PERSONNEL

Training
All personnel will be trained via IACUC and TTEC training in
  1. Husbandry needs
  2. Handling and restraint
  3. First aid
  4. Methods for minimizing pain, distress and infection
  5. Proper equipment training will also be conducted

Occupational Health
To promote the safety of the staff
  1. Appropriate respiratory, ear and eye protection will be available to the workers upon request.
  2. First Aid kits will be available in designated areas throughout the Center.

FACILITIES AND ENVIRONMENT

Housing
Horses will be housed at the Texas Tech Equestrian Center (Wolfforth).
Stalls will have adequate ventilation, footing/bedding, and will be large enough to ensure that the animals are comfortable, are able to stand, lay/rest, and groom themselves. Horses housed in stalls will be turned out or exercised daily (permitting health and weather) and stalls will be cleaned daily.
Noise: Loud or sudden noises will be kept to a minimum, however, white noise like a radio may be kept in barns to mask or accustom the horses to startling sounds.
  1. Stalls will be bedded with wood bedding or pelletized bedding
  2. Dry lot pens
  3. Pastures
Pens will be free of harmful objects and will be cleaned at a minimum of every 3 months. Horses housed outdoors will be brought into stalls during inclement weather if possible.
Most horses are kept in a herd environment for exercise and social interaction. However, some horses such as stallions, injured/sick, ‘unsociable’ and other high maintenance horses may be kept in pens or stalls.
All animals will have constant access to water in all types of housing situations.

Pest Control
The offices, feed and tack rooms will be fogged or treated as needed for flies and mice. Fly masks will be kept on horses that show sensitivity to flies or the sun during summer months.
Horses will be treated for flies and other external parasites using spray, wipe or spot application products approved for equine use. The Department of Vector Control will be consulted and will spray regularly during the mosquito season. Efforts will be made to eliminate standing water on the grounds to minimize mosquito breeding.

**NUTRITION**

Feed troughs or pails will be kept clean and free of sharp edges. Horses will either have access to safe, free choice hay, or fed twice per day. Water containers will be kept clean, full of fresh water and free of sharp edges.

Horses will be fed according to needs as per NRC (Nutrient Requirements of Horses, 2006) recommendations for specific age, sex, and physiological conditions. Geriatric horses will be monitored monthly and diets will be adjusted as needed. Body condition scores (Henneke et al, 1983) and scale weights will be taken and recorded every six (6) months.

Horses will be fed to maintain a target body condition score of 5 (see attachment). If it is determined by horse section committee and the university veterinarian that a horse is unable to maintain a body condition score of 3.5 or greater after aggressive effort, the committee may recommend humane euthanasia.

**HERD HEALTH**

Vaccination schedules for horses include spring boosters of Equine Encephalomyelitis, Tetanus, Equine Influenza, Rhinopneumonitis, Rabies and West Nile which will be administered by IM injections or by intra-nasal route (influenza). Pregnant mares will also receive rhinopneumonitis vaccinations at 5, 7 and 9 months of pregnancy by IM injections. Young foals will receive vaccinations (IM) of Equine Encephalomyelitis, Tetanus, Equine Influenza, Rabies and Rhinopneumonitis at 4 and 6 months of age unless otherwise recommended on the label of the specific vaccination. A copy of the registration papers and a current negative Coggins test is required for a new horse entering the Texas Tech Equestrian Center. Horses will be bled by jugular venipuncture for Coggins tests, routine blood work during illness, or during classes to teach venipuncture collection and jugular injection techniques.

A deworming program will be systematically carried out 3-4 times a year according to a rotational regimen. Foals will also be dewormed at 2, 4 and 6 months. Anthelmintic will be administered as a paste application or oral drench based on body weight. Periodic fecal egg counts can be used to assess program efficacy. All routine health care is performed under the direction of authorized TTEC director, staff and veterinarians. All animals will be checked by staff daily for illness, cuts and injuries. For serious illnesses or injuries, a veterinarian will be notified. If needed the horse will be taken to the veterinary clinic or a farm call will be arranged. All emergency numbers will be listed in the offices at each unit. Minor lacerations and abrasions that do not require suturing may be treated by TTEC staff. Many TTEC horses have chronic joint problems that may
occasionally require an NSAID (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug). Trained staff may dose those horses on an as needed basis with oral Phenylbutazone (1-2 grams/1000 lbs BW). In addition, several horses receive Adequan (joint protectant) IM injections throughout the year, in which staff have been trained to administer.

EMERGENCY CARE

Dr. Tiffanie Brooks, TTU Attending Veterinarian (806) 239-2120
Dr. Paul Stonum, TTU Clinical Veterinarian (660) 562-4425
Dr. Brandon Broyles, Spur Veterinary Hospital (806) 271-3355
Dr. Bo Brock, Brock Veterinary Clinic, Lamesa (806) 872-3183
Dr. Chris Morrow, Mobile Veterinary Practice (806) 622-0803

PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

The herd consists of approximately 50 horses. These horses are utilized for teaching, research and service. The inventory consists of 1-3 breeding stallions; 1 miniature horse; several pregnant and non-pregnant mares; weanlings, yearlings, and older geldings. During the breeding season, outside stallions may be leased for breeding purposes and outside mares are boarded at the unit.

Mares are bred to foal in the spring. Foals are weaned at four to six months of age in the late summer and early fall. Upon weaning, foals are turned out to pasture and are used for teaching. Culled mares and young horses are sold by private treaty or through the local horse auction. Yearlings that are not sold are kept for teaching and service activities, and as replacement animals.

MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

Foal Management. After foals are born, an attendant insures that an adequate amount of colostrum has been ingested. The navel of the foal is treated with iodine. An enema is given to prevent impaction. Foals are handled as much as possible to imprint them with a positive human bond. Foals are weaned at 4 to 6 months of age. Weaned foals are trained to halter and then turned out to pasture until they are yearlings.

Yearling and Older Horse Management. Yearlings and other horses are utilized as a teaching resource for various Animal Science classes. Male horses are routinely gelded as yearlings. Some fillies are kept as replacements for culled brood mares. Others will be sold in sales or by private treaty.

Stallion Management. Stallions are used primarily for breeding purposes. Semen is collected using an artificial vagina and the semen is processed for shipping or to artificially inseminate mares on the farm. Outside mares may also be bred for a fee. The farm’s stallions are advertised in several journals, internet web sites and area publications. Stallions will be led to the breeding arena while restrained by a lead with a chain over the nose or under the chin. Stallions will be teased
with a receptive mare over a solid partition. The penis of the stallion will be washed with warm water and the stallion will be led to the padded mounting dummy for collection with a Missouri artificial vagina. Semen will be analyzed and extended in the laboratory. Mares will be examined and inseminated in mare restraining stocks for their safety and for the safety of the handlers. Foals will stand next to their dams in the foal stocks for their safety. All horses will be checked daily for injuries or illness by TTEC staff.

Broodmare Management. Broodmares are monitored daily in the 30 days prior to their expected foaling date. When evidence of impending parturition is visible, mares are placed under observation by placement into foaling stalls where personnel can observe mares and assist with any complications. Mares will be rebred during foal heat, if possible.

Breeding.
Estrus detection: Mares may be teased by a stallion
Ultrasound: Mares that respond to teasing, or mares with a history of silent heat may have an ultrasound exam to determine follicle size and presence.
Palpation: Veterinarians, proficient Principle Investigators may palpate mares for the detection of pregnancy, stage of estrus, ovarian examination or artificial insemination.

General. Outside mares are boarded for breeding purposes only and are billed at the rate of $10 per day. A copy of the registration papers and a current negative Coggins test is required for each mare.

**MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE**

**Daily:**
- Horses will be observed daily for illness or injury (Attending veterinarian will be contacted for any illnesses or injuries)
- Feed and fill water troughs
- Clean stalls (to remove manure and urine)
- Sweep floors (Including arena perimeter)
- Rake alley
- Handle and train young horses

**During Breeding Season:**
- Check all mares for estrus every other day
- Collect semen from stallion (If needed for breeding purposes)
- Inseminate mares (If necessary)

**Weekly:**
- Clean lab and tack rooms
- Clean water troughs
- Inspect fences
Wet arena
Mow interior areas
Check feet (Schedule farrier)
Clean stock holding pens

HOOF CARE

Horses’ hooves are trimmed approximately every 8 weeks by a farrier hired by TTU University. Shoes may be required as needed for some of the riding horses and will be reset or replaced every 8 weeks.

DENTAL CARE

Horses teeth will be floated once per year or on an as needed basis by a licensed veterinarian.

FEEDING

Horses are fed by class, body weight and body condition score. Horses are fed a supplemental grain ration on an as-needed basis. All rations are based upon NRC requirements for age, sex, and physiological condition. TTEC uses a commercial feed supplement (by Purina). Alfalfa, alfalfa hay cubes, wheat, oat, or grass hay is purchased and used to meet roughage needs if pasture is not available or if grass is not sufficient to meet energy needs.

TRANSPORTATION

Horses are transported to the arena for judging contests and other service activities. A University truck and trailer are used to transport horses.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE

Facility is overseen by AFS faculty. Staff and student workers are responsible for the daily, routine maintenance. Names are listed in the ACUC protocols for Teaching and Research.

EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE

In case of power failure contact:

    South Plains Electrical Coop (888-741-0111) or the
    Texas Tech Physical Plant (742-3301).
    A generator is available at the New Deal Farm.