

Prevention of Colic

- ❖ Always have fresh, clean water available for the horses. Ensure to note the preference of your horse whether it likes to drink from an automatic waterer or buckets.
- ❖ Allow your horse to have access to the pasture. Pasture turnout or exercise for an hour per day has been shown to lower colic risk than those without pasture access.
- ❖ Avoid feeding directly from the ground (sandy areas). The farmer can use elevated feeder troughs with a wire mesh at the bottom to trap unwanted debris.
- ❖ Feed grain and pelleted feeds on as needed. Hay should be the main choice of food.
- ❖ Gradually change the following in exercise, stabling or diet. Farmers are advised to pay careful attention to the horse at this time. To make changes in the feed, mix $\frac{1}{4}$ new with $\frac{3}{4}$ old for about seven days, and then increase the percentage of new feed gradually until no more old feed is added.
- ❖ Ensure horse have proper dental care. The horse's teeth should be floated every six months. This allows the feed/hay to be properly chewed.
- ❖ Ensure to control the parasites by regularly deworming the horse.
- ❖ Farmers must pay special attention to their horse on an everyday basis. Example: early signs of impacted colic include dry fecal balls or the fecal ball maybe smaller.
- ❖ Farmers should pay close attention to broodmare (especially 2 months after foaling) and those horses which have previously experienced colic. If any signs are seen the veterinarian should be contacted right away.

