

Proceedings of the Equine Nutrition and Physiology Symposium, June 1999

The following research papers were presented at the Equine Nutrition and Physiology Symposium, June 2-5, 1999, in Raleigh, North Carolina. Abstracts have been prepared and personal comments added to increase the relevance of the research.

Ammonia levels in poorly ventilated horse barns can rise to levels potentially harmful to the equine respiratory tract. Horses were placed in a four-stall, center-isle-type barn with dirt floor stalls for 14 days. The stalls were bedded with straw and cleaned daily. The stalls were bedded to maintain a 25-cm depth to the straw.

Ammonia levels at the stall floor level rose from 2.5 ppm to 218 ppm. by day 14. At the horses head level, ammonia levels rose to 15 ppm. (Comment: The high ammonia levels at the floor level are extremely important to foals and horses who tend to lie down in their stalls).

Reference: Pratt S.E., Lawrence L.M., Barnes T., Powell D., Warren L.K., Measurement of Ammonia Concentration in Horse Stalls