

Happy
Father's
Day

June 2009

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



Free

Valley Equestrian

Your local resource for equestrian events, news and information.

Newspaper

Norwegian Nobility



Dressage Driving
By Margo Brady

What Makes A
Good Driving
Horse?
By Steve Wood

Introducing "The
Politics of Horses"

The Valley Equestrian

Vol. 3 No. 6

Box 64
Sabin, MN 56580

Publisher/Editor
Ley Bouchard
leybou@gmail.com
(701) 361.8648

**Regional Sales Manager/
Creative Consultant**
Tammy Finney
RR3500@aol.com
(218) 790.6056

Regional Sales Managers
Carolyn Ballard
carolynmhd@aol.com
(218) 790.5015

Linda Coleman
lcoleman1539@cableone.net
(701) 793-9581

Amber Voigt
(701) 840-1087
kicken_high@hotmail.com

Distribution Directors
Shawn Dietrich, Fargo, ND
Carolyn Duncan, Albert Lea, MN
Kim Krueger, Mandan, ND

Contributing Writers
Orv Alvshere
Mary Block
Margo Brady
Lisa Houle
Steve Wood

The Valley Equestrian is published monthly.

Copyright © 2009
LeKreations LLC
All Rights Reserved
The Valley Equestrian

What's Inside This Issue?

Page 4: Sam Stanke: NDWS's Rodeo Queen

Page 5: A Hare Raising Story by Rudy Gonzales
Burro Training 101
Western Pack Burro Association
Wisconsin Donkey and Mule Association

Page 6: Happy Trails for Horse and Rider
by Lisa Houle

Page 7: Caring for a horse on a budget

Page 8: Nita Jo Rush Shows at Leatherdale Benefit

Page 9: The Politics of Horses

Page 10: Amanda Peterson Places at IHSA

Page 11: What is it that makes a great driving horse? By Steve Wood

Page 12 & 13: MN Horse Expo Recap

Page 14: Prairie Home Carriage Fest by Mary Block

Page 15: Dressage Defined by Margo Brady

Page 16: MatchMaker/Classified

Page 17: Cowboy Poetry with Orv Alvshere
Ag Income Tax Update for Farm Families
Recreational Trails Program

Page 18 & 19: Regional News

Page 20: June Events

Page 21: Time to think spring farm safety



Sturdevant Clydesdales ridden by their granddaughter and Draft Horse Queen

Facebook:
The Valley Equestrian Newspaper



Mini-stagecoach pulled by Shetland Ponies "Lollipop" and "Jett" driven by Mary Block. See more driving photos on page 14.

ADVERTISER'S INDEX

Advertisers	Page Number
2nd Go Round Tack & Feed	Page 10
All Event Photography	Page 22
Blairview Saddle Shop	Page 21
Bonanzaville	Page 17
Brady Equestrian Center: Bayron 885	Page 24
CoverAll Buildings	Page 3
Creek Side Gypsy Farm	Page 4
Danna's Miniatures	Page 21
Eagle Tree Feed Store	Page 19
Frostfire Farm	Page 10
Gustafson Pintabians and Arabians	Page 8
Helland Ranch	Page 23
HKL Stables	Page 4
J&S Farmer's Mill	Page 8
Juven Tours & Travel	Page 7
Minnesota Horse Council	Page 19
Minnesota School of Horseshoeing	Page 14
Mischeif Manor	Page 15
Rainbow's End	Page 10
Riding on Angel's Wings	Page 4
Red River Horse Breeders Assoc.	Page 7
Roger Berg Insurance	Page 21
Spruce Hollow Arabian/Pintabians	Page 7
Sundance Riding	Page 3
Walk on Leather	Page 21



MN Horse Expo Breed Parade Haflingers and riders representing the Slipknot Farm in Bagley Minn. from L-R: Indy (Linda FAH) ridden by Mindy Broden; Nix (Newsmaker FAH) ridden by Linnae Ferrie. See more Expo photos on pages 12-13.

ABOUT THE COVER

Smedsmo Gråen a gray dun Norwegian Fjord Stallion put to a road cart and driven by Phillip Odden of Barronett, Wisconsin. They are competing in a reinsmanship class at the prestigious Villa Louis Carriage Classic on the banks of the Mississippi at Prairie du Chein Wisconsin in 1996. Smedsmo Gråen is now a 13 year old stallion. He was imported from Norway in 2002 and stands at stud at the Odden farm. The stallion has wonderful balanced movement at the walk and trot as well as a nice up-hill canter. This movement is consistently passed on to his offspring. Phil competes in other pleasure driving shows and Combined Driving Events in the midwest with his fjord horses where exceptional movement and calm dispositions are certainly an advantage and make the shows much more fun. Driven dressage is the foundation for successful driving. The cart is decorated with Norwegian style carving and painted in lively colors. Phil and his wife Else make their living as traditional Norwegian woodcarvers and cabinet makers. So the Norwegian fjord horses and carriage driving are an extension of their interests in old world culture that adds interest, pleasure and satisfaction to our modern world.

Submission Guidelines & Editorial Disclaimers

The Valley Equestrian, printed monthly, welcomes free-lance articles, cartoons, artwork, poems, photographs, etc. that we might use in the publication. We accept no responsibility for the material while in our hands. Materials will be returned if sent with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Photographs or graphics electronically submitted should be in color and must be at least 170 resolution and four inches wide.

Copyright Notice: The Valley Equestrian is copyrighted and protected by federal copyright law. No material may be copied, faxed, electronically transmitted or otherwise used without the express written permission. Requests for reprinting must be submitted in writing to the editor.

Disclaimer: Articles that appear in The Valley Equestrian do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial staff, officers or employees and publication of any article does not constitute endorsement of the views expressed. Accuracy of all information is the responsibility of the authors.

Advertisements published in The Valley Equestrian do not constitute endorsement or recommendation of such product or service. The Valley Equestrian does not condone the alteration of horses in any photograph that appears in advertisements in the newspaper and accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the photographs used in the advertisements supplied by others than its own staff. The onus is on the reader to satisfy themselves about the appearance or conformation of a horse before making a financial decision.

Errors: The Valley Equestrian newspaper shall be responsible for errors or omissions in connection with an advertisement only to the extent of the space covered by the error.

Editor's Clipboard

It's been a long, hard winter and dare I say, summer-like weather is finally here! Equestrians everywhere are getting the last of the long, winter's coat off their steeds, getting the show clothes prepped, shining their tack, reviewing the rules, looking at their videos for what not to do, and at the Valley Equestrian (VE) plans are being made to provide new and exciting viewing options.

The VE introduces a new section we're calling "The Politics of Horses" where we hope to report about legislative news occurring in the region. This month's focus is on Montana ... it is the horse slaughter topic.

Next month and during the month, follow on our Facebook page (The Valley Equestrian Newspaper) for news about Minnesota property tax issues affecting horse and stable owners. Become a

fan to get breaking news that won't wait until the first of the month print date!

Let us know what is going on in your valley through our Facebook page. It's a time we need to network and know what's going on regionally as what affects one may affect all.

Happy Father's Day to all you Dads.

Happy Trails!

Ley Bouchard



FACEBOOK: The Valley Equestrian Newspaper



Wild Medora Mustangs taken summer of 2006 at Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Medora, N.D. Send your horse photos to: leybou@gmail.com for possible publication.

DANNA'S MINIATURE HORSES
Buckeroo/Thunder's True Copy/San Juan
Arenosa
Merrill or Janet Meyer
Danna Hanson

RR 1 Box 17
Portland, ND 58274
AMHA/AMHR
adjanot@hughes.net
meyersol@hughes.net

Phone 701-766-3254
Fax 701-786-9961



SunDance Riding Therapy Inc. is a non-profit organization that is committed to enriching the lives of adults and children with disabilities through therapeutic riding and interaction with horses. If you would like to participate in our riding sessions or volunteer for SunDance, please contact us at:

SunDance Riding Therapy, Inc.
P.O. Box 505
Dilworth, MN 56529
(218) 233-4675
www.sundanceriding.org

365 Days to Ride

- ✓ Naturally Bright Interiors
- ✓ Superior Air Quality
- ✓ Safer Environment
- ✓ Peaceful Ambiance
- ✓ A Guarantee of Quality
- ✓ Backed by Local Service

COVER-ALL NorthStar Cover-All
1.877.259.1528 • www.northstarcoverall.com

Featherbrook Farm

Featherbrook Farm, LLC
20603 County Rd. 50
Corcoran, MN 55340
612-868-8506
www.featherbrookfarm.com

Summer Camps
Training • Lessons
Boarding

WALK ON LEATHER
Custom Saddle Maker Since 1988

Saddlery, Boot & Shoe Repair
www.WalkonLeather.com
Reed@WalkonLeather.com
888-901-4578

Sam Stanke, Miss Rodeo NDWS 2009

Generations of North Dakota born ranchers and farmers has made Sam Stanke, Miss Rodeo North Dakota Winter Show 2009, a true a cowgirl.

On March 7, 2009, at the North Dakota Winter Show PRCA Rodeo in Valley City, Sam earned the privilege of representing rodeo and the North Dakota Winter Show as Miss Rodeo NDWS 2009. Her hard working cowgirl spirit paid off when she captured the categories of Horsemanship, appearance, personality and speech.

A proud North Dakotan, Sam is the 20 year old daughter of Greg and Shannan Stanke. She lives with her family on their horse farm right outside West Fargo. The oldest of 3 girls, Sam and her sisters grew up spending their summers competing at local horse shows and rodeos.

Sam's love for horses, their physiology, and sports performance, is leading Sam in her career as she pursues her certification in Equine Massage. Sam is a private riding instructor and is also employed by South Wind Stable and RCC Western Stores.

A 2007 graduate of Central Cass High School, Sam is a member of the ND Cowboy Hall of Fame, is a past Presi-

dent of the Cass County Cowboys 4H club, is a long time member of the FM Mounted Posse and has competed in the National Barrel Horse Association.

Aside from her many horse and rodeo related activities, Sam also enjoys spending time with family and friends, cooking, dance, and designing her own western clothing.

Rodeo and horses have been an influential part of Sam's life and she believes that rodeo represents the standards by which she holds dear to her heart. She says

"I love how rodeo keeps our Old West traditions alive. It is a true American sport that celebrates family values, faith and patriotism. I have experienced from an early age that rodeo teaches responsibility and builds family traditions."

As Miss Rodeo NDWS 2009 she plans to represent and share those values while promoting rodeo and the North Dakota Winter Show at various PRCA Rodeos and Bull-A-Ramas around the state of North Dakota. Sam is most honored to be carrying the title of Miss Rodeo NDWS and will be working hard as she prepares to represent the North Dakota Winter Show when she will have the opportunity to compete for the title of Miss Rodeo North Dakota this fall at the Minot Y's Men's Rodeo in Minot.



HENDRICKSON JOINS NRHA REINER

Oklahoma City, OK - The National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) and NRHA Reiner recently welcomed Katie Hendrickson to its staff. Hendrickson is charged with duties of Assistant Editor of the NRHA Reiner. Hendrickson is a 2008 graduate of South Dakota State University (SDSU) with a major in mass communications. The South Dakota native interned for the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) from August to December 2008 working both the AQHA and Bayer Select World Championship Shows. In addition, she interned with SDN Communications, The Enterprise Institute, and Capital Card Services. Hendrickson competed with the SDSU equestrian team for three years and showed at the 2007 Varsity Equestrian National Championship and ISHA regional finals in horsemanship. Her accomplishments include earning the top scholar award for journalism, being named by Sales

and Marketing Executives of Sioux Falls as the sale competition winner for 2006 and 2007, being recognized as a South Dakota Advertising Federation scholarship recipient for 2006 and 2007, and by receiving an equestrian scholarship at SDSU for 2006 through 2008.

Incorporated in 1966, the National Reining Horse Association is the governing body of the sport of reining. NRHA, with their International Headquarters in Oklahoma City, is responsible for promoting the sport of reining and working to ensure the highest standards of competition. To learn more about the NRHA, its programs and family of corporate partners, visit www.nrha.com.

HKL STABLES
HARLAN & KERRY LEE

763.691.1500

3366 Helium St. NW
Cambridge, MN 55008

HKL.QuarterHorses@aol.com
www.HKLStables.com

Members of AQHA • MNQHA • FQHR
I/N Foundation Horse Club • MN Horse Council



Creek Side Gypsy Horses

8841 Mason Ave NE
Elk River, MN 55339
pambrthl@aol.com

www.creeksidegypsy.com
763-274-2488

Now standing at Stud:

RRTF Donovan
(Homozygous Gypsy stallion)

Check out our Gypsy horses for sale.
Contact for pricing.

"If you can dream it,
THEY CAN DO IT."

Magical Gypsy Vanner
Horse European
Bloodlines



A Hare Raising Story

By Rudy Gonzales

Many years ago when I was just a young boy, I would wander the mountains of Colorado either horseback or with one of our dogs. We always seemed to wander into the camp of an old gentleman I knew as Mr. Sherbinal. I am not even sure of the spelling of his last name. At the time, I don't think I was old enough then to spell it right anyway.

Mr. Sherbinal was always happy to see us and would invite me to eat with him so he could tell me some of his stories. On one such day I was walking with my dog. I was packing my twenty-two caliber rifle in hopes to shoot some rabbits or maybe some pine hens.

When Mr. Sherbinal asked about my hunting success that day I had to tell him I had only two rabbits to take home. Mr. Sherbinal went on to tell me of his rabbit-hunting story. Of course to hear him tell his stories, he was usually the best bronc buster, best lumber jack, and of course the best big game hunter. So rabbits were almost below his dignity unless something was incredibly spectacular to impress a young kid like me.

I remember his stories always had a long way to go before he got the trophy. Many times it started with his waking up and what he had for breakfast. Of course there was always great details to the weather of the day. Next details to the terrain he was hunting and of course something terrible had to make the hunt even more challenging. In this particular story he told of how he had tripped and fell into a rock pile knocking the front sight off of his rifle.

However being a world-class hunter he continued undaunted. He told me of how he broke open a sticky pinecone and used the pitch to fashion a front sight. Later as he wandered into the woods he told how a rabbit peeked his head over a log. It took his eagle eye to see this rabbit at a distance he suggested to be at least one hundred yards.

Taking careful aim he squeezed off a shot and the rabbit seemed to drop behind the log. Then as quickly as it dropped, it stood up again much to Mr. Sherbinal's amazement. Carefully squeezing off another round the rabbit again dropped. What happened next was unbelievable. The rabbit stood up again as if it was never hit.

Mr. Sherbinal surmised that maybe his front sight was not quite perfect so he carefully examined it and added a minor correction. He told me he knew he did it right in the first place.

Once again Mr. Sherbinal carefully took aim and fired. Once again this rabbit dropped out of sight. However just as it fell quickly it rose again. He told me this went on for about fifteen minutes. Each time he shot that rabbit it would stand up again.

Finally this amazing rabbit did not get up again. Mr. Sherbinal told how he slowly approached the log that the rabbit was hiding behind only to find twenty-six rabbits all laying on the ground.

I am certainly happy that Mr. Sherbinal's stories never influenced my writing.

WISCONSIN DONKEY AND MULE SOCIETY

The Wisconsin Donkey and Mule Society, Inc. (WDMS) was formed in 1985 by a group of twelve people interested in various aspects of mules and donkeys: the breeding, riding, driving, and showing. We are now a friendly, low-key group of about 100 intent on enjoying the "longears." Organizational meetings are kept to a minimum, just enough to get the work done. They are announced in the quarterly newsletter (Hee-Haw Happenings) and on the web site (www.widonkeymule.org). Unlike other equine breed associations, the WDMS is home to many breeds, several of donkeys (mini, standard, and mammoth) and mules, hybrids of any horse breed.

An important yearly WDMS event is participation in the breed demonstrations at the Midwest Horse Fair, where members' donkeys (all sizes) and mules are demonstrated in the many ways they are used, from riding to driving.

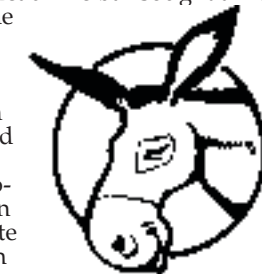
The WDMS organizes two shows per year, the annual State Show in early June and a fun show later in the summer. The State Show includes a full slate of halter classes and many performance classes, both judged and speed/gymkhana. Halter awards are presented to donkey and mules winners and high point awards are presented to both mule and donkey winners in two age divisions. The WDMS shows emphasize family/youth participation by including lead line classes and fun classes for youngsters.

The WDMS also conducts youth clinics on various aspects of donkeys and mules, usually in conjunction with one of the shows. Updated information regarding the shows and other activities of the WDMS is available on the web site - www.widonkeymule.org.

Last but not least are the two WDMS trail rides (spring and fall), providing a chance for leisurely social interaction both in camp and on the trail. Dates and locations can be found on the web site www.widonkeymule.org.

Western Pack Burro Association - "Celebrating 60 Years of Hauling Ass"

The Western Pack Burro Association seeks to continue a great sport begun by some of Colorado's 19th-century miners. Those hardy characters used burros (Spanish for donkeys) to carry their mining tools and supplies through the Rocky Mountains as they prospected for gold, silver, and other valuable ores. Since the burros were carrying a full load, the miners had to walk, leading the animal with a rope. Legend has it that two miners found gold in the same location, and raced each other back to town to be the first to stake a claim to the find. Neither could ride their animal because of its load, so one of the basic rules of burro racing was established. Another legend is that burro racing began as drunken miners in a Leadville bar sought a way to make some money in a less back-breaking manner than with pick and shovel.



The burro racing season runs from late May through August. There are presently six events in six mountain towns. Each event is part of a festival celebrating the town's history. The "Triple Crown" races are in Fairplay, Leadville, and Buena Vista. The remaining three races are in Georgetown, Cripple Creek, and Idaho Springs.

And burro racing popularity continues to grow! There's a movement to make it Colorado's official state sport. See Burro Racing article below with permission from the WPBA web site: <http://www.packburroracing.com/>.

Burro Training 101 By Curtis Imrie for WPBA

Get a Burro

It's cheaper to buy one from the BLM than to rent one. However, an "educated" ass is valuable. Don't be afraid to pay what you would for a grade horse if the burro is proven runner, packer, rideable and driveable and between 4- 12 years old. It costs the same to feed bad stock as good stock. Training and vitality are what I pay for.

Work With Your Animal

Basically, you train them with love and wet saddle blankets. "Handy" them through a winter and they'll remember on the trail. Every runner develops his or her own style, and only by finding the fun and regularity of the training process will you cut the deal with your livestock/pet that will put you in the money come race time.

Fine Tuning

Take a long pack trip with your animal -- at least one overnight, two if possible. This is where you try to do everything at a leisurely pace that you might encounter in a race -- creeks, bridges, hard-top. Packing gear, straps, rigging. You learn about your critter's limits. You want to know when he, she or it is holding out on you and when the animal is actually maxed physically. There's a fine line in a race between when to ask for more and when to back off and just maintain the rhythm you've got.



An Edge

Many races are won and lost through a burro's mouth and feet. What and how you feed and trim, shoe their feet. The trained wild burro is still the best stock on pack burro courses. They do fine on rough grass, stick and twigs and have rocks for feet. Respecting their natural selection with natural grain concentrates and good trimming, you can have as fine a pack burro racing machine as there is if you can find a way to their renegade hearts ... which may take imprinting, raising the domestic offspring of two wild critters and having the unique satisfaction of truly knowing the oldest domesticated, large quadruped man has ever encountered.

Training -- It Pays To Do Some

Get Yourself in shape. If nothing else, our poor man's PGA/rodeo circuit makes you fess up and point to certain dates in the year to put your body on the line and not get hurt and maybe excel. Everything your grandma said was true. Regular sleep, three square meals. Helps if you can run a decent 10K or finish a marathon. Strength, endurance and flexibility. Moderation in all things ... including moderation.

See the races in person at: Sunday, July 19th Idaho Springs Sunday, July 26th: Burro Days "World Championship" Pack Burro Race at Fairplay, Colo. Sunday, August 9th: Boom Days Pack Burro Race at Leadville, Colo. See www.packburroracing.com for more information.

Providing "wings" for individuals with disabilities

Therapeutic Horseback Riding

"Riding on Angels' Wings"

For more information on making a donation or volunteer opportunities contact us at:

(218) 359-0007

ExecdirectorROAW@aol.com
www.ridingonangelswings.org

Happy Trails for Horse and Rider

By LISA HOULE
Minnesota's trail riding season is officially upon us as both horse and rider are finding relief from winter's cabin fever. Many avid equestrians take to the trails for relaxation and enjoyment during the warm spring and summer seasons. While I recommend that any rider take their horse on the trails, I recommend you take the time that is needed now and review some basic trail tips before exposing yourself to an unwanted situation.

Ride in Pairs
I often wonder why riders trust their horses enough to trail ride on their own. Let me make something very clear: never trust that your horse will "take care of you." Your horse is a horse, of course, of course. A horse is a herd animal with prey instincts; fight or flight responses are natural to horses as a survival instinct. If you are hurt on the trail, bucked off, or knocked unconscious, your horse will try to find safety in a herd and seek out that herd if you are alone - i.e. it will leave you and go home.
I do not even recommend riding in an arena alone as accidents happen in a blink of an eye. Now, add a forest and nobody in distance to hear anyone yelling "HELP" and you are in a world of hurt. Ride in pairs.

Bring a Cell Phone and Leave Your Destination
I recommend leaving a note at your barn, or with someone at home, as to what trails you and your riding partner will be taking, along with the time you will return. Even if you are riding in pairs, a safety net

is leaving this information posted where others will notice. Carrying a cell phone, shut off during the trail ride to avoid spooking the horse with your techno ring

bridle. Either put the lead rope in a backpack made for your saddle or lay it on the saddle horn, similar to a lasso. I recommend rope halters versus nylon

ally unstable horse on a trail ride that endangers the safety of other riders. While you cannot control the other horse or rider's behavior, you have control over your decision to participate in the ride or not. If this happens, you can choose to not say anything and continue on with the group, speak up about your concern, and/or not participate in the trail ride. I have experienced similar situations and usually, I choose not to expose my horse to an explosive horse with a rider who is trying to train on the trails - that brings me to my next point.

Do NOT Train on the Trail
Many issues cannot be resolved on the trail. While it is important for a horse to learn how to respond to its rider in a variety of environments, a horse will have trouble focusing on any training when there is too much stimuli. In a similar situation, you would not train your horse at the show but spend time perfecting your riding at the barn, before the show. If only riders would apply this concept to trail riding, we would not have nearly as many accidents or explosive horses on the trail.

Use Common Sense
If you are riding in a group, do not hesitate to speak up if other riders are being reckless. Any rider who does not keep a horse length between horses, runs up behind your horse, or takes off in front of your horse simply is not exercising common sense. You are the only advocate for yourself and your horse; similar to speaking up against reckless driving, speak up against reckless riders.

Halter PLUS Lead Rope
If your friend, or you, is bucked off a horse and breaks a leg, how will you tie up the horses so you may assist the other person? If you need to wait for a third party to retrieve a rider, you need to ensure the horses are secured so you can fully attend to the injured person.

Ride with a rope halter under the

ones because you have more control of the horse and the fabric does not rub nearly as much under the bridle. You do not want to be in a situation where you have to tie your horse with the reins connected to the bit.
Another bonus of taking a halter and lead rope is you have a back-up if your bridle or reins break. Regrettably, this has happened to me more than once.

set to a high volume, ensures that if a rider is hurt, help can be summoned before you return to the barn. If, however, you do not have cell phone reception on parts of the trail, someone will know to send help if you do not arrive by a certain time.

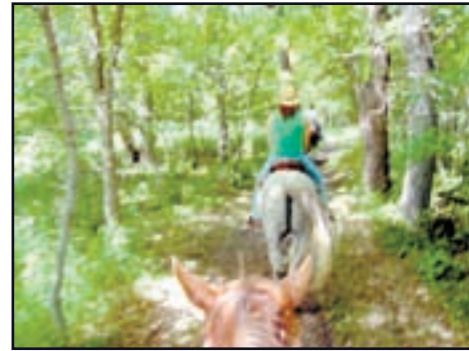
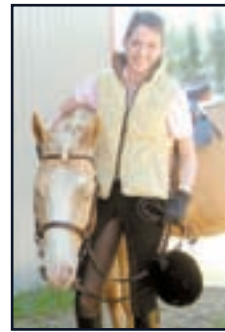
trailer to solve his fear of trailer loading; this sounds ridiculous. The only thing that horse would learn is to be even more afraid of the trailer. The horse, in that situation, would not walk away with dignity, confidence, or trust in its human leader. Rather, the horse simply learned that the human will leave him in a claustrophobic metal cave, away from the herd! The exact same concept applies to riders who forcefully train their emotionally explosive horses on the trail.

In my article Back to Basics and Back to Basics, Part Two, I explained how you can start redirecting your horse's emotional responses. In the July

issue, I will review riding exercises that focus on the balancing act of whoa. If you have an emotionally explosive horse, I suggest connecting with a trainer who meets the following criteria: 1) You trust; 2) Does not use forceful training tactics; 3) Sees your horse as a winner - this does not refer to competition, but rather how your horse is treated. Remember to keep it safe; nobody knows your horse better than you do. Know that it takes a smarter person to stop, get off, and ask an experienced horseman for help than one who allows their pride to get in the way.

Lisa resides near Minneapolis, Minn. and

has worked with horses for fifteen years. Her philosophy is to fuse the connection between horse and rider. She believes the majority of horse training issues stem from emotional problems in the horse that prevent confidence and trust with its rider. Lisa's training focuses on problem horses, natural horsemanship, Western, and Dressage. An avid competitor, she has multiple regional and State Championships with her horses, Kody and Sonni.



Caring for a horse on a budget

By Krishona Martinson, University of Minnesota Extension

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Owing a horse is a major responsibility, and a significant investment of both time and money. Most owners do not generate income from their horse, but are intent on spending time with their equine companion.

During tough economic times, horse owners need to explore and implement options to reduce costs. There are several things horse owner can do to minimize costs associated with horse management.

Housing: Healthy horses thrive outdoors and only require shelter from adverse weather, including excessive heat or cold (below 18 degrees), and freezing rain. Keeping a horse outdoors with access to a loafing or run in shed saves the cost of building and maintaining a barn as well as labor expenses associated with stall cleaning. It is usually more cost efficient to keep a horse on the owner's property/farm compared to boarding. Boarding is necessary for some horse owners, but can be expensive. Cleanliness. Flies, mosquitoes and ticks are responsible for a

number of bacterial and viral diseases of horses. Reduce the risk (and expense) of these diseases by discouraging these insects and ticks in your horse's environment. Safety. Improving barn safety can prevent accidents and unnecessary injuries. Bio-security. To reduce the risk of some diseases, consider having visitors wash hands and change boots and clothing before and after handling horses. Breeding. Unless a mare or stallion has exceptional conformation and an outstanding performance record, planning a foal that realistically may be difficult to market is expensive and unwise for those on a reduced budget. Routine care and planning. Have a good working relationship with a veterinarian. It is important to determine the extent and financial commitment a horse owner can maintain. These decisions should be made prior to an emergency involving a horse. During an emergency, it is common for horse owners to approve procedures they cannot really afford. Communicating the emergency plan to a veterinarian will help keep care and after care affordable. There

are many benefits of a yearly veterinary examination. Research has shown that taking an active interest, and being involved with the daily care of a horse results in a healthier horse and reduced veterinary care costs. Become familiar with horse vitals (temperature, heart rate, etc...) and normal behavior. Changes in baseline vitals and behavior are usually early indicators of illness. Learn to give intramuscular shots, oral medications, and basic leg wrapping techniques. Work with a farrier to set a hoof care schedule based on how much hoof the horse typically grows. Feeding. With feed costs rising, it is important to utilize feed efficiently. Nutrient requirements for horses depend on their physiological status (age, metabolism, weight) and their level of production (maintenance, growth, exercise, reproduction, and lactation). Most horse owners over feed their horses, leading to wasted money and unhealthy, overweight horses. Removing unnecessary grain from diets can lead to substantial savings. Regardless of the horse, forage should be the backbone of a horse's nutrition program

and should comprise at least 50 percent of their diet. During summer months, utilize pasture as an affordable way to meet a horse's nutritional requirements. Reducing costs associated with horse ownership takes hard work and some creativity. Most cost reducing opportunities fall in the area of preventative medicine, education, and taking on the responsibilities of horse ownership. These suggestions represent a sampling of recommendations. To view the entire factsheet, go to www.extension.umn.edu/horse.

Krishona Martinson is an equine specialist with University of Minnesota Extension



CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB:
WWW.THEVEONLINE.COM



Spruce Hollow Arabians/Pintabians



Contact:
Barb at 320-283-5933
spruchlo@runestone.net
Alexandria, MN
Pintabian at Stud: Dakota Gambler
Pintabians for Sale: Mares & Foals
Part/Purebred Arabians for Sale

<http://sprucehollowarabspintos.homestead.com/index.html>

RED RIVER HORSE BREEDERS PRESENTS THE:

45TH GREAT MIDWEST INDOOR HORSE SHOW
RED RIVER VALLEY INTERNATIONAL SELECT SIRE FUTURITY SHOW & SELECT SIRE STALLION SERVICE AUCTION

OCTOBER 10TH - 11TH, 2009
ND WINTER SHOWS BUILDING
VALLEY CITY, ND

APPROVED APPALOOSA & QUARTER HORSE

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
<http://www.redriverhorsebreeders.net/>

Red River Valley International Select Sire Futurity & Stallion Service Auction For more information contact:
Renee Flom at 701-428-3042
flomfarm@netzero.com
or Ted Johnson at 701-945-2331

Great Midwest Indoor Horse Show For more information contact:
Jean Fredrich at 701-725-4420

Check out more photos at our gallery: www.theveonline.com

Nita Jo Rush Shows at U of MN Leatherdale Equine Center Benefit

A benefit for an Equine Assisted Therapy pilot program through Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women is set from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday, June 13, 2009 at the new University of Minnesota Leatherdale Equine Center in St. Paul.

The show will feature Parelli Natural Horsemanship™ 3 Star Professional Nita Jo Rush and top Parelli students from Minnesota demonstrating the amazing things they can do with their equine partners. Extraordinary examples of human-horse communication will reveal the remarkable accomplishments possible when knowledge, skill and desire converge. Attendees will also learn how horses can be instrumental in mental health programs.

All proceeds from the event benefit Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women and the Horses Helping Humans pilot project. The pilot project is an Equine Assisted Therapy program for domestic violence survivors and is scheduled for September 2009. Participants will come from Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women and will attend a total of 16 hours of therapy.

A licensed psychologist and equine specialist will

lead the sessions and the women will participate in ground play sessions with their assigned horse and trained handlers.

"Our mission is to help women at risk of returning to the abuse cycle," says Shannon Bruce, Program and Curriculum Director for the pilot project. "Horses are ideal animals for this program because they are natural followers that respond instinctively to someone with confidence and leadership. These women are learning how to develop confidence, be assertive and protect their personal boundaries and horses can help them recognize habits and patterns that may need attention in order to do that. And when we help one woman we also impact the future of her children and generations to come."



Nita Jo Rush Jumping Malin

U of M Leatherdale Equine Center is located at

1801 Dudley Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108. Tickets: \$10, children 12 and under are free.

For more information call 763-479-9970 or go to <http://www.southernvalleyalliance.org/hhh.html>

ND Pinto Horse Association

The North Dakota Pinto Horse Association was incorporated in 2001 following interests shown by participants at shows sponsored by the North Dakota Paint Horse Club. The charter members were Teresa & John Visser, Spiritwood, Sally Henry, Gladstone, Jodi Cuskelly, Manning and Karla Stanley, Bismarck. We have held shows across the state with the 2009 four judge show to be held Sept 26 at the ND Horse Park in Fargo. Pinto is a color breed that recognizes four types of horses: saddle, pleasure, stock and hunter; the same four types of ponies, and two sizes of miniature horses. For more information go to pinto.org and for membership contact NDPtHA Membership Chair, Lisa Jostad 4956 164th Kindred, ND 58051 or lisajostad@yahoo.com.

Gustafson Pintabians and Arabians
<http://www.gustafsonpintabiansandarabians.com>



Paulette Gustafson
RR 1 Box 67
Saint John, ND 58369
(701) 477-3621

The Politics of Horses

Editor's Note: The Equine Welfare Alliance press release printed below was received just prior to press time. It offered a link to an email. The editorial staff decided to print the release and the accompanying email together so our readers could have access to both sides of this new Montana law.

It must be said that the Valley Equestrian does not wish to endorse either side of this controversy. However, we believe that the passage of this law violates a fundamental belief of our American heritage. That is, there is no topic that should not be discussed. In our system of government, that discussion is sometimes held in town meetings, newspapers, and yes, even courts. It is our concern that this bill does not allow discussion, and further suggests penalizing those who may pursue it. With this in mind, we encourage you to read the press release and email presenting two sides of a discussion so that you may decide for yourself.

AQHA OFFICIAL CELEBRATES PENDING SLAUGHTER OF QUARTER HORSES

CHICAGO, (EWA) - In the aftermath of Montana Governor Schweitzer's non-action, HB 418, a bill that bars Montana's citizens from taking court action against the building of a horse slaughter plant, became law. This action has left many Montana legislators and citizens shocked that their state might soon be known as the new "home of horse slaughter". Montana has enacted a probably unconstitutional statute that denies due process under the United States Constitution.

Horse slaughter will tarnish the "Big Sky" brand and everything it stands for from cattle to tourism. History has shown that such plants bring nothing but pollution and controversy. Montana law makers failed to ask themselves why Texas and Illinois, and now Saskatchewan Canada, have rid themselves of the industry. Who is to gain?

The Equine Welfare Alliance has obtained a document that answers this question. The mass e-mail was from Stan Weaver, president of the Montana Quarter Horse Association (MQHA) and is titled "HB 418 Final Comments - Success!!!!. Rejoicing in the news that Montana may be home to a horse killing plant, the MQHA president boasts that the MQHA was the driving force behind the passage of the law.

Weaver praises members for pushing the legislation while bragging about the haste with which it was put together. Weaver describes how the MQHA and the bill's sponsor, Representative Ed Butcher, had come up with the idea for the bill just weeks before it was introduced. After that introduction, the bill was ridiculed widely as the "Montana Butcher Bill."

Indeed, this is cause to rejoice for the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA), the organization leading the effort to continue the slaughter of American horses for foreign firm's profit. This magnificent breed, touted as the most versatile of all horses, is being sent to slaughter in record numbers. In fact, half of all horses sent to slaughter each year are American Quarter Horses.

Meanwhile, the AQHA continues to promote indiscriminate breeding. Weaver is apparently so enamored at the prospect of a slaughter plant to butcher Montana's Quarter Horses that he ponders writing a book that will con-

tain all the emails and letters in support of horse killing.

Last year, when other businesses were reducing production, AQHA management and its member breeders continued their mad quest to grow revenues by registering 140,000 new foals, an increase of 5,000 more horses over 2007.

In his speech before the 2008 annual convention, Bill Brewer, the AQHA's then executive vice-president said, "Our challenge becomes looking at ways to introduce an equine economic stimulus package that will boost registration numbers." Apparently, that package includes killing off existing Quarter Horses to make room for more.

Continued on Page 9

Counterpoint

"HB 418 Final Comments - Success!!!"

From: Stan Weaver
[mailto:stanweaver1@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2009 2:03 PM
To: (names removed to protect the recipients)
Subject: HB 418 Final Comments - Success!!!

I am sure you are all aware that HB 418 has become law. Although Governor Schweitzer did not sign the bill, he still had a hand in it becoming law. The Montana Horse Industry owes him a big "Thank You."
I think each one of you can take credit

in the fact that we got this bill passed. It is because of all of your phone calls, letters, faxes and e-mails that you took the time to do in order to show your passion for this cause that produced such a positive outcome.

Being involved made all the difference. This was a true grass roots effort and Representative Ed Butcher told me that at the end of our campaign, calls from just Montanans were 80% in favor of the bill. That is outstanding - and really shows what a grass roots effort can do.

I would like to personally thank all of you that sent me e-mails and made phone calls to me in support. Many of you copied me letters that you had sent to the Governor, and each showed your passion and truth for this subject. Maybe one of these days I will write a book of all those e-mails and letters - there are some pretty interesting ones to say the least.

I also would like to thank the Montana Quarter Horse Association and its Board of Directors for letting me represent them in this endeavor. It was at a meeting of these folks on Sunday, February 8th that the whole idea was born. At that meeting it was decided unanimously that we would support the Horse Processing bill, and I agreed to write a letter and Cali would send it to our members. The effort and e-mail list just grew from there.

This whole process just shows how important it is for us to get involved and do what we can. It is a different world than it was in our grandparent's day or even our parents. Now days there are people who sit in an office in Washington, D.C. or New York City, or Los Angeles and they have never calved a wild heifer or had to suckle a chilled down calf. They never had a colt buck every time they jumped him out, and knew they had to be hand enough to ride him or end up walking back to the house since there was not a horse trailer and pickup close by. Yet, these people feel that we have been doing this wrong for generations and they are sure that if they legislate their ideas it will force us to abide by them. We must be aware of what goes on around us and we must become active in preserving our way of life. I was contacted by several animal owners that have different issues with the legislature this year. I feel that before the next legislation there will be some sort of animal owners or animal/agriculture coalition to help fight and support

Continued on Page 22

Sales Personnel Wanted

Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, and South Dakota
Experience in sales?
Sales person wanted for a fast growing news organization; horse experience preferred.
A computer, internet access and phone required.
For consideration, email resume and cover letter to:
Ley Bouchard
leybou@gmail.com



Hay or Straw Farm Implements Trucks or Trailers Horse related classified advertising available Tractors Animals HORSE FEED Used Tack for only \$10 per issue Help Wanted after the first 50 words, 10 cents for each word after. Price includes your ad online at www.theveonline.com Panels Fencing

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ADVERTISE?

Call Ley at 701.361.8648
or email: leybou@gmail.com

J & S Farmer's Mill
104 5th Avenue SE
Barnesville, MN 56514
218.354.2247
Toll Free: 1.877.521.0150
Home: 218.493.4574

Jim & Sue Heng, Owners

Quality Feed Pays Off!

See Jim for all your horse feed!



**CREEDENCE SUNSPOT
FOUNDATION PINTABIAN STALLION**

2001 CHAMPION SENIOR STALLION AT HALTER
2001 CHAMPION ENGLISH PLEASURE

PROUD TO SUPPORT THE PINTABIAN
HORSE REGISTRY, MPtHA AND AHA

STANDING AT:

FROSTFIRE FARM

PINTABIAN HORSES OF DISTINCTION

LAKE PARK, MN 56554

(218) 532-2201

WWW.FROSTFIREFARM.COM

FROSTFIRE_FARM@HOTMAIL.COM



2ND GO-ROUND TACK & FEED

Genuine Billy Cook • Big Horn • Dakota • Big D •
Progressive Nutrition Horse Feed •
Impact Gel Pads • Diamond Wool Pads
Premium Cleaned Horse Oats •
Shavings • Large inventory of New
& Used Saddles & Tack



TRADES WELCOME

Just off Hwy 59 No. on Cozy Cove Rd.
Detroit Lakes, MN 218.847.7085

Visa & MasterCard
Accepted

**U of M, Crookston's Amanda Peterson Earns 10th
Place Finish at IHSA Nationals**

Crookston, Minn. - University of Minnesota, Crookston Western Equestrian team member Amanda Peterson (Jr, Rochester, Minn.) competed at the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Nationals



and riders are not allowed to ride the horse prior to their class. They draw the horse out of a hat and go in and ride an unfamiliar horse.

The Intercollegiate Horse Show Association encompasses the 48 states and parts of Canada and includes 8,000 riders from around the country. The National Horse Show is made up of the top riders from every region and is a showcase of horsemanship skill from the beginner riders to the top riders in the nation.

hosted by Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn. on April 23-26. The junior rider finished in tenth place and represented the Golden Eagles extremely well.

Peterson qualified for the competition by gaining the most points in the Reining and Open Horsemanship classes throughout the show season. She competed against 22 of the top riders across the country to earn her tenth place finish. Amanda started the IHSA National Competition with a strong rail and pattern portion in the Open Horsemanship and finished eighth there. In the Reining, she finished 13th. This gave her enough points to earn overall tenth place. The American Quarter Horse Association sponsored the class where she received a medal, ribbon, top ten jacket and a bag.

"I was thrilled with Amanda's placing for her first time competing at that level," says Golden Eagle Western Coach Nicky Overgaard. "Her confidence and poise at the show were remarkable and I am pleased with how her riding has improved throughout the show season and peaked at the right time. I think that tenth overall at a national show demonstrates her talent and horsemanship skills."

The horses at the show are all brought in from around the country



Porcelain Rose of the Prairie (AKA Porky) was born April 20th at the West Fargo Fairgrounds to owner Anna Brown of Fargo. She is a Tennessee Walker Paso Fino cross whos mother was evacuated during the height of the Red River Flooding from her home in North Moorhead.

Photograph By Jessica Sell
All Event Photography

Horses Ponies Miniatures
Rainbow's End
Western English Driving Lessons Training Sales
Karen Clark
586 32nd St. SE
Buffalo, MN 55313
763-682-5324
karenhorse@charter.net

What is it that makes a good driving horse?

By STEVE WOOD

Sometimes it's the glimpse of a covered wagon pulled by a team of horses on a quiet road that starts us thinking; or an elegant carriage with a single horse pulling a bride and groom sparks an interest; maybe it's a romantic ideal of a sleigh gliding silently through the trees on a carpet of freshly fallen snow that gets



Steve Wood drives his Morgan team, (L-R) Sweetwood Valentine, a 15-year-old Morgan mare and Sweetwood Coal, a 13-year-old Morgan gelding with a vehicle called a three-seat auto-top surrey he calls "our Western Buggy."

our thinking cap rolling. Often the idea of sitting on a padded carriage seat with grandchildren in the back, versus riding in a saddle, is very inviting at

a certain age. Whatever our reason for wanting to own a driving horse, the one thing in common for all these avenues is a horse that can pull us, and most importantly of all, pull us safely.

How do we find that horse? Does one of the horses in our current herd fit the bill? Should we go shopping for a driving horse at a horse sale? The answer is to take your time and look at many options. Most of us have been drawn to the idea of owning a driving horse by thoughts of enjoying a recreational, quiet drive. Since we want a quiet drive, the most important of all qualifications for a driving horse is that the horse be a quiet horse. In all our years as a driving horse training farm, we have never received a phone call looking for a nervous, hot, fire breathing, driving horse. So breeders take note: if you want to sell driving horses, breed for quiet-minded horses!

What does the term "quiet horse" mean with respect to driving?

In my experience, a quiet driving horse has several strong characteristics. This horse has lots of self confidence, thinks situations through, and greatest of all, will defer leadership to the driver at all times. This horse gives us an acceptable reaction to situations that cause the horse to feel fear. Every horse that has ever been driven has had a situation arise that causes the horse to have fear. In our experience, the best reaction this horse can give us when afraid is to

stop and stand still. This type of reaction is completely against the instinct of the horse, yet it is the most favorable reaction that I can think of in a driving situation. Consider this scenario: You are riding a saddle horse down the trail and a deer pops up out of the grass next to the trail. If the saddle horse spins to begin an instinctual survival technique

known as "run away before you get eaten," an experienced rider may stick in the saddle. However, if you are driving a horse-drawn vehicle down this same trail, the deer pops up and the horse spins to begin running away, even the most experienced driver will have trouble keeping the horse, the vehicle, and any passengers, all comfortably upright. That's why the stop and stand is the most important characteristic of all.

This does not mean that you should look for a sleepy horse. A horse that is sometimes described with these words, "It's like he didn't even notice that at all," is quite commonly the most dangerous of all driving prospects. In our training of the driving horse, we teach them to notice and process everything that their senses detect. If the horse does not process each of these inputs as they are coming in contact with them, it seems as though they will allow these inputs to build up in a memory bank. Then when an input that is truly big enough to get their attention comes along, the horse will suddenly remember all the previous inputs as well as the current one, and then becomes instantly overwhelmed. "Overwhelmed" is usually accompanied by a complete meltdown of their coping skills and results in an explosion.

Most horses, if not all, can be trained to stop and stand when they are fearful of something. It can be a long and involved process, but what it comes down to is this: does the horse believe the driver is good enough to keep him safe in the current situation, or does the horse have to take over and save himself? If you are looking at your own herd for a potential driving horse, one of the most important characteristics is the relationship

between the horse and the driver.

Notice that so far we have not talked one bit about the physical horse we're seeking. That is because the mind is the most important characteristic in driving. Several decades ago I watched a public television program about the carriage horses for the Royal Family of Great Britain. The cameras followed a staff member as he traveled the entire country looking for potential carriage horses for the Royal Family. At one point he faced the camera and said, "I can take most any horse and put the Queen's harness on it, have him pull one of the Queen's carriages and the horse will look beautiful. But if it doesn't have a mind, I can't use it." I remember and heed that piece of advice.

I tell folks as they are shopping for a driving horse that they should be color blind, as well as breed blind. I drive a team of black Morgan horses. I would love to tell people that if they want great driving horses, they should get a pair of black Morgans and they will be ready to go. But the truth is that within every breed of horses that has ever come to our farm for driving training there have been outstanding individuals that made wonderful driving horses. I also have to say that there have been individual horses in each of those breeds that would be so dangerous to drive that I tell owners they should never attempt to put a harness on them. At other times, the driver has too little driving experience to be able to comfortably drive a particular horse, while a more experienced driver will have no trouble at all with that same horse.

After all this talk about the mind of the horse, be aware that the perfect driving horse for your own situation will need to meet some definite physical specifications, depending on how you plan to use the horse. There are vehicles designed to do nearly any activity you can think of and be pulled by horses while doing it. If you have a certain type of activity that you want to be involved in, and already have a safe driving horse, you can find equipment and vehicles to match your horse and the activity you have in mind.

Many people have bought the cart before the horse. So, if you want to use a specific vehicle, you need to look for a horse that can work on that vehicle comfortably. If you have a covered wagon that you hope to take to the back roads, you will need to shop for a team of horses sized for that wagon. If you want to pull that wagon with one horse, you will need to look for a bigger horse. If you have restored the family heirloom cutter, you need to keep the cutter size in mind while doing your shopping.

I follow this basic rule: The horse can pull about 10 percent of his body weight on his traces for an extended period of time. So if you have a 1000 pound horse he can apply about 100 pounds of pres-

sure on his traces and be comfortable for many hours. This does not mean that you have to find a vehicle that weighs less than 100 pounds and then go on a drastic diet in order to keep the total weight of your unit below 100 pounds. The vehicle that you look for will need to move when you apply about 100 pounds of pull on the single tree. This can be checked with an old style hanging scale that has a hook on each end.

Fill your buggy with the family, and give a pull on the scale with your own hands on one hook while the other hook is attached to a rope on the single tree. Watch the scale as you pull and note the scale's needle as the buggy starts to roll. Whatever the scale says, is how much load your horse will have on his traces

(Continued on Page 18)

Wild Wood Sleigh and Carriage

Steve and Cathy Wood

In 1974 Dad handed me the lines and I drove my first team of horses through snow in a grove of trees near Elk River, Minn. One year later he handed me the lines for a four-horse team and I was hooked. I sat next to and worked with Dad for many years. He helped me understand how to help a horse work comfortably.

We have been training horses to work in harness for over 30 years at our farm outside of Elk River, Minn. where I live with my wife Cathy, and my son Ross. Some have been drafts that will work on the farm or in the forest for a living. Some have been minis that are headed for a career of Pleasure Shows. Some are headed for Combined Driving events in the future. Some are to provide family fun in carriage and wagon work. I have had fun working with them all.

We also operate a sleigh and carriage service called Wild Wood Sleigh and Carriage. Whether pulling a beautiful vis-à-vis for a wedding or a sleigh full of folks bundled up to enjoy winter, we are truly proud to have Morgan horses that are happy and very good at what they do. As part of our business we offer monthly training for horses as well as training for humans to learn driving. One popular service we provide is what we call 'Barn Calls'. We will come to your farm to work with you and your horse on whatever specific portion of driving that you want. Look us up; we'll be glad to help you.

MINNESOTA HORSE EXPO JUMP-STARTS THE EQUESTRIAN SUMMER SEASON

The Minnesota Horse Expo held April 24 - 26, 2009 at the St. Paul, Minn. Fairgrounds headlined some big names in the horse industry including Stacy Westfall who most people know for her bridle-less riding video, national clinician Craig Cameron who was featured in the April issue of the Valley Equestrian for his training sessions at the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo in Denver, Colo. and Susan Harris who explains the anatomy of a horse in a most unusual way.

The MN Horse Expo boasts more than 380 exhibits booths and annual ticket

sales in excess of 50,000 people. The following photographs highlight some of the people we saw at Expo '09.

Kerri Steinbrecher, vice president of the Minnesota Mounted Shooting Association, explained during the demonstration the rules of Cowboy Mounted Shooting, the various classes, age and skill categories. "Youth are the future of Cowboy Shooting and we are very proud of them," Steinbrecher says as 8-year-old Dallas Bullford rides his bay around the targets aiming and shooting at the balloons at a gallop. "It's almost a

rite of passage," Steinbrecher continues as she explains the certified gun safety training required for youth.

Stacy Westfall, an AQHA and NRHA Freestyle Reining Champion and the only woman to have won the Road to the Horse colt-starting competition, rode "Popcorn" during her presentation on "Steering & Shoulder Control." Popcorn is the horse many will remember from the YouTube video of bridle-less riding that wowed the nation. Westfall also presented, "Reading Your Horse's Body

Language," "Emotional Control from the Ground & in the Saddle," "Basic Body Control for Advanced Manuevers," "Teaching Whoa," and more.

Craig Cameron provided many demonstrations during the Expo including "Colt Starting," "Up Close and Personal," and "Using Flexibility to Develop Handle on the Horse."

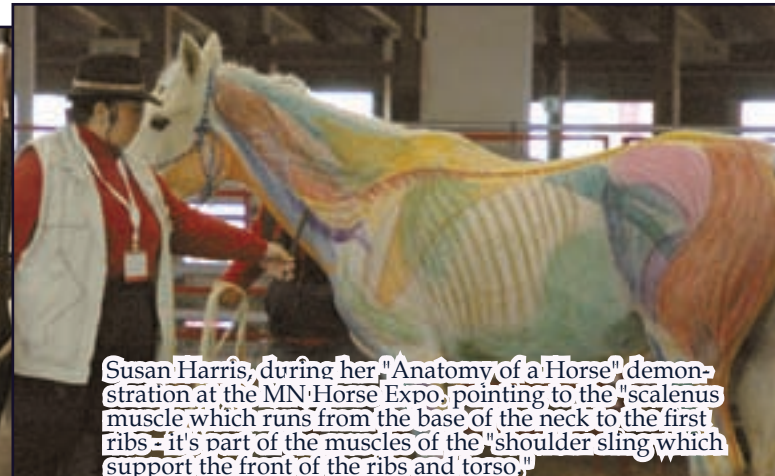
Other clinicians included Kerry Severson on equine psychotherapy, Dave Genadek on saddle fitting, Dale Myler, bits and biting, Lynn Hovda, DVM, on poisonous plants, Krishona Martinson, PhD., University of Minnesota, on caring for horses in a recession, and many more.

Breed parades occupied the late afternoon arena time with demonstrations of more breeds of horses than one can imagine: Gypsy Vanner Horses, Quarter Horses, Half Arabians, Purebred Friesians, Rocky Mountain Horses, Pintoosa, Saddlebred, Donkey & Mules, the Nokota Horse, Appaloosa, Haflingers, Clydesdales, Miniatures, Morabs, Friesian Heritage Horse, Icelandic, Paso Fino, International Pattern Sport Horse, Fell Pony Society, American Warmblood, Morgan and more.

More information may be found on the web site: www.mnhorseexpo.org.



Craig Cameron



Susan Harris, during her "Anatomy of a Horse" demonstration at the MN Horse Expo, pointing to the scalenus muscle which runs from the base of the neck to the first ribs - it's part of the muscles of the "shoulder sling" which support the front of the ribs and torso.



Three generations demonstrated Cowboy Mounted Shooting at the MN Horse Expo. Pictured left is Melinda Bullford and right, carrying the American Flag is her son, Dallas. Melinda, Dallas and Melinda's father, Kevin Gustafson, are members of the Minn. Mounted Shooters Association that demonstrated the sport. Explaining the sport is Kerri Steinbrecher (far right in left photo), Vice-Pres., MMSA.



See www.theveonline.com and The Valley Equestrian Facebook page for more MN Horse Expo Photography by Ley Bouchard



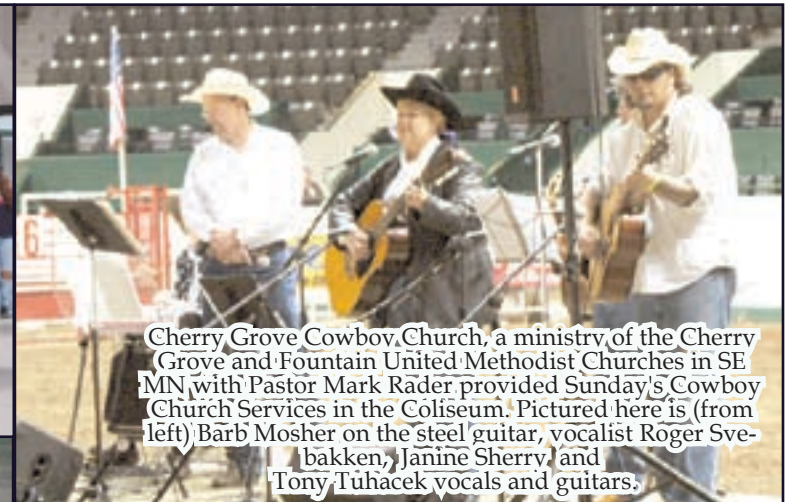
Left: Stacy Westfall utilizing a big ball in one of many demonstrations at MN Horse Expo. Above: Dallas and Betty Smith of Windom, Minn. with their jenny, Donna, and her hinny, Hannah on Judson Street outside the Coliseum at the Minn. State Fairgrounds April 24. Below: Ward Holasek, Waconia, Minn., gives free rides to visitors at the MN Horse Expo in St. Paul.



Above: Sharyl Haugen with her mini donkey, Blacktop, carrying flower baskets during the MN Horse Expo.



Above: The Northern Lights Peruvian Club Drill Team demonstrated the beauty of the natural, four-beat, lateral gait called the Paso Llano, which according to their web site "is a type of broken pace which makes the Peruvian horse the smoothest riding horse in the world."



Cherry Grove Cowboy Church, a ministry of the Cherry Grove and Fountain United Methodist Churches in SE MN with Pastor Mark Rader provided Sunday's Cowboy Church Services in the Coliseum. Pictured here is (from left) Barb Mosher on the steel guitar, vocalist Roger Svebakken, Janine Sherrv, and Tony Tuhacek vocals and guitars.



Colette Bolster, Dassel, Minn. free-jumping her 22-year-old Arabian mare, D.G., during Susan Harris's "Anatomy of a Horse" demonstration at the MN Horse Expo.

DRIVERS, CARRIAGES, AND EQUINES ALL DECKED OUT FOR PRAIRIE HOME CARRIAGE FEST

By MARY BLOCK

A beautiful spring day dawned May 3, 2009 and it just got better as carriages started to arrive at the Dakota County Fairgrounds. They came to participate in the Prairie Home

Carriage Festival put on by the Whips and Wheels driving club to celebrate their 25th anniversary with the help from members of the St. Croix Horse & Carriage Society. First up was the display. All



Center Bottom: Vehicle display - as seen from front to back, a spring wagon aka "Democrat" wagon, spindle seat runabout, mini stagecoach, a commercial carriage called a limosine, and just visible is the front dash of a Portland sleigh on the end. Top right: A mini covered wagon pulled by Miniature Donkeys "Pepito" and "Tucker" driven by Mary Block. Bottom right: A two-wheeled oak Meadowbrook cart pulled by a Percheron "Fancy" driven by Ginny Pomije with her husband Jeff. Top left: Wagonette pulled by Morgan/Fresian cross "Mariah" driven by Steve Crownover with passenger Carina Rew-Markham. Bottom left: Stanhope Gig pulled by an Andalusian "Lucero" driven by Marci Ukura with her husband Bob Matthews

manner of wheeled and run-nered vehicles represented different styles and classes of their era. There were two wheeled carts that were made for moving produce and fancier ones for moving people. There were four-wheel single seat and four-wheel two-plus seat carriages. Some were utilitarian and some would have been owned only by the very well to do. There were many classes for vehicles and divisions for original, restored and new. This made for great viewing of beautiful vehicles with original paint and upholstery, restored vehicles which were probably better done than when they were new and reproductions that if not labeled as such even a fairly knowledgeable carriage aficionado wouldn't be able to tell it was new made.

There were pony-size carriages and carts and draft horse-size carriages. There were various styles and sizes of sleighs. There was a mini-stage coach, a mini-covered wagon, a mini-circus wagon with a lion



in the cage (people were promised he wouldn't bite). There was a fancy sporting break meticulously restored, a newly-made mini version of a Victoria, a beautiful original concord buggy, a nice spindle-seat run-about and a spring wagon, aka democrat. There was even a gypsy wagon, a hearse and two vehicles from Sweden: one or both fresh off the boat.

After the talk about the vehicles on display, many of them were removed and hitched up for the parade. Ponies, single horses, teams, draft horses and even mini-donkeys paraded through Heritage Village.

The village is a collection of buildings that depict a town in the late 1800s, early 1900s. There is a barber shop, bank, church, school, general store, jail, dentist office, railroad station to name



Photography by Pete Markham

a few; most all with working equipment and knowledgeable costumed proprietors ready to explain their trade. Drivers too, wore costumes appropriate to their vehicles. A person at-

tending would believe they had taken a trip back in time. This was the first of what is planned to be an annual event. We hope that anyone who drives would like to come and join us next year and partake in the fun.

Dressage Defined Driving

By MARGO BRADY

Dressage is normally equated with the study of classical riding, but what about driven dressage? In 1969, the Federation Equestre Internationale organized rules by which driving competitions could be



Lisbeth Bengtsson driving Wilko, a Fresian, at Prairie Home Driving show in Buffalo, Minn.

held. These competitions applied the methods of classical ridden dressage to the horse in harness. The rules were originally written for teams of up to four horses. However, due to much interest in competitions for the single horse, changes in the rules allowed the sport of driven dressage to open up for more participants.

Dressage Driving is part of what is called Combined Driving which is a three phase competition similar to the ridden Three Day Eventing. The first phase is Dressage and includes judging of both the turnout (appearance and harmony of horse, harness, vehicle, and dress of the driver and groom) and the precision of which the movements are executed in the driven dressage ring. The second phase is called the Marathon and tests the endurance and speed of the single horse or team. This phase includes many obstacles such as driving through water, around tight turns, and up or down hills. The last phase is the Cones which is a test of precision and accuracy. The driver must negotiate the horse and vehicle through several sets of cones set only centimeters wider than the size of the vehicle with balls mounted on their tops. Penal-

ties are given for any cones or balls knocked down. Should I mention that this is also a timed event?!

The American Driving Society adapted the FEI rules for Combined Driving in 1976. The Dressage phase has become so popular that it is often offered as its own event at pleasure shows. There are four levels: Training, Preliminary, Intermediate, and Advanced. The patterns become more difficult as the levels progress and the judging is similar to ridden dressage with emphasis placed on precision and execution of movements and transitions.

There are two sizes for the driven dressage arena. The small arena is 40m x 80m, the large arena is 40m x 100m. The tests include elements similar to ridden dressage such as circles, serpentines, crossing the diagonal, change of direction, etc. Gaits include the working trot, collected trot, lengthened walk, and the rein back. The canter is not used in the dressage driving arena.



Margo Brady, driving Kelsey, her Norwegian Fjord gelding at a regional competition in Blue Earth, Minn.

All the basics of ridden dressage are essential to driven dressage. The first element is Rhythm. After that we seek Suppleness and then Contact. Once these are solid, the trainer works toward Impulsion, Straightness, and ultimately Collection. In dressage driving competitions, drivers who have experience as riders in dressage often fair the best. But what about the leg aids? Ah, the whip!

The whip is very important in driven dressage as it is used in place of the rider's legs to ask for bend, more forward movement, to move sideways, and of course, to pay attention! The whip is carried in the driver's right hand at the ten o'clock position. As the driver needs it, he must change the position of his wrist to place the lash, or end, of the whip against the horse's side, where the rider's leg would be. This takes much practice as the driver is also holding the right rein in this hand as well, concentrating on contact, and all the while watching where he is going!

Driven dressage can be done by any breed. In Europe, it is very popular to use Warmbloods. The Swedish team of Thomas Eriksson won the individual gold medal in four-in-hand Combined Driving at the World Equestrian Games in 1990 and 2002.

The Fresian is a breed well suited to this sport.

They possess qualities similar to a light draft horse, but at the same time are appealing as riding horses and have recently become popular in dressage. The Fresian is an ancient breed descended from the extinct Forest Horse. He has been used to influence many of the draft breeds such as the Shire and Clydesdale.

Another breed appropriately used in driven dressage is the Norwegian Fjord. This is a primitive type of pony which some authorities believe is the ancestor of all European draft breeds. Although the Fjord continues to be used as a draft horse in his native country and elsewhere, his versatility has led to his popularity as a riding pony and even into the ridden dressage ring.

For more information about the fun and challenging sport of dressage driving, contact the American Driving Society at 1837 Ludden Dr, Ste 120, PO Box 278, Cross Plains, WI 53528. Office Hrs: Mon-Fri 9-4pm CST

Margo Brady began studying dressage in 1986 with Anne



Tomas Eriksson (Sweden), twice World Champion four-in-hand, 1990 in Stockholm, Sweden, 2000 in Jerez, Spain. Photo courtesy of Gallery of Champions.

Mouen-Stahl, Grand Prix rider and Apprentice to Carole Grant (double Gold Medalist 1983 Pan Am Games) and Jan Macafee from Australia.

She has ridden with Bo Jenå, Head Riding Master and Director of the dressage program at Flyinge, the National Stud for the Swedish Warmblood in Sweden, and also with Denis Robot, Head Trainer at the Volte-Face Equestrian Center in the French Alps.

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

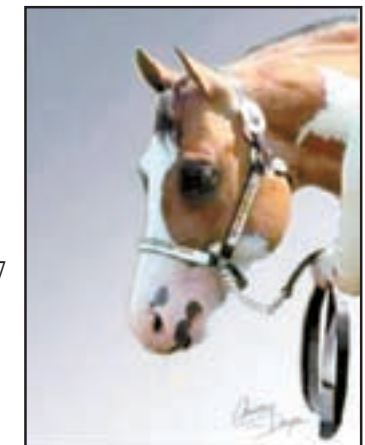
Margo is the owner of the Brady Equestrian Center in Downer, MN, where she breeds Swedish Warmbloods and stands the Swedish import stallion Bayron 885. She has upper level dressage schoolmasters available for lessons and lease. Call (218) 789-7704 for more information.

"Paint Your Life" with a Mickey Baby!

As a Show Horse . . . APHA points in Halter, Showmanship, Trail and Western Pleasure.

In APHA Open Halter, his foals earned 17 Grand Champions and 18 Reserve Champions!

Of 14 foals shown in Futurities, 13 Championships, 8 Reserve Championships, and \$9300 won!



Mischief Manor
Bob and Jody Schmitz
Gardner, ND
701-484-5226

We would be happy to "Paint Your Life" with a Mickey Baby! His foals are eligible for Futurities and Breeders Trust in South Dakota, Minnesota.

As a Sire . . . Out of 21 Foals, 11 have been colored and 12 have been fillies! One filly earned her Superior in Amt Halter as a 2-year-old!

Of 6 foals shown as yearlings and 2-year-olds, they have earned 181 APHA points. That's in 5 different events!

The only foal shown at Paint Congress was Top Ten in Yearling Halter and Yearling Longe Line!

RUATEEN? RUANARTIST? RUAWRITER? DOULUVHORSES?
Be Part of the VE Youth Team! Contribute original content to each issue!

Have your artistic endeavors published in a regional newspaper with more than 25,000 readers in print and online!

Looking for youth editor, writers, photographers!

Your local resource for equestrian events, news and information.
The Valley Equestrian Newspaper
Email Ley Bouchard, Publisher
leybou@gmail.com



PROFESSIONAL FARRIER PROGRAM
MINNESOTA SCHOOL OF HORSESHOEING

6250 Riverdale Drive NW
Ramsey, MN 55303

763-427-5850
800-257-5850

www.mnschoolofhorseshoeing.com

MatchMakers



Dressage/Eventing/Jumping schoolmaster for sale: 18yr. old Canadian Thoroughbred gelding; competed through prelim in Canada; CCT*; Pony Clubbed through 'A' level; competed through training/prelim at Millbrook and Stuart horse trials, placing in top 3, often winning dressage; trained by Bruce Davidson; used for dressage competitions with teen rider for past 3 years; AEER 1st level champions 2007; 15.3 hands; kind and willing; sound and healthy; much loved; \$10,000 neg. to good home: 218 789-7704

Farrier Service
MSU Horseshoeing School Graduate
For your Trimming & Shoeing Needs
Call Travis at 701-793-2024, Amenia, ND

Several Pintabian mares, fillies and a black and white stallion prospect for sale. Would like to place them in serious Pintabian breeding homes. Call 320-283-5933 after 8 p.m.

Poco Bueno Stallion



Foundation bred (Wimpy, Leo, Three Bars, Poco) dark gold Palomino Stud, throws dark Palomino babies; \$2500. Call 218-494-3660 or 218-790-1790

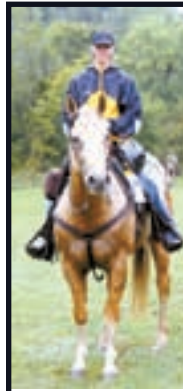
Find your perfect match! with MatchMaker Ads ...



\$30 for 30 Days!
An 1/8 page Ad for your horse, foal, stud -

As many words to describe your steed as you can fit in this space. Advertise in the MatchMaker Column every month in the Valley Equestrian! 701.361.8648 or email: leybou@gmail.com

Photo MatchMaker \$30 -- \$10. Classifieds -- Order online using secure PayPal



For Sale
12-year-old Registered Quarter Horse Mare!
This blonde lady is double registered with AQHA and Palomino, she has splashy white legs and is ready for her third owner. She has been shown on numerous circuits, has her showmanship abilities down pat and is a pleasure machine. Current owner has trail ridden her and has purchased a bigger horse for both her and her husband to share. She's coming to Rainbow's End for conditioning and will be at the Minnesota Horse Expo in stall 142 to be seen, if not sold before. Call Karen for more details and "test rides"! 763-682-5324 or karenhorse@charter.net

To place your classified ad call or email Ley @ 701.361.8648 or leybou@gmail.com or send your \$10. check or money order to: The Valley Equestrian Box 64, Sabin, MN 56580 by the 10th of each month

Classifieds Classifieds Classifieds Classifieds

Miniature Stud For Sale

Palomino yearling stud, gentle and halter broke, Simba likes kids and most dogs. He gets along well with bigger horses. Simba is blind in his left eye do to an accident when he was a baby. This eye does not bother him and he is not jumpy on his left side. Asking \$200.00 or best offer. Please email or call Amber at 701-840-1087, kicken_high@hotmail.com.

Own your own Pintabian! I have three black purebred Arabian mares (Pintabian Outcross paper) for on-farm lease. Will be bred to Dakota Gambler (Black tobiano Pintabian Stallion). Call 320-283-5933 after 8 p.m.

BECOME A FAN AT THE NEW FACEBOOK SITE:

THE VALLEY EQUESTRIAN NEWSPAPER

-- TO GET UPDATES DURING THE MONTH AND LET US KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR VALLEY.

www.stallionstation.com

Affordable Website Design and Hosting. Stallion Listings, Gifts, Classifieds, Rural Singles, Country Kitchen and More 952-472-1438.

Need Extra Cash? Sell print advertising for the Valley Equestrian. Contact Ley Bouchard at 701-361-8648 or email: leybou@gmail.com

New & Used Horse, Stock & Flatbed Trailers: Wilson, Titan, ABU and Others - Plus Saddles, Tack & Fencing. **Sherven's**

Wahpeton, ND 58103, (800-827-6275)

Medora, ND: 20.87 acres in the beautiful Badlands, Adjoining State land and near Forest Service Land. Unique parcel, Good road access. Some covenants & restrictions. Only minutes from Bully Pulpit Golf Course Call Naomi Rossow, www.landofdakota.com -- Mid-Western Real Estate 701-290-3931, 701-255-4570

AGRICULTURE INCOME TAX UPDATE FOR FARM FAMILIES

By C. Robert Holcomb and Gary Hachfeld, University of Minnesota Extension

ST. PAUL, Minn. — There are many changes for tax years 2008 and 2009 resulting from passage of federal tax laws. Some Minnesota taxpayers may be required to file amended individual income tax returns since the 2008 Minnesota forms and instructions were printed before the state adopted the federal changes.

Many changes are detailed, and more information is available in a new publication from U of M Extension titled "Ag Income Tax Update for Farm Families." It's available at www.cffm.umn.edu. Click on "publications." Here are some highlights:

- Economic stimulus payments received in 2008 must be reported on an individual's income tax return, and the credit or allowable rebate will be recalculated. This is a critical, complicated issue so be sure to check with your tax preparer.
- The 2009 legislation provides for a one-time payment of \$250 to individuals on fixed incomes such as Social Security recipients, disabled veterans and retired government employees. Payments will reduce any "Making Work Pay Credit."
- Income averaging continues to be available for farmers only.
- Capital gains rates for land and stock sales have changed.

- The 2009 Stimulus Package brought changes in S Corporation built-in gains provisions. This is a very technical issue, so see your accountant for specific details for your situation.
- Any crop insurance proceeds you receive need to be included as income on your tax return; you generally include that income in the year received. However, farmers can usually establish their practice of reporting crop income in a following taxable year by referring to their prior year's sale records.
- Farm family tax, retirement and education provisions have changed. Check the new publication for details.
- Farming has been profitable in recent years. Many cash-basis tax filers used pre-paid expenses at year-end to balance expenses with income. This allows farm producers to guarantee delivery and lock in prices on crop inputs for the following year. However, there's a limit as to how much a farm operator may pre-pay. Again, check the new tax update publication for details.

C. Robert Holcomb and Gary Hachfeld are agricultural business management educators with University of Minnesota Extension.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM UP FOR REAUTHORIZATION

The AHC is working to preserve the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program. If Congress does not take action this year this program could no longer be available to recreational riders.

The RTP provides funding directly to the states for recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. It was created in 1991 as part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 and was last re-authorized in 2005 as part of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, this law is about to expire. The RTP will have to be re-authorized in the next national surface transportation program bill if it is to continue.

Since its inception the RTP has provided approximately \$677 million for thousands of state and local trail projects across the country, including many that benefit equestrians. RTP projects consist of construction, maintenance and restoration of trails and trail related facilities as well as the acquisition of easements or property for trails.

Although each state manages its own program, 30% of RTP funds must

be spent on non-motorized projects like equestrian trails, 30% on motorized, and 40% percent on multiuse projects.

"The RTP is one of the few sources for federal funding of trail projects that are not on federal land. The program is a great resource for equestrians to fund projects in their state and local parks," said AHC Legislative Director Ben Pendergrass.

In the coming months Congress is expected to begin work on the next 5 year highway bill. The AHC, in conjunction with a broad coalition of recreational trail users is requesting that Congress not only re-authorized the RTP, but also increase funding for the program to \$555 million to be spent over the five years of the bill.

The AHC urges recreational riders to contact their members of Congress to voice support for this program. "This is a great program and I hope equestrians will take the time to call or write their Representatives and Senators and let them know this program is important to the horse community," said AHC President Jay Hickey.

Check out and become a friend at the "The Valley Equestrian Newspaper" Facebook page to see what's coming in the next issue, see more content including more photography, and get updates during the month.

Cowboy Poetry

MOVE YOUR DONKEY, COWBOY!"

By Orv Alveshere

DONKEY BASKETBALL...INDOORS
Watching DONKEY basketball is enjoyable. I've always longed to ride. Knowing an immovable object like a donkey could injure one's pride. Having long legs seemed like it could prevent embarrassing falls from a short mount. Mentally scheming that I could stay on a donkey. Ev'ry shot could count. As an experienced equine rider, plus an accurate basketball shot, I knew what could spoil my plot, would be a fall from a quick stop juggernaut! My daydream came from watching games with background music of honky-tonky. I could enjoy playing a basketball game from the back of a donkey.

STARRING JACK AND JENNY BURRO

Laughs galore as stubborn donkeys definitely have a mind of their own, With unique, humorous and humiliating pratfalls from being thrown By a four-foot-high, accident prone, obstinate blockhead, so contrary. Quick bucks, spin bucks, or a sudden dash and stop would topple the unwary. Grand plans to organize a competitive game would soon be in disarray, Making fools of star players who came with talent to skillfully play. Rules were changed out of necessity. They don't play in a honky-tonky. To pass, receive, shoot or score, one must be mounted on a headstrong donkey.

HOLD YOUR NOSE FOR DONKEY DROPPINGS ACCIDENT

Picture the jovial audience laughing at expert riders. One cowboy, Six-feet-two, had legs touching the floor. His puny donkey looked like a toy. Kicking and urging that unyielding burro was stubbornly absurd. We don't know, but speculate, that rider uttered a discouraging word. Expert bronc riders rode like DONKEY-HOTEE...you know, that windmill guy. The referees were busy. Donkeys moved at inopportune times. It was wry, One-handed basketball was a challenge, like hearing in a honky-tonky. The worst of donkey basketball was ... the best!! Guys acting like a donkey.

WHEN DONKEYS ARE OUTLAWED ONLY OUTLAWS WILL HAVE DONKEYS RIDING, PLAYING FOR FUN/UNCOACHED STRATEGY

In the middle of Montana some cowboys took the floor on short mounts. Plans for entertainment brought surprise events, to be taken into account. Bucked off, shied off, lurched off and rolled forward caused hilarious pratfalls, Eliciting taunts from visitor's fan club bench, adding some caterwauls. A big, burly redhead, let's call him Ralph, who picked up his stubborn, short steed. He hauled donkey to near the basket, mounted, caught passes, and took the lead. Like the Ralph I knew ... from his new position, like star in a honky-tonky, He scored ... sitting on a formerly ornery, hard-nosed, stalled donkey.

© Copyright July 2008 by Orv Alveshere, Fargo, No. Dak. All rights reserved.

Bonanzaville's

CAR SHOW JUNE 13 & 14

FIBER ARTS FESTIVAL JULY 25 & 26

PIONEER DAYS AUG. 15 & 16

WEST FEST FAMILY FUN SITE SEPT. 19

Thursday Half Price 5-8pm

Special things going on, check website for weekly schedule.

www.bonanzaville.com

Open May 23 to Sept 27

<p>Admission: \$8 for Adults \$4 for kids 6-16 5 and under Free</p>	<p>Hours: Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat 10am-5pm Thurs. 10am - 8pm Sun. Noon - 5pm</p>
--	---

APHC'S EQUINE TRAVEL ADVANTAGE OFFERS DISCOUNTS TO MEMBERS

MOSCOW, Idaho—Summer is on the horizon and it is time to think about vacations or plan travel to the 62nd National Appaloosa Show & 2009 World Championship Appaloosa Youth Show in Jackson, Miss., June 22-July 4! The Appaloosa Horse Club (ApHC) is proud to offer its membership some of the lowest travel discounts found online through Equine Travel Advantage, a benefit of the Appaloosa Membership Advantage Program.

Whether members are taking a road trip to the Grand Canyon, cruising to Cancun or flying to Paris, Equine Travel Advantage can make the adventure affordable and easy. ApHC members may receive up to 30% in discounts for hotels, rental cars, airfare and travel packages. Look for travel deals at www.equinetraveladvantage.com or call (818) 553-3200.

Enrollment in the Appaloosa Membership Advantage Program also provides discounts on premium brands including John Deere, UPS, Sherwin Williams, Toshiba, Office Depot and Office Max IMPRESS. These discounts are only available to ApHC members who have enrolled in the Appaloosa Advantage Program. Current members must call Jen Evelyn at (888) 304-7768 (SPOT) to begin saving on premium brands.

Not a member? Joining is easy at www.appaloosa.com.



AHC ISSUES FORUM TO FOCUS ON WELFARE OF HORSE

The American Horse Council's National Issues Forum will focus on the "Welfare of the Horse." The Forum, which will feature speakers from segments of the horse community as varied as competition, sport, work and entertainment, will be held June 16, 2009 in Washington, DC as part of the AHC's annual meeting.

The forum will focus on the many welfare and safety initiatives that various segments of the horse industry have in place or are instituting. "This will be an opportunity for the industry to provide reports on all the safety initiatives in place and being undertaken to 'Put the Horse First,'" said AHC president Jay Hickey. "We must let our fans, the general public, the media, and elected officials know how important the safety and welfare of the horse is to the horse community and what the industry is doing."

Dr. Scott Palmer, a nationally-known veterinarian and past-president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, will deliver the keynote address. Other featured speakers will be Gary Carpenter, executive director of

Montana Mule Days, June 12, 13, 14, 2009 at the Ravalli County Fairgrounds, Hamilton, Mont.

Join us for Montana's Largest Donkey & Mule Show with more than 100 classes features driving, riding, cattle and fun events. Competition comes from six different states. Free camping is available on the grounds. Free box stalls for all donkeys and mules entered in the show. There are commercial booths, food, a covered grandstand and family entertainment. Josh Foster from Fallon, Nev. is the featured clinician Friday and Saturday evenings. You'll also see the very hilarious Montana Mulettes, the all male mounted drill team, Saturday afternoon. The Packers Scramble features guys and gals packing their mules. Come see the mules and donkeys for sale at private treaty. Visit our website for entry forms and more information at: www.montanamuledays.com or call (406) 777-2331.

Montana Longears Association was founded in 1983 by Carrie Lee Parker in a very scenic area of Western Montana called the Swan Valley. She started the first Montana Mule Days which was a one day celebration in Condon, Montana. Eventually we needed to expand it to a two-day show and moved it from the first week in June to the second week. We grew even bigger until the

Montana Longears Association was founded in 1983 by Carrie Lee Parker in a very scenic area of Western Montana called the Swan Valley. She started the first Montana Mule Days which was a one day celebration in Condon, Montana. Eventually we needed to expand it to a two-day show and moved it from the first week in June to the second week. We grew even bigger until the

facility no longer was adequate.

Carrie Lee also moved away so Marilyn Stromberg took over the leadership of the Montana Longears Association and Montana Mule Days in 1990. The show moved to a hunting and fishing lodge facility 16 miles off the main highway on the world's



Cole Henrekin from Greenough, Mont. riding Ribbon; they are competing in the Balloon Bust

worst dirt road you've ever seen. Once you got there you didn't leave unless you were leaving for good. The following year we moved the show again to Drummond, Mont. We stayed there for 15 years until the show again outgrew the facility and the accommodations of the town. Last year, we moved the show again to Hamilton, Mont. We are very satisfied with the Ravalli County Fairgrounds and the folks in Hamilton are very eager to have us.

Montana Longears Association has at the present time a 65-family membership. The annual dues are \$10.00 per family. Because we are spread out so far we only have the one function per year, which is Montana Mule Days. We don't have monthly meetings because so many of us are busy working, taking pack trips, ranching and farming. We start in January with our planning meeting and information is passed along to members via a monthly newsletter.

What makes a good driving horse?

(Continued from page 11)

in order to start the buggy. As you continue to watch the scale you will notice that the needle will drop to a lower rating as the vehicle continues to roll. That is because starting a load always takes more force than it does to keep that same load moving. This last scale reading is the most important to keep in mind, because that is how much your horse has to pull for an extended period of time. This reading will continually change as you go up hill, down hill, through sand, on tar roads, or on the grass. A horse can exert a larger force for short periods of time without rest, but the long term load should be no more than 10 percent of his body weight.

We have a six-passenger surrey that has large wooden wheels. While resting on concrete this surrey causes the scale to read about five pounds to start it rolling and about three pounds to keep it rolling. We also have a two-passenger cutter. With this cutter on our dirt driveway, the scale reads approximately 90 pounds to start it sliding and about 80 pounds to keep it sliding. That means it takes over 25 times as much effort for the horse to move a two-passenger sleigh on sand as it does to move a six-passenger surrey on concrete. So keep in mind the ground conditions as well as the weight of the vehicle compared to the body weight of the horse that will be asked to pull the load.

Driving horses is a great way to enjoy time with family and friends. If the idea of having a driving horse and vehicle has intrigued you, get the horse and vehicle matched to each other. Before connecting any horse to any vehicle, remember the horse has to be taught to pull and to accept the vehicle chasing him down the road. After all the preliminary comparisons and shopping for your horses and vehicle, get competent training for your horse and for yourself. Driving is quite different from riding in the way you communicate with your horse, so it's very important for yourself and your horse's safety to get plenty of instruction before attempting to put it all together. It can be a long process to get that driving horse and yourself ready, but a sleigh ride on a moonlit Christmas Eve with your family will make it all worthwhile.

Steve Wood can be reached at: Wild Wood Sleigh & Carriage, (763) 441-5335 or email: admin@wildwoodsleighandcarriage.com



NDHP "Boots and Ballgowns" Fundraiser rescheduled after flood

The North Dakota Horse Park has set a new date for its 5th Annual fundraiser, the "Boots and Ballgowns" Dinner and Silent Auction, for Saturday, June 6, 2009. Originally scheduled for April 18, the event was postponed due to the flooding in the Red River Valley. The event also has a new location, Dawson Hall at the Bonanzaville complex in West Fargo as the Cover-All Pavilion will be under construction during the new date.

The North Dakota Horse Park would like to invite everyone in the Fargo-Moorhead area for an evening of "horsing around" and to help support a great cause! All proceeds of our fundraiser go towards the North Dakota Horse Park's mission of "developing and promoting the sport of live horse racing and all horse related activities". Past events have supported the construction of the Don Hart Barn and the Cover-All Pavilion.

Whether you race, rope or trail ride, come out and show your support for North Dakota's #1 Equine Sports Venue! A social hour starting at 5pm featuring a viewing of the Belmont Stakes will precede the fundraiser with dinner to begin at 6pm.

Please call or email General Manager Heather Benson for details. What: Boots and Ballgowns Dinner and Silent Auction Fundraiser for the North Dakota Horse Park. When: 5 - 8 p.m., Saturday, June 6 Where: Dawson Hall at the Bonanzaville Grounds in West Fargo, ND

NRHA Raffle

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma - More than 1.4 million Americans are diagnosed with cancer each year. To help with the battle against this disease, the National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) has teamed up with Rein In Cancer to raise funds for this worthwhile cause. Raffle tickets for the 2007 AQHA filly Shortys Dream, donated by Bill Masterson, are now being offered for sale online from NRHA's web site. The drawing is scheduled for June 26 during the NRHA Derby in Oklahoma City, Okla. All proceeds from the \$10 ticket will go to Rein In Cancer.

"Rein In Cancer helps honor those in our Reining family that have fought or are still fighting cancer. NRHA is glad to assist with this fundraiser, and help those individuals and families that have been challenged by this disease," said Dan Wall NRHA Executive Director.

Two-year-old Shortys Dream was sired by Dunnuts Latigo (by Hollywood Dun It) and was bred by the Jack Kyle Estate of Yukon, Okla. Dunnuts Latigo, an AQHA Ranch Horse Versatility point earner, is a full brother to NRHA Futurity Champion Dunits Rawhide. Bill Masterson of the Masterson Ranch in Guthrie, Texas bred Shortys Dream, as well as her sire and dam. Masterson Ranch currently stands and owns Dunnuts Latigo. ABC Halters will provide a beautiful custom designed halter with pink ostrich accents to the raffle winner. In addition, the raffle will feature a bonus drawing for a 100x hat from Shorty's Caboy Hattery.

The Rafter T Ranch of Stephenville, Texas and its entire family supported this cause by providing 90 days training for Shortys Dream.

The family owned and operated ranch was established by cutting horse trainer Troy Davis, his wife Barbara and children Rebecca and Ron, who was recently named NCHA Reserve World Champion.

The Oklahoma-based Rein In Cancer is an equine industry group created to recognize the willingness of the horse community to help with this cause. Cheryl Magoteaux, Tracie Anderson, Shorty Koger, owner of Shorty's Caboy Hattery in Oklahoma City, have helped organize dozens of fundraisers at events across the country from local barrel races and horse shows to the National Reining Horse Association Futurity and American Quarter Horse Association World Championship Show. Since its inception in 2007, Rein In Cancer has raised tens of thousands of dollars for cancer research and for supporting people with cancer. For information on Rein In Cancer, visit the web site at www.reinincancer.com. Raffle tickets can be purchased from www.NRHA.com.

Incorporated in 1966, the National Reining Horse Association is the governing body of the sport of Reining. NRHA, with their International Headquarters in Oklahoma City, is responsible for promoting the sport of Reining and working to ensure the highest standards of competition.

The Gelding Project: Helping the unwanted horse one stallion at a time

ST. PAUL, Minn. - The Minnesota Horse Welfare Coalition, the Minnesota Horse Council, the Animal Humane Society, and the University of Minnesota in cooperation with the Minnesota Association of Equine Practitioners are launching "The Gelding Project." This program is designed as a key step to reduce the number of unwanted horses in Minnesota.

The first aspect of the project, 'Education Earns Stallions to Geldings,' will encourage horse owners to choose to make stallions into geldings through education and financial incentives. An interested horse owner who enrolls in the program will be eligible for a voucher to cover the cost of castration surgery by a participating veterinarian (includes the University of Minnesota Large Animal Hospital), once the owner attends eight horse health and management educational sessions.

Here's how the program works:

- Get an official voucher from participating veterinarians, the Minnesota Horse Council, or members of the Minnesota Horse Welfare Coalition (more information listed on www.mnhorsecouncil.org). Vouchers cost \$5.
- Attend eight horse health and management educational sessions, including: General Horse Care, Reproduction, Nutrition, Facilities/Manure Management, Equine Dentistry, Vaccinations and/or De-worming, Horse Behavior, and a Lecture on the Unwanted Horse or volunteer 2 hours at a Minnesota Horse Rescue.
- Contact a participating veterinarian to arrange castration of the stallion
- The stallion must be halter broke
- The stallion must have 2 descended testicles
- Farm calls are not covered by the voucher
- The voucher covers the cost of castration, anesthesia, post operative antibiotic and tetanus vaccination or anti-toxin.
- Complete 'The Gelding Project' evaluation before you leave the clinic.
- You must be at least 18 years old and a Minnesota resident to participate.

For more information, contact Krishona Martinson at krishona@umn.edu or (612) 625-6776 or Julie Wilson at wilso011@umn.edu or (612) 625-3745.

Join us on our Facebook page to get updates during the month:
The Valley Equestrian Newspaper

Minnesota Native, Becky Holder, Makes the "A List"

Lexington, KY - All three USEF Eventing High Performance Training Lists have been updated following the spring competition season. Horse/Rider combinations will be invited to participate in training sessions with Mark Phillips. It is anticipated that training sessions will be held in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, and California; dates to be determined. Some horse/rider combinations will be receiving grants for European competition and training. Grant amounts will be finalized in late July.

"A List" rider Becky Holder, 39 of Mendota Heights, Minn. rides Courageous Comet a 13-year-old Thoroughbred Gelding owned by Tom Holder.

Other "A List" Members Include: Stephen Bradley, 47 of Leesburg, VA. with Brandenburg's Joshua, a 14-year-old Thoroughbred Gelding; Jan Bynny, 41 of Purcellville, VA. on Waterfront, a 14-year-old Thoroughbred Gelding; Will Coleman, 25, of Gordonsville, VA. on Twizzel, a 13-year-old Westfalen Gelding; Buck Davidson, 32, of Ocala, Fla. on My Boy Bobby, a 13-year-old Irish Sport Horse Gelding; Phillip Dutton, 45, of West Grove, Penn. riding Connaught, a 16-year-old Irish Sport Horse Gelding, TruLuck, a 12-year-old Thoroughbred Gelding and Woodburn a 13-year old NZ Thoroughbred Gelding; Gina Miles, 35, from Atascadero, Calif. riding McKinlaigh, a 15-year-old Irish Sport Horse Gelding; Amy Tryon, 38, of Duvall, Wash. riding Leyland, a 9-year-old Thoroughbred Gelding.



Eagle Tree Feed Store
- Eagle Tree Horsemanship
Nutrena Horse Feeds - Loyall Pet Foods

Loyall (730) 730-0335
Nutrena (456) 456-2009
326 2nd Ave. West, Hibston, MN 56546

New & Used QUALITY
Saddles, Show Clothing & Trailers
on Consignment NOW!
Call to Consign Your Items Today!

Dedicated to promoting Minnesota's growing equine community!

To find out more information about what we do or to apply for funding or a grant, call or visit our website.

13055 Riverdale Drive NW, Suite 500 PMB202
Coon Rapids, MN 55448
763-755-7739
www.mnhorsecouncil.org

JUNE EVENTS AND BEYOND

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

June 5-7: North Central Reining Horse show at Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, Minn. contact (218) 736-3000, www.RedHorseRanchArena.com for more information

June 5: Youth Clinic on grooming, showing and general safe handling of mules and donkeys. Heartland Stables, Custer WI - 6:30 PM. contact www.widonkeymule.org

June 5-7: AQHA-approved Energy City Classic & Derby, Gillette, Wyo. Contact Joan Broadbent at (307) 587-9626

June 6: AEER Eventing Schooling Day at North Dakota Horse Park in Fargo, N.D.; contact Terra Van Horn at 218-458-2286 or email: terravanhorn@yahoo.com

June 6: Bluegrass Draft Horse & Mule Championship Pull, Bowling Green, KY (888-388-7203)

June 6-7: Brocton Springfest Draft Horse Show, Brocton, IL, Brocton, IL (217-385-2450)

June 6 -7: WDMS State Show, Heartland Stables, Custer WI - Show begins at 9:00 AM both Saturday and Sunday; contact www.widonkeymule.org

August 22: WDMS Fun Show, Red Ridge Ranch, Mauston, WI. Show begins at 10 AM. contact www.widonkeymule.org

September 26 - 27: Fall Trail Ride, Kettle Moraine State Forest - Southern Unit Palmyra, WI; contact www.widonkeymule.org

October 10: WDMS meeting, Westfield Village Hall/Fire Dept., 124 3rd St., Westfield, WI 53964. Potluck 11:00 AM, meeting follows; contact www.widonkeymule.org

June 6-8: Dressage and Jumping schooling show in Pierre, SD, with 2 day clinic following, presented by Dakota Dressage and Eventing. Details online at www.DakotaDressageAndEventing.org or contact committee chair Joann at 402-639-3575 or Joann@YourNextSportHorse.com

June 6: St.Croix Horse & Carriage Society Pleasure show/seminar and workshop on how to put on a show at Goodhue, Minn. Contact Mary Block at 651-433-5312 or email johmar1@frontiernet.net

June 6: Sheyenne Valley AQHA Ranch Sorting and Team Penning at 10 a.m. at the NDWS Arena; visit: www.sheyennevalleyteampenning.com

or call Diane at (701) 252-4020

June 6 -7: WDMS State Show, Heartland Stables, Custer WI - Show begins at 9 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday. See www.widonkeymule.org for more information

June 7: Sheyenne Valley AQHA Ranch Sorting and Team Penning (1 show) at 9 a.m., AQHA Barrels (2 shows) (note: rescheduled from April 26) at the NDWS Arena; visit: www.sheyennevalleyteampenning.com or call Diane at (701) 252-4020

June 7: Sheyenne Valley Team Penning (Denny Lew Memorial) & Silent Auction. (note: rescheduled from April 19) at the NDWS Arena; visit: www.sheyennevalleyteampenning.com or call Diane at (701) 252-4020

June 7: Julie Stenslie Eventing Clinic at Wildwood Farm; contact JStenslie@Earthlink.net

June 12-14: Barrel Bash at Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, Minn. Contact: DOUBLE B PRODUCTIONS, LLC - (RENEA BEECH BOLLING MGR) 641-743-8223 (home/office) 641-745-5845 (cell/voice mail) Email bolling@iowatelecom.net

June 14: St.Croix Horse & Carriage Society Club Drive; Contact Mary Block at 651-433-5312 or email johmar1@frontiernet.net

June 20: AEER Dressage and Hunter Jumper Show at the North Dakota Horse Park, Fargo, N.D.; see www.aeerfargo.org for more information

June 20-21: Minn. Palomino Horse Association Show at Red Horse Ranch in Fergus Falls, Minn. Contact: Billee Rabbe, 1402 208th Avenue, Fairmont, MN 56031 Cell (507) 236-5579, bill-eye@frontiernet.net

June 21: AEER Eventing Show from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the North Dakota Horse Park in Fargo, N.D. contact Terra Van Horn at (218) 458-2286 or email terravanhorn@yahoo.com for more information

• Jun 25-27 - Half Moon Ranch Annual Covered Wagon Trip (406-575-4055)

June 26: Bushnell Horse Show, Bushnell, IL (309-772-2269)

June 25-27: Montana Draft Horse and Mule Assoc. Wagon Train at Half Moon Ranch; contact Alan Quimby at 406-755-9801 or go to: www.hmradventures.com June 26-27: St. Croix Valley PRC A Rodeo at 7:30 p.m. Friday and a family



June 27-28: Pintabian/Arabian show and stallion Auction Roseau MN; call 218 459 3367; message than dial "1" - www.pintabians.org
June 27-28 - Final Frontier dressage shows, all levels, presented by Dakota Dressage and Eventing, Bismarck ND. Details online at www.DakotaDressageAndEventing.org or contact committee chair Joann at 402-639-3575 or Joann@YourNextSportHorse.com

June 27-28 : Pintabian/Arabian show and stallion Auction Roseau MN; www.pintabians.org contact: 218-459-3367 message than dial "1"

June 27-28: JP Bell Cutting at Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, Minn. Contact: (218) 736-3232 for more information

July 5: "He Paid Your Fees" Cowboy Mounted Shoot, Hartford, SD at Fossums Arena, Contact www.daktms.com or Fossum's at 605-526-3647; Also, a "He Paid Your Fees" Dutch Oven Cook Off will be held this day.

July 11-12: Northern Prairie Shootout I and II hosted by Wild Rice PeaceMakers Cowboy Mounted Shooting with check-in at 9 a.m. and events starting at 11 a.m. Saturday and check in at 8 a.m. Sunday with the event start at 9:30 a.m. Sunday at the Twin Valley, Minn. riding club arena ¼ mile east of Twin Valley on Cty. Highway 29. Contact Wayne Gwin at 218-584-5577

July 12: Canistota, SD Sports Days Cowboy Mounted Shoot - contact: Mike Whitehead, 605-261-9766, www.daktms.com

July 17 & 18- 4-H Achievement Days at the ND Winter Show Building; Contact: Barnes County Ext. 701-845-8528

July 18: Sheyenne Valley Team Penning at the Fargo ND Fair; contact www.sheyennevalleyteampenning.com or call Diane at (701) 252-4020

July 18-19: South Dakota State Cowboy Mounted Shoot, Lennox, SD, Whitehead Arena; Contact: Mike Whitehead, 605-261-9766, www.daktms.com

July 18-19 - HorseFest Dressage and in hand sport horse shows, INDOORS at Huron SD, presented by Dakota Dressage and Eventing. Details online at www.DakotaDressageAndEventing.org or contact committee chair Joann at 402-639-3575 or Joann@YourNextSportHorse.com

night from 4 - 7 p.m. for the Fantasy Corral, Muttin Bustin', Fireworks followed by the rodeo at 7:30 p.m. at the St. Croix Fairplex in Glenwood City, Wisc.; go to www.stcroixcofair.com for more info or Contact: Chris Libbey (715) 246-5626 (H) or (651) 247-0395 (C)

June 26-28, 2009 - Team Penning at the Sweetwater Event Complex in Rock Springs, Wyo. Featuring over 1,800 teams; the biggest team roping in the region! For additional details contact Bill Cornea at 435-793-2465

June 27: 4-H Achievement Days Horse Show at the ND Winter Show Building Contact: Barnes County Ext. 701-845-8528

Time to think spring farm safety

By Nathan Winter, University of Minnesota Extension

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The agricultural industry is one of the most dangerous occupations in the United States because of the broad risks associated with the occupation. First of all, there are many risks associated with the mechanical operations of farm equipment. Many moving parts and wheels make this an important area of concern.

Second, one of the associated risks encountered deals with chemical hazards. Farmers utilize a broad range of pesticides and fertilizers that have safety requirements associated with their use. The use of these products should merit concern and directions should be followed.

Third, there are the potential environmental hazards with the occupation. The hours involved are typically long due to the limited amount of time to properly time crop planting, spraying, etc. The environment for the occupation is often adverse for the ideal safety measures, but they still need to be taken.

Research from the National Safety Council indicates that 700 farmers and ranchers die in work-related accidents yearly. Most every farm family and rural community knows of someone that has been one of these statistics. The sad part is that a majority of these accidents are preventable. Agricultural industry statistics also indicate that another 120,000 agricultural workers suffer disabling injuries from work related accidents.

One of the recent trends in the agricultural industry is an increase in the amount of land that is farmed by a farmer. The amount of land farmed makes crop producers push harder to cover more acres in the same amount of time. Weather conditions play a big part in how hard the farmer needs to push to do their work in the allotted time.

Another trend is the size increase of equipment utilized for production. Farm implements have gotten a lot

larger in recent years to help facilitate covering more acres per farmer. This equipment can be dangerous in the field and roadways due to the sheer size, power, and length of implements and judging distances associated.

Parallel to the number of acres increasing for farmers is also the age of farmers. Farmers tend to continue working on the farm past their mid-60's into their 70's and beyond. These older generation farmers often use more prescribed medications, work with physical disabilities, and also suffer from hearing loss. These farmers are at a heightened risk for work-related injuries and death.

Finally, children are also at a special risk for farm-related accidents. There are typically 200 plus deaths every year among children and many of these situations occur when they are innocent bystanders or passengers on farm equipment.

Be sure to think about all the mechanical, chemical, and environmental hazards associated with your work. Do your best to follow the safest procedures to ensure safety for everyone involved. Remember that accidents can happen at any time and those at risk range from youth to senior farmers. To help avoid accidents, be sure that everyone communicates the importance of safety and practices safety in the work they do.

The National Safety Council has more helpful information to help you stay safe on the farm at <http://www.nsc.org/resources/issues/agrisafe.aspx>.

University of Minnesota Extension has also aggregated farm safety publications at <http://www.extension.umn.edu/topics.html?topic=4&subtopic=78>.

Nathan Winter is an agriculture educator with University of Minnesota Extension.

**Insuring
You and Your Horses**

Roger Berg

(320) 230-4400 or (866) 230-4404

SERVING MINNESOTA AND WESTERN WISCONSIN

Stables • Farms • Arenas • Horses
Boarding • Training • Events • Clubs

Blairview Saddle Shop

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

June 18-21, 2009

**Sign up for Door Prizes!
Beverages and Snacks Provided!**

300 New and Used Saddles

10% off STOREWIDE!

(Some exclusions apply)

**Buy 1 shirt or t-shirt at regular price,
get second for half price!**

25% off Montana silver jewelry & buckles

Check out the savings on our sidewalk sale!

Plenty of Parking for Trucks and Trailers!

HOURS
Thurs: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Fri: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sat: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun: Noon - 5 p.m.

30% OFF

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE
ANY ONE ITEM IN THE STORE

(EXCLUDES HORSE CARE, SADDLES OR CONSIGNMENT)

JUNE 18-21, 2009 DAILY

ONE COUPON PER PERSON

**John and Lynn Blair
Chad and Stacie Klose
(320) 762-5664
www.blairviewsaddle.com**

Blairview Saddle Shop, Inc.

1/2 mile S of I-94 on Hwy. 29, Alexandria, MN

Advertise Your Events - FREE!

Send your event info to:
The Valley Equestrian
Box 64
Sabin, MN 56580
or email:
leybou@gmail.com

AQHA OFFICIAL CELEBRATES PENDING SLAUGHTER OF QUARTER HORSES

Continued from Page 9

The AQHA and its allies have promoted unfounded stories that the nation is being flooded with tens of thousands of abandoned horses. It was a salient point made by supporters of "The Butcher Bill" and was picked up by the Montana media and repeated without question, even though county officials reported a total of only fourteen abandoned horses in 2008.

Yet the group and its apologists fail to mention the indiscriminate breeding encouraged by the AQHA and ranchers such as Weaver. Weaver's ranch alone produces and registers 100 horses per year and helps fill the AQHA treasury with registration fees.

According to Weaver, the next major AQHA effort will be to try to defeat the federal legislation that will end the slaughter of American horses; HR 503, The Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2009.

In their zealous quest to defeat HR 503, EWA expects more of the elaborate disinformation campaign from the AQHA and its lobbyists.

EWA wholeheartedly supports humane and responsible animal agriculture and is prepared to respond.

www.equinewelfarealliance.org

Voice your opinion on this topic at:

The Valley Equestrian Newspaper Facebook Page



Counterpoint "HB 418 Final Comments - Success!!!"

Continued from Page 9

bill in the 2011 legislation. The tide is turning.

Our next big push will be HR 503 before the U.S. House of Representatives. This is the bill to criminalize the transport of horses that will be sold for human consumption.

It is scheduled to be heard this fall. The AQHA and several of its affiliates (including Montana) will work hard to defeat this bill. I will keep you all informed as to its process and when we need to make our move and become involved.

Again, thanks for all your support and your commitment to getting HB 418 passed. You all take care and may God bless each of you until we talk again.

Best Regards,
Stan Weaver, President
Montana Quarter Horse Association

All Event Photography



Creative Customizations to express the REAL you!
Weddings, Maternity, Family Newborn...we do it all!
CALL TODAY!!
701-261-0713

HAVE YOU HEARD?

The 2009 Trainer's Challenge Is On!

Challenge OF THE Unwanted Horse August 22, 2009
University of MN Leatherdale Center

www.mnhoovedanimalrescue.org

Being a part of The Valley Equestrian Newspaper since the very first edition has been exciting and adventurous to say the least. Our team has worked long and hard to make this equine publication available to you and your neighbors throughout the Upper Midwestern states and the entire world via the web site.

Our goal has been, and always will be to provide news, information and event coverage to your area while keeping The Valley Equestrian a local, family oriented publication. We want to be local wherever we distribute the VE. That includes YOU!

Along with creatively consulting with Ley Bouchard, publisher/editor, I'm here to help with your advertising needs.

Call me! Let's get the word out to tens of thousands of people that need your services, horse sales, merchandise, breeding stallions and horses for sale.

Have a fun and safe summer!

Best regards,
Tammy Finney
Regional Marketing Specialist
Creative Consultant
The Valley Equestrian Newspaper
(218) 790-6056
RR3500@aol.com



www.theveonline.com

Read us online and view more photography at our web site:
www.theveonline.com

Helland Ranch

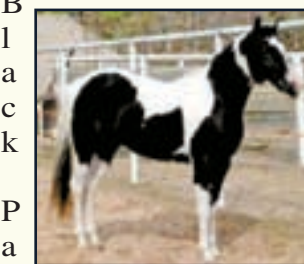
Snaked Eyed Blue SOS



Bartender, King, Whimpy Breeding

B
l
u
e
R
o
a
n

Nite Larks Chief



Moon Lark, Zippo Cash Bar Breeding

B
l
a
c
k
P
a
i
n

JC AmigosDreamSupreme



Sunnys Amigo Bar, Supreme Dream Breeding

S
m
o
k
e
y
B
l
a
c
k

Ranch Services
AQHA Registered Horses for Sale at all times
Breeding to featured studs
Equine Training and Boarding
Equine Lessons
Equine Broker
Angus Cattle
Livestock Hauling
Custom Bailing
Flatbed Hauling

Poco's Blue Magic



Mr Blackbun 40, Sweet Blue Magic Breeding

L
i
n
e
b
a
c
k
D
u
n

Sparken Hot Dewd



Sparkin Hot

Justa DakotaChic Dew

Standing at Stud 2010 to a Limited Number of Mares

Four Winds Production Sale
August 2009
At Lisbon Expo Center

Karl and Ginger Helland
11435 51st Street SE
Kathryn, North Dakota

701-238-6197 or 701-796-7437

email us at: hellandranch@hotmail.com
find us online at: www.hellandranch.com

Doc Eddy Pep Olena



Peppy San Badger, Doc O Dynamite Breeding

S
o
r
r
e
l

Little Pine Cody



Two Eyed Jack, Topsail Cody, Peprika Pine Driftwood, and Poco Bueno Breeding

P
a
l
o
m
i
n
o

Directly From Sweden...

Bayron 885



- Imported Premium A Swedish Warmblood Stallion – Born 1990
- Pedigree: Bernstein – Utrillo – Gaspari
- Rated top ten in BLUP Index (out of 37,000 European stallions)
- First place Gaits 1994 Stallion Test in Sweden – Stallion rating: 10 for Trot, 9 for Canter, 10 for Temperament
- Double Breeder Trophy Finalist
- Competed through Prix St. Georges and Intermediare I
- National Championship winner in Sweden with young rider
- Stud fee: \$1500. LFG

"How did you get Sweden to let that horse go?" — Ulf Wadeborn

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



BEC Coupon

Coupon good for one free riding lesson or 20% off any breeding services. Limit one coupon per customer. Good through 12/31/09.



THE BRADY EQUESTRIAN CENTER
86 acres in Downer, Minnesota

BAYRON 885
Standing at Stud

STALLION COLLECTION FACILITY - DRESSAGE LESSONS - UPPER LEVEL SCHOOLMASTERS AVAILABLE FOR LEASE, SHOWS, CLINICS

Contact: Margo Brady • 218-789-7704 • mturkish@msn.com