

Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District Conservation Quiz for Horse Owners

1. A healthy pasture reduces soil erosion. T F
2. A manure pile stored near a stream provides beneficial fish food when storm water runoff occurs from the pile. T F
3. A 1,000 lb.-horse produces _____ lbs. of manure per day.
 - a. 15 lbs.
 - b. 25 lbs.
 - c. 45 lbs.
4. A horse farm with 2 horses that are kept in stalls 12 hours per day will collect _____ tons of manure and dirty bedding per year.
 - a. 8 tons
 - b. 15 tons
 - c. 30 tons
5. When should horses be confined to a sacrifice area?
 - a. in wet weather
 - b. when you are applying fertilizer and seed to the pastures
 - c. when pastures need to rest
 - d. all of the above
6. Spreading horse manure on pasture or hayland will reduce or eliminate your need to apply commercial fertilizers. T F
7. A pasture with 25% clover or more will not require nitrogen fertilizer because of the nitrogen-fixing capabilities of clover. T F
8. The best time to seed clover is when? Why?
 - a. late winter because the freezing and thawing action will work the clover into the soil
 - b. spring because it's best to seed clover into warm soil
 - c. fall because this is when you'll be seeding other grasses
9. The best time to spread manure on a pasture is in the winter while the ground is frozen and plants are not actively growing. T F
10. Keeping a permanently vegetated grass or forested buffer between your horses and ponds, streams, or wetlands will greatly reduce the amount of nutrients in fertilizers and manure, herbicides, and loose soil that could enter the waterway. T F
11. Ideally, the buffer width should be _____ feet wide.
 - a. 5 feet
 - b. 15 feet
 - c. 25+ feet
12. _____ is an aggressive, drought-tolerant grass that persists well under less than ideal management. It is well suited to small-acreage horse operations that do not have broodmares.
 - a. Orchardgrass
 - b. Bluegrass
 - c. Fescue
13. Soil and manure testing, site visits, and farm planning through the District cost _____.
 - a. \$50
 - b. \$150
 - c. Free
14. If needed, lime is more important to apply than fertilizers or manure. T F
15. Rotational grazing involves subdividing your pastures so that each horse or small group of horses can graze in the same field year round. T F

Answers:

1-T, 2-F, 3-c, 4-b, 5-d, 6-T, 7-T, 8-a, 9-F, 10-T, 11-c, 12-c, 13-c, 14-T 15-F

Didn't score well? Contact the District to learn more about environmentally sensitive and sensible horsekeeping at 703.594.3621 or pwsxcd@pwsxcd.org.

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