

JANUARY 2009

NO FOOT NO HORSE

The Official newsletter of The American Farrier's Association



EDUCATION | CERTIFICATION | COMMUNICATION | INNOVATION | RESEARCH

START THE NEW YEAR WITH A NEW FOCUS ON THE ART AND CRAFT OF FARRIERY

BEING A FARRIER...It's Not Just Another Job
By Bryan Farcus, MA, CJF with Doug Butler, PhD, CJF, FWCF

When I was an undergraduate in Business College, my tenured marketing professor would periodically spiel-out with conviction in his voice, "If you choose to work just any job, you will be forever living only to work; but, if you follow your passion for a career you will work so that you may live and enjoy life". Of all my years learning and teaching, I have found no better advice.

For several years following my business education, I worked as an accountant and office manager. Within a short period, I realized that I was experiencing precisely what my college professor so adamantly forewarned me of. I was, in fact, living only to work. Upon a re-evaluation of what I really enjoyed in life, I chose to pursue a career that would include what I have a great passion for-- working with horses. Turning a desire to become a successful farrier into reality will, undoubtedly, require an unwavering determination to seek-out guidance from more experienced and accomplished farriers. It will take many years to gain a mastery level of competency in the areas of conformation assessment, gait assessment, and the application of supportive horseshoes. Treating horses with abnormalities with corrective shoes requires taking your skill to a much higher level.

I feel privileged to have had the help of many farriers who have come before me and I am extremely grateful to those mentor farriers who so graciously taught me. One of my mentors, Dr. Doug Butler, shares his advice annually during a Farrier Focus® conference. Dr. Butler has been teaching horse-shoeing in public and private settings for the past 40 years. The following is his advice on what you should consider as you prepare for a career as a farrier...

"Ideally, to learn the farrier's craft you should have hands-on experience practicing the skills of eye development, tool handling and horsemanship with live, working horses. This is most valuable. To master the craft, learning from one-on-one mentoring is necessary."

"A competent farrier must possess skill developed from above average training and extensive practical experience in anatomy, physiology, pathology, conformation and biomechanics of the horse. In order to enjoy the highest level of respect within your horse-shoeing community, you must have command of the in-depth knowledge of the horse's foot, business concerns, horse and people relationships, as well as metal forging technology."

"Keep in mind that being a farrier is unlike any other job. It is physically, mentally and emotionally hard. To have sustainable success, you must possess a strong work ethic and be a person of integrity. This should be considered an obligation and not just an option. Your image will either make or destroy your career."

"The single, most important thing to consider as you look at a farrier career is to realize that true competency in the farrier's craft and in life is a combination of skill plus character."

Not everyone is willing to make that commitment. Are you?

"I can honestly say that there are few good things in life that have come to me without hard work and determination". – Bryan Farcus, MA, CJF

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FEBRUARY 25–28, 2009
www.AFAConvention.com

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Register For The AFA Convention Online at: www.AFAConvention.com

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear AFA Members & Friends,

Welcome to our first edition of NFNH in 2009. In the spirit of starting the New Year off on the right foot we've packed this issue with informative convention news, inspiration from farriers passed and present, business tips to utilize every month of the year, a fact sheet on foal trimming and a preview of what we can expect from America's Most Trusted Horseman, John Lyons, a keynote speaker on Horsemen's Day in Chattanooga.

We have been blessed with wonderful feedback and valuable suggestions as to how to continually improve and tweak NFNH into the farrier community's favorite news.

I hope to hear from you too! Please feel free to call or email anytime. 

With appreciation to farriers around the world...

Susan



Email:
Susan@rhp.us.com

TREASURER'S LETTER

American Farriers Association Treasurer's Report

Humble beginnings: Nearly forty years ago a group of forward thinking farriers got together to form the American Farriers Association. At that very first meeting these dedicated men and women chose to ensure the future of our industry. From those humble beginnings, their vision has propelled our profession beyond anything they could have imagined. With an eye to the future, we pledge to keep that vision alive for all that have come before, to all who are here today, and to those yet to come.

The challenge: With the economy in recession, this is a year of many challenges for our Association, but also a year of opportunity. Much work has already begun in the areas of reducing our bloated budget and streamlining expenses.

Reducing our bloated budget: Finance Committee has worked diligently with the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors on the financial issues of most concern to all of us. We have implemented a spending freeze on all but the most vital functions. All reimbursement requests are reviewed and approved by the entire EC before any checks can be released.

Strict, verifiable spending policies: All written requests must be accompanied by a detailed explanation of why this particular expenditure must be approved. We must be frugal and stop spending money we just don't have. We will clean up our balance sheet and create new revenue, make wise investments and re-evaluate, scrutinize or even shed our most distressed, under utilized or under performing programs.

Invoices have been sent out and all bills paid to date. Our prudent reserve of \$100,000.00 is safe and secure in a separate bank account. We will not know the full impact of the economy until after the convention but as of this date the numbers are encouraging.

Respectfully,
John Blombach, CJF
AFA Treasurer

Year to date:
Total Income - \$311,333.35
Total Expenses - \$245,609.88
Surplus - \$65,723.47

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear AFA Members & Friends,

I'd like to start by wishing each and everyone of you not only a Happy New Year, but the best year of your life. It is my hope that 2009 will be a great year for you, your loved ones, and our extended family in the farrier community and equine professions.

As we start the New Year, I hope that you are enjoying this 2nd edition of the new and improved NO FOOT NO HORSE newsletter. It is now available online in its entirety, and in a weekly interactive eNews by email with the most up-to-date AFA news and events; we have progressed from an Association that went months on end without communicating to members, to delivering AFA information at least once a week. In addition to the AFA's 2700 members, the NFNH eNews is delivered every Friday to nearly 40,000 equine enthusiasts around the world in an effort to market the AFA as the world's premiere source of quality farriery.

In these challenging and competitive times, it is critical to keep the AFA's name and programs in the forefront of farrier's minds while simultaneously impressing horse owners with the importance of quality hoof care by an AFA farrier.

In the mere 6-weeks that the new NFNH has been up and running we have already experienced a refreshingly positive change in our membership's attitude toward the Association. We have known for a long time that the main desire of the membership is to receive timely communications from the AFA; we are certainly proud of the way we are communicating at this moment. The use of email gives our members an active voice in the AFA community and an easy way to respond to matters that concern them. The interactivity of "hotlinks" or "livelinks" in NFNH eNews gives members the ability to instantly access advertisers, sponsors and details on the Association's current activities and events. If you have not been receiving this information and would like to, please update your email address through the office and request NFNH to be sent to your email address.

With the current economic climate, it is imperative that the AFA utilizes the most effectual means to support and market the value of its membership, and the programs, it brings to the equine community at-large. As horse owners make the necessary adjustments to their bottom line, the competition to keep our customers is sure to increase. We will all lose some of the horses we shoe simply because owners will not be able to afford to have them, and take care of them. Therefore, it is up to each of us personally, to work diligently to keep the customers we have, market ourselves to new customers and make more money on each horse we service. To do so, we will need to represent ourselves to our customers as knowledgeable, qualified and educated; in other words, the best value in hoof care to horses owners. The AFA supports its members in these efforts by continually providing opportunities to learn more and work smarter by taking advantage of AFA programs and member benefits. The biggest benefit and competitive edge the AFA provides its members is the Association's Annual Convention.

Attending educational functions like the AFA Convention not only differentiates you with the knowledge you gain; it speaks volumes to your customers. It tells your customers that you are proactively doing all you can, to be the best farrier you can be. It will be important through these times that each of us build our stature in the equine community and convey the significance of regular and quality hoof care by a skilled professional to the overall well being of the horse.

The AFA takes its role in your success very seriously by offering members the resources needed to distinguish themselves as the best educated farriers serving the multi-billion dollar equine industry.

The AFA's 38th Annual Convention in Chattanooga offers phenomenal learning opportunities for farriers at every level. The Convention is an affordable investment in your career; it attracts 1000s of this country's hoof care professionals and draws farriers from as far as Japan, South Africa and Europe.

In my 30 years of shoeing horses, across this country and attending AFA functions, it never ceases to amaze me how much information is out there for us to take advantage of. This February in Chattanooga will be a virtual mother load of tools, ideas, lectures, clinics, demonstrations and one-on-one mentoring with the top names in the farrier world.

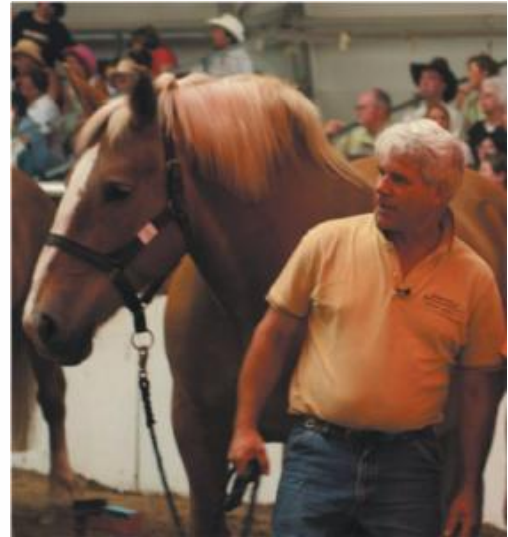
All you need to do is get there.

Yours truly,

Andrew Elsbree, CJF

President, AFA

Email: DAE283@AOL.COM



Chattanooga
eScribe

See what readers are saying about No Foot No Horse...

"I look forward to having my Association news delivered to my "doorstep" in the way it is meant to be, quickly and up-to-date."

"Just read your letter in NFNH and really appreciate your attitude and enthusiasm."

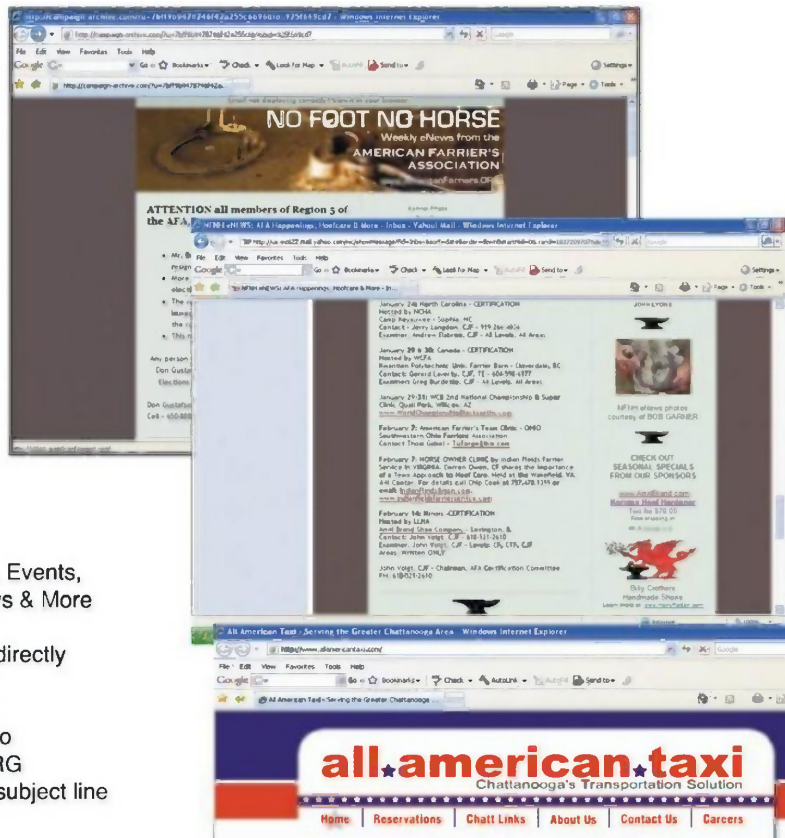
"A big step in the right direction, long overdue, lets keep the momentum going in a positive meaningful way"

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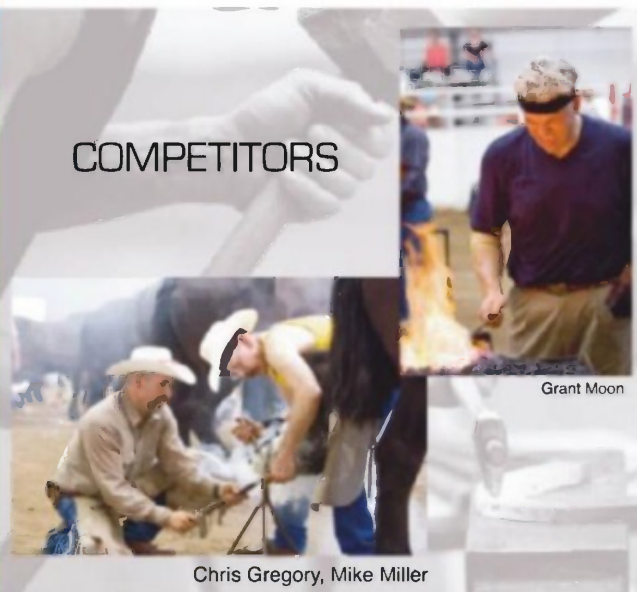


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Grant Moon

Chris Gregory, Mike Miller

An unwavering COMMITMENT to EDUCATION...

On July 1, 2008 the AFA reached out to future farriers across this country and extended an offer like no other. Students enrolled in a 6-week or longer Farrier Course now became eligible to receive a one-year **Free Student Membership** from the Association.

To date, over 225 students have taken advantage of this offer. Student Members have access to all of the educational resources the AFA offers including:

- complimentary issues of Professional Farrier
- a Certification Study Guide
- the NO FOOT NO HORSE newsletter
- NFNH Weekly eNews by email
- NTRA discounts
- and the biggest benefit of all...

STUDENT MEMBERS CAN ATTEND THE AFA ANNUAL CONVENTION FOR ONLY \$100

STUDENT MEMBERS MAY REGISTER FOR THE CONVENTION ONLINE AT:
www.AFAConvention.com

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MULTIPLE WORLD CHAMPIONS TO COMPETE IN CHATTANOOGA...

This year's National Horseshoeing & Forging Competition will serve as a battleground for world's foremost farriers as they contend for national titles under the collective scrutiny of Conrad Trow, CJF, Austin Edens, CJF (2002WC) and European Champion Steven Beane, AWCF.

Sparks will fly, tempers will flare and anvils will ring out with heart and soul of each competitor in every hammer blow. Competition is the fertile ground of innovation in the farrier world; it has served as the training zone for many great AFA clinicians and mentors.

Among this year's field of famed farriers are multiple World Champions:

BILLY CROTHERS, AWCF
5x World Champion

GRANT MOON, AWCF
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CRAIG TRNKA, CJF
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MARK MILSTER, CJF
2001 World Champion

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“Begin with a description of what it is—in spite of what it calls itself.”

“Uniformed discussion is a waste of time.”

“The answer is inconsequential. It’s how we go about finding the answer.”

- Allen Smith, CJF (Former AFA President, 1931 - 2008)

SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT AT THE AFA CONVENTION

Gene Armstrong, CJF

Who are we working for? Don’t forget the horse!

Pat Burton, CJF – Laminitis an inside look

Dr. David Hayes, CJF, DVM

One step horsemanship – A sensible approach to horse handling

Mike Spitzer, CJF - Shoeing hunters

Pattie Spitzer – Show hunters a judge’s perspective

Dr. Meike Van Heel, DVM – Balance in Motion

AFA pre-certification workshop

John Voigt, CJF

Hands on anatomy labs with Allie Hayes

American Farriers Team demonstrations

Jake Engler, CJF, Gene Lieser, CJF, James Foy, CJF & Troy Price, CJF

Steve Kraus, CJF

The effects of conformation on soundness and performance

John Lyons

How to make your horse stand for the Farrier

Dr. Daniel Burba, DVM - Working in quarantined barns

Chris Gregory, CJF, FWCF & Ryan Carter, CJF

Shoeing the roping horse

BETTER BUSINESS TIP

**This Time,
It's Personal...**



Everyone likes personalized attention, and it seems that a handwritten note might be worth the time it takes to write.

An interesting study discussed by Robert Cialdini in the book *Yes! 50 Scientifically Proven Ways to Be Persuasive*.

When researchers sent a survey to busy doctors with three different cover letters, and each produced a dramatically different result:

- A PRINTED LETTER GENERATED A RESPONSE RATE OF 36 PERCENT.
- A PRINTED LETTER WITH A HANDWRITTEN MESSAGE BOOSTED THIS BY ONE THIRD TO 48 PERCENT.
- A PRINTED LETTER WITH A HANDWRITTEN MESSAGE ON A POST-IT NOTE PUSHED THE RESPONSE RATE TO 75 PERCENT.

The next time and every time you send a bill to a customer remember to send a simple note a thanks on a Post-it! It builds good relations and prompts a quick response.

□ □ □ □

Source: Neuromarketing

Creating A Positive Shoeing Experience

By Bryan Farcus MA, CJF with John Lyons

A Winning Game Plan...

One of the things that determine success is how far and how well we plan ahead. Most farriers are good at planning for the technical aspect of trimming and shoeing a horse and, by the same token, they may assume that the horse owner has been just as conscientious in preparing a horse for a farrier’s visit. Unfortunately, such an assumption may not be the case. It is the obligation of both the horse owner and the equine professional to come up with a safe, horse logical game plan for shoeing, before the horse’s foot leaves the floor.

To each job a farrier brings, with him or her, a compilation of their prior experiences. Whether good or bad, each experience serves to influence the next. Over the years, I’ve been fortunate to have had some of the best mentors from both the horseshoeing and horse training worlds. I’ve learned, firsthand, how beneficial the power of planning can be. Our horses depend on us to develop that winning game plan that can bridge the gap between good horseshoeing and good horsemanship. It’s a great honor and privilege to have the opportunity to join with my friend and mentor, John Lyons, as we share some tips on how to maintain control of a shoeing situation, in order to create a positive experience for all. Way too often, positive shoeing experiences are lopsided. For example, the outcome is such that the horse seems satisfied, but the farrier and the owner are not; or perhaps the outcome is one where the owner seems satisfied,

Working in the Real World...

Though it may seem obvious, the first step to creating a positive shoeing experience (like any other) is to do as John often advocates, start where you can, not where you can't. It's human nature for a motivated individual to multi-task and perhaps shortcut steps to reach a goal more rapidly. But, when it comes to reaching goals with our horses, this approach usually ends in failure. Whether you're picking-up a shoeing hammer or picking-up a horse's foot for the first time, it's imperative to start at a level that will set you up with steps that are smaller and more obtainable. Unfortunately, in the real world of our horses, there are many opportunities for even the most well planned efforts to go wrong, long before the farrier ever steps foot in the barn. So, now you may ask, how can the farrier have a positive influence, prior to a visit?

Here are a few suggestions:

Get acquainted with a courtesy call-- Sometimes we don't get the right information simply because we forget to ask. Don't be a victim of a don't ask, don't tell situation. Ask for the history of the horse, both in regards to any hoof health concerns, as well as any behavioral. Also, inquiring about the current level of training and/or the methods the owner may subscribe to, can give you an insight to the reality of the situation. The equine professional must decide if the goals/desires of the horse owner are reasonable and obtainable at this time?

Observe the horse's tolerance-- Upon arrival; take note of the interaction between the owner and the horse. Who's setting the tune? The horse or the human? Is the main influence by the owner bribery-based or cue-based? Bribery is usually a band-aid approach and will not give the handler enough control to keep the farrier safe and will inhibit the farrier's ability to work efficiently.

Neutral is not enough-- In many situations, particularly in potentially dangerous ones, some may advise you to stay neutral. However, when dealing with a nervous or pushy horse, this is not going to be the answer. As the leader, we must provide a motivator (or as John describes it, a reason to change). It is best to be directional in your approach. Focus on what you want him to do and not on what he is doing wrong. For example, if he is not standing still, attempting to stop and tie him or hold him in place will not be easy, if it is even possible. Instead, think of steering him into a stand still. Start by following this simple formula as you or the owner attempts to move the horse around. Pick a Spot (such as the tail): a Motivator (a noise or a tap): Direction (forward/back/left/right): and then a Reward (usually just the release or stopping of an action is all it takes). When following this approach, it doesn't take long to see the positive effects of John's concept - control without pain will equal trust and respect. It's always better to avoid scolding your horse. Our goal is to get him more responsive, not more apprehensive.

Offer advice and educate-- As farriers we want to be politically correct, but this doesn't mean that it should be at the expense of our safety. It is not only appropriate, but actually a professional obligation to speak-up and offer advice to help control and set the stage for your shoeing visits. I have found it very helpful and ultimately efficient to take a few minutes to give each new client a welcome pre-printed pamphlet, which states my expectations, work area requirements, and even a list of trainers and/or methods that I recommend to help prepare for future visits.

Confirm the commitment by following-up-- In most cases, the emphasis on the importance of practicing any suggested exercise is most effectively reinforced when we actually follow-up. If we expect a commitment from our horse owners we, professionals, must show our commitment by keeping up with any progress. If the client knows that you will call or check-in with them, by scheduling a shorter follow-up re-visit, they may be more motivated to develop a more reliable routine. Creating a positive shoeing experience will only become a priority of the horse owner, if it is clear to them that it is your (the farrier's) priority as well.

Keeping an Edge is the Key...

Among professionals of all crafts, it is universally understood that the routine sharpening of a tool is the only way to achieving the highest quality product. When it comes to the care of our horses, horse shoeing and horse handling skills are no different. By taking time to hone both our tools of horse shoeing and horsemanship, we can improve all aspects of a shoeing experience. By focusing on the real aspect of horsemanship, we can arrive at real solutions for those all too real, everyday problems that seem to come-up.—This is, and will always be, one of the greatest challenges a farrier will ever face.

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John Lyons (L) with Bryan Farcus, MA, CJF (R)

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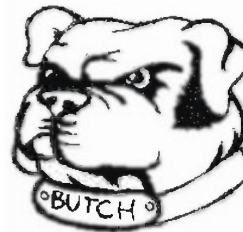
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Foal Hoof Care Fact Sheet When and How Often to Trim?

Scott McKendrick



Scott McKendrick, CJF, USU Extension Coordinator of Equine and Small Acreage Programs
Dr. Kerry A. Rood, MS, DVM, Associate Professor and USU Extension Veterinarian
Dr. Patricia Evans, Assistant Professor, Extension Equine Specialist, USU

There are many steps that need to be taken at foaling time and shortly thereafter to optimize mare and foal health, vigor and longevity. The purpose of this fact sheet is to help horse owners who are raising foals have a greater understanding of the importance of early hoof care and the continuous routine care necessary to optimize proper hoof and leg structure, performance and long term soundness of their equine friend.

Some foals may be born with major hoof and leg deviations that will require more than early hoof trimming techniques (these foals may require veterinary care or surgery) to minimize these deviations. Amazingly, proper hoof trimming can adjust and improve minor deviations and, more importantly, maintain correct leg structure in foals born with adequately correct legs and hooves. It is equally amazing what neglect or lack of proper trimming will do to foals that have only slight leg deviations and/or even to foals born with straight legs. Although there are few foals born with "perfect" legs, this fact sheet will help foal owners address improving minor deviations and keeping the perfect foal correct.

The First Trim

Horse owners often wonder when to trim their foal for the first time. Some suggest that no hoof care is needed until the foal is a year old or even worse, until started into riding training. Waiting a year or even two is never acceptable when considering the welfare of the animal. Hooves get long, wear or break unevenly or even worse yet—don't wear or break at all, thus escalating leg strain and deviation potential.

As the foal matures bones harden and joints formalize making corrections impossible. ALL corrective trimming and efforts to maintain the correct form and function of the leg MUST be implemented well before the foal is 1 year old. Corrective trimming after a horse is 1 year old will usually cause more damage and leg stress over time than it will correct because the bone growth plates are closing (becoming inactive). The greatest successes are a result of early innovation and continued efforts to make corrections slowly with only slight adjustments each trimming. This will allow the limb to self correct as much as possible while causing minimal stress as the bones and joints are modified to a more correct, sound stance and structure.

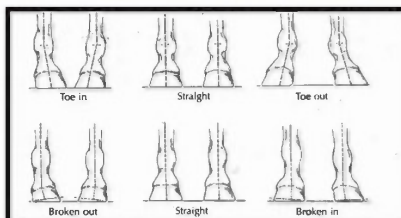
The foal should have its first trim at 3 to 4 weeks of age if the legs are fairly straight and normal. Earlier intervention should be applied if needed to make major adjustments—remember: "the earlier the better" when it comes to trying to modify a deviated bony column. As most foals are born with some deviation, early intervention helps maximize the success of the corrective trimming efforts.

When a foal is born, its feet, particularly its front, are fairly pointed (Photo 1). The point on the front feet aids in positioning and delivery through the birth canal plus aids in the tearing of the placenta upon delivery. Once the foal is born the pointed feet become a liability. Due to the hoof shape the foal is unable to break (roll over the toe when stepping) directly over the front of the hoof. This causes the flight path to break to either the outside or inside (most common) of the point causing the foal to become toed in (pigeon toed) or toed out (splay footed). Neglect at this point allows additional wear during break-over, thus contributing to additional deviations if neglected.



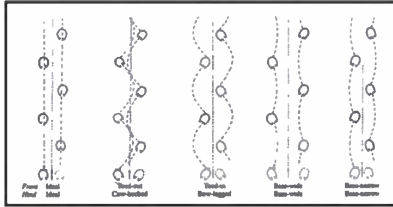
A Point to Remember: "All hoof and leg deviations from the ideal get worse with neglect of hooves and excess growth; and can even become more deviated in their form and function."
—Scott S. McKendrick, CJF

FIGURE 1:



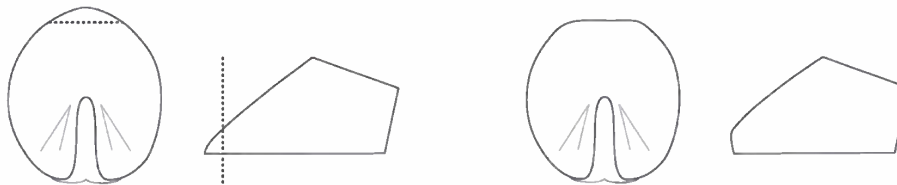
Shows common leg deviations, the dotted line shows where to trim to correct stance and way of going.

FIGURE 2:

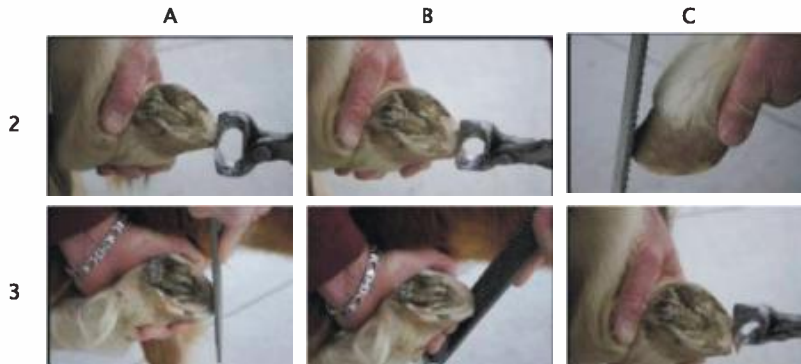


Shows the foot path of common deviations from various conformation faults.

The goal of the first trim is to provide a straight break-over point on the hoof. This will discourage any inward or outward deviation in the leg structure and movement pattern thus correcting and/or reducing future deviation increase. Figures 3 and 5 indicate the original shape of the foal's hoof and the area to be trimmed or squared. Figures 4 and 6 show the trimmed hoof shape from a ground surface view and lateral view, respectively. These drawings illustrate the goal of the first trim and even subsequent trims of the young horse. It should provide a straight and easy break over point for the stride. This will correct minimal deviations and provide a straight path for already correct feet and legs that will help maintain the correct bone structure.



The trim can be accomplished by either a toe squaring cut with the hoof nippers. In small hooves it may only require one snip across the toe to accomplish the goal (Photos 2 a, b, & c). The same outcome can be achieved by dragging the rasp over the front of the hoof a few times to remove the point squaring the toe allowing for proper break over. Photos 3 a, b, c, demonstrate different angles and direction to rasp to accomplish the square toe with a rasp.



Trimming for a slightly rolled (Photo 4) or square toe (Photo 5) will greatly enhance correct break-over and thus proper bony column growth in the young horse.



4



5

Cont. on pg.13

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Schedule of AFA Approved Certifications

John Voigt, CJF Chairman, Certification Committee
(618) 521-2610

January 16 & 17, 2009 – Texas

Hosted by TXPFA
Pat Burton's Shop – Burleson, TX
Contact: Alan Larson, CJF – 281-482-3940
Examiner: Dennis Manning, CJF
All Levels, All Areas

January 17, 2009– California

Hosted by WSFA
Agua Dulce, CA
Contact: Thomas Trosin, CF – 818-768-6011
Examiner: Robert Mederos, CJF
All Levels, All Areas

January 24, 2009 – North Carolina

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Camp Keyauwee – Sophia, NC
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Examiner: Andrew Elsbree, CJF
All Levels, All Areas

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Examiner: Greg Burdette, CJF
All Levels, All Areas

February 14, 2009 – Illinois

Hosted by LLHA
Anvil Brand Shoe Company – Lexington, IL
Contact: John Voigt, CJF – 618-521-2610
Examiner: John Voigt, CJF
Levels: CF, CTF, CJF
Areas: Written ONLY

March 13 & 14, 2009 – Colorado

Hosted by RMFA
Colorado State University Equine Center – Ft. Collins
Contact: John Hilderbrant – 970-222-4525
Examiner: David Wright, CJF
All Levels, All Areas

May 1 & 2, 2009 – Minnesota

Hosted by MNFA
Princeton, MN
Contact: Terry Dokken, CF – 612-245-8512
Examiner: Dusty Franklin, CJF
All Levels, All Areas

Exam Fees: \$45 - CF, CTF, CJF



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AFA Clinics, Happenings & Events

January 15: Cultural Exchange Program Applications due. The program has some incredible short term trips for the busy farrier. Contact Vern Powell, CJF at: mvpfarrierservice@sbcglobal.net and/or visit: <http://www.theamericanfarriers.com/culturalex.html> or call the AFA Office directly at 859.233.7411

January 17-18: BOB MARSHALL CLINIC @ Harry Patton
Harry Patton, Monrovia, CA.
Hands-On Forging with 5x World Champion & Farrier Industry icon Bob Marshall. Contact: www.HarryPatton.com

January 19: Committee reports due for the 2009 annual AFA meeting. Contact Rachel K. Heighton, AFA Office Manager @ 859.233.7411

January 29-31: World Championship Blacksmith's
2nd National Championship & Super Clinic @ Quail Park, Willcox, AZ
www.WorldChampionshipBlacksmiths.com

February 7: American Farrier's Team Clinic - OHIO
Southwestern Ohio Farriers' Association
Contact Thom Gabel by email at: TGF@live.com
or call Doug Hopper 937.968.7463



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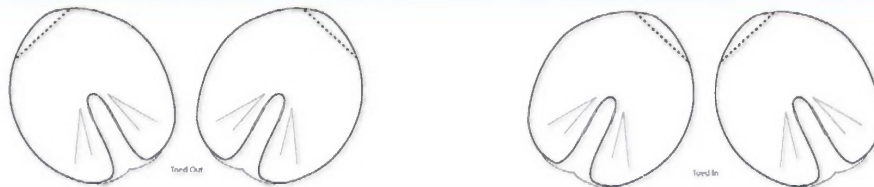
February 7: HORSE OWNER CLINIC in VIRGINIA.
Darren Owen, CF shares the importance of a Team Approach to Hoof Care. Held at the Wakefield, VA. 4-H Center. For details call Chip Cook at 757.478.1399 or email: IndianFields@msn.com or visit: www.indianfieldsfarrierservice.com

Correcting Minor Deviations cont. from pg. 11

As discussed, the square toe system works well to maintain correct legs and/or to help correct minor deviations. It is, however, possible to adjust the squared or rolled toe position slightly off center to the outside or inside of the hoof depending on which deviation needs correcting.

As a general rule if the foal toes out you will lower the outside half of the hoof wall (with nippers or rasp) and adjust your square toe slightly off center to the outside (Figure 7). If the foal toes in, you will lower the inside of the hoof wall on the bottom of the hoof and place the squared toe slightly to the Inside (Figure 8).

Note: Figures 7 and 8 are somewhat extreme in the drawings to show difference in stance and trimming. Owners and farriers are encouraged to work closely with a veterinarian when trying to make major adjustments.



The off-center squares will encourage break-over in that direction and counter the existing wear that the current deviation is causing to the hoof. These adjustments should be made slowly with minor changes every 3 to 4 weeks depending on hoof growth.

Utilization of hoof epoxies (glues) may be useful and even necessary to help in correcting major limb deviations where trimming is insufficient to correct the flight pattern and leg stance. These epoxies can be used to build up the low (worn) side of the hoof, encouraging break-over to the opposite side. The use of half shoes, glues/epoxies, or wedged shoes may be necessary to correct deviations.

Summary

Providing an accentuated break over for the toe of a young foal, early in its life, will do more for the good of the horse's legs than any subsequent trimming or shoeing after a year of age. Squaring the toe of a 3 to 4 week old foal will counter the affect of the sharp toe (front or rear) and provide a straight and easy break-over position, thus helping the legs form a correct boney column structure without deviation to the inside or outside through improper wear. Regular (every 3 to 4 weeks) trimming will maintain the good work started early and allow for solidification of the boney column in as straight and correct a line as possible.

A general "rule of thumb" for care of the mature horse includes trimming the non-use horse every 10 to 12 weeks, trimming a barefoot horse in use every 3 to 4 weeks and/or trimming and shoeing the shod horse every 6 to 8 weeks.

Start trimming early and keep it up throughout the life of the horse and you will enhance the longevity of the form and function of your "Equine Friend." Remember, you will do the most good before the foal is a year old – SO DON'T WAIT!!

The end of 2008 brought to a close the lives of two beloved members of the farrier community, our dear friends and mentors, Eddie Watson & Reggie Kester. Though gone from this earth, both men of steel live on in the hearts and hands of every man and woman whose lives they contributed to by passing on their wisdom and skill. Both men were known and fondly remembered for having given the best of themselves to those desiring to learn the time honored art and craft of farriery.

Reggie Kester

May 24, 1944 - December 30, 2008

Reggie taught 1000s of people to trim and shoe horses through the Oklahoma State Horseshoeing School which he founded with his wife Marcella in 1975.

Reggie and his wife spent their married lives involved in the Oklahoma Youth Rodeo Association, local 4-H programs and the OSHS. Reggie was a charter member Oklahoma Farrier's Association, lifelong member of the AFA, founder and past president of the American Farrier's Education Council. He has been inducted into the BWFA Hall of Fame, and he and Marcella have been recipients of the AFA's outstanding Administrative Award.

Reggie was a great man of faith, and enjoyed spending time with his church family. He always had bubble gum for the little ones and treasured children. Reggie was a wonderful father and grandfather, brother and loved spending time with his family. In addition to farriery, he especially enjoyed fishing, hunting, the lake, and attending the grandchildren's sporting events.

Reggie is survived by his wife Marcella of the home, son Regan Kester and his wife Kathy of Ardmore, daughter Zann Shelton and her husband Bobby of Ardmore, a brother and sister in Texas, grandchildren, a great grandchild Kamryn Kester of Ardmore and numerous close nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to the Tipton Children's Home P.O.
Box 370 Tipton, OK 73570.

If you would like to write to Marcella, Regan or Kathy, the address is: Oklahoma State Horseshoeing School
4802 Dogwood Rd
Ardmore, OK 73401.

"He believed in what he was doing, he believed in being involved in the bigger farrier industry, and he and his family are friendly, genuine ambassadors for farriery. They have launched the careers and advanced the skills of so many people, but they have also enriched many more lives with their enthusiasm and warmth, including mine."

- Fran Jurga Hoofcare & Lameness

Eddie Watson

1927 - December 20, 2008

Eddie was a true southern gentleman and a beloved friend, mentor and teacher to generations of farriers and equine professionals. He is a member of the International Horseshoeing Hall Of Fame and has shod horses for more than 50 years. Eddie was famous for "hammer-ins" that often lasted to daybreak. He was dedicated friend and much sought after clinician with a great sense of humor and folksy style.

Watson, was a lifetime member of the American Farrier's Association as well as the Anvil 21 Club, and was inducted into the International Horseshoeing Hall Of Fame in 1996.



Remembrances of Eddie...

One of the prettiest shoeing jobs I have ever seen...
Bob Davis, CJF & AFA Examiner

Eddie would start making nippers at 10 pm and teach till' daybreak, he'd slow-it down and teach students step-by-step... Butch Hockaday, CJF

Eddie's enthusiasm was infectious, he excited everyone around him... Dave Farley, CF

He was instrumental in keeping the VHA together and moving forward... Scott Collier, CJF

Eddie was a kind, generous, humble soul. He loved his trade & shared his knowledge with anyone that wanted to learn.. Dick Fanguy, CJF, Pres-Elect AFA

Eddie was what the AFA was all about...
Andrew Elsbee, CJF President, AFA

**Watch a TRIBUTE TO EDDIE WATSON, CJF online at:
www.YouTube.com/AmericanFarriers**

In closing, Tidbits to Consider courtesy of Julie Young, CJF

Over the years I've been shoeing and time spent at certifications and clinics I've jotted little notes of advise others have passed along. These simple bits of wisdom may be beneficial to someone else out there, too.

Bobby Menker: Keep your hoof knife vertical while trimming the frog.

Dave Ferguson: Feel level with your rasp. Think more about what you can leave than what can be removed.

Mitch Taylor: The foot can be level but if the bars aren't trimmed uniformly it gives the illusion that its not.

Mykola Pawlenko (trainer): Open the central sulcus of the frog; this packs with dirt and helps the heels expand when loaded.

Matt Tamuiti: Instead of paring away at the toe with your knife feel the junction with your nippers where the sole becomes firm. (The "Tamuiti peel)

Jerry Ray Smith: When you start to struggle during a testing, slow down. (Obviously advice intended for those panic moments when rhythm flies out the window.)

John Perry (my instructor at Porterville Horseshoeing School, CA 1976) : The sole should give no more to thumb pressure (when trimming to be shod) than a firm apple does when pressed.

And perhaps the best advise I've ever taken, also stated by John Perry: Never bad-mouth another's work.

You may say you don't have much to work with, or that you would like to try something different.

That is all you should ever say when following another farrier's job that doesn't meet your standards.

Your work will speak for itself.

Special acknowledgments to John and Mykola who both passed away in 1992. Loosely quoting the late, great

Burney Chapman: Knowledge is like horse manure - pile it up and everything dies under it.

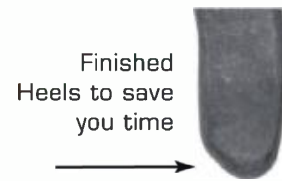
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