

## Spring Horse Check-Up

Spring weather has horsemen across the area excited about rodeo's, play days, horse shows and pleasure riding. However, before riding too far, make sure you give Old Bay a check up.

The first check up factor is "Old Bays" feet. No foot, no horse the old timers claim. Trim your horses' feet or have him shod if needed.

Teeth are another check up point. Horses, like people have teeth problems that not only effect how they are able to chew and utilize feed, but in many cases how they respond to the bridle. I recommend you have your horses' teeth and mouth checked by an equine dentist or veterinarian and teeth floated if needed.

Spring is also a good time for internal parasite control. Deworming a horse is generally recommended, spring and fall. Check with your local veterinarian on products to use for parasite control. As you consult with your veterinarian about dewormers, also find out about preventative vaccine recommendations for your horse to prevent disease. Sleeping sickness, tetanus, rhino and west Nile are diseases or sickness issues that have preventative vaccines available.

Also, keep in mind that horses that have been used only lightly in the winter will not be in physical condition to handle hard rides or workouts. On unfit horses, build up riding or exercise time gradually to help prevent body soreness.

A spring check up makes for a happier and healthier horse. For further information, call the Tulsa County OSU Extension Office (918) 746-3725.

["Oklahoma State University, U. S. Department of Agriculture, State and Local governments cooperating. Oklahoma State University in compliance with Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246 as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other federal and state laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, disability, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices, or procedures](#)