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Where there are rivers,
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All Disciplines,
All the Time!

The Valley Equestrian

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

March 2011

Burst in the Black Hills



**Enjoy these great
features inside...**

- Faces from the Summit of the Horse
- Cowboy Poetry with Orv
- Arabian Nights Review
- The Essentials of Essential Oils



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CAVALIA – (ALMOST) OUT BY YOUR BARN

By Victor Wolf
Florissant, CO

Cavalía has been described as a magical extravaganza, a bond between horse and human - communication depending on body language.

Cavalía - two white stallions mirroring each other's steps; a number of horses galloping in a wide circle, encouraging you to think of the elegance of ballet, or poetry in motion.

Cavalía - you scarcely breathe, but you wonder.

I wondered too: Is it possible that I could learn the secrets of leading a horse to perform any part of what Cavalía reveals as possible?

I knew of only one person to ask: Debbie Bibb, owner of the Running D Ranch, creator of Building the Horse of a Lifetime™, a program focused on three principles - communication, relationship, and performance (www.debbiebibb.com).

If you saw Bibb with her equine partner, Zeb, a 17.1 HH draft cross, you would understand instantly why I turned to her.

Bibb is a slender woman with a dancer's grace. Zeb prances elegantly as he demonstrates what Bibb asks of him. He follows her readily, stands patiently behind her right shoulder, respectful of her space. And you can almost see a twinkle in his eye all the while.

Bibb began receiving riding instruction when she was six years old. Years later, she was one of the first to be certified by John Lyons. But Bibb acknowledges the influence of Richard Shrake, Clinton Anderson, Chris Cox, Pat and Linda Parelli and Dennis Reis.

Bibb explains, "Just as many factors affect whether a person can become a world-class athlete, such as physical build, mental abilities and access to the right coaching, the same is true for a horse. All horses can benefit from Cavalía-type training; some will excel and accomplish more than others."

Bibb explained that the bond between horse and human is paramount. "The degree of the bond has a high impact on your working relationship as the human guides the willing horse.

"Second, most of us get involved with [horses] because of their majestic power and grace. We want a strong relationship with such an amazing animal. It is very synergistic, meaning the horse and human together are more powerful than the sum of the two."

Bibb describes her training as having "some key similarities to Cavalía. As I work with people and their horses, I constantly strive to show them how to build a bond. The horse is prepared for the next thing to learn, and the person is guided in establishing leadership.

"Success and mutual respect follow, and while I don't put the work to music, it's almost magical. When it all comes together, it flows like a dance with the perfect partner. It can come on the ground, in the arena or on a beautiful mountain trail."

No doubt this is something most of us would like to experience. But relatively few actually do.

Cavalía is a theatrical show. Bibb describes her students' theater

as "An arena, on a trail, or at home in the barn."

Bibb approaches her program as would an educator. Anyone who was intrigued by Cavalía and turned to her would first be interviewed.

Bibb says, "First, we would discuss the goal. We'd talk about where they were starting from, and then we'd work out a plan of action.

Students begin at liberty in the round pen. Thus, the horse learns the human can control its movements without any harm resulting. The horse also has the freedom to make his own choices and think through what is being asked.

Bibb also ensures that the human student understands and learns how small changes in body language can influence the horse.

She says, "Depending on your stance and focus, you can talk to different parts of your horse's body. For example, you can have him change direction, have him come to you and walk beside you or even circle close around you - all with the precision of a well-choreographed dance."

Bibb states, "You can continue the relationship and bonding from the saddle."

Cavalía features stallions, but it doesn't matter what breed of horse you're working with. All horses are suitable for her type of training, although some will accomplish more than others. "Naturally, training time will vary greatly for each horse and each person, because each learns at his own pace," says Bibb, "but I would say you can grasp the solid basics of the concepts on the ground in several hours. But to perfect them to the level demonstrated in Cavalía can take months or years.

"But once someone gets a good start on the concepts, I encourage them to practice on their own."

Bibb offers private hourly lessons at her ranch. She also offers 2-day group clinics. The investment is explained on her website.

The investment of time and money is a grand entrance to the equine world, promising you the opportunity to speak Horse. It is the entrance which guarantees your horse the opportunity to reach his full potential, and you will gain the title "Horseman."

Note: At the ranch, a two hour session is \$85.00. A 2-day clinic is \$275.00 per person. If she must travel, Debbie charges travel expenses.



Casselton Veterinary Service, Inc.

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Equine Gastric Ulcer Meeting

Saturday, April 9

Hosted by Casselton Veterinary Service and Merial

8 a.m. to Noon - Live Video Endoscopy demos. Noon catered lunch.
1-2 p.m. - Presentation discussing gastrogard/ulcergard and Equioxx (safer alternative to Bute and Banamine)

Please RSVP to Molly at the clinic by April 1st so we can have adequate food available.

Casselton Veterinary Service, Inc. is also excited to announce the arrival of Tamara M. Swor, DVM, DACVS on May 1st 2011. Dr. Swor is a double board certified specialist in Equine Surgery and Veterinary Emergency Critical Care.

Our Veterinary team strives to bring our clients the latest technology and the newest advancements in Veterinary Medicine. Some of our Mixed Animal services offered include: 24 hr. Emergency Care, Canine Rehabilitation program with underwater treadmill, Chiropractic, Acupuncture, Cold Laser therapy, TPLO knee surgeries, Artificial Insemination, 3 meter and 1 meter Video Endoscopy, Dentistry, Digital Radiography and Ultrasonography, Complete Lameness Evaluations, Intensive Care Medicine, Colic and other surgical services.

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Victor Wolf
Colorado Representative - American Indian Horse Registry

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



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Newspaper

About the Cover

Laurie Errington of Scootemnshootem Photography captured these photos taken at the Black Hills Stock Show Saturday Jan. 22 through Sunday, Feb 7th, 2011. Justin Johnson and the Janvrin's were in the Jackpot Team Roping, Randy Guggisburg was showing in the AQHA show(reining). More information may be found at the Black Hills Stock Show website.



What's Inside This Issue?



Get the scoop behind the Summit of the Horse Conference held Jan. 3-6 at the South Point Hotel, Casino & Spa in Las Vegas, Nev. Sue Wallis, (left), Dave Duquette and Tracee Bentley organized the Summit to rally people around the issue of unwanted horses. See what the various talking heads had to say. Featured presenter: acclaimed author, Colorado State University professor and animal behaviorist, Temple Grandin, (pictured upper right). Below: The bridge over the Colorado River at Hoover Dam, More on pages 8&9.



Page 2: Cavalia: Almost Out of Your Barn
by Victor Wolf

Page 6: Cowboy Poetry with Orv

Page 7: The Timing of Letting Go
by Katherine Thompson

Page 8&9: The Summit of the Horse

Page 10: Arabian Nights Review

Page 11: Harmony HorseWorks at RMHE

Page 15: The Essentials of Essential Oils

Page 17: The Outhouse

Page 19: The Story Behind the Challenge

Editorial Information

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

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

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

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

ADVERTISERS' INDEX

Advertiser	Page No.
Ashley Peterson Horse Training	Page 10
Banners	Page 10
Brenda Fischer - State Farm Insurance	Page 10
Blairview Saddle Shop	Page 13
Brady Equestrian Center	Page 20
Casselton Veterinary	Page 3
Cowboy Leather	Page 14
Dun Haven Horse Headwear	Page 11
The Outhouse Book	Page 17
Final Touch Proofreading	Page 13
Healing by Charlotte	Page 17
Horses of Distinction Book	Page 16
J&S Farmer's Mill	Page 6
Karen Oren Quarter Horses	Page 15,18
Katherine Windfeather Thompson	Page 7
Little Bit Equine Massage Therapy	Page 19
Minnesota Horse Council	Page 5
Minnesota School of Horseshoeing	Page 9
ND State University Wellness Clinic	Page 5
Rainbow's End	Page 19
Red River Horse Fair	Page 7
Scootemnshootem	Page 12
Triple Acres Horse Rescue	Page 19
Rainbow's End	Page 19
Winner's Circle Horse Transport	Page 11

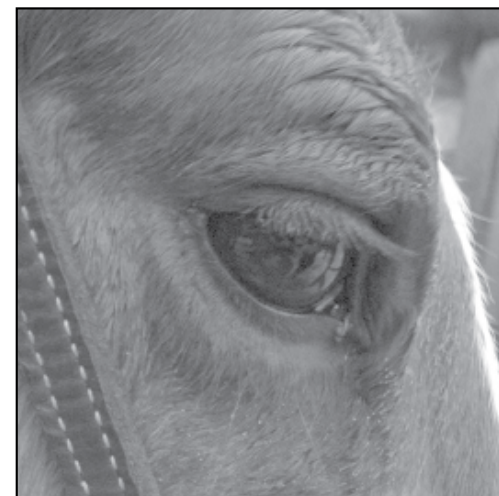
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Consciousness. While there are many degrees of consciousness, there is only one degree of unconsciousness, and that degree seems to have settled on the Summit.

A review of the blogs didn't reveal much either. Where were the equine biologists and veterinarians? Because they have access to solutions based on successful animal care and protection in Africa. Notable are the

Someone has to enter the political arena and, focused on the goal, strive to bring horses under a protective covering, as has been done with other creatures, like the prairie dog, the Bald Eagle and the spotted owl.

And we cannot forget the ranchers, particularly those who care for the environment and their land. Neither can we forget the Native Americans, who have a cultural relationship with horses. They all have something to say.



Spirituality plays a part in all of this. Katherine Thompson gave us the idea: We need to educate ourselves to be responsible for honoring all life on the planet, be it human or animal, all sacred and whole, of itself, of the One. We can only be an example and let our actions speak for us.

We must recognize that another consciousness - new and better - is overtaking

elephant preserves.

Needed are people who would manage herds of horses, giving medications and treatments for disease and physical problems, such as floating teeth, trimming hooves, and wounds. Or putting down an animal in need. Needed, too, are private funds to pay for this through organizations which would devote themselves to looking after one herd. Organizations like the Cloud Foundation, which has that narrow focus.

Enlightment is a close companion to consciousness. Those who have neither seem to believe they can do anything with impunity. Does horse-meat today mean dog and cat meat tomorrow? Sadly, such people cannot be stopped - or can they?

the peoples of the world. Our task is to look for the Light, no matter how dark it seems. And we must realize that not everyone is looking for it. They will be lost no matter what they do.

Meanwhile, CHOOSE to be well and happy - the Creator knows where each of His horses are.

Victor Wolf



Blue Thunder (above) sings an honor song at the opening of the Summit of the Horse Conference Jan. 3 in Las Vegas and says, "I am glad to be here to sing a song of respect to the horse and bring awareness to all species of horses, bison, and speak on behalf of nature."

Dedicated to promoting Minnesota's growing equine community.



See our new easier-to-use website with more information available.

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Come See us at the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo -- Booth 205
Katherine Windfeather Thompson, trainer, psychic, author of "When Doves Cried and Horses Wept"
March 11-13 --- Denver CO

3rd Annual Horse Wellness Day

Saturday, March 19, 2011

North Dakota Horse Park
5180 19th Ave N, Fargo ND



Horse Wellness Services Services Starting at 9:00 am

- **Teeth Specialist**
Veterinarian Dr. Bowman and/or his associate Dr. Keener | \$100 +
- **Farriers**
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- **Shots and Coggins**
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Barrel Racing Clinic with Sara Reiswig
Owner of Lightning Cross Ranch Barrel & Performance Horses.
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\$25 per horse/rider with a max of 12 riders. Spot held upon receipt of payment (non-refundable). To hold a spot, contact Carol Van Den Einde after 6pm @ 701.484.5597 or email at cvandene@hotmail.com.

For more Barrel Clinic information, contact Sara Reiswig at 701.371.5903 or by email at sara.reiswig@yahoo.com

4D Jackpot Barrel Racing

1:00 pm

Doubleheader 4D Format Jackpot Barrels
75% Payback

\$25.00 Open (Youth \$20, Pee Wee \$10) per run plus a \$5.00 timer fee
Exhibition Runs: \$5.00 for one run or \$10.00 for three runs.

For more information about the 4D Jackpot Barrel Racing, contact Carol Van Den Einde after 6:00 pm @ 701.484.5597 (local to FM area) or by email at cvandene@hotmail.com

Horse Tack and Western Attire Consignment Sale 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Bring your items to sell! Bundling is OK

For more information about consigning items, contact Lori Zabel @ 701.361.3522

A portion of consignment proceeds is given back to Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer.

- Saddles - 10% with a max of \$50
- All other consignments - 20% with a minimum of \$5.00 donation.

COWBOY POETRY WITH ORV ALVESHIERE

FANNING THE WIND ON A WINDMILL FAN

INVENTIVE RECREATION

Ask any youth from the ranch or farm about what they did for fun? After daily chores they cherished playtime. Most youth fun was homespun. Sunup to sundown, summer, sunshine, rain, wind, cold, winter or snow, it seemed every movement ended with -i-n-g...and on the go. There was hitch-ing horses, pitch-ing, load-ing, haul-ing, driv-ing, feed-ing. It seemed there were more chores than daylight. It was playtime they were needing. We hustled so we could build wooden objects, but avoid the splinter, Slingshots and dump trucks in summer, sleds and primitive skis for winter.

HITCHED TO A GALLOPING HORSE, OF COURSE

Off duty work horses became recreational ponies. Rested, fed, watered, sheltered and treated right, they were willing cronies. While trying to prove I was a daring young man, and on the go, An extra windmill fan 'bent' our mind. We 'bent' it to ride on snow. We curled and tied with twine, hitched it to a speedy paint horse, so tame. The driver sat down low. I tied my lariat to the harness hame. We planned to use a 'true' horsepower tow. This is not a misprinter. We were recreational inventors...enjoying our winter.

WHAT ME WORRY?

We slowly climbed the high hill. There was a long level strip on top. My younger brother, the driver whistled and gave the reins a pop. New duties for that horse, a full; gallop was coaxed by Brother Jim. I was on primitive home-made skis, some twenty feet behind him. Crossing behind him at that speed, rooster tails rose from left to right. What an exciting experience, speed was the skier's delight. "Show off," came from his lips. Snow flew in my face, it was a squinter. What me, worry? I'm doing skips, enjoying the snow laden winter.

NEIGHBORS LIVED AND PLAYED DANGEROUSLY

We thought sledding on that windmill fan, or vane, was a much safer switch Than skiing behind a fast moving truck in a snowy ditch. But, some nearby neighbor lads tried a dumb stunt that could've gone bad, A retired Model A mail car with tractor tires was snow-chain clad. They drove that hot rod hard! Unmentionable speeds they would make. Skiing behind a fast car, down hill (mind you) onto icy Cranberry Lake. Dangerous speeds, slippery ice and false moves could cause bones to splinter! They were the talk of the county when they frolicked there one winter.

GETTING CROSSED UP/TAKING WIND OUT OF MY SAILS

Amused and careless, I forgot deep cow trails, which I didn't see, As I crossed a snow-covered cow path...about a thirty degree. One ski dropped in and followed that cow path groove. My skis crossed without warn! Like a snow-boarder's trick, I found myself suddenly airborne! Like a cartwheel, I whirled, ducking, I landed on my teakettle, Banging my knee, awkward and unfit for an Olympic medal. There was sympathy for the pain and limp. I was a hobbling sprinter. Jim walked, while I 'rode' and drove home...on a long ago winter.

MOISTURE ALSO 'FALLS' AS SNOW IN WINTER

I recommend: try new challenges, use caution, don't try them all. When things seem 'too perfect,' remember pride goeth before the FALL. You can't take advice to the bank. You can take it to the printer. Don't wait for lilacs to bloom. Enjoy the whiter and brighter winter.

WIND IN MY FACE

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Golden Eagle Hunt Seat Team Has Successful Show in Weather-Shortened Weekend

(Crookston, Minn.)- The University of Minnesota, Crookston Hunt Seat Equestrian team had a successful show at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls on Saturday, February 19. The Golden Eagles competed against Carleton College, Gustavus Adolphus College, North Dakota State University, the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, South Dakota State University, St. Cloud State University, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and the host Falcons. Sunday's show was cancelled due to the snow storm that hit the Twin Cities.

on the Flat sections. Jessica Charles (So, Belgrade Lakes, Maine) took third her Novice Equitation Over Fences section. Chelsea Vandenhemel (Fr, Owatonna, Minn.) placed third in Intermediate Equitation on the Flat. Megan Claybundy (Sr, International Falls, Minn.) and Rebecca Wittrock (Fr, Forest Lake, Minn.) both took

"Overall, I was very pleased with how well the team worked together and helped each other through the highs and lows of the day," says U of M, Crookston Head Coach Brooke Leininger. "They rode well and have come quite far since the last competition in November. It's exciting to see how much they've improved and I am looking forward to a great home competition on March 5.



The Golden Eagles maintain their lead in the Zone 7,

Saturday's competition started off with a win from Laura Critchett Sr, Shoreview, Minn.) in Open Equitation Over Fences and a second place finish from Sara Wells (Sr, Calgary, Alb.), Denise Thompson (Fr, West Irondequoit, N.Y.) took third in her Novice Equitation over Fences and Novice Equitation

third in their respective divisions thus capturing their last few points and qualifying them for the Regional Championships in two weeks. Melanie Rodriguez (So, Chanhassen, Minn.) took second in Advanced Walk-Trot-Canter. The day was completed with a win from Lisa Schabo (So, Appleton, Wis.) in Walk-Trot. The Golden Eagles finished in second place as the Reserve High Point Team behind South Dakota State University.

Region 3 standings. U of M, Crookston will return to action with a home show starting at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 5 at the University Teaching and Outreach Center (UTOC). They will host Hunt-Seat Regionals on Sunday, March 6 starting at 9 a.m.

For more information, visit the Golden Eagle Athletics Web site at www.goldeneaglesports.com.

The Timing of Letting Go

By Katherine Thompson

In life, there are many different levels of healing we may or may not choose to experience throughout its course. Likewise, with death, there are more finite observations to be made, if we have the perseverance and the courage to look for them. I am not immune, as a healer, to such challenges.

During the course of an average year, many people contact me requesting long distance healings on their sick animals, and that's not unusual. I provide this as a service, and a long list of miracles attest to why I absolutely love what I do!

I'm also a licensed race horse trainer, and am very much involved on a physical level with individuals on a daily basis. What I have discovered in the 15 years that I have been working as an animal communicator and a certified clairvoyant healer is that animals will mirror issues we have on an emotional level that will manifest in a physical or behavioral problem. Not only do they take these issues on for us, and help us process them, they do so by agreement on a soul level.

Some of these animals I work on are not meant to stay on the earth plane very long. Transitioning from one reality to another is the normal course for all beings on this planet at this point in time. But that does not mean that acceptance is easy for those of us remaining.

One such animal was a 26-year-old Thoroughbred mare that was visibly failing. Her owner contacted me and asked me to see what Tara wanted her to do. The response from the mare was not totally unexpected, but the degree of emotion that hit me was. I could hardly speak as I endeavored to tell her owner that the mare "longed for greener pastures." This was not conveyed in linear dialog as much as it was a visual picture accompanied by the most incredible love and gratitude for her life with her owner. I could not help but wonder if there was a mirror I was looking at for myself. I didn't have to wait long to find out.

This type of experience is a constant with all animals I connect with. The love they convey is palpable, at least for me. But that is not usually all there is that's going on when this inevitable time comes for them to make an exit from this physical realm. I know, from doing this spiritual work for nearly 15 years, that sorrow can be very illuminating. The quantum view, or what is often called the picture

under the picture, lends insight to so much more than meets the eye. About a year and a half ago I learned of an impending end to a very personal relationship in an unusual way. Clearly, in my sleep space, a distinct voice informed me that one of my own mares had cancer. Not once, but twice. I'd had a sense that something was not quite right with Dusty, and thereafter being informed, began to notice a decline in her weight and overall

energy. Six months later, I had to make that decision no horse owner ever wants to make. But beyond my personal grief has emerged something far more illuminating. I now have an expanded view beyond the obviously precious gift she'd been, ever since the frosty April morning she was foaled some 18 years before. It's clear that she was part of a cycle that was coming to completion in my personal life. Her birth had been a concession for a time when I was losing a husband, and no less precious, a way of life as I had known it. Now, it's clear that in her passing, she was the instrument of the release of residual emotion over those events that I had not been able to fully let go. Processing her impending loss did what time could not.

So what this tells us is that no transition is haphazard. And without fail, there is always a reason they come, they live, we love them, and they return to the Love of the Creator when they go. I hope this helps soften the pain of anyone else who may be having their own experience of the loss of an animal. There is always Light beyond it.



GUIDELINES HELP FORMER RACEHORSES GO FROM TRACK TO NEW CAREERS

The American Association of Equine Practitioners has developed guidelines to help veterinarians and adoption groups successfully transition retired racehorses to new homes and new careers. "Transitioning the Retired Racehorse: Guidelines for Equine Practitioners, Adoption Organizations and Horse Owners" provides an overview of the common physical challenges affecting some former racehorses and helps establish expectations for a horse's future capabilities.

Developed by the Transitioning Subcommittee of the AAEP Racing Committee, the guidelines grew from a need expressed by rescue and retirement organizations at the 2010 Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit. In addition to criteria for physical assessments, the guidelines include estimated cost-of-care data from CANTER, a non-profit organization that provides retiring Thoroughbred racehorses with opportunities for new careers.

"The AAEP is pleased to assist and is proud of the many veterinarians and adoption groups who are committed to helping racehorses enjoy new careers," said William A. Moyer, DVM, 2011 AAEP president. "The guide is

Katherine Thompson is a licensed racehorse trainer, author, teacher, consultant, clinician, and certified clairvoyant healer. She's a graduate of the Avalon Institute of Chico, California, and has lectured at many of the major horse expos in the United States during the past 12 years. She currently resides in California. Visit her website at www.katherinethompson.net, write her at kwinginit@isp.com, or at Katherine Thompson, c/o Alameda County Fair, Stable Gate Horsemen's Mall, 4501 Pleasanton Ave, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

intended to be a resource to enhance decision making in the best interest of the horse."

The guidelines are available on the AAEP website at <http://www.aaep.org/images/files/TransitioningGuidelines2011.pdf>. Members of the AAEP's Transitioning Subcommittee are Reynolds Cowles, DVM, chair; Jay Addison, DVM; Foster Northrop, DVM; Mary Scollay, DVM; John Stick, DVM; and Carol Swandby, VMD.

The American Association of Equine Practitioners, headquartered in Lexington, Ky., was founded in 1954 as a non-profit organization dedicated to the health and welfare of the horse. Currently, the AAEP reaches more than 5 million horse owners through its over 10,000 members worldwide and is actively involved in ethics issues, practice management, research and continuing education in the equine veterinary profession and horse industry.

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Certified Clairvoyant Healer
Author, Clinician,
Certified Race Horse Trainer

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Many areas in Minnesota are expecting spring flooding. The MN Horse Council Newsletter provides information for preparing for spring flooding in their January-February Newsletter at: <http://www.mnhorsecouncil.org/newsletter.php>. See also the recent grants and scholarships awarded from the MN Horse Council.

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The Faces of the Summit of the Horse

Most everyone in the horse industry has heard of the Summit of the Horse Conference held Jan 3-6 in Las Vegas, Nev. at the South Point Hotel and Casino. It was a great location; overlooking mountains you can imagine the wild herds just outside the perimeter of the city. Nevada's wild and feral horses outnumber those held in other states. Management by the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) is fraught with controversy about the budget, how the horses are culled, the cost of the gathers, cattle vs. wild horse and burro use of resources, i.e. grazing land and water -- most often supplied by the rancher at the rancher's expense.

The issue is huge. Enter the animal rights (AR) groups, most notably and vocal are HSUS (Humane Society of the United States) and PETA

(People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) whose budget probably meets or exceeds that of the BLM. Their emotion filled ads bring millions of dollars into their coffers annually. The issue is dramatic and melodramatic as we hear the AR groups tell about horses killed by helicopters that run mares and foals for long periods over hard terrain only drive them to government holding pens where they are kept and supported by tax dollars until they find a home through auctions.

According to law and as quoted by Bob Abbey, BLM Director, the horses may not be sold for slaughter. And as we all know, that issue is mute in the US but it does not preclude horses from being shipped across our borders to Canadian and Mexican markets, which do slaughter horses for human and pet consumption.

Most of the Summit attendees favor slaughter inspection of horses in the US so horse harvesting may again occur in the US and thus, there would be a salvage price for horses as without a salvage price the market has diminished greatly.

So it is that all these many industry leaders, politicians and international players came to the Summit of the Horse to discuss alternatives and options for people and their horses, to find a way to increase the value of the horse, to put horses to work and help the industry grow. What follows are excerpts from the various speeches of the presenters at the Summit.

Temple Grandin, professor at Colorado State University, author, and animal behaviorist graced the Summit of the Horse at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 5 with

a presentation illustrating her years of experience designing humane slaughterhouses around the world. She made a point of telling the crowd that she didn't want to give an opinion on the topic of horse harvesting; she simply decided to provide information of which she had knowledge for the benefit of the Summit attendees.

Below are some of her comments and recommendations:

- "Harvest hay off CRP."
- "Using horse tracking with a brand inspector ensures horses go where intended."
- "The biggest concern is horses going to Mexico and having horrible things happen to them, for example being stuck with pointella; the horses are paralyzed and their brain is still alive."
- "We need to make sure horses do not end up at the municipal abattoirs in Mexico."

Grandin said in the last two years the number of horses going to Mexico for slaughter is: 2009: 44,213 and 2010: 49,839 (not including the last 2 weeks of year)

"Whatever you decide to do, we have to make sure the horse's worst nightmare of being treated in a horrible manner does not happen."

Auditing

"Setting up auditing systems for pork and beef weren't on my wildest dream of what to do," Grandin said. Two major beef companies are going to video auditing. "I am tired of going to a place where I'm told everything is fine and when I go they are abusing the animals." ... "All places need to be audited: rescue, slaughter, anywhere. We need audits and

I like to put numbers on things: it keeps things from

becoming horrible."

According to Grandin, 20 percent of stockpersons always stay good, the others slip back into rough practices unless their management constantly supervises. "We need to ban the words 'properly,' 'adequate' and 'sufficient.' What do they mean? A guideline must be clear." She said, "All pigs must have enough space to lie down at the same time without being on top of each other."

The system she recommends for beef and pork: An established percentage of animals must be stunned correctly on the first attempt, must be rendered insensible, horses should not be prodded, animals that vocalize should be no more than 3 in 100 cattle, animals should not slip or fall - very important!

"You can take the head off an animal and the other circuits will still continue until there is no more oxygen left in the blood."

- Other factors she has learned:
- include solid sides in the right place
- proper ventilation
- most horses go through the door themselves
- it is simple and easy to train auditors
- objective scores reduces subjectivity.

The American Meat Institute's Objective Scoring System measures a small number of critical control points (CCP) that will objectively locate many different problems affecting the animal's welfare. Scoring is based on performance. "Stunning failures happened because the stun guns are not maintained" Grandin said.

Continued on page 9



Lower left: G.B. Oliver, Executive Vice President, Paragon Foundation; Upper left: Dennis Foster, Executive Director, Masters of the Fox Hounds; Top left: Wyo. Representative Sue Wallis, Vice President, United Horsemen; Above: Jason Smith, Warm Springs Tribe, Chairman Northwest Tribal Horse Coalition; Near upper right: Karen Budd Falen, Attorney; Far upper right: Frank Bowman, IL Horse Council; Right: Frank Losey, Attorney, active in fighting HSUS abuse of non-profit status most recently in the Missouri Prop B effort.



INDUSTRY LEADERS PLAN STRATEGIES FOR HARVESTING HORSES

Continued from page 8

Grandin talked about HACCP Principles (Hazardous Analysis and Critical Control Points) for food safety: "Directly observable things that are outcomes of bad practices or bad facilities, it's not a paperwork audit, this is not just animals, it is all kinds of things."

A 1996 survey indicated 36 percent of beef plants could not pass audit; in 2009 the figure was a 100 percent.

Simple improvements include improved stunner maintenance, non-slip flooring, improved lighting; animals are spooked by distractions outside this pen.

"Animals know they are being slaughtered; they see reflections on the floor, movement of equipment, dark places. I was amazed to learn of the simple things that helped movement, such as light."

Grandin advised there were three parts to an effective auditing system: internal self audits done weekly, independent outside third party audits, and audits by major meat buyers.

What was learned by the audits? First year: no difference in results of announced or not announced audits. Second and third year: some people were removed; fifth to tenth years management learned to put on a show; tenth year they falsified internal audits.

"We learned that video auditing is best; you can tune in at random times

and it eliminates the problems of people's behavior when no one is watching."

Video auditing over the internet improves handling. We saw a lot of bad handling. Horses need two handlers. People and cattle were calmer. Yelling and whistling stopped.

There are three types of variables for auditing animal welfare:

1. Animal based outcome measure (continuous variables)
2. Prohibited practices (discreet variable)
3. Input-based engineering variables (discreet variable). "I tend to get away from this; you need to achieve certain outcomes."

Ninety-two percent of horses came in with no issues or transport problems. Some came in abused.

On-farm animal based outcome can be done any place based on body condition score, lameness, dirty animals, injuries, sores, swellings, cancers, coat condition, ammonia levels (indoor facilities), abnormal behaviors, etc.

Lameness is an outcome of many bad conditions such as poor housing, rapid growth, poor leg conformation, poor foot care, foot diseases and injuries, Grandin said. There is also biological system overload: one can push the animal to the point where it starts to fall apart. "We see this in racing where a horse is pushed so fast it has a bleeding disorder. We should not be breeding animals with disorders."

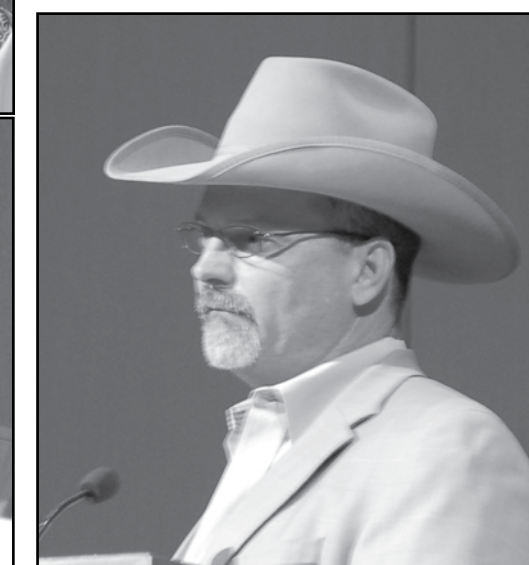
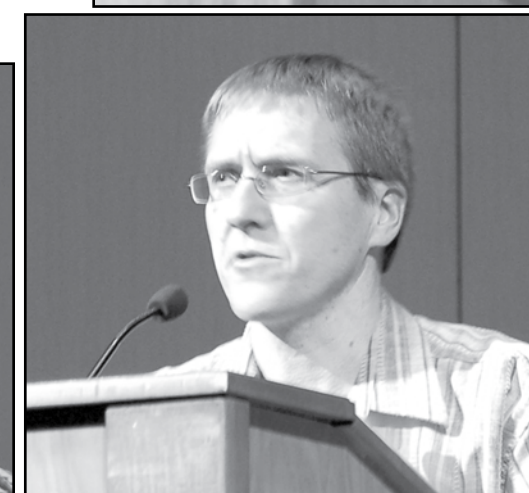
Grandin spoke about variables that can be measured in records: death losses during transport, on-farm death losses, sickness. "With numerical scoring you can absolutely measure the change."

Continued on Page 14



Clockwise from top: Dave Duquette, Oregonian horse trainer and President, United Horsemen; Bob Abbey, Director, Bureau of Land Management, Dr. Kim Houlding, DVM, Madrid Veterinary Clinic; Claude Boissonneault, DVM, National Specialist, Canadian Food Inspection Agency; Joe Astling, USDA Slaughter Horse Transport Program with USDA/APHIS/VS; Mindy Patterson, The Calgary Group; Dr. Temple Grandin, Grandin Livestock System and doctor of animal science and professor at Colorado State University; Manual Sada, Criadores de Caballos Deportivos Mexicanos AC, Mexico.

Photos and article by Ley Bouchard





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'Arabian Nights' Dinner Theatre Tasty Treat

Article and Photos by Jessica Herbold

If there is one thing every horse lover should see at least once in their life, it is the Arabian Nights Dinner Show in Orlando, Fla.

So far, I have been fortunate to see not only their original show, "Tale of Two Genies," but also, this year, their holiday show – in my opinion, by far the best show I have ever seen.

The holiday show is set at Christmastime, and you are told that a year has passed since the marriage of Prince Khalid and Princess Scheherazade. In "Tale of Two Genies," you learned how the two found one another after Scheherazade found out on her 18th birthday that she was a princess. Two genies had helped her find the prince from her dreams.

Now, in the holiday story, Khalid has been called away on urgent matters but promises to return on Christmas morning. The show opens with Scheherazade remembering the day he left. You see them working with their horses: she with The Black Stallion and he with his beautiful palomino – two of the most recognizable horses in the show.

Arabian Nights is the only show in the world that has been granted permission by the Farley family to use their trademarked Black Stallion. You are told in "Tale of Two Genies" that he possesses the greatest and strongest magic of all, which they must call upon, but to know why, you will need to see the show (I don't want to betray the end).

Khalid's horse is an American Saddlebred named Confetti whose beautiful coloring and movements make him the third most recognizable of all the horses in the show. Despite being a little larger than most of the Arabian horses used in the show, he still performs dressage.

Next, the arena goes dark and a blue light falls on Jack Frost as he enters on a palomino draft horse. After making his way around the arena, he rides to the center where two long sheets are hanging from the ceiling. When the light hits him as he is still for a moment, you can see his costume more clearly. It is white and light blue with snowflakes scattered on it. His horse is adorned in a snowflake blanket and a bridle that glitters like new-fallen snow when the light hits it.

Jack Frost takes leave of his horse and climbs the two sheets. When he gets to the top, he performs aerial acrobatics, similar to those you would see at a Cirque du Soleil performance or a circus. He moves effortlessly in the air, graceful and fluid, bringing winter to the land. As silently as he appears, he disappears back into the darkness.

From here, we see Scheherazade, who tells us how much she misses Khalid. Sensing her sadness, Hocus – one of the genies from the original show – appears to cheer her up. Hocus is Scheherazade's genie, received on her birthday. The two have become fast friends. Hocus says she is there to cheer up Scheherazade – basically, by distracting her until Khalid returns.

The first thing Hocus tells her about is Santa Claus and his elves. She has even arranged for Santa to come and visit Scheherazade. However, since it is the day before Christmas, his reindeer couldn't bring him, so Hocus has arranged other transportation for him – cowboys!

The cowboys Hocus conjures from the original show agree to escort Santa at Hocus' request. Then what to my wondering eyes should appear, but eight cowboys and their substitute reindeer!

The cowboys came racing in, yipping and hollering as they start their routine. The eight horses line up two by two in front of the entrance from which Santa emerges in a horse-drawn carriage. It is a sight to see: eight horses, wearing antlers! The one pulling Santa even has a big red Rudolph-style nose! Once the carriage reaches the center of the arena, the teams split off and begin a new

The dream begins with a rider in red and white upon a white horse. He proceeds to perform a guaracha routine to a piece of music called "The Spanish Dancer," employing a pole that is longer than the horse. It is nothing short of amazing!

Next comes another spectacular part of the show: Scheherazade begins to dream about gingerbread men and sugarplum fairies. Life-size gingerbread men make their way into the arena.

As a few move to the center of the ring and start decorating a pole, dancing around it with long-colored ribbons, others do gymnastics and lead a cute little Shetland Pony around the arena. The Shetland is one of two ponies at Arabian Nights: one named Gus and the other named Dancer. According to their website, these two Shetlands are provided as breed ambassadors by the American Shetland and Miniature Horse Association.

Each has different skills and a unique personality. Dancer is a three-time national champion jumper, and also knows quite a few tricks which he performs for the audience. Gus is still learning but does know how to bow on command and is an ambassador for the Black Stallion Literacy Foundation.

When the pole is decorated, the gingerbread men disappeared into a cloud of smoke, and out come the sugarplum fairies. The arena is dark and fog-filled. Both horses have reflective, bright green and orange paint on them. The smoke makes both horse and rider look as though they are gliding on air as the dance of the sugarplum fairies continues. Shortly after this, the princess awakens on Christmas morning, but her beloved Khalid has not returned.

Then Jack Frost appears with his winter winds, keeping Khalid and his beautiful steed from returning home. Khalid tries to break through the storm as his horse rears up at Jack Frost's minions. Jack Frost does a new aerial acrobatics routine while his winter minions form a storm below to keep Khalid at bay. The princess can feel Khalid trying to return to her and goes out into the storm. As Hocus watches the storm keep Khalid and Scheherazade apart, she commands Jack Frost to cease his storm and be still. Only when Jack Frost descends and leaves do we see Khalid's horse racing through the arena without a rider.

At the end of the show, the performers all come out and stay for a few minutes so the guests can take pictures. Some even let you pet their horses. Once the performers leave the arena, the horses are turned loose without their tack to run around the arena. It is fun to linger for a short while at the end as people watch the horses romp.

Not only is the show great, but so is the food, though, truth be told, I got so interested in the show, I forgot about the meal! You get a menu with five entrée choices, including a vegetarian option and a children's entrée. You also get your choice between two desserts.

I give the Arabian Nights Dinner Show five stars. No matter which show you see, you're in for a good meal and a good time. I go every time I go down to Orlando. For more information about Arabian Nights, you can visit the website: <http://www.arabian-nights.com>.



This life-sized gingerbread carousel at the Floridian Hotel at Disneyworld is made from entirely from modeling chocolate. The carousel was made from gingerbread. Each Disney hotel in the parks makes a life-size item. The carousel actually moves and has Disney characters at the bottom of the horses.



Harmony HorseWorks featured at RMHE

Editor's Note: Harmony HorseWorks will be at the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo in Denver, Colo. along with a creative body of artwork which merges the two passions of founder Barbara Wright: horses and art. The art will be on sale with the proceeds benefiting the horse rescue.

VEN: Tell me about the sanctuary and how you began?

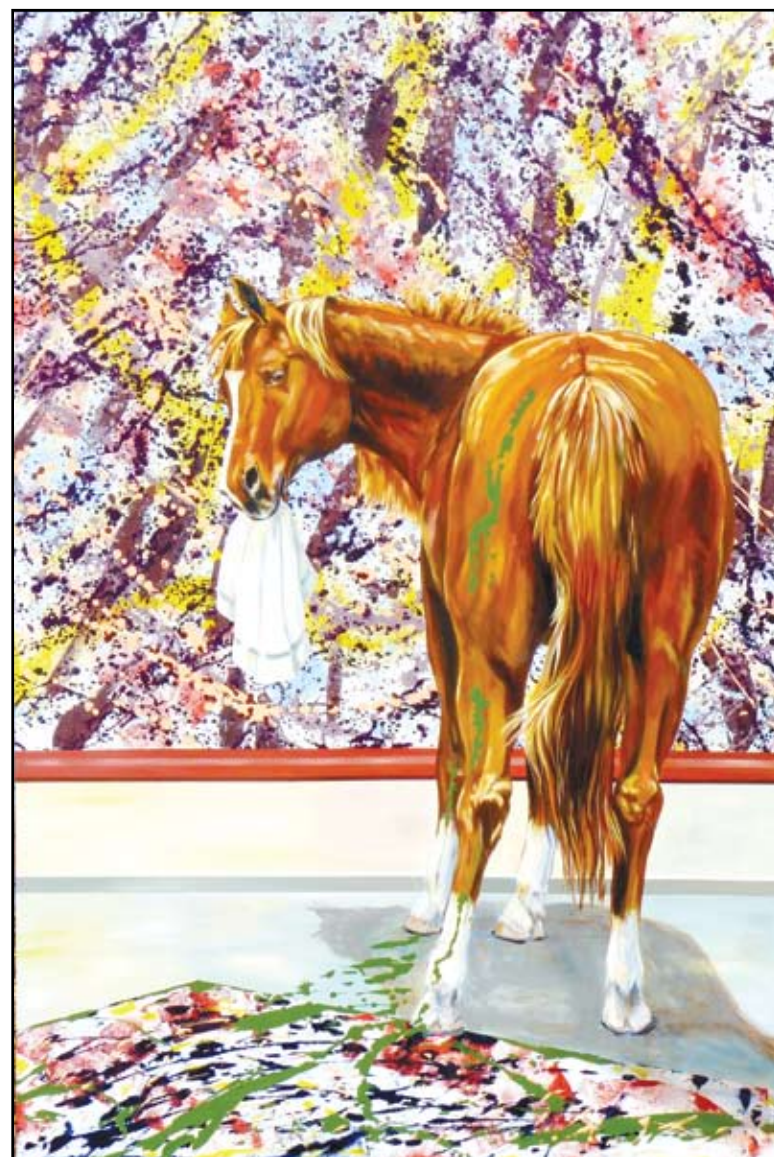
BW: We registered with the State of Colorado in 2002 and received our IRS nonprofit status determination letter in 2004. As a rescue, we operated until 2008 when we became a sanctuary and no longer took in rescues unless it was a special situation we knew we could help. The PMU foal crisis was big back then and our first rescue was a PMU baby. We are located in the Colorado Front Range Mountains at 8,300 ft., a beautiful place with a short riding and training season. Our winters are long and hard, so we enjoy all our program activities between April and September.

VEN: Your web site indicates you are a sanctuary for "special needs" horses. How did that come about? How do "special needs" horses come to your sanctuary?

Horse with special needs generally demand lots of vet care, an expense that most rescues cannot cover. Usually, the problems are gait and motion related. Often, surgery and rehab are involved to bring a horse back up to speed. After that, their limitations keep them from being riding partners so their usefulness is questionable to most people. We use all our herd members in our horse/human interactive programs because much of what we do does not involve riding. No horse stands around doing nothing during working season. Special needs also include horses with anxiety issues that we heal with our proprietary equine psychotherapy.

VEN: How does the sanctuary and ESCT and PEAT interrelate?

Equine Stress Control Therapy (ESCT) is the world's first equine psychotherapy that I invented in 2002, based on EMDR, a human therapy. I took the human protocol, threw out the language overlay, and used everything else, including the bilateral pulsing device. ESCT despoos horses by gently



"A HORSE IN ART" GOES TO ROCKY MOUNTAIN HORSE EXPO The paintings in this amazing and unique equine art exhibit will be on display at this year's Rocky Mountain Horse Expo, the premiere Colorado horse event. The show is at the National Western Complex in Denver, CO and info is on the web site at: www.rockymountainhorseexpo.com The show runs for 3 days and Harmony HorseWorks has 3 booths to display the paintings featuring Vic, our spokeshorse, in famous paintings of the ages as reimagined by him through his human, equine artist Barbara Wright.

interrupting the fear cycle, equalizing the frontal lobe brainwaves and calming the horse into a learning mode. Spookiness and lack of handling/training is the number one problem rescues face in rehabilitating their horses, so ESCT is an ideal "rescue" tool.

PEAT is an energy psychology we use in our human programs to bring fearful riders back to courage and to heal their performance anxiety problems. It is highly effective, bypasses traditional talk therapy, and goes straight to the heart of the matter by discrediting the energetic charge around the fear, releasing all negative associations. Quite miraculous. Because we teach beginning riding, and many of our students are returning after crashes with their horses, this dovetails nicely into our sports program in and out of the saddle. So we have the ideal combination of therapies - one for the horse, one for the human.

VEN: With how many volunteers do you work? How long does the average volunteer work with you?

Volunteers come and go - that's why they are called volunteers and not employees! Luckily, we have a faithful core group of about 6 that have been with us for several years and that keeps our operation running. Then there are about 6 more that show up periodically. Ninety percent of volunteers that show up stay only one time. It is the nature of the business.

VEN: I gleaned from your web site that you are not a horse rescue but you support the work of horse rescues. Does that mean you do not find homes for the horses that come to you? How many horses permanently or temporarily reside at Harmony Horse Works?

When we can, spare funds are rare, we donate directly to rescues that are in dire need of immediate help. Last year at Rocky Mountain Horse Rescue, with the help of the Colorado Unwanted Horse Alliance, I put together a booth for 12 rescues in Colorado to help them showcase their adoptables. This resulted in the placement of about 27 horses. When people in our communities call and say they need to find homes for horses they can no longer afford, we send out bios and photos to our very large email list and usually find new homes fairly quickly. So, while we can no longer afford to take on more horses here, we do as much as we can to place horses off-site and through the Internet. Our current sanctuary herd is 9 horses, and that's all our budget will allow in these tough economic times.

VEN: How large a facility is HHW?

We are on 11 acres, 7 of them fenced for horses, and have 9 permanent sanctuary residents. We have a small outdoor riding arena and a barn for shelter and offer programs from April through September, longer if weather allows.

Continued on Page 18

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COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY VETERINARIANS RECOMMEND ANNUAL RABIES VACCINE FOR LIVESTOCK, HORSES

FORT COLLINS - Colorado State University veterinarians are recommending that livestock and horses be vaccinated for rabies due to an increased number of infected skunks in the state.

While bats have spread rabies in Colorado for many years, rabies spread through other wildlife has typically been more common in Eastern states. Over the last several years, more skunks in Colorado have become infected, which has resulted in an increased infection rate and risk of infection to livestock and horses. This is due in part to habitat changes and human movement of wild animals that spread the disease into areas previously uninfected.

CSU veterinarians recommend horses and livestock, particularly pet livestock such as llamas and alpacas, be vaccinated once a year, and also recommend vaccination of commercial production livestock in locations where there is high skunk activity. CSU veterinarians also strongly encourage all companion pet owners to vaccinate their cats and dogs. All warm-blooded animals, including humans, can be infected with rabies.

"While livestock or horses contracting rabies is still uncommon in Colorado, it is extremely important - now more than ever - to work to prevent animals from contracting the disease," said Dr. Bruce Connally, a veterinarian with Colorado State University's equine section. "It's important because, if an animal is exposed to rabies, the symptoms can be difficult to distinguish from other illnesses, and while it is being diagnosed, the animal and people exposed to it are at risk of contracting the disease."

Wounds from a rabid skunk bite may not be visible or easy to detect on livestock or horses, and symptoms of rabies mimic other more common illnesses and could be confused with regular colic or a foot or leg injury. Rabies also can enter the body through cuts or scratches. Rabies can be spread to people through contact with saliva or bodily fluids.

"A rabies bite to an animal that has not been vaccinated is invariably fatal," Connally said. "The animals -- horses and livestock -- will die. If you value them, invest in a vaccine."

Cases of rabid skunks biting horses or livestock have to date been limited to the area near south Denver and the eastern plains. However, due to the continued spread of the disease in skunks, it is important for anyone in Colorado to vaccinate animals that could be exposed.

Signs of rabies in animals include:

- Changed or altered behavior
- Acting nervous or agitated
- Vicious, unprovoked attacks
- Excessive salivation and difficulty swallowing
- Roaming or separation from the herd
- Unusual sexual activity
- Abnormal vocalizations
- Ascending paralysis, normally beginning in the hind limbs
- Signs of colic such as lying down

more than usual or getting up and lying down repeatedly, rolling, standing stretched out, repeatedly curling the upper lip, pawing the ground and kicking at the abdomen

- Depression
- Self mutilation
- Sensitivity to light

Vaccines range in price for different animals. Cattle vaccines are available for less than \$5 each, and horse vaccines range from \$10 to \$15, depending upon the number of animals vaccinated. Rabies vaccinations last for a year.

While vaccines have been approved for use in horses and cattle, no vaccines are approved for use in camelids, a group of animals which includes alpacas and llamas. However, camelids may still be effectively vaccinated with any vaccine labeled for sheep or cattle. Due to the lack of formal government approval on the vaccine, state veterinary and public health officials may still treat camelids as non-vaccinated animals during an incident. CSU veterinarians recommend that camelid owners consult with their veterinarian before beginning a rabies vaccination program for their animals.

Rabies vaccines do not have to be administered to livestock or horses by a veterinarian, but animals not vaccinated by a veterinarian may be treated differently by officials who respond to a potential rabies case.

"If the vaccinations for cattle, sheep and goats are given by a veterinarian and proper records are kept, then those animals should be considered rabies vaccinated by Public Health officials if there is exposure. Vaccinations can be given by the producer in order to save cost but animals may not be considered rabies vaccinated

if exposure occurs," said Dr. Rob Callan, head of the university's livestock veterinary service. "This distinction affects the length of quarantine and how animals are handled after exposure."

Anyone who suspects that an animal in their care may have been infected with rabies should immediately do the following:

- If an infected skunk, bat, raccoon or dog has been identified that may be transmitting the disease to other animals, do not handle or get near that animal or that animal's carcass. If possible, safely secure its body; veterinarians can submit the body to test it for rabies.
- Immediately call a veterinarian. A veterinarian can immediately begin to assess the situation and contain the spread of the disease.
- Limit human and other animal contact with any possible exposed animals.
- Most animals die from rabies within 10 days of developing signs of an infection.
- To reduce the chances of livestock, pets or human exposure to rabies:
 - Do not feed or handle wildlife
 - Do not relocate rabies reservoir species such as skunks or raccoons
 - Exclude bats from homes, barns and other outbuildings
 - Rabies virus does not live for long periods outside of a human or animal and is easily destroyed by soap and water or common household disinfectants.

For information on human rabies illness, see www.cdc.gov or <http://www.cdphs.state.co.us>. For information on what to do if you have been bit by an unvaccinated animal or suspect you have otherwise been exposed to rabies, call your local health department.



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Free Gelding Clinic

Free Stallion Castration Clinic on Saturday, April 16, 2011 in Cold Spring, MN. Stallion owners must be referred by a certified horse rescue, humane agent or their veterinarian based on an economic hardship. Stallions must be halter broken, have two descended testicles and be in good health. Castrations must be scheduled in advance and appointments are limited. Contact Krishona Martinson at 612-625-6776 or krishona@umn.edu to schedule an appointment.

Join the University of Minnesota Equine Extension Program on Facebook for Poisonous Plant Mondays, Tip of the Week Wednesdays and Fun Things to do with Your Horse Fridays. Check out upcoming events and other timely information. Search "University of Minnesota Extension Horse Team" and become a fan. Our 650th fan will receive a free copy of our award winning poisonous plant book "Plants Poisonous or Harmful to Horses in the North Central United States".

Additional information can be found on the University of Minnesota Horse Website (www.extension.umn.edu/horse). If you need to contact a University of Minnesota Horse Team Member, please visit the website for contact information (www.extension.umn.edu/horse).

USEF Hosts Successful Dressage Observation Session in Florida

By Leah Oliveto
Lexington, KY - Dressage riders in Florida had the opportunity to hone their skills with USEF Technical Advisor Anne Gribbons and USEF Developing Dressage Coach Debbie McDonald in a USEF Observation Session, February 14-15. Ten riders and 12 horses took part in the two

day session which followed a weekend of competition for many at the Wellington Classic Spring Challenge CDI-W.

Held at Walter and Mary Anne McPhail's High Meadow Farm in Loxahatchee, FL, the session was formatted to give all riders the unique benefit of gaining expertise from both Gribbons and McDonald. The pair worked jointly with all the riders on Monday and then split the effort on Tuesday with Gribbons lending guidance to the more advanced combinations and McDonald focusing on the developing combinations.

Rider JJ Tate saw much improvement with her Intermediaire I horse, Faberge.

"The clinic with Anne and Debbie was super helpful," said Tate. "I got assistance from both of them on the first day and it was great to get their joint feedback on my horse. On the second day, I had a fabulous ride with Debbie; I felt she helped me get to a brand new level with my horse. We followed up on what we all had worked on the first day, and Faberge just felt amazing."

Following a solid performance in the weekend's CDI-W Grand Prix, Susan Jaccoma rode Wadamur on both days of the session, "I enjoyed having the first day with Anne teaching and Debbie adding what she saw to my lesson," said Jaccoma. "Anne and Debbie work well together. I enjoyed having two pairs of experienced eyes on me!"

The next Observation Session will take place April 6-7 in San Diego, CA with Gribbons

Plan ahead to protect your farm business

By Gary Hachfeld
University of Minnesota Extension

ST. PAUL, Minn. (2/21/2011) —Many farm families believe that farm business transition and personal estate planning is not for people like them, or that it's too time-consuming, expensive and complicated. Farm families do, in fact, need to plan ahead to protect their farm business.

University of Minnesota Extension recently surveyed farm and ranch families in Minnesota, North Dakota, Iowa and Wisconsin. The 3,605 family members representing 1,706 farm and ranch businesses in the survey had attended an Extension business transition and personal estate planning workshop.

Almost 85 percent of respondents did not have a farm or ranch business transition plan. Almost 70 percent of the respondents did not have a personal estate plan. That means there is no orderly plan in place for the transition of their business and personal assets to the next generation.

Research shows that about one percent of all estates in the U.S. pay any estate tax. Many of those estates represent the very wealthy; however, another group that ends up paying estate taxes is the folks who do no planning or who do poor planning.

Although tax issues are a big incentive for many to begin planning for the future, there are other reasons why farm families need to plan for protecting their business and personal assets.

One person wrote to me to tell me that his family was prompted to put together a farm business transition plan and succession plan after attending an Extension workshop. Six months after getting the plans in place, his brother was killed in a farm accident. His brother was the majority owner of the farm. Having a plan in place saved his family business from potential chaos. Such an event can change your business, your personal life and your family's future.

Begin planning now in order to protect your farm legacy. Find a competent professional team and start planning today to protect your farm business. Visit Extension's Farm Transfer and Estate Planning program at www.extension.umn.edu/go/1056 for more information.

Gary Hachfeld is an agricultural business management educator with University of Minnesota Extension. Media Contact: Catherine Dehdashti, U of M Extension, (612) 625-0237, ced@umn.edu

USEF NAMES NATIONS CUP TEAM FOR CSIO WELLINGTON

By Joanie Morris
Lexington, KY - The following horse/rider combinations have been named by the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) to represent the U.S. in America's only Nations Cup which will be held in Wellington, FL on March 4, as part of CSIO Wellington. The Palm Beach International Equestrian Club's International Arena will host some of the best horse/rider combinations from across the globe as they vie for top honors in the \$75,000 FEI Nations Cup presented by G&C Farm.

The United States will be represented by:

Rider/Age/
Hometown/Horse/Age/Breed/Sex/
Owner

Mario Deslauriers/46/New York, NY/
Urico/10/Dutch Warmblood/Gelding/
Jane F. Clark
Margie Engle/52/Wellington, FL/
Indigo/11/Dutch Warmblood/Gelding/

Gladewinds Farm and Margie Engle Beezie Madden/47/Cazenovia, NY/
Coral Reef Via Volo/13/Belgian Warmblood/Mare/Coral Reef Ranch
McLain Ward/35/Brewster, NY/
Sapphire/16/Belgian Warmblood/
Mare/Rider, Tom Grossman and Blue Chip Bloodstock

George Morris will serve as the Chef d'Equipe.



Be part of the action and attend the Nations Cup to cheer on the U.S. Team to victory. Tickets are available in the USA section and include an autograph signing with Laura Kraut and Charlie Jayne, refresh-

ments and a USA fan pack. Don't miss the chance to support the home team. Go to www.equestriansport.com and click on 'Buy Tickets' for details.

Or watch the Nations Cup LIVE on USEF Network. Visit www.usefnetwork.com for a broadcast schedule and details.

**THE VEN
ADOPT-A-HORSE!
OF THE MONTH!**

Read all about Sullivan
on Page 19!

**The VEN: Finding homes for unwanted horses,
one horse at a time!**

The Valley Equestrian News features an adoptable horse each issue. Horse rescue organizations may reach us at 320-209-8523 to request a horse be featured in this spot.

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Summit of the Horse

Continued from page 9

"The BLM needs to be keeping track and comparing between different stations. With all the data between plants, they have competitions."

"Mustangs, feral or wild horses: need to be habituated to both man on foot and man on horse."

"I am in favor of video auditing: this prevents the situation where bad things happen when no one watches."

Grandin answered audience questions and received a standing ovation for her presentation.

More information about Grandin's work may be found at: www.grandin.com or www.templegrandin.com

The Summit was organized by Sue Wallis, Dave Duquette, and Tracee Bently and included presentations by industry professionals including Director Bob Abbey of the Bureau of Land Management, G.B. Oliver of the Paragon Foundation, Tribal Leaders Jason Smith of the Warm Spring Tribe and Katherine Minthorn Good Luck of the Umatilla Tribe and Intertribal Agricultural Agency, Trent Loos, farmer, rancher, and radio host was master of ceremonies for the Summit.

Many of the presenters told of incidents involving the HSUS (Humane Society of the United States) and other animal rights groups.

Dr. Kim Houlding brought her experience as veterinarian to the attendees. "The group we are up against can accuse you of abusing your animals and when we go to court we are talking to people who are totally ignorant of animal care."

She cites a situation where 43 horses were removed from the owners place, where they were in a stall a piece, and moved to state fair grounds where they were doubled up. The woman had 2 deaths in family and stock market related financial issues.

"Anthropomorphic: people see someone hit a horse with a stick and don't know that out in the pasture they kick each other very hard - people don't understand this. " Houlding tells of the girl who is less than 100 lbs. wet that hit a horse with a little stick - does not hurt a horse."

"We are dealing with a whole issue of emotions and people who don't know who we are, what we do, or why we do it."

Animal hoarders have mental health issues. Stop and ask; offer to help people.

Houlding told the story of an Arkansas group who let minks out of cages; the minks were hit by cars, tried to come back to the cages, and starved. "They are domesticated and don't know how to survive in the wild. "Are we going to let these people dictate what husbandry practices we follow?"

Frank Bowman of the Horsemen's Council of Illinois said, "Leaders in animal rights groups make lots of money and live well. They will refute it, but follow the money. They don't sell anything but guilt - they make you feel guilty about the animal treatment and sell you compassion for so much a month - they deal with your emotions:

Combat emotion with facts and science. We have to get better at addressing the compassion and emotion issue. We are the caretakers of the animals. We love them and care for them daily."

Karen Budd Falen is an attorney from Wyoming. She said that taxpapers fund the HSUS. "In 13 years looking at environment groups we have found \$42 million have been received by the groups from the federal government to sue the federal government. It's our government and our tax dollars doing this."

Budd Falen said: "There are four things in the Constitution to understand about our legal rights: People don't understand the Constitution does not give you rights. It is the foundation, the basis, of the country. Citizens think we need a law allowing us to do what we want but it's the federal and state government that need laws to let them do what they do to protect our rights."

Budd-Falen talked about fee shifting: "Congress reauthorizes the act, to allow money coming out of the judgment fund but there is no ceiling. The Equal Access to Justice Act caps the lawyers fees to \$125 an hour. Environmental groups are suing the government and the government settles and pays the attorney fees."

She said \$4.7 billion dollars has come out of the judgment fund to pay judgments against the federal government. "If you look at cases filed against the federal government by environment groups, they claim they are forcing the government to do the right thing but they are increasing the amount of litigation. In nine years, nine environmental groups have filed a total of 3,000 cases against federal agencies. The Sierra Club has filed nearly 2,000 federal and district court cases against the government for environmental harms. This does not count environmental appeals or all environmental groups.

"The federal government does not track any of this spending. Because of Bill Clinton's Elimination of Paperwork Bill, the government doesn't know how much is being spent to sue us." She cited many examples including the Western Watersheds, Center for Biological Diversity, Wild Earth Guardians and others. "You wouldn't write a check to these places but you are," said Budd Falen. She is daughter-in-law to John Falen. "Generational farmers care about their property - that's how they can be generational farmers. ... Twenty-one percent of the time we can't get the numbers because they are in sealed documents. How right is it for the public funding the groups, not get information about how much the government is paying the groups. "

Budd Falen says: "We have to get involved, push the politicians to remember who they represent. ... Get local governments involved; they can be cooperating agencies with the federal agency to help make the right decision and a decision that includes the locals is better than one made in DC. ... Work on a program to file petitions to redress aggressions. Statutes get broadly written. We have to start writing petitions supporting our rights. We have to start doing what they are doing. ... If we don't ask, we will never get the answers we need. ... Start pushing the agencies and Congress to do the right thing."

G. D. Oliver, said: "We all have a special place in our heart for horses. The problem we have is we don't believe what's written in the Constitution. That constitution is still right, we still possess those same rights.

"Article 14 enumerates the rights given to the government. All other rights belong to the states and you and I. But we have lost track of what our rights are.

"What we learned in the Paragon Foundation, in challenging the environmental groups over the spotted owl or some worm, is the first maxim of law. ... In order to have standing in any court there must be a damaged party. Look at the case of Rosa Parks. They tried to get standing many times but until Rosa was harmed they had no standing. Paragon has learned that we have to ask how they have lost standing in the court. How are they damaged? Will they give you intervening status. ... I have learned it is impossible for you to fail if you approach the issue from the right place. As you go through this, make sure everything you print and do is the truth. Come at it from the point of truth. I join with you in this process and I'm proud I came and learned what I learned. The truth will put us all in line. We need to weed our little garden. Let this not be about money, let it be about what it right."

Jason Smith, Warm Springs Tribe, Ore, Chairman, Northwest Horse Coalition told the Summit attendees: "In 1998, after 6-8 years of a lack of market, there have been a lot of years when we haven't taken care of the problem and we're sitting idle. We are seeing the result in the quality of our herds. It's taken that long to organize and get our ducks in a row and it's starting to pay off for a unified effort for the tribe.

"We are looking at the feasibility of starting a horse processing plant in the Northwest. A contractor has come to present and it has not been up to par so we've sent him back to the drawing board.

"We are finding the information available is slim to none so that is one of the problems we've found. The other thing ... just one plant in the USA is not going to do much. We had a plant in the Northwest shut down and people really suffered. We need enough plants across the US so we can reap the benefits, not just some. I think one plant is not going to solve the problem and we need to unify to get plants across the nation. The feasibility study is nearly done and by the 1st of Feb should be done."

Attorney Frank Losey talked about the agenda and means of the HSUS: "Their political agenda is designed to destroy the culture of American farmers and ranchers, They use the money to destroy the image of so many caring people. They have deceived the American public; they have created an image that feeds on itself, the ability to confiscate your animals, prosecute you, and deplete all your resources in order to defend yourselves. They are successful because they have money to throw at it. They have been able to enact laws: 550 state and federal statutes; they define what animal abuse is - not what the courts or dictionary say it is. The HSUS has over 200 pro bono attorneys. They have millions of people doing what they think is the Lord's work." He recommends people get to know their sheriff and give them a copy of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act; He urges people to sign the call to action. "In the US, the HSUS is the real disease. Losey said that Al Capone was brought down by the IRS and maybe that's the way to bring down the HSUS. "I want the HSUS drawn and quartered and put into the IRS slaughterhouse." He asks the "good people" to flood the IRS with emails, regular mail, phone calls, faxes, etc.

Sue Wallis spoke about a "Do-Not-Slaughter Registry." "When you sell a horse, you sell a horse. But there are people who want to ensure that the horse never ends up in processing. The plants that we hoped will be formed, would have a system of checking those animals as they come in so if they have a microchip they can find the microchip. In Wyoming we have really good brand laws. You would have to register every year and would have to pay a fee for the processing and if the horse came to a checkpoint, you would get a call and have so much time to come and redeem the horse. "

Sue Wallis concluded the conference by saying: "In the next few days we will be working with many of our friends to bring the energy and necessary things to carry this forward. I hope every one of you goes home, communicates with your neighbors and organizations and encourage them to come to the table with their resources and energy for the well-being of horses and horse people. United Horsemen's Front wants to be a facilitator; get on our Facebook page. For each of those negative messages I get 10-12 message from you, we have quite a bit of feedback from people that couldn't afford to be here but are camped out at their computer to watch what is going on here. Help us reach out because that has been the biggest challenge we have had. Thank you again."

The entire Summit was videotaped and is available for viewing at: <http://www.united-horsemen.org/summit-of-the-horse/remote-registration-online-live-webcasts/>

ESSENTIAL OILS AND YOUR ANIMALS

By Joan Stokes

Editor's Note: Since many horse people also have cats and dogs, The Valley Equestrian Newspaper hopes this multi-species article will be helpful and informative.

Essential oils have long been known to be effective in the treatment and support of physical and emotional ailments for humans and animals. They are especially valued for their non-invasive qualities. However, as with all medications, they need to be utilized responsibly, appropriately, and with care and respect for the highly sensitive systems found in our animal friends.

In my opinion there are few things that should ever be given to or put on cats. Cats are highly sensitive to everything and they do not metabolize foreign substances well through their livers. Even if cats inhale a particular oil over and over they can have problems. The membrane within the nose can be agitated or "burned" by oils. Oils are just too strong and should only be used with direct supervision by a veterinarian.

There are a few herbs and some Bach flower remedies that can be used on cats. Always call a holistic veterinarian before proceeding with any foreign substance on a cat. Not all veterinarians are up to date on the use of flower remedies, herbs, and essential



Painkiller: lavender and marjoram
Parasites: eucalyptus, lemon, peppermint
Skin Irritations: tea tree
Sprains: rosemary, juniper

Travel Sickness: peppermint, chamomile, sweet fennel

There are many more oils that are helpful to our furry four-legged friends, but these are a small example of oils for use. For other resources, ask a holistic veterinarian for a list of Bach flower remedies and /or essential oils that can be helpful for your friends.

Horses are very sensitive creatures and must be treated accordingly. As with any animal, please contact your holistic veterinarian before using any alternative "medicines" on your horse. If you veterinarian does not know about essential oil use on horses, please find one that does. Some oil, for horses, can be used internally as well externally, but use caution and always start with small amounts to see how it affects any individual horse. Watch a horse for his or her reaction emotionally, such as body language, etc., before using any oil. Just as we all intuitively know what our bodies need, more so does the horse. If they jump away from the oil, put their ears down or are unhappy, do not use the oil on them. They know best and must be listened to.

The oils most often recommended by health care professionals for horses are:

Lavender, roman chamomile, and geranium for relaxation and calming, help with uneasy temperament, de-stressing for quicker healing, and great for massage. These oils can be mixed together, but only after checking individual oils for reactions, etc.

Eucalyptus and cypress have seen success in respiratory issues, and also for sore and overworked muscles.



Above: One of the many horse sculptures in Las Vegas, Nev. where the Summit of the Horse Conference was held Jan. 3-6 at the South Point Casino and Spa. See the Faces of the Summit on Page 8-9.

Frankincense and Tea Tree are commonly used for wounds, as they are anti-bacterial and anti-fungal, and aid in quicker healing of minor abrasions. For any deep wounds, please ask a holistic veterinarian what would be appropriate, as some oils can be very abrasive on these types of wounds.

Wintergreen (watch as this is a "hot"oil, and as with all oils on horses should be diluted with carrier oils) is wonderful for deep bruising of bone and also sore muscles as a pain reliever. This particular oil has been called "liquid aspirin" by some holistic practitioners.

Tea Tree is not only used as an anti-bacterial but is an excellent insect repellent on most horses.

There are other oils used in the care and treatment aid for horses. These are oils that are the most common. I recommend doing research and asking those who commonly use essential oil therapy on horses and then take your information to your veterinarian. As with all medicine, human and animal alike, I recommend we take control and be informed and then treat our doctors and veterinarians as partners in medicine, rather than leaving it all to them. Blessings and Healthy Living!

Joan Stokes has a great love for all creatures and grew up in a rural setting with many animals. She always talked to the animals when she was young and actually thought everyone did.

Joan earned an Associate in Applied Science Degree from the University of Minnesota. She worked at several veterinary hospitals over 20 years. She is currently co-owner of Mind Body & Spirit, Gifts & Books, a business in downtown St. Cloud, MN, specializing in many different alternatives for healthy, happy living for people and animals. For more information, please go to www.mindbodyspirit-online.com.

Joan tries to stay in close communication with holistic veterinarians and strives to continue educating herself in alternative medicine. Her love for animals and people grows steadily, and the experiences she has had so far with being a communication link for people and their animal companions has been life-changing and very rewarding. For more information including contact info, please go to www.joanstones.com.

Control Split as 112th Congress Convenes

The 112th Congress convened in early January facing many of the same issues left over from the last Congress. But they may remain on the table as the emphasis in this Congress will be on cutting government programs and spending, reducing the deficit and debt, and spurring job growth. The House of Representatives has shifted to Republican control. Democrats still control the Senate, but the majority is smaller. More than 100 new members have taken their seats in the House and Senate, nearly a 20 percent turnover.



Democrats. The ratio is 242 Republicans and 193 Democrats. In the Senate, Republicans gained 7 seats, leaving the Democrats in control, but with less of a cushion. The Senate now includes 53 Democrats and 47 Republicans, with 16 new Members. Neither party is close enough to the 60 votes needed to stop a filibuster under Senate procedures and force through controversial legislation; but the Senate is considering revising the filibuster rules and that may make it easier to get bills to the floor.

"Issues important to the horse industry will be on the table. Comprehensive immigration reform, internet wagering, tax reform, animal welfare, trails legislation, equine health, and the farm bill are important to the equine community," noted Jay Hickey, president of the American Horse Council, which represents the horse industry in Washington. "Overriding all debate, however, is how existing programs can be paid for and whether new programs can be initiated in a Congress that will be focused on reducing spending and the size of government."

Under new House rules any federal program, whether existing or new, involving spending increases must be offset by cuts of an equal amount in another program. The program cannot be funded by tax increases. "In addition, Congress will be looking for ways to raise much-needed revenue. The horse industry must be vigilant to ensure that such revenue is not raised unfairly at its expense," Hickey said.

In what's been called a "wave" election by many, and a "shellacking" by President Obama, the Republicans gained control of the House in the November elections, picking up 63 seats. 96 new members are in the House freshman class, only 9 of whom are

backstop of a Presidential veto. So there's no clear sailing for Republicans. While Republicans have made strong gains, bi-partisanship and compromise will be necessary to get any bills actually passed into law.

A fundamental question to be answered by the new Congress is whether the bi-partisan cooperation exhibited in the recently-concluded lame-duck session of the last Congress will hold for the new Congress. That lame-duck session saw the extension of the Bush-era tax cuts, the reinstatement of the estate tax, the extension of unemployment benefits, the ratification of the nuclear arms treaty with Russia, and the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." But there is precedent for cooperation and compromise when each party controls one chamber. That split control has seemed to clarify the need to work together if anything is to get done.

"Like most industries, the horse industry's legislative concerns don't break along partisan lines. The industry must work on a bi-partisan basis with Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle," said Hickey. "The AHC and the horse industry have been working with Congress for four decades. This is a new Congress with more than 100 new members. The AHC has already called on its Congressional Cavalry to welcome both the new and returning Members of Congress and to explain the importance of the horse industry to the nation's agricultural, economic, sporting and recreational life."

"The horse industry has a \$112 billion affect on the economy and support 1.5 million jobs. Every state has a horse industry. Forty-five states have more than 20,000 horses. The equine community must continue to ensure that the 112th Congress recognizes that," said Hickey.

Sign up for free stuff at the VEN booth at the RMHE in DENVER CO MARCH 11-13

ANIMAL RIGHTS FORCES FOILED IN OREGON LEGISLATURE

Anti-rodeo Senate Bill 613 declared dead

(SALEM, OREGON)—The Oregon Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources announced today it has nixed a public hearing scheduled for Thursday, February 24 on Senate Bill 613. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)-backed initiative was aimed at wiping out Oregon's thriving rodeo tradition by banning the roping of livestock. Legislative leaders said the measure also lacked support in the Oregon House of Representatives, and lawmakers will not address SB 613 again this session.

The so-called "horse tripping" bill would have outlawed the archaic practice of roping horses by the legs, causing them to crash violently to the ground. "Tripping" of horses was voluntarily banned by the Charro Rodeo Association in 1995. Some Oregon rodeos, such as the historic Jordan Valley Big Loop Rodeo, still include horse roping among the event lineup. However, strict rules safeguard the horses' welfare, disqualifying contestants who mistreat a horse or cause it to fall.

"No rodeo event in Oregon condones, or conducts, horse tripping. Oregon has comprehensive laws in place to protect animals. This bill was totally unnecessary. It was nothing more than a first step by HSUS to ban all roping of all animals in our state," Dave Duquette, United Horsemen CEO and President, said. "Horses are livestock, and if this bill had become law, it would have set the precedent for making it illegal to rope a cow. After all, they're both livestock - what's the difference between horses' legs and cows' legs?" he added.

United Horsemen members called, wrote and e-mailed their Oregon Senators to let them know the truth about the misleading bill. They were joined by other SB 613 opponents, including the American Quarter Horse Association, the Oregon Quarter Horse Association, the Professional Rodeo Cowboys' Association, the Pendleton Round-Up and many other rodeo directors, supporters and horsemen from around Oregon and the Northwest.

Duquette emphasized the need to remain vigilant against other HSUS-backed legislation. "The HSUS goal is to gradually pick away at owners' rights to decide what is best for our horses and livestock," Duquette said. "They hide their agenda behind pretty language about protecting animals. But we are finally starting to educate the public about what is behind the curtain. Oregonians are too smart to fall for the misleading HSUS rhetoric. Those of us who love horses, livestock and the Western lifestyle need to work together to preserve our heritage and the right to decide what is best for our animals."

An excerpt from an email circulated by HSUS' Oregon Director, Scott Beckstead, in response to the news that SB 613 had been killed: "We will continue to carefully monitor both the Big Loop rodeos in eastern Oregon, as well as the clandestine charro rodeos in other areas... Rest assured this bill will be sponsored again in the next session, and we will not stop trying until we finally get the law passed.."

Looking for old horse stories ... Do you think you have the oldest horse? If so, we would like to hear from you. Contact leybeu@gmail.com or call 701.361.8648. Let me know the age of the horse and email me a picture or two. We would like to talk with you and write, or you may write, a short story about your horse, why s/he is special to you, and find out what you have done to help your horse age gracefully and live a long life. Old horse image compliments of Google and www.myspace.com.

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The Outhouse: Life on the Farm With Emily

I know, I know, we live in Minnesota and the grand ol' "Farmer's Almanac" is the second most popular read besides the Weather Guide, but when both state it's officially spring, shouldn't it be official?

For the third time now I've packed away and then unpacked my winter Carharts, and I'm getting a tish worried about my sanity.

Last week I left for town with all the windows in the house open and a nice green lawn. Late afternoon, I drove by the Dairy Queen and people were lined up in their late-winter/early-spring coats and boots for some nice, warm ice cream. By the time I hit our gravel road on the way home, I couldn't see the gravel, much less the road, on account of the blowing snow.

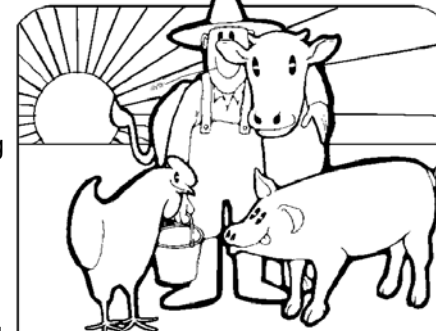
Two ducks were huddled up against the bottom of a power pole, looking very cold and bleak, and that's all I could think of after sweeping a foot of snow out the kitchen door. I couldn't just leave those ducks there to freeze, so I drove back to check on them. What I thought I was going to accomplish I don't know, but when I got close, offering a blanket and a

bowl of warm water, they sure let me know they were okay.

After wrapping my bloody fingers up with my stocking cap, I told those two danged ducks they could just sit there and freeze!

Waiting for spring to arrive for the third time this year, Ed was being very secretive in the shop, making sure my timeline of "things to do" kept me away from the building. Knowing full well what he was up to, I was very much going to enjoy my new horse feeder when it was unveiled.

Curious George that I am, I just had to peek in the shop window to make sure the width and height of the feeder weren't going to spoil the big surprise.



Everything looked huncky-dory, but as I turned to leave, my stomach kind of sank as I noticed that the tracks from my boots in the snow led right up to the window. Dang, if Ed saw my tracks I would be exposed and my horse feeder would be welded right into

some kind of funky lawn ornament! Very, very carefully I walked backwards in my tracks while swishing the snow back in place with my gloves. A big old, fat robin that probably was at his wits' end in the supposed spring climate must have needed a human to vent at as he hopped around in the snow for awhile and then flew straight at my head! Walking backwards was never one of my strong suits, and down I went, flat out in the snow. I made a huge thud, the evergreen next to me let loose all its snow, and I was buried right out of sight. Hearing the door to the shop open, I had

two choices: sit up out of the snow and stare at an ugly welded lawn ornament all summer long or stay buried and receive a nice shiny new horse feeder as a surprise. Calling on all the little snow angels I could muster, I held out until I heard the shop door close again.

Dreaming of the black fields weeks ago, I had Ed's water jug, lunch cooler, and coffee thermos all shined up and lined up on the kitchen counter, waiting for the morning when he would say, "See ya tonight." In farm language that means midnight and a very long and happy "Ed free" day for Emily. I don't mind lending a helping hand with livestock chores in quiet bliss, but I find it really hard to answer the phone on those days in case it may be one of those "honey, I need a pull" calls.

Bringing a late lunch out to the field is no problem either, except when the tractor is on the other end and, at five miles per hour from the half-section line, it takes thirty minutes before the nice farmer can be served up his chicken

REDUCE RISK IN ORGANIC SMALL GRAIN PRODUCTION

By Jochum Wiersma

ST. PAUL, Minn. (2/28/2011) —Selecting a small grain species that's adapted to your growing conditions and market needs is the first step in reducing risks of organic small grain production.

Other risk-reduction strategies include:

* Variety selection. Plant several disease-resistant, high-yielding varieties on your farm to spread risk. When selecting winter grains for planting in Minnesota, choose only the most winter hardy.

* Planting date. To avoid yield loss, plant spring small grains as early as possible and winter small grains in the late summer or early fall.

* Weed management. Crop rotations, planting date and early planting are the main cultural weed control options in organic small grains. A primary tillage operation before seeding in the spring can reduce weed pressures of winter annuals and cool season annual weeds such as wild oats, wild mustard, kochia and the different pigweed species.

* Pest management. Use rotations and crop sequences that reduce the risks of disease. Check with your certifier before using new pesticides—conditions for using a pesticide

must be documented in the organic system plan. Always use good quality seed and choose resistant varieties whenever possible. Using certified seed ensures that the seed is free or nearly free of many seed-borne diseases such as loose smut.

The four main small grain crop species grown in Minnesota and the Upper Midwest include wheat, barley, oat and rye. In 2005, Minnesota organic growers led the nation in rye production and were number two in organic oat production.

More details on reducing risk in organic production of small grains are available in a new web-based guide titled "Risk Management Guide for Organic Producers." The guide is available at www.organicriskmanagement.umn.edu. It has 14 chapters covering a wide range of production topics relevant to organic producers and those transitioning to organic production.

For more information about agricultural production of small grains, visit www.smallgrains.org, a collaborative website from University of Minnesota Extension and the Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers.

Any use of this article must include the byline or following credit line: Jochum Wiersma is a crops educator with University of Minnesota Extension. Other contributors are Kristine Moncada, assistant scientist and Mary Brakke, educational specialist, both in the U of M Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics.

"One man's wrong lead is another man's counter-canter."

~S.D. Price

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Harmony HorseWorks

Continued from page 11

VEN: How many fundraising events are held annually?

We usually do 2 or 3 a year, mostly art shows like "A Horse IN Art" that is going to Rocky Mountain Horse Expo this month. Fundraisers cost money and in these difficult times it is more efficient to do fundraising via email or snail mail.

VEN: Do you also do grant writing? If so, are they harder to find in the current economic/political environment?

We have done a few grants and received a little money over the years, but in no way could grants fund our operations. As a percentage of our operating budget, grants provide less than 10 percent of the

income. The best grant in the world would come straight from the heart of a well-to-do compassionate person who believes in our mission and supports our horse/human programs. I believe I echo every horse rescue/sanctuary's dream in that statement.

Barbara Wright
Chairman and Founder
Harmony HorseWorks
Equine Sanctuary in the Colorado Front Range
501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation
13639 Elsie Road
Conifer CO 80433
(303) 816-0766
www.harmonyhorseworks.com
harmonyhorsewrks@aol.com



Visit the VEN booth 205 at the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo March 11-13 in Denver CO! Sign up for free drawings: readings by Katherine Thompson, the book "Horses of Distinction" by Fran Lynghaug, "When Doves Cried and Horses Wept," by Katherine Windfeather Thompson and subscriptions to the VEN.

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Cassie Sprenger and Sullivan win the 2010 MHARF Trainer's Challenge

The Story Behind the Challenge

By Monica Berrier,
Assistant Trainer with CEC

When Cassie Spenger heard about the Minnesota Hooved Animal Rescue Foundation Trainer's Challenge of the Unwanted Horse in 2009, she knew immediately that this was a cause she'd love to be involved with. In the Trainer's Challenge, selected trainers are each assigned an "unwanted" horse from the rescue to train at their farm for 100 days. Trainers and horses then compete in an open-discipline show featuring halter, pleasure, freestyle, trail, farrier and veterinary classes. The purpose of the show is to demonstrate how a small investment in training can turn a previously "unwanted" horse into a reliable, willing and fun equine partner.

Through working with 2009 Reserve Champion Gamett, Cassie learned that the opportunity to better the life of a horse that had been abused, neglected and harassed, better her own life.

So when Cassie was accepted to participate in the 2010 Trainer's Challenge, she knew right away that this was something she wanted to do again.

This year, Sprenger was assigned Sullivan, a recently gelded 2007 overo paint. Sullivan had spent the past two years of his life living as a stall baby, rarely seeing the light of day. He received plenty of hay and water, but little else; no farrier, veterinary care, contact with other horses or love. Drew Fitzpatrick, head of MHARF, says that when she picked up the horses from this farm, the horses literally had to jump down to get out of their stalls; that's how much waste had built up in each stall.

Sullivan suffered a number of problems as a direct result of his confinement. His back had some serious issues as a result of the lack of movement. Chiropractor Kayla Awes helped Sullivan with weekly adjustments. His back soreness required us to change our approach, doing more work in hand and bareback. Sensitivity to sunlight forced us to keep him in the stall during daylight hours, but he received turnout with other horses during the evening, night and early morning. In the beginning, Sullivan was skeptical and nervous, though with consistent and loving handling, he quickly turned around.

Each rescue horse has his own unique set of difficulties, which requires a different approach from the norm. Our approach focuses on establishing a trusting and respectful relationship in the first several days of training. Without a basis of trust and respect, nothing further can be gained. The horse needs to be calm in mind to truly understand what is required of him and, therefore, learn the correct response. The horse learns that there is a clear, consistent set of rules, and a gentle, yet firm, approach allows him to learn that humans are understanding, trustworthy and fair. The horse

learns this initially through exercises in leading, backing, lunging and desensitizing work. Only when a clear line of communication based on trust and respect is established do we move on to more advanced work in the saddle.

Focusing on these basics on the ground allowed us to accomplish a high level of training with Sullivan in a short period of time. Because of his health issues, including weight loss and abscesses, Sullivan had a total of 35 days off during his 100 days with us. We even sent him off to another farm so he could be on a grass pasture and be on complete rest. Even with so much time off, Sullivan made remarkable strides in his training. In August, we used him in a children's horse camp, and he behaved like a gentleman for intermediate riders, both in the arena and on the trail. He also rode with confidence when we took him off the property for trail rides and horse shows. His consistent and trusting behavior won hearts wherever he went.

After 100 days of training, Sullivan had gone from a skeptical, fearful horse with no riding skills to a confident partner that anyone can ride in any circumstance. As we all engage in the search for the perfect riding companion, we should remember to consider the diamond in the rough that is the rescue horse. A little training can go a long way!

Cassie would like to thank her sponsors, without whose help we couldn't have been successful: Kayla Awes, D.C.; Arnie Bauer Hay Services, Dan Sprenger, Shelley Law, Bernie Schramm, Britt Olson, Lori Aus, Doraine D. and Cynthia R. Thank you all for supporting Sullivan!

Cassie Sprenger and Complete Equestrian Company strive to offer horses, their owners and horse enthusiasts a wide variety of opportunities. We are dedicated to creating a complete team between horses and their riders. Our main goal is to help novice to pro riders develop a better understanding and solid relationship with horses while practicing safe and effective horse skills. We specialize in starting, gaming and versatile horses. We offer riding lessons, training, clinics, trail rides and more. All riding levels, breeds and disciplines are welcome at CEC. Visit our website at <http://www.completeequestriancompany.com>

By Cassie Sprenger

The dust and glitter has settled; in the beginning of another end, a horse and his team emerge champions. Not champions in status, number of points or ribbons earned, nor by being the top money winner. They emerge



champions of a journey – a journey along which each one of them learned, gained friendship, earned trust and opened their hearts to love. Sullivan's story is like those of all the Challenge horses and rescue horses; they are inspiring stories. These stories are filled with words of hope, despair, hurt, neglect and courage. These horses lived the stories you hear and tell. These

horses push on, overcome the odds; these horses live!

During the little time I have with Challenge horses, I often get asked the same question: "How can you be so patient?" I usually reply with a "Thank you" and something along the lines of "Horses from these circumstances deserve the best of me because I know that's what they want us to see in them."

Other questions I get are: "Why do you do the Challenge? And if you win, would you enter again, and why?"

I love horses. I love how, with one look from a friend, your whole day is better. I "own" five horses – and I say "own" because deep-down I feel somehow we've chosen each other. Each one is a true friend. Each one is there for me when I'm happy, sad or just want to talk. I do the same for them. I play games with them. I find out their favorite itchy spots, make them warm mash in winter and frozen fun treats in summer. I listen to them and I just love them with all my heart and soul.

My dear friend of 20 years, whom I had to put down this spring, taught me the importance of trust, responsibility, honor and seeing – seeing beyond her cute little black and white painted coat, beyond her soft and accepting eyes, and beyond myself. I do the Challenge because I'm keeping a promise to myself and my best friend. I promised her that I'd give back what she gave me.

So, if I win – and, as you all know, I did – will I re-enter? If you don't know the answer after reading this, I ask you to take a look at what you do, why you do it, what makes you happy and what you'll do to stay happy.

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