Managing Mud, Manure & Pasture on Horse Properties
Your Presenters:

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Snohomish CD Small Farm Program

- Historically commercial programs (dairy, crop)
- Small farm program originated in 1992
- Farm planning since 1997, provided about 100 visits/year
- Today, 4 full time farm planners
- Last 5-year period we’ve provided almost 2,000 site visits
- Primarily 5 acres in nature but range from a city lot to more than 1500+ acres
- Every livestock type including exotic and dairy
- Starting to see increased need for small crop, flowers (truck farming), CSA and nursery growers as well as wildlife improvements and LID
Alayne Blickle & Horses for Clean Water

- Classes, farm tours, workshops, educational materials, individual consultations
- Environmentally friendly ways of keeping horses
Why “Clean Water?”

Runoff from muddy horse properties, over-grazed pastures, or manure piles can cause problems!
Mud & runoff on horse properties causes problems

- For horse health
- For owner convenience & chore efficiency
- For the productivity of the property
- For neighborhood esthetics
- For the environment...
Take home message...

Equine BMPs are good for...

- horse health
- chore efficiency
- farm or ranch productivity
- property esthetics for you (& your neighbors) to enjoy
- save you money
- environmental health
6 Tips for Reducing Mud, Managing Manure & Creating Pasture

1. Establish a sacrifice area
2. Pick up manure regularly & compost it
3. Use footing in paddocks & high traffic area
4. Install gutters & downspouts
5. Divert/manage surface flows
6. Use rotational grazing
1. Establish a sacrifice area
2. Pick up manure regularly
Compost that manure!

- Bins can be built from a variety of materials
- Many creative designs & ideas
- Tailor them to meet your needs
Ecology block bins
Locate your compost for chore efficiency

• Easy in
• Easy out
CHECK WITH COUNTY PLANNING FOR MINIMUM DISTANCES
Compost Application Guidelines

- Apply to pastures, lawns, gardens
- Apply only during growing season
- Apply about ¼” at a time
- Apply no more than 2-3” per year

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- Many Districts now offer spreader rentals!
3. Use footing material in sacrifice areas & high traffic areas
Other footing options for high traffic areas

- Stall mats
- Belting
- Grid products
- Geotextile fabric
- Cement pads
4. Install gutters & downspouts
5. Reroute surface water runoff & reduce impervious surfaces

- French drains
- Dry wells
- Rain gardens
- Water diversion bars
- Culverts
- Grassy swales
- Native trees & shrubs
One type of water diversion bar
Outdoor washracks: pervious & mud free!
Use native trees & shrubs as mud managers
A mature Douglas fir tree can drink up to 250 gallons of water per day!
6. Manage pastures with rotational grazing system
Turn horses out on pasture when grass is 6” - 8”
Take horses off pasture when grass is 3” - 4”
Remember the GOLDEN RULE of pasture management: never graze below 3 inches!
Mowers

A brush hog (pasture mower) to a riding lawn mower can all be very useful.
Harrons

Tine harrow

Home made harrow
Managing mud, manure & pasture on horse properties...

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Resources to follow up with:

• Snohomish CD Tip Sheets, newsletters, Facebook, websites...
• Better Ground website - betterground.org
• HCW email list, newsletter, website, tip sheets – horsesforcleanwater.com
• HCW Face Book
• TheHorse.com
• Consulting with Alayne
The End(s)

www.horsesforcleanwater.com