Shackleford Banks Horse Herd Update
October 26, 2011

The Shackleford Banks horses are monitored year-round. Both the size of the horse's group and chance play big parts in how often any particular horse is sighted. In the days after hurricane Irene, the Foundation for Shackleford Horses and park worked to identify as many horses as possible. On the first day 71% were spotted and by the third day we had seen 95%. But the logistics of finding one particular horse on the nine mile long shrub- and dune-covered island are challenging. During routine monitoring, any one horse – particularly if it's not associated with a group - may not be seen in any given month. More than a month and a half after the storm, the remaining horse was found – grazing with his some-time associates within his predicted home range.

Perhaps the last foal of the season was born to a mare who has been contracepted seven years (though not in a row) ending in 2007. Seven consecutive years of PZP contraception is generally considered to reduce chances of conception to nil. Hezakiah's last foal was born in 2005 after four doses of PZP.

#6Y Hernando, born October 20, and dam #73 Hezakiah
Source: Cape Lookout National Seashore, Wildlife Biologist - Horses