



Kent Stanford
Regional Extension Agent
News Release

Extension Offers Special Grazing School for Horse Owners

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

“This class is a spin-off of our well-known Alabama Grazing Schools,” says Kent Stanford, who serves a four-county area northeast of Birmingham. “The course includes both classroom-type instruction and hands-on exercises.”

Stanford’s colleague Gerry Thompson says grass is one of the most under-utilized resources for horse owners. “The recent rise in the cost and availability of hay has many horse owners searching for cheaper alternatives,” says Thompson, an Extension regional agent in north Alabama. “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.”

Both say 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.

The course, co-sponsored by the Alabama Forage and Grassland Coalition and the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, costs \$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 please contact Kent Stanford at (205) 338-9416 or email stanfmk@auburn.edu. Registration forms are available at the St. Clair County Extension Office or can be downloaded from the website at www.aces.edu/StClair.

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