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August 2010

The Valley Equestrian

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Sweet Summer Days

*Beginning Our
4th Year!*



See What's Inside This Issue!

*Cowboy Up Ride
Against Cancer in
McLeod, N.D.
Photo Highlights*

*Do Horses
Have
Souls?
Read the series by Victor
Wolf, then join the
discussion on Facebook.*

Local to
Your Area,
Nationwide

*Farrier
Tip-of-the-
Month:
What to do for a Close
or Hot Nail?*

*Mounted Shooting
Get Together in
Twin Valley,
Minn.*



Twin Foals Thriving in Maddock, ND

The twin foals ("A Rare Event: Twin Foals born in Maddock, ND" the cover story of the May issue of the Valley Equestrian News) were 2 1/2 months old Aug. 22. According to owner Kristi Anderson, "They are now spending all their time in the pasture with the wood fence in our yard. (We are) not comfortable putting them in the big one yet; that one has wire around it. We have enjoyed every minute with them. Two nights ago, I had to put my shoes on and run out to the pole barn. One of the twins had nickered quite loudly. We sleep with the door in our bedroom open and it woke us up. Of course everyone was fine and happy to see me at 4:00 in the morning. I even enjoyed that little minute. They have brought our family closer and made our children, Cody and Jarett, more interested in the horses. Joe has gotten pretty light as he loses his baby coat. They both will be roans. Bella is a little darker under her foal coat."



Above: Full brother and sister twin foals, scratching in their pasture in Maddock, N.D.

Photo by Kristi Anderson



Right: Jarett Anderson riding the mare while the twin foals, Bella and Joe, follow.

Photo by Roxanne Gillespie

Sport Horse Nationals Showcases the Versatility that Comes from the World's Oldest Horse Breed

Approximately four hundred Arabians, Half-Arabians and Anglo-Arabians will model their natural abilities as sport horses at the Idaho Horse Park in Nampa, Idaho, Sept. 22-25, 2010. The Sport Horse Nationals Arabian and Half-Arabian Championship Horse Show (Sport Horse Nationals), produced by the Arabian Horse Association (AHA) of Aurora, Colo., features 90 classes in four divisions, the sport horse division, hunter/jumper division, dressage division and the driving division.

Exhibitors from 41 states and two Canadian provinces will come to Nampa to compete in the national-level show in its eighth year. Created after the sport horse classes out grew the space and time allotted for them at the AHA U.S. Nationals, Sport Horse Nationals is the only single-breed sport horse event in the nation offered just for Arabian, Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabian horses registered with AHA or the Canadian Arabian Horse Registry.

New this year is a Power and Speed Jumpers Exhibition. A two-part class, the power portion is ridden first and is not timed. If the horse and rider team is clear through the power portion, without rails, refusals or falls, they continue into the speed portion of the course. The speed portion is timed and the team with the least faults wins, using time as the deciding factor for equal faults.

The Progressive Barn Party, a special Sport Horse Nationals tradition, will be September 23 at 7:00 p.m. Exhibitors and barns from all over North America host each other and the public to fare most popular in their region. Delights sometimes include sockeye salmon from the Pacific Northwest, a favorite potato recipe from Idaho, or fresh fruit from Florida. Wine for the party is donated

by Bitner Vineyards of Caldwell, Idaho.

The Idaho Horse Park will host their annual Equus and Overture fundraiser for the Idaho Horse Park Foundation Sept. 25. The dinner will take place on the concourse of the Idaho Center Arena during the Saturday Evening Performance, giving attendees of the event a front row seat to carriage pleasure driving, show hack, sport horse under saddle and the Sport Horse In-hand Supreme Champion class. Equus and Overture begins at 5:30 p.m. Tickets for your choice of a steak or salmon dinner are \$75 and can be purchased through the Idaho Horse Park by calling (208) 442-3335. Reservations must be made by Sept. 20.

For more information, visit www.ArabianHorses.org/SHN or call the Arabian Horse Association at (303) 696-4500.



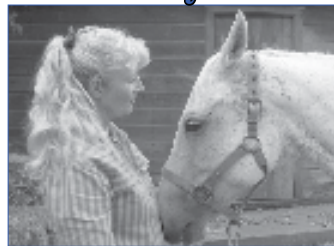
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PHIL ODDEN PREPARING FOR WEG

Editor's Note: Phil Odden is a regular contributor to the Valley Equestrian Newspaper and has shared this article compliments of the Northwoods Harness Club Newsletter. Odden will be demonstrating at the World Equestrian Games Oct. 3 to 6, 2010 in Lexington, Kent.

Well over a year ago I became aware that we were being considered by the American Driving Society to demonstrate at the World Equestrian Games to be held this fall in Lexington Kentucky. They wanted me to drive my pair of Fjords in a Driving Derby and for a Pleasure Driving demonstration called Pleasure Driving 101. This spring we were encouraged to get our horses qualified with the extensive Veterinary requirements of the WEG. Information has been painfully slow in coming regarding times and venues for our demonstration.

Finally we were told to submit applications for Homeland Security so we would be allowed to enter the Equine Village. It turns out that security will be very tight for the event with lots of people from foreign countries in attendance. Recently we received information regarding the venues and times for the Driving Derby demonstration. The driving derby will consist of two hazards located at opposite ends of the driving arena. The competitor will drive into the arena and race down to the far end and drive through several gates in order, as fast as he can, then race down to the other end to do that hazard, return to the far



end and do that hazard again then return to the near end to complete two goes at each hazard and then finish.

Howard Fiedler will be navigating for me to help keep the dusty side down on our marathon carriage. As of now, the schedule is:

- Sunday, October 3 demo at 6:00 p.m.
- Monday, October 4 demo at 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 5 demo at 4:30 p.m.
- Weds, October 6 demo at 10:00 am

These demos will take place at the Equine Village large arena. At this point, our participants are:

Phil Odden, with a pair of Fjords; Mary Ruth Marks with a single horse; Meghan Bengue with a pair of ponies; Randy Cadwell with a pair of ponies; Melissa Boyd with a single horse; and Jeff Morse with a single horse.

I still do not have the information for the Pleasure Driving demonstrations, though I contacted Andy Marcoux; he he is still planning to do the demonstrations but does not know when or where it will take place. I will post that information when I receive it for those who plan to attend the WEG. My understanding is that there are still rooms available and tickets available to attend the WEG. This is the first time this event has been held in North America to my understanding and it is truly a World Class event. Quite possibly ours will be the only Fjords there. You can bet we will have them polished and trimmed as best we can. Looking forward to the World Equestrian Games!

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The Valley Equestrian

About the Cover

The top cover photo was taken by JoAnn Schermerhorn of Lake Park, Minn. on the Wendell Olson property near Rollag, Minn. The horses were walking through the lake onto a land bridge while Jo was standing on a ridge above. Do you have a photo that would make a great cover? Send it to us!

Lower left cover photo: The hometown of The Valley Equestrian Newspaper celebrated the Sabin Harvest Festival in fashion with a parade at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 21 through the main and ancillary streets of this quaint and hospitable town southeast of Moorhead, Minn. In this photograph is Polly Thorsness of Barnesville, Minn. in the brown cowboy hat driving her mule team and giving wagon rides throughout the Sabin streets. Photo by Ley Bouchard

Lower right cover photo: Twin Valley, Minn. was the site of the Great Minn. Get-Together Shoot where this photo of Janice Moe was taken making a clean run. More photos and story on page 11. Photo by Ley Bouchard



Top: Lori Zabel carries the ND State Flag at the Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer Aug. 21 in McLeod, N.D. More Photo Highlights on Page 16.
Above: Mounted Shooting event in Twin Valley, Minn.

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Schreiber Percherons 6-horse hitch at the Olmstead County Fair in Rochester, Minn. Photo taken by Linda Bedard

Editorial Information

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 DPI resolution and four inches wide.

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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.

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From the Publisher's Pocket

Dear Readers:
The August issue represents the beginning of our fourth year publishing the Valley Equestrian Newspaper (VEN). The VEN has grown remarkably in the three years since inception: we are now distributed to 25 states and more than 300 locations. We try to increase the distribution each month and would like people to send us their news, information and events so all readers can learn what is happening in other parts of the country.
The VEN is all about the horses and people who love them. We want to continue to highlight folks doing equine business especially those new start-ups who have the courage to try working in a depressed industry in these tough economic times. The VEN would like to introduce new ideas in horsemanship and help learn environmentally friendly ways of dealing with horse health and maintenance. Mostly we want to highlight youth who chose the equestrian lifestyle.
Thank you readers, for your loyalty and support. Please patronize the businesses that advertise with the VEN so we may continue to bring you this FREE publication each month.

We dedicate this issue to my Uncle Cliff Storsved, 86, of Fargo, N.D. who died Sunday, Aug. 22. He inspired my love of photography as I enjoyed many hours with him in his dark room and purchased from him a classic camera, the Mimiya Twin Lens Reflex System. He was a gentle, kind, soft-spoken, encouraging and strong man with many talents and whose gifts will continue to inspire others for generations to come.

Happy trails,
Ley Bouchard

Letters to the Editor

I am enjoying reading the articles written by Victor Wolf in The Valley Equestrian. Victor is very much respected by the agriculture, animal rescue, and equestrian communities in Colorado. It is neat to be able to now read Victor's articles in The Valley Equestrian, as well as to see and speak with him at varied Colorado events.

Best wishes,
Kris Jeter, Ph.D.

It was a real treat for me to find the VE News at my local feed store when I picked up feed yesterday!

Thanks for the excellent coverage of our National Show - very much appreciated.

Also enjoyed Victor's articles, and "Horses As Our Teachers" is just inspired - Katherine Thompson is to be admired for her thought-provoking articles.

Thanks again - for everything.

Wolakota,
Nanci Falley



"Threats to American Equestrianism" Presentation Hosted by the Kentucky Equine Networking Association

By Brian Sosby

Lexington, KY - The Kentucky Equine Networking Association (KENA) invites interested horsemen and women to join in a kick-off networking event and dinner hosted at Spindletop Hall in Lexington, KY, on September 16, 2010. The topic of the presentation given by Retired Army Colonel, horse owner and strategic consultant Walter Herd will be "Threats to American Equestrianism."

KENA is an educational and networking venue for equine professionals in Kentucky, targeted specifically at those who participate in breeding and reproductive services, instruction, training and boarding. This event is an opportunity to join together with fellow colleagues in the horse world to discuss the industry's common issues and possible solutions. Working together to ensure the health and welfare of the Kentucky horse landscape is important to all facets of the industry.

The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a networking hour and cash bar to be followed by dinner and Col. Herd's presentation. Registration for the event is September 1.

For more information and registration, visit www.kyequinenetwork.org.

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SADDLE FITTING FOR EVERYONE: A COMMON SENSE GUIDE

Saddle fit can make riding a joy or a nightmare. Too often horses are called "bad actors" when they are responding to pain caused by a poorly fit saddle. You weren't able to talk and someone made you wear a pair of shoes that were even one size too small? Could you run, jump, or race around barrels? Even if you could, you wouldn't be doing your best. Vets say that up to 90% of training issues are created and complicated by poor saddle fit.

Horses "act out" in a number of ways. How many have you seen?

1. Refusing to stand still while being tacked or mounted
2. Biting at your foot while you are in the saddle
3. Crow hopping or bucking
4. Ears pinned and tail lashing
5. Throwing their heads up and refusing to go on the bit
6. Blowing up with air while being girthed
7. Moving great in the pasture, but taking awkward, short strides under saddle
8. Shying, refusing jumps, knocking jumps down

Some horses endure a lot of pain without protest. With them, watch out for:

1. Uneven sweat marks when you remove the saddle pad or dry spots (too much pressure)
2. White patches of hair showing up on the back where there was no injury
3. Areas of swelling when the saddle is removed (pressure sores)
4. Scarring or knots in the muscles or skin
5. Hollows behind the shoulder blades in breeds that should have muscle there (muscle wastage)
6. "Twists" of hair or areas where the hair is worn off
7. Slow to relax or warm up and resistant to work
8. Difficulty with lead changes or taking a canter lead
9. Can't travel straight, one hip inside all the time
10. Will not raise the back
11. Can't stand to be touched or brushed
12. When you run your fingers down the long muscles of the back (on either side of the spine) your horse either twitches, sinks away from your touch or braces their back

Now that you know what to look out for when things are wrong, let's talk about how to tell when a saddle does fit. First, the saddle must be placed correctly. The thing I see most often is a rider placing the saddle over the horse's shoulder blades rather than behind them. Even on the fattest horse, with a little determination, you can find the back end of their shoulder blades by probing with your fingertips. If this fails, have a friend fold up a front leg, then slowly extend it forward. This will make the shoulder blade accessible. With Western saddles, the best guide is to line up the front of the swell with the back of the shoulder blade.

The saddle goes a minimum of one-and-a-half inch behind this

space!!! Two inches are better!!! Girth your saddle loosely.

You will want to get your hands underneath it and yet, not have your horse knock it off. Now, get ready to do some detective work. The important parts of the saddle are the GULLET, which is the channel down the center of the saddle that sits over the horse's spine. The POMMEL or SWELL rises up over the horse's withers. The CANTLE rises up behind your seat. The PANELS in English are the stuffed parts that lie against the horse's body. The FLAP is where your leg rests. The SEAT is where you sit. Now, onto the actual fitting.

1st: From the side, is the cantle higher than the pommel? Does the stirrup divide the flap in two equal parts? Is the lowest part of the saddle in its center and level? Do the panels beneath the cantle lie flat against the back? (Some saddles have gullets under the cantle that can dig into the long muscles of the back on horses with heavy croup musculature or a downhill conformation. Place one hand on the pommel or horn and the other on the cantle. Can you make the saddle rock by pressing one hand, then the other? If so, this is a serious first warning of a bad fit.

Reach up under the panel or skirts behind the stirrup on a Western saddle. As best you're able, feel how the panel meets the back. Is it a smooth, uninterrupted contact? When a panel doesn't meet the back, we call that bridging. Bridging cuts down the square surface of contact between the panel and the back, which ends up concentrating pressure in too small a space. Balancing a saddle needs to be done by an experienced saddle fitter. Minor bridging or places of too much pressure can be adjusted in a wool flocked saddle. This is why wool is always better than foam in the panels. In a foam paneled saddle, either the shape is right or completely wrong. No amount of wedge pads can make up for the wrong shape in the panels or tree. With a new wool flocked saddle, when you are in the seat, there must be at least one inch of clearance under the pommel. Keep in mind that a new saddle will take twenty to thirty hours of riding to take the shape of your horse's back and that a new saddle may settle up to a half inch. Western saddles can be balanced with a ThinLine pad.

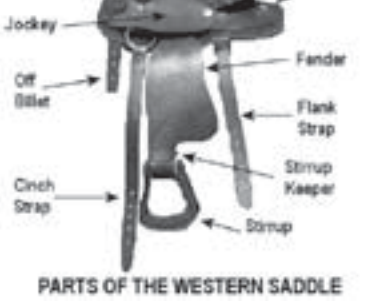
2nd: From the front, check the seam that divides the panels and the flap. What you are looking for is a comparison of the angle end of their shoulder blades by probing with your fingertips. If this fails, have a friend fold up a front leg, then slowly extend it forward. This will make the shoulder blade accessible. With Western saddles, the best guide is to line up the front of the swell with the back of the shoulder blade. The saddle goes a minimum of one-and-a-half inch behind this

of paper. If the saddle is wide and the horse is narrow, the saddle will rest on the spine—not a good thing!

3rd: Making certain you won't be kicked, look at the saddle from the back. Can you see down the gullet? Do the panels have contact with a wide area of your horse's back? They should.

4th: Slip your fingers between the front of the saddle and your horse, palm down. Ask a friend to slowly walk your horse straight forward. Feel your horse's shoulder sliding back and forth. If you feel a smash as the shoulder glides under the front panel of the saddle, the saddle is probably too narrow for this horse. If it feels as if you could push your whole arm under the saddle, it's probably too wide. Think of a saddle like a nice hug. Not too tight, not too loose.

5th: Girth the saddle and put the horse on a lunge line and trot them. Does the saddle stay in place or does it move (up & down or forward)? A new saddle might have some movement, but it shouldn't be flapping in the wind. Now, mount your horse, using a mounting block. All the care you've taken positioning the saddle can be ruined by dragging yourself up into the saddle (to say nothing of how it feels to the horse having all that wood and steel jabbing into their back! And vets have confirmed that mounting from the ground can also twist the tree of the saddle.) Ask your friend to lead the horse forward again while you place your hand palm down under the pommel. Ask your friend to trot your horse. How does your hand feel? If the saddle is squashing your horse's back.



PARTS OF THE WESTERN SADDLE

Now, let's talk about fitting the saddle to you. Begin by adjusting the stirrup leathers/fenders to the length you and your instructor have agreed is best for you. Take up the irons and settle against the flaps. If your knees shoot over the front of the flap, you need a more forward flap. If your boot tops are catching in the bottom of the flap, you need a longer flap. Seat shape and size are very individual. The narrowest part of the seat is called the TWIST. Your pelvis will tell you a lot about a seat. If you are tipped forward, or backwards, either the seat shape is wrong for you

or the tree size is wrong for your horse. If a saddle feels uncomfortable the moment you sit down, it won't get better with time! The right saddle for you will feel like a comfortable shoe. A correctly designed and fitted saddle will guide you into the deepest part of the seat. You want three to four fingers of seat from your backside to the end of the cantle. Your knees must be behind the knee blocks, not dangling over the front of the flaps. You want at least 2" of flap before reaching the top of your tall boots.

Let's talk about types of saddles. Unless all you do is jump, the FORWARD SEAT or JUMPING saddle is not the best choice. The CLOSE CONTACT saddle is mostly seen in Hunter/Jumper show rings. Keep in mind, this saddle is fairly flat and not really meant to go into the field unless you are an excellent rider. The EVENT style of saddle can give you the best of all worlds, being built to jump, do cross country and dressage as well. The DRESSAGE saddle is meant for riding with a deep seat and very long, relatively straight legs. And for English Pleasure classes, there is the CUTBACK or LANE FOX saddle, which is a whole different breed of cat, with almost no padding whatsoever and deeply set back stirrup bars. Western saddles are very specific to each discipline, but we are seeing some new designs that are truly multi-purpose.

Caring for your tack begins with a saddle cover. I like the kind that comes with elastic all the way around so that you can "snap" the cover on immediately after riding. NEVER place your saddle on the ground! NEVER leave a saddle where a bored horse can try out leather tooling! Brush off any dust with a very soft brush kept exclusively for this reason. Clean your tack with quality products. I like Leather Therapy, both the cleaner and an conditioner. Clean your saddle when it needs it. If the dust is getting into the stitching, clean. If the saddle isn't being used, clean on a monthly basis. For conditioning, use one of the modern conditioners that are formulated to not rot out the stitching. DO NOT USE A SPRAY-ON SHINE. This stuff is lacquer and it will kill the leather and look like trash in short order.

Between the extremes of a saddle made in India costing \$175.00 and a custom saddle costing \$3500.00 to \$5,000.00, there are a lot of options. If you are working on a budget, it is important to know the country of origin. We have major name distributors now having saddles made in the Far East. The huge problem with this is that these saddle makers are not steeped in the knowledge and traditions and horsemanship skills that we find in England, Germany, America and Argentina. (The days of an Argentina saddle being considered cheap and shoddy are long gone. Some of the best saddle makers in the world reside there and their standard of work is excellent. Buyer

beware is as much true when buying a saddle that costs \$800 as it is in the \$2,000.00 range. There is still a huge spread between what you pay for and what you get. It is very important that you get salespeople to give you reasons why a saddle commands the price it does and don't settle for "It's all the rage!" Popularity is no substitute for quality. You should buy a saddle just because some big name rider received a check for posing with that saddle. The saddle lines that I represent, I do so because they have passed the test of countless horses and riders. A more interesting question is why I don't use certain brand names. Keep in mind that a horse can change a multiple of times during the riding season. Even the most dedicated trail rider or lucky rider with an indoor arena is likely to slow down their riding during inclement weather. With this in mind, it behooves you to check your saddle fit whenever there is a substantial change in your amount of riding or your horse's body condition. In the spring, a horse can be overweight from too much food and not enough activity. Their saddle can be tight. Later in the season, once they are fit, the same saddle can be loose. This is where smart padding can save your horse's back and your riding. While I want cotton or wool against the back, above it I recommend without reserve the pads made by ThinLine. This open cell foam is three-eighths inch to a quarter-inch thick, but through the process of polarization has hundreds of layers stacked at right angles one to the other. As a result, the pad sends shock out laterally, rather than allowing it to penetrate straight up or down. ThinLines remove 95 percent of shock! Unlike wedge pads of foam, the ThinLine is not used to take up great gaps in fitting.

Cordia Pearson is one of fifteen Society of Master Saddlers Qualified Saddle Fitters in the United States. She brings the Society's highest standards to her work with both English and Western saddles. She is a rider and has bred Morgan horses for more than thirty years. She trained and taught all breeds and many seats. "In a marketplace filled with way too many gimmicks and less than stellar products, it is vital that all riders have a working knowledge of saddle fitting. Every moment you spend with your horse is precious and none of it should be wasted struggling with painful or crippling tack." You can find her on the web at www.Saddlemaster.com

Home on the Range: Triple Acres Horse Rescue

Photos and story by Victor Wolf

BOONE, Colo. – Jon Peck had three horses, with room for a few more. So when the brand inspector stopped by with news of two runaway horses that had been caught, Jon could only say yes when the inspector asked if he could take the horses in until the owner was located.

One of the pair had been seriously injured in a collision with a barbed wire fence, but Jon is a horseman in the true sense of the word. He doctor the animal, and when the owner returned from vacation, Peck returned one horse in good health and the injured one well on the mend.

But this story did not begin there. Not long after, the first of four people, undone by the sluggish economy, approached Jon with the heart-breaking request: "Could you take my horse? I can't afford to keep it any longer." Once more, Peck could not say no to any of the four.

His close friends, Cameron McCoy and Susan Beeman, talked to Peck about his willingness to go the extra mile for horses, and they said, essentially, "If you're going to take in horses, you might as well start a horse rescue."



Jon Peck (on horseback), owner of Triple Acres Rescue, talking to a volunteer.

"Acres" mean three acres. The name derives from having three locations, totaling more than 500 acres of productive land. The rescue could comfortably be expanded to provide for as many as 30 horses. But Peck, Beeman, and McCoy are practical people. The trio made a decision to be

more than a haven for unwanted horses. They dreamed of helping horses overcome problems and making them ready to be adopted by people who would recognize the value of the horses. Furthermore, their hearts were drawn to the most vulnerable in the equine world: BLM mustangs.

The plan was simple. Bring a suitable number of mustangs into the program and work diligently to prepare them to be good horses. They decided on ten geldings and mares. A notice was placed on the internet site, Craig's List. Colorful postcard-size announcements were placed where members of the equine community would see them. Word quickly spread.

Not many weeks after the decision to act, the gate opened in May, 2010, as soon as the 501c3 non-profit organization's papers were approved. An open house, with abundant servings of hotdogs, hamburgers, lemonade, and chips followed a month later, on a day that could not have been more perfect. Tables and chairs were set up under old cottonwood trees that provided shade, cooling breezes drifted in to enhance the comfort of the sheltering, dense-leaved branches.

At any one time during the five hour celebration, about 100 people were in attendance, but the faces changed every hour or so. The best estimate is that

more than 400 adults made their way to the event, and donations exceeded expectations.

Jessica Turano, who has three horses, saw the horse rescue's notice on Craig's List. A week later she stopped by to visit. "I'm



People gather at the entrance of the Triple Acres Rescue open house.

pleased to see something being done in Pueblo County."

Turano decided to do something immediately to help. "My business supports my own horses, and I wanted to do my part to help Triple Acres succeed." An independent Avon representative (www.youravon.com/jTurano), she pledged fifty percent of her income from the next Avon sales campaign to Triple Acres. Her customers responded enthusiastically, and Turano now has plans to help the rescue twice a year.

R. J. Konczyk is a horseman and owner of Nightingale Enterprises, an online saddles, tack, and stable supplies business (www.myhorsinaround.com). He has volunteered a few hours of his time each week to helping with the chores and gentling the mustangs.

Konczyk said, "I saw the notice on Craig's List and stopped by as soon as I could. And I'm glad they chose mustangs. These horses only want to do what pleases. They return what they have received. Mustangs are best at helping a person rediscover the spiritual inner being that's been lost."

Troy Nigh, a third generation rancher, said that within a few weeks of its formation, Triple Acres had become an oasis. "Everyone is pulling together. We have volunteers from all age groups. The oldest is 85 and the youngest is six, the minimum age."

When asked about the volunteers, Jon Peck said, "Some of the kids are afraid of the horses, but with their parents close by they are willing to help clean the pens. Their presence is good for the horses, helping them to adjust to many different kinds of human energy with no threat involved."

Because the love of horses is the only motive for a volunteer, the horses generally exhibit curiosity

A home for Star



By Victor Wolf

BOONE, Colo. – They saw the yearling Welsh Pony two years ago. Believing the promise of fun for the children, they took him home and named him Star.

Because of the children, Star became a member of the family following them everywhere he

was allowed. The people watered him, groomed him, fed him nourishing food and treats, and cared for him well.

But the parents, who tried as they might, could not find the time to give Star the schooling he needed. Something or other always interfered.

Finally, the family called Triple

Acres Horse Rescue. Jon Peck refers to the 3 year-old pony as a "surrender horse," but Star was surrendered with sadness all around.

The pony, frightened by the sudden change, and obviously home-sick, lost his appetite for several days. Seeing strangers everywhere, Star cowered in his pen. But the children who volunteer at Triple Acres Horse Rescue began to exert their quiet, calming influence.

The photo was taken 9 days after Star's arrival at the rescue. His appetite returned and Star is now being worked and handled daily. All he needs now is a home. Might that home be yours? Could a star like this brighten your days?

For more information about Star, visit www.3ahr.com, or call 719.924.5101.



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Old horse image compliments of Google and www.myspace.com.

The VE: Dedicated to finding greener pastures for unwanted horses one horse at a time. Check each month for a different horse.

By Victor Wolf

DO HORSES HAVE SOULS? Part Two

"It is a fundamental truth...medicine and spirituality are inseparable. Choose your medicine wisely. This is a matter of who you believe and who you trust as the basic authority in your life. The Creator gave life to man and placed him in a garden - and gave food for nourishment, for medicine, for maintaining health." Sandy Bradley, VMD

Anthropologist Louis Leakey chose Jane Goodall to help study primate species that he considered most closely related to human beings. Leakey's goal was to gain knowledge about the behavior of what he thought was the human animal's ancestors.

Leakey chose wisely. Goodall brought more patience and care to the field than a male observer. With little formal training she was more inclined to describe what she saw rather than what she thought she should be seeing.

In fact, 20 years later, upon admittance to England's Cambridge University to study for a doctorate degree, Goodall found resistance to her findings that chimpanzees were organized in a complex social structure. They proved to be loving and careful parents, and formed relationships with their peers. They hunted and stripped the bark from twigs and branches to make tools for getting termites out of their mounds.

Goodall's revelations forced scientists to surrender their definitions of humans as the only animals that used tools.

When, in 2003, I was highly motivated to render healing aid to a severely abused 5 year-old Arab/QH mare, Goodall's work inspired me to begin my equine behavior study from the abused mare's point of view.

In preparation, I traveled through Colorado, along the way meeting many people who greatly influenced me. For example, Julie Goodnight, a highly-respected horse-woman, made a statement that encouraged me greatly. During a clinic, Goodnight said that in working with horses she had to use her mind because she did not have a man's strength.

My physical disability, degenerative arthritis in my neck and spine, prevents me from running or lifting much more than 50 pounds. However, I can walk for many miles without tiring, and I can perform many 20 repetition sets of push-ups (keeping my back very straight!). Even so, I cannot afford to be knocked down by a horse.

It was exceedingly important that I learn to use my mind. To that end, I filled many pages in a spiral notebook with virtually everything Goodnight taught at that two day seminar. That notebook is in a prominent place in my personal library.

Included in that notebook is a reminder: "To understand animals, it is essential to understand what they feel." Jeffrey Mousaieff Masson and Susan McCarthy "When Elephants Weep," page 23.

Later, Pat Parelli gave me freely of his valuable time during an open house at his headquarters in Pagosa Springs, CO. His thoughts about love and about learning horse language, as he looked at the photographs of the suffering mare, perfectly suited my need for greater understanding.

Joyce Leake, noted animal communicator, whom I encountered at a horse rescue open house, clearly explained to



me how to use my mind to convey my thoughts to the mare. At that open house, Maya Fisher, a well-known energy healer, brought about the transformation of a head-shy abused horse in less than 40 minutes. At the end of the treatment, the horse sought person after person to scratch behind his ears, under his mane, and stroke his cheek.

By Fisher's example I understood immediately how to apply to horses the energetic healing I had been using in human treatment since 1978.

After those weeks of travel, for several hours a day, I did nothing more than work with other horses near the large enclosed field that held the mare, Hope, and her

companion gelding. Time was required for all acquired knowledge and the truth I discovered in the Scriptures (explained in the first part of this series in the July 2010 Valley Equestrian) to percolate down from my mind to my heart.

Occasionally, I would stand inside the fence and read the Scriptures, never looking directly at either horse. Hope watched me from behind her large protector. One fine day I gained the inward assurance that I could put all my acquired knowledge into action.

I opened the gate and stepped into the field. I moved slowly, and with great care. Too close and Hope became restive. Her companion also became more alert. So I withdrew, searching for and positioning myself well beyond the horses' zone of comfort. I relaxed then, with acceptance, inwardly knowing that I would remain there, my eyes averted, until something constructive happened.

My hands by my side, I began talking softly, sharing with the two horses my great concern for the rescued mare. I asked her to forgive, through me, all the people who had hurt her. I told her that the One who created both of us sent me to heal her.

I filled my mind with peaceful images as I murmured similar comforting sentiments, finally growing quiet to do my best to envision her enjoying life, and being a horse. I can only guess that I shared my thoughts and desire to help for about 30 minutes.

With nothing more than a lowering of her head, Hope stepped around the gelding and slowly walked across the distance that separated us. Without any hesitation, Hope gently pressed her chest against mine, and hung her head over my right shoulder. I reached my arms around her neck, embracing her, allowing the connection between us to be made in silence. We remained so until Hope stepped away.

But this was not the end. All my learning had prepared me for such a time as this. My calling at last had found me.

During those precious moments, I was overcome with certitude. Hope's response to my mental intent revealed to me that horses do indeed have souls. Later experiences with her proved to me that humans have always had the ability to communicate with horses on the soul level. But we humans must strive to awaken that method within ourselves. In fact, during that intimate time, awareness welled up from deep inside me that

horses have been waiting for centuries for humans to recall and once more experience this truth.

In the days and weeks that followed, Hope became the first of several at-risk horses that taught me how to answer the longing of horses to be recognized as companions. The lessons learned can be shared with and experienced by anyone who truly desires to be adequately prepared through the necessary self-discipline to understand the operation of this priceless gift.

Victor Wolf has been a student of classical metaphysics and the martial arts since high school. In 1974 he began studying T'ai Chi and the energetic healing practices of Chinese medicine to overcome the effects of a serious accident. In 1978 he began sharing his knowledge privately.

His background includes a four year guided independent study of Earth Science and Journalism at then-William Penn College, Oskaloosa, IA (1994) and a doctorate from the College of Divine Metaphysics, Glendora, CA (1996).

Also in 1996, after demonstrated expertise in applying the healing aspects of Chinese medicine's energetic healing therapies to people challenged by major health issues such as cancer, arthritis, stress, post-stroke syndrome, Lupus, MS, Parkinson's, high blood pressure, and heart problems, Wolf was certified by Five Rings School of Martial Arts in 1996. He opened a wellness center and soon became a Master Instructor.

In 2003 Wolf was part of a group of some 40 concerned people who wanted to organize an equine rescue in Pueblo County. The attempt failed, but during that time, a divine appointment with a grievously abused 4-year old Arab/QH mare changed the direction of his life.

He devoted two years to learning how to apply his knowledge of healing to rehabilitating abused horses, completing the American Horse Institute horse training program. Still later, he developed a ten week T'ai Chi program for improving horsemanship. In 2005 he was ordained an evangelist by the Cowboy Church, Pueblo, Co. He also established the Institute's Equestrian Center in 2005. Now, along Colorado's Front Range, he provides his services to horses and their people exclusively. Contact by email, amani_farm@yahoo.com or 970.691.3946.



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SISTERS SHOW AT THE ERSC GAME SHOW IN ELK RIVER, MINN.



Article and photos by Tammy Scheffler

Mother Nature certainly likes to play games with us: a storm came though during the week and knocked out the arena electricity at the arena at the Sherburne County Minn. Fairgrounds so we had no power. Then the speakers did not work. So the riders had a good chance to warm up their horses for the day as the show started



Far left: Kasondra Scheffler riding her 31 yr old horse DJ; left: Bobbie Scheffler riding Tequila.

about an hour late. We were able to rent a speaker box so people around the arena could hear the announcer.

Elk River Saddle Club always has a lot of people who come to our shows for the competition and August 21 was no exception. We always have a good turn out. This show was huge; we had many of riders of all ages. This was one of our biggest shows of the season. For not having speakers out in the back parking lot, people were good about being there ready to ride. The show went smoothly.

The last show of season for Elk River Saddle Club will be Sept. 11. in the arena at the Sherburne County Fairgrounds in Elk River, Minn. The Champion Show follows on the Sept. 23rd at the Coliseum of the Minn. State Fairgrounds in St. Paul.

FARRIER TIP=OF=THE=MONTH

Presented by the Minnesota Farriers Association

What is a close or hot nail?

What does your vet and farrier mean when they talk about a horse having a close or hot nail?

Normally, when a horse is shod, the horseshoe nails are driven into the white line (insensitive laminae) or the junction of the white line and the hoof wall. These areas are extremely close to the sensitive structures. If the farrier just nails through the hoof wall, splitting of the wall usually will occur. This will also produce a very weak nail for the shoe.

On occasion, the farrier will accidentally, and often times unknowingly, drive a close or hot nail into the hoof, which can be due to:

- The horse moving around while nailing the shoe on.
- Having a hoof that is shelly, thin walled or missing wall, or just difficult to nail a shoe to.
- Perhaps even an inexperienced farrier.

Close Nail:

The nail is accidentally driven into the junction of the white line and the sensitive laminae, without actually invading the sensitive area, but it will cause pressure on these tissues. Sometimes the horse will show pain immediately, but more often it will go unnoticed for several (1-7) days or until the horse is worked. Usually the nail can be removed and the horse will often be sound once the nail has been removed.

Hot Nail:

This nail is accidentally driven so close to the sensitive structures of the hoof that the heat transfer from the friction of the nail being driven through the hoof is felt by the sensitive structures. The horse will show immediate pain or discomfort and will usually have an immediate reaction. This nail should be removed immediately and a new nail should be driven in a different location.

A bad nail or a nail that has invaded the sensitive structures, is by far the worst and hopefully most uncommon nailing problem. This will result in an immediate painful reaction as the nail actually has been not driven correctly and has been driven into the "quick" or sensitive part of the sole. When the nail is removed there is usually blood at the nail entrance site and sometimes at the exit site. The hole should be cleaned well and no nail should be driven into that hole. The horse should be current on their tetanus shots. Monitor for any developing lameness or abscess. This unfortunate situation should be treated promptly with veterinary and farrier involvement.



VEN reader and fan Linda Bedard of Rochester, Minn. took this photo of Roby Belgians with her cell phone Aug. 8 during the Draft Horse Show at the Olmstead County Fair in Rochester, Minn.

Black Stallion Literacy Foundation To Participate At Women's Horse Industry Conference

The Women's Horse Industry Association is pleased to announce that The Black Stallion Literacy Foundation will participate at the 2nd Annual Conference in Louisville, Kentucky September 22-23, 2010.

The Black Stallion Literacy Foundation program is available for children in the lower elementary grades and the upper elementary grades. Books are given to children to keep forever, in the lower elementary program, usually first grade, they are given Little Black A Pony and Little Black Goes to The Circus. After receiving their first book, the children are taken to a farm and learn how to care for a horse. They meet the characters in the book and then read to a horse!

Upper elementary students, usually Fourth and fifth graders are given the hard back book, The Black Stallion. Schools, a

copy of the movie, The Black Stallion, and a complete curriculum that teachers truly admire and utilize. As a reward for reading their book, these children are treated to an amazing equestrian show, the Black Stallion Show featuring performers from Arabian Nights, from Kissimmee Florida. The show is the professional horse show that encourages children to read, brings the book to life and encourages children to read more of the books by Walter Farley.

"This is a great program and helps a lot of children and school systems. We know that our attendees will enjoy finding out more about all that the foundation does to promote literacy," states Catherine Masters, Executive Director of the WHIA.

Additional information is available at the web site www.bsif-online.org. This program is very well received and loved

AN OLDEST HORSE STORY: TOZZIO

By Star Sandmeyer, Circle Star Ranch, Bemidji, Minn.

Meet Tozzio. I raised him from a foal. I also owned his mother, but sadly, at 39 years-old I had to put her down.

Tozzio has longevity in his genes; he is a Tri-onno Reg. Paint Tobiano and was on the show circuit for 10 years. He won 12 trophies, and many, many ribbons. I

retired him from that and made him into my trail horse. He is totally bomb proof. He has been everywhere: Medora, Montana, and state horse parks throughout Minnesota.

He loves children; when I put a child on his back he walks very slowly, he's not like a bull in a china shop.

He carried the Olympic Torch in 1990 and, of course, on television.

Tozzio gets along well with any and all horses. When he wants grain or a treat, he gives me a hug. He continues to give them until I break down and give him something.

Another habit he has is when he gets done with his tub or bucket of grain; he picks it up and gives it a throw! He learned that on his own, but now the rest of my herd has learned to do it also.

Within the past year, I have noticed he

was having trouble holding my weight. He would make frequent stops along the trail and would have a hard time catching up. So then again I made the decision to retire him from the saddle. The last ride I had on him became a horrific ordeal.

While riding by a driveway, two pit bulls came running out. They ran around under Tozzio's feet and then latched onto the back of his leg. They wouldn't let go. He kicked, he spun in circles but nothing was working. I

didn't dare get off him not knowing if the dogs would come after me. I yelled and yelled. After about two minutes, Tozzio made one big kick and the dogs detached themselves. Returning to their owner's property where he stood and watched the whole thing happen. It was only then I got off to see the damage.

Tozzi had puncture wounds up and down his back leg. After a few days he became very ill. The owner of the dogs was summoned to pay the vet bills but evaded doing so and is still at large. There was no way I could pay the vet bills. Tozzio became weaker and weaker looking like a Holstein cow with all his bones sticking out.

I cared for him the best I could with my own limited vet skills. Tozzio had the will to live; it wasn't his time to go yet. I did manage to nurse him back to health.

Now as you can see from the photo, Tozzio has a new job. I trained him to pull my cart and he took right to it. He was a hit at our local fair where I gave rides to children. When I handed them the reins and told them what to do, it was an experience they wouldn't forget.

The old boy is getting pretty gray but he's a real trooper. I am so proud of him and love him with all my heart. It will be a sad day when I have to say goodbye to my Tozzio.

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For additional information on the WHIA and the 2nd Annual Conference and Expo, please visit Women's Horse Industry Association Or call 615-730-7833. The conference is open to members and non-members of the WHIA.

In addition to many exhibitors featuring a variety of equine related products, attendees will be able to listen to a top notch array of speakers and panelists. The theme of the conference is "Marketing and Making The Most Of Your Horse Industry Business". There will also be a lot of time devoted to one on one networking.

WAR HORSES

By Victor Wolf

LARKSPUR, Colo. -- The Shire horse measures 16 to 17.5 HH and possesses great strength. Many believe it to be the tallest and heaviest of all horses, but Bryan Beard, 45, believes the Shire is the closest example we have of a warhorse of the Middle Ages. "There is no other modern comparison," Beard said. And he ought to know.

Beard is the director of Noble Cause Productions, (www.noblecauseproductions.com), based in Dallas, Texas. The company of

Horse, reliable, trustworthy and gentle with children. Beard said, "Warhorses were the more aggressive stallions, chosen for a temperament suitable for fighting. Gelding horses was not usually done."

The men presented 3 acts a day each weekend of the Larkspur, CO festival. Their day began at 11:30 a.m. with a tournament of skill (Equestrian games and Combat) then at 2:30 p.m. they participated in a tournament of arms (Armored Combat Joust),

Ages. Tournaments were finally outlawed because too many knights were lost during practice."

Beard said, "I got involved because I've always been fascinated with heroes. My father, who is my greatest hero, read to me the novels and comic books, and took me to the movies that instilled in me the strong sense of the hero's mentality."



elite horsemen travels the land 10 months of the year to demonstrate at Renaissance Festivals, schools, and elsewhere - a dramatic image of the knightly of that bygone time.

These festivals represent the movement in which people developed great interest in classical literature, poetry, art, and a chivalrous way of life.

Beard and his companions tap into that time and present what might well be called a "historic drama" because history and the story are more important to them than accuracy. They are by no means historic

followed at 5:30 p.m. by a trial by combat (Joust to the Death).

Beard explained that their clothing and armor are practical rather than historically accurate, designed for comfort as well as a degree of authenticity.

"People who want reality-based clothing can meet craftsmen through the Society for Creative Anachronism," Beard said. "Specialized armor is made by members who are perfecting their art. I order a few things, but I try to make my own leather goods."

"Our lances are 10 feet long, and, depending on the wood, weigh about 4 pounds. Held vertically, that doesn't seem to be very heavy. But hold the lance horizontally, moving it about to lance targets and rings,



re-enactors. To these men, drama is far more important than facts.

Beard said, "We give our audiences a fun-filled experience of what the knights of the realm were like in the 14th century. Our main hope, particularly in these cynical times, is that people take away the idea that the good side wins. We want the idea of chivalry to carry over."

But they don't ride Shires. Their choice is a well-trained Quarter

and you'll understand why we must maintain a degree of physical fitness."

The company rests on Monday and Tuesday, the remaining three week days are devoted to practice and skit rehearsals, on the ground and mounted on their horses.

"We're having fun recreating a time when tournaments provided knights opportunities to practice and sharpen their skills between wars. It was not sport during the Middle

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Continued on page 15

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COWBOY MOUNTED SHOOTING'S MINNESOTA GET-TOGETHER

By Greg Lund

The weekend of July 31-August 1 saw over 30 cowboy mounted shooters entered in the first Minnesota Get-Together Shoot in Twin Valley, Minn. The two days of competition held at the Twin Valley Riders Club arena was co-hosted by the Wild Rice PeaceMakers and the Minnesota Mounted Shooters Association. The TV Riders Club campground was filled with over fifteen horse trailer-campers for the two days of riding and shooting.

Current CMSA Ladies National Champion Level 3 rider, Laura Pikop of Stephan was over-all winner both days giving her a move up to Level 4. She was followed by Mens Level 5 Kevin Gustafson of Stanchfield placing second over-all each day. Brian Venem of Milaca was third on Saturday with Lisa Grimsley of St. Cloud placing third over-all on Sunday.

Saturday's top placings by class were Mens

Level 1 first place Brian Venem, second Dean Passi of Center City, third was Dan Bertils of Crookston, Tom Haverkamp of Ulen placed fifth; Mens Level 2 first place was Greg Lund of Twin Valley, second Kenny Olson of Beltrami and third Al Leiseth of Ada; Mens Level 3 first place was Wayne Gwin, Twin Valley, second Dean Olson from Andover and third was Tom Bamford from Princeton; Mens

Level 4 winner was Chad Barthel, Princeton and second was Steve Moe from Grand Rapids; Mens Level 5 topped the Mens classes with Kevin Gustafson first, Jason Gray from Princeton was second and Jeremy Bullford from Stanchfield was third.

In the ladies divisions Level 1 winner was Terri Slater from Ogilvie, second was Rachael Chilson from Princeton and third was Bonnie Lund from Twin Valley; Ladies Level 2

second was Tyler Kasper and third was Mitch Venem and Tom Haverkamp fourth; Mens Level 2 winner was Al Leiseth, Kenny Olson second and Greg Lund third; Level 3 was won by Dean Olson, second Tom Bamford and third was Wayne Gwin; Level 4 winner was Steve Moe, with Chad Bartel second and Mens Level 5 first

was Kailyn Hrynshyn and Wrangler Limited winner was Dallas Bullford.

The last local mounted shooting competition for this season, the Northern Prairie Shootout, will be held in Twin Valley, Minn. on September 25 & 26 at the Riders Club arena. Spectators are welcome; no admission charge.

Photos from top counterclockwise: Al Leiseth, Laura Pikop, (right) Dan Bertils, (very bottom) Kenny Olson Tom Haverkamp, (Middle left: Bonnie Lund, Center: Mitch Venem

Photos by Lisa Wiersma



place was Kevin Gustafson, second Jeremy Bullford and third Jason Gray.

In the Ladies divisions Level 1 first place was Rachael Chilson, second Terri Slater and third Bonnie Lund; level 2 winner was Kelly Gray; Ladies Level 3 first place Jan Moe; Level 4 winner was Laura Pikop and second place Tosha Barthe; Ladies Level 5 first place was Lisa Grimsley and second Melinda Bullford. Again the Senior Ladies Level 3 winner was Lou Ann Billig and Seniors Level 1 Jean Jenner. Wrangler Open winner



was won by Kelly Gray of Princeton; Level 3 winner was Laura Pikop, second Jan Moe from Grand Rapids and third was Ida Gustafson from Stanchfield; Tosha Barthel from Princeton won Ladies Level 4 and Melinda Bullford from Stanchfield won Ladies Level 5 with Lisa Grimsley taking second. Senior Ladies competing were Level 3 Seniors Lou Ann Billig of Avon and Senior Level 1 Jean Jenner of Isanti.

The Wrangler Open Division was won by Billy Bullford with Kailyn Hrynshyn of Stephan second and Dallas Bullford first in the Wrangler Limited class.

Saturday's rifle competition had two classes, Open for levels 4-6 and Limited for level 1-3; Jason Gray won the Open class with Kevin Gustafson second while Wayne Gwin won the Limited class with Brian Venem second and Tyler Kasper from Grand Rapids third. Sunday's competition saw some new winners and Laura Pikop moved up to Ladies Level 4 and Brian Venem moved to Mens Level 2. Mens Level 1 winner was Dan Bertils,



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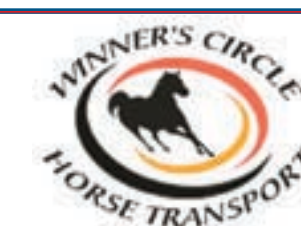
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Danna's Cheer for Little Bucks Girl



Samantha Tamke, 14, of Northwood, ND with Danna's Cheer for Little Bucks Girl. BG won the AMHR Under Mare Jr Championship and the Grand Championship at the North Dakota State Fair in Minot, ND on July 29, 2010. BG is a double registered yearling filly.



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On Farm Mortality: Consider Composting

Materials

WASHINGTON, DC – August 3, 2010 - Many horse owners will eventually face tough decisions regarding animal mortality and disposal. The Unwanted Horse Coalition receives many calls from concerned owners regarding the legalities and options for disposing of horse carcasses. The problem arises with the diminishing disposal options for animals and livestock. Burial is not legal in all areas, many landfills do not accept animals, rendering plants are not accepting as many animals and are now charging larger fees and incineration is expensive. What other legal options do horse owners have, especially in today's economy? Many farms are successfully using composting as a legal, beneficial and inexpensive disposal alternative. The Unwanted Horse Coalition has researched the method of composting in order to assist horse owners during troubled times.



woodchips.

Creating the Compost Pile

Dr. Shea Porr, the Superintendent of the Middleburg Agricultural and Research Extension Center [MAREC], suggests composting as a disposal method for larger farms and facilities. "Composting works better on larger farms with a higher population of animals, and farms that are isolated and not close to neighbors. I would not suggest this as an option for small farmettes." Composting can be a relatively inexpensive process for livestock and farm owners, as most of the materials necessary for the process can already be found on farms. To successfully compost an animal a front-end loader is needed as are composting materials such as old hay, manure, grass clippings, chicken litter, rotten corn silage and finished compost. Bobby Clark, an extension agent with the Virginia Cooperative Extension, estimates the cost of composting per head as \$50 to \$75.

Farms can utilize the finished compost material to fertilize crops, revegetate barren areas, create forage or compost other animal mortalities. If done successfully, composting can be extremely beneficial to farm owners not only is it an inexpensive process, but the process is environmentally friendly.

When done correctly, composting can reduce an animal to just bones after 60 - 90 days. So, how is composting achieved?

The Finished Product

After 60 to 90 days of composting at a successful temperature, moisture rate and carbon to nitrogen

ratio, you may sift through the pile to see the remnants of the composted animal. Virginia Cooperative Extension recommends:

- Deep stacking the compost for an additional year to decompose bones.
- Reuse of the finished compost in composting of additional animal mortality. This will facilitate the decomposition of bones.
- Screening or grinding compost to remove the bones.
- Applying finished compost to land or farmland. It is recommended that the compost be incorporated into the ground if bones are not removed or fully destroyed. The compost should be sampled and analyzed to determine the nutrient value to ensure it is applied at agronomic rates. If the mortality was euthanized by barbiturate overdose it is not recommended to land apply finished compost until more data is released. Further research is being conducted on the residual amounts of euthanasia solution remaining after the composting process.

Composting Laws

Be sure to research any laws or regulations governing composting in your state and locality. Laws will vary from place to place. Consider Composting Contrary to popular belief, composting can be done at any time of the year. Instead of throwing carcasses into the woods for potential scavengers and disease transmission, consider the low labor, low cost method of composting. Not only will you rid yourself of unnecessary materials on your farm, you may gain an environmentally safe material for future use on your land. For more information on composting, contact the Unwanted Horse Coalition at 2022964031.

Special thanks to: Bobby Clark, Crop and Soil Extension Agent; Dr. Shea Porr, Superintendent, MAREC; Crystal Smith, Animal Science Extension Agent, Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension. The demonstration was made possible by a grant from the Virginia Horse Industry Board.

Unwanted Horse Coalition Materials Available

WASHINGTON, DC – August 5, 2010 The Unwanted Horse Coalition [UHC] continues its efforts to educate the industry about the issues relating to unwanted horses and acting responsibly. The UHC has prepared and distributed a variety of materials that will educate horse owners on various topics. The materials describe the efforts of the coalition, offer alternatives for horse owners to consider for their horses when they can no longer care for them, and detail ways the horse community can get more involved. With the number of unwanted horses increasing, the industry and horse owners must step up their efforts to educate themselves about potential solutions. The materials suggest options an individual or an organization can take so that the number of unwanted horses does not increase.

The following is a list of materials currently offered by the UHC:

- The UHC brochure, The Problem of the Unwanted Horse, which explains the Coalition and its activities.
- The UHC handbook, Own Responsibly: Guidance for current and potential horse owners from the Unwanted Horse Coalition, which includes chapters on the responsi-

bilities of horse ownership options for owners with unwanted horses programs that extend the useful lives of horses questions to ask when trying to place a horse and the tax ramifications of contributing your horses to a charitable organization.



UNWANTED HORSE COALITION

• "Own Responsibly" flyers, which describe what it means to act responsibly regarding the longterm needs of your horse.

• The 2009 Unwanted Horses Survey, the results of a national survey taken by more than 27,000 horse owners, equine industry stakeholders, rescue and retirement facilities and nonhorse owners regarding the issue of unwanted horses, its importance, causes, solutions and effects.

• The UHC handbook, Best Practices: How Your Organization Can Help Unwanted Horses, which details initiatives and activities organizations can undertake to help reduce the number of unwanted horses.

• Rehabilitating the Neglected Horse: A Caregivers' Guide, a brochure covering basic care for rehabilitating a neglected horse. Subjects include nutrition, farrier care, vaccination and deworming.

"The UHC hopes that horse owners and breeders will use the materials offered to educate themselves and spread the word about unwanted horses to their colleagues. Once educated about the issues facing unwanted horses, individuals and organizations can help to implement programs that assist horses in need," said Ericka Caslin, Director of the UHC.

All materials are available for download on the UHC website: www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org or they can be purchased in hard copy by contacting the UHC. Contact Ericka Caslin at ecaslin@horsecouncil.org or 2022964031 for additional information.

COWBOY POETRY WITH ORV ALVESHHERE

SOME HORSE DAYS SURPASS OTHERS

A BEAUTIFUL HORSE AND CHILDRENS DAY A bustling 1800's cowtown had been lovingly restored. Now a summer highlight, they won 2007 Visitor's Choice Award. Nestled below the high hills in the beauty of the rugged Badlands, First populated by Natives & pioneers, cattle drovers and cowhands. We must recall that a galloping horse was the fastest way to go Until east-west trains arrived. North-south routes needed "Giddap and Whoa." Those hardy souls endured. We honor those grandfathers and grandmothers. Life was about horses and cattle...some years were better than others.

VISITORS INVITED AND WELCOMED TO THE HISTORIC TOWN Promotions and events draw tourists who have not viewed the open range, Backtracking to the last century, leaving Interstate's interchange. MEDORA'S cowtown is authentic and laid back. The pace again is slow; Parades, rodeos, horse-drawn carriages...you'll hear "Giddap and Whoa." Lively Cowboy Poetry Gatherings, conventions and fabled golf course That offers an awesome Badlands view, formerly grazed by the horse. North Dakota's Cowboy Hall of Fame shows riders who traveled like brothers To compete. Some rides were bad, some rides were better than others.

WHAT DID THEY WISH TO SEE...AND HEAR? The famous amphitheatre is nestled between verdant hills. Entertainment's great. A rider swoops down the slope, adding to the thrills. Exiting that great Cowboy Hall of Fame, my boots touched the wooden sidewalk When a family of four 'motioned', it seemed they wished to stop and 'talk'. The sun shone on their New Jersey licensed car. He pointed to his 'ear.' Those four visitors were 'hearing-impaired'...could they find a horse out here? They 'read' my lips, we pantomimed. The girls held the hands of their mother. The young girl's smiles showed their enjoyment. That day seemed better than others.

CAVALRY OR COWBOY TO THE RESCUE? Our friend, Cowboy Lyle made the rounds of town and daily taught a mini-course On equines...how to saddle, groom, feed and safely mount a horse. Cowboy Lyle came around the corner. I waved him down, so they could see The original means of transportation. The young girls twittered with glee. Cowboy Lyle and his paint horse paused, and as natural as the rising sun, Two young girls approached slowly, exchanging breaths, and that is not a pun. How did they know? Experts use that tactic, and share with one another. A horse wants to smell your breath. Horses like some of us better than others.

A TENDER TOUCH AND NON-VERBAL DISCOURSE A horse needs water, hay, space and kindness and a sense of partnership. I saw city girls treat a horse like they were trained in horsemanship. In the girl's presence was a living, breathing horse, with colorful hair. Lyle's paint horse responded to their tender touch. It was a day to share. They grinned and 'spoke' with expressions and body language. I hasten to explain; The horse leaned to their level. With their fingers, they combed the horse's mane. The motioned they wanted to see the horse touched by father and mother. A privilege to observe...some horse days are a cut above the others.

CLASSIC REACTIONS ON A MEMORABLE TRIP Words inadequately describe special moments of discovery. They eyed that paint from head to tail. Emotions ran wild, not needing a recovery. I recalled my children had touched horses and tractors since before school age. Pumping water with a three-foot steel handle was the epitome of an upstage. Cameras clicked as Cowboy Lyle rode down Medora's nostalgic street. The five of us watched. An awareness...only I could 'hear' the hoof beat! Stagecoaches, buggies, trail rides and saddled horses are my kind of druthers. A lesson relearned...some horse days are measurably better than others!

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JUNIOR, YOUNG RIDER JUMPER CHAMPIONS ARE NAMED

LEXINGTON, KY - AUGUST 1, 2010 - On the final day of competition at the 2010 Adequan FEI North American Junior, Young Rider Championships presented by Gotham North, the jumpers ruled as the USHJA Jumper Championships brought to a close the five-day international event.

The Juniors took to the Kentucky Horse Park's Main Stadium first for the final two rounds of the five-round contest, and when the dust cleared it was Ben Asselin and Lolita, representing Alberta Canada, that were not only the Gold medalists, but also the only pair to ride fault-free through the entire five jumping rounds.

Talk about pressure. Going in to the final, Asselin was neck-and-neck with Meg O'Mara aboard Sinatra IV, who was only carrying four faults, and Jocelyn Neff and Gaja 20, who had eight. Either could take the crown.

"I knew had to go clean," said Asselin, 16. "My dad, who is also my trainer, told me to just remain focused and I did, and Lolita pulled through for me."

And Dad should know. Jonathan Asselin showed the 12-year-old Oldenburg mare for several years before giving her to his son to ride.



"We have another horse that is very competitive that we brought here as well," said the elder Asselin. "But we decided to go with Lolita. We thought we had a little better chance. She's a year younger and a bit healthier, and the match was looking like it was really ticking, you know?"

"Lola is quite a hot mare," added Ben. "That was a big help here with jumping so many rounds. She's got the biggest heart in the world, and she jumped great."

O'Mara, representing Zone 2, collected the Silver medal, having dropped only one rail in five rounds. "We've never done an FEI event with him," she said of Sinatra IV, a 10-year-old Belgian Warmblood. "But, we knew he was going to do well. After that first rail, I was really hard on myself, so I knew I wanted to ride clean in last round."

Neff and Gaja 20, representing Zone 10, took the Bronze.

Zone 5's Ali Wolff Captures Young Rider's Jumping Gold

After a break and a reset of the course, the Young Riders took to the stadium for their

final two rounds of competition. Ali Wolff and H & M Necoll, representing Zone 5, claimed the Gold, besting 21 others. Wolff began in fourth place with a score of 5.93. With only one rail down, she found herself at the top of the leader board with a score of 9.93 after leader Jessica Springsteen and Vornado Van Den Hoendrik dropped two rails in the first round.



Ben Asselin earned the Junior Rider Gold medal at the NAJYRC. Photo by SportFot

This win, said Wolff, is especially sweet "This is my last year at Young Riders, since I'm 21," she said, "so it means a lot to me. I'm so relieved right now. This is the second time I've competed at Young Riders, and last time I was fourth and, just out of the medals. I wanted to make a comeback."

"I had to remember to be smooth and calm," said Wolff. "Necoll is a hot horse, and if you don't fight with her, she doesn't fight with you, and I think that's how I made a comeback."

Catherine Pasmore and My Boy, representing Zone 3, earned the Silver medal while Jessica Springsteen and Vornado Van Den Hoendrik, representing Zone 2, took the Bronze position.

Pasmore had two stunning clear rounds that moved her from seventh place to second.

"I knew anything could happen, so I had to stay calm and not get too excited that we were moving up in the list," she said. "I wanted that clean round, so I went in and dug deep. My horse got better as the rounds went on, and I was the only double clear today."

All of the NAJYRC champions received their medals in a special closing ceremony held in the hospitality tent following the end of competition.

Individual winners receive an Albion saddle of choice, leather bridle, leather girth, wrapped stirrup leathers and a numnah. Albion is the "Official Saddle of the NAJYRC."

For more information, visit www.youngriders.org.

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AUGUST-SEPTEMBER AND MORE EVENTS

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

August 29: Sheyenne Valley Team Penning Association at the MayPort Arena located at the Portland Equine Park, Portland, North Dakota. Starting at 10 A.M. Info call 701-786-3254

Sept. 3: Rocking D' Acres Game Show at 7:30 p.m. in Clarissa, Minn. contact Tia Dvorak at (218) 756-2576

Sept. 3: Fun show at JJ Arena Saddle at 11 a.m. in Balsam Lake, WI -- call (715) 857-5505

Sept. 4: Rocking D' Acres Barrel Racing at 10:30 a.m. in Clarissa, Minn. contact Tia Dvorak at (218) 756-2576

Sept. 4: Game Show at the Bit & Spurs Arena at 9 a.m. in Delano, Minn. (320) 493-7134

Sept. 5: Regional Open Youth Horse Show at 8 a.m. at the Barron County Fairgrounds in Rice Lake, Wis. contact Penny Nemitx at (715) 537-6250

Sept. 5: A fun show at Houck Arena at 11 a.m. in North Branch, Minn. -- contact (651) 277-1095

Sept. 6: NBHA MN Jackpot at 11 a.m. at Heidelberg's Arena in Pine City, Minn. contact (651) 335-4418

Sept. 6: Equestrian Friends of Governor Knowles State Forest Fun Show at 9:30 a.m. at RNR Ranch and Tack in St. Croix Falls, Wis. contact (715) 483-9292

Sept. 10: MNHSR Jackpot at 5 p.m. at the Silver Bullet Arena at 5 p.m. in Clearwater, Minn. contact (763) 238-2929

September 9-12: NDQHA, Three Star III & Futurity at Valley City, N.D. Contact: Jean Fredrich, 701-725-4420

Sept. 11: Trail Dusters Game Show at 9 a.m. at the show grounds in Hamel, Minn. contact Kari Murrell at (763) 478-9889

Sept. 11: Northwest Saddle Club Pleasure Show at 8 a.m. at North Branch, Minn. contact Roy Johnson at (651) 462-1900

Sept. 11: Elk River Saddle Club Game Show at 9 a.m. at the Sherburne County Fairgrounds in Elk River, Minn. contact Robin Fauchald at (763) 607-3337

Sept. 11-12: MN Half Arabian Horse Assoc. Pleasure Show at 8 a.m. at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Lake Elmo, Minn -- contact Linda Hagan Kvanbeck at (763) 434-7859

Sept. 11: Northwoods Saddle Club Game Show at 9 a.m. at the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids, Minn. call (218) 244-1945

Sept. 11: Houck Cancer Benefit Saddle Series at 10:30 a.m. at Houck Arena in North Branch, Minn. -- call (651) 277-1095 for more information

Sept. 11: Eau Claire Bit and Spur Horse Show at 8:30 a.m. in Eau Claire, Wis. Contact James Clark at (715) 879-4255 for more information

Sept. 11: Rainbow Saddle Club horse show at 8 a.m. at the Rainbow Arena in Northfield, Minn. Contact Ann Glasrud at (507) 663-0270

Sept. 11: Hollywood Riders Saddle Club at 9 a.m. at the Waconia, Minn. County Fairgrounds; contact Dick Ochs at (612) 599-6155

Sept. 11: MN O-Mok-See game show at 9 a.m. at the Bit & Spurs Arena in Delano, Minn. Call (320) 493-7131 for more information

Sept. 11: Eau Claire Bit and Spur horse show at 8:30 a.m. at Eau Claire, Wis. Contact James Clark at (715) 879-4255

Sept. 11: North Country Ride Fundraiser at 9 a.m. at the Dirt Floor Arena in Proctor, Minn. Call (218) 269-4948 for info

Sept. 10-11: Wisconsin Foundation Quarter Horse Association Show; contact Michelle at (608) 582-3190

Sept. 11-12: Minnesota Pinto Horse Association 2-day, 4-judge show at Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, Minn.

Sept. 14: Buffalo Barrel Bash Series at 7:30 p.m. at the Buffalo Rodeo Grounds in Buffalo, Minn. Call (763) 238-2929

Sept. 18: MN North Star Paint Horse Club horse show at 8 a.m. at R&J Arena in Verdale, Minn. Contact (651) 464-6165

Sept. 17 - 19: Sioux Falls, So. Dak. - Spirit of the West Festival Cook Off; Colleen Sloan of Sandy, Utah will host dutch oven clinics on Friday and Saturday, and the American Chuck Wagon Association will host a chuck wagon/dutch oven cooking for competitions clinic on Friday. Chuck Wagon Cook Off on Saturday; Cassandra Swanson 605-743-5270 or swanson_farms@yahoo.com; spiritofthewestfestival.com

September 18-19: MCHA, Northern Lights Cutting at the Dirt Floor Arena in Proctor, Minn. Show Secretary Dava Scribner; at (612) 845-1270

Sept. 22-24: WSCA Championship Show at the MN State Fairgrounds in St. Paul, Minn. contact (507) 345-5856

September 24-26: 29th Annual AIHR/HOA

National Horse Show, Marshall TX Civic Arena; Open to all AIHR/HOA registered horses. Registration available at event. Free to the public; For show packet: AIHRnatshowreg@hughes.net; For AIHR information: www.indianhorse.com; For HOA information: www.horseoftheamericas.com

Sept. 25-26: Northern Prairie Shootout I and II in the arena in Twin Valley, Minn. at the arena.

September 26, 2010. The MayPort Arena Association Fun Playday at the Portland Equine Park in Portland, ND. Starts at 1:00 PM. New members welcomed. Annual family is \$25, Annual Single is \$15. For info call 701-786-3254 or 701-786-2359

Oct. 2: Fall Regional Horse Owner Programs from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in St. Paul, Minn. Call (612) 625-6776 for registration information.

Oct. 1: Barrel Futurity, 4D, Barrel Race and 3D Pole Bending at the R&J Arena in Verdale, Minn. call (218) 445-5849

Oct. 2: SilverBuckel Saddle Club horse show at 8:30 a.m. at the Silver Buckle Arena in Plymouth, Minn. Call Roy Johnson at (763) 557-2920

Oct. 2: Silver Bullet Saddle Club game show at 9 a.m. at the Silver Bullet Arena in Clearwater, Minn. Call (320) 557-0783

Oct. 2: Upper Midwest Buckskin Horse Assoc. horse show at 8:30 p.m. at the Jackson County Fairgrounds in Black River, Wis. Call (608) 343-5690

Oct. 2: MN Circuit Riders SC fun show at the LeSueur Saddle Club Arena in LeSueur, Minn. Call (612) 623-3382

Oct. 5-10: The 2010 Minnesota Harvest Horse Show at the State Fair Coliseum of the St. Paul, Minn. Fairgrounds; go to www.wecanride.org for more information

Oct. 8-10: MCHA Fall Festival of Cuttings at Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, Minn. Show Secretary Dava Scribner at (612) 845-1270

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CA. HORSEMAN AND VET- JAMES HENRY STEERE DIES AT 85

James Henry Steere, 1925 - 2010, Father, husband, veterinarian, teacher, athlete, equestrian, long-time Petaluma resident James Henry Steere died peacefully at home August 3.

Steere practiced veterinary medicine for more than 50 years, the majority of them in Sonoma and Marin counties where he opened Artaurus Veterinary Clinic in the early '70's. He was a legend in the horse world, both for his compassion and skill as a veterinarian and for his participation over the years in long-distance endurance riding, where he helped to establish many of the safety standards that govern the sport today. A member of the Marin and Sonoma horse councils, he was a tire-



less advocate for equine welfare and trail preservation.

Steere was born in 1925 in Hollywood, California and spent his early years on a homestead in the high desert near Mojave, where he rode a horse to his two-room school in the hamlet of Rosamond. In the seventh grade, he decided to be a horse doctor. He graduated from Boulder, Colorado High School at the beginning of World War II and studied for a year at Pomona College in Claremont before serving in the United States Air Corps as a Second Lieutenant and radar navigator, flying B29s off the island of Guam. Steere returned to Pomona College after his military service and continued at the University of California at Davis, graduating as a veterinarian in 1953.

In 1958, Steere was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to the Royal College of Veterinary Medicine in Copenhagen, Denmark. By then married and father of four children, he moved his family to Denmark, where he practiced large-animal surgery. Returning to the United States at the end of his Fulbright, Steere became an editor for American Veterinary Publications and started an equine practice in Santa Barbara, California. In 1964 he won a Public Health Grant to the new Population Center at Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, planning to give up veterinary work for academics and research after graduating with his Master of Public Health degree. UC Davis friend and classmate Bill Kortum convinced him to migrate with his growing family to Petaluma in 1965 to establish an equine practice instead.

In addition to his veterinary practice, Steere taught a veterinary technician course at Indian Valley College in Marin for more than 30 years. In 2005, at 80 years old, he became the oldest man on record to complete the 100-mile Tevis Cup endurance ride, and in June 2010, he teamed with his son, Thom Steere, to compete in the Ride & Tie Championship, successfully completing the 19-mile course at age 85.

Steere is survived by his wife, D'Ann, eight children and their spouses and domestic partners, seven grandchildren, and his horse, Wesob.

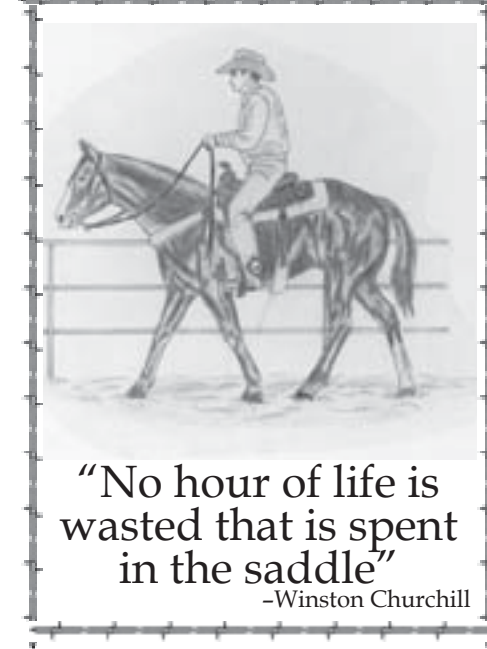
Minnesota Horse Council Offers Scholarships, Grants, Funding & Awards

The Minnesota Horse Council announces several funding programs available this year. These are made possible by the success of the Minnesota Horse Expo.

Scholarships: the twenty-fourth annual MHC/Tony Gasser Memorial Scholarships are offered for both high school seniors & undergrads, and for grad students (considered separately), to be used toward education that would further the applicant's career in and contributions to the horse industry in Minnesota. Applications are due by November 1st. At least ten \$2000 scholarships will be presented at the MHC annual meeting next January. For more info, contact Trina Joyce at 612-729-7798 for questions.

Grants: of a maximum of \$7,000 are given to Minnesota charitable/non-profit equine-related organizations as 'seed money' to inspire new projects or capital improvements, or for expansions of existing projects or services. Applications are due by October 1st. Grants are presented at the MHC annual meeting next January. Funds will be paid out as your project progresses. Contact Tim Bonham at 612-721-1007 or T-Bonham@sc.net for info.

Direct Funding: The Minnesota Horse Council offers direct funding assistance (up to \$500) to any non-profit horse related organization that develops or organizes any public clinic, program activity, or publication that advances the goals of the Minnesota Horse Council. Applications accepted at any time during the year, responses generally within 30 days. Contact: Christie Ward, malaz002@umn.edu, 651-603-8702.



War Horses -- Continued from Page 10

curate term. We portray knights through joust, and it is more than just holding a lance. There is much more involved than that."

Indeed, that is true. The knights provide examples of gallantry, honor, truth and justice, as well as the penalty for wrongdoing. Every act includes one dishonorable act and that knight's defeat.

Every act also includes an opportunity for the knights to show respect to women and care for children. The ideal knight is always a gentleman.

So how does a man get involved in such a past-time? Beard said, "Almost every state has a Renaissance Festival. A search on the internet will show the details. Texas has two strong companies." He said, "We find that people want to make the connection with the past. Many visitors attend in costume, simply for the

Ranch Steakhouse Event Raises Nearly \$9,000 for Rein in Cancer

The Ranch Steakhouse in Oklahoma City recently hosted a private dinner party in conjunction with the Ford American Quarter Horse Youth Association World Championship Show to raise \$8,780 for Rein in Cancer.

"For three years now, the Rein in Cancer benefit at the Ranch Steakhouse has grown and continues to raise money for the nutritional support of our families and friends with cancer," said Event Chair Kerry Papendick. Her daughter, Ali, competed at Youth World Show and her husband, Lew, is an orthopedic surgeon in their home of Rapid City, South Dakota.

This year, more than 73 guests attended the special event, which included a four-course dinner and beverages. There was also outstanding musical entertainment provided by Ken Murray, assistant trainer at High Point Performance Horses in Pilot Point, Texas, western entertainer Devon Dawson and his band, and AQHA judge and trainer Don Bell of Whitesboro, Texas.

In its third year, the event has raised more than \$20,000 to support the work of the Shirley Bowman Nutritional Clinic at the University of Oklahoma Cancer Institute.

"Many cancer patients cannot fight their battle when malnourished," Papendick said. "Thank you to all who came to the dinner. With your donations, you have provided months of nutritional support to many cancer patients."

The clinic was established with help from Rein in Cancer and by family and friends in honor of the memory of Shirley Bowman, who died in 2004 after a long and courageous battle with breast cancer. Shirley's sister, "Shorty" Koger, owner of Shorty's Caboy Hattery in Oklahoma City, was the driving force in encouraging support for the nutrition program at the OUCI.

"This special event just keeps getting better and better. Each year we struggle to think of ways to top the year before and somehow the entertainment comes through!" said Koger, a co-founder of Rein in Cancer. "This year's event was just great and we truly appreciate everyone coming out and supporting our cause."

An equine-industry group, Rein in Cancer was created by Koger, Cheryl Magoteaux, and Tracie Anderson of the OU Cancer Institute in 2007 to recognize the willingness of the horse community to help with the fight against cancer. It has raised thousands upon thousands of dollars to support care for cancer patients, help fund treatment and contribute to the Shirley Bowman wing at the OU Cancer Institute in Oklahoma City. For information on Rein in Cancer, visit the web site at www.reinincancer.com.

enjoyment of experiencing another time for a few hours."

In agreement with Beard were two of the official dignitaries, the Archbishop Stephen Copperfox and Professor Loquacious ApCymry, Historian.

These men - Joseph Ravitz, (www.empowerfreedom@q.com) retired singer and Christian musician, and Rob Rice, (www.robricebooks.com), writer and university history professor - explained that the Colorado festival (www.coloradofestival.com) is open on weekends during June and July, and is in its 34th year.

They said that the festival is overseen by 15 board members, with 50 people in support positions on the grounds. But the festival's continued success is assured by the participation of about 400 people.



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The village, patterned roughly like a bird in flight, wanders in three looping directions from the main gate. Its paths and streets provide hours of pleasurable sights and sounds that cause the modern world to drift away.

Modern clothes are out of place here, and for those who agree, the Royal Costumer offers for rent garments of the era: from peasant and forer to shopkeeper, warrior and royalty.

The air is filled with the sounds of Celtic music, madrigal singers, and bag pipes, accompanied by the aromas of fresh baked bread, roast turkey legs and steak. Over 200 artisans displayed their handcrafted wares. Ponies, camels, llamas and three elephants were available for rides.

But the story, after all, is about the horses of the time, and we leave the realm with a suggestion from Professor ApCymry, Historian, who said that information about a manual on ancient and modern horse care can be found on the web with the search word, hippiatrica.

6th Annual Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer in McLeod, ND a Huge Success

Dense fog did not deter 489 registered riders from trailering their steeds to McLeod, N.D. Aug. 21 for the 6th Annual Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer to benefit the Roger Maris Cancer Center in Fargo, N.D. The event raises an increasing amount annually. This year's total tops \$53,000, as of this printing with more coming in. Karen Haugen, one of the organizers said, "Supper was crazy; we served 842 people. These are both new records! The 2011 ride is set for Aug 20th, 2011, always the 3rd Saturday in August."

As I drove to the event the VEN had sponsored since our first year of operation, the fog hung like a thick cloud over the

Sand Hills of the Sheyenne National Grasslands. This area is a popular site for trail riding and is near Ft. Ransom and Little Yellowstone, in the southeastern part of North Dakota -- very scenic and popular equestrian areas. I had to drive very slowly as visibility was quite poor. The 14-mile ride begins and ends in McLeod.

Shawna Olson, a meteorologist with Valley News Live in Fargo, N.D. welcomed the crowd and dedicated the 6th Annual Ride to Anita Hible, affectionally known as Hibbi, who carried the American Cancer Society flag the first year of the ride.

Hibbi had cancer twice, overcame it, relapsed and sadly, died Saturday, Aug.

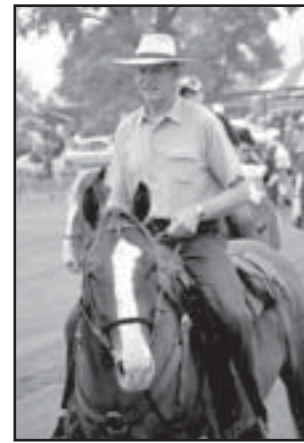
21, in the afternoon, about the time the riders would have come back to town. Gary Rodacker said the The Cowboy Up Prayer as he has done every year. Bruce Van Den Einde, one of the founders and

organizers of the ride, led the Lone Rider horse,

Chance (Last Chance Bonanza) which belongs to his wife Carol, also one of the original organizers of the event. The lone rider horse, says Carol Van Den Einde, "Represents all the riders that could not make

to the ride due to cancer or have died from cancer." Schedule the date, now Aug. 20, 2011, to come out and ride, watch, dance and enjoy the many activities this group organizes for

the 7th Annual Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer.



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Top right corner: Cathy Posch carrying the flag for the Sanford.
Second row left: Wyatt Draovitch carrying the US Flag on his horse, Toby; Second row second from left: Shawna Olson, leading her horse Gunner; second row middle: Ken Pawluk;
Bottom right: Jim Sagoold, president of the Broken Spur Club in McLeod, N.D. carrying their flag.
Other photos pending identification. Call Ley @ 701.361.8648 to ID the photos for the next issue. of the VEN.



Photos and article by Ley Bouchard



The Outhouse: Life on the Farm With Emily

Los Angeles Visits the Farm

My side of the family hadn't had a reunion in twenty-some years. This was the BIG ONE. Everyone from near and far was coming to eat, drink and be merry. If any lopsided relative happens to recognize a family member or distant cousin, all the better.

Uncle Harry and Aunt Helen were to be our house guests for the duration of the festivities. They chose Ed and me to room with as they had never been to a 'real farm' before and thought it would be a gas.

Our company arrived off the plane wearing matching plaid shirts, straw hats, and cowboy boots. Aunt Helen sported a huge straw purse to complete her get up. OK, we would deal with this; no one knew us at the airport. "Welcome to Dakota Territories!" were Ed's welcoming words to our guests, and his last until we got home.

The first thing Aunt Helen wanted to see was a baby pig, but two steps into the barn her gag reflex kicked in. Reaching into her big straw bag, she pulled out a bottle of "Safari by Ralph Lauren" and spritzed it in the air around her while walking down the aisle. The barn started smelling like the women's accessories end of JC Penny and Aunt Helen resembled a priest sprinkling Holy Water.

After holding, cuddling, and cooing to baby pigs, in 50-some smiling photos later, we were off to the next barn. I was a little nervous about what Aunt Helen should say when I served up a platter of pork chops for supper.

The cow barn was Uncle Harry's dream. "I've always wanted to milk a cow," he stated as he walked in with Aunt Helen and her fragrance following. I tried to explain to Uncle Harry that he didn't milk cows here; we just fed our steers and hauled them to market.

"What kind of cows steer things?" he asked, and I have Ed the "It's your turn to explain" look. Ohh boy, this was going to be a long day!

As we entered the horse barn, a group of kittens gathered around Aunt Helen looking for table scraps, and she was immediately in seventh heaven while easing her grip on the Ralph Lauren bottle. Each kitten received a proper name, brushing, and a pedicure. I wasn't sure and didn't get a head count, but I think she stuffed a couple kittens in her bag.

Uncle Harry wanted to ride a horse. As I saddled up trust old grey, he reached for Aunt Helen's big straw purse for a snack. "Have you ridden a horse before, Uncle Harry?"

"Oh no, but I've seen plenty of Westerns on TV; I'll be just fine."

"OK, you get on and I'll lead you around for a bit until you get the hang of it."

It took a while, but Uncle Harry made it up on top of the horse, then just slowing kept going over and off the other side, spluttering to the ground. Sitting up, he yelled to Aunt Helen, "HELEN, I've been bucked off! Isn't it wonderful?"

The old horse, having never taken a step, looked around at Harry and yawned. I got the giggles and had to excuse myself for a while to regroup while Ed just stood there and swallowed his noose.

Visiting the chickens was hopeless. Aunt Helen assigned each hen a title along with a surname while Uncle Harry made the mistake of trying to pet a rooster. Aunt Helen used her perfume spray like a mad woman, fending off the rooster in no time at all. A tractor ride was the next adventure. Ed took our guests down the road a ways, and over the engine noise, I could hear Aunt Helen singing the "Green Acres" lyrics. Uncle Harry chimed in with "Country Highway" and I received the silent treatment from Ed the rest of the night.

Before supper, I asked our company if they would trot out to the garden if they would pick some carrots and lettuce for a nice salad. Busy in the kitchen with my back to them as they went out the door, I heard the dog barking hysterically. In the garden were my two guests, dressed from head to toe in mosquito netting and hip waders. Using spades to dig up the lettuce, easy, Emily, we can plant more.

The reunion went off without a hitch, and my favorite aunt and uncle returned to California a few days later. Downtown LA will never be the same...

SHOULD I HAVE A WILL, A TRUST, OR BOTH?

MANKATO, Minn. – Personal estate planning is a critical part of life. However, survey data shows that over 68 percent of farm family members do not have an up-to-date personal estate plan. Part of the reason for this is the confusion around the choice between a Will or a revocable living trust.

A Will and a revocable living trust are both instruments that will direct your assets to the individuals, organizations, or charities upon your death. You do not need both. One or the other will suffice. "The choice of which instrument to use should be based upon your estate planning goals" states Gary Hachfeld, Extension educator in ag business management. Certain rules and guidelines must be followed based upon which instrument you chose.

A Will triggers the probate process. In Minnesota, this occurs when the decedent owns \$50,000 or more of assets. Probate is a court supervised process and in Minnesota takes 12-18 months to complete. Court and attorney fees cost, on average, 2-3 percent of the estate value. The process is also open to the public in that anyone can go to the courthouse of the decedent's county of residence and receive a copy of the decedent's probate records. These records list the decedent's assets at the time of their death. Within the Will, the decedent can list what happens to their farm assets upon death and the decedent's assets receive an increase in basis to fair market value.

Assets in a revocable living trust do not go through the probate process and therefore are closed to the public. The trust must go through an administrative phase to distribute assets but this takes much less time and generally costs much less than probate. In addition, a revocable living trust allows you lots of flexibility including the distribution of your farm business assets. "Think of a revocable living trust as a bucket. You place all your farm and non-farm assets into this bucket. You still own the assets so you can add assets to the trust or take assets out and sell them, etc. There is no change in your tax status. Upon your death, the assets receive an increase in basis and pass to your heirs as directed in the trust document" Hachfeld says.

In addition, it is important to include with the Will or revocable living trust three additional documents. The first is durable power-of-attorney. Durable means the power continues if you become disabled and cannot

Legal Publications Available for Farmers Struggling With Disaster Recovery

MANKATO, Minn. – Farm families continue to struggle while trying to recover from the weather disasters of this summer. To help with the recovery process, University of Minnesota Extension has made available a series of legal information sheets that may help farm families with their disaster recovery.

The publications include information related to tax issues when liquidating or reorganizing the business, bankruptcy, rights of an unsecured creditor, contracts and notes, ag marketing and production contracts, security interest in personal property, etc. "This information is not a substitute for legal and financial advice from professionals but can give the farm family some valuable background information from which to begin" says Gary Hachfeld, University

of Minnesota Extension educator. The informational series was developed by Phillip L. Kunkel, Jeffrey A. Peterson, and Jessica A. Mitchell, attorneys at law with the Gray Plant Mooty Law Firm of St. Cloud, Minnesota.

The series is available at no cost through Extension. For those who have Internet access, simply go to www.extension.umn.edu and click on "agriculture", then click on "agricultural business management", and finally click on "Farm Legal Series" on the center of the page. For those without Internet access, contact your local county Extension office or the Farm Information Line at 1-800-232-9077.

Gary A. Hachfeld is an agricultural business management educator with University of Minnesota Extension.



Katie Russell, the 9-year-old daughter of Tami and Darvis Russell from Karlstad, Minn. leading Tru Duplicate sired by True Integrity located at AJ Pintabians. This Filly won four Halter Classes and also brought in one Grand Champion and 2 Reserve Championships at the Northern Minnesota Pintabian Horse show located in Rosseau, Minn. each year.

make your own decisions. Second is the health care directive where you list how you want to be cared for if you become disabled or death is eminent. Third is listing your Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) designations. These are people you grant access to your medical records and documents. If you are unable to convey your own medical information, the medical care facility will not share this information with anyone unless you have granted them HIPAA authority.

Personal estate planning is an important process. Whether you chose a Will or a trust is less important than getting the process done correctly. Laws are changing constantly so seek qualified legal assistance when completing your personal estate plan.

Gary A. Hachfeld is an agricultural business management educator with University of Minnesota Extension.

In the steady gaze of the horse shines a silent eloquence that speaks of love and loyalty, strength and courage. It is the window that reveals to us how willing is his spirit, how glorious his heart.

Author Unknown

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USEF Youth Sportsman's Award Nominations Due October 1, 2010

Lexington, KY - Applications for the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Youth Sportsman's Award, sponsored by Breyer Animal Creations®, are to be submitted to the applicable USEF Recognized Associations or International Discipline Associations by October 1, 2010.

Focused on developing leaders in equestrian sport, this award recognizes young equestrians who are members of both USEF and a USEF Recognized Association or International Discipline Association, who exhibit exceptional leadership potential and a commitment to equestrian sport.

To be considered for

the 2010 USEF Youth Sportsman's Award, sponsored by Breyer Animal Creations®, applicants must:

- Have a current membership in good standing with the USEF;
- Have a current membership in good standing with a USEF Recognized Association or International Discipline Association; (for affiliate youth contacts, visit: <http://www.usef.org/documents/Youth/AffiliateContact-Info.pdf>);
- Be 17 years of age or under, as of December 1, 2009;
- Demonstrate an ongoing

commitment and dedication to the promotion of equestrian sport;

- Serve as a positive role

of competition, including local, regional or national events; and

- Exhibit characteristics that exemplify positive sportsmanship principles.



Maxi Gumprecht, far right, won the 2009 USEF Youth Sportsman's Award, sponsored by Breyer Animal Creations. Photo by Geoff Oliver Bugbee/USEF Archives.

Applications are available online at http://www.usef.org/_IFrames/Youth/sportsmansAward.aspx or through the youth's USEF Recognized Association or International Discipline Association. The required materials are to be submitted directly to the applicant's respective USEF Recognized Association or International Discipline Association and must be received

by October 1, 2010. Each USEF Recognized Association and International Discipline Association will select a National Winner, who will be considered for the overall award.

All National Winners will be invited to attend meetings and activities to be held in conjunction with the 2011 USEF Annual Meeting in Lexington, KY. They will be offered an educational experience regarding equestrian career opportunities and will be honored for their nominations during one of the awards sessions. For

additional information regarding the USEF Youth Sportsman's Award, sponsored by Breyer Animal Creations®, please contact Jennifer Mellenkamp, Director, National Breed/Discipline Affiliates and Youth Programs, via e-mail at jmellenkamp@usef.org or call (859) 225-6955.

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