
NEWSLETTER

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MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN DRIVING SOCIETY

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FROM THE EDITOR

Hope this newsletter finds everyone well, and having some fun with their horses. It has been a strange spring for me. Usually the signal to start of the spring horse season is the Expo in Lansing, for the first time since I joined MHDVA we did not attend the expo.

At the end of March I went in to the hospital for an outpatient procedure and wound up with a month off of work and out of the barn, other than to feed. In the beginning of May I hooked up with an old friend from high school and we met a local county park, Columbus Twp, and she rode and I drove around the upper trails of the park, the park offers day use trails and has trails down to the river and thru the woods that I have not yet tried with a cart but are great under saddle. The upper trails take about an hour at a walk/trot pace, perfect for a easy drive off the roads.

Memorial weekend I ran away from home in celebration of my 50th birthday that was in March. My family joined me on a 7day Alaskan cruise, I had a wonderful time with my family, all 3 siblings, their spouses and 4 of the nieces. Among the shore excursions, I was able to go whale watching, Eagle watching, and a train ride into the mountains where we had a mother bear and 2 cubs cross right in front of the train.

Being gone on the cruise I was not in town for the annual Blue Ribbon Show, July and August has me working for a living (the other 3 day shift workers are all now taking their vacations). So next up on the schedule is Gladwin Carriage Festival, this year again they have decided not to have any Sunday Activities, there will also not be any parade thru town. If I go it will be for the day on Saturday.

Up and coming, Scavenger hunt @ Cummings Center in September, Lake City, Northway Fall Drive in September, and heading to Elk Hill trail camp in October. No out of state trips planned for this year.. Happy trails!

Grass Clipping...good for horses or not? (submitted by Linda Aloyo)

Chances are good that you've already revved up the lawnmower this season and have begun cutting your lawn. If you're like countless other amateur landscapers, your mind wanders from topic to topic as you're pushing or riding the mower to and fro.

If you're a horse owner, you've probably asked yourself this question as cut grass shoots from beneath the mower deck: Why can't I rake up these lawn clippings and give the horses a treat?

Yours is a familiar question, but what's the best answer?

To answer it properly, you must think about your horse's diet and the decisions you make for him daily as well as the decisions of those whom you trust with his health.

If you do this, the answer to your question will quickly become apparent.

For the sake of consistency

One of the tenets of feeding management is consistency – both in feed type and times of feeding. The horse's digestive system adapts to a certain diet and does amazingly well on whatever limited menu he is offered daily, be it primarily pasture and a vitamin/mineral supplement or a full-fledged ration intended for an intensely worked athlete.

Any abrupt change in the diet can upset the delicacy of the digestive tract, throwing the entire system into chaos and possibly causing colic or founder. "Feeding lawn clippings will dramatically upset the balance of microbes in the hindgut, potentially leading to colic or laminitis," said Larry Lawrence, Ph.D., a nutritionist with Kentucky Equine Research (KER).

"The amount of highly fermentable carbohydrates in regularly clipped lawns is dangerously high.

Excessive intake results in a high rate of fermentation in the hindgut. Accelerated hindgut fermentation can produce increased amounts of volatile fatty acids, which, as their name implies, are quite acidic," continued Lawrence. "In addition to volatile fatty acids, a surplus of lactic acid will be produced. Lactic acid is not utilized or absorbed well in the hindgut. This increased concentration of acids brings about a condition called acidosis that lowers the pH of the hindgut. "The acidic environment created by fermentation of grass clippings in the hindgut causes microbes to die, releasing into the bloodstream endotoxins that can cause laminitis," said Lawrence.

Problems too risky to chance

Another aspect often overlooked by well-meaning horse owners is how lawn clippings will affect individual horses with certain quirks or conditions. When a horse grazes, he must go through the motions of selecting, ripping, and thoroughly chewing grass.

When a pile of lawn clippings is placed in front of him, the horse can consume the cut grass much more quickly than if he were grazing naturally. If your horse has a tendency to bolt his feed (eat it very quickly), he may do the same with lawn clippings.

When insufficiently chewed and gulped too quickly, a bolus of clippings can become lodged in his throat, and a condition called choke may ensue. Choke is serious and usually requires the intervention of a veterinarian for resolution.

Lawn clippings might be thoroughly unsuitable for a horse that suffers from a pulmonary disease such as [heaves](#). Dry clippings can be dusty, triggering a reaction that leads to respiratory distress. Reactions may be severe enough to warrant veterinary attention or a break from regular work.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, damp clippings could provide the perfect environment for mold and bacterial growth. Consumption of moldy grass could cause colic or diarrhea.



ASSORTED DRIVING ACTIVITIES, DESCRIPTIONS

PLEASURE DRIVING: From USEF:

Since prior to the Industrial Revolution the horse and buggy represented the primary mode for both public and private transportation, it is no surprise that driving has established itself as one of the oldest and most popular disciplines within competitive equestrian sport. Carriage pleasure driving classes pay tribute to this heritage, and the vehicles used in competition are either actual antique or replica carriages of the day. Classes may be divided by type of hitch: single, pair, tandem, unicorn, or four-in-hand, and can be further categorized by the criteria with which they are judged. Although overall performance is evaluated in every class, the driver's skill and ability take priority in reinsmanship. Conversely, in a working class the performance of the horse or horses is most important. A turnout class is primarily evaluated based in the appropriateness and quality of the vehicle, harness, and driver appointments. Additionally, there are obstacle classes which test the driver's ability to negotiate a series of cones set in a particular pattern and order, with speed and accuracy becoming the determining factor. Marathons may also be included at driving competitions along with driven dressage.

COMBINED DRIVING: From USEF:

Although they share essentially the same heritage, combined driving differs significantly from carriage pleasure driving. Instead of placing emphasis on the style, authenticity, and pleasurable performance of a hitch, a combined driving event is rigorously performance-based and is actually modeled after the mounted equestrian test of three-day eventing. Combined driving is designed to test a horse's or a team's speed, stamina, obedience, and athleticism, in three distinct and demanding phases usually held over the course of three days.

Competitors can consist of a single horse, a pair of horses, or a team of four horses, and they are tested in three phases: dressage, marathon, and obstacle driving. The first day's combined driving dressage class tests a single, pair or team in the areas of obedience, freedom and regularity of motion, and impulsion through a sequence of compulsory movements executed within a designated area or arena.

Day two sees competitors tackle the fast-paced and demanding phase known as the cross-country marathon in which a horse's fitness, stamina, agility, and obedience are tested together with a driver's accuracy and judgment as they are asked to negotiate an intricate series of hazards which can include water, steep hills, and sharp turns in the fastest time while accumulating the least number of penalties. The third and final phase—the cone driving competition—tests a horse's obedience, agility, and after two previously demanding days of competition, its endurance. Simultaneously, a driver's

skill, accuracy, and precision are tested as the single, pair, or team is challenged with negotiating an intricate course of narrowly-spaced cones cleanly and within the time allowed. To learn more about the exciting discipline of combined driving, visit the American Driving Society at americandrivingsociety.com.

RECREATIONAL DRIVING: by Tabitha Reimer (taken from halflingerhaven- farm.com/blog)

Recreational Driving is, generally speaking, non-competitive driving. There are some activities that fall under Recreational Driving, such as long distance carriage driving, which have a competitive component; but even in a long distance drive, you are not at "horse show" per se.

For many, recreational driving is just taking a drive in an arena or around the pasture. For others, it may mean driving on quiet backroads, for others, it may mean really roughing it out on the trails. Some may choose to try their hand at driving through town. Be aware that in many cities or towns, to give "rides" on your carriage, you need to be licensed and be insured.

If you are going to be driving outside of an arena, make doubly sure that you have safe harness that is correctly fitting. Also make sure that you pack a spares kit and an emergency kit. This is exactly what it sounds like. You need to have basic repair tools such as pliers, extra nuts and bolts for your carriage, and extra pair of reins, baling twine and duct tape (what can't be fixed with these two items?), a flashlight (preferably a miner's light that straps to your head--*no you don't want to be out after dark, but you definitely don't want to be out after dark without a flash light*), Easy Boots or other slip on boot to protect your horse's foot if they loose a shoe, bandages, vet wrap, saline solution, disinfectant, bottled water, and a cell phone for emergency. If your carriage does not have a spares box (or your spares kit is too large to fit in it), put all your supplies in a duffle bag or backpack and strap it to your carriage before leaving the barn. Think twice before going on a long drive with pneumatic (air-filled bicycle type) wheels. Unless you bring a spare, if they pop on your trip, you may have a very long walk home.

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A hysterical Irish survival guide to Eventing in extreme weather - By [Christa Dillon](#) – Aug 24, 2016, taken from facebook posting.

Ireland is a peculiar country. Our little floating swampland sits to the extreme west of Europe, and thanks to our preposterous location, we are the constant victim of the tumultuous Atlantic Ocean and its relentless weather. Success on any given day in the sport of Eventing in Ireland is mostly influenced by the weather, so to succeed you must be well prepared.

People in Ireland go completely berserk when the sun shines. We so rarely see any sunshine here that when the miracle does occur, we instantly race outside in shorts to tip the water off our barbecues, slap on the factor 50 and turn up the Bob Marley tunes. We turn our attention to our event horses. We begin to worry about the ground drying out, and if horses will cope working in a temperature over seven degrees Celsius (44.6 degrees Fahrenheit). What studs should we use? No one knows, this NEVER happens! Who to ask? Locate an elderly oracle at once! This is when the seasoned states persons of the sport could come into their own. Visions of senior riders setting up a 'TeePee of knowledge' franchise chain and charging an advice fee to assist running costs of their own strings of horses springs to mind... (I might have to patent this idea). Mark Todd and Bruce Davidson Senior would look jolly fetching in a teepee.

Luckily, eventers in Ireland rarely have to worry about extreme temperatures or firm footing. We generally have a whole other set of concerns. Weather forecasters in our country have long since given up with isobars, wind speed and other associated shite. The weather changes so fast and so often that the meteorologists can't keep up, despite their many technological advances. They came up with a novel solution to the problem. They started telling us fibs. For a few years, we believed their porky pies, but we wised up pretty quickly. Now, everybody just... guesses? So. This means that your preparation for an Irish event becomes a fascinating exercise in some sort of mash up of Bear Grylls and the Jaws films one through five.

Thanks to the schizophrenic weather, you must become good at maths. For every horse and person, you need at least four changes of rugs and clothing, three pairs of boots – brushing, tendon and Wellington-and spares of absolutely everything. You will need fly spray and also woollen blankets, vest tops and survival suits (as per Deadliest Catch) and sun screen. You will need studs ranging in size from 'barely there' to 'Ice axe'. You will need food – both fresh and freeze dried, in case you get stranded – and enough water for at least six days. Sleeping bags are a good idea. Maybe also a canoe.

You also need a durable horse. The whole world wants to own an Irish horse. Our horses are generally phenomenally tough and talented, yet also sensible. They can take a bit longer than average horse to get broken and riding as some can be a little... erm... wilful... but over all this stands them in good stead as their careers progress. They have a reserve of stamina that their fancy foreign counterparts sometimes don't, and they generally have great initiative when it comes to jumping fences. All of this means that when they have to slalom down a steep hill in the pouring rain and negotiate the mother of all trakehners at the bottom, it's a piece of cake. Irish horses are also well accustomed to trotting down the centre line with hailstones bouncing off their foreheads. They are the 'Larry The Cable Guy' of horses... Git R Done...

To help you on your way, I have compiled a handy 'A to Z' of surviving Irish Eventing:

~ **A** is for "Ah sure it'll be grand", the most commonly uttered phrase in Ireland. We use this for everything, from impending apocalyptic catastrophe through to having no milk for our coffee.

~ **B** is for 'Buy an Irish horse'. See above for explanation, suitable for anyone who lives in an inclement climate.

~ **C** is for 'Clothes'. Bring your entire wardrobe. You still won't have enough for the Vietnam-hailstone-forest fire-drought-tornado-thunderstorm you will encounter on the day.

~ **D** is for "Do you really think this is an intelligent way to spend our weekends?"

~ **E** is for "EEEEKKKKK" as you approach that downhill trakehner on two wheels, a wing and a prayer...

~ **F** is for "Fuck". Don't be offended, we don't use it as a swear word. In Ireland, 'Fuck' is a descriptive word also used to add emphasis or meaning. Eg "Oh my god, this fucking horse is going to kill me" or as a replacement for "EEEEKKKKK", see above

~ **G** is for 'God'. Even the entirely non-religious among us can find ourselves pledging allegiance to any and all deities in exchange for our survival once we have left the cross country start box.

~ **H** is for 'Home'. You'll be happy to see it after a long day at an Irish event.

~ **I** is for 'Insanity'. You know it is.

~ **J** is for "Just fucking well jump the fucking fence already", which is the sort of vocal encouragement you might expect to hear on an Irish cross country course.

~ **K** is for "Kick Ass". This phrase is part of a preferred life motto of mine most appropriate for the eventing scene. 'I'm here to kick ass and chew bubble gum. And I'm all out of bubble gum'. Sadly in my case, eventing usually kicked my ass, and not the other way around.

~ **L** is for 'Loving it'. You wouldn't bother, otherwise.

~ **M** is for 'Money'. Something you used to know. Used to.

~ **N** is for "Not our day today", which is code for "The stupid bastard spooked at the dressage judge, had two down in the showjumping because he was staring at a sheep six miles away up a hill, and then pissed off with me on the cross country course and jumped all of the 3* fences in the far field. He was actually in the intro class..."

~ **O** is for 'O.M.G.' when you perform a top class test, or if you need rescuing from a tree. Both have happened to me eventing, on the same day...

~ **P** is for pants. Bring many changes of those...

~ **Q** is for 'quickly', the speed at which you do everything on a rainy day in Ireland.

~ **R** is for 'The Royal County', also known as Meath. This county is home to the greatest Irish event of all, Tattersalls.

~ **S** is for 'surviving'. Sometimes that's the best you got.

~ **T** is for 'The teepee of Knowledge'. Until I get this idea off the ground, you'll have to settle for visiting the lorries of the most experienced riders you can find in the lorry park with your questions and queries. Don't trust them all though! One of the wise owls once told me to put three strides in an angled two stride combination. Thankfully I didn't. So 'T' could also stand for 'trust yourself'.....

~ **U** is for 'Umbrella'-something which for reasons unknown sparks fear into the heart of your average event horse, rendering them incapable of forward locomotion. Could be used for keeping dry, or for sabotage.....

~ **V** is for 'Vacuous', something you may sometimes wonder about the mental condition of those who event regularly.....

~ **W** is for 'water wings'. You won't be out of place, and you'll probably need them.....

~ **X** is for 'X-ray'. Event riders seem to spend a lot of time in or around X-ray machines. I'm fairly sure we'd all glow in the dark at a disco.

~ **Y** is for 'YEEEEEE-HAAAAAAWWWWWWW'

~ **Z** is for learning a new word. I couldn't find any 'Z' words suitable for an Eventing article, but I did find this word- 'zenzizenzizenc', which means 'The eighth power of a number'. I haven't a clue what that means either (See 'V' for Vacuous) but it seemed ridiculous enough to fit right in with our improbably berserk sport...

Have fun eventing! Make sure you can swim though...

I thought that most of this applies to Carriage Driving as well, and in that case Z is for Zilco

RECREATIONAL DRIVING: Cont:

Before going on the road, make sure that you have an orange triangle, slow vehicle sign on the back of the carriage. It is also a good idea to have an extra whip socket installed and put an orange bicycle flag in for extra visibility (especially important if the terrain is not flat). Make sure your horse's feet are protected with shoes or slip on boots (only if they are used to them, putting these on for the first time with a carriage hitched and going down the road is less than ideal).

Before taking your horse on the road with a carriage, make sure that there is a good, solid foundation of driving skills for you and your horse. To get ready for driving on the road, you can have a friend follow you in a car and even make practice passes of your carriage to get your horse used to a car going past. Even though you are in a slow-moving vehicle, you still need to follow the rules of the road. In North America, stay on the right side of the road and signal with your hand (or have your groom signal) before making turns or stopping. If you have a groom, they can help direct traffic around you and encourage cars to not pass too closely by using hand signals (keep the one finger salutes to a minimum, even in response to bad drivers passing too close, we want to keep the good will on the road). Here is a good link to a .pdf handbook for precautions and rules to follow when [driving on the road in traffic](#).

Another fun activity for recreational driving is to join a driving club. Here is a list of driving clubs, if there isn't one in your area, consider starting one! <http://www.carriagedriving.net/index.php?inc=5>.

Some driving clubs will have group driving dates, they may have a teaching clinic, a long distance drive, or something fun like working on a driven dressage quadrille. Here is an example from the 2012 Ohio Equine Affaire: <http://youtu.be/WDG07NflhRs>

Continuous Drive Taken from ADS website:

The Continuous Driving Event (CD) consists of at least three ADS competitions driven consecutively and separated by brief rest periods. Competitors may be divided in divisions by experience, age, gender, horse size, etc. Continuous Driving may be conducted in conjunction with other ADS events unless specifically restricted by individual event rules.

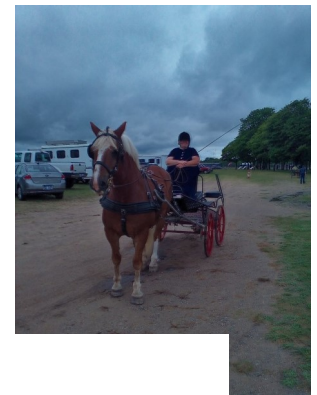
SUGGESTED FORMATS

1. Pleasure Drive-Pace (reference Article 68), a Driven Dressage Test, a second Pleasure Drive-Pace followed by a Combined Driving Obstacles-Fault Competition (reference Article 954).
2. A Driven Dressage Test, Pleasure Drive-Pace (reference Article 68), followed by a Combined Driving Obstacles - Fault Competition (reference Article 954)



GLADWIN CARRIAGE FESTIVAL 2016

This years festival was a valiant effort by Pam Hessel Allen, to revive the festival, I did not bring a horse up this year due to the heat and the rain on Saturday. I did go up on Saturday, dropping my Meadowbrook in Clare to have brakes added. Events were held on Friday and Saturday with no Sunday activities. Pam had musicians in on Friday, photos looked like everyone was enjoying themselves. Saturday a small group of re-enactors set up a camp. Karen and Jim and Pam and Mark made an appearance with their horses, and there were a couple of new faces, a pair of minis, a Haflinger and a Norweigen Fjord. There was a very nice obstacle course set up for the horses, and a cones and archery course. Great effort Pam! I did not see any other members from the historical society and I did not see any of the "locals", they may have been there on Friday not sure.



GRASS CLIPPINGS - CONT

Not always the same – lawn grasses and pasture grasses

A final factor worth consideration is chemical exposure. As horse owners, we implicitly trust grain farmers, hay growers, and pasture specialists to make informed choices about the growing conditions for their products, especially when it comes to fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals that might be necessary to ensure bountiful crops. Manufacturers of lawn-care products are probably not as concerned with the effects of such chemicals on horses.

Fertilizers and weed-control products intended for lawns might not prove detrimental in small quantities (it's not unusual to see owners hand-grazing their horse in their front yard), but to overload the system with large amounts might indeed be harmful.

The potential problems associated with feeding lawn clippings far outweigh the benefits. Certainly there's nothing wrong with offering your four-legged friend a treat, but it's safest to stick to the usual gustatory delights such as carrots and apples. Without knowing for sure how a horse will react to lawn clippings, it's best to avoid feeding them altogether

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPT 9-11 Villa Louis Carriage Classic, Prairie du Chien, WI. ADS Pleasure driving event. held on the lawn of the Villa Louis Historic Site.

Contact - Mike Rider -

info@carriageclassic.comwww.carriageclassic.com; 608-326-4436

SSEPT 23-25 Lake City Drive/ Northway Hackmans fall color drive
lawells126@gmail.com

OCT 5-9 Campout, ride/drive Elk Hill Trail Camp, Vanderbilt MI (Pigeon River Forest), no reservations first come/first serve ,contact: Michelle VandenBoom 810-305-1280

OCT 14-15 Martins Fall Carriage Auction 80 Rocherty rd, Lebanon, PA 17042

OCT 11-16 National Drive, Kentucky Horse Park, contact Christy Warrington 270-250-4463 tnd@nationaldrive.net, CAMP RESERVATIONS NEED TO BE MADE EARLY, DUE TO HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION AT THE CAMPGROUND

OCT 13-16 Great Lakes International Draft Horse Show , MSU pavilion

OCT 22 Continuous drive Metamora

NOV 6 Annual Meeting, MSU Brody square, lunch 12pm, business meeting 1pm , speaker 2pm

NOV 11-13 Novi Expo, must have a mini to participate in Mini Mania, Volunteers needed to help with booth and during mini mania. Contact Cady Ness -Smith

To add driving activities to our Calendar of Events, contact Joyce Miller, Secretary, MHDVA tylertwo76@gmail.com

SEPT 17-18 CUMMINGS CENTER—Scavenger hunt, Contact Linda Aloyo @ 810-397-1589

Subject: 4H Clinic & Scavenger Hunt canceled

It is with a heavy heart that I announce the cancellation of the Sept 16 -18 4H clinic & Scavenger Hunt.

Unfortunately the Genesee County Parks requires an enormous amount of property damage insurance coverage and the cost of this insurance is ridiculously high so the board voted against it and we will look for other venues to support this event for next year. "maybe at the Lake City drive" at the end of the month, maybe.

BUT with that said, we would still like to get together as individuals on Saturday the 17th for a drive and potluck (maybe help others that show up to visit). I apologize for this inconvenience for those who were planning on coming for the weekend and for waiting so long to look into pursuing the insurance required (I had no idea it would cost that much). For the one person that did make reservation, GC Parks charges a \$10 each cancellation fee for stalls & camping. You will be reimbursed with our gratitude for supporting this event.

E.A.Cumming Center
6130 E Mt Morris Rd, Mt Morris, MI 48458

I will try to get down there this weekend to make sure the trails are clear for driving. Know that going into the trails there may be some sand for a stretch until you get farther into the trails.

Sincerely,
Linda Aloyo



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