

News Article
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Extension Offers Special Grazing School for Horse Owners

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System will conduct two grazing management schools designed for horse owners. The course will be offered Wednesday, May 15 in Belle Mina and Thursday, May 16 in Hayden.

This class is a spin-off of our well-known Alabama Grazing Schools. The course includes both classroom-type instruction and hands-on exercises. Grass is one of the most under-utilized resources for horse owners and this course will provide information to maximize this resource.

The recent rise in the cost and availability of hay has many horse owners searching for cheaper alternatives. Pastures can provide much of the nutrition for most horses. It can also reduce problems associated with stalling and feeding a grain/hay diet. But many horse owners are hesitant to depend on forages because they lack a basic understanding of forage management.

The course's goal is to help horse owners improve their forage management skills and allow them to efficiently utilize this nutrition source. Topics include grazing methods, forage physiology, environmental impacts and poisonous plant identification, among others.

This course is being sponsored by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Alabama Forage and Grassland Coalition and the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. There is a registration fee of \$50 per person. Pre-registration is required, and fees must be paid in advance. Participants will receive a number of educational resources, including the book "Southern Forages."

The workshop begins at 8:00 a.m. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. For more information and registration forms, contact Kent Stanford at (256) 299-0683 or Gerry Thompson at (256) 508-2020 or stop by the Coosa County Extension Office in Rockford.