquitoes, along with mites (which can be an intermediate host for internal parasites). When you order them, you will receive egg cases that you attach to the branches of shrubs, trees, or other plants at a notch between the stem or trunk and a branch in a warm location, out of sunlight. Or you can hatch them in a paper bag kept in a warm place. The preying mantises will consume the mosquitoes and mites once hatched. However, they will consume each other as well as other beneficial insects if enough pests are not available. They do not consume ladybugs since those are bigger than most other beneficial insects.

Every day, new discoveries are made that are of benefit to the equine industry. Your equine extension specialists, professors and researchers are constantly working to improve horse health and well-being. Feel free to call or email with any questions you have: (860) 486-4471 or jenifer.nadeau@uconn.edu. Also, check out my web site <http://www.canr.uconn.edu/ansci/equine/extension> for more information on upcoming horse specialist events and information. What topics would you like to see in the horse owner's corner next month? Send ideas to jenifer.nadeau@uconn.edu. Thanks, and have fun with your horses

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Welcome to all members who have joined or renewed since the last newsletter. Thank you for your support of the Connecticut Horse Council. If you have not renewed I hope you will support the CHC again and do so. If you have any changes to your address, phone, or email please let me know. Thank you.

Carol Birdsey
Membership Chair

Your support is what keeps the Connecticut Horse Council able to fight for the rights of horse owners in the State of Connecticut with trails issues, zoning, and legislative issues.

Tell a friend about the CHC!

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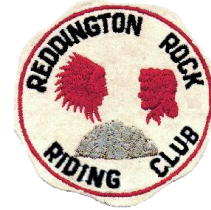
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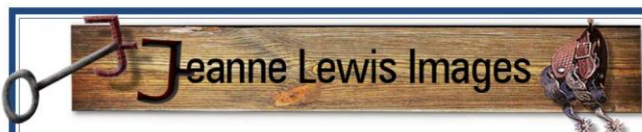


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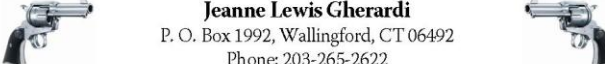
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THE CONNECTICUT HORSE COUNCIL, INC.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2012

Membership Classification (Check One)

☐ **Individual** \$10 ☐ **Family** \$15 ☐ **Student** \$8 ☐ **Business or Professional** \$20

☐ **Club** * \$20 **(1-50)** **(51-100)** **(101-200)** **(201-350)** **(351-500)** **(500 & up)**
1 Delegate 2 Delegates 3 Delegates 4 Delegates 5 Delegates 6 Delegates

*Note: Club Membership is based on the number of club members and number of delegates for voting privileges. Please submit this form with main contact name. Attach listing of additional delegates with name, address, phone & E-mail address.

☐ **NEW** ☐ **RENEWAL** **Membership decal available** ☐ **Static** ☐ **Sticker**

Check which one you wish to receive with your membership. Additional decals are available for \$1.00 each

How did you hear about the CHC? _____

CLUB or BUSINESS NAME (if applicable) _____

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY / STATE/ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ **EMAIL** _____

NUMBER OF HORSES OWNED: _____

AREAS OF INTEREST (Please check all that apply)

☐ Trails ☐ Zoning ☐ Booth ☐ Legislation ☐ Website ☐ Emergency/Disaster Preparedness

☐ Volunteer Horse Patrol ☐ Education ☐ CT Horse 911

I would be willing to serve on a committee of my interest. ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ More info, please

I would be willing to have my name listed with CHC Connections as a person to contact in an emergency involving horses, or for emergency resources. ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ More info, please

Please describe resources/services you would be able to provide on the back of this form.

I wish to join The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc.

Date

Signature

Make checks payable to:

The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc.
P.O. Box 57
Durham, CT 06422-0057

Telephone: 860-482-9500
www.cthorsecouncil.org

(over)

Connecticut Horse Council **Connections** is a volunteer network being developed to provide assistance and resources to our fellow horse owners in the state during times of natural or man-made disasters, or emergency incidents such as fires, loose horses, or trailer accidents. When there is an incident or emergency situation involving horses **Connections** will be a resource for local fire departments, first response dispatchers, and, as they continue to organize, with local CTSART Region Team Leaders. If you choose to participate in **Connections**, CHC will add your name to our list of people who can be contacted when help is needed.

[] CHC has my permission to make my name available to my local Fire Department/local Emergency Dispatcher as an experienced horseperson to call in the event of an incident involving horse/s.

My local FD is _____ Local Police _____

[] CHC has my permission to contact me to provide emergency trailering for horse/s.

Type/size of vehicle _____

[] CHC has my permission to contact me to provide temporary emergency shelter/housing/paddock space for horses which need to be relocated in emergency situations.

Describe _____

[] CHC has my permission to contact me to provide emergency supplies (feed, bedding, or other) for horses involved in emergency incidents.

Describe _____

[] I am unable to participate at this time but would like to be included in future alerts or mailings.

Although not yet mandated by Connecticut statute, the CT State Animal Response Team regions recognize the needs of large animals. CHC remains committed to assisting the five Region Team Leaders in their efforts to include horses in their disaster response plans.

[] Please give me the contact name of my CTSART Region Team Leader so I can contact him/her.

I attest that I am at least 18 years of age and that the information I provide The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc. is true and accurate. I understand that I may, in any particular situation, prudently decline to offer my good faith services. I further understand that The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc. acts only as a conduit for providing this information to individuals and/or organizations for the purpose of emergency response, and CHC is not liable for any injury or misadventure resulting in my volunteer efforts.

Signature

2012-2014 Officers and Board Members

The Connecticut Horse Council Officers and Board of Directors are elected volunteers who are dedicated to helping the equine industry grow.

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Stafford Springs, CT
860-684-6583

president@cthorsecouncil.org

1st Vice President

Frederick Mastele

Durham, CT 0
860-349-1200

cecil-b@comcast.net

2nd Vice President

Diane Marie Ciano

Plymouth, CT
203-757-1904

trails@cthorsecouncil.org

3rd Vice President

Ron Hocutt

East Windsor, CT
860-386-6255

ronald_hocutt@farmfamily.com

Treasurer

Cheryl Mastele

Durham, CT
860-349-1200

greymist@comcast.net

Recording Secretary

Carol Birdsey

Middletown, CT
860-344-1804

membership@cthorsecouncil.org

Membership Secretary

Carol Birdsey

Middletown, CT
860-344-1804

membership@cthorsecouncil.org

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Glastonbury, CT
860-659-0848

chip@beckettvet.com

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Josephine Barker

Plymouth, CT

coriana53@msn.com

Judy Beliveau

Oxford, CT
203-888-3975

jtbeliveau@msn.com

Laurianne Goulet

Cromwell, CT
860-997-6434

CTHorse911@cthorsecouncil.org

Meg Sautter

Newington, CT
860-666-6938

newsletter@cthorsecouncil.org

Shirley Vicchitto

Beacon Falls, CT
203-723-1839

Ladyozion@yahoo.com

Steven Vicchitto

Beacon Falls, CT
203-723-1839

Ladyozion@yahoo.com

Committee Chairs:

Animal Health and Welfare

Laurianne Goulet

CTHorse911@cthorsecouncil.org

Education

Amy Stegall

president@cthorsecouncil.org

Legislative

Amy Stegall

president@cthorsecouncil.org

Publicity / Newsletter

Meg Sautter

newsletter@cthorsecouncil.org

Road Safe

Diane Ciano

trails@cthorsecouncil.org

Trails

Diane Ciano

trails@cthorsecouncil.org

Web Site

Daisy Gmitter

webmaster@cthorsecouncil.org

Zoning

Amy Stegall

president@cthorsecouncil.org

Begin with Happy Endings

cathysautter

Strawberries dipped in chocolate
Peach-Tree laced Champagne
All things suspense and chatter;
then Mac: like a stream-line train.

He hits his stride, with quiet pride
A leggy, brown eyed red head
He stretches long; he covers ground
Effortless, without a sound.

The folding chair crow, hits a pitch
The girls think they've been raptured
(These girls? Heaven? Uh...not so much!)
But it is a moment to be chaptured.

With a permanently pasted, break-your-face-smile,
His person's aglow from her head to her toe
This long and lean, young, lovely new cutie?
Is hands down, quite a breathtaking beauty.

No no, not, That 'Girl-from-an-Ipanema' Bay
it's the Tennessee Walker boy from Danielson way
the 'resident herd' tries to kick up bold
but Mac makes the best of their drama seem old.

We're still Ye-Ha, Ooo-Ahhh, and Yah-Hoo'n
As the sun begins to soften and slide.
A cluster of hungry gnats starts to thicken
When Melanie calls, 'hot chowder, topside'

No make no mistake, we're adult human beings
But when Mel said "soup!" I'm tell'n ya, girl?
You'd a' thought we were all in a wild dog pack
And someone unsuspecting just yelled, "**SQUIRREL!**"

Anyway, we fell in behind her and set down to eat
We discussed, and decided the whole day was sweet
And we all know this wasn't *near* the end of a line
So many stories to make; such a long long lifetime.

