



Horse Resources 2017: Your Free Guide to All Things Horsy on the World Wide Web

Compiled by Sue Weaver

www.ozarkwriter.com

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About this free ebook

I am a fulltime writer. My first articles were published in 1969 and I haven't stopped writing since. I originally wrote mainly for horse publications but switched to livestock topics in the late 1990s. I donated a lot of work to horse magazines that couldn't pay for articles and that made me feel good. Now I'm offering an array of free ebooks, article reprints, and resource compilations in the same vein—I'm grateful for the paying work I've been given (all of my income is used to support my large animal family) and this is my way of paying back.

I hope you'll visit my Ozark Writer website to buy my books, read my blog, or download a passel of free goodies. I'm also happy to field your questions if you have some.

Sue Weaver – Ozark Writer

www.ozarkwriter.com

goatberrypie@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/sue.weaver.writer

Note: If you find links in this publication that don't work, not to worry. I'll upload link-checked new versions of my free resource ebooks to my webpage every year.

Print magazines with free access to online content

Chronicle of the Horse

www.chronofhorse.com

Horse keeping articles galore, plus dressage, eventing, hunting and horse show coverage

Dressage Today

<http://dressagetoday.com>

Equus

www.equisearch.com/tag/equus

Holistic Horse

www.holistichorse.com

This is a must-visit site for anyone interested in alternative horse keeping, offering hundreds of archived articles and an especially useful free newsletter

Horse & Hound

www.horseandhound.co.uk

Horse & Hound is a British weekly with great forums and lots of archived material at its Web site

Horse & Rider

<http://horseandrider.com>

Horse Family

<http://horsefamilymagazine.com>

An online magazine offering archived articles and a free newsletter

Horse Illustrated

www.horsechannel.com/horse-magazines/horse-illustrated

This site is strong on useful forums and archived articles

Horse Journal

<http://horse-journal.com>

Horse Talk (New Zealand)

www.horsetalk.co.nz

Horse Talk is another great source of archived articles

Practical Horseman

<http://practicalhorsemanmag.com>

Trail Rider

<http://trailridermag.com>

The Horse (Australia)

www.horsemagazine.com/thm

The Horse

www.thehorse.com

This is the first place I go for in-depth, up-to-date information. You'll have to join to gain access to hundreds of archived articles, fact sheets, special reports and videos but

membership is free. Don't miss it! Be sure to visit their free reports page to download scores of useful PDF files: www.thehorse.com/free-reports

The Western Horseman

<http://westernhorseman.com>

If you're into western riding, this is your magazine! Their archived articles are especially useful

Veterinary organizations

American Equine Practitioners Association

www.aep.org

859-233-0147

Fax: 859-233-1968

American Holistic Veterinary Medicine Association

<http://ahvma.org>

410-569-0795

Fax: 410-569-2346

American Veterinary Medical Association

www.avma.org

800-248-2862

Fax: 847-925-1329

Australian Veterinary Association

www.ava.com.au

Contact through Web site

British Veterinary Association

www.bva.co.uk

020 7636 6541

Fax: 020 7908 6349

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association

<http://canadianveterinarians.net>

800-567-2862

Fax: 613-236-9681

South African Veterinary Association

www.sava.co.za

012 346 1150

Fax: 012 346 2929

Veterinary Council of New Zealand

www.vetcouncil.org.nz

+64 4 473 9600
Fax: +64 4 473 8869

Comprehensive Web sites (articles, forums, classifieds)

All about Horses
www.allabouthorses.com

Equerry
<http://equerry.com>

Equine Post
www.equinepost.com

Equine World (U.K.)
www.equine-world.co.uk

Equiworld
www.equiworld.net

Equusite
www.equusite.com

Gaited Horses
www.gaitedhorses.net

HorseOz (Australia)
www.horseoz.com

Horse City
<http://horsecity.com>

Buy or sell equines online

DreamHorse.com
www.dreamhorse.com

Equine.com
www.equine.com

Equispot
www.equispot.com

Horse Exchange (U.K.)
www.horsemart.co.uk

HorseFinders.com
www.horsefinders.com

Horse Mart (U.K.)
www.horsemart.co.uk

HorseTopia
www.horsetopia.com

Horse Trade (Australia)
www.horsetrade.com.au

Horse Web
www.horseweb.com

Holistic horsekeeping

Bare Foot Horse
www.barefoothorse.com

Barefoot Horse Magazine (U.K.)
www.barefoothorsemag.co.uk

Holistic Horse
www.holistichorse.com

Holistic Horse Care
www.horsechannel.com/horse-health/holistic-horse-care-topiclist.aspx

Holistic Horsekeeping
www.holistichorsekeeping.com

Naturally Equine (New Zealand)
www.naturallyequine.com

Natural Horse Talk
www.naturalhorsetalk.com

Natural Horse Therapies
www.naturalhorsetherapies.com

Natural Horse World
www.naturalhorseworld.com

The Horse's Hoof
www.thehorseshoof.com

The Naturally Healthy Horse
<http://thenaturallyhealthyhorse.com>

Whole Horse
www.wholehorse.com

Equine rescue organizations

~Pages of links to equine rescue organizations~

www.equinerescueleague.org/equine-rescue-organizations-ah
www.habitatforhorses.org/state-national-rescue-links
<http://horseworlddata.com/rescue.html>
www.statelinetack.com/statelinetack-articles/the-world-of-horse-rescue/10075/

~ **Our favorite rescue** ~

American Standardbred Adoption Program (ASAP)
www.4thehorses.com

Our Standardbred, Maire (Snafu's Choice), came from ASAP 15 years ago—she's 29 and still going strong!

Recommended PDF downloads

How to use PDF files:

1. Print the information you like and file it, bind it in a 3-ring binder, or take it to a print shop and have it spiral-bound as a book.
2. Download the PDFs you like to a flash drive or burn them to a CD.

Bedding

Choosing the Best Bedding
<http://cag.uconn.edu/ansci/ansci/equine/extension/documents/Betterbedding.pdf>

Composting Horse Muck

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/id/id168/id168.pdf>

Horse Manure Management: Bedding Use

https://swcd.net/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Bedding_manure_choices.pdf

Behavior

Body Language Chart

<http://images.equinetwork.com/EQUUS/Charts/EQUUS-Body-Language-Chart.pdf>

Horse Behavior (457 page book)

http://www2.univet.hu/users/knagy/books/Waring_Horse_Behavior.pdf

Horse Handling and Riding Guidelines:
Equine Senses

www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/ag/other/fs9829.pdf

Horse Psychology and the Language of
Horses

<http://cflag.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/2007/EquineInstit/HorsePsychLanguage.pdf>



The Natural Horse and Unnatural Behavior

www.succeed-equine.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/The-Natural-Horse-and-Unnatural-Behaviour.pdf

Boarding

Can You Afford to Board Your Horse?

www.uwyo.edu/barnbackyard/_files/documents/magazine/2014/spring/042014bbhorseboarding.pdf

Making Do – Keeping Horses Healthy in an Imperfect Environment

www.animavet.com/MakingDo.pdf

Buying

Buyers Guide – AQHA

www.aqha.com/media/16139/810013388-buyers-guidefor-web.pdf

(addresses buying a Quarter Horse but valuable for buyers of other breeds, too)

Buying and Owning a Horse

<https://equinejournal.files.wordpress.com/2012/06/buying-and-owning-your-first-horse.pdf>

Buying a Horse

www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/ag/other/fs9604.pdf

Horse Buying Checklist

www.equinelegalsolutions.com/uploads/4/0/2/5/40254925/hbc.pdf

Locating and Buying the Right Horse

<https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/documents/TNH3002.pdf>

Care of older horses

Care of the Elderly Horse or Pony

www.aht.org.uk/skins/Default/pdfs/Care_of_the_elderly_horse_or_pony.pdf

Care of the Geriatric Horse

www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/ag/2000/fs0009.pdf

Feeding and Nutrition for the Senior Horse

<https://ag.tennessee.edu/AnimalScience/UTHorse/EQuineReports/2012-April.pdf>

Mature, Senior, and Geriatric Horses; Management, Care, and Use

<http://counties.agrilife.org/bandera/files/2014/07/EB-6161-Mature-Senior-Geriatric-Horses.pdf>

Color and markings

Arabian Coat Color Patterns

www.arabianhorses.org/.content/aha-docs/Genetics_Coat_Color_Patterns.pdf

Other breeds are pictured, too

Basic Horse Genetics

www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-1420/ANR-1420.pdf

Coat Color Genetics

www.aqha.com/media/16137/geneticsbook.pdf

Color and Markings of Horses

http://florida4h.org/projects/animal_sciences/HS_pdfs/HSM10/HSM10_ch2.pdf

Colours & Markings Booklet

www.weatherbys.co.uk/Weatherbys/media/PDFs/Identification-of-Horses-Booklet.pdf

Guidelines to Coat Color and Coat Characteristics

www.morganhorse.com/upload/photos/1866Color_Markings_Guidelines.pdf

Conformation

Conformation and Function in the Riding Horse

www.quia.com/files/quia/users/medicinehawk/3307-Biomechanics/Conformation-and-Function-in-the-Riding-Horse.pdf

Evaluating Conformation of Horses

<http://animalscience.ag.utk.edu/Horse/pdf/TNH%206001-Conformation.pdf>

Horse Conformation Analysis

www.uaex.edu/publications/pdf/FSA-3029.pdf

Disaster planning

Barn and Farm Inspection Checklist – Fire Risk Factors

http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/2908/2908-1408/2908-1408_pdf.pdf

Barn Disaster Planning

www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/horse/order/docs/DI8536.pdf

Disaster Preparedness for Horses

www.humanesociety.org/assets/pdfs/disaster/disaster_preparedness_horses.pdf

Fire Safety in Horse Stables

<http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/freepubs/pdfs/ub034.pdf>

Horses in Natural Disasters

<http://www.ncagr.gov/oep/documents/EquineEmergencyShelteringPlan1.pdf>

Hurricane Preparedness for Horse Owners: Get a Plan!

www.hernandosheriff.org/em/Event/Before/PreparednessForHorseOwners.pdf

Wildfire Preparedness for Horse Owners

<http://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/livestk/01817.pdf>

Drought conditions

Stretching Your Horse's Hay during Drought

<http://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/agriculture/stretching-your-horses-hay-supply-during-drought-1-625>

Tips for Feeding Horses During a Drought

https://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/animals-forages/horses/drought_feeding.pdf

External parasites

Controlling External Parasites

http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource001315_Rep1721.pdf

Controlling External Parasites

www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/animals-forages/horses/controlling_external_parasites.pdf

External Parasites on Horses

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/IG/IG13900.pdf>

Flies and External Parasites of Horses

www.virginiahorsecouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/FliesandExternalParasitesofHorses.pdf

Managing Insect Pests of Horses

<http://alabamahorsecouncil.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/ANR-0464-Managing-Pests.pdf>

Feeding

10 Rules for Feeding Horses

www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-1355/ANR-1355.pdf

Basic Horse Nutrition

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/asc/asc114/asc114.pdf>

Basics of Feeding Horses; What to Feed and Why

<http://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/g1875.pdf>

Feeding Horses

<http://extension.missouri.edu/explorepdf/agguides/ansci/g02807.pdf>

Feeding Horses

https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource001257_Rep1619.pdf

Pasture and Hay for Horses

<http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/FreePubs/pdfs/uc099.pdf>

Selecting Hay for Your Horse

<http://cflag.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/2006EquineInstit/SelectingHay.pdf>

Fencing

Fence Planning for Horses

<http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/freepubs/pdfs/ub037.pdf>

Equine Fencing Options

www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/horse/docs/fencing_factsheet.pdf

Planning and Building Fences on the Farm

<https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/documents/pb1541.pdf>

Temporary Fences for Horse Pastures

www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/id/id165/id165.pdf

First-aid

Equine Emergencies and First-Aid

www.vetmed.vt.edu/emc/clinicalservices/docs/Barrett_first_aidPPT.pdf

The Equine First-Aid Kit

www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/ag/other/fs9525.pdf

Equine Backcountry First Aid

www.bchi.org/education-manual/Equine%20First%20Aid.pdf

Fly control

Fly Control around Horse Barns and Stables

www.ca.uky.edu/entomology/entfacts/entfactpdf/ef514.pdf

Fly Control around Horses

www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/horse/order/docs/DI8537.pdf

Fly Control for Horses

www.lsuagcenter.com/NR/rdonlyres/27E97E4D-72F0-49D4-A004-9861FA5A430C/3631/pub2915.pdf

Insect Pests of Horses

<https://library.ndsu.edu/repository/bitstream/handle/10365/4831/eb55.pdf?sequence=1>

Low-Toxic Fly Control for Horses

<http://lancaster.unl.edu/pest/resources/332horfy.pdf>

Foaling and foal care

Nutrition of the Broodmare

http://uknowledge.uky.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1013&context=anr_reports

Foaling Management and Care of the Nursing Foal

<http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-2094/ANSI-3985web.pdf>

Post-Foaling care of the Mare and Foal

www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0922/ANR-0922.pdf

Feeding and Care of Orphan Foals

<http://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/g1872.pdf>

Foal Care

<http://aces.nmsu.edu/ces/horseprogram/documents/equusfoalcarejan08.pdf>

Foaling Guide

http://vet.uga.edu/images/uploads/hospital_files/files/Foaling_guide.pdf

Foal Management during the Pre-Weaning Period

www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-1123/ANR-1123.pdf

Foal Vaccination Guidelines

<http://csu-cvmb.colostate.edu/Documents/equine-medicine-surgery-vaccination-foal.pdf>

The Foaling Mare

http://uknowledge.uky.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1013&context=anr_reports

Grooming

4-H Horse Project Manual – Grooming

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/4h7933/\\$FILE/l_grooming.pdf](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/4h7933/$FILE/l_grooming.pdf)

Grooming and Preparation for the Show

http://florida4h.org/projects/animal_sciences/HS_pdfs/HSM10/hsm10_ch8.pdf

Grooming Tips

www.smartpakequine.com/images/pdf/90665_Grooming_Tips-Dana_Boyd_Miller.pdf

Health care

A Horse Owner's Guide to Colic

<http://extension.vetmed.ufl.edu/files/2011/10/Horse-Owners-Guide-to-Colic.pdf>

Assessing Health and Well-Being of Horses

www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/AS/AS-565-W.pdf

Control of Common Infectious Horse Diseases

www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0589/ANR-0589.pdf

Health Care for Horses

http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/406/406-308/406-308_pdf.pdf

Introduction to Horse Health

www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/AS/AS_555_W.pdf

Routine Health Care for Horses

<https://utextension.tennessee.edu/publications/documents/TNH1005.pdf>

Top 10 Equine Emergencies

www.bendequine.com/documents/TopTenEquineEmergencies.pdf

Colic

10 Tips for Preventing Colic

<http://csu-cvmb.colostate.edu/Documents/colic.pdf>

Colic in Horses

www.uky.edu/Ag/AnimalSciences/pubs/asc128.pdf

Equine Colic

<https://gaitedmorgansassociation.com/documents/News/horse-colic.pdf>

What Can You Do to Prevent Colic in Your Horse?

<https://vet.osu.edu/vmc/sites/default/files/import/assets/pdf/hospital/equineFarmAnimals/equine/articles/2008/colic.pdf>

Cushings

Equine Cushings Disease

<http://csu-cvmb.colostate.edu/Documents/Learnmares41-reprodprob-Cushings-apr09.pdf>

Management of Equine Cushings Disease

<http://extension.vetmed.ufl.edu/files/2011/10/Cushings-Ds-and-Metabolic-Syndrome.pdf>

Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction (Equine Cushings Disease)

[www.nadis.org.uk/bulletins/pituitary-pars-intermedia-dysfunction-\(equine-cushing%E2%80%99s-disease\).aspx?altTemplate=PDF](http://www.nadis.org.uk/bulletins/pituitary-pars-intermedia-dysfunction-(equine-cushing%E2%80%99s-disease).aspx?altTemplate=PDF)

Laminitis

Equine Laminitis

www.vetmed.vt.edu/emc/welcome/bios/white/equine_laminitis.pdf

Equine Laminitis—Current Concepts (116 page book)

<http://horsetfx.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Chris-Pollitt-Laminitis.pdf>

Laminitis—Causes and Cures

<https://ker.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/LAMINITIS-CAUSES-AND-CURES-338.pdf>

Laminitis in Horses

www.nadis.org.uk/bulletins/laminitis-in-horses.aspx?alttemplate=pdf

Natural Approach to Laminitis

www.naturalhorsetalk.com/PDF/A%20Natural%20Approach%20to%20Laminitis.pdf

Gastric Ulcers

Keeping Horses Healthy--an Update on Equine Gastric Ulcers

www.vet.k-state.edu/VHC/equine/pdf/Gastric_ulcers.pdf

Ulcers in Horses

<http://horse-journal.com/content/content/21373/ulcers.pdf>

Understanding Gastric Ulcers

www.equinegastriculcers.co.uk/understanding-gastric-ulcers.pdf

Respiratory diseases

Equine Influenza

<https://ahdc.vet.cornell.edu/docs/equine-influenza.pdf>

Equine Respiratory Diseases

www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/ID/ID-443-W.pdf

Horse Respiratory Health

http://ilovemyhorse.ir/download/paper/Respiratory_Health_Leaflet.pdf

Respiratory Diseases in Horses—What You Can Do to Prevent Them

<http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-2091/VTMD-9120web2014.pdf>

Hauling

Horse Trailer Maintenance and Trailing Safety

http://nasonline.org/static_content/documents/1043/d000842.pdf

Safe Trailing and Transportation of Horses

<https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/docs/publications/FS-932%20Safe%20Trailing%20and%20Transportation%20of%20Horses.pdf>

Safely Trailing and Loading Your Horse

http://animalscience.uconn.edu/extension/documents/Safely_Trailering_and>Loading_Your_Horse.pdf

Selecting a Horse Trailer

[http://extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/_docs/articles/FS-948%20Selecting%20a%20horse%20trailer%20\(1\).pdf](http://extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/_docs/articles/FS-948%20Selecting%20a%20horse%20trailer%20(1).pdf)

Transporting Horse by Road and Air; Recommendations for Reducing the Stress

www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/ceh/local_resources/pdfs/pubs-July2013HR-sec.pdf

Tips for Hauling Horses during Hot Weather

www.livestocktrail.uiuc.edu/uploads/horsenet/papers/hot_hauling.pdf

Hoof care

Care of Your Horse's Feet

<http://extension.missouri.edu/explorepdf/agguides/ansci/g02839.pdf>

Evaluation of Basic Hoof Care

http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_b/b-707.pdf

Foal Hoof Care Fact Sheet

<http://extension.usu.edu/smac/files/uploads/FoalHoofCare.pdf>

This bulletin shows when and how to trim a foal's feet

Horses Need Regular Hoof Care

www.sPCA.bc.ca/assets/documents/welfare/farm/equine-code-fact-sheet-hoof-1.pdf

Hoof Dressings

<http://horse-journal.com/content/content/16601/hoof-dressings-story.pdf>

Proper Basic Hoof Care

<http://extension.usu.edu/smac/files/uploads/Hoof%20Care%20fact%20sheet.pdf>

Trouble in the Grooves of the Hooves (thrush)

<http://horse-journal.com/content/content/12825/thrush.pdf>

Housing

Housing for Horses; Flooring for Stalls

<http://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/g1876.pdf>

Horse Stable Ventilation

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/horse/files/2012/08/ventilation.pdf>

Horse Stall Design

<http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/freepubs/pdfs/ub033.pdf>

Introduction to Housing for Horses

<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/AS/AS-553-W.pdf>

Internal parasites

Common Internal Parasites of the Horse

<http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-10185/ANSI-3932web.pdf>

Control of Internal Parasites of the Horse

<https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/documents/TNH4002.pdf>

Internal Parasites and Your Horse—a Cause for Concern

http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/publication/AG_Equine_2009-03pr.pdf

Internal Parasites in Horses

https://ebusiness.avma.org/files/productdownloads/internalparasitehorse_en.pdf

Internal Parasites of the Horse

www.uaex.edu/Other_Areas/publications/PDF/FSA-3096.pdf

Targeted De-worming! A Solution to the Growing Equine Parasite Resistance?

<http://ueavet.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Strategic-Rotational-Deworming.pdf>

Leasing or loaning a horse

Horse Leasing Guidelines (for 4-H)

www.ohio4h.org/sites/ohio4h/files/d6/files/Animal_Sciences/horse/HorseLease.pdf

Well-Documented Lease Agreement

www.corinthianinsurance.com/2011%20files/WellWrittenLeases.pdf

Misc.

Managing Small Acreage Horse Farms

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/ec1610.pdf>

Pasture Management Guide for Horse Owners

www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_022712.pdf

Pastures for Horses

<https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/PB1651.pdf>

Recognizing Stress in Horses

www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/animals-forages/horses/recognizing_stress_horses.pdf

Six Boy Scout Knots

<http://meritbadge.org/wiki/images/5/5d/Six-Boy-Scout-Knots.pdf>

Includes two important horse-related knots, the hitching tie and bowline

Poisonous plants

Guide to Toxic Plants in Forages (Indiana)

www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/ws/ws_37_toxicplants08.pdf

List of Plants Reported to be Poisonous to Animals in the United States

<http://wric.ucdavis.edu/PDFs/plants%20reported%20to%20be%20poisonous%20to%20animals.pdf>

Livestock Poisoning Plants of California

<http://alfalfa.ucdavis.edu/-files/pdf/LivestockPoisoningPlantsNov2010.pdf>

Plant Poisoning in Livestock in Vermont (Vermont)

www.uvm.edu/pss/vtcrops/articles/VTPoisonousPlants.pdf

Selected Poisonous Plants of the Pacific Northwest

www.animalag.wsu.edu/forages/Kerr-PoisonousPlants1007-2005.pdf

Plants Poisonous or Harmful to Horses in the North Central United States (University of Minnesota)

<http://www1.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/horse/order/docs/DI8491.pdf>

This 48-page guide is a 6.52 MB download. However, it's the best guide to poisonous plants we've seen

Plants Poisonous to Livestock in the Western States

www.ars.usda.gov/is/np/PoisonousPlants/PoisonousPlants.pdf

Plants Poisonous to Livestock (Missouri)

<http://weedscience.missouri.edu/publications/g04970.pdf>

Poisonous Plants in Pastures (New Hampshire)

http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource000623_Rep645.pdf

Poisonous Plants of the Southeastern United States

www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0975/ANR-0975.pdf

This 59-page guide features unusually good photos; don't miss it!

Poisonous Plants of the Southern United States

<https://carteret.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Poisonous-Plants-of-the-Southern-United-States.pdf?pwd=no>

This very complete, well-illustrated 54-page book covers plant poisoning in all livestock species including horses

Toxic Plants and Your Horse

<http://lbemc.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/ToxicPlants.pdf>

Saddles, tack, and horse clothing

An Overview of Bits and Bitting

www.damascusequine.com/resources/anoverviewofbitsandbitting.pdf

Bit Selection for Riding and Training Horses

<http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-2081/ANSI-3924web.pdf>

Bits – Metal Choices

<http://horse-journal.com/content/content/4495/bit-shopping.pdf>

Blankets, Coolers and Horse Care

www.equiscentials.com/Blankets&Coolers.pdf

Building Rope Halters

<https://utah4h.org/files/Volunteers/ResourceMaterials/plants-animals/BuildingRopeHalters.pdf>

Choosing, Assembling and Using Bridles

<http://extension.missouri.edu/explorepdf/agguides/ansci/g02845.pdf>

Common Sense Saddle Fitting

www.outfitterssupply.com/pdf/Tucker-saddle-fit-guide.pdf

Fitting the Western or English Saddle to the Horse

http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1133&context=extension_curall

How to Make a Rope Halter

www.ohio4h.org/sites/ohio4h/files/imce/4h_science/Knots/How%20to%20Make%20a%20Rope%20Halter%20AQHA.pdf

Saddle Fit Basics – Fit and Placement from the Horse's Perspective

www.animavet.com/SaddleFit.pdf

Saddles for Women

http://horse-journal.com/content/content/6000/women-saddles_0.pdf

Selecting a Saddle to Fit the Rider

http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/publication/AG_Equine_2008-06pr.pdf

Tack and Equipment and Its Care

http://florida4h.org/projects/animal_sciences/HS_pdfs/HSM10/hsm10_ch7.pdf

Safety

(including helmets)

Basic Horse Safety Manual

www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/4af/4af05ma/4af05ma.pdf

Defensive Horse Safety

www.boisebch.org/education/pdf07672W02.pdf

68-page booklet published by the US Forest Service for beginners

Heads Up Helmet Fact Sheet

www.cdc.gov/headsup/pdfs/helmets/headsup_helmetfactsheet_equestrian_508.pdf

Helmets, Heads, and Health for Horse Enthusiasts

http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1006&context=extension_curall

Horses and Kids—Safety on the Ground

<http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-1569/N-600web.pdf>

Road Safety

www.rsa.ie/Documents/Road%20Safety/Horse_Safety/RSA_Horse_road_safety_booklet.pdf

Published for Ireland but applicable elsewhere

Safety for Hunt Seat Riders

<http://extension.missouri.edu/explorepdf/agguides/ansci/g02882.pdf>

Applies to all styles of riding

Techniques for Handling Horses Safely

<http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-2755/E-960.pdf>

Training Horses Safely

<http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-2062/ANSI-3915web.pdf>

Why Wear a Riding Helmet?

www.nyshc.org/post/_docs/WhyWearRidingHelmet.pdf

Including fitting tips

Seasonal care

~ Winter ~

10 Tips for Natural Winter Horse Care

www.naturalhorsetalk.com/documents/TipsWinterHorseCare001.pdf

Responsible Horse Care for Winter and Summer

http://www.uaex.edu/other_areas/publications/pdf/fsa-3031.pdf

Winter Care for Horses

<http://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/g1873.pdf>

Winter Care for Horses (not the same as the above)

<http://esc.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Winter-Care-for-Horses.pdf>

~ Summer ~

Heat Stress in Horses

www.livestocktrail.uiuc.edu/uploads/horsenet/papers/Heat%20Stress.pdf

Helping Horses to Handle the Heat

www.equestrianwa.org.au/site/equestrian/wa/downloads/Dressage/Helping_horses_handle_heat_191210.pdf

Summer Hot Weather Horse Safety Tips

www.drsofostersmith.com/pic/article_pdf.cfm?aid=1833

Take Care of Your Horse in the Heat

<http://horse.public.iastate.edu/Extension%20Program/Articles/Take%20Care%20of%20Your%20Horse%20in%20the%20Heat.pdf>

Teeth

Aging Horses by Their Teeth

www.uaex.edu/Other_Areas/publications/PDF/FSA-3123.pdf

Aging Horses by Their Teeth (not the same as above)

http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/publication/ag_equine_2007-06pr.pdf

Equine Dentition

www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/ag/2000/sp0008.pdf

Equine Dentistry--It's Not Just floating Teeth Anymore

www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/ceh/local_resources/pdfs/pubs-HR29-4-bkm-sec.pdf

Equine Dentistry--a Necessity, Not an Option

www.naturalhorsetalk.com/PDF/Equine%20Dentistry-A%20necessity%20not%20an%20option.pdf

Training

~ Basic Training ~

Training Your Horse

http://florida4h.org/projects/animal_sciences/HS_pdfs/HSM10/hsm10_ch12.pdf

Training the Young Horse – Balancing Short-Term Gains and Long-Term Goals

www.animavet.com/TrainingYoungHorses.pdf

Understanding Basic Horse Training Techniques

www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-1298/ANR-1298.pdf

* 4-H Colt and Horse Training Manual

<http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/23186/4-H%20Colt%20and%20Horse%20Training%20Manual.pdf>

~ Clicker training~ (recommended!)

Clicker Center with Alexandra Kurland

www.theclickercenter.com

ClickRyder

<http://clickryder.com>

Equine Clicker Training

www.equineclickertraining.com

On Target Training

<http://on-target-training.com>

Zen Clicker Horsemanship

www.zenhorsemanship.com

~ Horsemanship clinicians ~

If you're looking for a packaged approach to horse training, check out these well-known clinicians. All have their strong and weak points but there are many to choose from, so you're sure to find one whose philosophies you'll endorse.

Note: If there are additional clinicians you think I should list here, please email me and I'll add them to my next edition.

Clinton Anderson

www.clintonanderson.net

Frank Bell

www.horsewhisperer.com

Buck Brannaman

www.brannaman.com

Craig Cameron

www.craigcameron.com

Peter Campbell

www.petercampbellhorsemanship.com

Chris Cox

<http://chris-cox.com>

Wil Howe

<http://wilhowe.com>

John Lyons

www.johnlyons.com

Marty Marten

www.martymarten.com

Pat Parelli

www.parellinaturalhorsetraining.com

Mark Rashid

www.markrashid.com

Monty Roberts

www.montyroberts.com

Richard Shrake

www.richardshrake.com

Weight issues

Body Condition of Horses

<http://cdn.4-h.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/BodyConditionofHorses.pdf>

Condition Scoring for your Horse

http://uknowledge.uky.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1002&context=anr_reports

How to Condition Score

http://www.thelaminitissite.org/uploads/8/1/1/4/8114761/bhs_condition_scoring_leaflet.pdf

~ Overweight/obese ~

Easy Keepers – Managing Horses Prone to Obesity

http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/2805-1002/2805-1002_pdf.pdf

Equine Metabolic Syndrome: Is My Horse Just Fat or is He Sick?

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ID/ID239/ID239.pdf>

Fat Horse Slimming

www.bluecross.org.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/fat-horse-slim.pdf

Trimming the Fat: Weight Loss Strategies for the Overweight Horse

https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/_docs/programs/horses/Trimming%20the%20Fat%20-%20Weigh%20Loss%20Strategies%20for%20the%20Overweight%20Horse.pdf

~ Underweight/skinny ~

Bag O'Bones: Managing the Underweight Horse

<https://ker.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/BAG-O%E2%80%99-BONES-MANAGING-THE-UNDERWEIGHT-HORSE-312.pdf>

Help! My Horse is Too Thin

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/asc/asc188/asc188.pdf>

Recovering the Malnourished Horse

<https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/PB1847.pdf>

Refeeding the Poorly Conditioned Horse

<http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-3273/ANSI-3927web.pdf>

Refeeding the Starved Horse

<http://homesforhorses.org/wp-content/uploads/From-Seizure-to-adoption.pdf>

The Skinny on Feeding Fat to Horses

http://training.ifas.ufl.edu/Equine2011/Equine11_Warren_FeedingFat/Warren%20Feeding%20Fat%20to%20Horses.pdf

Downloadable 4-H manuals

Reliable, clearly written information for horse owners of all ages

Alberta (Canada) 4-H Horse Packing Guide

https://www.4h.ab.ca/downloads/documents/Horse_PackingPG_2016.pdf

Alberta 4-H Ranch Horse Guide

https://www.4h.ab.ca/downloads/documents/Horse_RanchPG_2016.pdf

Alberta 4-H Cattle Events Guide

https://www.4h.ab.ca/downloads/documents/Horse_CattleEventsPG_2016.pdf

Alberta 4-H Horse Reference Manual

<https://www.4h.ab.ca/downloads/documents/HorseReferenceManual2015.pdf>

288 pages—it's a good one

Colorado 4-H Competitive Trail Riding Manual

www.colorado4h.org/project_resources/erecords/CompetitiveTrailRidingManual.pdf

Indiana 4-H Horse and Pony Handbook

www.bridlebunch.com/4h_horse_pony_handbook.pdf

Minnesota 4-H Horsemanship and Horse Training Manual

www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/horse/training-project/docs/horsemanship-manual.pdf

Oregon 4-H Dressage Manual

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/4-h1311.pdf>

Oregon 4-H Ranch Horse Manual

<http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/18805/4-h1313.pdf>

Oregon 4-H Driving Manual

https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource000825_Rep860.pdf

Tack and horse supplies

Chick's Saddlery

www.chicksaddlery.com

Free catalog; tack, stable supplies, books, gifts and more at discount prices

Dover Saddlery

www.doversaddlery.com

Call or email for your free catalog. Get it even if you're a western rider; their stable and turnout blankets and stable supplies are outstanding. Once you're on their mailing list Dover will send wonderful sale catalogs from time to time. Also watch the Dover site for closeouts and special bargains.

Jeffers Equine

www.jeffersequine.com

Free catalog; a great source of tack, stable supplies, dewormers and vaccines



PBS Animal Health

www.pbsanimalhealth.com

Free catalog; another great source of tack, stable supplies, dewormers and vaccines

Schneiders Saddlery

www.sstack.com

Everything I said about Dover Saddlery applies to Schneiders and they carry a line of western equipment as well. What I don't buy at Dover, I buy from Schneiders.

Smith Brothers Saddlery

www.smithbrothers.com

Smith Brothers is the Dover and Schneiders of the western riding world. Request their catalog, get on their mailing lists and monitor their Web site—Smith's is good stuff!

State Line Tack

www.statelinetack.com

Request a catalog; this is a good source of quality western and English tack as well as clothing, gifts, books and every type of stable supplies

United Vet Equine

www.unitedvetequine.com

Free catalog; still another great source of tack, stable supplies, dewormers, vaccines and so forth

Valley Vet Supply

www.valleyvet.com

Free catalog; and yet another great source of tack, stable supplies, dewormers and vaccines

Facebook

There are loads of horse lovers and horse groups at Facebook

Barefoot Horse Owners

www.facebook.com/groups/rubygem

Common Sense Holistic Horses & Horse Care

www.facebook.com/groups/606819629440710

Healthy Horse

www.facebook.com/HealthyHorse6/?fref=ts

Heavy Horse Riders and Enthusiasts

www.facebook.com/groups/72470517447

A group for draft horse and draft cross riders

Horse Health Discussion

www.facebook.com/groups/HorseDiscussion

Horse Health Discussion – Holistic

www.facebook.com/groups/1646258618920317

Horse Lovers

www.facebook.com/official.horse.lovers/?fref=ts

Horse Lovers

www.facebook.com/Horse-Lovers-1643160245951414/?fref=ts

Horse People Network

www.facebook.com/groups/481738678627420

Horse People Thing

www.facebook.com/groups/1369927439687566

Horse Talk

www.facebook.com/anythinghorse/?fref=ts

Horse Talk-Health Group
www.facebook.com/groups/HorseTalkHealth

I Love Horses
www.facebook.com/ILoveHorsesfanpage/?fref=ts

The Horse Feed
www.facebook.com/groups/695603313859035
Love this group!

The Naturally Healthy Horse
www.facebook.com/TheNaturallyHealthyHorse/?fref=ts

To find more horse-related groups and pages, enter *horse*, the name of your favorite breed, or your favorite riding discipline (*dressage*, *trail riding*, etc.) in the Search box at the top of any Facebook page. To find local groups, enter *horse* and your state (for example, *horse Missouri*). There are loads of tack-related groups too.

Additional cool things

Old-time horse books

Free antiquarian horse books at Google Books
<http://books.google.com>

Enter *horse* or *horses* in the search box. When a page comes up, click on *Tools*, then *Any Books*, and then *Free Google eBooks*. This will bring you to many pages of vintage titles that you can download in PDF or EPUB formats for free. To do so, click on your chosen title. When it comes up, look for the download symbol at the top far right (it looks like a wheel with 6 knobs). Click on *Download* and choose from PDF and sometimes EPUB formats. Some are very large downloads, so you might want to download them to a flash drive for storage or download them to your desktop and then burn them to CD.

Biodiversity Heritage Library
www.biodiversitylibrary.org

The Biodiversity Heritage Library is another source of hundreds of free vintage horse books. Just enter *horse* or *horses* in the search box, click on the titles you want, and download them in PDF format.

Famous horses

Famous Horses

www.horses-names.com/famous-horses.php

Famous Horses of the Civil War

www.civilwarhome.com/horses.html

Famous Horses ~ Breyer Horses

www.breyerhorses.com/famous_horses

Famous Horses – Smithsonian Institute

www.si.edu/Encyclopedia_Si/nmnh/famehors.htm

List of fictional horses

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_fictional_horses

List of historical horses

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_historical_horses

Some Famous Horses

www.lrgaf.org/guide/famous-horses.htm

Wonder horses

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wonder_horses

Horse domestication and history

Domestication, Breed Diversification and Early History of the Horse

<https://research.vet.upenn.edu/Default.aspx?TabId=3127>

Horses and the History of the Circus

<http://blog.biodiversitylibrary.org/2015/09/horses-and-history-of-circus.html>

Horse Hooves in History

www.horsejournals.com/horse-hooves-history

Horses in History

www.equineheritageinstitute.org/horses-in-history

Horses in History – The Fire Horse

www.equitrekking.com/articles/entry/famous_horses_in_history_-_the_fire_horse

Horses in Warfare

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horses_in_warfare

Taming the Horse

www.archaeology.org/issues/180-1507/features/3346-horse-from-prey-to-domestication

Timeline of the Development of the Horse

www.sino-platonic.org/complete/spp177_horses.html

208-page PDF version: www.sino-platonic.org/complete/spp177_horses.pdf

Horses in magic and myth

Hippii Athanatoi (immortal horses in Greek myth)

www.theoi.com/Ther/Hippii.html

Horse in Myth and Legend

www.imh.org/sites/default/files/Horse-in-Mythology-IMH.pdf

Horses as Symbols of Power in History and Myth

www.ancient-origins.net/history/horses-symbols-power-history-and-mythology-005912

Horses of Myth / Legend / Folk tale

<http://agreenhorse.blogspot.com/2011/10/horses-of-myth-legend-folk-tale.html>

Horses of Norse Mythology

<http://blog.amaliadillin.com/2012/04/horses-of-norse-mythology.html>

Mythological horses

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Mythological_horses

White Horse in Irish Mythology

<https://aliisaacstoryteller.com/2016/05/09/the-white-horse-in-irish-mythology>

This and that

Names by China Road

www.lowchensaustralia.com/names.htm

If you need a great name for a horse (or anything else), visit this Web site. It's fantastic!



The first 2 chapters from:

***Horse Tips: Hundreds of Ways to Care for Your Horse
Better, Safer, Faster, Cheaper***

Sue Weaver

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Chapter 1 – Getting started

Chapter 2 – Tack and other gear

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Chapter 4 – DIY fly repellants and grooming products

Chapter 5 – Feeding

Chapter 6 – Watering

Chapter 7 – Vet stuff

Chapter 8 – Choosing vets, farriers, etc.

Chapter 9 – Reuse it

Chapter 10 – This and that

Excerpt: *Preview: Thrifty Horse Keeping; Buying and Keeping Horses*

Without Going Broke ~ Volume 1 – Buy the Right Horse

About the author

Introduction

Like many of you reading this book, I've been obsessed with horses as long as I can remember. I got my first horse when I was 12 and now I'm 70 years old. I've never been rich and I've always worked (still am, as a fulltime writer), so I've collected and tested ways to save time and money while taking the best possible care of my horses for 58 years. This book is a collection of my findings. Enjoy!

Chapter 1 – Getting started

Spend your money wisely

You'll save a lot of money by buying wisely and taking care of the items you buy so that they needn't be replaced right away.

*Before buying something ask yourself:

- ~ Is it high quality?
- ~ How many times will I use it?
- ~ Have I already got one, or something similar I can use instead?
- ~ Can I borrow one instead of buying, housing, and maintaining this item?
- ~ Is it worth the time it takes to earn the money to pay for it?
- ~ Will I still be using this item in 3 months? If you I've lived this long without it, do I really need it?

*Buy a quality product. We live in a disposable society but as individuals, we needn't subscribe to that philosophy, especially when money is an issue. This is especially true regarding durable goods like saddles and other items of riding gear that purchased wisely, have the potential to last a very long time. Examine products carefully before you buy. Shoddy equipment not only falls apart but in the case of items like saddles, tie ropes, and halters, you or your horse can be seriously injured when they fail. Take the higher road and buy the more expensive product and know it will outlast any number of cheap imitations.

*Avoid fads. Although you like the look of the barrel racing saddle with pink, ostrich-embossed seat jockeys and fenders, you might want to sell it or trade it in one day. Fads don't last forever. When I was a kid, buckstitched saddles were all the rage. Now all-over buckstitching greatly reduces the value of a good used saddle. Unless you have money to spare and don't mind using a passé product once its glamour days have passed, stick to the basics and add bling with fashionable accessories.

*Buy used. Consider saddles. A saddle is a major purchase. Unless, however, you have \$1500 or more (often much, much more) to spare, you're unlikely to find a quality leather saddle in your price range. You can, however, buy well-maintained older saddles in the \$250 to \$1000 price range that were built at a time when better leather, tougher trees, and finer craftsmanship went into saddles when compared with today's mid-range equipment. They're a better buy than a shoddy-built new saddle at the same price.

*Fix it. Repair, don't replace. If you shopped carefully and got good service out of something, don't assume you have to replace it when it breaks. A good repair shop might be able to restore it to near new condition for less than the cost of a replacement.

*Borrow it. If you need an item for just a short time or you're not sure you really need it, something like an expensive bit to see if your horse likes it or not, why not borrow someone else's? When I cleaned out my tack box a few years ago, I found 23 bits I'd accumulated over the years, yet I'd used the same O-ring snaffle, a slotted-dee Kimberwick bit, or short-shanked, mullen mouth curb bit 99% of the time. Some of the other bits were specialty items I'd used no more than 3 or 4 times. What a waste! If you aren't sure an item is right for you, see if you can borrow one and try it before shelling out money for one of your own.

*Scout out tack swaps and tack consignment sales. I used to buy nearly all of my bridles, saddle blankets, and miscellaneous horse gear at the huge tack consignment sale held in conjunction with the Minnesota Horse Expo, but even small-scale tack swaps can yield treasures at pennies on the dollar. Watch for notices on bulletin boards at tack shops and

feed stores, in the classified sections of regional horse magazines, and even in local newspapers.

*Hold your own swap meet. There are no swap meets where you live? Well, organize one! Swap meets are perfect fundraisers for groups like 4-H, Pony Club, and saddle clubs, especially in late winter before show season starts, when horsey folks are looking for something to do. Consigners pay a percentage of their proceeds for consigning goods, usually 5 % to 10 %, and the hosting group sells chili and sandwiches, chips, and drinks. Everyone wins!

*Shop Craigslist. Craigslist (www.craigslist.org/about/sites) is a series of nation-wide online classifieds where people list items for free. There is bound to be one near you; there are 9 craigslists, for instance, in Minnesota alone. Horses and horse items are usually listed under Farm+Garden.

*Try ebay. Ebay (www.ebay.com) is another favorite place to buy new and used horse equipment, sometimes at bargain prices. Before bidding, be sure to scope out a seller's shipping and return policies, and also check his Feedback ratings.

*Join Freecycle. Freecycle (www.freecycle.org) is a great place to watch for items like cattle lick tubs to use as water troughs, used food service buckets, old freezers to safely store grain in, and used fencing material, all for absolutely free. To access Freecycle groups, follow instructions at the Freecycle website.

*Or try ReUseIt. ReUseIt (RIN) Network (www.reuseitnetwork.org) is a Freecycle alternative active in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia. ReUseIt exists to "get things from people who have them but don't want them to people who want them but don't have them."

*Look for used stuff at tack shops. Some riding apparel and tack stores specialize in consignment sales. Regular tack stores often carry used equipment too, particularly used saddles.

*Yard sales, garage sales, barn sales. Note when horse-owning families hold yard sales; they're usually good picking grounds for horse owners. Yard and rummage sales are also the place to buy used shovels, pitchforks, buckets, storage units like old Army footlockers and tool chests, step stools, zippered plastic bags for blanket storage, and so forth at pennies on the dollar.

*Place your own ads. Many online horse communities host classified ads. To find them do an Internet search for *horse tack classified ads*.

*If you need a specific item, pin notices on bulletin boards in local tack shops, feed stores, veterinary practices, even non-horse places like grocery stores and laundromats. Chances are, someone has just that item but maybe never thought of selling it until they read your notice.

*Another good place to post wanted ads is in Pennysaver-type classified tabloids serving your area. We do this all the time, sometimes with surprising results. Case in point: the time a nice girl who outgrew her pony saw our wanted ad and gave her to our 6 year old daughter. Brandy, who was already teenaged when we got her, lived with us another 18 years.

*Buy from discount sellers, especially when items are on sale. When looking for reasonably priced equipment, wormers, or vaccines, turn to any of dozens of discount saddleries and horse supplies sellers that are eager to meet your needs. Even mainline saddleries like Dover Saddlery (www.doversaddlery.com), Schneider Saddlery (www.sstack.com), and State Line Tack (www.statelinetack.com) issue sale catalogs and coupon bulletins throughout the year.

*Be sure to factor in shipping prices when buying online, from catalogs, or especially at eBay. Some eBay sellers price goods at eye-catching prices and make up the difference with outlandish shipping costs.

When buying online, look for clearance sale pages. You may find exactly the item you want. Also watch for discount codes and coupons and sign up for email sales sheets.

*Buy in bulk. Many catalog outlets offer deep discounts when you buy in bulk. Band together with friends to benefit by ordering bulk feed, wormers, and stable supplies.

*Substitute when you can. A person I know from Facebook once said, "If a product says 'horse' on the label it will cost 3 times as much as the same product from the grocery store." She's right. In most cases you'll save big money by buying comparable products like shampoos and conditioners designed for humans and they often work better than the horsey brands.

*And substitute everyday items for things from the saddlery store. Like plastic food service buckets for watering buckets, a long-handled toilet brush for scrubbing horse tanks, hangers from Wal-Mart or the dollar store for bridle racks, or a wool cardigan sweater from the used-a-bit shop instead of a fancy little blanket for a newborn foal.

*Or make your own horse supplies. This book includes recipes for making shampoos, conditioners, detanglers, fly repellants, horse treats, and much more, and you'll find hundreds more DIY recipes and projects online.

Take care of your stuff

It should go without saying but many people ignore this cardinal rule: take care of your stuff to make it last!

*Organize your gear so you can find an item when you need it. If you can't find it and can't borrow it, you'll waste good money buying another one. Hang strap goods like

halters, leads, and bridles neatly on the wall. Buy a tack trunk (military surplus footlockers, large tool boxes, and old steamer trunks make good ones) and organize items within it. Used day packs and book bags make great organizers: one for bits, one for horse boots, and so on.

*Put your stuff on a maintenance schedule and follow it. Clean your boots and leather tack, wash your nylon halters, launder your horse's clothing, and make repairs as soon as needed. "A stitch in time saves nine" really applies to horse equipment.

*Make your own minor repairs. Most tack shops sell do-it-yourself leather sewing awls. Buy one and learn to use it. Likewise, repair horse blankets, turnout blankets and the like as soon as you notice a problem. I hand sew patches on my horse clothing. It's easy. So can you.

* Mark your equipment clearly with your (or your horse's) name to help misplaced or borrowed items find their way back to you.

Chapter 2 – Tack and other gear

Buying horse garments

You don't have to spend a lot of money to outfit your horse in quality sheets, blankets, and turnout rugs.

*Think ahead and buy wintertime horse garments in the spring and summer when shops and saddleries are eager to reduce their inventory. And be sure to check the clearance pages at online horse supply outlets where you might be able to buy a closeout top-flight garment for the same price as a cheaper model next fall.

*When buying a turnout rug or sheet, read the tags. Make certain the one you choose is waterproof (not water-resistant) and breathable (never use foam-lined blankets; they don't breathe). Wearing a non-breathable blanket is to your horse like you wearing an old-fashioned plastic raincoat when it's hot outside. It's uncomfortable, and sweating inside of

a blanket is as just as bad as getting wet. Keep in mind that turnout rugs with back seams can leak; one-piece designs are generally best.

*Blankets, sheets, and turnout rugs come in fabrics ranging from 300 to 1200 denier. Denier refers to closeness of weave. The higher the denier the less likely the garment will snag and tear or your horse will be able to demolish it with his teeth. Buy the highest denier garments you can afford.

*Whether buying a sheet, a blanket for indoor use, or choosing a turnout rug, use a seamstress' tape to determine the correct size. Hold one end of the tape at the center of your horse's chest, then measure along his side, back almost to the center of his tailbone; that's the size of blanket he needs.

*Choose a blanket or turnout rug suited for your climate. When we lived in central Minnesota, our horses and donkeys wore turnout rugs rated for serious mid-winter cold; here in Arkansas, a waterproof turnout sheet to wear when it rains during the winter does the trick.

*Because they aren't closely fitted, you can often adjust a slightly oversize turnout rug or sheet to fit your horse. Don't, however, buy a smaller garment than your horse needs as snug garments rub, especially in the shoulder area.

*Most turnout rugs come with stretchy elastic leg straps to help keep the cover in place. Choose a model with detachable leg straps; you can remove them to launder the rug (otherwise they can get twisted around your washer's dasher and damage the machine) and replace them if the stretch gives out before the garment itself.

Repairing blankets and turnouts

It isn't hard to keep horse garments in tiptop shape but you have to address problems as they occur. If binding pulls loose or you spy a rip, repair it before fixing it becomes a major job.

*It's fairly easy to hand sew horse garments using a large, sharp needle with waxed dental floss or artificial sinew. Artificial sinew is heavy, flat, waxed linen thread that comes on a spool and easily splits into four separate strands. I wouldn't be without it. Buy artificial sinew at Tandy Leather, buckskinner and Indian craft stores, or on eBay.

*My favorite needles for making repairs are curved glover's needles or surgical needles (make sure you buy surgical needles with an eye instead of the kind with a length of suture cord attached). These cut through soft to medium-soft leather, and nylon strapping like butter.

*Repair small rips with Storm Shield Repair Tape, available from most mail-order saddleries, or patch them using fabric from a worn out horse garment or another type of closely woven fabric. Keep in mind that while it helps to spritz patched spots with waterproofing spray, they will leak. Patches, however, prevent a small rip or snag from getting bigger.

*Replace broken chest straps on your favorite stable blanket or turnout rug using a single-ply nylon dog collar. Snip it in two and sew the straps down using artificial sinew or waxed dental floss.

*Places like Dover Saddlery and Schneiders Saddlery sell replacement surcingles, surcingle buckles, front closure assemblies, and leg straps. If you trash an old blanket or turnout, be sure to save these items for your replacables cache.

*In a pinch, you can replace broken or overstretched leg straps with wide elastic strapping from a sewing goods store, by measuring the correct length of elastic plus a few inches more, then knotting it to the hardware from your old leg straps.

Cleaning horse garments

Keep in mind that good blankets and turnout rugs aren't cheap, so treat them well and make them last.

*Constant washing diminishes your turnout rug's water resistance, so launder it only when you really must. Instead, hang it up between wearings, let it dry, and then brush off encrusted hair and grime.

*Restore a turnout rug's waterproof finish by treating it with products like Nikwax Synthetic Rug Proof or Nikwax Canvas Rug Proof. Most large saddlery stores carry it.

*Few home washers and drainage systems can cope with bulky, hair-encrusted blankets and turnout rugs. Instead of laundering them at home, brush off as much hair, mud, and manure as you can and run them through front-loading commercial washers at your favorite laundromat. Bulky horse clothing needs room to agitate, so don't overload the washers. If an item is truly filthy, you may need to send it through a second wash. When you're finished, swab the washer's interior with a damp cloth, and then run a complete cycle to flush away hair and debris.

*Before machine-washing blankets and turnout rugs, remove detachable leg straps and surcingles that could otherwise wrap around the machine's agitator. Roll non-removable surcingles up close to the body of the garment and secure the rolls with several strong rubber bands.

*Launder your horse's blanket or turnout rug in either cold or warm water unless a care tag directs otherwise. Don't use harsh detergents; they can permanently damage synthetic fabrics and detergent residue irritates many horses' skin. Fabric softeners and bleach also degrade waterproof breathable coating and shorten the life of a garment. Choose pure soap flakes, pet shampoo, or a commercial horse garment cleaner such as Nature's Blend Horse Blanket Wash or Rambo Rug Wash.

*Never machine-dry blankets, sheets, or rugs; heat shrinks many fabrics and can damage some synthetics. Line dry or hang blankets and rugs on a fence or stall partition. Indoors, aim a fan at the garment to hasten drying.

*New Zealand-style rugs with canvas exteriors and turnout rugs made of especially bulky materials aren't washer-friendly. To launder one of these items, hang it on a clothes line, a fence or stretch it out on a clean hard-surfaced floor. Use a plastic curry comb, stiff brush, broom, or shop-vac to remove hair, manure, and muck. Then hose it off and scrub, using any of the above named cleaning solutions. Do the inside of the rug as well, rinse thoroughly, and air dry.

*An easy, inexpensive way to clean a bulky rug is to take it a car wash. Secure it to the building's floor-mat clips and power wash away. When the item is saturated, hand scrub it with your favorite soap solution, blanket wash, or animal shampoo. Power rinse, scrub the other side, and then rinse again. To save time and money, dump rugs in an empty horse tank or plastic manure basket, presoak them in lukewarm sudsy water, then power rinse them at the car wash.

*To prevent it from mildewing, never store any type of equine clothing until it's bone dry. Store blankets and rugs in zippered bed blanket bags, in heavy-duty trash bags with the tops sealed shut, or in covered plastic storage totes; choose the latter if your blankets are stored in the barn or garage, where mice sometimes gnaw through bags or cardboard boxes. Never add mothballs; mothball residue is toxic, it irritates horses' skin, and moths aren't attracted to blankets made of synthetic fiber anyway. If your blankets have woolen linings, store them with plenty of mesh or cheesecloth bags of naturally moth-repellent herbs such as bergamot, hyssop, sage, or tansy. Cedar needles or shavings and eucalyptus leaves repel moths too.

Synthetic tack

Nylon web equipment has been around for more than 50 years. Nylon tack is strong, inexpensive, easy to clean, and it comes in many colors. However, exposed to direct

sunlight nylon web hardens, then it's not very pliable nor is it comfortable for your horse to wear.

Biothane is thermoplastic polyurethane-coated nylon. It's strong and durable, it doesn't crack or peel, and it doesn't absorb water or sweat. Biothane is flexible even in subzero temperatures and remains pliable over its lifetime. It's abrasion resistant, doesn't chafe, and it forms to your horse's contours with use. It outlasts most nylon gear and it comes in a dazzling array of colors.

Beta is made by the same company that developed Biothane. It's coated with soft PVC vinyl instead of urethane so that it looks and feels like leather, and it's abrasion resistant. Beta is a little more flexible than regular Biothane but its softer coating isn't quite as scratch and wear resistant.

Cordura is a soft, durable, abrasion-resistant, nylon fabric that comes in black and shades of brown as well as a startling array of vibrant colors.

Equileather looks like real leather but is more abrasion-resistant, it repels moisture including sweat, and it stays flexible in the coldest weather.

Equisuede is synthetic "rough side out" fabric used on synthetic saddle seats and chaps. It's comfortable, flexible, fast-drying, UV and fade resistant, and it doesn't get slippery when wet. It provides more grip than real suede, making it a favorite for riders seeking a secure seat.

*All of these synthetics are ultra-easy to clean. Use a medium-stiff, nylon grooming brush to remove hair and dirt, then wipe with a damp cloth. Items like synthetic girths and strap goods like bridles can be soaked in plain water, then wiped with a soft cloth to clean them.

Nylon halters

Premium nylon halters are soft and supple, never stiff. Good ones are two or three plies thick. They're colorful, inexpensive, and easy to care for, making them most horse owners' favorite everyday halter. Well maintained nylon halters can last for decades. Here's how to keep them pretty and functional for many years:

*Store nylon halters indoors to prevent the nylon stiffening, which, hung in direct sunlight it will do over time.

*When you buy a new nylon halter choose a strong, soft, high quality item with solid brass or stainless steel fittings. One really good nylon halter, well cared for, will outlast 3 or 4 stiff, poorly made items. Don't choose a halter with leather linings; with age, they become brutally stiff. Some colors last longer than others and color stability varies from brand to brand. Lighter colored halters are generally easier to re-color should you choose to do so.

*To clean a nylon halter submerge it in a pail of warm water at least overnight, then scrub away grime with a castoff toothbrush. Or saturate the halter with laundry stain remover before knotting it into a pillowcase and laundering it in your washer's cold or warm setting using laundry detergent. After air drying, trim away "fuzzies" with sharp shears or carefully singe them in a candle flame.

*Faded nylon halters can be partially color rejuvenated by dyeing them in double strength Rit dye solution. Follow the package instructions exactly. Keep in mind that resulting colors won't be rich as when the halter was new. Experiment with a single halter to make certain you like the results before committing all of your halters to a Rit makeover.

*Another way to spruce up dull colors is to soak the halter in a strong solution made from acrylic liquid colors, the sort used to decorate t-shirts and other garments. Or carefully daub the nylon with colorful leather dye. Again, don't expect these colors to look brand new.

*Renew frayed holes by very carefully heating a metal rod or a very large nail in a propane flame and re-burning them. Wear oven mitts! If burning creates jagged plastic build ups, lightly sand their edges with fine grit sandpaper.

Buy the right size

What size halter does your horse wear? Are you sure? For instance, a horse with a neat, small head may wear an Arabian, large pony, yearling, or cob size halter, depending on which tack company made it.

*Check your horse's halter to see if a maker and size label is attached somewhere; if so, you can order the same halter new from a discount horse supply catalog.

*Otherwise, the best way to be certain is to take his old halter with you when you shop for a new one, then keep the hang tags so that next time, if you like, you can order the same make and size from a saddlery catalog or online outlet.

DIY safety halters

Halters are handy but misused, they can kill.

*Don't leave a halter on a stalled horse unless there are no projections in the stall that he could snag the halter on. And more importantly, don't turn horses out in a pasture, paddock, or arena wearing a sturdy halter. It could catch on a fence post or tree limb and in his struggle to free himself, he could break his neck or a leg.

*If you have a horse that can't be caught unless he's wearing a turnout halter, use a flimsy, single-ply leather halter that will break if he catches it on something. Or buy a breakaway halter; some have lightweight leather crownpieces and some incorporate thin leather "fuses" or Velcro closures that open or break when stressed.

*In lieu of a turnout halter, buy two large, adjustable dog collars with plastic clip fittings at the dollar store, connect the two around your horse's throat and adjust them so you can

easily slip your hand beneath them for catching purposes. Don't buy sturdy dog collars with strong plastic clips; dollar store collars are strong enough to catch your horse and lead him but will readily break if stressed.



*Make your own safety halter. Buy a thrift shop or garage sale belt; leather is best but some heavyweight leather look-alikes will do. Choose one the same width as your turnout halter's crownpiece (measure beforehand or take the halter along to be sure), making certain the loose end of the crownpiece strap will pass easily through the belt's buckle and keeper. Trim and round the end of the belt about 7 to 8 inches below the buckle, then punch a hole roughly 2 inches below the keeper. It'll look like 2 two breakaway fuses at the right in the photo below. Now, buckle the fuse to your halter's crownpiece. When you halter your horse, you'll buckle the fuse into the halter exactly as you would the crownpiece if the fuse wasn't there (see above). If your horse's halter snags on something, he'll pull back and the fuse will break. You might have just saved your his life!



*Another simple way to make a breakaway fuse is to snip an 8” piece of flexible leather from an old purse, boot, or heavy leather coat, cutting it the same width as your halter’s crownpiece. Find a trashed halter having the same width crownpiece as your good one and salvage its buckle. Next, double the strip of leather and punch a hole at the center of its fold-over point. Feed your buckle onto the strap with its tongue poking through the hole. Punch 2 more holes about 1 inch below the buckle and knot a skinny strip of leather through them to secure the hardware in place. Punch a final hole 2 to 3 inches below the center of the belt buckle, trim and round the ends, and use it exactly like the breakaway fuse in the tip above this one.

*Or, if your halter has adjustment buckles on both sides of the crownpiece, simply replace the crownpiece with a similar length of worn, lightweight leather belt.

*Check your homemade safety halters often and replace breakaway fuses when they wear out. And remember: don’t tie your horse using a halter with a breakaway fuse or a flimsy leather crownpiece in place. Safety halters are meant to snap easily when pressure is applied.

Storing tack

Keep your leather tack in tiptop shape by storing it correctly.

*Clean your gear before storing it for any length of time. Mice sometimes chew leather tack, so store clean leather strap goods in water- and mouse-proof containers like secondhand footlockers or heavy plastic totes. These are good repositories for synthetic tack too.

*Store your saddle on a rack and cover it with something; an old blanket or sheet works well.

*Protect the horn on your western and Australian saddle during storage or transport by stuffing an old sock with padding and securing it over the horn.

*If your tack has to be stored for an extended time, place it indoors in a temperature-controlled environment. Extreme cold and heat are hard on leather.

*Be sure to occasionally check stored equipment for mildew and remember to condition it periodically so it doesn't dry out.

Cleaning tack

Cleaning tack keeps it looking good and prolongs its useful life.

*Never apply standard cleaners or conditioners to rough out or suede leather, choose commercial suede cleaner instead. Or occasionally renew rough-out western saddles and rough-out saddle seats, as well as the suede padded flaps on English saddles, by lightly sanding them with fine grit (#240) sand paper. Avoid sanding any stitching.

*Caught in a downpour? While your leather gear is still sodden, give it a full-scale cleaning and conditioning. Use lots of conditioner. When your tack dries, it'll be good as new.

*Spot clean smudges on white leather using a moist cloth dipped in baking powder or a mild household cleanser like Bon Ami.

*Brighten bits and stirrup irons by scrubbing away major grime, then placing them in a knotted pillowcase and running them through 1 cycle in the dishwasher. Use baking soda instead of detergent.

*Save your family's soft, worn out toothbrushes for cleaning tack. They're great for getting in to hard-to-reach spots and for cleaning silver plate. Use a toothbrush to scrub girth and rein elastic using toothpaste and stirrup leathers with dish soap.

*The green gunk you see on brass and nickel silver is oxidation. Use a baby wipe to quickly clean brass and nickel silver hardware after every ride and Brasso for deep cleaning.

*Clean copper bit ports with ketchup. Leave the ketchup on for at least 5 minutes to let it work its magic.

*Some saddlery silver is expensive sterling but most is silver plate (a thin glaze of silver electroplated to copper or another less-expensive metal). Clean both the same, with one caveat: don't scrub silver plate vigorously and often. It can quickly wear thin.

*Everyday supermarket toothpaste makes a fine, inexpensive silver polish when applied with a moistened soft-bristled toothbrush. Plain baking soda works well, too. Thoroughly rinse cleaned pieces and polish them dry.

*To clean large silver-mounted items such as bits or metal stirrups, or removable saddle, bridle, breast collar, and halter silver, line a pot or baking pan with aluminum foil, and on it, arrange the silver so that no pieces touch. Cover with boiling water and then stir in a small amount of baking soda. The water will foam and fizz. An hour later, remove items

one at a time and buff them dry. This process also squeaky-cleans copper and brass bit ports and ornamentation.

*Fittings on most English saddlery, buckles and hardware on better halters and leads, and even quality name plates are usually made of brass or German silver. However, the marriage between these metals, leather, and its cleaners is rarely a happy one. Tarnished brass and German silver fittings ooze a gummy coating of green or black goo that can be removed by scrubbing them with commercial cleaners like Brasso, a mixture of salt and lemon juice, or just plain ketchup. Whichever you chose, use it before you clean the rest of the item. When dry, remove spills from neighboring leather, then buff the fittings with a clean, soft cloth.

*Machine wash most real wool (including felt) saddle pads and blankets using commercial woolen cleaners such as Woolite and the gentlest cold water setting on your washing machine. Immerse the pad or blanket, and then agitate for a minute or so. Switch the machine off and allow the item to soak for as long as needed. You may have to gently hand scrub to loosen stubborn, crusty sweat, or manure stains. When finished, agitate for another minute, then run the item through a single spin cycle. Repeat the process in a washer full of plain, cold water, then lay the pad or blanket flat to dry.

*Before hand or machine washing any saddle blanket or pad, make certain any dyes (especially reds) are colorfast by scrubbing a small, inconspicuous area with plain, cold water.

*Add apple cider vinegar to the rinse cycle when laundering saddle pads, leg wraps, blankets and turnouts, and the like. It helps remove soap residue and removes odors too.

*Hand clean wool blankets, pads, or the underside of your western saddle by dry-scrubbing with a stiff-bristle brush, then again with a soft brush dipped in a bucket of Woolite-laced cold water. Follow with a clean towel dunked in plain water, then air dry.

*Use a dog slicker brush to gently fluff wooly fleece style saddle pads and the underside of western saddles.

*To keep light-colored leather light, choose only pH-neutral cleaners and conditioners. Apply oils sparingly, if at all, and never use petroleum-based products.

*Avoid using saddle soap on your saddle's seat and flaps or fenders if you're wearing light-colored chaps, pants, or breeches because it sometimes rubs off. If you need to use saddle soap, polish your saddle really well using a clean cloth to remove any remaining soap.

*To remove small scratches, moisten a soft cloth with olive oil and rub it into leather using a circular motion until the scratch disappears. Wipe off any remaining oil.

*Drop synthetic headstalls and reins, breast collars, cinches, halters, and other gear into an old pillowcase, knot it shut, and wash it in your washing machine using mild laundry detergent and a cool water setting.

*To prevent your near stirrup leather stretching longer than its mate, switch your leathers right to left and vice versa whenever you clean your English saddle.

*Use a synthetic sponge with a non-abrasive scrubber backing on ground-in sweat and grunge.

*Whenever you clean your gear, check for stress damage like cracks or enlarged holes, especially wherever leather bends or buckles. Examine metal fittings for cracks and bent tongues. Watch for damaged or missing stitching. And check western saddle rigging and English billets and stirrup leathers for stretch and excessive wear.

*Make your own scented glycerin saddle conditioner using this recipe:

1. Break a bar of glycerin soap into chunks and microwave for 30 seconds, then remove and stir; microwave for 30 seconds and stir again, repeating until the soap is melted. A typical bar yields about 2 cups
2. Stir in ¼ cup of milk or cream for each 2 cups of melted soap.
3. Add 4 to 6 drops of your favorite essential oil and 2 tablespoons of olive oil.
4. Mix everything quickly before the soap re-solidifies and store it in an air-tight container

* Or try this saddlery conditioner based on Ivory bar soap.

1. Grate ¾ cup of Ivory bar soap and ½ cup beeswax. Do not mix. Have ¼ cup of pure neatsfoot oil (not neatsfoot oil compound) standing by.
2. Bring 3 ½ cups of water to a boil over High heat, then reduce to Medium heat.
3. Add the grated Ivory soap to the water and stir until melted, then add the beeswax and stir until melted.
4. Remove the pot from the stove and stir in the neatsfoot oil. Stir until the mix cools and thickens. Pour into and store in a sealable container.

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[About the Author](#)

Sue Weaver was horse-crazy from the get-go. She bought her first horse in 1959 and has been owned by horses ever since. She began writing professionally in 1969 when her first article was published in The Western Horseman magazine. Since then she's written hundreds of articles, first specializing in horse magazines, then publications affiliated

with Hobby Farms magazine. She's also written 12 books for mainline publishing houses: five in the Hobby Farms series, including a new book about miniature goats, for Lumina Media (a.k.a. Bowtie Press and i-5 Publishing) and seven for Storey Publishing. All relate to livestock or poultry including pigs, goats, sheep, cattle, chickens, donkeys, llamas and alpacas. She is a self-taught writer.

Sue lives on a 29-acre property in the southern Ozarks, along with her husband of 40 years and a huge animal family composed of horses (Curlies, Miniatures, Half-Arabians, and a 29-year-old Standardbred); a donkey; Miniature Cheviot sheep and a few others; Boer, Nubian, Alpine, and mixed breed goats; a llama; a tame razorback hog; guinea fowl; chickens; and a passel of dogs, most of which are former rescues. The money she earns from her writing is used solely to buy animal feed. Thank you for buying her books!

~ Print books by Sue Weaver (buy them wherever books are sold) ~

Chickens; Tending a Small-Scale Flock, 2nd Edition (Lumina Media; 2005 and 2011)

Sheep; Small-Scale Sheep Keeping for Pleasure and Profit (Lumina Media; 2005)

Goats; Small-Scale Herding for Pleasure and Profit (Lumina Media; 2006)

Llamas and Alpacas; Keeping a Small-Scale Camelid Herd (Lumina Media; 2009)

Storey's Guide to Raising Meat Goats; Managing, Breeding, Marketing, 2nd Edition [written under the pseudonym, Maggie Sayer] (Storey Publishing; 2007 and 2010)

The Donkey Companion; Selecting, Training, Breeding, Enjoying and Caring for Donkeys (Storey Publishing; 2008)

Storey's Guide to Raising Miniature Livestock: Goats, Sheep, Donkeys, Pigs, Horses, Cattle, Llamas (Storey Publishing; 2010)

The Backyard Goat; an Introductory Guide to Keeping and Enjoying Pet Goats, from Feeding and Housing to Making Your Own Cheese (Storey Publishing; 2011)

The Backyard Cow; an Introductory Guide to Keeping a Productive Family Cow (Storey Publishing; 2012)

The Backyard Sheep; an Introductory Guide to Keeping Productive Pet Sheep (Storey Publishing; 2013)

Homegrown Pork; Humane, Healthful Techniques for Raising a Pig for Food (Storey Publishing; 2013)

Mini-Goats: Everything You Need to Know to Keep Miniature Goats in the City, Country, or Suburbs (Lumina Media; 2016)

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Sue Weaver – Ozark Writer

www.ozarkwriter.com

goatberrypie@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/sue.weaver.writer