

BEFORE BOOKING YOUR MARE.....
TURN ON THE LIGHTS!!!!



If you are planning to breed your mare to a favorite stallion early in the year 2021, quite literally you need to “Turn On The Lights”. Each year we have many clients, many times very experienced horse people who forget or discount this very important phrase.

Mares normally have a “shutting down” of their reproductive functions throughout the winter months, this is called anestrus. This happens in the sunny south of Florida as well as the northern states. Although daylight and temperature changes may not be as extreme to the southern states, the mares do sense the difference. I also have many well-intentioned horse people tell me how “their” mare does cycle year round. Even though some mares do continue to show signs of heat and estrous behavior, her ovaries are very likely shut down completely or simply not ovulating during this time. Save yourself time, money and frustration at the breeding farm or receiving center and be sure that your mare is cycling and ovulating before sending her.

1. Mares require 16 hours of simulated daytime to achieve and maintain summer-like reproductive status.
2. Mare also require the remaining 8 hours in relative darkness. 24 hours of light does not work and will probably have the same effect on your mare as no lights at all. “More is not always better”.
3. Generally it takes 60-90 days for mares to regulate their cycles-this will include the “transitional” period when she may stay in heat for a much longer amount of time and not actually ovulate. Therefore mares wanting to breed for January foals need to go “Under Lights” somewhere between November 1-15th.

Lights need to be bright enough so that you can read a newspaper in all four corners of your stall or paddock. A 200 watt lightbulb or LED is recommended.

NO matter what method you choose, please be aware that you are dealing with “Mother Nature” and sometimes things are simply beyond our control-some mares do not respond to lighting, some mares do not respond to the use of Regumate (which suppresses heat), prostin (which induces heat) or HCG (which causes ovulation)-- The good news is that most mares do respond to all of these which can work to insure that early futurity baby for you!

The more well informed you as the mare owner are, the greater your chances are of having a successful and enjoyable breeding experience