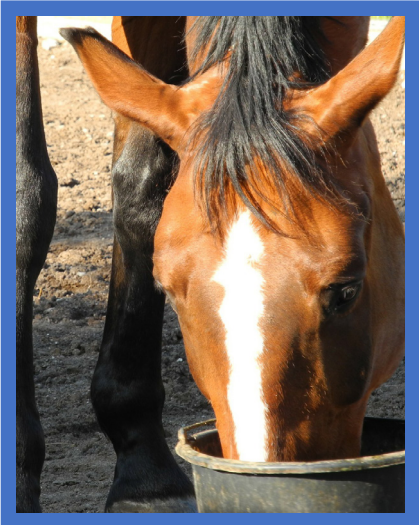


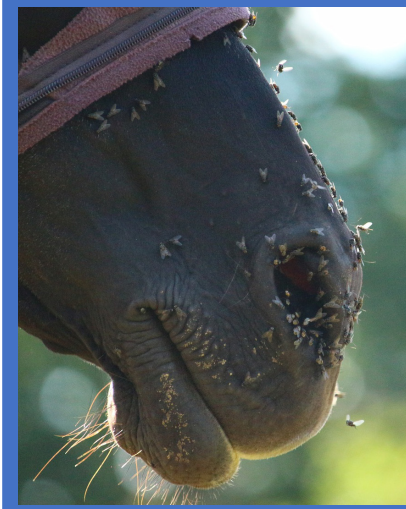
Spring is on it's way -so here are some points to consider



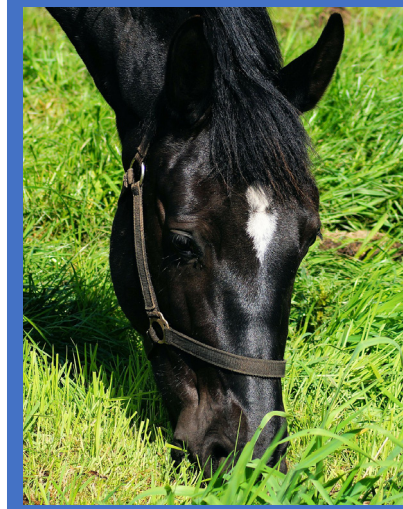
Before adjusting your horses diet for Spring, check your horses **body condition**. Some may have lost weight over the winter, and some may have put on too much.



Ragwort is very poisonous to horses, if eaten it can lead to liver failure. Make sure you remove ALL ragwort from your horse's fields, by pulling the whole plant up, including its roots, and make sure you wear gloves.



The **flies and midges** will be out in force. Horses can be irritated by the bites of many types of flies. Proteins within the saliva of midges cause a localised allergic reaction within the skin, which is called '**Sweet Itch**'.



Monitor your horse's **grass intake**. Spring grass is high in nutrients called fructans (sugar) which are stored in blades of grass. Horses' will want to gorge on the lush Spring grass which means their intake of sugars may be high, which is one of the main causes of laminitis.



If you have not **ridden or exercised** your horse much over the Winter months, make sure you bring your horse back in to work slowly. Too much work too soon could lead to injury/pain.

