

All American Quarter Horse Show Taking Place In Columbus

COLUMBUS, Oh — The 2003 All American Quarter Horse Congress at the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus is the 37th annual show for the Ohio Quarter Horse Association. The show began Oct. 6 and will run through Oct. 26.

Since 1967, the show has grown to the world's largest single-breed horse show, Ohio's largest annual convention and the third largest convention in the United States - with 625,000 attendees who generate more than \$110 million to the Columbus economy.

More than 240 horse show classes will be conducted with more than 16,000 horse show entries from the United States, Canada, Mexico, Europe, and South America, comprising more than 8,500 horses.

This year there will be \$2.5 million in cash and prize packages, including towing vehicles,

horse trailers, trophy saddles, halters and belt buckles, equine jewelry, art, and many other items.

The National Youth Activity Team Tournament (NYATT), the largest youth activity team tournament in the United States takes place at the Congress. More than 700 young horsemen and women from 100 state, regional and provincial Quarter Horse associations throughout the United States, Canada and Australia compete.

Other youth events include the largest intercollegiate and junior horse judging competitions in the U. S. with more than 60 teams of college students and 4-H, Future Farmers of America and Quarter Horse association members.

Throughout the 22 days, equine industry experts will be on hand to discuss the latest in horse health, breeding, training, showing and management techniques.

In the seven-acre equine trade,

show there will be 250 commercial exhibitors that encompass everything imaginable with an equine flair, including towing vehicles, horse trailers, tack, western wear, furniture, fine art, jewelry and crafts.

Another highlight of the Congress will be the nation's most unique gathering of the top Quarter Horse stallions in the country on Million Dollar Stallion Avenue.

Friday, Oct. 18, the Quarter Horse Congress Super Sale horse auction will be conducted in conjunction with National Equine Sales, and will feature more than 100 head of quality Quarter Horses for sale to the highest bidder.

For additional information on the 2003 Congress horse show, contact the Ohio Quarter Horse Association, 101 Tawa Rd., P.O. Box 209, Richwood, OH 43344-0209; phone:(740) 943-2346; fax: (740) 943-3752; e-mail: www.qtrhorse@oqha.com.

How To Feed Pasturing Horses

Robert M. Jordan
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Pasture forage has virtually the same nutrient composition on a 90 percent dry matter basis as hay. Two differences exist — grass doesn't contain 90 percent dry matter (usually only 20-35 percent dry matter), and grazing permits a horse to eat only the most palatable, and usually the most nutritious, part of the plant.

Can a horse, grazing a good pasture, consume enough to meet its nutrient requirements for:

• **Maintenance?** Yes. In fact, mature horses can get fat on grass, and yearlings and 2-year-olds will make appreciable weight gains.

• **Gestation?** Yes. Grass is usually a laxative feed that's high in protein and vitamins. Pasture provides an ideal environment for foaling mares.

• **Lactation?** Many mares may actually gain weight while lactating. However, as the season advances, the amount and quality of forage begin to decline. Under those circumstances, the mare will lose weight while her foal will gain, but at a slower rate.

If the lactating mare is to be rebred, a loss in body weight may result in lack of estrus (heat) and/or ovulation. For big, active and heavy-milking mares (Thoroughbreds, American Saddlebreds, etc.) 4 to 8 pounds of grain per head daily may be fed to maintain weight until the mare has conceived.

• **Work?** Whether pasture will meet the requirements for work depends on the quality of pasture and how much the horse is ridden. Riding increases the energy requirements, over maintenance, by 35 to 200 percent, depending on how long and at what speed the horse is ridden. Feeding 2 to 6 pounds of grain per day, in addition to pasture, usually maintains weight and stamina.

What's the best pasture forage? Orchardgrass, reed canarygrass, and brome grass are about equal. These species provide good forage early in the season, form a good sod, and are very palatable and nutritious. Timothy and bluegrass don't produce as much forage and become dormant and unpalatable earlier in the summer.

Reed canarygrass is a heavy producer. However, the variety of reed canarygrass is very important. It should be a low-alkaloid type. The old varieties become high in alkaloids by midsummer and become very unpalatable. Keep in mind all cool-season forages cease to produce during the warm and dry weather of July and August.

• **Legumes?** Alfalfa and clovers contribute nitrogen to the grasses, lengthen the growing season, and increase the protein and mineral content. However, if grazed continuously or grazed in the fall, they will be killed out in about one year.

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