

Hoofprints of Love

**BEGIN AGAIN FARMS, INC. EQUINE SHELTER
JULY 2026**

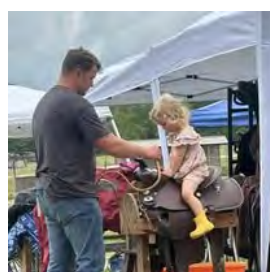
Max's Corner: An Eye on the Farm

Max says that you may have noticed the newsletter has not been out for a while...our esteemed editor has taken a well-deserved retirement after doing a great job for several years, and another volunteer editor has taken over the reins, no pun intended. So here is our next edition.



TACK SALE: A BIG SUCCESS! APRIL 25 & 26TH, 2026

It has been almost two years since our last tack sale, so we had LOTS of items for sale. Thank you to everyone who came out and made it a great day. We were able to have the sale over two days and feel like that's the winning ticket for next year. It takes lots of work over the previous weeks before the sale: dragging all the donated items out of storage, sorting things into categories (English/Western tack, leg wraps, rope halters, nylon halters...the list is almost endless), finding a place to put all the sorted items where they won't be underfoot (always a major challenge), pricing items and then organizing all the tables for displaying everything for sale. We thank those who generously donated items for sale and the volunteers who spent hours sorting, cleaning, organizing and running the tack sale.



A Guide to Staying Safe On the Trail

by Jennifer Paulson

From *Horse and Rider*, April 18, 2023

www.horseandrider.com

Proper planning can make all the difference when it comes to enjoying a trail ride and trail ride safety. Without it, you can wind up in a variety of predicaments, ranging from inconveniences to serious threats to your safety as well as that of your horse and your trail-riding pals.

Situation: Kicks to horse or rider.

Avoid it: Stay safe by paying attention to your horse and those around you at all times, whether on the move or standing still. Before you leave on your ride, tie a piece of red ribbon into the tail of any known or suspected kick-prone horse. It'll warn others not to come too close. Alert fellow riders if you need to stop, so that they can safely prepare their horses and avoid pileups.

Beware: Any stopping point, whether to retrieve dropped gear, tighten a cinch, or take a photo, poses an increased kicking risk, especially when you're riding in a group of unfamiliar horses. The situation puts the horses in what is, essentially, a herd environment. Throw in that they've been on the move and are suddenly stopped and may be agitated, and the risk of a kick is heightened. At stopping points, don't allow social herd interaction: sniffing, rubbing, nuzzling, which also can lead to kicks. Keep your horse's attention on you, while you stay aware of what's happening elsewhere. Position your horse's hindquarters away from any other horse. Be sure that none of the other horses' kicking gear is aimed at you or your horse.

Worst-case scenario: If horses do get a little friendly or frisky and another horse or a rider gets kicked, separate the horses immediately. Assess the injury. Will the horse/rider be able to continue on the ride? Will the items in the first-aid kit suffice for treatment, or is emergency help required? Kick-blows to riders should be regarded as potential emergencies, because they often strike bone or cause massive contusion.

Situation: Attacks by ground-dwelling bees or wasps.

Avoid it: Be aware that ground-nesting bees and wasps can be an issue on trail rides. There's really no sure-fire way to anticipate where the underground nests lie. You can't see them like you could if they were in a tree.

(Continued next page)

***Hoofprints of Love* is the newsletter of Begin Again Farms, Inc., a 501c-3 equine rescue in Ellerslie, GA.**

Trail Ride Safety continued:

The lead rider may notice insects buzzing a foot or so above a spot on the trail, indicating entrance to an underground nest. If you're at the front of the pack, be alert for such a sight, and plan to detour around it, alerting those behind you to do likewise. This might be an argument for using well-frequented trails, as ground-dwelling bees and wasps generally won't nest directly beneath a highly traveled path.

Beware: These insects get very agitated when horses tread over their nest, and their sting feels like a hot electric jolt. Often, the first two or three horses in the pack step on the nest and trigger a nest-defending attack. They might be stung in the belly or the flank, causing them to rear, kick out, buck, and panic.

Worst-case scenario: If you see this situation develop or the lead rider yells, "BEES!" or "WASPS!", move fast, either ahead or off the trail. If you're on such a narrow trail that you can't detour, be ready to high-tail it past the nest (at a lope, if necessary), and don't hold up the riders behind you. Should your horse get stung and starts to buck, pull his head up and urge him forward to redirect his attention and lessen the chance of additional stings. The worst thing you can do is attempt to pull him to a stop, because that just gives the insects more opportunity to sting.

Extra caveat: You're just as likely to be stung as your horse is. If you're allergic to bee and/or wasp stings, always carry an EpiPen. Also, be sure that another rider knows where you keep it and how to administer it.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**NEXT TRAIL RIDE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25
SEE THE FLYER ON PAGE 7!**

The mission of Begin Again Farms, Inc. is to rescue imperiled, retired or abandoned hooved animals, provide a safe refuge, promote rehabilitation and return to full physical ability; provide safe adoptions for rehabilitated animals; and expand the knowledge of equine science, training and horsemanship through association with community groups and leaders.



Trail Ride Safety continued:

Dropped or Broken Gear

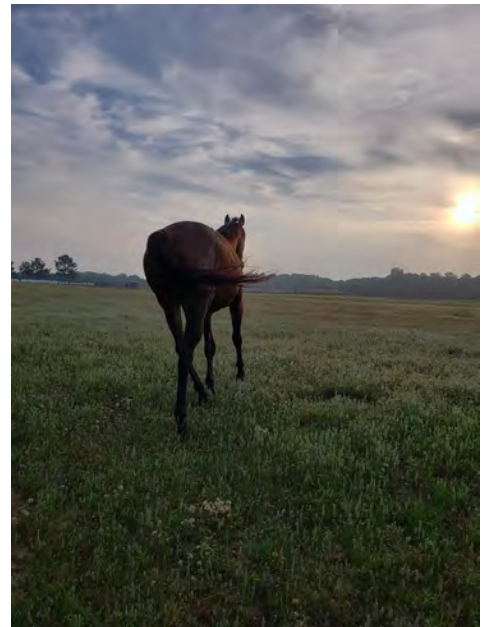
Situation: Unsecured/damaged gear.

Avoid it: Dropped water bottles, cameras, and hats, broken reins or cinches: any and all of these can cause inconveniences and wrecks. Know how to secure your gear to your saddle, or ask someone who does to help you, to stay safe. Be sure that your gear fits your horse well and is in good condition before you take off. Carry only the necessities. Discuss what other riders are bringing along, do you really need duplicates?

Beware: If you have to stop the ride to retrieve or fix something, the chance of something else going wrong increases dramatically. A horse may get loose, for instance, or get into a kicking match with a neighboring one.

Worst-case scenario: If you or another rider does drop something, or a piece of gear breaks, alert the riders around you that you're going to stop and how you plan to solve the issue. If necessary, ask another rider for help. By keeping everyone apprised of what's happening, you'll help ensure that no one winds up in trouble. For example, none of the horses get loose.

Be safe and enjoy the ride!



FOCUS ON THE FARM

By Lisa Palmer



Coming off of winter: Luckily, other than a couple of major cold snaps, winter wasn't too bad this year. We don't blanket our horses until they have been through a couple of short cold snaps to encourage their winter coats to come in, and then we usually only put coats on the older horses and "hard keepers". But when you need to blanket (or take blankets off) 15-20 horses, it's a team effort. Once the weather warms up again there are days and weeks of grooming those winter coats that are shedding out. Now they have their shiny summer coats again, and most of the ones who drop weight in the winter are looking so much better.



Well, it did get a little chilly one weekend in January...

Blanketing 15+ horses is a team sport!



We were unsure if our hay would hold out through a very dry winter and spring and we knew that all the other horse owners and farmers were also worried about the drought situation. This May and early June has shown a little more promise that the drought is easing off, so we are optimistic that things will go well for the rest of the summer., and everyone will have enough hay over the winter. The tropical storm system that came through our area the week of June 18 may have gotten us out of the drought now. Let's hope for normal rainfall this summer.



Some regular chores on the farm: the fields get dragged once or twice a week. Shout out to John, whose mission is poop busting!

Horses get fed twice a day, every day. We have a loyal team who makes sure this gets done.



Is your school, 4-H or other youth group interested in learning about horses and horse care? Or want to assist with a project to help the horses? If so, please contact Rhonda at 706-315-6945. We'd love to have you!

Focus on the Farm, con't.

Memorial Ride May 31st

Once the tack sale was over and all the items that didn't sell were put away again for next year, we had a month to get ready for the trail ride, so it was full steam ahead! We had trails to check and clear from all the winter storms, with limbs down and a few trees blocking the path. Putting the obstacle course together takes a solid two weeks, then setting up all the tables and tents in the arena the day before the big event. Many thanks to all the volunteers who came out to make that happen.



Regardless of the rain (it had to pick THIS week to start raining????) we had a good turn out; we didn't get totally rained out (merely a few sprinkles off and on) and those faithful riders that braved the weather enjoyed the miles of trails and the awesome obstacle course. We also had wonderful items donated for the Silent Auction and a great cash prize for the 50/50 raffle. Thanks to all those who donated items and bought or sold raffle tickets.

See the flyer on page 7 for our next trail ride in October. In addition to the wonderful trails, obstacle course, lunch and T-shirts, we will also have a horse and rider costume contest. So many riders have shown their creativity that we all look forward to seeing the costumes. Categories are: Adult horse and rider (over 16 years old), Youth horse and rider (15 and under) and Children (under 12, no horse necessary).





BEGIN AGAIN FARMS EQUINE SHELTER PRESENTS:
FALL RESCUE RIDE
BROOMS ARE FOR AMATEURS!

WHEN & WHERE:
SUNDAY
10/25/26
9AM – 4PM
1967 Harris Road,
Ellerslie, GA

 **50/50 RAFFLE**
 **SILENT AUCTION**
HORSE & RIDER COSTUME CONTEST
 (ADULT & 15 AND UNDER CLASS) 

\$45 Ride Entry
\$35 Walker Entry

BEGIN AGAIN FARMS EQUINE SHELTER,
PO Box 242, Hamilton, GA 31811, (706) 315-6945, beginagainfarm@aol.com

NO RENTAL HORSES AVAILABLE. NEGATIVE COGGINS REQUIRED

A few more photos of the Obstacle Course fun



Regular chores around the farm, made possible by volunteers: Most jobs aren't difficult: even children can do them!

Experience with horses is always a plus, but not necessary. We will train. Just come out, be willing to pitch in and maybe get just a little dirty!

Students who need volunteer hours for school are always welcome.



1560 US Hwy 27, Cataula, GA 31804



Local
BEYOND Organic
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www.beginagainfarms.com



BINGO

**MAIA
FINALE
BELLA
MARK
MAGGIE
CHIKUITA
BLAZE
RICO
BINGO
POPPY
HARRAH**

CANDY (paint pony)



CANDY



FINALE



MARK

All horses available for adoption are also available for sponsorship until they are adopted.

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**Mulch Hay . Wheat Straw
Seasonal Grain & Produce**

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Turdbusters Septic & Plumbing

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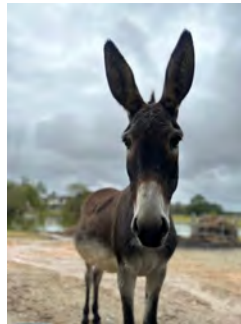
[Home](#) [About Us](#) [Services](#) [Contact Us](#)

HORSES AVAILABLE FOR SPONSORSHIP

Please visit our website for more information about the horses available—
www.BeginAgainFarms.com

A few of the newer horses and ponies may be moved to adoption after they have regained weight and/or been evaluated.

LEVI
PICKLEENA
JENNY
MACK & MATILDA
(mini donkeys, bonded pair)
IZZY
DUDE
OKEY DOKEY
MAIA
MAGIC
COCOA
RUBY
JJ & PONCHO
(donkeys: bonded pair)
LUCAS
MAGGIE
WENDY
HANDSOME
SCOUT
SHILOH AND WILLIE
(mini mare and male donkey: bonded pair)



Jenny



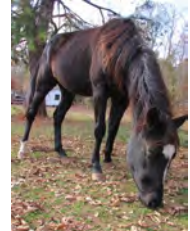
Lucas



Levi



Poncho and JJ



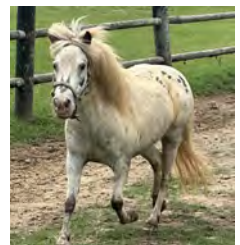
Cocoa



Izzy



Willie and Shiloh



Valley Veterinary Associates

647 Butts Mill Rd.
Pine Mountain, GA

706-663-2128



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www.BeaconHillAdvisory.com

Wish List

Horse Supplies:

Feed: Senior Feed
Tasty 10
Shredded Beet Pulp
Alfalfa pellets
Probiotics
Mineral Blocks
Shavings or Pellets for Stalls
Wormer
Fly Spray
Salt Blocks

Tools and Equipment:

Any kind of yard tools
Steel T-Posts—6'
Any Size Gates
Hog or Horse Wire
Treated Lumber any size
Power tools
Wooden fence posts

Tack:

Any new or used saddles &
miscellaneous tack
Horse Blankets

Event Needs:

Awnings (Free Standing)
Folding tables

Volunteer Help:

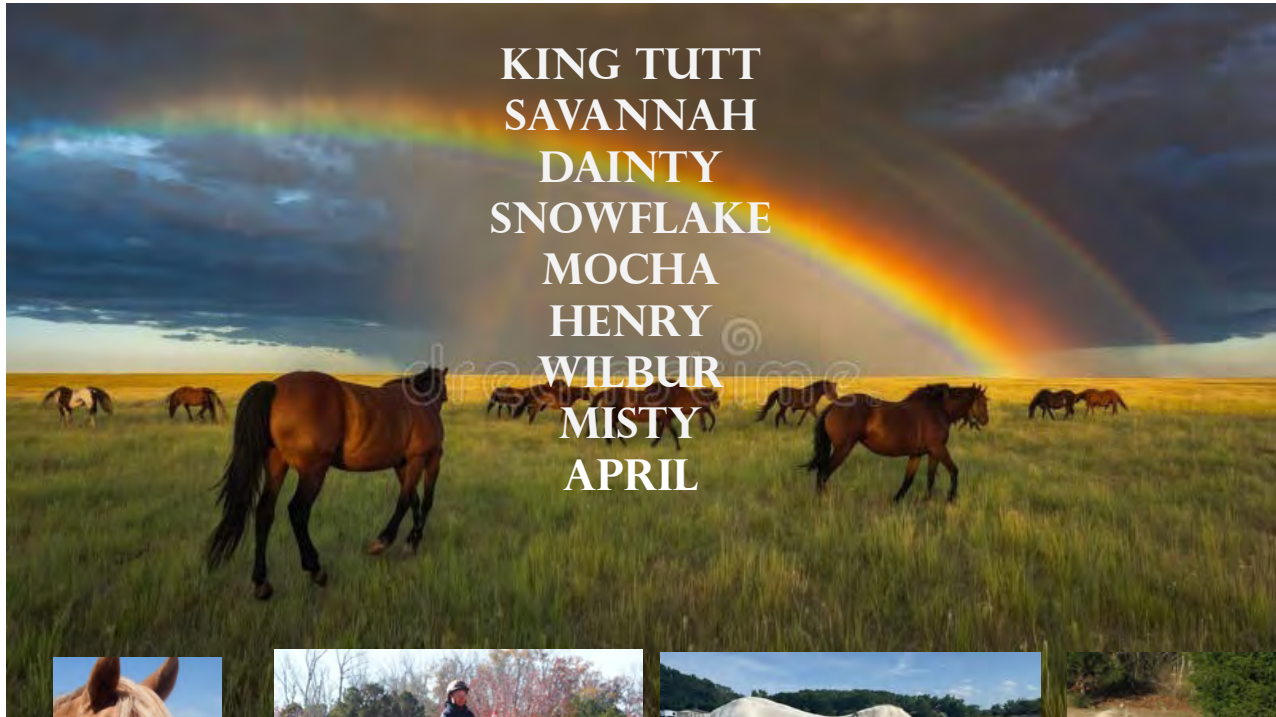
Plumber for minor repairs
Electrician for minor repairs
Mechanic for maintenance & minor repair
Carpenter for repairs
A.m. or p.m. feeding one or more days per week
Drag pastures weekly
Misc. maintenance of property and fences
Knowledgeable horse people who want to get their horse fix brushing horses and giving them attention
Photographer to help horses get adopted

**TRACY PERRY
FARRIER
770-301-9861**



IN MEMORIAM

**THESE BELOVED MEMBERS OF THE BAFI FAMILY
PASSED OVER THE RAINBOW BRIDGE THIS YEAR:**



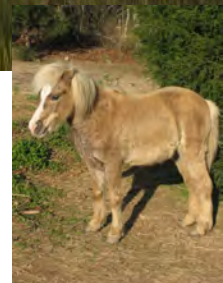
KING TUTT



DAINTY



APRIL



WILBUR

VET TO PET SERVICES

**[3744 GA-85](#)
[ELLERSLIE, GA 31807](#)**

PHONE: [\(706\) 566-3065](tel:7065663065)

A Special Thank You To

**ALICE & JOHN
SANDS**

For their Support

Begin Again Farms, Inc.
Equine Shelter
PO Box 242
Hamilton, GA 31811



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**Looking for an easy way to help
Begin Again Farms?**

**Print this newsletter and hang a copy
in the break room of your office of
workplace (or any waiting room)!**

**Spreading the word about Begin
Again Farms is a huge help to us!**