

Free

October 2008

Where there are rivers,
There are valleys,
There are horses,
And the ...



Valley Equestrian

Your local resource for equestrian events, news and information.

Newspaper

LEAPIN' LARIATS!



Breed of the Month:

The Versatile
Quarter Horse

Ranch of the Month:

Helland Quarter Horse
Ranch
Kathryn, No. Dak.

Photo Stories:

Spirit of the West Fest --
Sioux Falls, So. Dak.

Lakes Region Horse Fest -
Little Falls, Minn.

Harvest Fest
West Fargo, No. Dak.

Brian Bausch jumping through hoops on his AQHA Stallion, Rustler at the Spirit of the West Festival in
Sioux Falls, So. Dak. More inside this issue

The Valley Equestrian

Vol. 2 No. 10

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The Valley Equestrian
is published monthly.

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Brian Bausch performs amazing tricks on his 14-year-old quarter horse stallion, Rustler, at the Spirit of the West Fest in Sioux Falls, So. Dak.

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Q&A - ASK AN EXPERT: PAUL KUKOWSKI ON REINING

Q: What do you look for in a reining horse prospect?

There are many things to look for in a young reining prospect. If I am looking for a future show horse one thing I consider is breeding. I prefer a horse that has a sire that has won significant National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) earnings and a dam that has NRHA earnings and has produced money earners or has full sisters or brothers that have earned money. A successful show record indicates talent, ability and consistency in the bloodlines.

Another thing I look for is confirmation. I want a horse with a lot of "eye appeal." A horse with a cute head and soft eye. He or she should have a good top line with a strong back and lots of muscle in the hip. I prefer a horse that has a neck that ties in well with the shoulder and not too deep in the chest. This type of confirmation generally will present a prettier picture in the show ring by not carrying their head too high. A horse that carries their head at a natural level will also be more collected and keep their back rounded aiding in their approach to the stop and in their roll backs. Most reining horses are 14.0 hands tall to 15.1 hands. I don't have preference on size as long as they show that they have talent. They need to be straight in both the front and back legs with adequate bone and hocks that are set low. Horses that are lighter boned seem to have more lameness issues.

Something else I look for in a reining prospect is disposition. There is nothing worse than having a horse around that is difficult to work with. A horse that has a positive attitude and willingness to please will be easier to train, easier to show and easier to market. When you go to look at a prospect there are some little things to look for that will tell you a lot about the horse's disposition: Start with observing them in their stall. Do they have their ears forward and look happy? I suggest opening the stall door to see if he or she comes to you or do they stand in the back of the stall and watch you out of the corner of their eye. If they are in a pasture with other horses do they interact well with the others.

How do you start your reining prospect to ride?

When I start a reining prospect under saddle I start them like any other horse. Most young horses that I start are around 24 months of age. I saddle them and put a smooth O ring snaffle in their mouth. I will then lunge them. The reason I like to lunge them rather than turn them loose in a round pen is I want to have contact with them. I don't want the horse to get scared and start bucking. If they do I can stop them. I would rather the horse not learn to throw a fit. Lunging takes any excess energy out of them and lets them know that the saddle and the stirrups slapping them isn't going to hurt them. Then I will use a rain slicker and sack them out. Next I will line drive the horse for 5 or 6 days. At the end of each driving session I will put my foot in the stirrup and get him or her used to the weight in the stirrup. When they are responding well to the driving and the weight in the stirrup it is time to get on. This first ride is the most dangerous time for both horse and rider. I generally have a helper hold the horse while I get on. I will get on and off several times and then have my helper lead me for a few minutes. If all goes well I will walk the horse by myself and possibly trot a little bit. I am real careful that I don't do too much as a young horse has a short attention span and I want to keep the horse calm and have a positive experience. I will start loping them as soon as they are walking and trotting off willingly,

usually after 8 or 10 rides. This is the most important and stressful time of the horse's life. My goal is to make sure that it is a good experience for the horse. I don't want to put too much pressure on them. I want to train the horse for the long term. Everyday I will work on flexing and getting the horse soft. I walk and trot a lot of 20 - 40 foot diameter circles and figure eights. I want the horse to lead with his or her nose in a relaxed manner.

When I have the horse walking, trotting and loping both directions I will start working on some of the basics for reining. I like to get my horses to side pass early on in their training. That will help when I start asking them to pivot on the hind legs and also pushing their hip around and pivoting on their front legs. This will also help ensure that when I ask for a lope they will pick up



Paul Kukowski reining Lucky Lady Whiz at Valley City, No. Dak. who was sold to the Czech Republic last winter.

the correct lead. When I start a horse to pivot on their rear leg I will walk them in a circle, gradually making it smaller. I will help the horse by using my outside leg and keeping their nose tipped to the inside. When the horse crosses over I will walk them forward. I want to keep forward motion and this will "reward" the horse. After a month or so they should be pivoting at a slow pace with cadence. I don't ask for speed until they are several months into their training. I will use splint boots on their front legs to protect them from injury. All along I am preparing the horse to stop. When loping, I will say "whoa" and then pick up on the reins and ask him to stop and back up 4 or 5 steps. He will learn quickly that when you say "whoa" he is supposed to stop and back and he'll be doing it by himself with no contact on the snaffle bit. From time to time I will back the horse up 5 or 6 steps and pivot 180 degrees and lope off the opposite direction all in one smooth motion. These roll backs are essential to a reining horse and will teach them to keep their back legs under themselves. Generally after 4 or 5 months of training I will put a pair

of sliding plates on them, usually three-quarter inch. I will work on "fencing" them at a slow lope back and forth several times. It may be several days or weeks before I ask for a slight increase in speed, gradually adding speed over the months. It is important to keep your horse stopping willingly with the word "whoa."

A few months after their first ride I will start preparing the horse for lead changes. I like to counter canter in a large circle. I will use my inside leg to make the horse bend in the middle and simultaneously keep the horse's nose tipped to the inside of the circle. I will use my inside rein to keep the horse's inside shoulder up. It is important to keep the horse moving forward in a relaxed manner. When the horse is moving forward without hesitation, take your inside leg pressure off and at the same time slide your outside leg back a few inches and apply a small amount of pressure. If your horse has been pivoting on its front end like we discussed earlier, it will move its hip to the inside and transition into the correct lead. It is important that you don't get frustrated if the horse doesn't change leads right away. Too often when the horse doesn't change leads the rider will force him to change leads by spurring extra hard. This will lead to a horse that charges into its lead change. After my horse does an acceptable lead change I will bring them down to a walk. This will make the horse think that when he does a good lead change he can walk and relax.

With a young prospect it is important to keep them quiet and willing to learn. I let the horse dictate how much time I spend with them each day. Usually after a 30-60 minutes they lose their attention span. I like to see a horse improve each day even if it is very slight. I always quit their session on a good note. I don't want to put the horse back in the barn and let them think that they can get a rest by not doing their job.

Kukowski has been training horses for over two decades. He competed in his first horse show at age 11. He has trained horses that have been NRHA money earners as well as AQHA world show qualifiers and ROM earners. He takes a limited number of outside horses for training and always has prospects and finished horses for sale. He is also a third generation wheat and soybean farmer on the family farm at Georgetown, Mn. He can be reached at 218-233-6505, paulski@anyconnect.com or kukowskireininghorses.com

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Horse Headlines

Kentucky Panel Approves Ban on Steroids

The Kentucky Horse Racing Commission voted unanimously Aug. 25 to ban the use of anabolic steroids in racehorses, and the rules could be in place the first week of October should Gov. Steve Beshear sign an emergency regulation as expected.

CDI: Horsemen's Actions are Price-Fixing

Churchill Downs Inc. has fired back at horsemen's groups it has sued over alleged federal antitrust violations, calling their collective actions "price-fixing, pure and simple."

Louisiana to Ban Steroids

The Louisiana State Racing Commission took steps Aug. 25 to ban exogenous steroids. The rules could become effective before Jan. 1.

Frankel May Take On Curlin and Big Brown

Step aside, Allen Jerkens. Bobby Frankel may string up his own slingshot and take on the role of Giant Killer. Frankel said he is considering going up against racing's two-headed monster, Curlin and Big Brown, in the Woodward Stakes (gr. I) Aug. 30 and Monmouth Stakes Sept. 13, respectively.

Major Changes Announced for 2-year-old Sales

Officials of Barretts, Fasig-Tipton, Keeneland, and the Ocala Breeders' Sales Company (OBS) have agreed to institute major changes relating to the under tack shows for their sales of 2-year-olds in training, it was announced Sept. 2.

Beginning in 2009, the use of whips by riders will be strictly regulated during a workout in an under tack show, with stiff penalties and suspensions being contemplated for riders who do not follow the sales companies' regulations. In addition, the four auction firms will also prohibit the use of front toe grabs, a policy that is in line with recommendations from The Jockey Club's Thoroughbred Safety Committee now being widely adopted by the racing industry.

The first sale to operate with these new regulations next year will be the OBS select sale of 2-year-olds in training Feb. 10. The four sales companies will implement the regulations through their entire 2-year-old sales program, but details of implementation and enforcement are being studied independently. Mike O'Farrell, chairman of OBS, noted a consensus was reached quickly during recent discussions involving the sale companies and consignors of 2-year-olds.

"The focus on safety and soundness issues within our industry brought us together, and we forged a united front to introduce important changes in the way under-tack shows are conducted," O'Farrell said. "The changes we have enacted can only enhance for buyers the reputation and image of the two-year-olds in training sales program."

Strawberry Reason Dead

Strawberry Reason, dam of champion Vindication, was found dead in her pasture June 29 at Arthur B. Hancock III's Stone Farm near Paris, Ky. The 16-year-old mare, bred and owned by Virginia Kraft Payson, died from head injuries.

According to Anna Colombo, who manages Payson Stud near Lexington, it remains unknown how Strawberry Reason suffered the injury. Strawberry Reason was in foal to A.P. Indy, whose sire, Seattle Slew, sired Vindication.

Strawberry Reason's death came 10 days before the death of Vindication, who stood at John Sikura's Hill 'n' Dale Farms near Lexington.

A graded stakes winner, Strawberry Reason produced grade III winner Scipion (by A.P. Indy) and stakes-placed runners Blackberry Road and True Reason. Six of her eight foals of racing age are winners.

Vindication sold for \$2.15 million to Satish and Anne Sanan's Padua Stables at the 2001 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga yearling sale. Taylor Made Sales Agency consigned as agent. Racing for Padua, Vindication was voted divisional champion after winning the 2002 Bessemer Trust Breeders' Cup Juvenile (gr. I) in what was his sole year of racing. He entered stud in 2004 and is represented by four stakes winners.

Scipion also commanded big bucks as a Saratoga yearling, selling for \$1.9 million to trainer Patrick Biancone in 2003. His

Another First at the North Dakota Horse Park

By Jessica Sell

Photo Courtesy of Trista Gray, All Event Photography

This year marks many firsts at the North Dakota Horse Park with their new General Manager, Heather Benson. Two of those go hand and hand, the Artistry Program and the Retired Horserace Placement Service.

According to Heather Benson and the HRND website, www.hrnd.org, the Artistry Program is a way for artists to present the subject at hand in a new light. This year's subject was the HRND mascot, Barracuda Boy. Artists go through an application Process or are contacted through HRND to participate.

Each artist is showcased at the Races for a week. They have the opportunity to show and sell their work during the race.

During the course of the season, each artist donated a piece of artwork with Barracuda Boy. These pieces were auctioned off on the last race day of the season. "The proceeds will be used to fund the Horse Park's new Racehorse Retirement Program," said Benson. When asked for next years plans, Benson replied "We're planning the program again for 2009 in probably a bigger and better format!"

A special thank you to this year's artists, Jessica Mon-geon, Mel Stone, Dorothy Snowden, Joy Gauderman and Jeffrey Blaseg!



Baracuda Boy Portrait by Joy Gauderman

big win came in the Risen Star Stakes (gr. III) at 3. Scipion stands at Murmur Farm near Darlington, Md.

Another of Strawberry Reason's offspring, Queenie Cat (by Storm Cat), sold for \$1.7 million at the 2005 Keeneland October yearling sale. She went unraced. Queenie Cat produced a Distorted Humor filly this year for Hill 'n' Dale Equine Holdings and Racehorse Management.

Strawberry Reason won four of 17 races and earned \$153,226 for Virginia Kraft Payson. Trained by Roger Attfield, she won the 1995 Martha Washington Stakes (gr. III) and was stakes-placed three times.

Strawberry Reason also is the dam of an A.P. Indy yearling filly and a 2008 Unbridled's Song filly.

Seven-Figure Filly Highlights Day Four

Despite a filly by Medaglia d'Oro selling for \$1.1 million and the session realizing a 3.9% increase in the number of horses sold compared to last year, day four of the 2008 Keeneland September yearling sale Sept. 11 saw declines in gross, average, and median.

Analyzing September: Nothing Unexpected

Buyers and consignors discuss the market at the Keeneland September yearling sale during first four days, but especially during the third and fourth sessions.

Number of Foals Down About 5 Percent

Fewer foals this year probably means fewer racehorses for the future. The Jockey Club reported that 3,638 stallions covered 61,262 mares in North America during 2007.

These articles and more news may be found at: <http://www.bloodhorse.com>

Johnson, Thompson and Sorinson-Cardwell Elected Board Members to HRND

Horse Race North Dakota, the non-profit dedicated to managing the live horse racing meet at the North Dakota Horse Park, elected three new Executive Board members at its monthly board meeting Tuesday evening. Glen Thompson of Gwinner, North Dakota, Gene Johnson of Fargo, North Dakota and Julie Sorinson-Cardwell of Fargo, North Dakota were elected unanimously by the general board to become the newest active members of the 6-year-old organization.

Glen Thompson is the recently retired Buildings and Grounds Supervisor of the North Dakota Horse Park and has played a very active role since the Park's creation in 2003. Also a director on the North Dakota Horse Park Foundation board, Glen's intimate knowledge of the Horse Park's history and creative vision for its future ensure that his participation will lead the Horse Park forward in the coming years. Gene Johnson has also been an active participant in the Horse Park for many years, as part of the volunteer corps that saw the Horse Park built in 2003 and as a ready-to assist local horsemen since then. Julie Sorinson-Cardwell is the newest face at the North Dakota Horse Park but hails from a strong non-profit background as the former Executive Director of the Dakota Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Currently a pharmaceutical sales representative, Julie is also an active member of the Alpha Equus English Riding Club in Fargo.

Horse Race North Dakota also elected current Secretary Carolyn Goerger to a new post Tuesday night. Carolyn will now take the reins as HRND's newest Vice President, taking over the post vacated by Ryan Roshau earlier this year. Carolyn has served on the board for 6 years and brings a passion for the Horse Park to her new position. HRND will elect a new Secretary at the October meeting.

Horse Race North Dakota, a non-profit dedicated to the development and promotion of live horse racing in North Dakota, operates a 6-8 week live race meet during August and September of each year. Attracting an average daily crowd of over 2500 people, the live race meet has been increasingly popular with each year of existence. Horse Race North Dakota 501(c)4 and the North Dakota Horse Park Foundation 501(c)3 work together to provide top class facilities and services to the horsemen and women of North Dakota. For more information, go to www.hrnd.org or call General Manager Heather Benson at 701-232-3832.

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OCTOBER EVENTS AND MORE

Call before you haul -- The Valley Equestrian is not responsible for changes to scheduled events

Oct. 2: Barrel racing at the Oasis Equestrian Center, Lindstrom, Minn., (612) 205-2256 or oasisequine@frontiernet.net

Oct. 2-5: Parelli Level 2 Clinic with Nita Jo Rush at Bowlus, Minn.; auditors welcome; contact Sally Taylor (612) 616-2250 or zazz@aol.com

Oct. 3-4: Minnesota Rodeo Association State Finals at Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, Minn. Contact RHRA@prtcl.com or call (218) 736.3000

Oct. 4: Ranch Rodeo at Broken Bit Arena, Brahm, Minn. contact (320) 396-2272 or www.brokenbittack.com.

Oct. 4: Fall Regional Horse Owner Program 1-4 p.m. at the UW-Morris Science Building in Morris, Minn. contact www.extension.umn.edu/horse.

Oct. 4-5: Minnesota Paint Horse Futurity and Show; Minnesota Equestrian Center, (507) 452-5600

Oct. 5: Open Fun Show at the Oasis Equestrian Center in Lindstrom, Minn. contact (612) 257-4642 or email oasisequine@frontiernet.net

Oct. 5: Judged Trail Rides on a 4-6 mile marked trail, ride at your own pace, with Mary Eaton at 7E Riding Instruction in Towner, ND. Call 701.537.5928 for more information.

Oct. 5: AHDRA III - Big River State Forest, 30 mile limited distance; 60 mile endurance; Show Manager Anthony A. Troyer (815) 539.7375 or cdilbeck@castlebank.com

Oct. 6: Gary Griffeth drive/potluck - Frazee MN; ph: (701) 237-4555

Oct. 7: JJ Arena barrel, game show; contact Julie@JJArena.com or call (715) 857-5505

Oct. 9: Barrel racing at Oasis Equestrian Center, (612) 205-2256 or email: oasisequine@frontiernet.net

Oct. 10: BLM Auction at Canon City, CO; contact the Royal Gorge Field Office at (866) 4MUSTANGS

Oct. 10th-12th: Fall Festival of Cutting Incentive Fund Futurity; Contact RHRA@prtcl.com or call (218) 736.3000

Oct. 11: Buffalo Star 'n Stirrups Horse Show, Buffalo Rodeo Grounds, (763) 682-9028

Oct. 11: Extrme Trail Course at the Bro-

ken Bit Arena in Braham, Minn., contact www.brokenbittack.com or call (320) 396-2272

Oct. 11-12: Minnesota Equifest : from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds in St. Paul, Minn. Contact (763) 421-5750

Oct. 12: Team Penning at the Broken Bit Arena in Braham, Minn. contact: www.brokenbittack.com or (320) 396-2272

Oct. 14: Allbreed horse and tack sale, Simon Horse Company, (507) 263-4200 or www.simonhorsecompany.com

Oct. 17-19: Rodeo City Riders Trail Ride; contact Mary I. Simons at (920) 982-2857

Oct. 17-19: AERC Endurance and Limited Riding at St. Croix State Park in Hinkley, MN; show manager Bob Egerer at (320) 558.6820 or regerer287@aol.com

Oct. 17-19: 17th at 6 p.m. the 18th at 1 p.m. and the 19th at 8 a.m. at Red Horse Ranch Arena, Fergus Falls, MN; Contact: Jess Bergem, Event Producer 701-541-3930 for The MN Lakes Barrel Race; \$8000 Total added money, featuring a Barrel Futurity, Derby and Open 4D Barrel Race; Entries due Oct 1; late entry onsite. See www.mnlakes2008.com

Oct. 17-18 - NPRA - Bull-A-Rama Final Rodeo - Jamestown, ND

Oct. 17-19: Iowa Pinto Horse Club Jubilee, Iowa PHC in Cedar Rapids, IA; Show Mgr: Philip Madden, 563-946-2061, Show Secretary: Chris Madden, 563-946-2061; 3 Judges: Roger Howe, Mary Ann Fielitz, Jeff Lechner

October 17th-19th: MN Lakes Barrel Race at Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, Minn. contact www.mnlakes2008.com

Oct. 18: Barrel Racing at the Oasis Equestrian Center in Lindstrom, Minn.; call (612) 205-2256 or oasisequine@frontiernet.net

Oct. 18: Fall Regional Horse Owner Program 1-4 p.m. at the Northwest Technical College in Bemidji, Minn. contact www.extension.umn.edu/horse.

Oct. 18-19: Michael Beining Seat Symposium hosted by the Nebraska Dressage Association at the Elkhorn Equestrian Center in Elkhorn Nebraska; contact

Karen Stricklett, NDA Education Chair at kstricklett@stricklett.com for more information

Oct. 18-19: North Central Reining Horse Association Horse Show at the Minnesota Equestrian Center in Lindstrom, Minn.; contact (507) 452-5600

Oct. 19: Team Penning at the Broken Bit Arena in Braham, Minn., www.brokenbittack.com or (320) 396-2272

Oct. 21: The Friesian inspection and Friesian Crossbred inspection will be held at Painted Creek Farm, 8324 60th N (highway 36), Grant/Stillwater MN (entrance to it is the shipping and receiving for Hedberg's). It starts at 8.30 a.m. The public is welcome and encouraged to learn about Friesian/crosses. This will be Fourth time the German judges are in MN judging on Conformation and Movement. This is a fun educational event. Contact

Oct. 21: JJ Arena barrel, game show in Balsum Lake, Wis.; contact Julie@JJArena.com or (715) 857-5505

Oct. 23: Barrel racing at Oasis Equestrian Center in Lindstrom, Minn., contact (612) 205-2256 or oasisequine@frontiernet.net

Oct. 24: BLM Auction at Canon City, CO; contact the Royal Gorge Field Office at (866) 4MUSTANGS

Oct. 25-26: Barrel Bash at the I-90 Expo Center in Sherburn, Minn; call (507) 764-4025 or email codi@I90expo_center.com

Oct. 25: Twin Cities Quarter Horse Sale at Simon Horse Company in Cannon Falls, Minn.; call (507)-263-4200 or visit www.simonhorsecompany.com

Oct. 25: JJ Arena barrel, game show in Balsam Lake, Wis.; contact Julie@JJArena.com or call (715) 857-5505

Oct. 25: Oct. 4: Fall Regional Horse Owner Program 1-4 p.m. at the Minnehaha Elementary School at Two Harbors, Minn. contact www.extension.umn.edu/horse.

Oct. 25-26: UMECRA: Point Chaser. (Crow Hassen Park, MN) Fri. 2-Day 100/50 End., 30 LD, 30 Comp., Sat., 50 End., 30 LD, 30 Comp., Sun., 30 LD, 30 Comp., 15 Novice. Holly & Bob Egerer, 18987 County Road 45, Clearwater, MN 55320. 320-558-6820. Camping reservations must be made in advance. ENTRIES RECEIVED AFTER 10/15 PAY

ADDITIONAL \$5.00.

Oct. 26: Twin Cities Paint Horse Sale at the Simon Horse Company in Cannon Falls, Minn.; call (507) 263-4200 or visit: www.simonhorsecompany.com

Oct. 26-27: Back by Popular Demand The Brady Equestrian Center presents: Dressage Clinic with Gran Prix rider, international competitor, 'R' judge, Ulf Wadeborn, formerly of the Stromsholm Riding Academy in Sweden. \$150/ride. Auditing is free. Located one mile off of I-94 in Downer, MN. Contact Margo Brady 218 789-7704

Oct. 30: Barrel racing at the Oasis Equestrian Center in Lindstrom, Minn. Email oasisequine@frontiernet.net or call (612) 205-2256

Nov. 1: NRF Tour Finals and UBRA Tour at Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, Minn. Contact Jessica beauvais at jessica@ubra.org or call (715) 857-6343

Nov. 1&2: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Featuring George Williams at Pine Hill Farm, 8000 NW Mace Road Kansas City, MO 64152 (816) 695-3305; register by Oct. 21 for the USDF FEI/YR Clinic Series - Region 4

Nov. 1-4: Pinto Congress in Tulsa, OK. Judges: Richard Gahimer, Patty Meek, Lita Hottel, Butch Carse, Lori Gingrich, John Aipperspach, Jim Sossamon

Nov. 6-8: Cochran Morgan Auction at Tattersall's in Lexington, KY; contact Penny Cochran at (724) 528-0248

Nov. 7: BLM Auction at Canon City, CO; contact the Royal Gorge Field Office at (866) 4MUSTANGS

Nov. 21: BLM Auction at Canon City, CO; contact the Royal Gorge Field Office at (866) 4MUSTANGS

Nov. 22: Fall Regional Horse Owner Program 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Cambridge-Isanti High School at Cambridge, Minn. contact www.extension.umn.edu/horse.

Call or email the Valley Equestrian to list your Club or Organizational Events free of charge!

701.361.8648 or leybou@gmail.com'

Stallion Shopping Part 2: The Debate -- Hauling the Mare

By Dan Drewlow, North Star Stables

In this issue of the Valley Equestrian we try to answer the age old question: Do I haul the mare to the breeding farm and can I trust the breeding farm to care for my mare as I would? When selecting a stallion for stud service, one must consider what types of breeding services are offered: Live Cover, On-Farm AI, Transported Cooled Semen, Frozen Semen, or a mixture of any of these services.

If the stallion owner and breeding farm only offer Live Cover or On-Farm Artificial Insemination services, it takes the debate out of the question of hauling the mare to the breeding facility. You will have no choice but to haul her to the breeding farm if you are going to use this stallion. In my professional opinion, On-Farm Artificial Insemination is a better choice than live cover if it is offered, as the risk to both the stallion and the mare are greatly reduced.

When the stallion owners and breeding facility offer Transported Cooled Semen and Frozen Semen services is when the debate comes in to play. The breeding facility's goal is to get your mare in foal. If you talk to the facility about her care, a majority of the breeding facilities will try to do the best that they can to care for the mare the same way that you would if she were at home. As the mare owner you also need to understand that the breeding facility may have a large number of outside mares coming in to be bred and can not always offer custom care for your mare as much as they would like to. It is important to talk to the breeding facility, before you bring her to the facility, about how the facility is run and what differ-

ences you and the facility may have over the care of your mare. In most cases the facility will be willing to work with you as the mare owner, if they can do so within reason.

Another important aspect to consider is the breeding facility and the staff itself. The facility should be clean and the horses in proper condition. The staff must be knowledgeable, professional, and handle the horses properly. Just because a facility is a "state of the art showcase" does not mean that the facility cares for the horses any better than a facility that is safe, well designed, and functional. I prefer a functional facility with knowledgeable staff over that of an unfunctional facility with less the knowledgeable staff. The look of a facility does not reflect the type of care that the horses at the facility receive. I have been to some state of the art showcase facilities where the care of the horses was questionable. I also have been to some functional facilities where the care of the horses was top priority. That priority showed in the horses and the level of success they had with getting mares in foal.

So should you haul your mare to the breeding farm and will they care for her as you would at home? Yes, if you have communicated with the breeding facility and everyone has a clear understanding of what is expected of them. Remember the breeding farm's goal is to get your mare in foal. If your mare is happy and well cared for she may be easier to get in foal. If she is stressed or unhappy about her care, it may be more of a challenge for her to conceive.

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Horses in History: Incitatus

By Amber Voigt

Since history was first recorded, horses have been a part of it. Most of the animals that help make history happen are overlooked; one such horse is Incitatus. Although little is told of Incitatus, most depictions are of a grey Arabian Stallion. Roman Emperor Caligula was so obsessed with this race horse that he built a house in Incitatus' name complete with a stable of marble, manger of ivory, purple blankets, and gold buckets.

Incitatus was even fed like a king: oats with gold flakes in it, a variety of meats, including mice, squid, mussels, and chicken. He had his fill of fine wines. Incitatus had up to eight servants that attended him daily, fulfilling his every need. Emperor Caligula invited guests to dine at the palace in the horse's name, and they were joined by Incitatus at the table as well. He was a regular table guest of Emperor Caligula during his life.

Incitatus was an active race horse. The emperor would often send guards out in the city on game days to order silence so that Incitatus would not be disturbed, believing he would then perform better at the games. The emperor's love for this horse went so far as to make Incitatus not only a citizen of Rome, but a senator with an active vote. He even promised to appoint him consul, the ultimate honor in Roman society, and would have had it not been for the emperor's assassination. Nothing is known of Incitatus after his master's death, but it is safe to say he didn't get to keep his house. However one looks at it, all through history there are those who let obsessive love rule their lives, and sometimes horses are fortunate to be there.



Know your needs when pricing hay

By Dan Martens, University of Minnesota Extension

ST. PAUL, Minn. (9/8/2008) — As a buyer or seller of hay, what works for you? In the end, the buyer and seller are working towards a price that gives both a reasonable chance to make a living — a return for their share in labor, management, capital and risk. You'll find a number of good references in the "Forage Quarterly Newsletter," on the University of Minnesota Extension forages website at www.extension.umn.edu/forages. Read the newsletter for details on the references in this article.

For the landowner, many articles suggest an investment return on the value of the land as one factor. This is valid. But keep in mind there are situations where the price someone can afford to pay for harvesting hay from the land will not cover a targeted return on the land value because of other factors affecting land values.

Here's a summary of other ideas:

- Compare markets. USDA provides market information for a variety of feeds, including hay. Use a web search for "USDA Hay Market." It may be good to ask, "Are the dynamics in a different market area relevant for where you're buying or selling hay?" You can track Sauk Centre hay auction prices at the Extension forage website from September to May.

- Hay prices based on other commodities. There are formulas for calculating hay and other feed prices based on the price of other sources for fiber, protein, and energy — commonly soybean meal for protein and corn for energy. What if distiller products or another feed material is a cheaper source of energy or protein? Would you use that as a base for comparisons? Availability, feasibility and convenience in using alternative feeds might be factors in what gets used for a comparative value for individual farms.

- The MnSCU Farm Business Management programs provide excellent tools for learning how to get at your numbers. Go to <http://www.mgt.org>. FINBIN is a web database of farm management analysis information in Minnesota at <http://www.finbin.umn.edu>.

Consider what's important to you in the market place. Know your needs and your numbers related to income, expenses and goals. Your voice should be part of "what the market says."

Note: If you do not have access to the websites given in this column, call Extension's Farm Information Line at (800)232-9077, or you may contact me at (320)968-5077 or (800) 964-4929.

Dan Martens is a crops educator with University of Minnesota Extension.

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UHC Continues to Compile List of Facilities to Accept Horses

WASHINGTON, DC. The Unwanted Horse Coalition (UHC) seeks more facilities that accept, place, or use horses to list themselves on the UHC website. Currently, there are over 200 facilities listed.

"This is a continuing process for the coalition," said Dr. Tom Lenz, UHC chairman. "We have received many inquiries not only from horse owners who are seeking retirement homes or second careers for their horses, but also from people who are interested in adopting a horse or volunteering at equine placement organizations. We expect that this online directory will continue to furnish valuable information to all these people, and in doing so, be good for the horses."

According to recent national and regional news reports, the number of unwanted horses in the United States is rising. Media reports suggest that rescue groups and state agencies are seeing an increased number of horses that can no longer be cared for by their owners. Some of these reports are suggesting that many rescue, retirement, and rehabilitation facilities are struggling to feed their current inventory as well and have been forced to start turning horses away.

The UHC hopes that its website resources will remain an important bridge between people who are seeking alternatives for their horses and the many facilities that are able to accept them. Such facilities include rescue, retirement and retraining facilities; therapeutic riding programs; colleges and universities; police and military organizations; public stables; and government and park service programs. "The more facilities we can list on our website, the better. The larger our on-line network becomes, the more options become available for the unwanted horse. If you are a facility that will help with the care, training and use of these horses, we encourage you to sign on," said Julia Andersen, UHC director.

The UHC website is set up so that these facilities can list themselves easily. Any facility that wishes to be listed can go to the UHC website and complete a brief questionnaire. To complete the questionnaire or view the facilities in the directory, go to www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org, click Resources, follow the link to Facilities that Accept Horses and fill out the short questionnaire. Facilities will be listed by state. The information sought is intended to advise horse owners about what type of facility it is, contact information, whether it is tax exempt, year founded, horse capacity, number of staff and whether it follows the "Care Guidelines for Rescue and Retirement Facilities," published by the American Association of Equine Practitioners. A facility will also be able to describe itself and spell out its purpose and philosophy.

"There are plenty of horses who need care, training, and a good home. We want horse owners to be aware of the large rescue/retirement facilities with multiple locations as well as the smaller facilities that may serve a local area. They all have an important place in this effort," said Dr. Lenz.

The UHC website also has a series of questions that owners should consider when trying to decide on a facility, program or second use for their horse. "These questions will help owners know what options are available and what to look for in a facility. This is a difficult decision for many owners to make and we want to help them make the best one for their horse," said Andersen.

The UHC is a broad alliance of equine organizations that have joined together under the American Horse Council to reduce the numbers of unwanted horses and help horse owners understand the various options,

Less is More: Fewer Days Equal Big Numbers to Makes 2008 Race Meet a Smashing Success!

The 2008 racing season at the North Dakota Horse Park came to a conclusion on September 7th with significant upturns in attendance, handle and total revenue. Although the track hosted its smallest meet in three years in terms of duration at just 19 days, it boasted its best overall numbers to date.

The first five weeks of 2008, featuring a mixed meet of Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse racing, saw 16 race days with 129 races with over \$375,000 in purses. Average handle per day was \$25,993, an increase of nearly 12% over 2007. Additionally, the amount wagered per race was up nearly 8% at \$3,224 compared to only \$2,998 in 2007. Overall handle for the Thoroughbred/QH meet was \$415,880, just \$48,000 shy of the mark set in 2007 that had an additional 4 days of racing. Jockey Jake Olesiak won his 3rd straight riding title at the Horse Park by piloting home 24 winners while earning \$50,031 in the process. Owner Tom Maher from Box Elder, SD took home the leading owner title and Bob Johnson of Lemmon, SD took the leading trainer title by saddling 17 winners during the meet.

The final three days of racing in 2008 were devoted to local harness racing interests. The three days of racing saw 24 races go to the post with nearly \$40,000 in purses available. Handle for the harness racing was up dramatically from just \$6,445 wagered per day in 2007 to \$10,892 in 2008. Total handle was \$32,677 for three days of racing compared to \$38,672 for 6 days of racing in 2007. Driver Darryl Mason of Killarney, Manitoba celebrated his 1,000th career win during the 3 day meet. At age 40, he is one of the youngest drivers to ever reach that historic mark.

Ancillary revenue at the Fargo, North Dakota track saw some of the most dramatic improvements. Daily gate receipts and attendance rose over 32% from 2007 and daily concession sales jumped a whopping 109% over 2007 numbers. Corporate sponsorships also increased 10 fold over 2007 with over \$50,000 in race, program and signage sponsorships provided to the Horse Park. In all, the North Dakota Horse Park saw a 25% jump

services and assistance available to them when they are considering what to do with a horse they can no longer care for.

The coalition's website has information

on the issue of the unwanted horse along with an ever-expanding resource section dedicated to educational materials and news articles. A brochure highlighting the coalition and its activities is available online along with a hand book entitled "Own Responsibly: Guidance for Current and Potential Horse Owners from the Unwanted Horse Coalition." Both can be downloaded for use.

in total receipts over 2007 while operating with 7 fewer days of racing. "These are the kinds of numbers we were after in 2008...by giving the public a fun, fan-friendly venue to watch the races we become not just a place to place a bet, but a great spectator sport for the whole family as well," said General Manager Heather Benson who is in just her first year at the Horse Park. "We hope to improve on the model we made in 2008 by reaching out and creating even more new fans of live racing in the Upper Midwest. This is just the beginning of an exciting time for racing in North Dakota."

The North Dakota Horse Park was established in 2003 through the use of funds generated by special taxes placed on simulcast wagering for the development and promotion of live horse racing in the state of North Dakota. In just 6 years, the regional economic impact of the North Dakota Horse Park has grown into the millions of dollars. In 2007, the horse racing and breeding industry contributed the following estimated sums to the regional economy*:

North Dakota Horse Park-purses, wages, goods and services:	\$1,500,000
Horsemen's expenses during the North Dakota Horse Park meet:	\$2,240,000
Good and services purchased by race patrons at Fargo:	\$5,000,000
Chippewa Downs meet-Track, Horsemen's and Fans receipts:	\$500,000
Goods and services purchased by ND racehorse breeders:	\$12,000,000
Total:	\$21,240,000 and growing!

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Days of Old Celebrated at Harvest Fest at Bonanzaville, North Dakota

Photography by Jessica Sell
All Event Photography



Above: Bob Jostad gives tractor pull rides to Harvest Fest patrons.

Community and visitors to the Fargo-Moorhead community joined the Clay County Historical Society celebrate Harvest Fest at Bonanzaville USA Saturday September, 20 and Sunday, September 21 featuring horse-drawn carriage rides, horse-powered farm equipment in threshing operations, costumed interpreters describing the history of specific buildings, craft demonstrations and kids games. The Bonanza Belles prepared hot dogs, scalloped potatoes and pies.

Bonanzaville is an historic village containing more than 40 buildings where visitors can step back in time to the turn of the 20th century walking through period style buildings of the early 1900s filled with authentic artifacts of the time. Over 30,000 people from all over the world tour this site annually.



Above: Brandon Rostbert watches intently as Michael Quade forges iron. Below: Michael Quade, of Wilmont South Dakota, demonstrates how hand-forged iron goods are made.



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RED RIVER VALLEY TRAINER INTRODUCES NEW PRODUCT: THE EQUINE ENHANCER

By Ley Bouchard

Wade Benson, 35, a trainer from West Fargo, No. Dak., makes his living riding. He rides a lot of horses. He has ridden horses most of his life, since he was a boy growing up in Bagley, Minn. Like many entrepreneurs, his invention came to him one day in January 2007 while he was working. When he was starting a 2-year-old red roan filly, he ran into a bit of a snag, every time he tried to back her she would lie down. He assumed his saddle was pinching nerves in the shoulder area. He wanted to relieve the horse's discomfort and thought about how he could do that.

Benson created the Equine ENHANCER. "It seems to enhance the ability of the pad to absorb the shock and disperses the pressure from the saddle. Football players use pads to absorb the hit," Benson says. So why not have a tool to help the pad absorb and disperse the shock and the pressure of the saddle and rider.

"The pressure from rigid bars of the saddle will get through your pads easier than through this," Benson adds. Bull

riders wear a safety vest, people riding dressage wear protective equipment; many sports require protective gear. The Equine ENHANCER is protective gear for the horse.

The Equine ENHANCER is made from dense belting material 5/16 of an inch thick. Benson made it with sockets cut out for the shoulder blades to oscillate in. It has small holes throughout to ensure breathability. It is designed to sit between the pad and saddle. "It locks the saddle to the pad so the pad won't slide out," said Benson. It is designed to keep the horse more comfortable and their back sound.

"I don't promote the use of poor fitting saddles however the ENHANCER does help with saddles that pinch in the shoulder blades. It was originally designed for that, but the best aspect is how well it distributes weight," added Benson.

Benson spent 18 months testing different materials with feedback from other trainers. When he found the quality materials he wanted, he made some prototypes on his own, tested them,

made revisions and perfected the Equine ENHANCER to the product he is marketing today for \$125.

"This isn't about getting rich - it's about producing a quality product that helps horses," says Benson. "I was making so many for clients, my hands got sore." So he researched manufacturing companies and found one in Charlotte, NC. "I want to get it into trainers' hands and use word of mouth advertising for the most part," said Benson. Dealer inquiries are always welcome.

The Equine ENHANCER is currently available at Blairview Saddle Shop in Alexandria, Minn., Stockman's Supply in West Fargo, No. Dak., at A Bit of Tack in Verndale, Minn. and Benson Horse Training West Fargo, NO. Dak.



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The EQUINE ENHANCER may be the answer

Breed of the Month: The Versatile Quarter Horse

By Amber Voigt

Since its development in 18th-19th centuries, the Quarter Horse has been used in every aspect of life and sport. Although they were bred for ranch work on the ever increasing occupancy of the great American Western states, Quarter Horses have been used in racing, dressage, eventing, jumping, show, farming, hauling, packing, harness, and under saddle along with working cattle. So it comes as no surprise why the quarter horse is often referred to as the first All-American breed.

The quarter horse got its name from the ability to out sprint any other breed in a quarter of a mile. This ability was due to the breeding of English thoroughbreds and Spanish Mustangs, which gave the quarter horse a developed hind section with strong hindquarters, backs, and loins that were ideal for propulsive power and strength. They were heavy framed horses but compact to deal with the sharp turns and quick movements needed for working cattle.

Great sires have yielded some of the most magnificent working and performance horses of today. With any breed there are working aspects that must be taken into consideration when selecting a horse, one of these being performance. Making sure that the bloodlines match the intended use of the horse is most important. One would not take outstanding pleasure bloodlines and use that horse for speed events if the bloodline history has no favoring qualities to that event. And in some cases there are exceptional horses that exceed in areas that the bloodlines have no history of, or are exceptions all together.

Some of these great sires are Peppy San Badger, a sorrel stallion that won the NCHA Futurity in 1977 and the bloodline is well-known in the cutting horse circuit. Some of his decedents are Paddys Irish Whiskey, Haidas Little Pep, and Grays Starlight. The chestnut stallion Doc Bar, who came from racing bloodlines, proved to out-do himself in halter and produced one of the grandest cutting dynasties in American Quarter Horses including Doc's Hickory, Doc's Leo Lad, and Doc's Prescription. Then there is the widely known Hancock horses, out of the bloodline of Joe Hancock bred by John Jackson Hancock. This famous stallion was out of Peter McCue and a mare from

a Percheron stallion and thoroughbred dam. This stallion gave way to Little Joe, The Wrangler, Red Man, War Chief, and Figure Four Fritz.

Another well known stallion was Two-Eyed Jack, the sorrel dominated in halter, reining, working cow and western riding. He sired 1,416 foals including Mr Baron Red, Tow ID Bartender, and Two-Eyed Red Buck. Driftwood horses came out of the unknown to exceed in racing and rodeo circuits everywhere. He sired Poker Chip Peake, Woodwind, Drifts Chip, and Lone Drifter. Freckles Playboy's decedents helped pave the way for great ranch horses, such as, Playgun, Bet Yer Blue Boons, and Freckles Merada. Freckles Playboy was a great influence in the cutting and reining areas of Quarter horse. Blue Valentine was another great sire known for his ability in the rodeo arena and on the ranch. Sired by Red Man, Blue Valentine sets horses apart in the rodeo and ranch line. His decedents include Rowdy Blue Man, Gooseberry, Hayes' Pronto, Blue's Dividend, and Plenty Try. This gray stallion is known for stamping his offspring with size and muscle structure. Jackie Bee brought to the breeding program more stout, muscular bodied horses at a time people started looking for more. Although Jackie Bee never did much other than breed, his decedents quickly became dominating work horses. These horses included, T J Black Jack, Tee Jay Badger Bee, and Tee Jay Three Bars. Lastly I mention, Sun Frost. Sun Frost brought lots of color and speed to racing and rodeo events with his blended bloodlines of Doc Bar, Hancock, and Driftwood. This palomino stallion sired French Flash Hawk, Frenchman's Guy, and PC Sun Socks.

So bloodline, active use, confirmation, and disposition are traits that set horses apart in the Quarter Horse breed. And though there are many grand stallions that contributed to the make and design of the American Quarter Horses of today, a lot can be said about the breed apart and the breeders whose passion led to the refined and multi-purpose horses used all over the country in every aspect of horsemanship and work.

RANCH OF THE MONTH: HELLAND AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE RANCH

by Amber Voigt

Tucked quietly between the Red River Valley and the hilly plains of Kathryn, ND, is a small haven called Helland Ranch. It is there that Ginger and Karl Helland continue to add something special to the AQHA industry -- something that sets this breed apart.

Ginger was involved with horses long before her marriage to Karl. Her parents named her after a much loved horse, and the passion for horses that was based in her namesake continues in her as well. Even Ginger's earliest memories breathe with an equestrian's heart. As a

Eddy Pep Olena, offering the first foals from Helland mares in 2009. Doc Eddy Pep Olena is from Ms Thorn Doc, Sur Fine, Doc-O-Dynamite, Peppy San Badger, and he has double Doc O'Lena on his papers. As the Helland herd evolved, acquisitions included many high-end bloodlines: Doc Bar, Peponita, Zan Bar, Watch Joe Jack, Two-Eyed Jack, Wimpy, Blackburn, Poco Bueno, Doc's Wrangler, TufferNHell, Freckles Playboy, Cutter Bill, and Genuine Onyx.

Excellent bloodlines and optimized versatility provide the foundation for



trainer at age 9, Ginger began with three ponies that still live on the ranch. When Ginger started mucking stalls at DNA in junior high, she found her life in the raising and training of horses. From ponies to PMU foals, Ginger has gathered a wealth of knowledge of equines because of her love for horses.

After Ginger and Karl's wedding in 2003, the two planted the first seeds of their dynasty in the quarter horse industry. Helland AQH operation originated with a dun and a blue roan mare. In 2005 with the addition of a dun stud, Pocos Blue Magic (descended from Blue Waspy and War's Delight, Blackburn's Magic, and Traveling Mike), Karl and Ginger started breeding their own stock. With the advent of their first foals born in 2006, the Helland family worked hard to add mares to their herd.

They moved to their current location in 2007 from Casselton, ND. In the spring of 2008 they bought their second stud, Doc

their vision. "Something you could take out and work cattle all day with then take to a show the next," Ginger Helland explains. This creates an entire package for every type of person, while defining the AQHA breeding standard in confirmation, disposition, and color.

Although horses provided the start for the ranch, Ginger and Karl, like many ranchers, expanded their venture. The Helland Ranch provides goods and services outside of the equestrian realm into Angus cattle operations and farming. The business expansion not only meets the needs of the ranch itself, but allows the Hellands to sell hay, corn stover, oat and soybean bales. Besides breeding, the team boards and trains; teaches riding lessons; and sells mares, foals, riding horses, and studs. Ginger will feature clinics on horses and horsemanship in the spring of 2009.

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44TH ANNUAL GREAT MIDWEST INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW AND RED RIVER VALLEY INTERNATIONAL SELECT SIRE FUTURITY

The 44th Annual Great Midwest International Horse Show and Red River Valley International Select Sire Futurity held its annual event September 5, 6, and 7 at R&J Arena in Verndale, Minn.

The RRVISS Futurity Super Horse award is won by the horse which accumulates the most points by exhibiting in Futurity classes from their weanling year through their third year. The classes include: weanling year - halter; yearling year - halter and lunge line; two-year-old year - halter, western pleasure, English hunt seat pleasure and reining; and three-year-old year - western pleasure, English hunt seat pleasure, and reining. The RRVISS Futurity is open to the American Quarter Horse Association and

Appaloosa offspring of stallions whose breeding services were sold at the annual Stallion service auction held during the Great Midwest International Horse Show. The 2008 AQHA Super Horse is KC YA IN, St. Louis owned by Dr. Roland Wohlin of Spicer, Minn. The three-year-old gelding is sired by Wohlin's KC Melody Man.

The 2008 Appaloosa Super Horse recipient is Zippin Dirty owned by Crystal Gereszewski of East Grand Forks, Minn. The three-year old-colored Appaloosa stallion is sired by the AQHA stallion Zippos Country Cat owned by Bill and Jeanette Cook of New Salem, No. Dak.

HIGH POINT CIRCUIT AWARD RECIPIENTS OF 2008

American Quarter Horse Open Division Circuit Champion is Hot Lena Sparks, owned by Steve Burke of Larimore, No. Dak.

AQHA Amateur Division Circuit Champion is Tony Anderman of St. Cloud, Minn. showing Chocolate Tator Chip.

AQHA Youth Division Circuit Champion is Melissa Montgomery of Manvil No. Dak. showing Lyngering Impression.

Appaloosa Open Division Circuit Champion is The Slow Dance owned by Kris Reuvers of Faribault, Minn.

Appaloosa Non Pro Division

Circuit Champion is Kris Reuvers of Faribault, Minn., showing The Slow Dance.

Appaloosa Youth Division is Sara Reuvers of Faribault, Minn. showing Nibbling At Art.



The 2008 Appaloosa Super Horse recipient is Zippin Dirty owned by Crystal Gereszewski of East Grand Forks, Min. The three year old colored Appaloosa stallion is sired by the AQHA stallion Zippos Country Cat owned by Bill and Jeanette Cook of New Salem, ND

Great Midwest Jackpot Reining September 6, 2008

1st place \$250. Berry Sweet Whizard owned by Corri Lynn Berg of Frazee, Minn. Shown by Joey Jorgenson of Fisher, MN.

2nd place: \$185. Wilson Hollywood owned by Bob and Alice Pierce of Wheatland, No. Dak. Shown by Joey Jorgenson of Fisher, Minn.

3rd place: \$130. Duals Doc Holiday

owned by Mysty Shaunamen of Aberdeen So. Dak.. Shown by Kevin Vesey of Baldwin, No. Dak.

4th place: \$65. (Leroy) owned by Curt Knutson of Fisher, Minn. Shown by Ashley Peterson of Crookston, Minn.

The Red River Horse Breeders Inc. Board of Directors wishes to express their appreciation to all the sponsors for assisting in making the 2008 annual event a success.



Jerry and Lois Nanik 2008 Horseman and Horsewoman of the Year



The 2008 AQHA Super Horse is KC YA IN St. Louis owned by Dr. Roland Wohlin of Spicer, MN. The three year old gelding is sired by Wohlin's KC Melody Man

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Dressage Defined

By Margo Brady

The word "dressage" comes from the French word mean "training." "Dresser" is the verb "to train." In fact, in France, what we know as "dressage" is called "classical equitation." "Dressage du cheval" is "training of the horse" and "dressage du chien" is "training of the dog," otherwise known as "obedience training."

Although we have come to think of dressage as a sport, dressage, in its deepest sense is really obedience training for the horse and rider. It is the beauty of horse and rider working together as one with beautiful fluid movement, lightness, balance, and rhythm.

Dressage, referred to here as the classical art of riding and not the modern sport, has been around since the days of the Greek commander Xenophon (430 B.C.)! Xenophon writes of what is now known as the "classical seat" or "balanced seat."

However, he also references accounts of training horses for battle as far back as 1500 B.C.! Training horses to be one with the rider in the throws of battle was the practical use of the classical seat and the foundation for which modern dressage was to begin its journey toward art and sport.

One of the most famous fathers of modern dressage is the French Master François Robichon de la Guérinière (1688-1751) who wrote the well known Ecole de Cavalerie (School of Horsemanship or Cavalry) published in 1729 in Paris. It is this fabulous work that has become the "bible" of modern dressage, still revealed to this day, but which also had such a profound influence in Vienna and Hanover in the early 1700's.

The French language, to this day, is the language of dressage. The FEI, or Federation Equestre Internationale) was formed in Paris in 1921. Some of our common movements retain their French roots: "travers" is haunches-in, "renvers," the reverse of this, haunches-out, and "epaules dedans" is shoulder-in. Don't forget "piaffe" and "passage!"

In the classical seat, the rider is positioned so that, in a lateral view, a straight line may be drawn down from his ear through his shoulder, hip, and heel. This is the seat referred to by Xenophon, de la Guérinière, and used to this day. It is interesting to note here that even the modern American cowboy rides in a classical



Susanne Gielen, current head trainer at Flyinge, Sweden, exhibits perfect balance in a lovely extended trot on the Swedish stallion Bayron 885.

seat and the traditional Western saddle is built to hold the rider in this position. (I am not referring to specialty Western riding as seen in cutting and reining, for example, but in the equitation seat.)

So, what horses can do "dressage?" ANY horse!! Although the modern "sport" of dressage is dominated by the warmblood world, virtually any horse, from the cold-blooded Norwegian Fjord to the hot-blooded Arabian can be found in today's dressage competitions. The late Chuck Grant, one of America's great dressage trainers, always believed in the \$1,000 dressage horse that anyone could ride. He bucked tradition in training and competing Billy Jo Freckles, the first Appaloosa to show Gran Prix. In other words, any and every horse can benefit from the discipline of dressage training, whether the goal is competition or simply riding for enjoyment. And that is what is important to remember: ride for fun!

Margo Brady began studying dressage in 1986 with Anne Mouen-Stahl, Grand Prix rider and Apprentice to Carole Grant (double Gold Medalist 1983 Pan Am Games) and Jan Macafee from Australia.

She has ridden with Bo Jenå, Head Riding Master and Director of the dressage program at Flyinge, the National Stud for the Swedish Warmblood in Sweden, and also with Denis Robet, Head Trainer at



Margo Brady on Swedish Warmblood Diploma mare, Aquaria

"In the classical seat, the rider is positioned so that, in a lateral view, a straight line may be drawn down from his ear through his shoulder, hip, and heel."

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the Volte-Face Equestrian Center in the French Alps.

She currently studies with Lisbeth Bengtsson of Sweden, now in Wisconsin, and clinics with International Gran Prix competitor and 'R' dressage judge, Ulf Wadeborn, formerly from the Stromsholm Riding Academy of Sweden.

Margo is the owner of the Brady Equestrian Center in Downer, MN, where she breeds Swedish Warmbloods and stands the Swedish import stallion Bayron 885. She has upper level dressage schoolmasters available for lessons and lease. Call (218) 789-7704 for more information.

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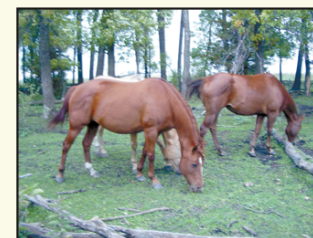
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COWBOY POETRY

By Orv Alveshere

PHILOSOPHICAL SIGNS IN A GRAIN ELEVATOR

PRAIRIE GRAIN TERMINALS: HIGHEST POINT IN TOWN

The pride of rural communities stand tall against the sunrise.
To disregard the economic value of grain trade would be unwise.
In harvest they stay open long hours with lights on past the sunset
To receive Ag produce and issue checks to be used for needs unmet.
Old and new structures dot the country side and wide open spaces.
Many are cooperative ventures with many owners who wear smiling faces.
Customers enter and exit wearing logo caps they'd acquire.
Some colorful caps advertise, others display wit and puns and satire.

HISTORICALLY A BUSINESS ANCHOR

We view some tall abandoned structures, they're a sign of despair
Or chipped paint on a business failed. Some tilt showing disrepair.
A century ago horses and steel wheeled wagons delivered threshed grain
Tired, dusty drivers grateful for the harvest they did attain.
A hydraulic wagon hoist raised the front wheels to dump grain down the chute.
Nervous horses wondered why singletrees were higher than their patoot?
They wore bridle blinders to prevent a spook. A Belgian named Sapphire
And one named Diamond, precious-gem names that elicit humor and satire.

FLOOR HOISTS: REDUNDANT OBSOLETE ELEVATION TOOLS

A lad of six drove on a county road. His Dad slapped the team's behind.
Six miles later at the grain terminal the Manager assisted with help redefined.
He drove the steel wheeled wagon in and out for the boy and sent him on his way,
Pointing that draft horse team home, handing the reins and slapping those grays.
Years ago, he drove home from the village of Webster, another six miles,
Dockage, weight and price complete. All ages willingly helped with smiles.
Bygone examples from before steel wheels were replaced with a rubber tire.
Teams obeyed a child pressed into service, that's irony but not satire.

HOME OF THE HARVEST GOLD

Fond and contorted memories of our grain elevator start at age six.
Since then, there has been upgrading, expanding and building in the mix.
They take pride in doing well. Their new prairie skyscraper is state-of-the-art,
Able to weigh and load a boxcar in seven minutes from the start.
Electronic scales give full payments. A disaster when the rising lake,
Made the railroad beds soft, tipping boxcars, spilling wheat for the duck's lunch break.
Those bird-brains made disaster into feasts, as grain was the duck's desire.
Gourmet swelled kernels made a swell meal...that's our witty satire.

PAST AND PRESENT METAPHORS AND ALLUSIONS

It's been years since hydraulic lifts were used for small trucks. Now market quotes
Are on radio, email and online for wheat, barley, corn, beans and oats.
Futures and grain prices are up to the minute. Now humans work
To assign the grain spouts by electronic computers. Crews smile and smirk.
We can still hear banter and riddles, amid the buyer's price quote.
The staff is competent and hard working, but a prank could make someone a goat.
Setting up a practical joke or a trap...to which they aspire.
Optimism and pessimism coexist with terse repartee and satire.

YEARN TO LEARN/THINK OUT OF THE BOX

In my first grade reading books, I read "See Spot run, see Dick run, see Jane run."
I had learned to read and I was excited. My life should be fun.
Facetious sayings arose. School books would prepare one for life later:
Mostly for school books, however not for signs in a grain elevator.
I met tongue twisters, hidden and double meanings and sarcasm without a clue.
I couldn't spell ridicule, derision, or euphemisms at age six, could you?
Didn't know wordplay from store-bought bread. Reading signs was my desire.
Didn't know humor from rubber tire retreads. Off-hand wisdom could be satire.

INTERPRETER NEEDED: METAPHORS WITH A TOUCH OF SARCASM

I read puzzling signs there, which delicately got across their point.
There was a catch to it, without getting one's nose out of joint.
Quote: "If you boys can spit on the floor at home you may do so here." The noose
Tightened from skillful wit, but it was intended for men chewing snoose.
Dutch said, "Young man, those signs are not for youth. "If you have nothing to do;
Don't do it here!" Dutch said, "Later, that play-on-words would come back to you."
Paranomasia or clever double-entendre or sarcasm may sometimes misfire.
But, irony, ridicule and reverse Psychology succeed with satire.

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TALKING HORSES

By Kathleen Grimes

In July, Joe, the owner of a horse farm, called and asked me to be part of a barn festival that he was having. He expected that most of the people who boarded their horse on his farm would participate. His goal was to help people understand their horses better. He thought I might have some insights to offer people at the festival. He especially wanted me to talk to Bernie.

Bernie had been at his farm for about six months. For the last three months, he had been acting up. Joe liked Bernie and Bernie liked him. Recently, while on a trail ride, Bernie almost threw his human. Joe had an idea what was wrong but wanted to see what Bernie would tell me.

I had observed Bernie watching me as I worked with two other horses. As I walked over to him, I noticed he was alert and I sensed his intelligence. I quietly introduced myself to him, told him what I do, and that I was part of the barn festival. Then I asked his permission to have a chat with him and touch him. Just like humans, animals do not want to talk to everyone nor do they want to be touched by everyone. Asking permission to talk to the animal is one of the first steps of animal communication. Most of the time, I expect that they will say yes but I never know. For the animals that are fearful, I ask their human to tell them it is okay for them to talk to me. Then there are those times, when I am told by the animal that they are busy, so I should come back later. Humans are often surprised that their animals are busy, especially when they know that they are just standing around. They forget that animals are often busy just enjoying the beauty of life. After sniffing my hair, Bernie said "We can talk."

We began by discussing what it was like in the barn and the field. As we were talking, I began to brush him with my hand. I asked if he could show me if he was in any pain. I did not get a clear picture so I went on to do energy work. I checked his body for energy blocks and I found two small areas. They opened very quickly. It did not seem to me that his acting up was a physical problem.

He allowed me to rub his forehead and both of us began to breathe in a relaxed way. It seemed like it was a good time to ask him about his behavior. I relayed to him that Joe and his human were concerned about his behavior. I asked him what was

going on. Bernie said, "My human does not like me." "How do you know that?" I asked.

He showed me that within minutes after his human arrives at the farm, they are riding either in the arena or on the trail. Not once did he show me any type of bonding activities. He also showed me that his human had trouble putting his saddle on.

This is Bernie's second human and the second farm where he has lived. His first owner rode him once a week and on the other days, would brush him and sing to him. Bernie enjoyed his singing. Now, his new human only thinks about riding. He hardly spends time brushing him or even talking to him. He just comes out to ride. Bernie believes that if he acted up enough, he would have to go back to his first owner.

I was looking forward to talking to his human, however, he never showed up for the festival. In fact, he didn't return to the farm for a month and when he did, he immediately went for a ride on Bernie.

Like so many of us, Bernie's owner is so busy that he is not even aware of the needs of his animal friend. Finally, the three of us, Joe, Bernie's owner, and I, were able to meet and developed a training program. Bernie's owner is now asking, "Why do I have a horse?" and only he can really answer that question. Being an animal owner carries many responsibilities and can give many joys and rewards. I believe it is a relationship based on love and respect. It is not to be taken for granted. Like any relationship, it is good to stop, evaluate, make any necessary changes, and celebrate the beauty of life we share with one another.



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Garage Sale! I'm taking a week off in October to deep clean the house and barn! October 3, 4, and 5th will be a Multi-Family and Barn Sale.

Everything has to go: the usual garage sale stuff plus barn items including equipment, tools, horse equipment, might be a few harnesses and carts, saddles for sure! Bring the camper (horse trailer and horse?) and hook up for the night. Pot luck dinner/breakfast and lots of giggles and we work horses and you can watch a lesson or two! Call Karen at (763) 682-5354 or email

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Call Today to get in the October issue!

STALLION SHOPPING -- THE DEBATE: HAULING THE MARE?

By Dan Drewlow, North Star Stables

In this issue of the Valley Equestrian we try to answer the age old question: Do I haul the mare to the breeding farm and can I trust the breeding farm to care for my mare as I would? When selecting a stallion for stud service, one must consider what types of breeding services are offered: Live Cover, On-Farm AI, Transported Cooled Semen, Frozen Semen, or a mixture of any of these services.

If the stallion owner and breeding farm only offer Live Cover or On-Farm Artificial Insemination services, it takes the debate out of the question of hauling the mare to the breeding facility. You will have no choice but to haul her to the breeding farm if you are going to use this stallion. In my professional opinion, On-Farm Artificial Insemination is a better choice than live cover if it is offered, as the risk to both the stallion and the mare are greatly reduced.

When the stallion owners and breeding facility offer Transported Cooled Semen and Frozen Semen services is when the debate comes in to play. The breeding facility's goal is to get your mare in foal. If you talk to the facility about her care, a

majority of the breeding facilities will try to do the best that they can to care for the mare the same way that you would if she were at home. As the mare owner you also need to understand that the breeding facility may have a large number of outside mares coming in to be bred and can not always offer custom care for your mare as much as they would like to. It is important to talk to the breeding facility, before you bring her to the facility, about how the facility is run and what differences you and the facility may have over the care of your mare. In most cases the facility will be willing to work with you as the mare owner, if they can do so within reason.

Another important aspect to consider is the breeding facility and the staff itself. The facility should be clean and the horses in proper condition. The staff must be knowledgeable, professional, and handle the horses properly. Just because a facility is a "state of the art showcase" does not mean that the facility cares for the horses any better than a facility that is safe, well designed, and functional. I prefer a functional facility

with knowledgeable staff over that of an unfunctional facility with less the knowledgeable staff. The look of a facility does not reflect the type of care that the horses at the facility receive. I have been to some state of the art showcase facilities where the care of the horses was questionable. I also have been to some functional facilities where the care of the horses was top priority. That priority showed in the horses and the level of success they had with getting mares in foal.

So should you haul your mare to the breeding farm and will they care for her as you would at home? Yes, if you have communicated with the breeding facility and everyone has a clear understanding of what is expected of them. Remember the breeding farm's goal is to get your mare in foal. If your mare is happy and well cared for she may be easier to get in foal. If she is stressed or unhappy about her care, it may be more of a challenge for her to conceive.

ASK THE EXPERT

By Krishona Martinson, PhD, U of MN

Q: Is there any danger in horses grazing frosted pastures in the fall? If so, how long would you wait?

A: Some deciduous leaves can be deadly after a frost or after they have wilted due to broken branches, fall leaf shed or storm damage. Leaves of greatest concern for horses are wilted maple and prunus species, including chokecherry, ornamental almond, and cherry trees. Horse owners should identify all such seasonally toxic trees on the property and keep horses from their fallen or frost damaged leaves for at least 30 days. Even though these leaves are not commonly eaten, horses can accidentally ingest them, especially if hungry or bored. Cyanide toxicity can also be an issue after frost.

There are no reports of toxicity of horses grazing frost damaged grass, alfalfa or clover. However, frost damaged pasture forages can have higher concentrations of sugars, leading to an increase in potential for founder and colic. To reduce the chance of adverse health effects, it is recommended that horse owners wait up to a week before turning horses back into a pasture after a killing frost.

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Above: 2007 Futurity Winner
Owner/Breeder: Marvin & Becky Gustafson, St. John, ND

Bottom: 2007 High Selling Weanling
Breeder: Kelly & Ruby Stuart, Eriksdale, MB Canada

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EQUINE LAW Q & A

BY MATT BERNER, ESQ.

Q: I own and operate a small boarding business. Does it make sense for me to incorporate?

A: One of the principal reasons for incorporating any business is that it generally limits the personal liability of its shareholders and helps to protect their personal assets from business creditors. This is a particularly important issue in a business like yours as horses obviously pose significant financial and personal injury risks regardless of how carefully you operate your business. In addition to limiting personal liability, incorporating your business may provide you with certain tax advantages depending on the type of corporation you form and the size of your business (e.g., number of owners, employees, benefits provided, etc...). In order to maximize your revenue while protecting your personal assets, it makes sense to consult with both an attorney and accountant to determine what would work best for your particular situation.

University of Minnesota, Crookston Equestrian Teams Start Season

(Crookston, Minn.)- The University of Minnesota, Crookston Equestrian teams have started practice and Coaches Brooke Leininger and Nicky Overgaard are excited. "We decided to limit the size of our teams and the hunt seat and western team each have 18 and 19 riders respectively," say Coach Leininger. "I think that our athletes will benefit from this change, and that it is a change in the right direction."

After a week and a half of tryouts, the two teams include 14 new athletes. Coach Leininger feels that these new riders will help both teams gain strength. The new riders have the training, skill and talent to be great assets to the team. Tandra Klein (So, Hazen, N.D.), riding for both the western and hunt seat team, brings years of valuable competition experience and expertise. Kelsey Sherman (Fr, Lansing, Mich.), a freshman riding for the hunt seat team, has proven that she is going to be a valuable asset in the jumping and on the flat. Mary Hurley (So, Grand Meadow, Minn.), a seasoned Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) competitor, is an exciting new addition to the western team.

Both teams see many returners come back stronger and more competitive for another year of competition. They were encouraging them to train, compete and stay fit throughout the summer. Return-

J. Matthew Berner is an attorney with Hellmuth & Johnson, PLLC where he focuses his practice on Equine Law, providing litigation and transaction services for horse barns and horse owners, rider, trainers, and vets. His practice includes the formation of equine corporations and businesses, purchase, sale, and lease agreements, boarding contracts, training and lesson contracts, stallion and breeding contracts, release of liability and hold harmless agreements as well as representing businesses and individuals on equine law matters in state and federal court. Matt provides a free consultation and can be reached at (952) 746-2188 or via email at jberner@hjlawfirm.com.



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November
issue of the
Valley
Equestrian!

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Beth Lee

AND

Nutrition Info

from Erika Berg, PhD

AND

Breed of the Month:

Awesome Arabians!

AND

Margo Brady writes

about the famous

Billy de Freckles

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SADDLE UP FOR ST. JUDE'S RIDE NEAR MILNOR A SUCCESS

By Jodi Widhalm

The 8th annual Saddle up for St. Jude's Trail Ride/fundraiser was held on a beautiful Saturday, Aug. 30, at the Pine Hill Ranch, owned and operated by Eugene and RoseMarie Gregor, of rural Milnor, No. Dak.

Over 200 horses and riders participated in the ride, and even more took part in the pancake/sausage breakfast, making new friends, as well as reconnecting with old ones while enjoying buggy and horseback rides, an auction, potluck supper, door prizes, socializing, and camping. All proceeds from the day's events benefit the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, located in Memphis, Tenn. St. Jude's helps youth, 18 and under, who suffer from catastrophic illnesses. The grand total profit from this year's Saddle Up Ride is \$7,411.50.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital has treated over 20,000 children from across the United States and more than 60 foreign countries since it opened in 1962. Information discovered at St. Jude is freely shared with doctors and scientists all over the world. One example of the success of the research is the survival rate of all patients of acute lymphocytic leukemia, the most common form of childhood cancer. In 1962, only four percent of the children survived the disease. Today, the survival rate is eighty percent. The hospital treats children without regard to race, religion, creed, or ability to pay. Daily operating costs are more than \$834,100, which are primarily covered by public contributions, such as the donation from the Saddle Up Ride. Out of every dollar received at St. Jude Hospital, 86 percent goes to current or future needs of the hospital, 8.24 percent represent fundraising costs, and 2.86 percent is used for administration costs.

Monetary donations were accepted, as

were item donations to be used towards raffle prizes, door prizes, and auction sales.

This year's contributors included, but were not limited to: Ozark Mountain, Bobcat Co., SmartPak, Ez Up, A.S. Websales, Farmvet, Larry the Cable Guy, Josh Lyons, Clinton Anderson, Rockin H Ranch, Select Inn, Breckenridge, Mn, Super 8, Wahpeton, Mike Widhalm, Hills 210 café/subs, Walmart, Sisseton Livestock Sale Barn, Valley Vet Supply, Straight Arrow, Cabela's, Gerald/Judy Ringdahl-in memory of Lyle Chesley, Wayne/Darlene Draeger, Michelle Ringdahl, Kathy Ringdahl, Carla Stack, Lorraine Siemieniowski, Tractor Supply, Brandy Erdmann, The Teller, Ruby's Apiaries, Mountain Horse Supply, Dakota Vet,



Andrew, 2, Aubrie, 3, and Austin Brown, 9 from Dilworth Minn. are riding in a wagon driven by James Widhalm, 13, at the St. Jude Saddle Up Ride at the Pine Hill Ranch in Milnor.

Milnor Grain, Gwinner Super Valu, Milnor Jack and Jill, Wurth Service Supply, Sebens Pheasant Inn, Marvin/Marvel Betting, Doris Gregor, Kenny/Deb Gruba, AW Diesel, Dover Saddlery, Jeannie Roehrich/Avon, Flying W Saddle Club, Lee Sagvold, Richard/Carolyn Jacobson, Red River Harness Club, Ed Melroe, Cindy Hagen, Bill Schonhoff, Jim/Sandy Kuchera, Roland Enquist, Dennis Orth, Sargent Spurs 4-H Club, GMG/Delamere Welding, Eugene/RoseMarie Gregor, Sundale Colony, Milnor Locker/Larry/Pennie Erdmann, Mike Mund/M & M Farms, Tublicks, North Forty, Connie Lien, Paulette Lien, Mike Thompson, Lisbon Warehouse Grocery, Lisbon Supervalu, those who collected pledges, along with all who pledged one, or more, of the collectors, those who contributed through registra-

tion, or added to the bucket by the meals, those who purchased raffle tickets, bingo board squares, and more.

Many auction items were placed on the trailer by unknown contributors, you know who you are, and we Thank you! It was all very much appreciated!



Riders raise money for the St. Jude Research Center Aug. 30 in Milnor, No. Dak.

MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL RODEO PROUDLY RECOGNIZES 2008 NHSRF - AVERAGE CHAMPIONS

Kya Laulainen - 1st Runner Up Queen
Tanner Aus - 5th Bareback
Jessica Benson - 11th Girls Cutting
Brett Stall - 13th Bull Riding

Congratulations to Brett Stall, for pulling down a 76 point bull ride in the 7th performance of the NHSRF in Farmington, NM on Wednesday, July 23, 2008 leading all scores for the evening.

Brett had a score of 65 in the 1st go, 2nd go he placed 6th with a 76 and went into the short go in the 5th spot with 141 total points. Brett is a senior from Detroit Lakes, MN the son of Brad and Sandy.

Tanner Aus from Granite Falls, MN was saluted by the NHSRA on Thursday evening July 24, 2008 during the 9th performance as the Wrangler Performance Champion for having the top bareback ride of the evening with 72 points.

Tanner had a 59 point ride on Tuesday morning in the 1st go. Tanner went into the short go in the 10th place. He is son of John and Rae Ann Keeler Aus.

Both Brett and Tanner will continue their education and rodeo careers at Iowa Central Community College, Fort Dodge, Iowa. ICCC is part of the Great Plains Region and will host a fall rodeo October 4th & 5th in Fort Dodge.

For more information regarding Minnesota High School Rodeo or Wrangler Jr. High Rodeo please contact Jodi Oftedahl 507-869-3840 or visit our website at www.MNHSRA.com.

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FAMILY-FILLED FUN AT SPIRIT OF THE WEST FEST AT SIOUX FALLS, SD



Actor Peter Brown who starred in *Lawman*, *Laredo* and *Days of Our Lives* spoke during the opening ceremonies.



Trick roper cowboy, Mike Woolridge, demonstrates his lassoing skills.



Buffalo Bill rides around the arena during opening ceremonies of the Spirit of the West Festival in Sioux Falls, So. Dak. Sunday.



Robert Fuller, who starred in *Wagon Train* and *Laramie* is also a 2008 Cowboy Hall of Fame Inductee, spoke at the opening ceremonies.



Go to www.theveonline.com Photo Gallery for more imagery from the Spirit of the West Festival.



Above: Members of the Iowa Fourth Artillery prepare to fire the cannon after the playing of Taps for the opening ceremony of the Wild West Show Sunday. Below: Trick rider, Brian Bausch, directs his stallion, Rustler, to lay down in front of the crowd.



Guns firing, whips cracking, horse's hooves thundering the valley owned by the Lloyd Siemonsma Family, outside Sioux Falls, So. Dak. on Saturday, Sept. 20 and Sunday, Sept. 21 provided some of the sights and sounds of the 7th Spirit of the West Festival.

For this year's attractions, organizers Bill and Jeanne Pattison added a new tradition of bringing Hollywood actors who have performed in either western movies or television. Robert Fuller, star of "Wagon Train," "Laramie" and most recently, Dr. Brackett on the popular, syndicated series "Emergency," and Peter Brown who starred in "Lawman," "Laredo" and "Days of Our Lives," spoke during opening ceremonies and signed autographs while answering questions in the Celebrity tent.

Chuckwagons emanated with the scents of freshly made apple pies and meat dishes, while vendors provided fry bread, kernel corn, cheese curds and more.

Rick Roltgen, better known as Short Cut Curly, a trick roper, walked the grounds on stilts performing roping circles on children. Re-enactors included historian Dave Huebner, yodeler, Lonesome Ron, the Iowa Fourth Artillery, the Silver Creek Mavericks, the Old West Society, singers Ron Cote, the Saddle Tramps, KG & the Rangers, and the wandering fiddler Clell Swanson. Other acts in the Wild West Show included Paula and Brian Bausch, trick riders; Mike Woolridge, trick roper; Adam Winrich, whip cracker; and Cowpatty.

The Dakota Territory Mounted Shooters demonstrated the fastest growing equestrian event in the country.

Exhibitors sold old west costumes, hats, leather goods, fur pelts, jewelry, and more.

Mark your calendars for next year's event to be held Sept. 18-20, 2009.

Photography by
Ley Bouchard



Short Cut Curly swings the lasso around Grace and Elizabeth Gullikson, 2 and 5 respectively, before the start of the Wild West Show at the Spirit of the West Festival Sunday, Sept. 22 in Sioux Falls.



Paula Bausch stands on the back of two horses as they gallop round the arena at the Spirit of the West Festival in Sioux Falls, So. Dak.



LAKES REGION HORSE FEST IN LITTLE FALLS, MINN. ENJOYS LARGE CROWD



Above: Julie Erkamaa from East Troy, Wis., barrel racing at the PRCA Rodeo at the Lakes Region Horse Fest Saturday.

Below: Luke Shafer from Clarksville, MO., competes in the tie down roping event.



John Vasichek, left, and Don Wick, right, from Horse Sense Radio and sponsors of the LRHF enjoy a turkey leg Saturday at the horse fest.



Above: Lyle Welle, Cranford, Neb. riding Rattlesnake, Below: Melanie Lintner from Little Falls Radio Corporation and her daughter, Emalee, 4, enjoy the rodeo.



Approximately 4000 people attended the Lakes Region Horse Fest hosted by Little Falls Radio Corporation and held on September 20 & 21, 2008 at the Morrison County Fairgrounds in Little Falls, Minn.

Approximately 4,000 people were in attendance at this the 2nd annual event. Daily activities included clinics presented by Nita Jo Rush and Dennis Auslam, a trade show, kid's activities, musical entertainment and dressage demonstrations.

The highlight of each day's activities was the PRCA Professional Rodeo.

Nita Jo Rush, a licensed Parelli clinician, demonstrated the Seven Games. Dennis Auslam, from Redwood Stables, provided desensitization training.

Organizer Chris Grams, general manager of Little Falls Radio Corporation, said new and exciting activities are in the planning stages for next year's event to be held September 19 and 20, 2009.

SEE MORE IMAGERY FROM THE LAKES REGION HORSE FEST AT WWW.THEVEONLINE.COM AND CLICK ON PHOTO GALLERY



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International Gran Prix competitor, dressage 'R' judge, formerly
of the Stromsholm Riding Academy in Sweden.*