

Happy New Year!

January 2009

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



Valley Equestrian

Your local resource for equestrian events, news and information.

Newspaper

SNOWY SOJOURN



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Page 5: Tragic fire at R&J Arena in Verndale, Minn. claims 42 equine lives

About the Cover

Photojournalist Mel Stone captured this image from a Fergus Falls, Minn backroad early in December. Stone is locally famous for his "Stone Report" in the Fargo, No. Dak. area.

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EDITOR'S CLIPBOARD

I was humbled and honored to be part the Dakota 38+2 Memorial Ride as more than 50 riders finished the long sojourn from the Lower Brule in South Dakota to the hanging site in Mankato, Minnesota where 38 men lost their lives in the single largest mass hanging in the history of the United States.

The ride came about as a dream of Jim Miller, a 77-year-old Native American from the Dakota tribe. His dream was for a group to ride the 330 mile trek ending at the hanging site on December 26, 146 years after the actual event.

I recognize what a rich cultural heritage Native Americans have and how fortunate to have the language and songs they all share and sing together. As a third-generation, 100 percent Norwegian, I regret that I know few of my family traditions outside of making lutefisk, lefse and krumkake. The Norwegian language my mother and her brothers speak fluently is lost on my generation and our children.

It is unfortunate. We get so wrapped up in being Americans we lose our traditional selves. Quite ironic isn't it? As immigrants, we didn't have our culture ripped from us whereas Native Americans were thrown into boarding schools, taken from their homes, traditions, parents, and siblings. They were assimilated into the white culture, forced to learn white-man ways, religions and punished for using their native language, the only language they knew. How does a culture survive the genocide and cultural cleansing that occurred in these United States?

The Native Americans that spoke in the ceremonies that followed the conclusion of the ride spoke of healing and change - keeping the language alive, respect of elders and overcoming the disappointments that living on reservations have brought: drug and alcohol abuse, violence against one another, and the loss of their language.

I hope we can all help in that healing by overcoming our own stereotypical concepts learned in schools with history books written to protect our government that violated one treaty after another. Dare to go beyond the traditional learning by taking upon ourselves to read or study authentic Native American history.



Mattie Richardson is a fifteen year old homeschooler who lives in the small town of Sheldon, ND with her parents, six siblings and two horses. She enjoys spending her spare time reading, writing articles, novels, poems and stories, participating in 4-H, and riding her favorite stubborn horse, Spike.

Life Lessons I've Learned From My Horse

By Mattie Richardson

The Valley Equestrian would like to thank Mattie for sharing her "Life Lessons" with our readers. They are wonderful resolutions. Happy New Year!

1. Always have at least one close friend
2. Keep the burrs from under your saddle
3. A good bite or kick will reprimand anyone
4. Don't be afraid to be curious-but always be ready to flee
5. Hold the reins of life lightly
6. It's best to keep your shoes on
7. The most fun you'll have is when your horse is around
8. Chomping at the bit won't get you anywhere
9. It's easy to run away from the halter and lead rope, but it's an honor to go to work faithfully
10. It's always nice to have someone else groom you
11. Keep your feet in good condition - they've got to last you a lifetime
12. Always be ready to carry a friend in need

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UNWANTED HORSE COALITION SURVEY

You are likely aware of the problem of thousands of unwanted and abandoned horses in the United States. Some say the problem is an epidemic, however, much remains unknown. The first step toward a solution is to gather and examine the facts. YOUR HELP IS NEEDED. The Unwanted Horse Coalition (UHC) is launching a nationwide survey of the problem and we're asking for participation from horse owners, equine associations, veterinarians, breeders, state and local law enforcement, and rescue groups. Our goal is to hear from everyone interested in the welfare of horses, which is why I'm asking for the support of every AHC chapter. WHAT YOU CAN DO PERSONALLY. Please take the UHC national online survey by going online at <http://survey.ictgroup.com/uhcsurvey/>. Your answers will be confidential. WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SPREAD THE WORD. Please inform your members and constituencies about the UHC survey and encourage them to take the survey. To make it easy, we've developed templates you can customize and use in newsletters, publications and Web sites, including:

- News release that explains the problem and nationwide initiative in greater detail. For use in your organization's printed and online communications.


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- CAN WE COUNT ON YOU? If you can promote the survey to your members and constituencies, please let us know by checking in online today. You'll be asked to answer a few quick questions to help us keep the project running smoothly. This Web site also provides quick access to all of the marketing templates. If you have any problems opening or downloading these files, please call Cathy McCormick at Stephens & Associates at 913-661-0910, Ext. 115 for technical assistance. Thank you in advance for your help. With feedback from every corner of the horse industry, we believe this is a first and crucial step in finding the solution for this devastating problem.

This is not a typical little focus group.



Tens of thousands of unwanted horses is not a typical little problem. In fact, it's growing more troublesome every day. It's time for those of us interested in the welfare of horses to hone in on the causes and focus on a solution.

Your opinion is needed. Please go to <http://survey.ictgroup.com/uhcsurvey/> and take a survey about the problem of the unwanted horse. Your responses will be confidential. Your opinions and ideas will be invaluable.



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MY EMAIL INBOX

The VE email inbox receives many unusual and interesting items that we occasionally want to pass onto VE readers. Unfortunately, the original author is seldom known so attribution may not be possible. This particular piece, I learned through an internet search, was written by Chris Irvine and published by the Telegraph, a London, England newspaper.



Curiosity might have killed this horse! Luckily for Gracie, neighbor Jason Harschbarger, came along just in time, retrieved his tools and freed her. The tree that trapped Gracie probably ended up with more injury than the horse. It was reported that Gracie's jaw was dislocated and she incurred minor cuts on her face and ear. Gracie and tree, are from Pullman, West Virginia, a small rural town with a population of 169. An internet search on "Gracie the horse" will provide the rest of the story.



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FIRE AT R&J SUNDBY HORSE ARENA KILLS 42 HORSES OF THE SHEYENNE VALLEY TEAM PENNING ASSOCIATION OWNERS MOURN THE LOSS OF 42 AMERICAN QUARTER HORSES

By Jennifer Walker

At 6:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 21st, Scot Stelter was getting ready for the day when he received the phone call horse owners dread the most: the barn where six of his horses were housed was on fire, and the horses were trapped inside. When he arrived at the scene a short time later, he knew it was too late. All 42 American Quarter Horses, including one foal, perished in the fire – and the barn was completely destroyed.

The 21st was the third and last day of a Sheyenne Valley Team Penning Association event at R & J Arena in Verndale, Minnesota. Stelter, who is the president of the SVTPA, explains, "Due to the cold weather situation, instead of cancelling the show we made the decision to put all the horses in only one of the three barn areas and pay additional for heat."

While events of this type normally draw



around 65 to 70 horses, the cold weather kept many of the regular participants away.

"We can be thankful for those who weren't able to attend," says Stelter. However, many of the top AQHA horses from Minnesota and North Dakota who compete in events of this nature were there. "Our sport we compete in has taken a devastating blow."

On Saturday night, many of the competitors gathered for dinner. "You see, most of us, even though we compete against each other, are great friends," says Stelter. "I and Brad Anderson were at the barn around 9 to 9:30 p.m. and watered our horses again and tucked them in; our final goodbye to our companions. I was so happy with the way the day had gone; I gave my three favorites a big huge goodnight."

At 6:30 a.m., we got the call that the barn was on fire, the roof had come in and our horses were all dead. Now when you get a call like this, you figure somebody is playing a very bad joke on you. After being reassured that nobody would joke about something like this, we all rushed to the barn. All you could see is the air filled with smoke. Without air respirators, there would be no way to get close and you just knew it was all over."

The horses at the event were all either World Champions, Top Tens or qualifiers. Some of the owners had multiple horses there, and several also had tack in the barn, which was lost. Stelter's five-year-old gelding,

Bam Bam Merada was sixth in the Open Team Penning at this year's AQHA World Championship Show with team mate Brad Anderson's DJ Sprats Peppy Girl, an eight-year-old mare who was also lost in the blaze. A complete list of horses can be found at the end of this article.

"I lost six of my own horses in this fire," said Stelter. "They were the nearest thing a person could have to a best friend. My daughter and I spent almost every weekend traveling with them and every day of every week feeding and riding them. The only thing I can imagine harder than this would have been to have lost a family member in this tragedy. Your life stops suddenly and you wonder why; then you think, what now?"

For many of the owners, the emotions stemming from what happened are still too raw to talk about it. Sadly, some of them

lost horses to a similar tragedy just a few years ago and never dreamed it could happen to them again.

Stelter adds, "I can't imagine doing it twice let alone to do it this one time. Everybody was very supportive to each other." Stelter had the grim task of entering

Sundby. "It's been very rough."

At the time of this writing, the cause of the fire is still under investigation. Wadena County Sheriff Mike Carr reports that they have no reason to suspect foul play at this time. "I know everybody there loved their animals and friends too much to do this," Stelter adds.

Whatever caused the fire to start, it was fanned into an inferno by high winds that blew from the east. Firefighters from five departments worked in sub-zero temperatures to battle the flames, but the fire was not put out until after 1:00 p.m. that day. With the wind chill factor, the temperature was 35 degrees below zero. Despite the high winds and the force of this fire, no other buildings were damaged.

Team Penning and Ranch Sorting is one of the fastest growing events in the AQHA, with



- JRS Hi Oak, owned by Julie and Bill Abney of Helena, Montana
- Iam Custom Made, Dox Smart Lady and a foal, owned by Roy Martinson of Fargo, North Dakota
- SR Star Asset, Stylish Maggie, Im Playin In Style, Smart Peppy Gal, Docs High Brow Snip and KR Tejons Celebrity, owned by David Colby of Milnor, North Dakota
- Tuckers Cash N Chex, Tuckers Rum Bar and Pistols Freckle Lena, owned by Bob Pierce of Wheatland, North Dakota
- Cashes Smart Star, owned by Suzette and Lowell Mason of Woodward, North Dakota
- Missy Okie, Wood Echo, Lena Jo Solano and Over Dun It, owned by Terri and Bill Broadwater of Preston, Minnesota

• Little Bobbi Cody and Smart Lil Madelyn, owned by Doug Hartwig of Farmington, Minnesota

• Mia Red Hot Hickory, DJ Sprats Peppy Girl and Direct Diamond Babe, owned by Brad Anderson of Edgeley, North Dakota

• Smart Nu Star, Heavens All Right, Osage Zan Badger and Colonel Walter, owned by Pat Egan of Stillwater, Minnesota.

Photography by Dr. Jill McGinnity

Sincere Condolences Sheyenne Valley Team Penning Association

The Valley Equestrian staff wishes to extend its heartfelt sympathies to all those who lost horses to the tragic fire at Verndale, Minn., Sunday, Dec. 21. Many magnificent horses, some World Competitors, lost their lives that early, cold morning; many families lost their beloved companions, teammates and dear friends. In the months to come, we would like to remember those horses in pictures and stories should their owners wish to share. Please contact any of the VE team members with information.

- the second largest purse at the World show this year at \$51,791 and 31 teams entered. The majority of the horses lost in the Verndale fire competed at the AQHA World show this year.
- "Our thoughts and prayers go out to all our friends who have suffered in this loss," Stelter says.
- The names of the horses confirmed dead are:
- Sheza Christi Rey CT, owned by Kim Kautzman of West Fargo, North Dakota
 - Ricochet Rhapsody, Hickorys Lil Tenina, White Chocolate 2000, Cats Cityslicker, Doc Katie Cat and Skippa Sweet Joy, owned by Matt and Kerri Longtine of Christine, North Dakota
 - Bam Bam Merada, Meradas Dawning, Okies Fancy Moonbeam, Pure Cheyenne Gold, Foxys SR Kitty Cat and Jets Genuine Lady, owned by Scot Stelter of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota
 - Frosted N Cash, ELS Whata Ricochet and Hickorys Dual Pep, in the care of Ken Krebsbach of New Prague, Minnesota

HANDICAPPER'S CORNER

A Realistic Approach to Investing for Profit at the Racetrack

A Lesson in Patience -- Part 1

By Larry Simpson

Much has been written over the years by famous, and not so famous horse-players who make a serious living playing the horses, about the importance of money management, or as I like to refer to it, patient handicapping. Simply put, patient handicapping is looking for that perfect situation whereby you handicap a race better than others, however, sometimes a perfect situation could and probably does take a lot of waiting - hence the patience.

Now believe me, the most difficult thing for recreational horseplayers to do, is to pass a race. After all, you are not really out at the track to watch horses run around in circles, mind you it is a beautiful sight. Still it is participating that gives us that ultimate high, especially if a trip to the track is perhaps a once or twice a week affair. To pass a race, takes strength, and the realization that you are exchanging a one or two minute high, for a healthier bank account. Remember, patience is a virtue, and he who practices a patient approach to playing the horses shall reap the rewards at the end of the season.

How do we find that perfect betting race? Actually, with the introduction of simulcast wagering and combination cards featuring Thoroughbreds from one track, and harness from another, the importance of practicing patient handicapping has reached epic proportions. Nobody in their right mind can successfully handicap five or more tracks a day, or at least every race they offer. They can try, however, chances are that by the end of the day they will be so fatigued that the last race will become

nothing more but a handicapping blur, or a last chance effort at getting even for the day. But the sharp investor, notice I said investor because you should approach your handicapping decisions as if it is a business, can pass on

1) Size of field; if the race that I am looking at has six or less entries, then it is automatically a pass, as chances are my selection will not conform to the 3 to 1 theory (to be explained later). In my opinion, a small field does

3) Jockey and trainer patterns; like any athletes, jockeys are subject to slumps. Again by quickly scanning the past performance lines in the Racing Form, I will eliminate any horse that is not being handled by a jockey that has won with at least 10 percent of his rides at the current meet. Sure, once in awhile jockeys with a small win percentage do win a race, however, by eliminating them in the initial handicapping steps, I am putting the odds in my favor. Remember, we are passing races for good reasons as

cessful trainers perennially average around 15 percent winners. In attempting to locate that perfect betting situation, this is what we want to concentrate on, trainers who win with over 15 percent of their starters. These people are serious, and they are the ones that I want to put my money on. I should point out, that while I am scanning the trainer's summaries, I do make careful notations of horses that have been claimed in their most recent start. At every race track, there are trainers who while continuing to win on a regular 15 percent basis, are doing so while making a living claiming horses, stepping them up a class, and winning first start out. Make some mental notes of who these trainers are on your racing circuit.

classification. Don't be afraid to go back to three races ago in order to find a key race especially if the horse in question was a victim of poor racing luck in either or both of his last two races, a victim of a poor track surface, or poor post position. Providing that the horse has raced or had a quality workout in the past 21 days, he just might become that perfect betting situation today.

This ends our primary handicapping where we have separated contenders from Pretenders with the assistance of the information available in the Daily Racing Form. The balance of our homework will take place at the track, or at the off track betting parlor on race day, and will be covered in our next installment of Handicapper's Corner

Larry Simpson is Executive Editor of ThoroughbredStyle Magazine, which is published by Silks Corporation, a simulcast service provider for North Dakota and also operates www.RacingTheWorld.com, an online Advance Deposit Wagering (ADW) site. Larry still on occasion conducts handicapping seminars at racetracks and off track betting facilities across North America.



certain races until that perfect betting situation exists. And a patient approach leads to a clearer mind come the end of the racing day.

What constitutes a passed race? To each his own, as it comes down to an exercise of what class of animal you have previously handicapped successfully, however, to me, the key ingredient here is doing your homework the night before. You wouldn't buy a new car before test-driving it, so why would you try to handicap races without some prior studying of the Daily Racing Form? I personally like to buy the Form the day before however I must admit that I certainly miss the old days where buying a Racing Form on Thursday night for a Saturday card of racing giving me almost two whole days of handicapping was the norm. From there, I go thorough the exercise of attempting to find that perfect betting situation by following these simple steps:

2) Recent form; by quickly scanning the past performances I can eliminate any horse who has not been raced or shown a serious workout for the past 21 days. By serious workout I mean one of three furlongs or more handily. Although it can be argued that a horse has not raced for over three weeks because there wasn't a class for him, a short two-furlong breezing work in my opinion does not necessarily constitute a totally sound horse.

we look for that perfect betting situation to arise.

As for trainer patterns, again I look at the trainer summary line provided in the Racing Form. Like their jockey counterparts, trainers too have good and bad streaks, however, good, suc-

4) Class; hone in on horses that have shown that they are competitive racing in today's class, at today's distance, carrying today's weight. This competitive race may have been the horse's last, or perhaps its second last start, but the key here is that he or she has shown an ability to compete successfully at today's standards. By compete we mean any horse that has either won or finished within three lengths, racing at today's

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Cowboy Poetry

YOUNG COWBOY'S SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT

By Orv Alveshere

JINGLE BELLS AND WINTER RECREATION INVIGORATION Youthful ambitions and plans caused a hurrying of most ranch chores To allow time to ride ponies or to hitch a sleigh to a horse. Winter and snow offered novel forms of amusement and pleasure. Sleigh bells and prancing hooves tossing snow, gave memories to treasure. Each holiday Christmas season brought programs with speaking parts to recite. Relative's visits, holiday treats and festive gifts were a delight. We skied behind teams, made snowmen and slid down and into snow banks! Youthful memories of playtimes remind us to pause and give thanks.

WERE WE GIVEN ENOUGH ROPE? In years gone by, several of our Christmas seasons in my youth, I mistakenly considered myself to be a clever sleuth. When three boys were left home alone, we put a tall box on a chair. That chair allowed us to climb up to the attic door, way up there. It was within reach, I could gently lift the lid and poke around To perform my spy activities. What had parent's shopping trip found? Perhaps illegal, uncalled for, or imps indulging in pranks? Little did we know it was the opposite of youth giving thanks.

AN UNUSUAL 'TIE' FOR A GIFT? I must explain: for many Christmas seasons we did review Forthcoming gifts and then feigned surprise, about which we knew. I recall the rare sight of two holsters and a pair of cap guns. Perhaps oversized, those shiny cap guns would delight the little ones. That gumbelt had a Roy Rogers logo, plus a tan cowboy hat. I painfully recall grasping ... that spying made me a spoiled brat. It was a quasi-celebrated success, but we drew blanks, Regarding a comprehension, that we knew little about giving thanks.

THE MYSTERIOUSLY WRAPPED GIFT One year later, our intuitive parents must have gotten wise. They found a secluded spot and hid their Christmas buys from us guys. Unexpectedly in a round wrapped package was a lariat. I was dumbfounded by that total SURPRISE, but the most merry yet. That useful and recreational rope became worn out ... and 'brown'. Its replacement I can still spin around myself, like a clown. You must understand how that gift pleasantly jarred my memory banks, In a most sincere moment, when I expressed my surprise and thanks.

A COUNTRY CHRISTMAS POINT OF VIEW Awaiting gifts, some youths searched for tiny reindeer hoof prints in the snow, While other youth slept, tucked in, until the first light glow. Checking our attic was premature, and wrong, so here is my quote: Horse lovers, snow fun lovers and Christmas lovers, please take note. Christmas season is about celebrating and gifts and gift giving. We fondly look back at the simple joys of country living. I learned the secret of Christmas gifts, to use in our memory banks. It's the gift, the 'surprise' that uplifts. Life surely asks us to give thanks.

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The Outhouse: Life on the Farm with Emily

WHOA, HORSE WHOA!!

Remember our first ponies? The ones that were so sweet and innocent until you got within 50 feet of them? I was extremely lucky to have the perfect first pony. Pinky was a gem and confidence builder allowing me to have a false base of trust and security in all horses. When Pinky was sadly outgrown we went shopping for the next well broke wonderful steed.

Ranger was found a few miles away. The chaw-chewing, bow-legged, spur-twirling seller said "Yea, this here horse is just what you're looking for, he's a been-there, done-that, broker-than-broke gelding, and if you don't like him I'll take him back and give you a refund." Well, how could we go wrong?

As a young teen I was immediately smitten with this animal, he was far more beautiful than Black Beauty and could surely outrun Secretariat.

The deal was done before loading Ranger into the trailer. Oops, Ranger didn't like the trailer too well. That's ok, I could ride him home.

Oops, we forgot to try out Ranger's road smarts on the test drive. Quickly finding out that I owned a hunter-jumper in disguise, we made it home on a cross-country tour an hour before Mom and Dad pulled in. Stubborn young gals will never admit defeat, even if our legs were shaking so bad when getting off a horse it was impossible to walk.

On Rangers "good" days he would allow me to catch him for a wishful ride. Saddling the good old boy was a skill; everything had to be done from the exact middle of his side so he couldn't reach around to bite me or reach up to cow-kick with his hind leg. Getting on was a balancing act from the fence; the first and last time I tried from the ground resulted in Ranger steeple chasing by himself across the country with the saddle hanging under his belly and me following with the bucket of grain. I concluded this animal

was born on the 6th day of the 6th month of the 6th year; he was indeed the Devil reincarnated!

Not remembering what appliance came in the big sturdy cardboard box but seeing it sitting empty outside the house I imagined the "perfect horse drawn sleigh." It didn't take long to braid up some twine and fit ole Ranger with a nice harness. Not thinking ahead to an "escape route," I tied the makeshift harness around the box two or three times and then around the horse four or five times. Ranger stood quietly throughout the 'hooking up' stage and I was dreaming of a nice sleigh ride through Central Park.

A five-gallon pail fit tidily inside the box for a nice seat and Ranger was asked for a "walk on." It was 'all she wrote' when the rope tightened and the box slid right into Ranger's rear! For a brief moment I was an "Egyptian Princess" and Ben Hur was driving his chariot beside me, but reality quickly set in as the box became air born and Ranger went from one to fifty miles per hour in four hoof beats. We made it across the yard and then the fancy chariot made a 'U' turn toward the house. I had lost my pail on the first jump and was on my knees hanging onto the sides

of the box for dear life.

Turning the corner, Ranger made it around the sliding glass doors of the patio ever so daintily but the chariot and I shinnied up the glass pretty well. Taking the doors out was only the first 'tornado alley' of destruction that was accomplished that afternoon. Ranger and I managed to tear down the clothesline, flatten the doghouse and chase my very infuriated Father half way down the driveway. Getting 'hooked' on the pickup bumper the last trip around the farm, we tore half of that off before my "sleigh" finally broke apart and we slowed to a bumpy halt.

If we still "had" a doghouse, I would have been required to sleep in it for a very long time after my little sleigh ride excursion.

Ranger was regrettably returned to the seller and the bow-legged chaw-chewer was "delighted" when told his sweet old gelding was now a well-broke, been-there done-that, driving horse.

You may comment, share your horse experiences or commiserate with the author at: Emilysouth-



E n c o u n t e r I've got no beef with feral mustangs but I'm not wild about these Little Snake desert dwellers; usually aloof I've seen them mean.

It's their turf not mine I've tried hard to steer clear but now the whole gang gazes my way and ambles over.

Diomedes's horses back in the BC were said to be munchers of human flesh

figuratively speaking is this bunch coming to eat or greet?

By David Morris

David Morris is a middle school teacher in Craig, Colorado. He spends as much of his free time as possible bumping around the high western desert and canyon lands of Northwest Colorado, and the Red Desert in Wyoming. He has published two books of poems celebrating the stark beauty of the area he lives in—an area now threatened by massive gas and oil development. His books, FERAL COUNTRY and SLIPPERY WINDS are available at Amazon.com. David also has copies and he can be contacted at david.morris@moffatsd.org

The History of the Horse

By Amber Voigt

There are over 200 breeds of the same animal that is loved and cherished around the world. Treasured so much, some nations refer to themselves as “People of the Horse.” This remarkable animal is still a staple in many societies today. Equus caballus, or the horse to most of the world, is one of the few creatures that cascades all realms of society. From the elegant and refined horses of a King, to the wild untouchable Mustang and anywhere in between, this majestic animal has marked its spot in history.

In 1867, a skeleton of Eohippus was discovered in the southern United States. This fossil is 60 million years old and believed to be the first type of horse. This ancestor of the horse crossed to Europe and Asia around 10,000 years ago, only so its decedents could be reintroduced to North America by the Spanish millions of years later.

Through these developments came two groups, the Asinus and the Equus. The Asinus consist of the mule, donkey, ass, and zebra. The Equus group branches out into four foundation equine types: Przewalski’s horse, Trapan, Tundra, and Forest horses.

Przewalski’s horse is known as the wild horse of Asia most commonly seen in zoos. These horses have two more chromosomes than domestic horses, so they can not be classified together. The Tarpan is technically extinct, but is not on the list since there is a small herd maintained in Poland at a pre-serve created around a forest in Bialowieza. Also referred to as the Polish Primitive Horse, this is the only horse to turn white in the winter. The Tundra horse is extinct; however, its remains continue to be found along the time of the Mammoth. Like the Tundra horse, the Forest horse is extinct, but its descendents gave way to the massive European draft breeds. Out of these historical horses came four equestrian types, who developed and grew based on the environment they were living in, that lead the way to all the breeds we have now.

The three main influential breeds were the Spanish, Arabian, and Barb, and they can be traced in almost every breed of modern day. The Spanish horse was favored by Royalty and Military; hence it was often given as gifts

to other royal families or lost in battle either by death or fleeing the field to be captured later. The story of the American Mustang is an example of this.

Not having the supplies to take their horses back with them , many conquistadores left their not-so-prized horse behind to run wild. The Barb originated in North Africa and gives its credit to survival and influence to the Moorish invasion in Europe. And of course, the Arabian who reigns from the Arabian Peninsula, has the oldest and purist breeding records to date.

Our beloved horse has manifested itself into our society and stayed there for centuries. The reason for this is their hard work and majestic nature that captivates everyone they touch. From gaming and show, to the rough and tumble of the Wild West, horses have proven themselves over and over again. And they are sure to be there by our sides in the centuries to come.



ARABIAN HORSE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHES SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION FORMER PRESIDENT

DENVER, CO. — The Arabian Horse Foundation has established a scholarship in honor of Myron Krause, president of the Arabian Horse Association for the past four years. Krause served longer than any other president in the association’s recent history.

Announcement of the scholarship came at the association’s annual convention that was held in November in Denver. Approximately 400 delegates and alternates attended the three-day convention. The scholarship established is “The Myron Krause Equine Research Scholarship” and will be given annually, beginning in 2009, to a youth who has declared an interest in pursuing a career in equine science and research. Krause served for many years as chair-



Arabian Horse Foundation President Larry Kinneer, left, congratulating , Myron Krause at the AHA Convention.

“Equine research has remained close to his heart and to his mind,” stated Foundation President, Larry Kinneer, in announcing the scholarship. “This scholarship will be a reminder for decades to come of the four years of dedication, commitment, hard work, great leadership and sacrifices that President Krause has made. Above all, it will serve as a reminder of his passion for the Arabian breed and for the Arabian Horse Association.”

The Arabian Horse Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the Arabian Horse Association. Last year, the Foundation distributed \$50,000 in scholarships and grants for equine research, equine rescue and rehoming efforts. The Foundation has three other scholarships named in honor of former presidents

who are no longer living. They are Jon Ostermeier, Norm Dunn and Don Thompson.

Krause has served the association in many capacities over the years, serving as a regional director and member and chairman of many committees and boards. He and his wife, Cindy, live in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Krause remains a member of the association’s Executive Committee as Immediate Past President. The newly elected AHA president is Lance Walters of Auburn, New York.

Also at the annual convention, the Foundation was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Brooke Vransy, a guest speaker who represents Days End Rescue, a Maryland-based organization that has a nationally recognized emergency response training program for rescuing horses impacted by natural disasters. In early 2008, the Foundation made a \$2,500 contribution to Days End to help in the agency’s efforts.

The Arabian Horse Foundation is a non-profit, charitable entity, and gifts are tax deductible. Contributions can be designated for scholarships, general education, equine research and equine rescue/re-

homing efforts. For more information about the foundation, visit the web site at www.arabianhorsefoundation.org.

AHA is a major equine association serving 37,000 members across North America. It registers and maintains a database of more than one million Arabian, Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabian horses and administers approximately \$4 million in annual prize money. AHA produces championship events, recognizes close to 400 Arabian horse shows and distance rides and provides activities and programs that promote breeding and ownership. For information about Arabian, Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabian horses, call 303-696-4500, e-mail info@ArabianHorses.org or visit ArabianHorses.org

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The MHC is the sole sponsor of the MN Horse Expo. Proceeds from the Expo are reinvested in the MN horse community through grants, scholarships, and direct funding.

To find out more information call, write or visit our Web site.

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GOT 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

This is Shy, approximately 19 years-old. She is a small Quarter Horse and would be great for young children or an older rider. She knows basic walk, trot, and canter for trail riding or around the property. She has a sweet disposition and her foster Mom will have a hard time parting with her.

Shy was abandoned by her owner who told the stable where she was boarding that she bought another horse and if the stable didn't find her a home she was going to the auction sale and probably to slaughter after that. The stable called me and I took Shy in that week after they pulled a negative coggins.



When the Valley Equestrian decided to help the unwanted horse situation, we contacted Sundown Horse Farm & Shelter, Inc. in Hugo, MN. Owner Cherie McKenzie agreed to provide a photo and information about one of their adoptable horses. We also asked her to provide a little information about her organization. In the following months, the VE will feature more horses, more stories and hopefully, report on successful adoptions.

Q: Where do the horses come from?

A: I am amazed at how people find us. We receive calls from the Minnesota Humane Society, People find us on a list through the American Horse Council's Unwanted Horse Coalition. I am part of the Minnesota Horse Coalition and get referrals from the members there. Veterinarians, farriers, other horse shelters and word of mouth are just a few places that give out our name and website.

Q: Where do you get funding?

A: We support ourselves through public donations. When there is a story about the unwanted or abused horses some call it the “Oh My God” factor (when they see pictures of starving horses etc) and people will send donations. Unfortunately, we can't be in the press every day. We have a few fundraisers and keep trying new things to draw attention to this terrible problem.

For more information or to donate to this organization, contact: Cherie McKenzie, Sundown Horse Farm & Shelter, 16177 Harrow Ave. No., Hugo, MN 55038; 651-407-1908 or www.SundownHorseShelter.org

IT WAS BETTER THAN A ZEBRA!

By Linda Coleman

I grew to love animals watching Tarzan on TV when I was a kid in the '50's, and because of the animals we had at home. We had a small farm in south central Minnesota, and my Dad could do anything.

I decided that I wanted a Zebra. I was convinced my Dad could just go and get one. He accomplished everything else in my young mind, surely, he could do this, too. But, alas, no Zebra. It seemed like I had begged for years, but it probably wasn't quite that long. And then one day, Dad brought two Mexican burro's to our farm - the world was good again. I was so excited I could hardly contain myself. I must have squealed for a month. I was very happy.

Dad was a farmer and owned a well drilling company. Many of the people who hired him to fix or drill new wells, had little money, just like us. Dad would sometimes accept very little for having done an awful lot of work. Once he was paid with two bunnies; he accepted the bunnies knowing I wanted them. But, on this day, he came home with two donkeys!

Over a bit of time, Dad managed to find two old wooden spoke wheels and a seat and spring from an old buckboard. Before my eager eyes he made a two-wheeled, small buck board. He made a harness to fit Cheetah. Cheetah was small enough for me to handle and I was able to hook her up to the 'cart' and off we'd go. We traveled the gravel roads all around our farming community. People would come out of their houses to watch me go by with Cheetah. I was so proud. Everyone would wave and in church on Sunday morning, they all slapped my Dad on the back for being so clever as to make the cart. I gave rides to all



as Cheetah thought she was on her way home, she took off like greased lightning. There was no way to stop her or even slow her down. It took 15 minutes to get home; those two old wooden spoke wheels were swaying back and forth,

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DAKOTA WOKIKSUYE (MEMORIAL) RIDE HONORS BROTHERS HANGED 146 YEARS AGO

By Bonita Miller and Ley Bouchard

On Dec. 25, we were in Mankato to witness the conclusion of a 330-mile-long endurance ride that spanned 16 days of bitterly cold weather from the Lower Brule, So. Dak. to honor the memory of the 38 Dakota men who were killed in the single largest mass hanging in U.S. history on Dec. 26, 1862.

This was one of the many atrocities committed against the American Indian people that resulted from the Great Dakota Conflict. Before that, the whites and the American Indian lived in relative peace. In the early 1800s, the peaceful co-existence was beginning to shatter as the American Government was pushing its boundaries westward. By then, thousands of white settlers were hungry for land. The settlers and the U.S. Government began to use all their means to acquire more



Above: Elder Karl Mazawasicuna, a pipeholder from Manitoba, reads, in the Dakota language, his first language, the names of the 38 Dakota men who were hanged at the site in Mankato, Minn. Dec. 26, 1862. Karl



Left: Jim Miller speaks to the assembly of people at the hanging site in downtown Mankato on Dec. 26, 146 years after the mass hanging and the reason for the Wokiksuye (Memorial) Ride that involved more than 75 riders traveling 330 miles from the Lower Brule, So. Dak. to Mankato, Minn.

land. This included promises made through treaties or threats of war.

The ride came about because Jim Miller, a descendent of the Dakotas displaced after the Dakota Conflict, had a dream to ride with horseback riders to bring healing in a way that would raise awareness of this important issue and would allow for reconciliation. At the evening's ceremony, Jim said, "I started Dec. 9 and I came to love everyone I rode with, I cried with, I prayed with." He talked about the issues of "abandonment, boarding school ... we are killing ourselves with drug and alcohol abuse ... I want to tell you that I love you very much and any time I can be with you in the future, no matter what we take on, I'll be there."

It was a solemn occasion, a time to honor the sacrifice of the 38 certainly, but also to raise awareness of the subsequent loss to the Dakota people. Many of the elders experienced first hand the United States government plan to destroy their culture by driving the people from their land, pulling the children from their homes and placing them in government-run boarding schools where they would be forced to worship Christian traditions and punished for using their native language, even though it was the only language they knew.

Sheldon Wolfchild said, "We've made history or I should say we reopened a path for recognition of the Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota people and ... what took place 146 years ago with the hanging here. It's amazing we're here today when we think of the history. The healing we need. Growing up with history books depicting us - it's traumatic, a growing trauma

that has affected us through four generations. We're still in the ceremony of those prayers - that's the way we believe - our spirituality is what our ancestors stood up for. This is all about healing. Our ancestors did the best they could at that particular time. We can't blame them. All we can do is thank them for being here today. Jim Miller's dream - it's totally amazing - very humbling to be a part of this. We are grateful for the riders, the helpers, those who donated money, and the prayers."

Jim Miller spoke in Dakota and asked the riders to come form a circle. He took the pipe around the circle for all the riders to smoke. A song leader began a song and the audience joined in; the men in the circle began to sing.

"It will always matter this day," Miller said, "for the Dakota - even though it is a sad day, it is a proud day. We will never forget each other; in years to come we will get stronger. There could be another ride, another ceremony, always remember."

Each rider received a personal gift of a halter from Jim Miller.

Jessica Higheagle, a Lakota from Canada, sang "My Heart Will Go On," by Celine Dion and "Chestnuts



which signify the seven Dakota tribes. "Years ago, this is our flag," Karl Mazawasicuna said. Left: Harvey and Joy Renville with her horse, Cisco, stop at the Brown watering hole for a break before the final leg of their 330 mile ride. Harvey said Renville County was named for his great-great grandfather. Harvey said 35 members of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Unity Riders came on the ride. Center: Horses drinking from the natural well.

Roasting on an Open Fire." She is the winner of Canada's Aborigine Music Contest.

Sarah Weston, a member of Smooth Feather, the film crew who traveled with the riders recording the Memorial Ride for a documentary film to be made, started filming the ride from Crow Creek. "All brothers treated me like big brothers and aunts. It felt like family then I found out we were family."

Jim Miller gave halters to all the riders. Star and horse quilts were given to the riders and others who donated time, money and services. Jackets were given to the six men who helped organize the ride. In closing, Miller recognized "the riders from many provinces and states and in the truest spirit of reconciliation I say: Welcome back to your home."

On Dec. 26, the riders met in Land of Memories Park in Mankato, Minn. at 10 a.m. Police officials blocked traffic on the busy Hwy. 169 as more than 50 Native Americans rode

their horses from the Park to downtown Mankato, to the hanging site, where 146 years before, a large gallops simultaneously hanged 38 of their ancestors.

At the downtown site, tribal elders spoke of

their ancestors and the long ride from the Lower Brule in South Dakota that ended in downtown Mankato at the hanging site. They spoke of the sacrifice of their ancestors, read the list of names of those hanged, and held a Ceremony of Tears for families who had recently experienced the loss of a child.

This is the same place where the warriors had made the gallops sway that December day in 1862 as they grabbed each other's hands and shouted out their Dakota names and also shouted: "Hear me my people; do not mourn for us. Today is not a day of defeat; it is indeed a day of victory. We have made our peace with our Creator. Tell your children that we are honorable men who died for a just cause."

At the final dinner and ceremony at the Unitarian Fellowship Church on Dec. 26, Mayor John Brady read a proclamation declaring Dec. 26 as the Dakota Wokiksuye Day and in addition to the proclamation he shared his



Left: Dozens of riders come into Land of Memories Park after finishing the 330-mile Dakota 38+2 Memorial Ride that took them from the Lower Brule, So. Dak. on Dec. 10 to Mankato, Minn. Dec. 25, 2008.



Above: Harvey Renville, Ken Fourcloud and James Weston hold staffs for their fellow riders during the stopover at the watering hole at the Rick Brown residence in Judson. The flag held by Ken, holds seven eagle feathers

Philip High-eagle, brother of Jim Miller, speaks at the hanging site in downtown Mankato where the Ceremony of Tears was held to honor the families of recently fallen warriors. A riderless horse was ponied with the family to symbolize the boy that wanted to be present for the Wokiksuye ride.



CRAIG CAMERON, SUSAN HARRIS JOIN STACY WESTFALL AT THE 2009 MINNESOTA HORSE EXPO, APRIL 24-26

Renowned equine artist and anatomy expert Susan Harris and reining trainer and competitor Stacy Westfall in their first appearance at the Minnesota Horse Expo will headline with Texas cowboy and RFDTV host Craig Cameron. Scheduled for April 24-26, the Minnesota Horse Council sponsored Minnesota Horse Expo continues to combine “big-name” speakers with over 600 vendor booths and brings some 300 horses from over 50 breeds and registries to the State Fairgrounds in St. Paul. Daily PRCA rodeos featuring John S. Payne, the famed “One Arm Bandit” specialty act, the huge 4-H administered Expo Tack and Clothing Sale, and free carriage, horse and pony rides guarantees something of interest for everyone at the 2009 Minnesota Horse Expo.

Susan E. Harris is an international clinician, equestrian author and artist from Cortland, New York. She has taught, trained, shown, and judged in many equestrian disciplines, including hunters, jumpers, equitation, dressage, eventing, western pleasure and performance, and pleasure, gaited and versatility breeds. Susan has been active in teaching teachers and establishing certification standards for American riding instructors since the 1970's. In 2004 she was honored as a Master Instructor by the American Riding Instructor Association.

Susan worked with Sally Swift, founder of Centered Riding®, and is qualified as a Level IV Centered Riding clinician. She travels internationally to teach clinics in Horse Gaits, Balance, and Movement, biomechanics of horse and rider, Centered Riding & Centered Jumping for instructors, trainers, judges, and riders of all levels and riding interests. Her unique demonstra-

tion, "Anatomy in Motion™/ The Visible Horse", in which she paints the bones and muscles on a live horse, has been a popular attraction at equine expos and clinics across North America and around the world, including EquineAffaire, Equitana, expos in Australia and Europe and the George Morris Horsemastership Clinic in Wellington, FL.

Susan Harris is the author and illustrator of popular horse books, including Horse Gaits, Balance, and Movement, Grooming to Win (3rd edition, 2008) and the U.S. Pony Club Manuals of Horsemanship. With Peggy Brown, she has produced two DVDs: Anatomy in Motion™ I: The Visible Horse, and Anatomy in Motion II: the Visible Rider™. Susan also designed the art and poster for the Breyer Anatomy in Motion model horse.

Susan's study of equine and human anatomy and biomechanics as an artist and her experience as an instructor, rider and trainer, have given her a unique perspective on how horses and riders work. Her teaching helps riders discover how to use their bodies better for improved balance and harmony between horse and rider. Susan's knowledge of horse gaits and movement and experi-

ence in various breeds and disciplines enable her to help all kinds of riders and horses improve their balance, comfort, movement and performance. Her positive teaching style and visual approach make learning clear, understandable, and enjoyable for riders of all ages and levels, from instructors, trainers, and competitors to 4-H, Pony Club and pleasure riders. When not traveling, teaching or writing, Susan enjoys dressage, jumping, and trail riding on her Clydesdale/Paint gelding, Masquerade.



A Native Texan Craig Cameron, one of the original clinicians, is on the road more than 44 weeks a year covering 80,000 miles demonstrating the style of horsemanship he has perfected in the last 23 years. Called the “public defender of the horse,” Craig dedicates himself to those who educate their horses by first educating themselves. At an age where most have long since retired the thought

of starting colts, Craig Cameron known as “The Cowboy’s Clinician,” starts hundreds of horses each year; plus his four-day clinics held at his ranches in Bluff Dale, TX and Lincoln, NM blend education with entertainment. Clinic topics range from basic to advanced horsemanship, colt starting, ranch and cattle work, problem-solving, reining and trail obstacles. This year he plans to incorporate horse-camping and back-country riding techniques into his lesson plans.



the early 80's Craig was fortunate to meet a man named Ray Hunt who opened his eyes to the art of working through understanding when training horses. Building upon his experiences, Craig uses a philosophy of teaching that eliminates rough handling of horses earning him a well-deserved international following. As a rancher, working cowboy and horse trainer, Craig has just about done it all from cow-calf, stocker operations, custom hay-baling, or capturing wild cattle for fellow ranchers. After years of bull riding

on the professional rodeo circuit and successfully operating his cattle business, Craig decided that it was truly the horse that attracted him. He soon discovered his aptitude for communicating with the horse and meticulously refined and nurtured this talent. He wanted to give back something to the horse. When he was ready, he began conducting western horsemanship clinics and demonstrations to help riders increase their knowledge and understanding of their horse and to keep the cowboy tradition alive. Great insight and effective teaching style has made Stacy Westfall one of the most sought-after clinicians in the industry. She developed her natural horsemanship techniques while advancing her horses for reining competition. Stacy is an AQHA and NRHA Freestyle Reining Champion.

Her goal in training her reining horses was to make the reins unnecessary — literally. And she succeeded, stunning the reining world by going undefeated for two straight years in major freestyle reining competitions. Stacy's highlight was winning twice while riding bridle-less AND bareback. Her famous 2006 Freestyle Championship ride, seen by millions on the internet, also lead to her appearance on the Ellen Degeneres show, in 2008.

Stacy is the only woman to have won the Road to the Horse colt starting competition. Her training approach is proven, and it works. As a wife, businesswoman and mother of three young boys, she continues to be a top training clinician and a winning competitor.

For all the Minnesota Horse Expo information and updates, visit www.mnhorseexpo.org where links to each speaker's site can also be found. Reach the Expo Office at 952-356-2090 or 1-877-462-8758.



JANUARY EVENTS AND MORE

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

Jan. 2: Team Roping from 7 – 9 p.m. at the Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, WY; contact 307- 382-6698

Jan 3: JAWS Team Roping Series from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. at the Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, WY; contact chuck Jaure at 307-320-8334

Jan. 2-4: Gold Buckley AQHA Team Penning/Sorting at R&J Arena in Verndale, Minn. Arena; contact Mary Glass at (701) 281-1055

Jan. 4: Team Roping from 2-4 p.m. at the Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, WY; contact 307-382-6698

Jan. 5: Game show at Hi Circle Vee Ranch at 10:30 a.m. in Isanti, MN; contact 612-803-5950

Jan. 5: Colorado Horse Deveopment Authority Annual Summit with keynote speaker Frank “Scoop” Vessels III with “Acting as One: Keeping the Horse Industry Healthy,” from 10 a.m. – 1p.m. at the Holiday Inn Denver Central at I25 & I-70. Call 303-292-4981 or email chda@chda.org to RSVP, there is no charge.

Jan. 6: Team Roping from 7 – 9 p.m. at the Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, WY; contact 307- 382-6698

Jan. 7: SW Ranch Sorting from 6 – 9 p.m. at the Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, WY; contact Cheree Lebrecht at 307-389-1648

Jan. 10: Rodeo at Hi Circle Vee Ranch at 10:30 a.m. in Isanti, MN; contact 612-803-5950

Jan. 11: 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

Jan. 13: Red Horse Riders Saddle Club at the Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, MN; 218-736-3000

Jan. 13: Round pen lessons with Bill Ramberg at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Woodloch Stables in Hugo, MN. Call 651-429-3064 to register.

Jan. 13: Team Roping from 7– 9 p.m. at the Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, WY; contact 307- 382-6698

Jan. 14: SW Ranch Sorting from 6 – 9 p.m. at the Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, WY; contact Cheree Lebrecht at 307-389-1648

Jan. 16: Team Roping from 7– 9 p.m. at the Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, WY; contact 307- 382-6698

Jan. 16 -18: Northern Lights Cutting event at Red Horse Ranch Arena in Elizabeth, Minn.

Jan. 18: Team Roping from 2-4 p.m. at the Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, WY; contact 307-382-6698

Jan. 18: Jackpot at Hi Circle Vee Ranch in Isanti, MN at 10:30 p.m.



contact 612-810-4010

Jan. 18: SW WY High School Rodeo from 5 – 7 p.m. at Sweetwater Arena in Rock Springs, WY; contact 307-352-2410 for more info

Jan. 20: Team Roping from 7– 9 p.m. at the Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, WY; contact 307- 382-6698

Jan. 21: SW Ranch Sorting from 6 – 9 p.m. at the Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, WY; contact Cheree Lebrecht at 307-389-1648

Jan. 24: Team Penning at Hi Circle Vee Ranch at 10:30 a.m. in Isanti, MN; contact 612-803-5950

Jan. 24: Tack Sway for Sherburne County 4-H Horse Project at the Salida Event Center in Big Lake, MN at 10:30 a.m.; contact 763-241-0602

Jan. 24-25: UMECRA Convention and Annual Meeting at the Quality Inn Antiqua Bay Hotel in the Wisconsin Dells. Contact Dianne Schmidt at Schmidt.dianne@mayo.edu or 507-545-9937

Jan. 25: Team Roping from 2-4 p.m. at the Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, WY; contact 307-382-6698 Jan. 7: 50th Annual Black Hills Stock Show and Rodeo

Jan. 25 – Feb. 3: Black Hills Stock Show in Rapid City, SD

Jan. 27: Red Horse Riders Saddle Club at the Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, MN; 218-736-3000

Jan. 28: SW Ranch Sorting from 6 – 9 p.m. at the Sweetwater Events

Complex in Rock Springs, WY; contact Cheree Lebrecht at 307-389-1648

Jan. 30: Team Roping from 7-9 p.m. at the Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, WY; contact 307-382-6698

Jan. 31: 2009 Winter Horse Owner Programs at Leatherdale Equine Center, St. Paul, Minn., contact Krishona Martinson at (612) 625-6776 or krishona@umn.edu with questions.

Jan. 31: Nutrena JJ Arena Fun Show & UBRA Barrel Race at JJ Arena in Balsam Lake, WI; contact Julie Jones at (715) 857-5505 or Julie@JJArena.com

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

Feb 7-8: Northern Lights Cutting at the Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, MN; 218-736-3000

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

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 info

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

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.

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

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

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

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LISTING OF EVENTS AND CLUB NEWS!

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on Page 2 of this month's issue.



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INTERNAL PARASITE CONTROL

By Erika Berg, Ph.D.

The winter months are not typically the time most horse owners are thinking of parasite control, but a good year-round program is essential to your horses' overall health. The general life cycle of internal parasites includes the horse ingesting infective larvae or eggs (typically from contaminated grass, feed, or water) which hatch and travel through several organs inside the horse, doing varying amounts of damage as they progress through their life cycle. The organs passed through and the damage done to them depends on the species of parasite as well as the load (or number) of parasites present.

There are a variety of management strategies that can be employed to control the number of parasites to which your horse is exposed. These strategies may include feces removal from stalls and pastures, feeding hay and grain off the ground in troughs or feed-bunks, resting and rotating pastures, rotating pastures with cattle or sheep, controlling flies, providing clean water, removing bot eggs from your horses' coat, and employing a regular deworming program. Keep in mind that the active ingredient(s) in dewormers (also called anthelmintics) are not all the same, so it is important to understand the differences between them.

The active ingredients in dewormers fall into one of three chemical classes and rotating dewormers between these classes (not brand names) helps to ensure effective parasite control. The active ingredient in every dewormer is listed on the label so it is easy to check what you are buying. Below are the three chemical classes of dewormers used in horses, as well as the active ingredient that would be listed on the label.

Class	Active Ingredient
Pyrantel	•Pyrantel pamoate •Pyrantel tartrate
Benzimidazole	•Oxibendazole •Fenbendazole
Macrocytic Lactone	•Ivermectin •Moxidectin

Another chemical added to some of the

Macrocytic Lactone class of dewormers is praziquantel which is effective against tape-worms. Dewormers are commonly delivered in two basic ways: as an oral paste syringe or as a feed additive. The delivery method, frequency of deworming, and chemical class of dewormer you choose will depend on a number of factors:

1. The age of your horse(s). Deworming foals every four weeks and rotating between the Pyrantel class and Benzimidazole class for the first six months of life will help to get foals off to a healthy start. Moxidectin should NOT be given to foals less than six months of age because overdose can cause serious and potentially fatal reactions. It is also important that broodmares be on a good parasite control program because foals often ingest their dam's feces (a source of infected eggs) and may also contract threadworms through the milk. After the first six months, healthy foals can be dewormed every eight weeks until one year of age and then worked into the farm's regular deworming program.

2. The current parasite load in your horse(s). A fecal egg count can be done by your veterinarian and it gives you an idea of the parasite load in your horse. It should be noted that the egg count reflects just that- the number eggs, not the number of adult parasites infecting your horse. It can be useful in determining the effectiveness of your parasite control program though. An initial fecal egg count can be done, followed by deworming, then a second fecal egg count two weeks later. This is called a fecal egg count reduction test. If the number of eggs was reduced by 90%, the class of dewormer would be considered effective. Less than 90% and resistance to the chemical class of dewormer would be suspected, provided the correct dose was administered. A fecal egg count once a year can give you a good idea about the effectiveness of your deworming program.

3. The health status of your horse(s). Deworming programs for horses whose health is compromised or those with a heavy parasite load should be approached with caution and with the assistance of your veterinarian. An example of a deworming schedule for healthy, adult horses would be rotating classes of dewormers every 2 - 3 months, including a dewormer containing praziquantel to kill tapeworms, as well as ivermectin or moxidectin after the first killing frost in the fall to further reduce the number of bots.

4. The number and density of horses you keep. Do you have 12 horses on 2 acres or 2 horses on 12 acres? Having a high density of horses may require more frequent deworming because the opportunity for parasite contamination is much greater. On the other hand, if you have a low density of horses, they may not need to be dewormed as frequently as you would expect. A fecal egg count is a good method to determine this.

5. The management of the facility you keep your horse(s). If you keep your horse(s) at a boarding facility, deworming may be included as part of your board to ensure that

every horse is on the same schedule. However, if every boarder is on their own for parasite control and horses are turned out together, a daily dewormer with a twice yearly dose of moxidectin or ivermectin (to kill bots) plus praziquantel may be the best option.

Remember that for any deworming product to be effective it must be given as instructed and in the correct dose. Dosage is based on body weight so it is a good idea to have a weight tape on hand. Studies have found that most people either over-estimate or under-estimate the weight of their horses, both of which would result in administering the incorrect dose of dewormer which could have serious consequences for your horse. Finally, no single deworming program works for every horse, so it is important to educate yourself and speak with your veterinarian about a program fits that your horses' needs.

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.

WINTER ACTIVITIES FOR YOU AND YOUR HORSE

Keep both you and your horse in shape, ride in the winter as much as you can. Take your show horse off the rail and down the road in the "off-season."

Snowed in the barn? Teach your horse a trick or two.

Clean your saddles and tack, be ready for spring. Repairs needed? Now's the time to get it done, including your trailer.

Set a training/show schedule for spring.

Get all necessary registrations and organizations dues sent off early.

Work with your weanlings in the barn. Clippers, picking up feet, leading, etc.

Horse dies after shooting -- Man offers reward, family shattered after the brutal act

By Lauren Radomski
Courtesy of the The Daily Journal - Fergus Fall, Minn.

A Dunn Township man says he believes his quarter horse was intentionally shot Thanksgiving evening.

Charles Kohlmeier's daughter, JoAnna, discovered a gunshot wound in the head of one of the family's horses Friday afternoon after Otter Tail County authorities alerted them to a report of a possible injury.

The wounded horse, a "cow pony" named Dan, was blinded and stumbling in the family's pasture off of County Road 31 and U.S. Highway 59. JoAnna Kohlmeier used her voice to lead him to a barn, her father said.

An Alexandria veterinarian diagnosed the horse's condition Friday night.

"He examined the wound and gave us the statement that it was a bullet wound," Charles Kohlmeier said.

The shooting is believed to have occurred Thursday evening, sometime after Kohlmeier last saw the horse at 2 p.m. Det. John Karger said he believes it was an isolated incident.

The horse was euthanized within hours of the diagnosis.

The loss has left the family devastated and Kohlmeier offering \$500 for the arrest of whoever is responsible.

"It's kind of like losing a son," he said. "Yes, it's an animal, but you hug him, you feed him, you take care of him everyday."

The family is accustomed to hearing gunshots near their property, which Kohlmeier attributes to poachers or target shooters. He does not know who shot his horse or why, but says he believes it was intentional.

The Kohlmeiers' three other horses are now nestled in a back pasture among rolling hills.

If nothing else, Kohlmeier said he hopes the incident will make fellow horse owners more aware of their animals' safety.

"I don't have a lot of hope that we're going to catch this guy," he said. "I just hope it doesn't happen to somebody else."



Talking Horses

By Kathleen Grimes

Early last fall, my friend Susan received a thoroughbred horse (Bud) from her family. They hoped that Bud could help overcome her grief at the lost of Jake, her former thoroughbred. At the beginning of the New Year, she created five goals for herself and Bud. One of her goals was to buy some new grooming tools. Jake loved to be groomed. Bud became like the energizing rabbit and continually moved as she groomed him. Nothing that she did would change his behavior. By the time she called me, it had become a potentially dangerous situation for both of them.

It was a beautiful winter day when I went to see Bud. I offered him some carrots. We had a nice little chat about Susan, his new owner. I asked him what was it he wanted her to know about his grooming time. The first thing he said is that it hurt. He did not want to be groomed. I soon found out that Bud had very sensitive skin. Each time he saw Susan with the brushes, he wanted to run far away. Then he showed me, that one day while moving around, he almost kicked her by mistake. Then he said, "I want her to know how much I do not like being groomed."

When Susan arrived, I relayed to her what Bud had told me. Susan asked if I could try grooming him. I asked Bud if we could do some gentle grooming. We would stop when he wanted us to. He was not too happy about the idea but he agreed. Both Susan and I put our hands on him and talked to him about what a beautiful day it was and how much we enjoyed being with him. Then I began doing some simple energy work on his back. I also found out that he had a sore area on his back that was also causing him problems. After I got his back feeling better, I began to do some hand grooming. Bud trusted me. He told me he liked the hand grooming. I asked him if we could experiment with some grooming tools to see which ones he liked. Again, he was not sure if he wanted to do this. He asked why we could not just use our hands. I said that there would be times when we needed to get him cleaner. "Oh," he responded. He finally gave us permission and we finally found one brush that he liked. He also showed me that his other owner used to use a towel and at the beginning of the grooming he would have warm water. He wanted to know if Susan would do that, too? Susan said yes.

As I was using one of the brushes on him, he showed me how fast and hard Susan normally would do it. Bud also said, "Her hands were like rocks." Unfortunately, she normally was just calming down when she began grooming Bud. What she did not realized, was that all her negative energy was being transferred into the brushes. Bud thought that she was upset with him. Her frustration and yelling did not help matters. I talk to them about the "HeartMath" class that I had just taken. We did one of the

breathing exercises that I learned at class. After doing it, all of us seemed more calm and peaceful.

Working with Bud reminded me of how important calmness is around our animal friends. Many of the problems that I encounter are due to the fact that the owners have too much stress in their lives. Instead of advising the animal that they are having a bad day, they yell. Learning to breathe deeply can really help before one is about to yell or after one yells. Recently, I have challenged some of my clients to spend at least two minutes just being clam and breathing with their horse. I invite all of you to do the same. At the end of 2009, may our world be calmer because we humans and animals are calmer.

Kathleen Grimes has been doing both animal communication and energy work since 1990. She studied animal communication with Carol Gurney and Morning Star. As an energy worker, she uses various techniques; among them are Quantum Touch and Healing Touch for Animals. Learn more about her work on her web site: www.brotherwolffandfriends.com. Direction questions to Kathy Grimes, anonymously if you wish, to (952) 270-4306 or email her to have your questions answered in the Valley Equestrian at: kgrimes@brotherwolffandfriends.com



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Legal Q&A

By J. Matthew Berner, Esq.

Q: Does North Dakota law protect those who provide horse boarding, training, and riding services from liability for injuries sustained by their customers?

A: Yes. North Dakota's equine activity statute generally shields "equine activity sponsors" and "equine professionals" from liability for bodily injuries sustained by "participants" during "equine activities."

An equine activity sponsor or an equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant engaged in an equine activity, and ... no participant or participant's representative may maintain an action against or recover from an equine activity sponsor or an equine professional for an injury to or the death of a participant engaged in an equine activity ...

N.D.C.C. § 53-10-02(1). However, there are a number of significant exceptions to this limitation of liability including the following:

a. If the equine activity sponsor or the equine professional:

(1) Provided the equipment or tack and the equipment or tack caused the injury; or

(2) Provided the equine and failed to make reasonable and prudent efforts to determine the ability of the participant to engage safely in the equine activity, to determine the ability of the equine to behave safely with the participant, and to determine the ability of the participant to safely manage the particular equine;

b. If the equine activity sponsor or the equine professional ... is in lawful possession and control of the land or facility upon which the participant sustained an injury because of the dangerous latent condition which was known to or should have been known to the equine activity sponsor or the equine professional and for which a warning sign has not been conspicuously posted;

c. If the equine activity sponsor or the equine professional commits an act or omission that constitutes a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of the participant and that act or omission caused the injury; [and]

d. If the equine activity sponsor or the equine professional intentionally injures the

participant.

N.D.C.C. § 53-10-02(2); see N.D.C.C. § 53-10-01 (defining "equine activity," "equine activity sponsor," "equine professional," and "participant"). In other words, it is very important for those engaged in providing horse boarding, riding, and training services to exercise care in providing those services including maintaining tack and riding areas as well as selecting suitable lesson horses to invoke the protections afforded by North Dakota's equine activity statute.

Equine activity sponsors and equine professionals may also limit their liability for riding injuries by employing a carefully crafted release of liability in their contracts with their customers. Depending on the circumstances of the injury, equine activity sponsors and equine professionals may further avoid liability for such injuries via "common law" defenses such as assumption of the risk and contributory negligence. As always, it is best to consult with an attorney regarding your particular situation in determining ways to reduce your risk of liability.

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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Ken Forseth captured this image of a G-John Deere owned by William Munyon of Momen, Ill. The model needed major engine work, and as he had five other G-JDs, gave it a fresh coat of paint and, with the help of a crane, put it atop his silo in 1994, where it has stood since. "It's a good conversation piece," Munyon said. He owns more than 100 old tractors.

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PELICAN RAPIDS, MINN. HOLIDAY LIGHTS PARADE WELL-ATTENDED



Pelican Rapids, Minn. hosts a uniquely special Holiday Lights Parade annually the night after Thanksgiving, or the evening of Black Friday. The parade consists solely of horse-drawn units, many of which are lighted. The Holiday Lights Parade is organized by the Midwest Minnesota Harness Club and sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce to bring visitors to the community; individual units are sponsored by many local businesses. Many establishments serve treats of popcorn, apple cider, gingerbread men or other enticing holiday goodies. This annual event has been held for more than a decade.

Photos by Ley Bouchard



Top left: Santa drove this little cart sponsored by Weckwerth Animal Clinic in Pelican Rapids



Left: 10-year-old Austin Beaty drives 3-year-old Haflinger mares at the Holiday Lights Parade in Pelican Rapids. The Beaty family also gives sleigh and wagon rides in their hometown, Frazee, Minn.



Right: Don Jensen driving his Belgian geldings Dan (the husky one) and King (the slimmer one). Both are about 17-years-old. The wagon is an antique grain wagon. Don's wife, Patty, rides shotgun and they are dressed in period costumes. The riders are associated with the Larson Funeral Home of Pelican Rapids.



Above left: Lisa Christenson and her Fjord team from Cal-loway, Minn. sponsored by Strand Hardware.



Below: Clayton Brennen drives his black 17-year-old Percheron gelding, Jack, pulling a Visa-vis carriage, also known as a wedding carriage or Cinderella carriage, with his granddaughter (his little princess) from Farmington Minn. riding shotgun. Clayton's wife, Gloria is riding with passengers from the local nursing home. Clayton is a member of the Red River Harness Club who will be giving sleigh rides during the West Fargo Winter Days, Jan. 18, at Elmwood Park in West Fargo, No. Dak.



Left: Jessica and Samuel Rotz, sponsored by the Maplewood Veterinary & Animal Hospital and K-9 Cutters drive their teamsters Buster and Queenie.



NEW RECORD SET BY 37-YEAR-OLD HORSE

By Amber Voigt

On October 25-26, 2008, the North American Trail Conference (NATRC) event took place at Kanopolis State Park near Lindsborg, Kan. Entering this event was Mary Anna Wood and her gelding, Elmer Bandit. Due to a heavy frost Sunday morning, only 40 out of the 43 entries would ride the course. Elmer and his owner/rider started briskly on the first few miles, completing two in 15 minutes.

They ran at an average 5.25 miles per hour. Wood's care of Elmer was impeccable, since he needed to be sponged with water to cool the old horse down as he already had his winter coat.

Continuing past every pulse and respiration check, and after being unsaddled and sponged, Elmer was only held at the last check point. The day was warmer and produced strong winds of 30-40 MPH sapping moisture and strength from the horses. However, after being released from the last check point, Elmer Bandit and Mary Anna Wood finished the race with one minute to spare.

This 37-year-old half-Arabian gelding trotted under the finish line to set a new competitive trail mileage record of 20,720 miles only 201 days after his birthday, and has no doubt won the hearts of many at this competition and around the country.

Kathy Grimes
Animal Consultant

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Golden Eagle Hunt Seat Equestrian Team Continues Success at UW-River Falls

(Crookston, Minn.)- The University of Minnesota, Crookston Hunt Seat Equestrian team continued their successful season with another great show at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Saturday, Dec. 6 and Sunday the 7th.

Saturday's competition started off strong with a big win for Nicole Veres (Jr, Random Lake, Wis.) in Intermediate Jumping. Lauren Snively (Fr, Herndon, Vir.) proceeded to take second place in Novice Jumping while Kelsey Sherman (Fr, Lansing, Mich.) took fourth place in her Novice Jumping section. Heather Fogelson (Fr, Grant, Minn.) started off the flat section of the day with a win in her Intermediate Flat class. Tandra Klein (So, Hazen, N.D.) took second place in Novice Flat while Lydia Lestingi (Fr, Clemons, N.Y.) finished the day with a third place finish in the Walk Trot.

Sunday's competition began with Sherman taking third in Novice Jumping, qualifying her for the Regional Championships. She

then went on to win her Intermediate Flat section. This made her just six points shy of qualifying on the flat. Fogelson won her Intermediate Flat class, giving her enough points to qualify for the Regional



Championships. Lindy Hausauer (Sr, Moorhead, Minn.) took second place in her Novice Flat class while Tandra Klein took third place in her respective section. This left her with only five points remaining to qualify for the Regional Champion-

ships. Snively and Sarah Wells (So, Calgary, Alberta, Canada) both won their respective Novice Flat classes. Brittney Skoien (Jr, Wanaska, Minn.) finished the day by taking third in Advanced Walk

inger. "I expect them to come back for the spring season just as strong and competitive as they have been this fall and for several more riders to qualify for the Regional Championships."

The Golden Eagle Hunt Seat Equestrian team will return to action on Saturday, February 21 and Sunday, February 22 when they travel to Madison, Wis. for shows at the University of Wisconsin. The shows will start at 1 p.m. and 9 a.m. respectively.

For more information, visit the Golden Eagle Athletics Web site at <http://www.goldeneaglesports.com/>.

The University of Minnesota, Crookston is a NCAA Division II Institution and a member of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC). Golden Eagle Hockey is a member of the Midwest Collegiate Hockey Association (MCHA). The Golden Eagle Equestrian team is a member of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA).

Trot Canter. This left her with just two points remaining to qualify for the Regional Championships.

"The team rode very well this weekend," says U of M, Crookston Equestrian Coach Brooke Lein-

U OF M OFFERS HORSE OWNER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The University of Minnesota Horse Team is offering three regional horse owner education programs throughout Minnesota and western Wisconsin in 2009. Each program offers research-based information and knowledgeable speakers identified specifically for that region by a committee of local horse experts and enthusiasts. Speakers for these programs include University faculty from Minnesota, Wisconsin, and North Dakota, local veterinarians, and area horse professionals. Programs are held on Saturdays and begin at 10 a.m. (doors open at 9:15 a.m.) and end at 3 p.m.

The dates, locations, and topics (multiple topics presented at once, can attend four presentations) are:

Sat, Jan. 31 at the U of M Leatherdale Equine Center on the St. Paul Campus. Topics include: Manure Management, Winter Care, Common Causes of Equine Lameness and Treatments Options, Cushings and Other Diseases Effecting Elderly Horses, Equine Genetic Disorders, Ask the Vet Roundtable,

Pasture Management, Equine Law, Research Updates, and Equine Behavior. An optional tour of the Equine Center will be given from 3- 3:30 pm. There is an additional \$6 parking fee for this program. Registration deadline is Weds., Jan. 28. Register online at: <http://umnext.cmiregistration.com/ProgramDetail.aspx/StPaulHorse>

Sat., Feb. 21 at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls Agricultural Science Building in River Falls, Wis. Topics include: Optimizing Your Hay Supply, Improving Your Existing Facility, Lameness in the Performance Horse, Hoof Care Roundtable, Pasture Management, So You Have a Horse...Now What?, Equine Behavior, Metabolic Myths, The Top 10 Things You Should Know About Feeding Your Horse, Western Saddle Fitting, Preventative Medicine, and Rehabilitation and Complementary Therapies. Registration deadline is Weds., Feb. 18. Parking available in lots G, H, K, and N. Register online at: <http://umnext.cmiregistration.com/ProgramDetail.aspx/RiverFallsHorse>. The program is co-sponsored by the U of W –River Falls and Cooperative Extension.

Sat., Mar. 14 at the Thumper Pond Resort in Ottertail, Minn. (Rush, Walker, and Club House West Rooms). Topics include: Winter Care, Research Updates, First Aid and Wound Manage-

ment, Manure Management and Composting, Humane Options for Unwanted Horses Roundtable, Equine Genetic Disorders, Poisonous Plants, Ask the Vet Roundtable, Equine Behavior, Elderly Horse Care, Nutrition Roundtable, and Equine Law. Registration deadline is Weds., Mar. 11. Register online at: <http://umnext.cmiregistration.com/ProgramDetail.aspx/OttertailHorse>.

Online and mail-in registration forms, maps, parking information, and program agendas are available at www.extension.umn.edu/horse. Contact (800) 876-8636 with online registration questions. Contact Krishona at (612) 625-6776 with additional questions. In case of cancellation due to inclement weather, an e-mail will be sent to all participants. Programs are recommended for ages 13 and up, but are open to everyone.

ceeding contains fact sheets and/or power point handouts from all program speakers. Due to pre-printed materials and lunch arrangements, registration prior to the program is required, and walk-ins will not be accommodated.

Well, the state of Michigan and the United States government is finding out what happens when not everyone embraces the new technological advances. Seven Amish farmers from Michigan are suing the U.S. government on the grounds that the ID tags are a threat to their religious beliefs and an infringement of their American rights. The farmers believe that the electronic ID tags are "part of an ongoing attempt to number every living thing" on earth, which in their interpretation of the Bible's book of Revelations is linked to the Devil.

According to the Cattle Business Weekly article, the USDA contends that the "cattle tagging plan is voluntary and that the lawsuit should instead be directed at the state of Michigan, which wants to make it compulsory."

The Amish are known for their preservation of the old ways in farming and they voice little on outside events. The law suit may provide consideration to those silent voices when placing new technological demands on people.

LAWSUIT OVER RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION TAGS

By Amber Voigt

There has been an interesting development in the State of Michigan involving the state's attempt to make it mandatory for all cattle to have radio frequency identification tags (RFID). According to The Cattle Business Weekly article dated December 3, the group causing all the commotion about the ID tags is the Amish.

This modern advance in ranching is intended to provide undisputed proof that an animal is what the papers say. In some cases, you can view the position of the animal on your land just by opening up your computer to the right program. The technology makes it more convenient and productive for ranchers of big herds. But what happens when all ranchers do not embrace the new advances?

At the 2008 NRHA Open Futurity, the Open Champion will take home a total of \$150,000. In addition, each NRHA Open Futurity finalist will be guaranteed to earn a minimum of \$10,000 for their efforts. Moreover, every rider placing in the NRHA Open and Non Pro Futurity will see an increase in cash awarded as compared to last year.

WORLD'S RICHEST REINING EVEN RICHER

Oklahoma City, OK – December 4, 2008 – As the accountants sharpen pencils and tabulate total purse calculations, the National Reining Horse Association is thrilled to announce the 2008 NRHA Futurity & Adequan® North American Affiliate Championship (NAAC) Show – the richest NRHA-approved show in the world – will see sizeable increases in every purse category making the show even richer. Thanks to a substantial increase in nominations, the total cash purse payout and awards are anticipated to increase nearly 23% and total nearly \$2 Million. The 2008 NRHA Futurity & NAAC Show kicked off Thursday, November 27 at the Oklahoma State Fair Park in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and ends Saturday, December 6.

As of December 4, the NRHA Futurity shows an approximate 60% increase in total nominations equaling more than \$300,000. This substantial growth contributes directly to the increase in total cash purse payout for this year's Futurity.

At the 2008 NRHA Open Futurity, the Open Champion will take home a total of \$150,000. In addition, each NRHA Open Futurity finalist will be guaranteed to earn a minimum of \$10,000 for their efforts. Moreover, every rider placing in the NRHA Open and Non Pro Futurity will see an increase in cash awarded as compared to last year.

For the first time ever, NRHA will present a trophy belt buckle created by Gist Silversmiths to the Reserve Champions in all eight divisions of the NRHA Open and Non Futurity. Plus, the Top 5, Top 10 and finalists will receive buckles in the Open Futurity. Finalists in all other divisions will be given the opportunity to purchase a trophy buckle to commemorate their achievement.

F-T Midlantic Sale's Gross Drops 43.1% The Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December mixed sale, like many other auctions lately, suffered significant downturns in business. Compared to 2007, the gross plunged 43.1% Dec. 8 in Timonium, Md. However, the average price and median price experienced less severe losses, dropping 12.3% and 14.3%, respectively.

Adena Springs Announces Fee Reductions: Following a trend from stallion farms that began soon after the last hammer fell at the Keeneland November breeding stock sale, Frank Stronach's Adena Springs Farm announced Dec. 8 a number of stallions will have their stud fees reduced for the 2009 breeding season

Dec. 15: Shapiro Steps Down as CHRB Chairman: California Horse Racing Board chairman Richard Shapiro announced his resignation Dec. 15 during a meeting of the board at Santa Anita Park.

New York Gov. David Paterson is proposing to permit a casino at Belmont racetrack, a move he believes will raise \$370 million in a franchise fee payment to the deficit-ridden state.

Five days after it announced it was suspending its North American stakes program, the Breeders' Cup has reversed itself and decided to fund the program for 2009, according to two members of its board.

For more information go to <http://www.bloodhorse.com/article/48462.htm>

Dec. 17 Fort Erie Poised to Close in 2009 The owners of Fort Erie Race Track, which is the home of the second leg of the Canadian Triple Crown, have announced they will likely close the Ontario location by March 31, 2009 Quarter Horse in KY Positive for CEM Kentucky and federal agriculture officials are investigating a case of contagious

In The News: Headlines from Bloodhorse.com

equine metritis in a Quarter Horse in central Kentucky.

NY Governor Proposes Belmont Casino New York Gov. David Paterson is proposing to permit a casino at Belmont racetrack, a move he believes will raise \$370 million in a franchise fee payment to the deficit-ridden state.

Dec. 18 Deal Averts 'Immediate Disaster' in Ohio Racetrack management and horsemen in Ohio struck an agreement Dec. 16 that will reinstate more than 160 Thoroughbred racing dates at Beulah Park and River Downs in 2009, and save more than 1,000 horses at Beulah Park from being forced out of the track's stable area by Dec. 27.

Ocala Industry May Seek Racing Permit Cognizant of negative dynamics hammering the racing scene in South Florida, leaders of the Thoroughbred industry harbored in the central part of the state are considering preemptive-strike plans to pursue a permit for pari-mutuel meets to be run in the Ocala area.

Brownie Points Retired Brownie Points, who competed in nothing but stakes after breaking her maiden in her second start, has been retired from racing and booked to leading third-crop sire Street Cry.

Raven's Pass to Greet First U.S. Mares The first wave of up to 30 American mares booked to Breeders' Cup Classic (gr. I) winner Raven's Pass is scheduled to reach Ireland on Dec. 20, with two other groups slated to begin quarantine soon prior to their trips.

Dec. 20 Two More CEM Cases in Kentucky Contagious Equine Metritis appears to be spreading among non-Thoroughbred horses in Kentucky and state officials are looking for help from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to deal with it.

Florida Issues Steroid Rules The Florida Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering on Dec. 18 announced the issuance of new rules on use of anabolic steroids for race horses in the state

Dec. 25 Avioli Discusses Stakes Program Funding Breeders' Cup president and chief executive officer Greg Avioli was interviewed by Blood-Horse features editor Lenny Shulman after the organization rescinded its decision to suspend its Stakes program for 2009.

Consolidation in Maryland Breeding Farms Citing an "effort to rationalize costs in these difficult economic times while continuing to serve Maryland and mid-Atlantic breeders with high quality stallions", the Maryland Stallion Station announced Dec. 24 it will partner with Bonita Farm and Shamrock Farms for future operations.

Dec. 26 Tracks Could Lose Revenue in Fed Inquiry A federal affidavit alleges that Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich pressured horse racing leaders for campaign contributions in exchange for supporting a bill, passed this month, that requires four of the state's highest-grossing riverboat casinos to share revenue with the Thoroughbred and harness racetracks.

Bob Black Jack went gate to wire to easily win the \$250,000 Malibu Stakes (gr. I) for 3-year-olds on opening day of the 2008-09 season at Santa Anita Dec. 26. It was the first graded stakes win for the California-bred Bob Black Jack.

RESCUED CLEVER ALLEMONT GOES TO 'OLD FRIENDS'

Clever Allemont, a 26-year-old stallion, was purchased from a kill buyer by Kristin Chambers, executive director of Winding Road Equine Rescue & Retirement near Waverly, Kan.

According to an article published in the Dec. 27 issue of Bloodhorse.com, the kill buyer contacted Chambers about the horse for which he had Jockey Club papers. Chambers recognized the stallion's name and knew she wouldn't leave the one-eyed horse to slaughterhouse fate.

Chambers received donations for the purchase, transportation, blankets and food for his travels. He will be sent to the 'Old Friends' facility the first of the year.

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