

Spring checklist



What to check before the grazing season, in March and April (southern hemisphere: September and October)

Horse _____ Year _____

Grass and field

- ☐ Build up grazing from _____ (schedule printed: start _____ minutes, pace _____)
- ☐ Hay first, then the field; mornings; skip a day after a cold night with sun
- ☐ Sensitive horse: grazing muzzle ready, careful pace, vet consulted
- ☐ Field checked: fences, electric, poisonous plants (ragwort, sycamore), holes
- ☐ Field rested or topped where needed; poo-picking picked up again

Health

- ☐ Vaccinations: passport or records checked, flu and tetanus booked before the first competition (at least 7 days before)
- ☐ Worm egg count sent in spring; worm only on a result over the threshold; tapeworm test
- ☐ Weight and condition after winter: tape, photos, feel the ribs
- ☐ Teeth checked if more than a year ago
- ☐ Farrier cycle for summer agreed (horn grows faster)
- ☐ Normal values measured again on a quiet day

Rugs and coat

- ☐ Winter rugs washed, repaired and stored dry
- ☐ Rain sheet to hand for wet, cold days in April
- ☐ Shedding: daily grooming, look at the skin underneath
- ☐ Sweet itch: rug on before the first midges (late March / early April)

Insects, water and yard

- ☐ Fly mask and fly rug checked for tears and straps
- ☐ Standing water near the stable removed; muck heap away from the field
- ☐ Troughs cleaned; ice measures cleared away
- ☐ Stable and field shelter checked after winter

Paperwork and people

- ☐ Care calendar updated with the dates from the passport or records
- ☐ Stable card and feed chart up to date (different feed with more grass?)
- ☐ Summer holiday: who feeds, and when do you arrange it?