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Practice Limited to Horses

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EMERGENCY SERVICE AVAILABLE

American  
Association  
of Equine  
Practitioners

November 2008

## Stretching Your Horse's Dollar During Tough Economic Times

These tough times have a lot of folks giving advice on how to cut corners. It is important to cut back as long as you do it in a smart fashion. Reacting to today's market without making a carefully thought out plan can be more costly than calmly looking at the big picture.

Vaccination, while seemingly expensive, is the most economical way to prevent a major illness. Skimping on vaccinations will prove to be far more expensive in terms of money and the health of your horse. Your veterinarian and their staff have had training on purchasing, storing, and administering your vaccines. They will store them in the proper temperature with current dating and know to look for a color change if unacceptable temperature conditions exist. They will be prepared for any reaction that the horse might have. They will have a program set up to remind you of your horse's due dates. Vaccinating well beyond a due date may cause your horse's immune status to drop to a level that requires repeat-

ing a series again. We have even had owners buy vaccine sold to them as 5-way shots at a retail store that was actually a dog distemper/parvo combination. Proper handling, storage, administration, and timing of vaccinations will determine if your vaccination program will be effective.

The American Association of Equine Practitioners has established Eastern and Western Encephalomyelitis, Tetanus, West Nile Virus, and Rabies vaccination as core vaccines. Adding 6 month Influenza and Rhinopneumonitis vaccines will prevent up to 70 percent of viral respiratory insults.

Grain prices have certainly soared with the use of our grain going into our cars. Deworming on a regular schedule with the proper dewormer helps your horse get the optimum nutrients from that feed. Pay special attention to deworming for tapeworms in the spring and fall. If you want to make sure your horse's deworming needs are met you could bring

in fecal samples for your vet to evaluate. Contact your veterinarian to determine how to best monitor your parasite control program.



Dentistry is very important as once a horse's teeth become a problem, he will be unable to properly chew grain and may drop a good deal of it. They may be unable to properly chew their forage. Inability to chew can cause poor body condition, lack of energy and could cause a choking episode. Make sure to have their teeth checked yearly to guard against any problems that might occur.

Good pasture management will often offset the high costs of grain. Proper seeding, fertilization, weed control, and clipping could let your pastures become the basis

of your feeding program.

Sometimes all that is needed in addition to good pasture or quality hay is a commercial protein and/or vitamin/mineral supplement.

Prevention of veterinary emergencies is less costly than treating them. Maintaining safe fences, adequate pasture size, fly control including fly masks, regular farrier care, and proper nutrition and regular feeding schedules are all good ways to prevent many emergencies.

Hauling in for scheduled office visits can be less expensive than farm calls or emergencies. At Lovell Equine Clinic we see horses at the clinic Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturday morning. Farm calls are done Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Please call the office at 615-452-7789 to schedule an appointment.

Dr. Lovell and the staff at Lovell Equine Clinic consider it a privilege to be your partner in managing your horses health in these difficult economic times.