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May 2010

The Valley Equestrian

Your local resource for equestrian events, news and information. Newspaper

A Rare Event: Twin foals born in Maddock, N.D.



Photos by Roxanne Gillespie

COVER STORY

TWIN FOALS
BORN IN
BENSON
COUNTY, NO. DAK.

HORSE

CAMPING
TIPS AND LISTS

THUNDER
FROM
HORSEBACK:
INTRODUCING
VICTOR WOLF

HORSE FAIRS
AND EXPO
HIGHLIGHTS
INSIDE

MORE PHOTOGRAPHY ONLINE AT WWW.THEVEONLINE.COM AND OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

THUNDER FROM HORSEBACK

By Victor Wolf

On the first day a chill wind swept down out of the north to greet the 78 men and women members of the Mounted Shooters of America as they gathered to compete in a weekend event at Walk-a-Mile Equestrian Center, west of Avondale, Colo.

With gusts upwards of 20 miles per hour, neither the wind nor the cold was of first concern. The possibility of losing a hat during the runs was of primary importance that uncomfortable April 24th morning. Bone-chilling cold that stiffened fingers was largely ignored.

(The 25th was pleasantly warm and sunny.)

The event, hosted by the Colorado Mounted Thunder Club, was nearly cancelled due to the weather, but the competition was a point qualifying shoot. Those who scored highest would continue toward earning places at the Amarillo, Texas, World Championship later in the year.

When I asked on of the people in the announcer's booth who I could turn to for answers for my questions, there was no hesitation: "You need to talk to Bill Beamon, the vice president of our club." And Bill was the perfect host and guide. After 23 years of rodeo competition, Bill became restless for something to do. He discovered mounted shooting, and even more important, mounted shooting discovered him. Bill is more than a competitor; he is no doubt one of the sport's best ambassadors.

I learned later that he is a member of the national organization's advisory council, as well as the representative for Colorado and Utah.

The roots of Mounted Thunder, the third club formed in Colorado, were planted in Bill's backyard arena in 1999. This event, Bill explained, was a blanket shoot. Every participant brought a gift, such as a carved picture frame or something artistic. Ever contestant, no matter where placed, would choose an award.

Of 80 official patterns, the event used four, consisting in five white and five red balloons. Imagine a lower case t pattern. The rider starts at the bottom, rides to the cross bar and turns right, shooting across his body at three balloons on his left side. Making a right turn around the barrel marking the end of that portion of the run, he rides toward the barrel at the opposite end of the cross bar, and fires at two more balloons on his right side. The distance between rider and targets is 4 to 8 feet. The rider holsters the first of two guns, loaded with blank cartridges purchased by the club from one of four certified companies. He makes a left turn around the second barrel and cross-draws the second gun. Turning left, he rides to the third barrel which marks the top of the t, and makes a right turn around it. The rider rides the rundown to the finish, shooting at five red balloons in the row. Any missed target adds five seconds to the run.

Anything can happen on a run, particularly with the gusting wind playing havoc with hats, shirts, dust, vision, and balloons.

A horse might stumble or balk at a turn. A gun can malfunction. A hat, dislodged

by the wind, might be distracting. The rider might check for the turn too soon, or make a turn too wide. He might fire too quickly. He might fumble the second draw. Or a rider might forget to load on of his guns.

The rider, who had given his attention to helping someone just before he mounted, missed all five red balloons. The only sound accompanying his round-down was a collective "Oh no!" breathed in sympathy by the onlookers.

I later heard that rider say, "Next time, I'll take 3 guns. Two will probably be loaded." Even later, I heard him say, "Steve!

Want me to load those guns for you? I need the practice."

It is important to note that because club members between 6 and 11 years old ride the courses and point at the balloons with toy guns, family-friendly language is

the order of the day.

Kevin Perry, club president, told me that family values are the way of life in the club setting. Strong language is discouraged. Any member will tell someone who breaks that rule of courtesy to take the language away from the children. And because children are everywhere, both on and off their horses, persistently hard talking people change their habit or simply drop out of the club.

However, the rider is only half of the story. The horses, each one displaying what can only be called enjoyment, are the partners that make counted shooting exciting. Bill Beamon and Kevin Perry are quick to point out that after the competitions, 90 percent of the conversation is about the horses. Here is one of the several memorable stories I was told during the two-day event.

Bill's horse was mortally injured as the result of slipping on ice in the pasture. Bill was devastated. His wife, Melodie, however, knew her man. She encouraged him to ride again, and to look at a horse rejected by a barrel racer.

Bill and his wife walked to the pasture fence. One horse came over immediately and put his head on Bill's chest. He moved the horse aside and asked, "Which horse do you want me to look at?" The answer came back, "The one leaning on your chest. His name is Cisco. Take him home and try him out."

Bill got a halter from his trailer and prepared it for loading, then opened the pasture gate. Before he could put the halter on the horse, Cisco, a registered bay breeding stock paint gelding that did not color, walked right into the trailer. His dam is a registered quarter horse.

Bill said, "The first time I saddled up and mounted him, Cisco tried to buck me off. But we worked things out. Two weeks later, I rode him in a competition and we began winning."

Bill also said that Cisco relieved the grief resulting from the loss of his first horse. "I told the barrel racer that Cisco was a gift from God." He was surprised to learn that Cisco's registered name is "Made by the Angels."

That they are partners is demonstrated by the fact that Bill and Cisco won the overall with a score of 10.185 and added to their list of at least five other wins. They are now a competition closer to going on to the sixth and final level and to the next championship competition. (Learn more at

"In the steady gaze of a 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

www.cowboymounted-shooting.com)

Victor Wolf is a journalist from Pueblo, Colo. He started Covenant Institute Equestrian Center and travels the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains helping horses, meeting people, and using healing energy with essential oils and other holistic remedies. Wolf may be contacted at amani_farm@yahoo.com.

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A Rare Event: Twin Foals born to Maddock, No.Dak. Family

A mare with Benson County No. Dak. connections had twins April 18, a rare event. The mare, Tate Hancock, came from the Solberg-Gillespie Ranch at York, No.Dak. She was sold to the Dale and Kristie Anderson family last summer and was in foal from Goldnugget Bailey. The Andersons live south of Maddock, No. Dak.

Standing on the left is Kristie Anderson and on the right is Dale Anderson. Kneeling on the left is Jarett holding colt Little Joe, 74 lbs. On the right is Cody holding filly Bella, 31 lbs. The Andersons check on the foals every two hours. As of this printing they're still doing fine. According to the Helen Woodward Animal Center Equine Hospital in Santa Fe, Calif., only one in 10,000 equine pregnancies result in twins. Other statistics go on to say that only nine percent of twin pregnancies will be carried to term by the mare.



Photographs by Roxanne Gillespie

Editor's Note: We wanted to learn how the foals were doing and called Kristie Anderson on Sunday, May 23 to learn more.

Valley Equestrian (VE): How are the foals doing now?
 Kristie Anderson (KA): "Bella's (the filly) bones were soft and we've been splinting them, changing the splints every two days. We will have the filly in splints about two more weeks. They both were out with mom as she's been cooped up in the stall and that is wearing on her -- not being able to get out and move."

VE: Did you suspect twins?
 KA: "Tate is my daughter, Cody's mare. She was huge and so wide, and Cody said, 'What if we have twins?' We didn't believe she'd have twins!"

"It has been one miracle wrapped up in a blessing for us."

Kristie Anderson

Sometimes the mare's body will reject the twins, which causes an abortion late in the pregnancy, about eight or nine months along (a mare's gestation is 11 months). Out of the pregnancies carried to term 64 percent are born dead. In 21 percent of the cases one is born alive, and in 14.5 percent both will be born alive but one or both of them may die within the first week of life. It is against the odds that both foals survive.

Photos courtesy of Roxanne Gillespie, York, No. Dak. Photo and article courtesy of the Benson County, N.D. Farmers Press.



Above: Cody Anderson, 12, holding Bella, the filly born at only 31 pounds.

and get dressed, etc. and then you lay there trying to get back to sleep, and then it starts all over again. Just the worrying!"

VE: What has the reaction been from your other horses?
 KA: "My 22-year-old mare, Poncho, is Tate's pasture mate; she has never had a foal and when Tate came up she was sniffing at her and you could see the concern in her face. Tate didn't get upset with Poncho there. They've always been together in other pastures. The ponies come to the back door of the pole barn to snicker."

You can learn more and get updates on the foals at Kristie Anderson's Facebook page.



Jarett Anderson holds onto the colt, Little Joe, who came in at 74 pounds. The twin foals are doing nicely.



Looking for old horse stories ...

Do you think you have an old horse? If so, we would like to hear from you.

Email theVEnews@gmail.com or call 701.361.8648.

Let us know the age of the horse and send a photo. Tell us about your horse, why s/he is special to you!

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The Valley Equestrian



About the Cover

A miracle occurred April 18 on a farm west of Devils Lake, No.Dak. when twin foals were born to the Dale and Kristie Anderson family from Maddock, No.Dak. One colt, Little Joe, weighed 74 pounds and the filly, Bella, weighed a slight 31 pounds. The AQHA mare is Tate Hancock; the sire is Goldnugget Bailey. See more photos and the story on page 3. Photos by Roxanne Gillespie.

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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.

Left below: A jumper at the WSCA Open Show as part of the Red River Valley Horse Fair in West Fargo, No. Dak.
Left below: A driving buckskin during the Parade of Breeds at the MN Horse Expo in St. Paul. More photos inside on page 13..



Top right: ? provides a brand inspection for ? at the Red River Valley Horse Fair May 10 in West Fargo, No. Dak.
Right: Lynn Palm demonstrates bridleless riding at the MN Horse Expo in St. Paul, Minn.



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Golden Eagle Equestrian Qualifiers Perform Well at Nationals

(Crookston, Minn.)- The University of Minnesota, Crookston Equestrian teams traveled to Lexington, Kentucky and took part in the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) National Competition at the Kentucky Horse Park from May 6-9.

On the Golden Eagle Hunt Seat side, the top 20 riders in the nation competed in each division. Across the country, there were over 8,600 hunt seat riders that started the season while only the top 419 qualified. Heather Fogelson (So, Minn.) finished eighth in the nation while Jessica Charles (Fr, Belgrade Lakes, Maine) finished tenth in the nation.



Anna Steen, (So, Hanover, Minn.) placed second in the nation at the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association National Competition May 6-9.

On the U of M, Crookston Western side, the top 20 riders in the nation also competed. Anna Steen (So, Hanover, Minn.) was stellar taking second in the nation. Amanda Peterson (Sr, Rochester, Minn.) took eleventh place while Kaitlyn Tollefsrud (So, Hawley, Minn.) finished twelfth.

Congratulations to all University of Minnesota, Crookston IHSA National Competition participants! For more information, visit the Golden Eagle Athletics Web site at <http://www.goldeneaglesports.com/>.

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

"Riding a horse is not a gentle hobby, to be picked up and laid down like a game of solitaire. It is a grand passion. It seizes a person whole and, once it has done so, he will have to accept that his life will be radically changed."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

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UHC Launches New Resources Section on Website

Washington, DC - The Unwanted Horse Coalition (UHC) announces the launch of an additional resources page on the UHC's website. This new page, entitled Additional Resources, gives horse owners and horse care facilities a bank of informative websites they can utilize in many different situations when dealing with unwanted horses or poor financial situations.

The new resources page will help aid in the UHC's mission in educating horse owners on owning responsibly. Sections with links to useful programs such as haybanks and feedbanks, vaccination, gelding and euthanasia clinics are included, as well as sites on equine welfare

grants. These links will provide valuable information, which will prove beneficial to horse owners and horse care facilities and in turn, will help many horses in need. The new page can be found under the already existing resources section, under Additional Resources at the UHC website: www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org.

"With many horse owners and horse care facilities in difficult financial situations, the UHC found creating an additional resources page with links to important programs, clinics, and grant sites to be a top priority," said Ericka Caslin, director of the UHC. "The UHC receives many daily calls and emails with questions about

programs, grants, vaccinations clinics, and haybanks. We felt that compiling a list of sites and links with important information for people to use and pass along would be extremely advantageous."

Additional Resources will be updated regularly with new sites as options become available. If you have a site you feel would be a significant addition to the new section, please email it to Ericka Caslin, UHC Director, at ecaslin@horsecouncil.org. For more information about the Unwanted Horse Coalition, its goals and its missions, please call 2022964031 or visit www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org.

Check us out online: www.theveonline.com

National Institute for Animal Agriculture endorses the AAEP policy regarding equine transportation and processing

The 2010 resolution under Equine Transportation and Processing stands as follows.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture endorses the American Association of Equine Practitioners' policy regarding equine transportation and processing, which reads as follows:

"The AAEP advocates the humane treatment of all horses and believes the equine industry and horse owners have a responsibility to provide humane care throughout the life of the horse. However, a small percentage of horses are ultimately unwanted because they are no longer serviceable, are infirm, dangerous, or their owners are no longer able to care for them.

The AAEP recognizes that the processing of unwanted horses is currently a necessary aspect of the equine industry, and provides a humane alternative to allowing the horse to continue a life of discomfort and pain, and possibly inadequate care or abandonment. The AAEP encourages, fosters and provides education regarding responsible ownership and management that will reduce the number of unwanted horses. In addition, the AAEP supports and commends the efforts of equine retirement facilities and adoption groups.

Regarding the care of horses destined for processing, the AAEP's position is that these horses should be: Treated humanely and with dignity; Transported to the processing facility according to the guidelines approved by the

United States Department of Agriculture in 2002; Euthanized in a humane manner in accordance with the guidelines established by the American Veterinary Medical Association. [AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia]

In addition, the AAEP recognizes that the human consumption of horsemeat is a cultural and personal issue and does not fall within the purview of the association, whose mission is the care of the health and welfare of the horse throughout its life."

Adopted: 2008, Amended 2010 (The Equine Transportation and Processing resolution was also supported by the Equine Committee: 2009)

For more information please visit the NIAA's web site: www.animalagriculture.org. The 2010 resolutions should be online by mid-May.

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture provides a forum for building consensus and advancing proactive solutions for animal agriculture and provides continuing education and communication linkages for animal agriculture professionals. The organization's 200-plus members from the beef, dairy, swine, sheep, goat, equine and poultry industries include national and state livestock, poultry and equine organizations as well as veterinarians, government regulatory personnel, academia, researchers, extension specialists, producers and allied industry businesses and organizations.

Reining Horse Sports Foundation Crisis Fund Gets a New Title

Oklahoma City, OK - April 29, 2010 - Fittingly, the Reining Horse Sports Foundation (RHSF) Crisis Fund has become the RHSF Dale Wilkinson Memorial Crisis Fund.

Since 2000, the RHSF Crisis Fund has awarded \$68,000 and helped numerous NRHA members in their time of need. Whether it is natural disaster or physical illness, RHSF has been able to provide financial support.

Given Wilkinson's influence, impact, and mentoring of the performance horse industry's professionals, and in particular NRHA, it is a natural fit and done with the Wilkinson family's blessings. "They are very pleased," said Rick Weaver, NRHA President and Dale Wilkinson's son-in-law.

The current primary fund-raising program has been the RHSF Rookie Days presented by Classic Equine that are held about anywhere reiners or horsemen congregate. This one-day clinic/show format brings a unique aspect to learning about the sport of Reining. Participants spend a half day working with trainers and the second half competing in a mock show where they receive guidance on their runs from approved judges. A teaching style that reflects Wilkinson's support for up-and-coming reiners while also supporting members in their times of need.

The Hall of Fame's first inductee and without question one of Reining's most well-respected

iconic legends, Wilkinson was often referred to as the "Father of Modern-Day Reining." An educator and teacher with an unquenchable thirst for knowledge about his favorite subject - the horse, Wilkinson co-founded the University of Findlay Equestrian Program in 1976 and is the only rider to win the National Reining Horse Association Futurity and the National Cutting Horse Association Futurity.



The Reining Horse Sports Foundation consists of five core programs: Youth, Hall of Fame, International Development, Research & Education, and the Dale Wilkinson Memorial Crisis Fund. For more information or to make a donation please contact Brian Bendele, manager of the RHSF and Youth Programs at bbendele@nrha.com or 405-946-7400, extension 130.

Don't you help us keep the memory of Dale Wilkinson and our other Hall of Famers alive! Making a contribution to the Reining Horse Sports Foundation, means investing in the sport of Reining.

The Reining Horse



Sports Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing and enhancing the sport of Reining worldwide. The RHSF accomplishes that through their five core programs: Reining Hall of Fame, Crisis Fund, Research, Development & Education, Youth Programs and International Development. For further information about the Foundation, contact contact rhsf@nrha.com or 405-946-7400, ext. 130, or visit the RHSF web site at www.rhsf.com.

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MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS:

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By Bob Valentine, Ph.D.

In this column we will discuss identifying specific fixed asset accounts that reflect how we want to measure our assets to make them more productive. I am going to start by repeating the introduction in my last article, but with an emphasis on fixed assets.

In previous columns we have discussed primary account categories that are used in a business's financial statements and to a limited extent, the type of information that is contained in these categories. It is now time to get specific about fixed assets so we know how we are investing our money, what we are investing it in, if we are getting the Return On Investment (ROI) we expect and if not, how we can make improvements. Having this detail will let us know what changes we need to make, if any, to better manage our business assets to make them more productive.

Fixed Assets are generally BIG capital expense items and therefore, consume a lot of cash. Unlike Current Assets, Fixed Assets are not expected to be turned into cash in the next twelve months. Purchases that fall into the fixed asset category are horses used in production (breeding and lessons), vehicles, equipment (tractors, ATV's), Buildings, etc. You need to make sure all your fixed assets are producing, and furthermore producing at a level where they are providing you with a Return on Investment (ROI). Before a fixed asset is purchased you should determine the ROI that is acceptable to you. If the asset is not meeting your expectations, then you need to solve the problem or sell it. Fixed Assets that are not working for your business are a financial burden no different than cash tied up in inventory. Fixed assets cost money to keep and if the fixed asset isn't producing it is cash at rest. You will not be able to make that determination without setting up your system to measure the assets productivity.

$$ROI = (\text{Gain from an Investment} - \text{Cost of The Investment}) / \text{Cost of The Investment}$$

Return On Investment is a versatile and simple way to measure if a Fixed Asset is going to be productive. That is, if an investment does not have a positive ROI, or if there are other opportunities with a higher ROI, and your cash is limited, then the Fixed Asset should be not be purchased. To calculate ROI, the business benefit of an investment is divided by the cost of the investment. The result can be expressed as a percentage or a ratio. The Return On Investment (ROI) formula is:

$$ROI = (\text{Gain from an Investment} - \text{Cost of The Investment}) / \text{Cost of The Investment}$$

Return On Assets is a broader asset measurement that indicates how profitable your business is relative to its total assets. ROA gives an idea as to how efficient you are at using your assets to generate earnings. To calculate ROA you divide your businesses annual earnings by its total assets. The result can be displayed as a percentage.

The Return On Assets (ROA) formula is:

$$ROA = \text{Net Income} / \text{Total Assets}$$

Fixed Assets generally fall into the following categories: Furniture and Fixtures; Equipment; Vehicles; Buildings; Land; Horses and Accumulated Depreciation. There may be other Fixed Asset categories that better define your business, but no matter the category the productive asset rule still applies. "If it isn't productive, fix it or sell it" - and if you decide to sell it, hopefully not at a loss.

Fixed Assets are capitalized. Capitalization is an accounting method used to delay the recognition of an assets expense by recording the expense over a period of time. The periodic expense is called depreciation. The period of time is the useful life of the Asset. For example, currently the IRS allows a 10 year capitalization period for a horse. Remember, horses produced to sell are inventory. Horses used in your business are Fixed Assets. Equipment, vehicles, fencing, barns etc, all have their own capitalization periods. Always check with your accountant when setting up the capitalization period for any of your fixed assets. In general, capitalizing assets is beneficial. Acquiring new assets with a long-term lifespan can spread out the cost over a specified period of time. The purchase of a new asset deducted over the long term does not have

an immediate (time of purchase) negative effect on your revenues and is beneficial to your free cash flow. We will discuss free cash flow when we cover the Use Of Cash and Cash Flow Statement in a future article.

Accumulated Depreciation is considered a Fixed Asset because it is subtracted from the original purchase price of an asset to determine the assets remaining financial value for reporting purposes. Depreciation in accounting is an expense recorded to allocate an asset's cost over its useful life. Depreciation is a non-cash expense because you have already used your cash to purchase the asset. However, the accumulated depreciation is reported on your income statement decreasing your reported earnings. This doesn't mean that when an asset is fully depreciated that it has no value to the business. The longer you can keep a fixed asset producing for your business the greater the asset's contribution to your business.



My observation is that the majority of financially successful horse businesses rarely have new trucks and horse trailers. Remember why you need a truck and trailer before you spend your precious cash. A truck and trailer only needs to get you and your horses from point 'A' to point 'B' safely and free of problems. Ego and self-image have a terrible ROI.

There are times when it is difficult to calculate an asset's ROI. There are some Fixed Assets that are necessary in the course of conducting business, but don't have an ROI that is easy to measure. A good example is furniture and fixtures. If your horse business needs a comfortable place for you to conduct business and/or your customers to relax, furniture and fixtures are probably a necessity. A boarding business would be a good example. I would caution you not to spend a lot of money on furniture and fixtures. Anything to do with horses seems to have a shortened useful life.

Items that were considered Fixed Assets several years ago are not capitalized today. The increase in cost over the last several years has raised the capitalization threshold required by the IRS. For example, a few years ago if you purchased a computer you were required to depreciate its cost over several years. Today a typical computer system can be expensed. It is a good idea to always check with your accountant to see if an asset needs to be capitalized and depreciated.

When purchasing more costly assets you need to take into consideration not only the initial cash impact on your business, but also the depreciation impact on your net profit. You may have a loan against your business that is tied to net profit. Depreciation is deducted on your income statement after your operating profit is calculated; therefore it is best if a loan's covenant is tied to operating profits. We will cover depreciation schedules and their impact on business management decisions in a future article.

One last consideration in being able to measure the productivity of a Fixed Asset is to be able to account for individual assets within an asset category. For example, if you have more than one vehicle I suggest you measure each vehicle separately. Measuring each vehicle separately will enable you to calculate their respective ROI's. This will help you in any business management decisions that need to be made about a vehicle. Which one do you sell if you have to sell one? Which one is more productive in different ways the vehicles are used?

In our next column we will work on defining the accounts and subaccounts associated with Income. Keeping track of your Fixed Assets can be beneficial even in a hobby business. In a hobby business you are allowed to write off expense against income. Depreciation is an expense. I suggest you list all your fixed assets by category. Then think about the ROI associated with each one. Is there anything that can be done to make them more productive? Is there any of your fixed assets that should be sold? Remember, spending your time and money wisely may provide the opportunity to enjoy your business more while making more money or at least having more fun with your horses. Think - plan - organize - execute - make/save money.

'If you can't measure it, you can't manage it.'

CEM FOUND IN 15 HORSES NATIONALLY

MADISON -- A fourth stallion in Wisconsin has tested positive for contagious equine metritis, or CEM, a treatable reproductive disease of horses. One mare has also tested positive in the state. Nationwide, 12 stallions and 3 mares have been found to be infected.

The National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa, reported the positive test result earlier this week. The stallion, a 26-year-old saddlebred housed in Winnebago County, has been quarantined. Like the three stallions that tested positive previously, this one was exposed to the bacterial infection at an artificial insemination center. However, he was not exposed to the Outagamie County stallion that was the first to test positive in Wisconsin.

"While the source of the outbreak is still not known, some have presumed that Nanning, the first CEM-positive stallion we reported in Wisconsin, was the original source. This result makes it clear that he was not," said Wisconsin State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Ehlenfeldt. "This latest infection dates to 2006 and possibly 2005. The first CEM-positive stallion we reported was infected in a different insemination facility, and he was infected in 2007 or later, our investigation shows."

State and federal animal health personnel have conducted the investigation by examining the breeding records and movement history of each infected horse to find other exposed animals. At each step, any exposed animals are quarantined, tested and treated. Owners of exposed animals are contacted by state or federal animal health officials. There is no need for them to have their animals tested if they have not been contacted.

There is no human health risk and no risk to horses in the general population.

The outbreak began in mid-December, when a quarter horse stallion on a Kentucky farm tested positive during routine testing for international semen shipment. Kentucky recently imposed stringent testing requirements for Wisconsin stallions imported for breeding. The investigation now involves at least 608 horses in 45 states, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

CEM is a contagious bacterial infection that passes between mares and stallions during mating. It can also be transmitted on contaminated insemination equipment. Stallions do not suffer any symptoms, but the infection causes inflammation in the mare's uterine lining. This may prevent pregnancy or cause the mare to abort if she becomes pregnant. The disease is treatable with disinfectants and antibiotics.

CEM is considered a foreign animal disease in the United States. It was first discovered in Europe in 1977, and has appeared in the United States only twice outside quarantine stations where stallions are required to be tested and treated before being released into the country. In 1979, there was an outbreak. In 2006, three Lipizzaner stallions imported into Wisconsin from Eastern Europe tested positive after their arrival, but before they had been used for breeding.

For more information about CEM, visit the U.S. Department of Agriculture's site.



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Pets are members of our families. They are our best friends and love us devotedly.

Pet care can be a major line item in the family budget, as food, medicine, grooming tools and toys aren't cheap. But there are ways to save money on pet supplies while keeping your pet healthy, happy and looking good.

* Check the mailbox for fliers, inserts and community newspaper ads from pet stores in your vicinity. You may score a discount on food, treats or grooming from a neighborhood merchant or a national chain.

* Look in the back of your local area phone book for coupons, which are typically valid for a long period of time. If you check the phone book when it first arrives at your house, you may have an entire year to redeem some of the discounts.

* Contact the companies that manufacturer your favorite pet brands and sign up for their mailing list. Be sure to include your e-mail address. That way, you'll be able to receive coupon codes to use online as well as coupons for preferred products to bring to your local brick and mortar store.

* Keep up with preventive maintenance, and shop online for prescription pet medicines through CouponHeaven.com. Most online pet pharmacies offer free shipping, and you can save even more with pet prescription coupons that are valid for heartworm medications, flea and tick good.



preventatives, and more.

* Use the power of the Internet to save on most pet items. The exception to the rule is pet food, which is often too costly to ship because of weight. Shopping online allows you to browse different stores, comparing the quality and prices for all of your pet supplies, like a bed for your dog, a tank for your fish, toys for your cat or a kissing mirror for your bird - just to name a few.

When you use CouponHeaven.com to find coupon codes for pet products, you can save money on the purchase, or get free shipping.

* Buy food in bulk at the discount stores. Yes, you will have to find an appropriate storage space, but the cost per ounce will be much cheaper, and you'll also save by not making as many trips to the store.

* Take care of your pet's grooming at home whenever possible. If that won't work for your family, consider asking your groomer if there is a customer loyalty program for discounts on services or treatments.

* Make sure your pet gets the appropriate amount of exercise, which contributes to overall well-being and cuts down on potential vet bills.

Happy pets make happy pet owners, and you can be even

HORSES AS OUR TEACHERS

The Horse With Tears in His Eyes

By Katherine Thompson

The story I'm about to tell you is not shared without some degree of risk, in that I may be viewed as a complete nut case. But that is not the point I want to make in telling it, and anyway, I got over worrying about what people think of me and my insightful gifts long ago. It really happened. What is the point is demonstrating that horses really do have feelings that are significant. They feel pain and they feel love, and it's been my experience that they have a very deep and spiritual connection to us that puts them far above categorization as "beasts of burden," or worse, as slaughter animals. What happened to me, one rather hot summer afternoon, shocked me into stupefied recognition of that fact, and I have never forgotten it. Some 15 years ago, following my husband's death, I had a horse removed from my possession, and there was little I could legally do about it at the time. My husband had undergone certain severe personality changes due to combined illness and accidents, and we had separated because of those changes. It was not a question of how unbearable life had become with him in that state of mind; it was more a matter of self-preservation that forced me to make a difficult decision. Suspecting on some level that his time left on earth was short, and out of obvious bitterness over my perceived betrayal, he instructed a trusted client we had trained race horses for, to take our stallion off our ranch and stand him elsewhere, knowing full well that such retaliation would cause me a great deal of grief. What I did not realize at the time was that the pain caused by such action was not just one-sided. I had returned to our ranch to find this horse gone. One day I was driving up the freeway, several weeks after the funeral, and was about fifteen minutes south of home, totally oblivious of what I was about to experience. Let me further explain that this was, to say the least, a period in my life of unprecedented intensity. Not only had significant changes in my family relationships taken place, but at the same time, my clairvoyant abilities had begun to re-awaken, and I was consistently experiencing impressions that had been anything but subtle. But I was in no way prepared for what hit me next. It was like being hit by a runaway train. Not particularly cognizant of the road signs that flashed past as I drove, I suddenly felt a strong physical pull on the right side of my face, as if someone had a grip on my right cheek with a thumb and forefinger. Simultaneously, there was a virtual tug on the steering wheel, literally pulling my car to the right. Unbidden, a huge lump knotted up in my throat, and with it, tears I could not control began to flow. But I was even more astounded by what I consequently saw at the same time. Suddenly before me was the mental image of a familiar and much loved horse's face, and glistening tears splashed from his eyes and down his soft cheeks. The image was superimposed, like a double exposure, over the slowing white lines of the highway before me. In a flash, I recognized the face of our stallion, and I got the unmistakable impression of sorrow, combined with the feeling that he was literally willing me to come get him. There was desperation contained within all of this for me; as if he felt helpless to change or control what had happened to both of us. With that came the realization that the off ramp, which my car was being physically pulled toward, was the exit you would take to drive to the ranch where he'd been taken to stand at stud.

It was a shock to realize that I was experiencing the extremely powerful and very real emotions of a horse, and his feelings for me. I'd never suspected the depth of

this connection; it was something I had been unaware of. His loss had been humiliating and painful; but this experience showed me that I was not the only one to have suffered. And suddenly I had a new emotional challenge to contend with; that of making a choice to forgive those who had been a party to this manipulation and punishment for something I had been perceived as committing, and which was unforgivable. Throughout the years since this happened, many times there have been some pretty shocked people who have seen this horse, in spirit form, standing with his head draped protectively over my shoulder, as I was speaking before large groups at the horse expos. Often, these people aren't aware they can see such things, but that seems to happen to a lot of them when I'm around. One woman even drew a picture of him, and there was no mistaking the precise duplication of the blaze he'd had on his face. It matched photographic head shots of him, exactly. So think about the choices you make with your horses, and what you say when around them. Choose your words and actions carefully. I literally cringe when I hear someone say something like "I've got to get rid of that horse." Have the wisdom and compassion to know that your feelings are not the only ones that matter. It is not necessary to anthropomorphize your relationship with your horses. They are not human; they are horses. But treat them with the respect and sensitivity that they deserve. Try to see things from their eyes; and their hearts. Sometimes, you really don't know who or what you're standing next to.

Katherine grew up on her family's large livestock operation in Northern California, helping on the ranch and in the feedlot pens until graduation from Winters High School. She attended Foothill College in Mountain View, and the University of Oregon in Eugene. During her early career, she worked in advertising as a copywriter, and a live radio newscaster. She showed horses for a professional trainer, and participated in rodeo sports. In 1975 she went to the racetrack, as a book-keeper and exercise girl, and became a licensed trainer. She married a professional horseman, and she and her husband combined their skills to operate their own racing stable, running horses of all breeds in California, and Arizona. They purchased a ranch in the Red Bluff, California area, and ran it as a breeding and lay-up facility until 1996, when the ranch was sold and the business dispersed following her husband's death. After a seasonal public relations job on the backside as track representative for the Emerging Breeds Division, she retired from the racetrack. In 1997 and 1998 she managed a large equestrian facility in the North Bay Area of California. She was responsible for the coordination and care of at least 150 head of horses and their owner's, trainers, and ranch employees. In 1997 she graduated from The Avalon Institute for Healing and Psychic Development as a certified clairvoyant healer. She resigned the position as manager of the horse facility in order to focus more on travel throughout the United States, lecturing and consulting at the major horse expos, and teaching. Since that time, Katherine has continued to help people with their personal physical and emotional health problems, and those of their animals. She also continues to ride, her focus on her life-long love of cutting, reining, and bridle horses. She is the author of the successful book "When Doves Cried, and Horses Wept," which was published and released in 2005, by White Dove Press, and is currently working on her second book. For more information, refer to her website at www.katherinethompson.net. Contact Katherine by email at kvingini@isp.com, or call 916-770-9376.

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FARRIER TIP=OF=THE=MONTH

Presented by the Minnesota Farriers Association

FOAL HOOF CARE

The hoof of the foal is soft and waxy. At birth, the hooves will have feathery-type horn that will wear off in a day or two and the hoof will start to toughen up in about a month. The first trim should be between four and twelve weeks of age. In most cases all that is needed is light filing every four to six weeks to keep the ground surface of their hooves level. If there are any limb deviations, early veterinarian and farrier intervention is needed with more frequent trimming intervals. Contact your veterinarian and farrier as soon as you see any leg or hoof problems. It is a good practice to have your vet out to check the foal in its first week of life and, even if

you think everything is okay, have your farrier look the foal over when they are out or in the area. The opportunity for correction decreases or becomes impossible the older the foal gets, because of closure times of the growth plates at the end of the leg bones. Growth plates are responsible for the majority of long bone growth in young horses. As they mature, these plates will gradually close. If corrections are attempted after the growth plates close, it can cause stress on the tendons and ligaments of the horse's leg. Taking proper care of the foal's hooves will pay off in the long run and it will also help in keeping it sound into its senior years of life.

THE \$10,000 SEARCH FOR "THE GREAT AMERICAN HORSEMAN" HAS BEGUN!

Cowboy isn't the clothes you wear or the saddle you ride. Cowboy is a state of mind. Project Cowboy seeks the individual who best represents the spirit of the Cowboy. From equitation riders to rodeo competitors, mailmen to ranch hands, ordinary to extraordinary, The Project Cowboy search will find "The Great American Horseman".

A \$300 entry fee guarantees a chance at \$10,000 Cash National Recognition as the "The Great American Horseman" Championship Buckle Championship Saddle Project Cowboy Champion promotional DVD Article and Photo in National Equine Publication Article and Photo on Project Cowboy Website

Appearances at: 2011 Road to the Horse Legends World Championship 2011 Extreme Mustang Makeover Event

Special Guest Exhibitors at: 2011 Midwest Horse Fair, Madison Wisconsin 2011 Western States Expo, Sacramento California

Project Cowboy is a competition to find "The Great American Horseman". Through the competition process, the event will be filmed as a Television Pilot. Project Cowboy is looking for competitors who are comfortable being filmed while they showcase talent and skills in horsemanship, personality and communication. The Competition will be held at the Will Rogers Equestrian Center, Fort Worth, Texas, October 7-9, 2010.

For entry information, go to: <http://www.projectcowboy.net/application.html>

Wimpys Little Step Becomes NRHA's Youngest Two Million Sire*

Oklahoma City, OK - May 24, 2010 - Wimpys Little Step made history at this year's Carolina Classic Derby, held May 13-16th in Williamston, North Carolina, when his offspring surpassed two million dollars in NRHA earnings. The flashy palomino sire joins eight of NRHA's leading stallions as a Two Million Dollar Sire*. To achieve this elite status is no easy feat, yet "Wimpys" offspring went above and beyond expectations when they earned enough to make him the youngest Two Million Dollar Sire* in NRHA history - by a margin of five years.

The 11-year-old stallion by Nu Chex To Cash and out of Leolita Step has an impressive show record himself, winning the 2002 NRHA Futurity and earning over \$185,000 in just three NRHA competitions with NRHA Three Million Dollar Rider Shawn Florida. With only three foal crops in NRHA competition, he's already proven his ability to pass his talent on to future generations.

Owner Mark Schols speaks to his stallion's prepotency, "As an individual, he is so kind. Yet he has such explosive athleticism. He's passing on that mind. The compliments I get from owners are that even if you breed him to an average mare, you still get a great horse! He throws a type. They look good, have bone, and are built really well. He's very consistent as a sire." Wimpys' offspring include some of today's top reining horses. Wimpys Little

Chic (x Collena Chic Olena) is the first horse in NRHA history to win the NRHA Futurity, National Reining Breeders Classic, and NRHA Derby consecutively. The six-year-old mare owned by Arcese Quarter Horses has won over \$486,000 in NRHA competition making her NRHA's current lifetime earnings leader. RC Fancy Step (x Sonita Wilson), owned by Buffalo Ranch, is an NRHA Derby, All American Quarter Horse Congress and three-time Wimpys Little Step Derby champion with over \$320,000 in earnings. Both are ridden by Florida.

"It's been amazing watching all of his offspring from rookies to professionals and everything in between," says Schols. "The most satisfying is that no matter what level they compete at, his offspring are working across the board for everybody."

The Carolina Classic Derby proved Wimpys' ability to produce reining horses for all levels of competition. Wimpys Show Stopper (x Pinesail), owned by Charles Vaughan earned the level 4 open championship with Florida aboard. Non pros Jessica Torpey and Andre DeBellefeuille also found success aboard his offspring. Torpey rode Wimpys Smart Step (x Bar S Smart Lookin), owned by Torpey Performance Horses, to the level 4 non pro reserve championship while DeBellefeuille piloted Smart Step N Chic (x Homecoming Chic), owned by Equine Plus, to co-cham-

DUTCH OVEN COOKING IN SOUTH DAKOTA

The excitement over Dutch oven cooking continues to grow in eastern South Dakota! The local club, Dakota Dutchers (find them on facebook or www.idos.com), will be sharing their love of camping and Dutch oven food with a campout at the lovely little Municipal Park in Adrian, Minn. May 21-23. Join them, if you can - great food at the pot lucks is guaranteed! The club continues to meet the first Sunday of each month, usually at Nyberg's ACE on Kiwanis in Sioux Falls, So.Dak. Weather permitting, members cook up some tasty treats for sampling, as well as answer questions and pass out literature on the how-to's of this type of cooking. These demos offer opportunities to practice their skills gearing up for the many cooking events scheduled this summer:

JUNE: Friday the 4th - Fort Sisseton, So.Dak. 2 p.m. cook off (great event to cook at - huge festival - very family friendly); call Katie 605-448-5474 or Cassandra 605-743-5270 or email swanson_farms@yahoo.com or fortsisseton@state.sd.us if any questions.

Sat the 12th - Lake Herman State Park DutchOven Cook-Off at Pioneer Days 10 a.m.

Sun the 13th - Huron, So.Dak. - Outdoor Expo Cook Off 9 a.m. hosted on the So. Dak. State Fair Grounds; Candi - 800-529-0900 or sdoutdoorexpo@state.sd.us or Cassandra 605-743-5270 or swanson_farms@yahoo.com.

Saturday the 26th - Pipestone, Minn. Chuck Wagon Cookoff, The Fort 8 a.m.; Cassandra 605-743-5270 or swanson_farms@yahoo.com

JULY: Saturday the 10th - Brandon, So.Dak; Big Sioux Rec Area Judging 3 p.m. (Shona 605-951-2067)

Saturday, July 24 - Hartford, So.Dak.; Fossums Horse Haven Arena; HE PAID

YOUR FEES - \$1750 CASH CHUCK WAGN cook off event 8 a.m. Cassandra 605-743-5270 or swanson_farms@yahoo.com Sunday, July 25 - Hartford, So.Dak.; Fossum's Horse Haven Arena; HE PAID YOUR FEES - \$1250 CASH cook off event! *\$200 TO BEST Campsite! Great Door Prizes and CASH to winners! Must attend 10 a.m. Church to compete for FREE! Cassandra 605-743-5270 or swanson_farms@yahoo.com.

AUGUST: Saturday the 21- Mitchell, SD - Cabela's \$500 Cook Off; 9 a.m. Registration Cassandra 605-743-5270 or swanson_farms@yahoo.com

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE WILD GAME COOK OFF! NEW! We are bringing it back! We will be hosting this Saturday, August 21 at 4 p.m. in the Cabela's parking lot! You may cook in your Dutch oven, bring something from home or cook/grill it in the parking lot! Lots of prizes! Lots of categories...FUR-FIN & FEATHERS! Call for more information! 605-743-5270



SEPTEMBER: Saturday the 18th - Sioux Falls, So.Dak. - Spirit of the West Festival CHUCK WAGON cook off - one of the biggest in the area located in the midst of a fabulous western festival - \$3,000 in cash and prizes! www.spiritofthewestfestival.com.

Sunday the 19th - Sioux Falls, So. Dak. - Spirit of the West Festival Cook Off; Cassandra 605-743-5270 or swanson_farms@yahoo.com; spiritofthewestfestival.com; 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.

Folks who enjoy promoting and preserving this unique way of cooking come from diverse backgrounds, but all share a love of good food, fellowship and fun! Join us for some old fashion fun!

thanks to all the mare owners, trainers and reiners who believe in him and do the hard work."

Incorporated in 1966, the National Reining Horse Association is the governing body of the sport of reining. NRHA, with their international headquarters in Oklahoma City, is responsible for promoting the sport of Reining; more at www.nhra.com

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MN Horse Expo 2010 Photo Highlights

The horse ... what other animal would bring out 50,000 people to the Minn. State Fairgrounds in St. Paul April 23-25 to watch clinicians, vendors and practitioners sell their wares, especially in this economy? The horse. We love our horses. We use them for countless purposes, we love them whether we use them or not. It is why the spring gathering of horse people in Minnesota is huge. People fight ice, snow, rain, and cold to visit the exhibits and see their

favorite trainers present topics of current interest. Lynn Palm travels all over the world and demonstrated the benefits of riding bridleless at the Expo. She traveled from Europe where the Icelandic volcano might have grounded another; she took a train to Rome to catch her flight to Minnesota. She presented several clinics at this year's Expo. Julie Goodnight demonstrated, among other things, how to deal with obstacles on the trail.

Jay Henson demonstrated cutting and sorting cattle when tending the audience. "You want to stay completely relaxed and let the horse go." Many buildings were lined with exhibitors selling everything horse related imaginable. Pony cart, wagon and carriage rides were provided free all three days of the Expo. Food vendors lined the streets with everything from nuts to cheese curds. The 2011 Expo is already being planned; mark your



calendars for April 29 - May 1 - same place and time!



Far left: The Icelandic Volcano didn't stop Lynn Palm from getting to St. Paul for her clinician gig at the MN Horse Expo. Bottom left: Members of the Northern Lights Peruvian Club demonstrate during the Parade of Breeds. Top Right: Phillip Odden (on left in photo) drives his team of Norwegian Fjords during the Parade of Breeds at the MN Horse Expo at the St. Paul Fairgrounds Coliseum in April.



Photography by Ley Bouchard



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Horse Camping Supplies

Yippy! summer is just around the corner and now is the time to start purchasing those camping supplies for the long weekends at your favorite horse camp. We start out with some practical tips and end with a must have list. Have fun -- be safe!

Safety for your Horse

- Solid panels or portable corrals if campsite has none; a picket line works if your horse is used to it.
- Never picket without practicing first at home; check your horse often.
- Portable electric corrals are another option. Make sure you practice at home first.
- If grazing is allowed, grazing hobbles may be used if your horse is accustomed to them. Grazing hobbles differ from standard hobbles. Know the difference. Use a horse bell in conjunction with grazing hobbles. Don't hobble, highline or picket line all your horses. Know your horses and your companion's horses and how they will respond to varying situations.
- Make sure the horses are acquainted before you take them camping.
- Keep horses far enough from camp so flies and other bugs are not an issue.

Camping List

- Wipes to clean up sans water
- Someplace dry to sleep
- Food that are non-perishable that do not need cooking
- Fresh Fruit and Veggies in a solid container so as to not bruise
- Picket line
- Knot stoppers
- Neck ties
- Hay bag for each horse
- Water tubs/troughs
- Water barrels
- Bell
- Mineral block
- Calm and cool paste to calm your horse
- Pro bios
- Grain
- Grain bucket
- Hay (certified weed free usually required or available at campsite)
- Saddle Racks
- Grooming caddy
- First aid kit for you & horse
- Treats/apples/carrots
- Lead ropes
- Crops
- Saddles
- Bridles
- Hoof boots
- Leg wraps
- Manure fork and muck bucket
- Saddle pads
- Helmets
- Leather punch
- Buddy stirrups
- Buddy seat
- Horse towels
- Electrolytes
- Electrician tape
- Clinches
- Spare Shoes
- Boots
- Tent
- Shower tent
- Hat
- Solar shower
- Cell phone and car charger
- Clothing
- Layers appropriate for the weather
- Shoes appropriate for activities planned
- Rain poncho
- Sleepwear
- Jacket
- Flat/cap
- Gloves
- Whistle
- Reflective gear
- Permit for state park if needed
- Reservation information
- Map
- Compass/GPS
- Sunscreen
- Bug repellent
- Knife/multi-tool
- Water hose
- Rope (tie food 10 feet off the ground (so bears can't reach or climb to it) or leave in the sealed and locked vehicle
- Travel alarm clock
- Fan
- Umbrella
- Deck of cards
- Camp songs
- Games
- Books
- Fishing equipment
- Bird book
- Notebook and pens/pencils
- Binoculars
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AHC Participates in White House Conference on America's Great Outdoors

On Friday April 16, the American Horse Council's Legislative Director Ben Pendergrass participated in the White House Conference on America's Great Outdoors held at the US Department of the Interior.

The conference focused on the "challenges, opportunities and innovations surrounding modern-day land conservation and the importance of reconnecting Americans and American families to the outdoors." Conservation and outdoor recreation leaders from around the country were invited to attend the conference.

President Obama delivered remarks to the conference and signed a Presidential Memorandum establishing the America's Great Outdoors Initiative. The goals of the Initiative will be to: (1) Reconnect Americans with the outdoors by promoting community based recreation and conservation, advance job and volunteer opportunities related to conservation and recreation, as well as educate individuals in American's history, culture, and natural beauty; (2) Build upon State, local, private, and tribal priorities for the conservation of land, water, wildlife, historic, and cultural resources; (3) Use Science-based management practices to restore and protect America's lands and waters.

Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior, Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture, Lisa Jackson, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Nancy Sutley, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality spoke at the conference and will lead this Initiative.

The first half of the conference included remarks from the President and the leaders of the Initiative and two panel discussions. The first panel discussion focused on the importance of America's private working lands like farms, ranches and working

forest. The second panel topic was conserving and connecting Americans with the country's public lands.

Smaller breakout sessions with senior administration officials were held the rest of the day to give individual attendees an opportunity to discuss their view points on conservation and outdoor recreation.

"We were happy to be invited to the conference," said Ben Pendergrass, AHC Legislative Director. "The breakout sessions were an excellent opportunity to remind the Administration and other attendees that the conservation and management of America's public and private lands is extremely important to the millions of equestrians throughout the country. Recreational riders are dependent on access to public lands and without private land to breed, raise, and feed its horses the equestrian community could not exist."

As part of the initiative the Administration and federal agencies involved will hold listening sessions around the country with tribal leaders, farmers, and ranchers, sportsmen, community park groups, foresters, youth groups, businesspeople, educators, State and local governments, and recreational and conservation groups. These sessions in conjunction with continued discussions with attendees of the conference and a report due in November will be used to craft future policy to achieve the goals of the Initiative.

"The AHC looks forward to working with President Obama, Congress, the federal agencies and all stakeholders to preserve and help connect Americans with the outdoors," said AHC President Jay Hickey. "We strongly believe the horse industry can play an important role in getting kids off the couch and help all Americans, including those with physical impairments to experience the outdoors in a unique and special way."

Report shows Minnesota farm income dropped sharply in 2009

ST. PAUL, Minn. (4/15/2010) — Median net farm income dropped 63 percent in 2009 among more than 3,000 Minnesota farms, a new joint report by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system and University of Minnesota Extension shows.

The median net farm income for the combined groups of producers was \$33,417 in 2009, down from \$91,242 in 2008. The median means half of the producers earned more and half earned less. Net farm income is used for living expenses, income taxes, retirement and business reinvestment.

This has been a challenging year for many of the state's farmers, said Dale Nordquist, Extension economist with the University of Minnesota's Center for Farm Financial Management. The drop in income was driven largely by reduced profits for nearly all livestock producers, higher costs for crop producers, and large reductions in the value of their crop and livestock inventory.

The analysis used data from 2,324 farms that participated in system's farm business management programs and 95 members of the Southwest Minnesota Farm Business Management Association. The Center for Farm Financial Management at the University of Minnesota analyzed the data.

Overall, the average farm earned a 3.1 percent rate of return on assets, down from 10.5 percent in 2008, said Nordquist. This is the lowest return on assets for farms in these programs in the 17 years that data have been collected.

The analysis also showed:

- Crop farmers, who had received relatively higher commodity prices, had lower profits. Median income for crop farms dropped to \$60,101, down 55 percent from 2008. Average prices received for major crops dropped to \$60,101, down 55 percent from 2008. Average prices received for major commodities in 2009 were: \$3.80 for corn, down from \$4.17 in 2008; \$9.84 for soybeans, down from \$10.30; and \$5.81 for spring wheat, down from \$7.55.

- The 399 participating dairy farms experienced a severe drop in income with many farms experiencing losses. Median income for dairy farms dropped to \$2,077 from \$58,081 in 2008. The average price received for milk was \$13.57 per hundred pounds compared to \$19.46 in 2008. Although dairy producers cut their costs of production to \$15.46 per hundred pounds, they could not lower costs enough to be profitable.

- Many hog farmers experienced a second consecutive year of losses or extremely low profits. The median hog producer lost \$73,525 in 2009 compared to making a modest profit of \$4,876 in 2008. The hoped-for price increase never materialized as the price-per-hundred pounds sold dropped to \$43.30, down from \$48.53 in 2008.

- Beef farms continued to show weak profitability. The beef producer with the median net income experienced a net farm loss of \$13,138, down from a loss of \$6,810 in 2008.

- Corn and soybean yields were higher with corn at 180 bushels per acre up from 167 bushels in 2008; soybeans at 42 bushels an acre, up from 40; and spring wheat holding steady at 62 bushels an acre both years.

- Average cost of production for an acre of corn increased by 12 percent. Seed cost increased 23 percent, fertilizer costs went up by 35 percent, and land rent was up 9 percent.

Details of the annual analysis are available at <http://www.fimbin.umn.edu> through the University of Minnesota's Center for Farm Financial Management, which provides educational programs and software tools that are practical, timely and applicable to real-world farm situations.

Each year, between 3,000 and 3,500 farmers enroll in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities farm business management education programs. Instructors teach producers how to maintain business records, create and execute marketing plans, and interpret and apply business analysis information to their farming operations. Information is available at <http://www.fbm.mnscu.edu>.

Livestock Marketing Association Policy Resolution On Restoration Of Horse Processing Inspection

The Livestock Marketing Association membership adopted the following policy in March 2010. The policy resolution states: WHEREAS, the horse industry is a vital segment of the livestock industry, and

WHEREAS, more than 460,000 full-time U.S. jobs are directly dependent on the horse industry, with total employment impact of 1.4 million fulltime equivalent jobs, and WHEREAS, unwanted horses are increasingly being abandoned at livestock markets and elsewhere because of a lack of humane, economically viable outlets for the animals, and

WHEREAS, horse meat is an important protein food source in many parts of the world, and WHEREAS, the horse industry and livestock markets have seen a 50 percent decline in the value of all horses, resulting in a total direct economic loss to the industry of more than \$19.5 billion, and WHEREAS, the economic viability of the horse industry is dependent on restoring horse processing facilities to the United States,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, LMA supports the restoration of federal and/or state inspection of horse processing facilities by the U.S. Congress and the individual states to insure the humane disposition of unwanted horses and with that the immediate restoration of horse processing facilities in the United States.

Contacts: Congressman Charles Stenholm, Senior Policy Advisor, Olsson, Frank and Weeda, 202-789-1212, email cstenholm@ofw-law.com; Nancy Robinson, LMA Vice President for Government and Industry Affairs, 800-821-2048, email nrobinson@



COWBOY POETRY WITH ORV ALVESHIRE

DOES A 10 GAUGE SHOTGUN KICK?

LESSONS FOR A 9 YEAR OLD & HIS BROTHER
Two lads have shared decades old tips for youths and black powder guys. And those poignant 'words to the wise' were mixed with tales of surprise. "What's for excitement when our never-ending chores are done?" Lacking judgment at that moment, he was asked if he meant fun? The windmill stood still. He was answered by his brother, age 9. "We could go to the lake and get some wild game on which to dine." Seemingly the plan was presented, like straight from the shoulder To his 6 year-old brother, with stark brashness by the older.

STEALTHILY SNEAK IN & SNEAK OUT?
Pumping water for corralled horses and cattle, they perspired. The cleverness of the caper showed that the lad was inspired. "Oh yeah, smart mouth, you and who's army?" asked the surprised brother? "Oh, I can't cook, I wouldn't plan to cook it, I'd ask Mother." "Now, how with a lucky shot, would you bring a flying goose down?" "I'd call it skill, but I don't want 'goose down,'" he said with a frown. With brazen bluster, the 9 year-old acted bigger and bolder Dismissing brother's doubt, a benefit of being older.

WHOSE GOOSE WILL BE COOKED?
They'd silently go into the stairwell and fetch Dad's shotgun. Perhaps a 'feather-brained' idea should not be tried by youth. Would it be a blast, or a theory shot to Sheol? Here's the truth. "You can't hold heavy shotguns," in disbelief he suggested. "You're durn tootin', yes and I can load it too," he protested. Perhaps his overconfident quip came straight from the shoulder He led his brother to the house, brashly, because he was older.

ANOTHER BIG BANG THEORY
He heard, "You can not!" He answered, "Yes, I can!" Can not, Can too! "Hey," he said, "Our parents are in town, so don't take such a dim view!" Scurrying in, they hurriedly left the house, that anxious young pair; And scampered to the nearby lake, where wild geese were swimming there. The young pair crept on their knees, stealthily between the tall reeds; Assured they're up to the challenge of youthful misguided misdeeds. Rising slowly to peer, taller by a head and shoulder, Plus the beauty of his plan was in the mind's eye of the beholder.

WILL YOU BACK ME UP?
Then a total surprise, that large shotgun he could hardly hold. Neither brother had a clue, unfamiliar with "HOT" home loads! Shakily he braced the heavy 10 gauge shotgun on his knee. He squinted and sighted on some swimming geese, a group of three. A passing thought, what if this unknown shotgun does really kick? He asked his brother to lean against his back...that'd do the trick. The youth steadied the adult toy, putting it to his shoulder Not knowing Dad's shotgun was also several decades older.

HAVING A BLAST/ROLL OVER BEETHOVEN TOO LIGHT FOR HEAVY HOME LOADS
He sighted it well. While squeezing the trigger, it went...KER-BLAM!!! It gave a sharp, painful jolt like a sumo-wrestler BODY-SLAM!!! We must picture those two boys, rolling summersaults in the air. Hard lessons, much better than book-learning, was what they learned there! We imagine 'educated' sleuths, who flinched at "snap, crackle or click". That 'one-shot-deal' bothered their minds whenever they heard that word "kick." That MEMOR'BLE day, it was carried opposite his injured shoulder MEASURABLY WISER...IRONICALLY, JUST ONE HOUR OLDER!

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Photo Highlights of First RRV Horse Fair



Photos By Ley Bouchard

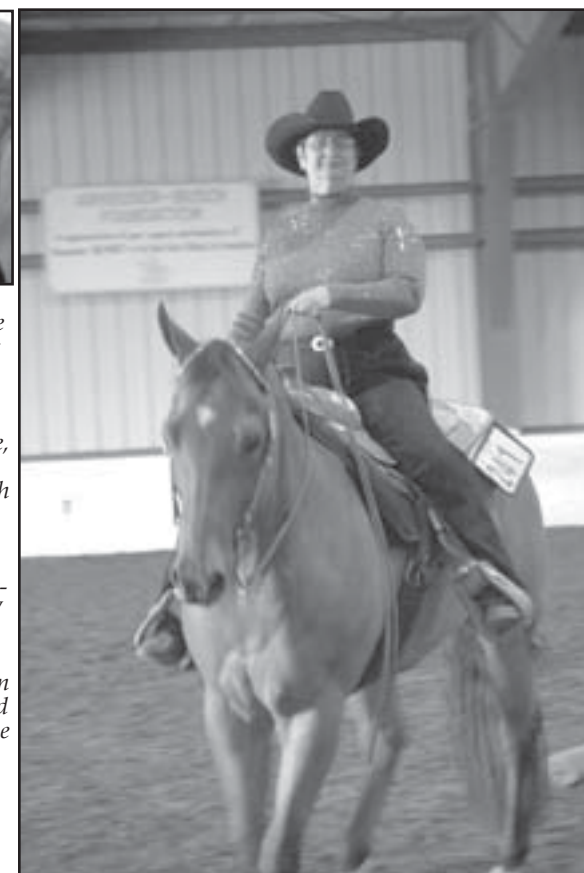
Top left and right: Katrina Dietz, 8, from Mapleton, No, Dak. wins first place in the Jumping Figure 8 Race, Jr. Class, at the WSCA Horse Show at the Red River Valley Horse Fair.



Above: "If you take the time it takes, it takes less time," says Jeff Spencer, trainer from Idaho and clinician at the Red River Valley Horse Fair May 10 at the West Fargo, No.Dak. Fairgrounds. In this photo, Spencer is introducing a clipper to a green broke quarter horse mare.



Above: An intent crowd watches the WSCA Open Horse Show at the 1st Red River Valley Horse Fair May 8-9 at the Red River Fairgrounds in West Fargo, No.Dak.



Right: Vicki Kemmer aboard George, her 22-year-old quarter horse who also loves to give back massages with his mouth. Bottom far left: Dakota Carriage Company brought their miniature Cinderella Carriage shown here during the Parade of Breeds at the RRV Horse Fair. Below middle: Becky Lambert performs a Permanent Brand Inspection for Rhonda Kuhn and her Registered Pinto Miniature B, Sweet Pea, at the RRV Horse Fair May 9.

Below: Susan Springer drove her miniature horse through the Mini/Pony Obstacle Driving Class at the RRV Horse Fair May 9 at the RRV Fairgrounds in West Fargo,



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JUNE AND MORE EVENTS

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

May 29: FM Posse Open Horse Show at 9 a.m. at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in West Fargo, N.D. Go to www.fmmount-edposse.com for more information.

June 4: Dutch Oven Cook Off at 2 p.m. Fort Sisseton, SD; Cassandra Swanson, (605) 743-5270 or swanson_farms@yahoo.com; great family festival event

June 4-6: The Red Desert Classic Futurity, Derby and Open 4D sanctioned by NWBRA and AW4D at the Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, Wyo. See <http://sweetwaterevents.com> for more information.

June 5: CSDEA Eventing Clinic at the North Dakota Horse Park in Fargo, N.D. Contact jhakes@tds.net, see www.csdea.org or phone 763-295-2357 for more information.

June 5-6: Maplewood West Endurance Ride at 7 a.m. near Pelican Rapids, Minn. Contact Char at (701) 526-3734

June 5-6: 30th Annual ApDRA Endurance Ride at 6:30 a.m. at Horserider's Campground in Palmyra, Wis. Contact Jim at (262) 495-8105 or email: jehaas@centurytel.net.

June 11-12: Wisconsin Foundation Quarter Horse Association Show; contact Michelle at (608) 582-3190

June 12: Outdoor Expo Cook Off hosted at the SD State Fairgrounds; Cassandra Swanson, (605) 743-5270 or swanson_farms@yahoo.com

June 12: FM Posse Open Horse Show at 9 a.m. at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in West Fargo, N.D. Go to www.fmmount-edposse.com for more information.

June 12: NCAC Open WSCA/CMHIA Show at 9 a.m. at the outdoor arena at Verdale, Minn. sponsored by the North Country Appaloosa Club; contact Darin at (218) 462-2504 or myersapphorses@yahoo.com for more information.

June 12: Lake Herman State Park, SD Dutch Oven Cook Off at Pioneer Days; Cassandra Swanson, (605) 743-5270 or swanson_farms@yahoo.com

June 12-13: Northwest 57th Annual Quarter Horse Show at 8:30 a.m. at the North Branch, Minn. Saddle Club Grounds; call Barb at (651) 674-4174 for more information

June 13: MnFQHC 2nd Annual Ride from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Wild River State Park east of North Branch, Minn. Ride limited to 50 riders, pre-register by calling Sue at (651) 462-1544 or Deb at (651) 982-9003. Proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society.

June 18-19: 41st Anniversary IAHA Region 10 Endurance Competitive Ride at Forestville State Park near Spring Valley, Minn. Contact Dianne at (507) 545-9937

June 19: AEER Eventing Show at the North Dakota Horse Park in Fargo, N.D. See www.AEER.org for more information.

June 19: Elgin Cheese Days Run for the Horses at 8 a.m. East Main Street by gazebo; registration required; contact Audrey at (507) 288-8726

June 19: Kickn' Up Dust Buckle Series Barrel Race at the McLeod Fairgrounds; \$200 added; call (320) 583-5807 or kicknup-dust@gmail.com for more information.

June 19-20: Up North Miniature Horse Show at the MayPort Arena located in

the Portland Equine Park, Portland, ND. Open fun show and clinic. Non-sanctioned, so any small horse or pony can come, registered or not. Contact 701-786-3254 or 701-430-0969.

June 19-20: National Versatility Ranch Horse Association Clinic and Competition at 8 a.m. at the North Dakota Winter Show Building in Valley City, No. Dak. See www.NVRHA.org or call (701) 845-2232 for more information.

June 19-20: Prairie Smoke I/II at 6 a.m. sponsored by the ND Arabian Horse Assoc. at Bismarck, N.D. Contact Deb at (701) 258-6347 or email: debkkimk@msn.com

July 23-24: Wisconsin Foundation Quarter Horse Association Show; contact Michelle at (608) 582-3190

June 23-27: Kansas City Dressage Society

Adult Dressage Camp at William Woods University, Fulton, Missouri; registration form at: www.kcdressage.com/show-sevents/kcdsadult-camp.html or call (913) 851-2407
July 24-25: Kickn' Up Dust Buckle Series Barrel Race at the McLeod County Fairgrounds; \$600 added; (320) 583-5807 or call kicknupdust@gmail.com for more information.

June 24-26: The 56th Annual Buffalo Championship Rodeo at 7:30 p.m. in Buffalo, Minn. Visit www.buffalorodeo.com or call (763) 682-7032 for more information.

June 26 & 27: Added Money Barrel Race "Dashin' For Diamonds ... Southern Style!" at 10:30 a.m. at the Elk River Fairgrounds in Elk River, Minn.

June 26: Pipestone, Minn. Chuck Wagon Cookoff at the Fort; contact Cassandra Swanson, (605) 743-5270 or swanson_farms@yahoo.com

June 26-27: Zumbro Bottoms Boogie AHDR 1.5 at dawn at Zumbrota, Minn. Contact Barry at (507) 765-2711 or email: bsaylor1947@gmail.com

June 27: FM Posse Open Horse Show at 9 a.m. at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in West Fargo, N.D. Go to www.fmmount-edposse.com for more information.

July 11: FM Posse Open Horse Show at 9 a.m. at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in West Fargo, N.D. Go to www.fmmount-edposse.com for more information.

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

July 24: FM Posse Open Horse Show at 9 a.m. at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in West Fargo, N.D. Go to www.fmmount-edposse.com for more information.

July 24 - 25: - Hartford, So. Dak.; Fossum's Horse Haven Arena; HE PAID YOUR FEES - \$1750 CASH CHUCK WAGN cook off event! Cassandra Swanson 605-743-5270 or swanson_farms@yahoo.com

July 25: Whips and Wheels Driving Show at the Spooner, Wisc. Fairgrounds. Drivers meet at 9:30 a.m. Call Bob Housel at

(715)635-7375 for more information.

July 29 - Aug. 2: Nokota Horse Observation and Application Clinic with Jack Lieser in Linton, No. Dak. To register contact Sarah Lieser at (979)203-9000 or visit www.jacklieser.com

August 1: FM Posse Open Horse Show at 9 a.m. at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in West Fargo, N.D. Go to www.fmmount-edposse.com for more information.

Aug. 7: Rochester Regional Equestrian Center Benefit Show at 8:30 a.m. at Westwind Acres in Rochester, Minn. visit www.rrec.info or contact Barb at (507)535-0484

August 7: Fort Sisseton, So. Dak. - Chuck Wagon Cooking Demo/Birthday Party; Cassandra Swanson 605-743-5270 or swanson_farms@yahoo.com



Aug. 20-22: Minnesota Mule Days with a clinic and trail ride; call Betty or Dallas Smith at (507) 831-5438 or email: willow-creekfarm@mac.com

Aug. 13-14: Wisconsin Foundation Quarter Horse Association Show; contact Michelle at (608) 582-3190

August 21: SOUTH DAKOTA STATE WILD GAME COOK OFF! NEW! We are bringing it back! We will be hosting this Saturday, August 21 at 4pm in the Cabela's parking lot! You may cook in your Dutch oven, bring something from home or cook/grill it in the parking lot! Lots of prizes! Lots of categories... FUR-FIN & FEATHERS! Call for more information! 605-743-5270 or email swanson_farms@yahoo.com

Aug. 24: Equine Forage Nutrition and Facilities Management Field Day from 5 yo 8:30 p.m. at the Equine Center & Plot Area in St. Paul, Minn. Call (612) 625-6776 for registration information.

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

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

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

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

Here's how the program works:
* Get an official voucher from participating veterinarians, the Minnesota Horse Council, or members of the Minnesota Horse Welfare Coalition (more information listed on www.mnhorsecouncil.org). Vouchers cost \$5.

* Attend eight horse health and management educational sessions, including: General Horse Care, Reproduction, Nutrition, Facilities/Manure Management, Equine Dentistry, Vaccinations and/or De-worming, Horse Behavior, and a Lecture on the Unwanted Horse or volunteer 2 hours at a Minnesota Horse Rescue.

* Contact a participating veterinarian to arrange castration of the stallion
o The stallion must be halter broke
o The stallion must have 2 descended testicles
o Farm calls are not covered by the voucher

* The voucher covers the cost of castration, anesthesia, post operative antibiotic and tetanus vaccination or anti-toxin.

* Complete 'The Gelding Project' evaluation before you leave the clinic.
* You must be at least 18 years old and a Minnesota resident to participate.

For more information, contact Krishona Martinson at krishona@umn.edu or (612) 625-6776 or Julie Wilson at wils011@umn.edu or (612) 625-3745.

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USDA ANNOUNCES NEW FRAMEWORK FOR ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY

WASHINGTON-Agriculture Secretary Vilsack announced Feb. 5 that USDA will develop a new, flexible framework for animal disease traceability in the United States, and undertake several other actions to further strengthen its disease prevention and response capabilities.

"After concluding our listening tour on the National Animal Identification System in 15 cities across the country, receiving thousands of comments from the public and input from States, Tribal Nations, industry groups, and representatives for small and organic farmers, it is apparent that a new strategy for animal disease traceability is needed," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "I've decided to revise the prior policy and offer a new approach to animal disease traceability with changes that respond directly to the feedback we heard."

The framework, announced today at the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Mid-Year meeting, provides the basic tenets of an improved animal disease traceability capability in the United States. USDA's efforts will:

- Only apply to animals moved in interstate commerce;
- Be administered by the States and Tribal Nations to provide more flexibility;
- Encourage the use of lower-cost technology; and
- Be implemented transparently through federal regulations and the full rulemaking process.

"One of my main goals for this new approach is to build a collaborative process for shaping and implementing our frame-

work for animal disease traceability," said Vilsack. "We are committed to working in partnership with States, Tribal Nations and industry in the coming months to address many of the details of this framework, and giving ample opportunity for farmers and ranchers and the public to provide us with continued input through this process."

One of USDA's first steps will be to convene a forum with animal health leaders for the States and Tribal Nations to initiate a dialogue about the possible ways of achieving the flexible, coordinated approach to animal disease traceability we envision. Additionally, USDA will be revamping the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health to address specific issues, such as confidentiality and liability.

Although USDA has a robust system in place to protect U.S. agriculture, with today's announcement, the Department will also be taking several additional actions to further strengthen protections against the entry and spread of disease. These steps will include accelerating actions to lessen the risk from diseases—such as tuberculosis—posed by imported animals, initiating and updating analyses on how animal diseases travel into the country, improving response capabilities, and focusing on greater collaboration and analyses with States and industry on potential disease risk overall.

More information on USDA's new direction on animal traceability and the steps to improve disease prevention and control is available at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability>.



The Outhouse Life on the Farm with Emily Written in Stone



The calendar says it's spring and time to tidy up the horse barn. All the various (forgotten to take in the house last fall) bottles labeled "Do Not Freeze" are sniffed and squirted to see how they fared over the winter. Chemicals and veterinary supplies are placed in groups: (1) toss because the sides have burst; (2) see how it works when needed; and (3) what the heck is this for and why did I buy it?

Cobwebs are removed with the shop vac and the refrigerator is wiped out, plugged in and re-stocked. Yes, I have a fridge in the barn; I get more company there than in the house. The color television with the VCR is dusted off and re-programmed. Yes, there's a TV in the barn and the critters and I enjoy it immensely. When I move in a 52-inch flat-screen with DVE and matching popcorn machine, my head may then be examined.

Hay bales are set in a perfect square nursery with corner nests for the arrival of new kittens. The rugs by the walk-in door are washed, along with saddle blankets and water buckets. One of these days I'll teach the horses to wipe their feet before entering the barn.

A mighty big, round, super-duper barn fan was purchased last fall on sale, and I was itching to try it out. "Not recommended for use in small barns" was on the label, but what did the manufacturer know that I didn't? Well, I found out real quick that cats can be picked up and flown around in circles while horses don't care too much for helicopters inside the barn, so the good old-square-boxed models replaced the mighty fan, and Ed received an early birthday present. The pigs loved it but looked kind of funny with their ears plastered straight up and back. (Anyone remember the flying nun?)

One last project was a big crack in the cement outside the barn door. Knowing Ed had a stash of quick-set cement, I thought, "What the heck, it couldn't be any harder to mix up than a batch of cookies." The directions said to mix with part water and stir - simple enough. As much as I hated to use my freshly washed wheelbarrow, it was the only thing big enough I could find, and I figured, since

the cement mixed with water, it should easily rinse out sparkling clean before drying too hard.

Pouring in the proper amount of mix to water and, at the same time, stirring the goop with a riding crop, I was soon ready to patch up the hole. Using a feed scoop to pour the cement into the crack, I mentally added "masonry executive" to my resume. Of course, the horses' names had to be neatly inscribed along the edge and the dog had to have his paw print in the corner, so the job took a tish longer than expected. My riding crop was now a solid fixture sticking straight up out of the wheelbarrow, and the tire was a part of the patch job as I had parked the makeshift cement mixer too close to the jobsite. Betty Crocker would never allow this much of a screw-up, and neither would I.

Carefully chipping away the cement around the tire with a hammer and screwdriver while mentally adding "sculpture carving" to my cover letter, I was just a little ahead of myself before it exploded.

Standing back to survey the damage, I found that sometimes cement doesn't dry quite evenly. My boots were now a permanent part of the patch job, and slipping out of them was a heck of a lot easier than trying to walk with cement slippers. Unbalanced, I grabbed the side of the wheelbarrow, tipping what hadn't dried yet all over my stocking feet. Hanging the socks over the water hydrant handle wasn't such a good idea but, on the other hand, added some nice permanent length and leverage.

As I was leaving for town, Ed was pulling in and asked where I was headed. "Oh, I was just doing a little landscaping and thought I'd pick up some flowers to place in the nifty new boot planters in front of the horse barn."

Driving off, I was also desperately hoping to find the same exact make and model of the wheelbarrow to replace the one now buried was out back in the trees...

Can't get enough of Emily and her antics? Get her new book, "The Outhouse: Life on the Farm With Emily" by contacting emilysouthhouse@aol.com or visiting her web site: www.emilysouthhouse.com

Big Jake Makes Guinness Record

By Lyn Jerde
Courtesy of the Portage Daily Register

Friday, April 13 was a big day for Big Jake. That's when he was officially presented, to thousands of horse lovers, as the Guinness World Record-holder for world's tallest living horse.

The 9-year-old Belgian gelding from Smokey Hollow Farm near Poynette, Wisc. stands 20 hands, 2.75 inches - that's one quarter inch short of 6-foot-11 - from the bottom of his unshod hooves to his withers. He's taller than the previous record-holder, a Clydesdale from Texas named Remington, who's 20 hands tall.

Jerry Gilbert, co-owner of Smokey Hollow Farm, said a certificate from Guinness World Records in England arrived at the farm, by express delivery, in late March.

But Jake's coronation as a world record holder will officially take place Friday, at the Midwest Horse Fair, scheduled for Friday through Sunday at the Alliant Energy Center, Madison.

The official announcement will be made just before the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Rodeo, scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Jake also will appear - along with his sidekick from Smokey Hollow Farm, a miniature stallion named Nemo - at the Kids Korral throughout the show. Gilbert said people are welcome to take Jake's picture, but probably won't be allowed to stand next to him for a height comparison, because Jake, like many horses, may not be accustomed to strangers.

Gilbert said people who view Jake at the Kids Korral will be invited to contribute to the Ronald McDonald House in Madison in Jake's honor. It provides a "home away from home" for families of children younger than 18 who are undergoing medical treatment in the Madison area.

According to Gilbert, the Midwest Horse Fair was chosen as the place where Jake would make his debut as a record-

holder because the show long has been a favorite of the people at Smokey Hollow Farm.

The event, which attracted more than 500 exhibitors, numerous horses and educational seminars on topics ranging from "A Child's Perspective on Training and Riding Horses" to "Training and Properly Harnessing a Driving Horse."

Daily admission costs are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the gate; weekend passes are available for \$27 in advance or \$36 at the gate. Children 7 and younger are admitted to the show free, though children will need tickets for the nightly shows, including the rodeo.

Meanwhile, Gilbert is awaiting Big Jake's official appearance in the Guinness Book of World Records.

"He's not guaranteed to be in the book," he said. "The 2010 edition may have already gone to press, but maybe he'll be in the 2011 edition."

Another record in the works? As far as Jerry Gilbert knows, Guinness World Records has never documented the world's tallest team of horses.

If they ever do, then Smokey Hollow Farm might garner its second world record - and Big Jake, already confirmed as the world's tallest horse, could pair up with another Belgian horse, Almighty Bruce, to claim the team record.

Gilbert, co-owner of Smokey Hollow Farm near Poynette, said Bruce, like Jake, is 9 years old, and was big from birth. Bruce was born on a farm near Brodhead and was raised by an Amish family until he was about 2; it became apparent he was too large to pull a plow.

Jake was born in Nebraska. "As big as the two were going to be," Gilbert said, "we thought Bruce would be bigger."

In a way, he is. Gilbert said Bruce outweighs Jake by about 250 pounds.

But, although he's extraordinarily tall - about three-fourths of an inch over 20 hands, or 80.75 inches - Bruce is slightly shorter than Jake, who was officially measured at 20 hands, 2.75 inches, or a quarter-inch short of 6-foot-11 from un-



shod hooves to withers.

Gilbert noted that it's rare for one farm to have two horses who are more than 20 hands tall.

In next month or so, he said, tentative plans call for a documented measurement similar to the one that Jake underwent in January.

In addition to conducting repeated measurements of Bruce, the process also would entail harnessing both horses and hitching them to a wagon.

Then, the data and documentation will be sent to Guinness in England. jerde@capital-news-papers.com

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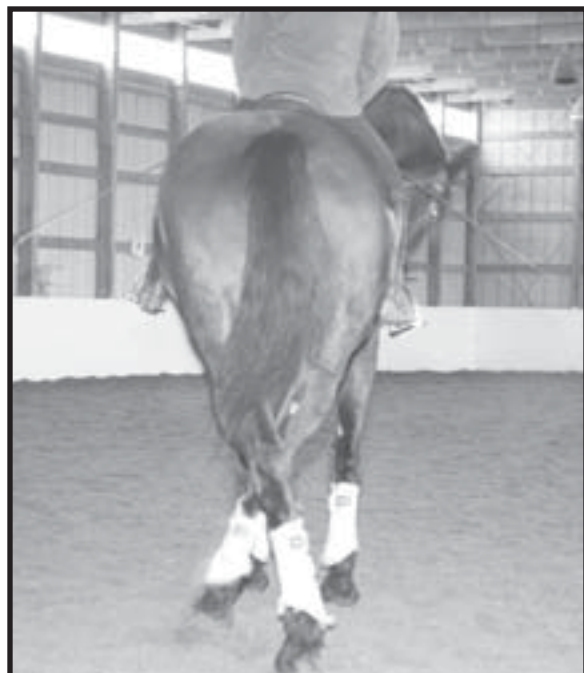
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Leading Edge: Progressive approaches to horses and riding

BY JULIE PENSHORN

Lateral Work and Leg Aids

The Turn-on-the-forehand is the basis for all lateral work. It leads in to the leg yield, shoulder-in, haunches-in and half-pass. It is the first piece of lateral work I teach. That's because it's easy for the horse to understand. If the horse has had correct basic training, this is usually a very simple movement because it's been done from the ground already. Just pull up next to the wall, tip the horse's nose slightly toward the wall (slightly - we call this flexion at the poll, he's not supposed to bend in the main part of the neck. Use the wall or rail as a reference point so you can see that the main body of the neck is straight). While keeping contact on both reins, bring the leg on the side of the wall back a little and keep the other one on in the forward position as a guard-post to keep the front of the horse from going that way when you push the hind end with your other leg. Activate your leg on the wall side. Ask the horse to move his hindquarters away from that leg. After a few tries/days, in which you just give the horse the general idea, of moving from leg pressure, you can become more specific in your request. You can teach the horse that you'd like him to take one step away from your leg in response to one light squeeze. This helps you develop a sense of the timing of the aids. He should respond to a very light touch/squeeze with the calf.



Student, Hannah Hathaway, demonstrates a turn on the forehand from the right leg. She could be sitting more to the right, and her left hip is a bit high. That might explain the horse's slightly behind the bit posture. In this picture. Note the nice crossover of the hind legs.

- Potential problems:
1. The horse wanders down the rail rather than turning. The correction: you may need more of the rein and/or leg that is on the other side, that is, not your leg by the wall.
 2. The horse runs around and you can't get him to stop when you stop aiding him. The correction: same as number one above. Additionally, slow down. You may need a lighter aid.
 3. The horse just doesn't get it and won't move over. Use more flexion toward the wall. Help him understand by essentially tipping him off balance with your rein aid so he wants to move his hind feet the other way. This is not abrupt, just a leading rein that turns his neck enough that he has to step away from that leg. And/or, use your whip just behind that leg. Essentially, he has to learn to move away from the leg, not from the tipping balance, so the rein aid is just useful for one or two tries. By then, he has to have a little bit of a clue. Sometimes the horse acts dense because he's sore or just because he doesn't want to mind, that gives you too much power. So, have a helper on the ground, or get off and teach him from the ground to move over from a touch of your hand where your leg would be, then add a tap with the whip.
 4. The horse is not listening and then when you use your leg/whip, he kicks at it. The correction: Immediately use the aid, leg or whip, again. And, in fact, use it more strongly! A horse kicking at the leg is a gross disobedience and one that must stop early in the training or it will be him training you not to use your leg and whip, not you training him to be submissive to your leg aids! Again, check his soundness. He has a right to protest if it hurts! However, he doesn't have a right to protest just to be opinionated. Submission is impossible with a horse that refuses to respect the leg aids.
 5. The horse turns part of the way correctly, then decides to sneak out of the turn on the forehand, by actually just turning around his center for the last part (it could be any part, but usually is the last part) of the turn. The correction: He must move his hindquarters away from your leg while it's in the back position, until you stop using your aid. Use your leg and/or whip strongly when the horse stops minding your leg. You may also need to

Variations:
1. Do the turn on the forehand away from the wall.

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2. Do it in motion. Rather than stopping, ask the horse to maintain the rhythm of the walk (1-2-3-4) as he begins to listen more to your most active leg. Keep both legs active to keep him walking, but don't rock your fanny from side-to-side as you use your legs.
3. Turn number 2 into a leg yield with the horse's nose to the wall. Just think about taking one step of a turn on the forehand and then one step forward, down the long side. Repeat until you are able to marry the sideways with the forward and are walking smoothly in a leg yield with a very slight flexion toward the wall and the horse at about a 35 degree angle to the wall.
4. Do a turn-on-the-forehand with bend in the other direction. Begin a normal turn-on-the-forehand and experiment with a very subtle change of bend while you are doing your turn. Gradually increase the amount of bend using your inside leg and rein until the horse can't accommodate your request for moving into that direction anymore. This one continues to develop over time. The more bend you have the more difficult it is. Compare the bend of haunches-in or half pass with a Grand Prix horse to a third level horse. The Grand Prix horse can bend a lot more in his direction of movement.
5. Turn the leg yield nose-to-the-wall into a haunches-in. This is also a wonderful introduction to the turn-on-the-haunches. It also is much harder, so wait until you're good at the leg yield. There are good reasons they design the dressage tests the way they do. The training of a dressage horse has a very logical progression. To do this, you will establish a leg yield (with a 35 degree angle to the wall with the leg on the outside of the arena and that rein being the active ones and the inside rein and leg guardings and maintaining straightness). Begin to change the horse's bend so it's around your other leg (the one to the inside of the ring). You can only tickle the rein for the bend because the more you use the rein the less the horse will be able to keep his hindquarters to the inside. The successful haunches-in has about a 35 degree angle as well. You can clearly see all the horse's legs. We call it a movement on two tracks.
6. Do the turn-on-the-forehand from the inner leg after stopping on a circle. This one is fun to do with the leg not coming back, but rather staying in the position for the inner leg. This makes it much more difficult. So wait until your horse is good at the beginner type of turn first. Turn this into a shoulder-in as you add moving along a line at about a 30 degree angle with your line.

Julie Penshorn, USDF Certified Instructor/Trainer, USEA approved trainer. Julie owns Sunborn Stables in Chisago City, MN. She and her students have achieved remarkable success in dressage and eventing. For more information, visit www.sunbornstables.com.

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New AAEP Blog Shares Career, Life Balance Experiences

Five veterinarians are sharing personal stories through the American Association of Equine Practitioners' Stable Living blog, a new feature on the AAEP's Web site dedicated to helping equine veterinarians balance the demands of career with life outside of practice.

Launched in late February and filled with humor and honesty, the blog is an exchange of ideas for equine veterinarians from all backgrounds who strive to make a home life and a demanding profession work together. Topics have included bringing a baby to work, rethinking the generational gap and defending a less-than-traditional ambulatory vehicle.

Stable Living bloggers are:

Beau Whitaker, DVM, of Salado, Texas, an associate veterinarian who specializes in lameness and imaging. He and his wife have two young daughters and he is involved in the family's small art business when he's not practicing.

Jennifer Selvig, DVM, is one of eight veterinarians at a clinic in the southern metro area of Minnesota's Twin Cities. She splits her time between routine farm calls, in-clinic practice and treating racehorses at Canterbury Park. She and her husband Berner own several animals, including dogs, cats, a goat and a leopard gecko.

Betsy Charles, DVM, of Fallbrook, Calif., is a faculty member at Western University College of Veterinary Medicine and is pursuing board certification in radiology. She has been involved with the Veterinary Leadership Experience and the American Veterinary Medical Association's Council on Communication, and she is currently a member of the AAEP Student Relations Committee.

Charlie Scoggin, DVM, of Paris, Ky., is a resident veterinarian at a Thoroughbred breeding farm. His professional interests include reproduction, neonatal care, lameness and herd health management. He is a current member of the AAEP Membership Development Committee. He and his wife Kristen have two children, Eliza, 6, and Charlie, 4.

Erin Denney-Jones, DVM, of Clermont, Fla., is the owner of a pleasure and performance horse practice with a staff of two veterinarians. She and her husband have a young son who often rides along on farm visits.

To read Stable Living, visit www.aaep.org/blogs/stableliving.



Mare becomes foster mom

By Jennifer Hicks

These are 2 colts have different mom's but the same Sire, Imperious Light. RJ was born first; he is black and white and the smaller of the two foals and has the most spunk.

JR is second and bigger; he became ill with a systemic infection or an allergy attack - we are not sure which it was - which caused him to swell on all four legs and his face. He was placed on medication for a week to help him fight the problem and overcame the problem he faced right away.

His mom did not have milk for him but Lillie accepted him right away as he was slightly damp, and his dam never licked him clean, so when Lillie smelled him she started to clean him off and protect him.

She then realized there was another foal and was a bit confused for a few minutes, then nuzzled both foals and started to guard them.

Lillie's milk was slow to come with two foals nursing but she is being fed 15 gallons of feed daily which has the following: beet pulp soaked oats, 12 percent Sweet feed and Calf Manna.

Both foals also eat the feed with her every day. Both foals are for sale and are being tested to confirm findings that they are covered with Ink Spots.

Oats and Beet Pulp are layered in a 5-gallon Bucket with the sweet feed in between and the Calf Manna is placed on the top of the feed after it is placed in the container.



Lillie and her foals; they're not twins, but they look close enough like it to be twins. Photos by Jennifer Hicks.



JET MCCOY - "RACING" BACK TO HIS NEW LOVE, REINING

By NRHA Reiner's Katie Hendrickson -

The 16th season of the CBS's "The Amazing Race" was its most popular, thanks in large part to Oklahoma brothers, Jet and Cord McCoy. After traveling more than 40,000 miles over five continents, the duo came in second place in last week's finale, but first in the hearts of many.

After their whirlwind adventures Jet was ready to get back to his roots. "After Cord and I finished The Amazing Race, the first thing I was looking forward to was riding horseback again."

And not just riding any horses, but riding reiners.

Jet first was introduced to Reining at the 2008 4R Performance Horses Celebrity Slide when Cord was paired with NRHA Million Dollar Rider Dell Hendricks. Dell welcomed Jet to ride with him any time. After watching Cord compete at the Make-A-Wish Foundation benefit, Jet was intrigued and has been riding with Dell ever since.

"I've been horseback my whole life and was really turned on to Reining. The challenge and competition really got my attention."

The lifelong horseman and four-time International Professional Rodeo Association champion says, "When I started riding

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Riding On Angels' Wings is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization whose goal is to strengthen, encourage and educate physical, cognitive, emotional and behavioral disabled individuals through the love and assistance of equine.

The public is invited to saddle up and bring their horses and/or wagon to participate in this ride-a-thon event. Space is limited, so please go to our website to register for the event at www.ridingonangelswings.org send in form below or call the Riding On Angels' Wings Office at 218-359-0007.

Ride Begins at 10:am Sharp!
On-site registration will be available at Woodland Park 9:00-9:30am
Riders will start and finish at Woodlawn Park. Route will consist of riding the bike paths along the Red River in Moorhead & Fargo.
Total ride approximately 10 miles.

Ride The Red Registration Form

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Send registration form and donations to: ROAW 5062 120th Ave. N., Felton, MN 56536
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reiners with Dell, I realized how much there is to learn. I've got the bug now."

Last weekend, Jet won the rookie professional division at last weekend's Legends And Champions show in Ardmore, Oklahoma aboard five-year-old gelding Ace High Dunnet, owned by Adair Reiners.

His future plans include competing at the NRHA Derby in June and joining his brother Cord in the 2010 4R Performance Horses Celebrity Slide at this fall's NRHA Futurity.

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Stacy Westfall to Perform in the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games Opening Ceremonies

LExINGTON, KY — Champion rider and equine competitor Stacy Westfall will entertain audiences as she performs without a saddle or bridle on her champion horse, Roxy, in the Opening Ceremonies of the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games.

Westfall, who has appeared on Ellen and is a YouTube sensation, will bring her champion reining horse, Whizards Baby Doll ("Roxy"), out of retirement to participate in the Opening Ceremonies for the world's most prestigious equestrian competition. Tickets to the 2010 Games Opening Ceremonies, held on the evening of September 25, are still available and can be purchased at www.alltechfeigames.com/tickets.

"Stacy brings to life through her amazing per-

formance the relationship and trust between rider and horse," said Dr. Everett McCorvey, Executive Producer of the Opening Ceremonies. "Her remarkable abilities that help to showcase that relationship are a perfect match for what we want audience members to experience during the Opening Ceremonies."

Learning to ride at the age of six, Westfall showed an amazing natural talent with horses. After attending the University of Findlay, OH to major in Equestrian Studies, Westfall went on to become one of the top competitors in her discipline, reining. In 2006, Westfall became the first woman to enter and win the notoriously challenging "Road to the Horse" colt starting competition. The same year, Westfall won the National Reining Horse Association Championship Freestyle Reining competition sans saddle and bridle on her horse Whizards Baby Doll — the first and only time a competitor has attempted to ride without tack.

Her champion horse, Whizards Baby Doll, affectionately known as "Roxy," was semi-retired in 2008. Westfall will be bringing Roxy out of retirement to welcome the world to Kentucky, and to the United States.

Reining is the only western discipline recognized by the International Equestrian Federation, and of the eight disciplines, and is considered America's contribution to equestrian sport. The 2010 Games will feature world cham-

ionships in eight equestrian sports at Lexington's Kentucky Horse Park from September 25 through October 10. Stacy Westfall is one of many equine, musical, and cultural entertainers involved in the ceremonies for the 2010 Games. Over 200 horses are slated for the Opening Ceremonies alone. In addition to the equine component of the Opening Ceremony, the "human" component includes orchestra, choir, dancers, headline musicians, movement corps of hundreds of adults and children, as well as local and international celebrities and dignitaries. About the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games The Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games are the world championships of eight equestrian disciplines recognized by the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI). The Games are held every four years and this will be the first occurrence in the United States.

The Games will be broadcast on NBC Sports, which has marked the largest commitment to network coverage of equestrian sport in U.S. television history. The 2010 Games are expected to have a statewide economic impact of \$150 million, and current sponsors include Alltech, Rolex, John Deere, Ariat International, Inc., Meydan and the American Quarter Horse Association. For more information on the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, please visit www.alltechfeigames.com

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The Santa Cruz Valley, Ariz.

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North Star Stables announces the opening of it's "PET - equestrian" center June 1. Dog/Cat boarding and grooming with transport available to and from the Metro Fargo-Moorhead area. www.petquestrian.com or call 701-306-4404 to book a stay for your pet.

See more photos and content on the VE Facebook page: The Valley Equestrian Newspaper and online at www.theveonline.com

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Bette Shipley
Executive Director - Riding on Angel's Wings, Therapeutic Horseback Riding

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2010 Stallions Available

at the **Brady Equestrian Center LLC**

Thoroughbred Quarter Horse

Welcoming 2010 foals out of our mares by Deputy Minister, Storm Bird, Louisiana Slew, Honour and Glory, Robin des Pins, and others!



Musical Chairs

1998 KY bred Thoroughbred by the great Woodman out of Darling Dame, SW daughter of leading international sire Lyphard
 • Half-brother to 2009 juvenile SW Majestic Vintage
 • Family of champions Dancing Brave and Jolypha
 • 2008 Leading Freshman Sire - Minnesota bred
 "This is the best bred stallion standing in Minnesota." - Keith Nations, trainer at Emerald Downs
 Stud fee: \$1000 payable when Live Foal Stands & Nurses

Quarter Horse

Welcoming 2010 foals out of our mares by Poco Bueno, Page Boy, Vandy, and others!



Pocos Gold Doc

1998 AQHA Stallion by Oro Rey Gold King by King Frieda. 87 percent Foundation bred (Wimpy, Leo, Three Bars, Poco Bueno) dark gold Palomino Stud. As of 2009 he has thrown 80 percent palomino babies.
 Stud fee \$500.
 Owned by Karen Oren: call 218-790-1790 for more information

Swedish Warmblood

Welcoming 2010 foals out of our mares by D-Day, Master, Babar, Galapard, and others!



Bayron 885

1990 imported Swedish Warmblood by Bernstein - Utrillo - Gaspari • Premium A rating • In top 10 of BLUP for producing Dressage talent (out of over 37,000 European stallions) • Competed through PSG & I-1 in Sweden
 • Schooled through Gran Prix by Susanne Gielen of Flyinge

"How did you get Sweden to let that horse go?"
 -Ulf Wadeborn, international competitor, 'R' judge, formerly of the Stromsholm Riding Academy, Sweden
 Stud fee: \$1000 payable when Live Foal Stands & Nurses

WE HAVE UPPER LEVEL DRESSAGE SCHOOLMASTERS AVAILABLE FOR LESSONS, LEASE, SHOWS, & CLINICS.



Vero: Swedish Warmblood gelding by Livius; age 19; 16.2 hands; 4th level USDF horse of the year; the sensitive and advanced rider will thoroughly enjoy this horse!
 Ridden by Kristina Gillespie

Lessons: \$45 adults; \$35 children; \$25 group



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 Teaching Specialist Equine Science
 University of Minnesota - Crookston



Tucker: Swedish Warmblood gelding by Galapard; age 13; 17.2 hands; schooled through 4th level and PSG; both the beginner and advanced rider will appreciate this horse! Ridden by Stephanie Swiers



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