



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

February 2009

Valley Equestrian

Your local resource for equestrian events, news and information.

Newspaper

# Prancing Pintabians



Frederic, Wis.  
Sleigh  
Parade  
By Karen  
Clark

CEM  
Update  
Regionally  
By Jennifer  
Walker

Spotlight  
on  
Pintabians

Snow vs.  
Water  
Consumption  
By Erika Berg,  
Ph.D.

Cold Weather  
Foaling  
Supplies  
By Dan  
Drewlow



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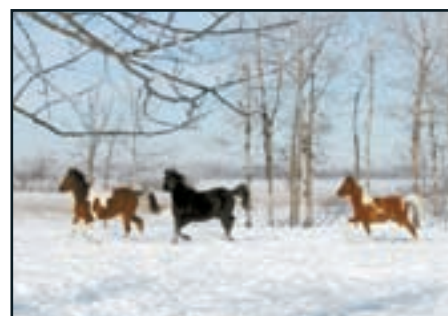


Eugene Radtke takes the mules for a rest during the Winter Carnival Sleigh Rides at Elmwood Park Sunday, Jan. 18 in West Fargo, No. Dak. More photos and story on Page 15.

**About the Cover**

Playing in the snow at AJ Pintabians and Arabians in Karlstad, Minn., "AJ Dakota Sunrise," a Top Ten Pintabian Futurity and Reserve Champion Halter winner of 2008 and "AJ Crescent Knight" sire "Royal Court Jester," exported to the United Kingdom, will be competing in the 2009 Pintabian non-Auction Futurity Halter Class; both are available under private treaty.

Photograph by Jennifer Hicks.



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**Letter to the Editor**

In April, Dude was born, a registerable American Saddlebred colt, quality to be sure, but the Tobiano pattern was blocked out by his chestnut colored coat. Since Ron and I show so heavily on the Pinto circuit, Dude was available for purchase. The Valley Equestrian was a relatively new magazine in the area and I had already had some luck with my monthly business card appearing in each issue.

On a whim, I sent into Tammy at the Valley Equestrian, a photo ad of the colt, with a description and tongue in cheek warning that he would not be sold to anyone as a first horse and I intended to sell him to someone who already had horses and was looking for a project to grow up and work with.

A few calls came in, one being from the Ellis family in Colorado. As I began my description and explanation on why he was for sale, I also threw in how we came about Dude's Grandmother a number of years ago. T's My Miss Sunbeam had been one of Willard Elliott's favorite broodmares in Trenton, MO. Mr. Elliott being the horseman and

showman from years past who had shown a popular Pinto Saddlebred stallion by the name of Modern Creation. Well, after that fact got spoken, Connie Sue Ellis about came through the phone and hugged me, because in 1992 her newlywed husband had bought a gelding from the same farm. His nickname was "Crea" and we mused that we probably passed each other in the driveway so many years ago.

Yup, the rest is history, Dude is now residing on the Ellis farm in the mountains of Colorado, and to sweeten the transaction a bit more, so is Dude's 4 yr. old (Pinto) full brother, Dakota's Blue Beamer and our older horse trailer, ol' Brownie. Our extended family now reaches to the Colorado Elk hunting capital and that photo ad was money well spent for a sale and for a new friendship with some super people! All because Scott (Dr.) Ellis got caught in a check out line and picked up an issue of the Valley Equestrian while waiting his turn!

Karen Clark  
Buffalo Minn.

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# Breeder's Column

By Dan Drewlow - Breeding Manager North Star Stables

## Foaling Supply List for Sub-Zero Temperatures

The topic for this article came to me as I watched a mare getting ready to foal with the outside temperature of 26 below and a wonderful barn temperature of 40. I was going through the foaling supplies to make sure that everything that might be needed was handy. Looking at the list and items got me thinking of what other items might be needed because of the outside sub-zero temperature. Without going into the detailed foaling process, here is a common foaling supply list and the common use of each of the items listed. At the end of the list are some common items that can make a huge difference when foaling out a mare in cold weather and you need to warm the foal up quickly and safely.

### Foaling Supply List

Clean Cloth Towels: terry cloth, older bath towels, or half-size bath towels - used to dry off the foal.

Stainless Steel Bucket: to hold warm water, and other misc uses.

Liquid Soap: to wash the mare and foal.

Roll Cotton: has multiple uses - primarily used to wash the mare.

Strong String: used to help tie up the placenta so the mare doesn't step on it which may cause a piece to tear.

Scissors: to cut string, tail wrap, and other miscellaneous uses.

Enema: child safe only - phosphate enema - or just warm soap water in an enema bottle; used to help the foal pass meconium if needed.

Nolvason Solution or 2 percent iodine solution: for dipping the navel. Nolvason is preferred over iodine as iodine can burn the skin.

Small Container or a shot glass: to hold Nolvason or iodine to dip the navel.

Umbilical clamps, umbilical string, rubber bands: to stop bleeding from the umbilical cord.

Sterile Obstetrical Sleeve: if needed to assist in the reposition of the foal.

Obstetrical Lube: to aid in the reposition of the foal; to lube the tip of the enema.

Disposable Tail-Wrap: To wrap the tail to protect the foal and keep out of the way.

Disposable Latex Glove: use any time working with mare and foal to protect you and them from illness.

Flashlight: to give extra light if and where needed.

Phone and Phone Numbers of Veterinarians / Contact Information: to call when assistance is needed; if you do not know what to do, call someone to help.

### Cold Weather Foaling Items

Foal Blanket - old down vest - sweatshirt: anything that can be put on the foal to help dry but more importantly to help maintain their body heat.

Heat Lamp: provides extra light and also gives an extra source of heat. Remember to place it so that it does not become a hazard.

Zip Lock type bags - Gallon size: if the bags are filled with warm water and wrapped in a towel they can provide a great source of heat to the foal, like a hot water bottle. Remember to wrap it in a towel to prevent injury and to keep the foal dry.

This is just a simple list of items that are commonly used and needed when foaling a mare. Remember to discuss with your veterinarian, skilled equine reproductive person any and all questions that you may have. For the safety of the foal and mare never try to reposition a foal or perform a medical technique without talking to your veterinarian to give you detailed instruction on what and when to perform it.

See the March Issue of the Valley Equestrian for coverage of the Black Hills Stock Show

## HRND SETS 2009 RACE SCHEDULE

The Executive Board of Horse Race North Dakota voted on the new schedule at their November 2008 meeting. The new schedule is designed to maximize the Horse Park's presence in the Fargo-Moorhead summer entertainment scene by capitalizing on the weekdays that statistically see the highest attendance at the track. "By providing more weekends for people to get to the track, we hope that the greater Fargo-Moorhead area will get a chance to see what we are all about" said General Manager Heather Benson. "It also allows our horsemen and women a chance to situate themselves here in Fargo for a longer time...which is always easier on both families and horses!"

Pending the finalization of dates for the 2009 Harness Racing meet, the North Dakota Horse Park may also be looking at situating itself as a spring and summer training center for area horsemen during the Park's off season. Ideally situated between Assiniboia Down in Winnipeg, MB and Canterbury Park in Shakopee, MN, the Horse Park provides a state of the art racing surface that has long been known as kind to horses and horsemen alike. The North Dakota Horse Park also boasts stabling for up to 400 horses, an indoor and outdoor arenas and 1.5 miles of riding trails.

The 2009 Condition Book and Stakes Calendar will be made available to horsemen in early March. In order to better serve our horsemen, we would like to solicit general comments and suggestions on what type of races they would like to see in 2009. Please submit your ideas to General Manager Heather Benson at heather@hrnd.org. We look forward to seeing all of our horsemen, fans and friends in 2009!

Thoroughbred/Quarter Horse Racing:  
Dates: July 24-September 7 (7 great weeks of live racing action!)  
Friday and Saturday evenings and Labor Day weekend  
Post Times:  
Friday: 5:00 pm  
Saturday: 4:30 pm  
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## Roy Martinson Says Good-bye to Three Horses Lost in Verndale Barn Fire

By Jennifer Walker

When the fire broke out that cold December morning at R & J Arena in Verndale, MN, three of Roy Martinson's horses were among the fatalities.

"It's a thing that's unbelievable at the time," he says of his reaction to the fire.

One of Roy's horses in the barn was Lam Custom Made (Sports A Glory x Manzanitas Lady), a five-year-old buckskin mare he had just purchased a year ago. The foal at her side had been a surprise; no one had known she was pregnant when the sale was made. Martinson had just started showing "Monster" (as he called the mare) in team penning and ranch sorting in April of last year. The foal, which had not yet been officially named, was referred to affectionately as "Baby Monster."

Dox Smart Lady (Miss N Cash x TNT Chic Olena Lady) was also lost in the fire. The seven-year-old sorrel mare had qualified for the World show 10 times in Team Penning in Open and Amateur, placing eighth in the world in Amateur in both 2006 and 2007. She also qualified in Ranch Sorting five times. In 2006, she placed second in high point junior team penning for the year, and she was 10th place for this honor in 2004. Finally, she earned the Superior designation in Open and Amateur Team Penning.

It is with a sad heart that we bid good-bye to these two athletes and future stars. The Valley Equestrian sends our condolences to Roy, his family and all others who lost horses in this fire.

As of this writing, Fire Marshalls are working diligently to find the cause of the fire. While they have some clues, they have not yet found anything conclusive. We hope to give a full update on the investigation in the March issue of The Valley Equestrian.

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## Horses in History

### Brown Beauty

By Amber Voigt

One if by sea, two if by land, to arms rang loud through the streets of colonial America, as the to become famous Paul Revere rode through the countryside. We know the story from history class, but have you ever thought about the brave steed that made the journey possible?

Brown Beauty, a little bay mare, was borrowed to Paul Revere by his good friend John Larkin. According to the Larkin inventory of 1808, the unnamed mare is listed with a value of \$60. Given the other valuable inventory provided, it is easy to see that Mr. Larkin was a wealthy man in his time.

Brown Beauty had no papers, so it is assumed that she was of the popular breed in that area at that time. Narragansett horses were favored by the colonials for their smooth gates and speed. They were brought from Britain, where they would become

extinct. In America, they would lead way to the Saddlebred.

For such a great steed in history, there is so little information left behind about her. In Paul Revere's journal, he only states that "a very good horse" was borrowed to him for the ride. However, when Revere was captured upon his ride, a British Sergeant mounted Revere's horse telling him they would make good use of her. The Brit rode off down the road. This may have something to do with the lack of information about the horse that helped create our country's

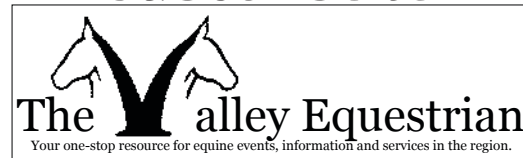
history. Brown Beauty's passing may have gone unnoticed, but her role in history has been immortalized by a glorious statue in Boston, as well as the poet Longfellow.



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# Sleigh Parade Brings Units From All Over the Region

By Karen Clark

Frederic, Wisconsin on January 17 was the site of a step back into history to perhaps a simpler time. Liz and Larry Petersen, Bob and Marilyn Blake along with the Frederic Chamber of Commerce were the hosts of a Sleigh Parade. Yes, the wind was howling and swirling, and it was plenty cold for large a number of spectators gathered at the football field of the Frederic High School to witness and learn more about the horse, pony, mule and donkey sleighs entered in this 8th annual event.

Twenty-two units were entered. Each unit warmed up for nearly an hour while the crowd watched, and then at 1 p.m. the judging began.

Andy Halbach, hailing from Westfield, Wisc. was the judge for the day. An Ag/Science High School teacher for over 30 years, both he and his wife has been active on the Arabian show circuit in both Canada and the U.S. for more than 50 years. An active driver himself, I was told his current project in harness is a hackney pony, which he bought out of a slaughter pen in Iowa.

Mr. Halbach had his job cut out for him with a competitive group of quality animals, fine vintage sleighs along with experienced drivers and their passengers, some being canine.

To the ring of sleigh bells, drivers ranged from the age of eight to being old enough to order off the senior menu in most restaurants. The drivers dressed to the era of their sleigh.

One by one each entry approached the judging area and came to a halt. The announcer, Ann Loeckler, from Spooner, Wisc. read a description of their vehicle and the costume they had chosen. With a nod from the judge, they began a predetermined pattern to show both Mr. Halbach and the crowd

their driving skill with the sleigh and their steed(s).

Each year this driving organization chooses a deserving individual to dedicate a portion of the profits from the event.

This years recipient was John Gurtner, a driving exhibitor in the past, also well-known to 4-Hers in both Minnesota and Wisconsin. He has shown on the Arabian Horse circuit in the Midwest for many years.

Recently Gurtner had the misfortune of being kicked by one of his training horses and is slowly recovering from his injuries. This event was a chance to thank Gurtner for all the help and encouragement he has given countless others through his volunteer work in 4-H and to the horse industry as a whole.

After the judging was over, spectators and exhibitors met at the local Countryside Restaurant for both a wonderful and hot buffet dinner and enjoyed some socializing along with a raffle of donated items and, of course, the announcement of the winners of the day.

This was my first Frederic Sleigh Parade. Yes, I plan to put even more layers on next year. As one of my friends told me at the buffet, "Put on 3 of everything." I will be there next year, because this is one event I don't want to miss in 2010! The camaraderie among the exhibitors and the spectators was heart-warming and exhilarating. Everyone was friendly and out-going; what a nice way to spend a wintery January afternoon!

Left: Bobbie Kleffman, Grand Rapids Minn. and Jack her 4-year-old

donkey who is just learning to drive. The sleigh is a reproduction Albany cutter by Ahonen Carriage Works. Bobbie is wearing a Victorian reproduction of what you might see in the early 1900's and had a bear skin draped over the back of her sleigh. She won Best Longears Hitch

Top right: Reg Behrends, driving a Fresian stallion (available for breeding), is from Drummond, Wisc. He won Best costumed Male Driver award.

Second down on right: Jerry Nelson with his Norwegian Fjord team from Stillwater, Wisc.

Third down on the right: Andrew James and family from Foxboro, WI. -he won Northwood's Special

Photography by Mary Balcer

Bottom left: Kathi Logan, the sleigh rally coordinator for the last six years, drove her pinto pony 'Domino' who is a Welsh/Shetland crossbred. Kathi's Albany cutter was made by Sue Ahonen of Makinan Minnesota. Kathi won Best small Pony Hitch

Bottom Right: Scott and Kristi Tiegen driving Jerry, a Morgan/TB cross; Male Best Costume



# Cowboy Poetry

GET-UP-'N-GO SKIERS WERE SO INCLINED  
Orv Alvshere



## The Outhouse: Life on the Farm with Emily LIFE GUARD ON DUTY

AWAITING HIGH SPIRITED DOWNHILL SKI PARTY GOERS

The torrid, dusty '30's made hay and grain growing very poor. The spirits of country folk sank; groceries and seed grain was not paid for. For encouragement they gathered at holidays and played baseball games. There were church functions and free events to ignore likely foreclosure claims. They told of neighbors helping neighbors, bartering and donations, Anything to help the community avoid financial devastations. Except at horse races, they pulled together, as things went down hill. Yet they awaited the pleasure of snowfall so they could ski down Crown Hill.

ELEVATION OVER SKIING DOWN THE ELEVATION

That hill was only a mile from town and had a desired incline. Crown Hill had sloped ascent, slightly higher than the rest, and nice design. Their favorite hill was dwarfed by the nearby, mile-square, high buttes; Which were impossible for human climbs, with snow. They chose alternate routes. They had lofty plans to view those rolling hills from that elevation. On my parents land stood old Crown Hill that held their fascination. All lovingly looked at their primitive skis. Everything else had gone down hill. But skiing was an exciting diversion down that snow bound hill.

OVER THE HILL GANG, NOT ON THE LEVEL

Following prolonged shortage of rain and soil moisture, they prayed for snow. Yes, you heard right, wanting snow! That may sound strange, they wanted crops to grow. They wanted hay to mow, they wanted water to pump from their wells. They'd nearly gone broke from years of dry spells. Also they loved the jingle bells. Fluffy white snow brought Christmas cheer and celebrations of the season. Struggling to pay for their land, wanting moisture was a rational reason. As snowflakes arrived they talked excitedly of skiing down that round hill. One flippantly quipped, "That's the only way I want to go down hill."

CRASH LANDINGS AND TAKING PLUNGES JUST FOR FUN

Mom told of heating twelve quarts of hot chocolate as a warm-up treat. Most came for recreation and diversion, while some came to compete. Dad spoke of teams of horses pulling bob-sleds, cutters and bobbed-sleighs. The snow was deep so the only wheels were on cars that got stuck in the drive way. Some walked, some rode ponies, there were Belgians, Percherons and a dapple gray. Well-trained teams, green broke nags, some brought feedbags and dry hay. Cars had skis tied with twine on roof tops or trunks, heading for that round hill. Some skis poked through open car windows. Friends were wishing to ski down hill.

CACOPHONOUS LAUGHTER, ABUNDENT MERRIMENT, HIGH LIFE

Most skis were made from straight pine boards sawed to a point, then cooked and bent. Others brought sleds, toboggans, planning to slide to their heart's content. That ski event was planned to include moonlight, Sunday and a warm breeze. They zipped down the slope slightly crouching for balance by bending their knees. Narrow sled runners sank in the deep snow. They were a no-go. Competition, Some dares and double-dares were heard, not the time for inhibition. Inexperienced youth tried skiing on a nearby or snow bound mound hill, While expert skiers boasted, then zipped down elevated slopes, down hill.

SILHOUETTES BY THE LIGHT OF SILVERY MOON

Some children were housebound, warming themselves by the kitchen wood stove. I was bundled in a wooden slat bushel basket in a corner alcove. My three-year-old sister protected as they tried to poke open my infant eyes. Outdoors they saw silhouettes of shouldered skis under the moonlit skies. They talked of high-tailing and racing home, though exhausted by uphill climbs. One built a ski jump with a snow-packed hump so he could ski down more times. By the light of lanterns and oil lamps, they served cocoa, near Crown Hill. They were planning the next neighborhood social gathering, to ski down hill.

PERKY WHISTLERS AND SINGERS WITH ELEVATED MOODS  
MOONGLOW LIGHTING THEIR WAY HOME/VIGOROUS GLIDE

Several rosy cheeked youth weaved through the crowd of adults to warm hands. More snow-angels and snow forts were built on a day without reprimands. Frolicsome and sportive adults and youth tried new sports and tumbled down. Heightened excitement on a fun packed day, they worked their way UP to HIGH ground; Invigorated by cool night air, perky crews redefined 'slippery slopes.' Patient horses helped start balky cars, pulled them with chains or ropes. Goodbye to days gone by, where the neighborhood gathered to ski down hill. Now, to blow away flies, cow herds are the only feet to climb Crown Hill.

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New boots are a real pain – literally. By the time they're broken in, it seems they're worn out. In my case, it's always been the inside seam between the sole and the boot that gives way first. The first fix is electrical tape, usually lasting a month or so before the seam rips further and the Big Guns are brought in (duct tape). I'm thinking the inventor of duct tape wore a lot of boots. A good roll of tape can make a ripped pair of boots last four or five months longer if re-applied every other week or so.

When the style changed from a heel boot to ropers, I scoffed at the Gals wearing them. What was the boot company thinking when slicing half the heel off and making a fine pair of boots so low and ugly? I bet it took me five years before I finally got up the nerve to try a pair on. There was NO looking back, I was hooked! Brown was definitely not the color when you wore the new cool style ropers. Red, black and yes I even had a pair of fancy 'pink' roper boots to match my Sunday go to meeting pink striped shirt.

When they started changing the style of my pull-on ropers to lace-ups, it took another few years before I would give in and try a pair of those fancy dancers. They were OK I guess, but if you were in a hurry to get out the door it was a pain in the rump to gather up all the lace

es and get them tied. Cows pushing through a gate do not stop and wait while you lace your boots, run out of the house in a hurry, and chase them back in!

The newest style of big fat boots called Fatbaby's has me completely bewildered, and now they're making cousins to the Fats called ProBabys and Gem Babys. Is there a problem with the good old roper boot? Maybe it's like the jeans now days; the bottoms just keep getting bigger and bigger.

I bought a new pair of my slim and trim style ropers a while ago and they branded them as "Heritage" or "Vintage." Dang, am I getting that old?

Call me silly, but I've learned a quick way to break in new boots that's fool proof. When I know I'll be outside all day I toss them into the water tank for about an hour, pour the water out and then pull them on while soaking wet. The boots mold right to my foot as they dry by the end of the day for a perfect cozy fit every time. This last new pair was a fish stiffer than usual (it must have been a bad cow year) so I left them in the tank to soak over night.

After Ed started talking to me again about three days later, I learned what had happened and why I was getting the cold shoulder. He had walked out to check on critters the next morning when I was gone and noticed

my sweatshirt (that I had forgotten and left on the side of the tank) floating in the middle and my boots were bobbing next to it, heels up. Looking back, I guess the picture surely would have resembled a drowned Emily!

This particular stock tank is three feet deep by ten feet across and the bottom is dark from decades of use. Ed reached in to "save" me and his belt buckle got stuck on the edge leaving him dangling like a teeter-totter. Down he went head first into the water and couldn't get all the way in or back out. There he was for a very long time doing the "dog paddle," trying to keep his upper half afloat while his lower half outside the tank was being "closely inspected" by a bull. Ed finally got himself turned sideways enough to get unhooked and slid headfirst all the way into the tank. I guess he was furious when he reached the floating sweatshirt and bobbing boots in the ice cold water to find out I wasn't "drowned" after all his trouble.

I did thank Ed for trying to save my life after I quit laughing and my fully intended patent for breaking in new boots has been placed on indefinite hold...

You may reach Emily for comment or commiserating at: [Emilysouthouse@aol.com](mailto:Emilysouthouse@aol.com)

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## UNWANTED HORSES: THEY NEED YOUR HELP

History has shown that when the economy falls on hard times, animals are among the first to suffer. Numerous media reports suggest that the problem of unwanted horses is growing by the day. Some might even go so far as to say the horse community is in uncharted territory with the issue. People can argue about why the numbers are increasing, but the current state of the economy has left many horse owners in serious financial hardship, forcing them to make the decision to part with their horses. The bottom line is too many of these horses need a place to go.

Responsible owners are doing their best to find new homes and uses for their horses so that they don't become unwanted. The Unwanted Horse Coalition (UHC) has urged owners to surrender their horses to organizations that can use them, retrain them or give them a new home.

"These organizations take your horse when you have no other options, care for it, and work tirelessly to find it another life. Now the rescue facilities are starting to brim over their capacity and many of these organizations need your help," said Julia Andersen, director of the UHC.

While a donation of money, feed, hay, and other supplies is an urgent need for rescues, nothing can replace adoption. "If you are interested in taking in a horse, or in the market to buy one, why not check out the adoptable horses first? Horse owners and breeders are particularly well-suited to help with these horses," suggests Andersen.

"Many people are under the impression that the horses put up for adoption are old, lame, or physically undesirable. However the Unwanted Horse Coalition gets calls daily from people who have perfectly sound horses with a lot of life in them, but sadly the owners are not able to keep them for many different reasons. Certainly many are also older horses or horses that cannot be ridden. Both types are in need of homes," said Andersen.

The horse adoption process varies depending on the organization. Most require that you get to know the horse before you adopt it. This helps to ensure that you and your potential horse are suited for each other. "Frankly, this is a good idea even if it's not required by the organization," said Andersen. Another typical requirement is that the organization will conduct a home or barn visit to check up on the horse. Some organizations will even continue to visit you and your horse over time. This is a very responsible action by an organization, as they must make sure you are giving the horse proper nutrition, shelter, and care. Some organizations may even retain ownership for a period until they deem your care up to their health and safety standards. Finally, it is not uncommon for facilities to charge a small adoption fee. This fee helps to cover the expenses the facility incurred during the time the horse was at the facility.

If you are interested in adopting a horse and have never owned a horse before, there's much you need to know about horse care. Adopting a horse is not like adopting a dog or cat. Even if the adoption process is similar, caring for a horse is more time-consuming, more expensive, and requires a facility — either your own or a boarding farm. For more information on the many responsibilities of horse ownership, please see the UHC's "Own Responsibly" handbook, which can be downloaded from the UHC website, [www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org](http://www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org).

"If you are someone whose life had been enriched by horses, now is the time to ask what you can do for them in return," said Andersen. The UHC urges anyone able to adopt a horse to take action now and contact a local rescue facility. All of the rescues in the country do not have the capacity or means to take in all of the unwanted horses. UHC Chairman Dr. Tom Lenz advises people to buy rather than breed, adopt rather than buy, find alternative careers, and euthanize rather than discard. Again, these horses need your help. If you do not know of a rescue facility in your area, please visit [www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org](http://www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org) to see facility listings by state.

## TO WIN THE PRIZE

By: Amy M. Dagen  
Frostfire Farm

William James said, "He who refuses to embrace a unique opportunity loses the prize as surely as if he had failed."

Years ago, I was presented with one of those unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. Call it what you will, be it fate, destiny, or luck; whatever it was, the day I discovered the Pintabian horse was the day my life found its direction.

As a girl, I was horse-crazy as they come, and knew that no matter what direction life might lead me, that life must include horses. Arabian horses, in particular. In addition to being horse-crazy, I was also an independent thinker, not prone to following a crowd or to accepting other people's opinions as fact. Arabians graced my life from the age of twelve, and so I knew from personal experience that the stereotypes given them as "flighty," "silly" or (my particular favorite) "obstinate" were way off the mark. The Arabian horses I knew were sensitive, intelligent, willing, and demonstrated great endurance.

So in 1994 when the opportunity arose to meet some Pintabian horses and visit with a foundation breeder, I jumped at the chance. That day is forever etched in my memory. The horses were breathtakingly beautiful and totally unique. What sold me, however, were their temperaments. One could not walk through their pastures or pens without being followed and pestered for attention. Those Pintabians were so regal in their bearing, yet humbly sought human companionship and seemed to truly enjoy it.

That day left me with a fire in my soul. I went home, and as with every question or venture I pursue, did my homework. Formed in 1992, the Pintabian Horse Registry was still in its infancy. At the time, there were but a handful of horses and even fewer breeders. The realization struck me that this was an opportunity second to none. Pintabian horses were, in essence, the Arabians I so loved, but with the added interest of showy tobiano markings. They are not a cross-breed, as so many first assume; rather, the Pintabian is one of the more pure breeds in existence. Derived from the Arabian, with only a

single outcross at least seven generations back to acquire the tobiano gene, they are over 99 percent Arabian in blood and breed true to type.

Moreover, Pintabians are quintessentially American. They are the embodiment of a great and original idea, as well as an example of the creativity, dedication and tenacity required to pursue such an idea. Pintabians are unique, rare, and the result of many years of careful selective breeding. I wanted to be part of the action as this new breed grew and prospered. In other words, I embraced this unique opportunity.

What a privilege, education and adventure it has been! Pintabian horses have been part of my family's life for fifteen years now, and in that time we have watched the breed grow by leaps and bounds. Pintabian horses are now spread across America from New York to California, Alaska to Texas, and also reside in such far-away lands as Australia, Africa, and a number of European countries as well as Canada and Mexico. They compete against other breeds in events ranging from cutting to endurance to dressage and perform phenomenally well. Pintabians are versatile athletes in addition to being intelligent and willing, and yet are also a gentle family horse second to none. In fact, the trainer currently working with one of my young mares called recently to tell me that she is one of the smartest he's ever trained. His opinion? "If all horses were this easy to train, I'd be out of a job!" and better yet, "I could ride this horse all day!"

Never once have I regretted the decision to dedicate so much of myself to this breed; quite the contrary, in fact. Through life's many triumphs and tragedies, through two relocations, the birth and raising of my children, Pintabian horses have been a constant in my life. I could not be more blessed or more grateful for what these horses give in return. Each day as I witness the poetry in motion they write by simply walking across their pasture, or their gentle patience with my young daughters as they learn to groom, feed, and ride, it is clear that by embracing the unique opportunity presented by the Pintabian horse, surely I've won the prize.



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# WHAT IS A PINTABIAN?

## FROM THE PINTABIAN HORSE REGISTRY

The Pintabian is a breed of horse that must be verified as having 99% or more purebred Arabian blood, with a tobiano coat pattern.

Pintabians are bred for their beauty, intelligence, disposition, stamina, and are very versatile. They have a short dished head, that is wide-set between large eyes, long arched neck, short back, level hip, and high tail carriage. The general height range is between 14.2 and 15.2, with a few individuals over or under that height and weight between 900 and 1,100 pounds.

Pintabians are ideal for pleasure, showing, competitive and endurance sports, driving, racing, or just family fun.

Pintabians are a rare breed, so make sure to look for the gold seal with the Pintabian logo on the PHRI registration papers, to verify that the horse you are purchasing is a true Pintabian or check with the Pintabian Horse Registry, Inc. at 218-436-SPOT.

### Registration Divisions

#### Colored Division

Horses registered in this division are Pintabians. They possess the desired tobiano markings and are over 99 percent Arabian in blood (but are less than 100 percent Arabian as purebred Arabians do not come in the tobiano pattern).

To qualify for registration in this division, at least one parent must be a tobiano. Four colored photos (one each of the front, rear,

right and left sides) must be submitted to the PHRI along with a completed Application for Colored Division Registration form and appropriate fee when registering Pintabian horses.

#### Breeding Stock Division

Horses in this division are over 99 percent Arabian in blood (but are less than 100 percent Arabian) and, unlike those registered in the Colored Division, were born solid without the desired tobiano markings. Horses registered in this division are capable of producing Pintabians when bred to horses in the Colored Division. A completed Application for Breeding Stock Registration form and appropriate fee must be submitted to the PHRI office to register Breeding Stock horses.

#### Arabian Outcross Division

Horses in this division are of purebred Arabian heritage and are used to infuse important outcross bloodlines into the Pintabian breed. They are generally solid (with no spots) but may possess overo markings or characteristics. Arabian horses are capable of producing Pintabians when bred to horses in the Colored Division. A completed Application for Arabian Outcross Registration form, along with a copy of the Arabian Horse Association certificate of registration and appropriate fee, must be submitted to the PHRI office to register Arabian Outcross horses.

## PINTABIAN BREED PROFILE

#### Markings:

Must have tobiano markings. (Tobiano is a non-symmetrical pattern of spots found in horses. The well-defined spots cover the body randomly but white crosses the topline at some point between the ears and the tail. The head is usually colored but often includes the white markings common to those of non-spotted horses such as a blaze, strip and/or snip. All four lower legs are generally white.)

**Colors:** Many and varied; some of the base colors (the color of a tobiano that is not white) that a Pintabian may be are black, bay, buckskin, chestnut, dun, gray, grullo and palomino.

**Height:** 14.2 hands to 15.2 hands at the withers, with occasional individuals going slightly over or under.

**Weight:** Generally between 900 and 1,100 pounds.

**Action:** Graceful and well-coordinated with a natural, easy stride; animated and stylish yet sure-footed and athletic.

**Temperament:** Mannerly, responsive, enthusiastic and sensitive. Gentleness is important.

**Attitude:** Docile and willing; possesses

good sense and intelligence.

**Head:** Beautifully formed and well-shaped with a broad forehead; concave face.

**Eyes:** Bright, clear, prominent, kind and soft.

**Nostils:** Large.

**Muzzle:** Small.

**Neck:** Well-arched with good length and definition; meets the shoulder smoothly.

**Shoulder:** Long, well laid-back with good slope and withers.

**Chest:** Broad.

**Back:** Short, strong and muscular with ribs that spring well from the backbone.

**Hindquarters:** Relatively level croup with good length of hip.

**Tail:** Full, set on high and carried proudly.

**Legs:** Straight and true both front and rear.

**Bone:** Clean, hard and flat.

**Feet:** Hard, strong and sound.

# Featured Pintabian Breeder

"AJ Pintabians and Arabians" is a small farm owned by Alan and Jennifer Hicks near Karlstad, Minnesota. Karlstad is in the middle of farming country in the far northwestern corner of Minnesota, fine country for breeding and testing the enduring strength of these horses. Alan and Jennifer moved to Minnesota in 2001 specifically to breed and raise a line of these Pintabians. Alan is a Cad/Cam Programmer and Supervisor when he is not working with the horses. Jennifer focuses on the breeding, raising, caring, training, veterinary work, transportation, general ranch management, and dealing with future owners.

Jennifer got seriously involved with Pintabians after contacting the Pintabian Registry and learning more about the breed. Their first mare was Ever So Rare which was bred to Majestic Sunspot. On January 22, 2001 Ever So Rare produced their first spotted Pintabian filly, Majestic Sunrise. Later that week, Majestic Sunrise became the subject of a featured article in the local town newspaper as the only known colored Pintabian born in California, and so, had daily visitors.

Jennifer's interest in Pintabians began years ago when she was being trained

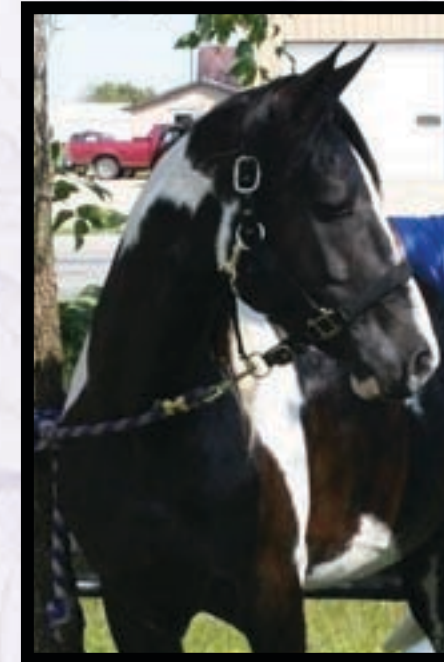
to ride by Toni Oppgard. Jennifer was 12 and when she saw her first spotted Arabian horse, she was hooked with an interest to become involved in this type of spotted equine. Jennifer followed the different stallions that have had the most influence in Pintabian breeding: Khemosabi, Raffon, and Aladdin along with many others

Over the past few years Alan and Jennifer have been adding new blood lines to their herd such as Bey Shah, Huckleberry Bey, Sundance Kid V and Desperado V just to name a few, thus bringing an extra bonus to the Pintabian blood line by adding more charisma and character to go along with their spectacular color.

At present time AJ Pintabians and Arabians is offering color foal guarantee with 2 of their stallions: True Integrity, a Top Ten Futurity Winner in 2007 and a Pintabian Futurity Stallion whose first crop of foals will arrive this spring in 2009; Imperious Light, a Pintabian Futurity Stallion, black and white, a proven producer, has two years of foals on the ground, and has produced 100 percent colored foals to date with some being black/white and some bay/white.

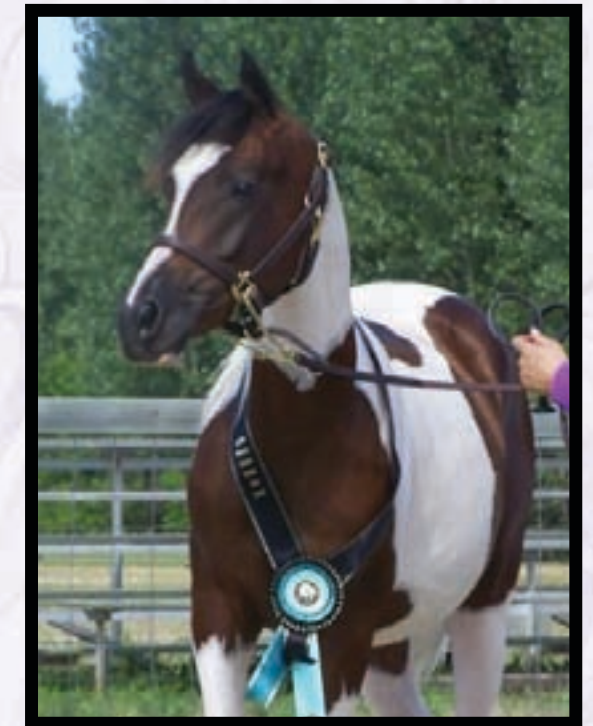
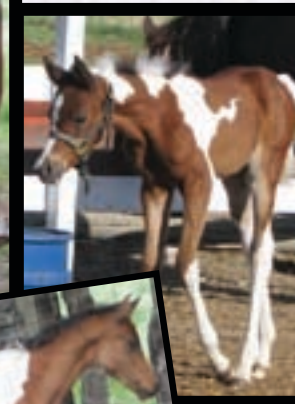
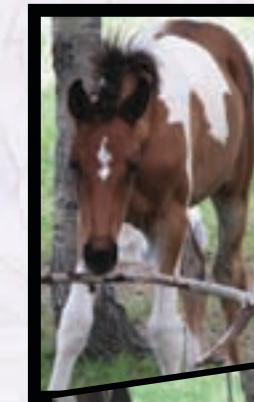


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## COWBOY LEGEND, BENNY VAN CLEVE, DIES AT 76

Benny Van Cleve, 76, passed away on Saturday, January 17, 2009 after a brief illness. His passing is a great loss to his family, friends and the horse community. An "All Around Cowboy," Benny's enthusiasm, passion, dedication and heart-felt work with the Western Saddle Club Association and the Minnesota State Fair was well-known regionally. He was generous with his time and was always "on time." All who knew Benny will remember him as he acknowledged each and every one of us with his saying, "What do you say kid?" We will miss him greatly as he leaves this earth with fond memories for us all.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2009 at 10 a.m. and the memorial service at 11 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, 20165 Heath Avenue, Lakeville, Minn. Anyone



wishing to contribute a photograph of Benny, may donate it to the family where it will be inserted in an album at the service. A celebration of his life will follow (approximately 1:00 p.m.) at the OK Corral Restaurant & Saloon, 20201 Johnson Memorial Drive, Jordan, Minn.

Benny was born in Yankton, SD. He is preceded in death by his mother, Lela May Myles, father, William Edward Van Cleve, sister, Bernetta "Marjorie" Rousey and his brother, Vernon Jerome Van Cleve. Benny is survived by his sister, Mary Lou Freeman, Oregon, his loving son, William "Bill" Van Cleve, Prior Lake, MN, (daughter) Bonnie Van Cleve and her husband, Jerry Vickers, Ocala, FL (son) Robert D. (Bob) Van Cleve and his wife Sue Lindstrom-Van Cleve, Burnsville, MN, (daughter) Becky Rae Knipe and her husband, James Knipe, Ocala, FL. He is also survived by

his grandchildren: Lisa Mooney and her husband, Darby Mooney, Jordan, MN, Benny Ray Van Cleve and his wife, Tina Van Cleve, Prior Lake, MN, Kelly D. Van Cleve, Prior Lake, MN, Lori Wagoner, state unknown, Jake Knipe, Ocala, FL and Austin Knipe, Ocala, FL. Great grandchildren: Mercedes Van Cleve, Prior Lake, MN, Madison Van Cleve, Prior Lake, MN; McKayla Mooney, Jordan, MN; Hanna Mooney, Jordan, MN. He is also survived by his ex-wife, Beverly Van Cleve, Ocala, FL.

Any comments or blogs can be viewed on [Midwesthorsetalk.com](http://Midwesthorsetalk.com). Any cards or condolences may be sent to Bill Van Cleve, 15201 County Road 5, Burnsville, MN 55306; Becky Knipe, 5631 NE 25th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34479 or Bonnie Van Cleve-Vickers, 416 NE 28th Avenue, Apt. 2, Ocala, FL 34470.

## CONTAGIOUS EQUINE METRITIS REARS ITS UGLY HEAD

By Jennifer Walker

The United States has been considered free of Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) for years, but the disease is attempting to make a comeback. According to a press release from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), eight stallions on a central Kentucky farm and another in Wisconsin have been diagnosed with the disease. Since their diagnosis, the locations of over 300 horses exposed to CEM have been confirmed in 39 states — including mares in Wyoming, North Dakota, Colorado, Montana and Iowa.

CEM is a highly contagious venereal disease found in equids — horses, donkeys, mules, etc. — caused by the bacteria *Taylorella equigenitalis*. CEM is not deadly to adult horses, but it can cause short-term infertility and, rarely, spontaneous abortions in mares. It can sometimes cause endometritis and a vaginal discharge. Stallions are not really affected by the disease, merely carrying the bacteria and passing it on during breeding. Although it is technically only transmissible during breeding, it is also possible for the bacteria to spread through the use of con-

taminated objects on breeding horses, so only sterilized instruments should be used.

In order to prevent the spread of CEM, the USDA set forth procedures that all of the states are following. A 21-day quarantine is required for horses that have been exposed, along with a series of tests that include vaginal swabs and cultures. Because of the difficulty in isolating *Taylorella equigenitalis*, testing is a tricky process that takes 12 days to ensure accurate results. Because the testing protocol bears some risk to pregnant mares and their foals, horse owners have the option of keeping pregnant mares in quarantine and delaying testing until after foaling. Affected animals can be cured with antibiotics.

"There's no reason for panic," says Dr. Paul Anderson, Assistant Director of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health. He notes that the disease will not spread as long as the proper precautions are taken. "We don't want to alarm people unnecessarily."

Anderson reports that good communication among the USDA, veterinarians and horse owners has helped to keep CEM in check. "The horse industry, to their credit, keeps good records as a rule. It helps a great

deal."

With thorough breeding records, veterinarians are able to trace the mares that were exposed to affected stallions so they can be quarantined and tested. Status of CEM in Local States

Following are the statistics for the states serviced by The Valley Equestrian. Please note that mares traced as being potentially exposed to CEM are not necessarily contaminated with the disease.

Colorado: one mare traced as potentially exposed; testing has begun.

Iowa: 12 mares traced. All completed tests to date have been negative, although some owners are waiting until after foaling to test.

Minnesota: 11 mares traced. Testing has begun on some of the mares, while owners of some are opting to wait until after foaling.

Montana: one mare traced, testing has begun.

North Dakota: one mare traced, testing delayed due to pregnancy and weather conditions.

Wyoming: one mare traced, testing has begun.

For more information on CEM, visit the USDA website at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/>.

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## WINTER WATER CONSUMPTION IN HORSES: SNOW DOES NOT EQUAL WATER.

By Erika Berg, Ph.D.

While there is plenty of snow on the ground that will eventually melt into water, snow itself is no substitute for water when it comes to horse care. According to the National Weather Service it takes anywhere from 6 to 50 inches of snow to equal only one inch of water, depending on the type of snow. Wet, dense snow has a lower ratio of six to eight inches snow for one inch water, whereas dry snow can have a ratio of up to 20 to 1. In extremely cold arctic regions the ratio can be as great as 50 inches of snow to equal 1 inch of water. When you consider that it takes 231 cubic inches to equal 1 gallon, and the average 1,000-pound horse at maintenance consumes between 10 and 12 gallons of water daily, a horse would have to eat over 2,300 cubic inches of wet, dense snow to equal the same amount of liquid in 12 gallons of water. That is a tremendous amount of snow!

There are a number of factors that contribute to the amount of water a horse consumes. These include exercise, lactation, size of the equine, ambient temperature, and especially dry matter intake (DMI). Water consumption typically rises in all of the instances. In the winter, this is an important point to remember with regard to DMI. Most horses given the choice (i.e. free access to hay) will increase their forage intake during the winter to maintain their body temperature and condition. A rise in forage consumption means a rise in water consumption. Horses without free access to adequate amounts of clean, temperate water are at an increased risk for impaction colic. Studies have shown that horses prefer

to consume water between 40 and 60°F and that a horse's intake of water during cold weather will rise significantly if offered water between these temperatures. Forcing horses to eat snow to fulfill their water requirements will cause the horse's body temperature to drop. This drop in body temperature requires the horse to eat even more forage and (or) grain to maintain their current body temperature and condition. These added costs could potentially be avoided simply by providing temperate water.

Consistently providing drinkable water for horses when the temperature is below freezing can be a challenging endeavor. Thankfully there are many bucket and tank heaters available on the market to help combat the problem of frozen water. Before using any of these devices make sure the source of electricity you are using can adequately support the heater. Additionally, be certain the electric cord and heater itself can be secured so horses are not able to chew on the cord. Finally, regular inspection and maintenance of heaters is important to ensure they are not shorting out, causing horses to be shocked when they attempt to drink from the tank or bucket.

Erika Berg is an assistant professor of Equine Studies at NDSU and has her Ph.D. in Animal Science with an emphasis on equine physiology from the University of Missouri where she managed the Horse Teaching and Research Farm for 8 years. She may be reached at [erika.berg@ndsu.edu](mailto:erika.berg@ndsu.edu).

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## FEBRUARY EVENTS AND MORE

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

Feb. 6-7: 6th Annual Rough Riders Bulls and Barrels, at R&J Arena in Verndale, Minn. (218) 445-5849; 32 Below will be performing following the Bulls & Barrels

February 7- Robert Birkliid Production Bull Sale at the ND Winter Show Building in Valley City, No. Dak. Contact: Robert Birkliid, 701-924-8876

Feb. 7: 2008 Beijing Olympics Equestrian Event "Movie Day" at West Acres Community Room (lower level) with a special presentation by Tracy Tschakert and Terra Van Horn plus a Q&A panel; contact Julie at 701-367-8105 or Sara at 701-282-2335 for more information or visit: www.aeerfargo.org

Feb. 7-8: Team Penning Memorial at the Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, MN; start at 10 a.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. on Sunday; contact Cindy Oestreich at 612-756-2268

Feb. 10: Red Horse Riders Saddle Club at the Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, MN; 218-736-3000

February 10 - Dakota Dressage and Eventing, regular monthly business meeting via teleconference, 8:30 p.m. central time; for call-information please email or call Joann at Joann@YourNextSportHorse.com or 402-639-3575

February 13: NDSU will host the State FFA and 4-H Judging Contests as well as the Hippology competition. The horse events will be held at the Equine Center beginning at 8 a.m. on Friday morning

February 14: The NDSU Saddle and Sirlain Club will host the 83rd Annual Little International Showmanship Competition. The event begins at 8 a.m. in Shepperd Arena on the NDSU campus and is free and open to the public. For more information please contact the Saddle and Sirlain Club at ndsu.saddle.and.sirlain@ndsu.edu.

Feb. 14-15: The NDSU Western Equestrian Team will be hosting an Intercollegiate Horse Show on February 14th and 15th at

the NDSU Equine Center. Eight teams with over 130 riders from ND, SD, WI, and MN will be participating. The event begins at 1 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. on Sunday and is free and open to the public. For more information please e-mail Tara Swanson at tara.swanson@ndsu.edu.

Feb. 14: Riders-In-Cahoots 5th Annual Sleigh Rally at the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids, Minn.; judged classes, spaghetti meal following; contact Bobbie Kleffman at bobbiekleffman@msn.com

February 14 - Eastern Plains Chapter of Dakota Dressage & Eventing's regular meeting, 11:30 @ the Pizza Ranch in Tea, SD. All interested folks welcome to attend! For information please email or call Joann at Joann@YourNextSportHorse.com or 402-639-3575

Feb. 14: All breed horse and tack sale at Twin Cities Horse Sales in Cannon Falls, MN; tack at 10 a.m., horses at 2 p.m. call 507-263-4200 for more information

Feb. 15: Lead-N-Lope Futurities Stallion Service Auction, at 1 p.m. at Tobies Lounge in Hinckley, MN; visit: www.leadnlopefuturities.com for more information

February 16- Dakota Power Bull Sale at the ND Winter Show Building in Valley City, No. Dak. Contact: Pat Thorson, 701-371-8230

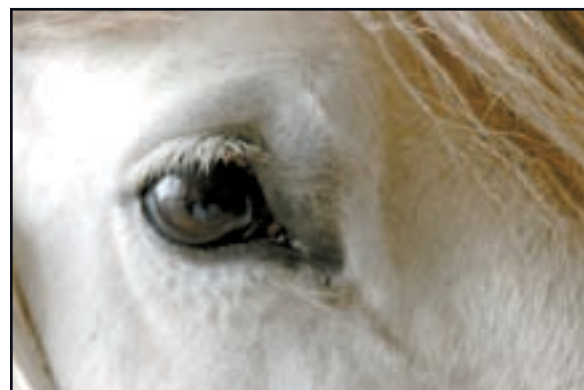
Feb 19 - 22: Arena Trailer Sales Show and Sale; at Twin Cities Horse Sales, Oxford Mill Road in Cannon Falls, MN 507-263-4200

Feb. 21: 2009 Winter Horse Owner Programs at UW - River Falls; contact Krishona Martinson at (612) 625-6776 or krishona@umn.edu with questions.

Feb. 24: Red Horse Riders Saddle Club at the Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, MN; 218-736-3000

Feb. 28: JJ Arena Fun show and UBRA Barrel Race at Balsam Lake, WI; contact Julie Jones at 715-857-5505

Feb. 28: "Nuts and Bolts of Horse Racing" and "Transitioning the Off Track Thoroughbred for



their Next Career" at the West Acres Community Room (lower level) presented by Heather Benson, General Manager of the ND Horse Park; contact Julie at 701-367-8105 or Sara at 701-282-2335 for more information or visit: www.aeerfargo.org

Mar. 7: "Cowboy & Cowgirl Gathering," Tack & Hay Auction and Expo at 2 p.m., Hinckley, MN Community Center; contact randyisham@yahoo.com 320-237-3831

March 3-8- 72nd North Dakota Winter Show at the ND Winter Show Building, Valley City, No. Dak. Contact: NDWS, 800-437-0218

Mar. 10: Red Horse Riders Saddle Club at the Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, MN; 218-736-3000

Mar. 10: All breed horse and tack sale, 10 a.m. tack and 2 p.m. horses at Twin Cities Horse Sales, Oxford Mill Road in Cannon Falls, MN 507-263-4200

Mar. 13-15: Midwest Fjord Horse Clinic, contact Bob Gudknecht at 507-824-2166 held at Twin Cities Horse Sales, Oxford Mill Road in Cannon Falls, MN 507-263-4200

March 13-15: Rocky Mountain Horse Expo in Denver, CO at the National Western Complex, with a WRCA Championship Rodeo, Extreme Cowboy Race hosted by Craig Cameron

Mar.14: 2009 Winter Horse Owner Programs at Thomper Pond Resort; contact Krishona Martinson at (612) 625-6776 or krishona@umn.edu with questions.

March 20-22 - South Dakota Horse Fair Cowboy Mounted Shooting Demo, Sioux Falls, SD; WH Lyons Fairground, Contact: Mike Whitehead, 605-261-9766, www.daktms.com

Mar. 21: ND 4-H Jorse Judges Certification Seminar at Shepperd Arena, covering the ND show rules and judging guide; afternoon certification at the NDSU Equine Center; email: carrie.hammer@ndsu.edu or call Carrie at 701-231-5682 for more information

Mar. 21-22: WSCA Horse Show hosted by the Red Horse Riders Saddle Club at Red Horse Ranch in Fergus Falls, MN; 218-736-3000

Mar. 24: Red Horse Riders Saddle Club at the Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, MN; 218-736-3000

March 27-29 - Dakota Dressage and Eventing's Musical Freestyle Clinic with Karen Robinson; see website for more details at www.DakotaDressageAndEventing.org or contact Joann at Joann@YourNextSportHorse.com or 402-639-3575

Mar. 27-29: Barrel Racing produced by Burn'in Barrels at the Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, MN; 218-736-3000

Mar. 28: Twin Cities Quarter Horse Sale at 10 a.m. at Twin Cities Horse Sales, Oxford Mill Road in Cannon Falls, MN 507-263-4200

Mar. 29: Twin Cities Paint Horse Sale at 10 a.m. Twin Cities Horse Sales, Oxford Mill Road in Cannon Falls, MN 507-263-4200

April 3-5- Judy Myllymaki Barrel Horse Workshop at the ND Winter Show Building; Contact: Terri Berg-Crooks, 701-840-8028 www.myllymakibarelhorses.com

April 18: "5th Annual Boots and Ballgowns Dinner and Silent Auction" for the North Dakota Horse Park in their new Cover-All Pavillion at 7 p.m., Fargo, ND; donated items due by April 1; contact Heather Benson, 701-232-3832 or email: heather@hrnd.org

# Talking Horses

HORSES ARE NOT ONLY FRIENDS, BUT ON OCCASION, PSYCHIATRISTS

By Kathleen Grimes

Bonnie, one of my clients, found herself driving almost unconsciously to the stables. Since it was early Saturday morning, the grounds were still very quiet. She headed directly to her horse's stall, where she expected him to be hiding in the corner, ears drooping and half asleep but she found the opposite.

As she stood at his stall door, Danny, her horse, eagerly came over to greet her and looked her straight in the eyes. The sheer joy that appeared in Danny's eyes instantly cheered her up and her world began to come back into focus.

Leaning against the stable door, she stroked and patted him. He was calm and content. Within a few moments, Bonnie noticed that their breathing was the same and very smooth. Danny rested his head on her arm. His muzzle was over her shoulder and nicely snuggled against her back.

She talked to him of her troubles. His ear never turned away from her -- always listening. He was still and quiet, as if to reassure her that he was indeed listening. The weight of his head was cutting off the circulation to her forearm, but she held him for as long as she could. When she shifted her arm slightly, he lifted his head for a moment, before bringing it down again over her shoulder. Bonnie talked to him for a long time and when she was done she took a long, full, release breathe. She no longer was carrying those heavy burdens and she was now more aware of the life around her than when she first arrived.

She began wondering if her words made

sense to Danny. She called me to find out. She told me that her horse acted as her psychiatrist today and she wondered if he really knew what she said.

Danny and I had a nice conversation. He did understand what she told him, but more important, he understood her mood and that she needed someone to listen. On her way to the stables, Bonnie said his name and Danny picked up on it; he felt her sadness. What Bonnie did not understand is that our animals can read the pictures we make as we talk to ourselves.

Our animal friends know more about us than we know. The times when they just stare at us, they are actually looking at all the pictures we are making by our thoughts. Often, pets tell me that they enjoy it when their humans take time to talk to them. Most pets feel it is their job to take care of us. Listening is one way that they can do their job. Whenever we are truly listened to, we are healed and in some way we experience a new sense of freedom to be ourselves. I encourage my clients to really talk to their horses as they groom and walk them. Then when it comes time to ride, they are both ready to go.

Our animals are untapped resources of acceptance and trust. Animals teach us and we teach animals. I wonder what would happen if all animal owners and animal lovers would deepen their relationships with their animal friends this year. Just maybe there would be more peace in our area of the planet.

# Legal Q&A

By J. Matthew Berner, Esq.

Q: I loaned my horse to a friend to ride in a parade and it was severely injured in her care. Who is responsible for paying the veterinary bills?

A: Whether your friend or someone else may be held responsible for paying your veterinarian's bill in this case primarily depends on how your horse came to be injured. It also depends on the details of your arrangement to loan your horse to your friend.

Under the circumstances, the law would likely impose a legal duty upon your friend to exercise reasonable care for your horse. If he or she failed to exercise reasonable care (i.e., he or she was negligent in caring for your horse), and his or her negligence directly caused your horse's injuries, then he or she may be held legally responsible for your damages arising from these injuries. While the burden of proving negligence generally falls upon the injured person, your loan of the horse to your friend may have created a "bailment" relationship which may require your friend to prove that he or she was not negligent -- or otherwise responsible for -- your horse's injuries. Of course, the mere fact that a horse is injured does not necessarily mean that someone is legally responsible for causing the injury.

Also, your arrangement to loan your horse to your friend may constitute a legally enforceable agreement (i.e., a contract) whereby he or she may be contractually obligated to pay for your horse's veterinary

care. The particular circumstances and terms of your agreement would determine whether this is the case.

As always, you are best served by consulting with an attorney to discuss the details of your situation in order to determine the nature and extent of your legal rights and responsibilities.

*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 a jberner@hjlawfirm.com.*



**Trivia Question:**  
Compliments Orv Alvshere --  
What comic character had a horse named NIGHTMARE?  
(Answer on page 17)

## RED RIVER HARNESS CLUB MEMBERS PROVIDE SLEIGH RIDES DURING WEST FARGO WINTER CARNIVAL



Barry Anderson, above left, with his Percheron team, Grace, 13, and Budd, 9, and Mark Radtke, right, with his mule team, Kate and Pearl, give free sleigh rides to bundled-up citizens who came out to enjoy the brisk and windy weather of the Winter Carnival festivities Sunday, Jan. 18 in West Fargo, No. Dak. Radtke and Anderson, along with their support people, Karen Radtke, Karen Terry, Clayton Brennen and Eugene Radtke, all who helped organize the rides, are members of the Red River Harness and Saddle Club based in the Red River Valley. Photos by Ley Bouchard



**CALLING ALL EQUESTRIAN CLUBS**

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**LISTING OF EVENTS AND CLUB NEWS!**

**Email or call any VE Staff member listed**

**on Page 2 of this month's issue.**

See your organization featured in the Valley Equestrian.

Take photos of your events - send them along with the details, phone or email address to:

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The Valley Equestrian  
leybou@gmail.com or call (701) 361-8648

Your Club or Organization May be Featured Next Month!



# Classifieds Classifieds Classifieds Classifieds

## Jobs Jobs! Tack, Misc! Horses Horses Horses Horses Horses!

The U.S. Census Bureau announces the start of hiring for the 2010 Census. These temporary, part-time jobs offer good pay, flexible hours up to 40 hours per week, weekly paychecks, and the chance to work near home. Workers are needed in almost every community. Call 1-866-861-2010 or visit [www.2010censusjobs.gov](http://www.2010censusjobs.gov) to learn more.

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three bred mares; trained 4-year-old gelding; trained 3-year-old gelding; two, 3-year old fillies; two 2-year-old stallions, all by Buzzer-Secretariat-Storm Cat grandson.  
SherWin TB Farm, 701-642-2544

For Sale or Trade: Riding and Driving ponies and miniature horses. Also carts, wagons, sleighs and buggies. Helen and Marvin Foss, Grygla, Minn. (218) 294-6243; Photos [mhfoss@gvtel.com](mailto:mhfoss@gvtel.com)

5 yr. old Quarter Horse mare who's sire is Sizzlin Zippo who is by, "You Know Who." Here is a bay mare, 15.1, one hind white pastern, strip down her face, enough white but not too much; a soft moving mare with a good working attitude. Needs the finish for whatever you choose to do. She also is standing in the New Richmond, Wisc. barn, too many horses, not enough time. Her winter price is \$3,500. Call Karen at 763-682-5324 or [karenshe@charter.net](mailto:karenshe@charter.net) for the phone number to go see!

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5 yr. old Quarter Horse mare who's sire is Sizzlin Zippo who is by, "You Know Who." Here is a bay mare, 15.1, one hind white pastern, strip down her face, enough white but not too much; a soft moving mare with a good working attitude. Needs the finish for whatever you choose to do. She also is standing in the New Richmond, Wisc. barn, too many horses, not enough time. Her winter price is \$3,500. Call Karen at 763-682-5324 or [karenshe@charter.net](mailto:karenshe@charter.net) for the phone number to go see!

Wanted: Serious breeder looking for registered show-quality Pintabian mare; prefer homozygous boiano, broke to ride, but will consider others.

9 Yr. old BIG Moving Quarter Horse Gelding: Max is a one owner horse, bought from his breeder as a yearling. Standing 15.2, one small sock and white down his face. Zippo Pine Bar and Leo are right on the papers, he has been trail ridden, and loves English over anything else. He's been fenced and is looking for an owner with less horses and more time. His dam earned over 300 Quarter Horse points, hmmm sounds like a performance machine in the making to me! \$2500 is his Winter Clearance price. Max is standing in a barn in New Richmond, Wisc right now. Call Karen at 763-682-5324 or [karenshe@charter.net](mailto:karenshe@charter.net) for further details

Got a lead on a 7 yr. old Pony Gelding, supposed to be 13 + hands, broke enough that even I can ride it. Stock type, 50/50 Tobiano pattern, liver chestnut. Owner got him on a package deal and is too big for him. The pony is in Clearwater, MN and if you want to come along, let's go see him. We could meet at the truck stop (coffee and pie are on you), go see him and if you want first dibs, it's just a matter of figuring out what he's worth. Call Karen at 763-682-5324 or [karenshe@charter.net](mailto:karenshe@charter.net)

Wanted- Well broke, been there done that mare for riding and driving. Nothing under 8 years please, the older the better. This mare needs to be slow and steady, 14.1 to 14.3 hands. Healthy and sound with excellent manners for a permanent caring home. As long as I'm asking, black and white pinto would be a big plus. Please call Tammy at 218-790-6056

### Lessons, Training, Boarding

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## GOT A HOME?

In this spot each month, The Valley Equestrian will feature a horse available for adoption.

If we all work together, we can solve the issue of too many horses.

It will take time, but one horse at a time, we'll

### Get'er done



To adopt Chica, contact Cherie McKenzie, Sundown Horse Farm & Shelter, Inc., Hugo, Minn.

Phone: 651-407-1908 or email: [ridnhorse@comcast.net](mailto:ridnhorse@comcast.net) and visit the web site for other horses available:  
[www.SundownHorseShelter.org](http://www.SundownHorseShelter.org)  
[www.itchin-post.com](http://www.itchin-post.com)

Introducing Chica! A Tobiano Pinto Mare, 3/4 Arabian, 1/4 Saddlebred, Chica will be two in May. She has been in a loving foster home four months and looks much better now! She handles well, is very trainable, willing and feisty according to her foster family. She has a sweet temperament.

The pictures are from the day she was taken from the breeder, so of course she looks unhappy. You could make her happy by giving her a home!

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## The Oldest Horse: Moonlight

By: Amber Voigt

Moonlight was a staple on our family ranch for as long as I can remember. This buckskin quarter horse did it all, goat tying, team roping, breakaway, calf roping, barrels, poles, and was used in all aspects of ranch work. Moonlight was used by my mother and uncles in high school and college rodeo.

Many of the grandkids learned to ride on Moonlight, and was on countless cattle drives. Moonlight took the 13-mile cattle drive every fall and spring, with almost every grandkid. Our family has many great stories of Moonlight's misadventures while on the road for events. While in Washington state for High School Rodeo finals one year, someone left a gate open and Moonlight walked away. He was spotted in a sunflower field by a helicopter, and took little time getting to the trailer when called. Since this was after Saint Helens erupted and left the state covered in ash, our bright buckskin was gray with stuffy eyes. This was only one of his many adventures.

When Moonlight was a three-year-old and my grandfather was breaking him, my uncles, who were youngsters, saved up all their money to buy a set of spurs from a catalog. My grandfather told them not to ride that horse. But undeterred my eldest uncle, Beaver, put on the spurs and went out to saddle up Moonlight. When those spurs dug into Moonlight's sides, Beaver was

sent flying through the air. He soon returned to the house and neither rode with spurs on Moonlight ever again.

Another learning experience came when I was about eight: I rode Moonlight all over at turbo speed. Once in the arena I was racing around and turned, barreling

toon I flew off and right into the panels. My shoulders where stopped by the panels but my head when through and slammed into the pole bending poles on the other side, which knocked me out. I woke up to Grandpa kneeling by my side asking if I was ok. I was so scared of being in trouble I told him I was fine and I just fell off. And back on Moonlight I went, but the pass was much slower after that.

After Moonlight was semi-retired on the farm, we got a mechanical steer (Buffered) for team roping. I had a horse of my own to ride and learn to rope on, so when we brought Moonlight into the arena he showed how much he disliked that steer. For a few years, Moonlight would not even go in the half of the arena where Buffered was set up.

When moonlight was about 28-years-old a friend of the family took him where he lived until he was put down due to organ failure. Moonlight was a beloved horse and an unforgettable part of our family.



down the middle of the arena. I am not sure what I was thinking, but I was not thinking of turning at the end of the arena. And to my surprise Moonlight did, but I did

not like a car-



WANTED HORSE COALITION

TRIVIA ANSWER:  
(from page 15)

Casper the Friendly Ghost

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# 111TH CONGRESS FACES NEW ISSUES AND OLD

The 111th Congress has convened and the Democrats have picked up seats in both the House and Senate. The country also has a new President, Barack Obama, who assumed office on January 20. President Obama will have to deal with some of the most difficult issues a new President has faced in modern times.

Many are wondering what these changes will mean for the horse industry. "For the most part, issues affecting the horse industry are not partisan," noted AHC president Jay Hickey. "Like most industries, our legislative concerns don't clearly split along party lines. Democrats may approach issues from a different perspective than Republicans, and vice-versa, but the industry works on a bi-partisan basis with members of Congress from both sides of the aisle." Nonetheless, since the Democrats now hold larger majorities in both houses, there may be less partisan "gridlock" that has prevented Congress from acting on a lot of legislation in the past. But the margins are not so great that the Democrats can simply push through whatever they want. They will still need some Republican support, particularly in the Senate, to pass legislation.

In the "new" category, Congress will have to deal with a down economy, "bailouts" of various industries, a giant tax stimulus package to assist industries and states and preserve jobs, and to fund energy alternatives, health care and two wars. So there will be many new issues that impact the horse industry tangentially. But Congress will also be dealing with issues that are important to the horse industry that were not dealt with in the last Congress and will be part of the legislative mix.

Tax issues and the state of the economy will have a starring role in the coming months. The inclusion of the Equine Equity Act in the farm bill that was passed in the last Congress was a victory for the horse industry. Beginning in 2009, all race horses will be depreciated over 3 years, regardless of when they are placed in service. Previously, race horses were depreciated over 3 or 7 years.

But the second part of the Equine Equity Act, reducing the holding period for horses to one year from two for capitol gains purposes, was not passed. This issue will once again be pushed by the horse industry, along with the Pari-Mutuel Conformity and Equality Act, which would repeal the 25% withholding tax on winning wagers over \$5,000 when the odds are at least 300-to-one.

The increase of the Section 179 expense deduction to \$250,000 and the reinstatement of bonus depreciation were benefits to the horse industry that were included in last year's tax stimulus bill. Both expired at the end of 2008, but it is likely that Congress will extend both provisions in this year's stimulus bill. As Congress considers these bills it will be important to remind Congress of the \$102 billion impact of the horse industry and the 1.4 million jobs the industry supports.

In the "old" category, the last Congress tried to enact comprehensive immigration reform several times, but failed. The problems with immigration and a large undocumented work force have not gone away and Congress will have to deal with this, although it is not likely to be one of the first issues to be considered.

The horse industry relies heavily on foreign labor. Some of this labor is provided by the H-2A agricultural and H-2B non-agricultural temporary worker programs, which are costly and inefficient. In addition, the H-2B program is capped by Congress at 66,000 workers a year, making competition for these workers from all industries intense. The horse industry also relies on a large number

of undocumented workers who must be considered in any comprehensive package.

The AHC supports a comprehensive approach to our immigration problems that would address a better guest worker program and a way to handle undocumented workers in the U.S. The last Congress considered the AgJobs bill that dealt specifically with undocumented agricultural workers and would have reformed the H-2A program. In addition, the Save Our Small and Seasonal Businesses Act would have provided some cap relief to H-2B users. Both of these bills will be debated again.

"The agricultural industry laid a good foundation for reform with the AgJobs bill and that will be pushed again in this Congress," said Hickey.

Internet gambling will continue to be a topic in Congress. The Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act (UIGEA), passed in 2006, contains provisions protecting racing's activities allowed under the Interstate Horseracing Act (IHA). However, rules adopted by the Bush Administration in November could prove troublesome to the industry. It is likely there will be efforts to modify the restrictions on internet gambling during this Congress in order to regulate, license and tax it. The horse industry will need to watch any such efforts closely to ensure that any legislation does not adversely impact the current interstate wagering allowed on pari-mutuel horse racing under the IHA.

Last Congress several bills were introduced to prohibit the shipping, transporting, or sale of horses for slaughter for human consumption, including the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act and the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act. Neither bill was voted on in the House or Senate, but it is likely the same bills will be reintroduced. The election of Congressman Henry Waxman (D-CA) as chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, replacing Congressman John Dingell (D-MI), could impact the passage of the slaughter prohibition bill. That

committee has jurisdiction and Congressman Waxman was a cosponsor of it in the last Congress, while Mr. Dingell was not.

Members of Congress can be expected to look at animal welfare in general, including the welfare of horses, in the 111th Congress. Some members raised welfare issues regarding racing and showing last year and there is no reason to think that will not be a concern again.

Legislation was introduced in the last Congress to ensure equestrians are not unfairly excluded or removed from federal public lands to which they have traditionally had access, including the Right to Ride Livestock on Federal Lands Act and the Preserving our Equine Heritage on Public Lands Act. The American Horse Council will be working to make sure similar legislation is reintroduced. But we will need substantial support from horse owners and recreational riders to have any chance of passing this legislation.

Other bills that could impact the horse industry are likely to come up as well, including the Travel Promotion Act, which could positively impact equine tourism.

No matter what legislation is introduced in the coming months, it will be important for the new Congress to hear from members of the horse industry. This is why the AHC, in cooperation with its member organizations, has launched a new grassroots initiative called the Congressional Cavalry program. All individual horse owners, breeders, veterinarians, trainers, competitors, recreational riders, service providers, or anyone who desire to join the grassroots efforts of the horse community in Washington are encouraged to join. It costs nothing and the AHC will let you know if legislation that affects the horse industry is introduced and when and how to contact your members of Congress. If you would like to sign up for this program or have any questions please call the AHC (202) 296 4031 or email ahc@horsecouncil.org.

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# NEW AG INCOME TAX UPDATE FOR FARM FAMILIES NOW AVAILABLE

By Robert Holcomb and Gary Hachfeld, University of Minnesota Extension

ST. PAUL, Minn. — For tax years 2008 and 2009, there are a number of changes affecting farm families.

Changes resulted from the passage of federal tax laws, including the Small Business Work Opportunity Act of 2007 and the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008. These include changes in Kiddie tax rules, Section 179 allowance, reinstatement of bonus depreciation, tax rebates and taxation of CRP payments. Here are a few details:

- Passage of the Small Business and Work Opportunity Act of 2007 extended the Kiddie tax rules to include most children age 18 and many full-time students ages 19 through 23 for tax years beginning after May 25, 2007. If a child's net unearned income exceeds \$1,800 for 2008, the unearned income above the threshold is taxed at the parent's marginal tax rate if the parent's marginal tax rate is higher than the child's.

- Depreciation rules continue to change. For Section 179 depreciation for tax year 2008, the deduction limit is \$250,000 and the phase-out amount is \$800,000. Qualifying property for Section 179 includes breeding livestock, machinery, single purpose ag structures (such as a hog confinement building), and drainage tile.

- Taxation of CRP payments has been an ongoing issue. The issue is whether or not the CRP payment is subject to Self-Employment (SE) tax. Recent Farm Bill legislation states that CRP payments made to individuals receiving Social Security retirement, survivor, or disability payments are not subject to SE tax. Any other individuals receiving CRP payments would be subject to SE tax on those payments.
- Income averaging has been reinstated, for farmers only. Farmers can elect an amount of their current farm income to divide equally among the previous three years.

See the March Appaloosa Issue of the Valley Equestrian

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