

January 2014

The Valley Equestrian News

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Oak Ridge Ranch and the Dakota 50/50

By Kari Hagstrom

It's a rare, extremely cold day in January at Oak Ridge Ranch near Souris, N.D., 90 miles northeast of Minot, N.D., right up on the Canadian border: -20, with a wind chill of -53. Tonight and tomorrow will be even colder, -30, with a wind chill of -60, here on the western ridge of the Turtle Mountains, where the wind blows straight and cold right down out of Alaska and Northern Canada along the great interior plains of the North American continent. Indeed, the ranch is only about an hour away from the center of the continent, near Rugby, N.D. Already in early December, during a week of -20 temperatures, one of the water lines had frozen; and it probably won't be the first or last time this winter. Some might think that this is one heck of a place for a horse ranch, but in the summer the rolling plains of pasture are green and lush, and full of mares and foals.

Oak Ridge Ranch raises registered paint and quarter horses, with a focus on "endurance, talent and intelligence," says Bridget Gustafson, daughter of owners Darrel and Janine Gustafson, www.ndoakridgeranch.com. "The Gustafson family has had horses for over 50 years. My dad and I branched off with our own bloodlines about 17 years ago. . . We raise horses for reining, roping and just a working ranch horse. We hope that one day we will see an improvement in the horse markets in our area, and broaden our exposure through trainers in outside states like Montana and Texas."

One way the Gustafson's have worked to create more exposure and improve markets for North Dakota quarter horses and paints is by starting the Dakota 50/50 Sale, Futurity and Maturity. In 2002 Darrel Gustafson and neighboring horse breeder, Greg Stewart, decided that there needed to be another, better way to promote their horses, and to help other breeders in the area promote their breeding programs. The Dakota 50/50 was born (www.dakota50-50.com), with the Maturity just added in 2012 for three-to-five-year-old horses that have been sold as

weanlings through the Futurity. The Maturity offers a segment of cow-working that is another way to highlight a young horse's potential. Just recently having celebrated its tenth year in 2013, the Dakota 50/50 consists of 35 memberships, both single and joint, including members from North Dakota, South Dakota, and Manitoba, Canada.

"It is the mission of the Dakota 50/50 Horse Sale, Futurity & Maturity to promote quality performance horses that are good moving, good minded, athletic individuals, that have the capability to work and will look good when engaged in activities, while maintaining at all times the horse's physical and mental potential.

"It is further the purpose of the Dakota 50/50 Horse Sale, Futurity & Maturity to provide an event that is enjoyable to spectators and will be beneficial to promote the entire horse industry," says the catalog mission statement.

The Dakota 50/50 seems to be succeeding, with annually increasing participation from exhibitors, buyers, trade show vendors, and crowd turn-outs. The Dakota 50/50 has also gained a reputation for the quality of horse represented each year. "Ten years and we've grown exponentially each year," says Gustafson, who is in charge of advertising and marketing for the ranch, as well as the Dakota 50/50. The highest jackpot to date was just over \$25,000. "The goal . . . [is to] promote individual breeding programs in a versatile environment, which is why we have three classes to show in at the futurity, and have now added a maturity for horses 3-5 [years old], with a working cow segment. The goal also is, if as breeders we can promote through the 50/50, we can perhaps sell more of our own once people see what they like," she says.

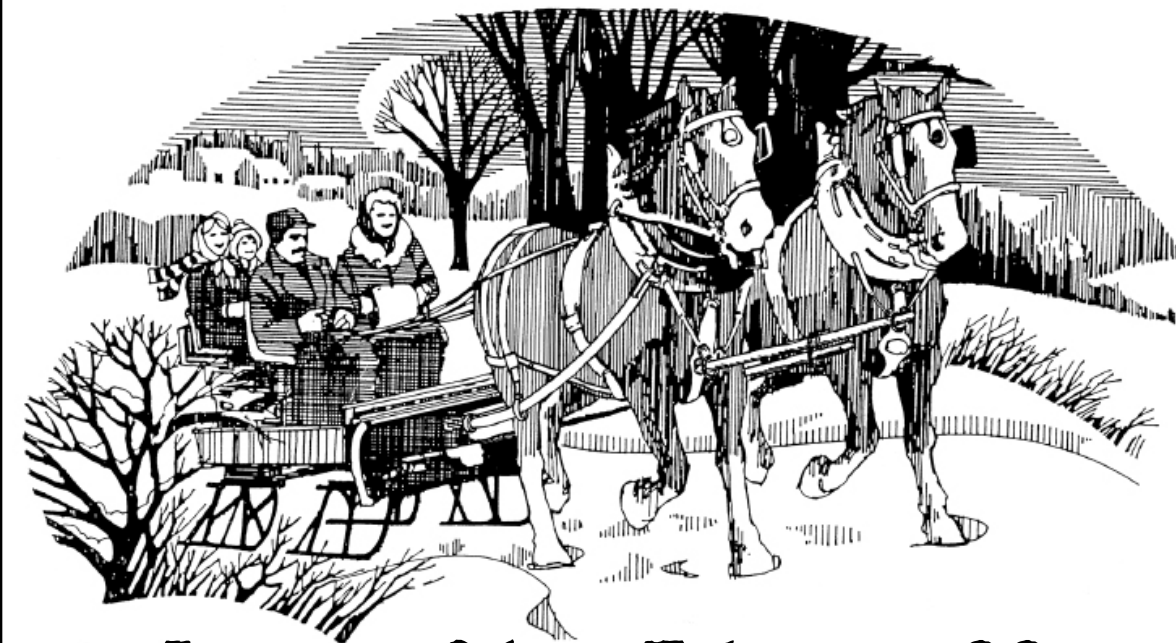
The Dakota 50/50 has grown into a sizeable show, and most people don't realize the time and work involved in putting it on. "It can be very time consuming. It's a lot

of work," says Gustafson, a financial advisor with Edward Jones in Bottineau. If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a committed group of people to put on and maintain a show like the Dakota 50/50. It also takes a lot of support from the family and family-owned businesses to support Oak Ridge Ranch. "The ranch is just my dad, myself and my mother, but it's really my dad's project. We have two full-time chore people, an in-house horse trainer and two part-time chore people. My dad has Gustafson Oil and Propane in Rolla and Bottineau, and my mom runs a grocery they own in Belcourt, 1-Stop Market.

"We bought the land that Oak Ridge Ranch is on in 2000 from the estate of a deceased cousin. The land was homesteaded by Gustafson's, it's been in the family for over 100 years, and we have roughly 600 acres. . . . My parents live by St. John, and my dad's business is located in Rolla. This is about 50 miles from the ranch. He drives over to the ranch every day, puts on a lot of miles. But at this time, it is the businesses supporting the ranch, so they are not able to live at the ranch yet. Makes the ranch that much more time-consuming for him.

"It's always rewarding raising and training a horse, and to see them reach our expectations. We currently own around 150 horses. It's also rewarding seeing them perform and achieve goals, earning points and money at shows all over the country. We find it rewarding to have people contact us who own one of our progeny and have been happy with their horse," says Gustafson. "Obviously like everyone else we've seen values drop in horse resale. Some years, given our numbers, hay can be an issue; this year we bought extra from a relative in Canada."

"Like everyone, we want to raise a champion horse. But, we also want to be known for raising and training quality working horses. Already many of our progeny are known for their intelligence,



January 31 to February 22 and March 22, 2014



Attractions

\$1,500 FROSTY Contest sponsored by Culligan, Latham Place, iWealth, Domino's, Mediacom and Lake Shore Inn
\$1,500 Medallion Hunt sponsored by Waseca Hy-Vee, Waseca County News, Charlie's Hardware, First National Bank, KOWZ/KORN Radio and Waseca VFW Post 1642

JESSE JAMES GANG and ELM CREEK COWBOYS sponsored by Round Bank and Round Bank Insurance
CANNON OLD WEST SOCIETY ENTERTAINERS sponsored by Wells Fargo, Suburban Furniture and McDonalds



Photos by Akorn Creations

PARADE Feb. 8, starts at noon: Open to sleighs, cutters, bobsleds, wagons, buggies, and riders; animal units only. Grand Marshall: Law Enforcement Memorial Association

Dinner & Dance

Sleigh & Cutter Dinner:
Feb. 7, 5 - 7:30 p.m. -- \$12
Dance 8:30 - close
featuring CHRIS BROOKS AND THE SILVER CITY BOYS

Icy Contests & Tournaments

Squirts Hockey Tournament • Western Entertainment • Ice Sculpting • Ice Plunge • Ice Golf • Ice Curling • Ice Harvest • Kruger Vintage Snowmobile Race • Bridge and Euchre Card Tournaments • Snowmobile Trail Rides • Envision - Family Movie Night • Skydiving • K-4 Coloring Contest

Festival Supporters:
Local Businesses & Individuals
Waseca Area Foundation
The City Of Waseca
Waseca Area C of C
Waseca Area T.V.B.

Sleigh & Cutter -
CHILDREN'S DREAM CATCHER
Annual fundraiser - March 22, 2014
at 2 p.m. at Katie O'Leary's
Bingo, meat raffles, silent & live auctions

Festival Queens

Miss Waseca County Sleigh & Cutter:
Katie Schroeder
Miss Waseca County Outstanding Teen:
Sadie Odenbrett
Miss South Central:
Lauren Fellows
Miss South Central Outstanding Teen:
Alyssa Crum
Miss Minnesota Outstanding Teen:
Corrina Swiggum
And several princesses

Check out the website for dates and times: www.sleighandcutter.org

Festival continues to focus on family winter fun! Most events free!



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The Valley Equestrian Newspaper

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Wrangler National Finals Rodeo Highlights

What may be considered the biggest rodeo of the year, the Valley Equestrian News for the third straight row asked photographer Tammy Scheffler to cover this week-long event held from Dec. 6-13, 2013 at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas, Nevada. On the front cover from left to right top row: Chad Ferley, Oelrichs, SD, riding bareback and Britney Pozzi, barrel racing. Bottom row from left: Hunter Cure, Holliday, TX, earned \$173,355; Chad Ferley, Oelrichs, SD earned \$204,432; Jade Corkill, Fallon, NV earned \$178,057; Clay Tryan, Billings, MT, earned \$179,688; Kaycee Feild, Payson, UT earned \$239,465. See pages 11, 12, 13 for more NFR coverage.



Anna Twinney: See Pages 8, 9, and 10



Editorial Information

The Valley Equestrian Newspaper 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 200 DPI resolution and four inches wide.

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

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Happy New Year!
from all of us at
The Valley Equestrian News
www.theveonline.com



Celebrate the blessings with gratitude
The Year of the Horse

Top Florida Sire, B L's Appeal, to North Dakota for 2014 Season

Backhaus and Sons Thoroughbreds is pleased to announce that top 20 Florida Thoroughbred sire, B L's Appeal, will be standing at their New Salem, North Dakota ranch for the upcoming 2013 breeding season. B L's Appeal is a graded stakes winning sprinter of over \$224,000 who has sired earners of over \$8.4 million. His offspring include stakes winners Broken Hearted (\$123,578), Brother Joey (\$145,624) as well as stakes placed horses such as Appealing Runner (\$148,334), B L's a Runner (\$197,118), Mr. Bubba (\$132,168) and Pennsylvania-

press (\$137,717). An own son of the well-known sire of sires, Valid Appeal, B L's Appeal carries an exceptional outcross that works well on a variety of mares. Other successful sire sons of Valid Appeal include Successful Appeal, Valid Expectations, Littleexpectations and Valid Wager.

"We are excited to have B L's Appeal stand at our ranch and be available to breeders throughout the Upper Midwest and Canada," said Leigh Backhaus, General Manager of Backhaus and Sons Thoroughbreds. "We have been building a quality broodmare

band over the last few years and we have been looking for another well bred, proven sire to add to our operation and B L's Appeal fits everything we could want. He sires precocious, fast and durable runners...what more could you ask?"

B L's Appeal will stand to a limited book of outside mares in 2014, interested parties should inquire early. His 2014 stud fee will be \$1000 or \$900 to North Dakota TOBA members. Inquiries may be made to Leigh Backhaus at 701-843-8339 or via email at backhaus1@westriv.com

RRTP Honored with Thoroughbred Industry Achievement Award

At an awards dinner held at Keeneland Racecourse on Saturday, January 4, the Thoroughbred racing and breeding industry gave the Retired Racehorse Training Project (RRTP) one of its highest honors by awarding it the Thoroughbred Charities of America (TCA) Industry Service Award.

The TCA's mission is to "provide a better life for Thoroughbreds, both during and after their racing careers, by supporting retirement, rescue and research and by helping the people who work with them." The TCA's Industry Service Award is given yearly to an organization that exemplifies that mission.

"We feel humbled to be a part of the amazing group that has received this honor in the past," said RRTP President Steuart Pittman. "Our market-based approach to facilitating the placement of horses is different from what the industry has supported in the past, and to be honored in this way confirms for us that we are on the right track." Past recipients include such organizations as Old Friends, New Vocations and Mid-Atlantic Horse Rescue.

In 2013, the RRTP hosted the first of its kind Thoroughbred Makeover and National Symposium at Pimlico Racecourse in Baltimore, MD. The event featured two full days of educational seminars, industry meetings and off-track Thoroughbred demonstrations. It was also the culmination of the summer-long Thoroughbred Makeover which showcased 26 trainers from 15 states retraining Thoroughbred ex-racehorses in disciplines as diverse as police work, eventing, ranch work and vaulting. Future plans for the organization include a second edition of the National Symposium as well as an expansion of their educational resources for both on-track and off-track Thoroughbred owners.

TCA President Dan Rosenberg attended the RRTP event at Pimlico and described it in his remarks as "...overwhelming. It was extraordinary. It was

awesome. It was all the words that you can possibly think of for the ultimate." Rosenberg's comments were followed by a presentation about RRTP's work that included an inspiring video titled "I Love My Racehorse," produced by Eclipse Award-winning writer Glenye Oakford.

The TCA Award was received during the TCA's annual dinner that features a live auction of stallion seasons for some of the premier stallions in North America and has become a hallmark event for the Thoroughbred breeding industry. Over \$818,000 was raised during this year's event to support over 70 charitable organizations that work to uphold TCA's mission. Over the past 23 years, TCA has distributed nearly \$20 million to over 200 organizations.



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Chloe

This palomino is a 4-year-old mare. It may be possible to register her as a quarter horse/paint cross. She has the right temperament to be a great youth horse when trained, although she is only halter trained at this time. We have found her to be sweet, quiet, and very well behaved.

She is currently 14.2 hands tall, but looks like she is still growing.



High Tail Horse Ranch & Rescue

For more info please contact the
chart@loretel.net
Ranch: 701-526-3734
Hawley, Minn.

And
a kitty
too!



Kitty: The cat is a stray from the Hawley Police Dept. It is a young adult female. She loves to be held and cuddled, gets along ok with other cats if given time, and seems to be fine with kids who are respectful. She is using the litter box, and we had her tested for feline leukemia and vaccinated for Rabies.

Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary

P.O. Box 1685, Green Valley, AZ 85622
520-398-2814 (Phone) 520-398-3221 (Fax)

Toby



Toby is a handsome, registered paint gelding. He is 20 years old. Toby came to Equine Voices when his previous owner became seriously ill and passed away. Toby had a few difficulties adjusting to a new environment, but has since become a real favorite. He has been trained for riding, but will need an experienced person and lots of TLC. Toby will make someone a great partner. Adoption fee is \$750. Contact: Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary 520-398-2814; info@equinevoices.org

Minnesota Hooved Animal Rescue

PO Box 47, Zimmerman, MN 55398
(763) 856-3119 or info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org

Wyatt



Wyatt is a handsome 2008 sorrel gelding who stands 14.3 hands. We don't know Wyatt's breeding but his trainer says he would go well in most disciplines. He has 120 days professional training, including extensive groundwork. He has a very nice natural headset, is soft in the mouth, and has a respectful and willing disposition. He is currently suitable for an intermediate or higher level rider. You can find links to Wyatt's videos on our website at www.mnhoovedanimalrescue.org. For information on adopting or fostering Wyatt please email info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org or call (763)856-3119.

Charles Wilhelm: Ultimate Foundation Training The Best Place to Keep Your Horse

Is it better for a horse to be kept in a stall, a paddock or a pasture? Sometimes we don't have a choice, but when we do, it is best to consider what is right for your horse.

I am fortunate to have traveled many places including the Midwest and back East. They have a really neat system in that part of the country but it requires quite a lot of property. They have stalls that the horses go into at night and then during the day, the horses are turned out into one or two acre pastures. They put four or five compatible horses together. The horses can move around and graze all day. During the winter, heavy coats are left on during the day. One facility may have six or eight areas like this. Here in California where large pieces of property are very valuable, they often have homes on them and are too costly for this type of facility. Particularly in the Bay Area, there is not much property left for spreading out with large barns, paddocks and pastures.

My ideal, if I had my wishes and the land, would be a good sized turnout of about 100 by 250 feet with what I call a run-in for each horse. A run-in is a covered area where a horse can go in under shelter from the weather, whether it is the hot sun or a storm. That way the horse can be outdoors

and still be safe and have shelter. Horses pastured together can get hurt. This system keeps the horses apart but outdoors. This would be my ideal but we do not live in an ideal world.

In the last 35 years I have seen many horses in training and most have been kept in stalls. I have only seen one or two instances where there was an issue. Problems include stall cribbing, chewing and kicking. Those were horses whose owners did not come out often to work with them or put them in a turnout. The horses were in 12-by-12-foot stalls for three or four days at a time. In my experience, horses in training that are being worked almost every day with only one or two days off, are happy to be in their stalls. Here at the ranch, most of the horses get worked several times each week, are ridden by their owners in class or around the property, and get time in a turnout as well. Working includes arena work and trail riding up the side of the canyon. Also, I have some large paddocks and horses are routinely moved about to spend time outside.

Another consideration relating to where to keep a horse, is the condition of the ground in the winter. Some places can get very muddy and mucky in the winter. A horse may be better off in a stall during the winter. Standing in wet

mud for weeks at a time can cause hoof damage. I have clients that keep their horses in pasture during the summer and bring them to me for training during the winter months. The horse is out of the mud and stays dry. The owner gets to ride in the covered arena without worrying about slick trails and wet tack. Also, many horses, particularly older horses, do lay down at night to rest their legs and feet. Having an older horse in a warm stall rather than outside on the cold ground can be a significant consideration for some owners.

I think overall that horses do better mentally and emotionally when kept outdoors but being kept in a pasture will not cure all the behavioral problems a horse may have. Sometimes a horse is put into a turnout just to get the freshness off. The horse may run around, kick and buck, and really let off steam. However, once you start lunging the horse he can still be fresh and unruly. Time in a turnout or pasture without proper training will not keep a horse calm and responsive.

Every horse is different and meeting the needs of your horse should be a consideration when you decide where to stable. I hope this discussion has given you food for thought.

Charles Wilhelm

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The Theme of the Day Is Awareness

By Staci Grattan

As self-professed "horse people," most of us realize the study of horsemanship is lifelong and complex. It is for many part of the draw, never ending and multifaceted.

Quality trainers will tell you the more tools we have in our toolboxes, the better we are able to serve horses and their human counterparts. It seems there is no singular answer in the complex world of horsemanship, no absolute.

Anna Twinney of Reach Out To Horses® is the living embodiment of this "many tools in the toolbox" approach as a brilliant horsewoman, trainer, horse behavior expert, and accomplished and proven animal communicator. Add to this impressive resume a top notch working knowledge of essential oils, supplements and nutrition, kinesiology as well as traditional, alternative and natural health care and horse keeping methodology, and it seems Twinney's "toolbox" turns into a veritable "tool chest."

Twinney's company, Reach Out to Horses® (www.reachouttohorses.com), has an extremely comprehensive training program with offerings for students of all abilities and levels. Woven throughout Twinney's offerings is a "multipronged holistic horsemanship" approach covering a comprehensive array of horsemanship, alternative healing modalities and animal communication.

Twinney's second clinic at Spirit Horse Center, Brainerd, Minn., in November, 2014, saw clinic participants and their horses expand their awareness and knowledge of horsemanship and all its components. Each day a "theme" seemed to

surface unintentionally but appropriately.

Day One Twinney put on her "animal communicator hat" and shared with the participants her insights for effective telepathic animal communication. Twinney's uncanny accuracy, high skill level and strong ethical viewpoint as an animal communicator came across clearly.

Participants learned how to be open to a form of communication that Twinney believes is available to every human. The theme expressed this day seemed to strongly center around "Belief" and being open. Twinney worked with students throughout the day to hone their skills knowing "what is real" and what is not, how to tune in and be accurate.

On Day Two of the clinic, participants experienced the Obstacle Course at Liberty with their horses. Students were asked by Twinney to "form a plan but don't fall in love with it." In other words, pick an obstacle or goal to conquer and work through it with their horses, be it an arch with pool noodles hanging from it, a tarp

on the ground, or a small jump.

Alone or in pairs, and working with single or double horses, participants learned how to develop a deeper connection to their horses and themselves by using body language to work the horses through the chosen obstacles without touching them. Valuable insights were gained by auditors and participants on being present and "in the moment" and how to ask clearly and kindly for what we desire.

A few pearls of wisdom offered by Twinney this day were:

- Once you get a "softening," ask for completion of the obstacle.
- Leadership is who moves whose feet!
- When we see a "try" when working with horses we release the pressure. Horses learn from this release of pressure.
- Horses are waiting for us to meet them where they are at.

The theme that surfaced on this day was "Clear Intention" - and its extreme

Continued on next page



A Multifaceted Horsemanship Clinic With Anna Twinney at Spirit Horse Center

Photos by
Mallory Bourn of
Bourn Photography



gain valuable horsemanship skills and a deepening of the relationships they have with their horses, they also gained valuable self awareness.

As horsemen and women, it seems that self awareness may be the most valuable tool in our collective tool boxes. If we can hold an awareness of our individual strengths and weaknesses, it stands to reason we are better able to meet our horses "where they are at."

Staci Grattan is the owner of Spirit Horse Center, Inc., in Brainerd, MN, www.spirithorsecenterinc.com, which offers a variety of horse-related services and experiences.

importance when working with horses.

Day Three Spook Busting: On this day our clinician put on her "horse behaviorist" hat. Twinney educated participants on her ground work methods and the application of them into many areas including dealing with "spooky" situations.

The "spooky" props varied in intensity from bouncing balls, umbrellas and plastic bags on sticks to tarps on the ground, flapping and draping over the body. Returning to one of Twinney's core philosophies, participant horses were "met where they were at" and were not pushed into more than moderate discomfort.

Participants worked their horses successfully through the "spooky" items and were rewarded with a deepened relationship via a clear communication of leadership.

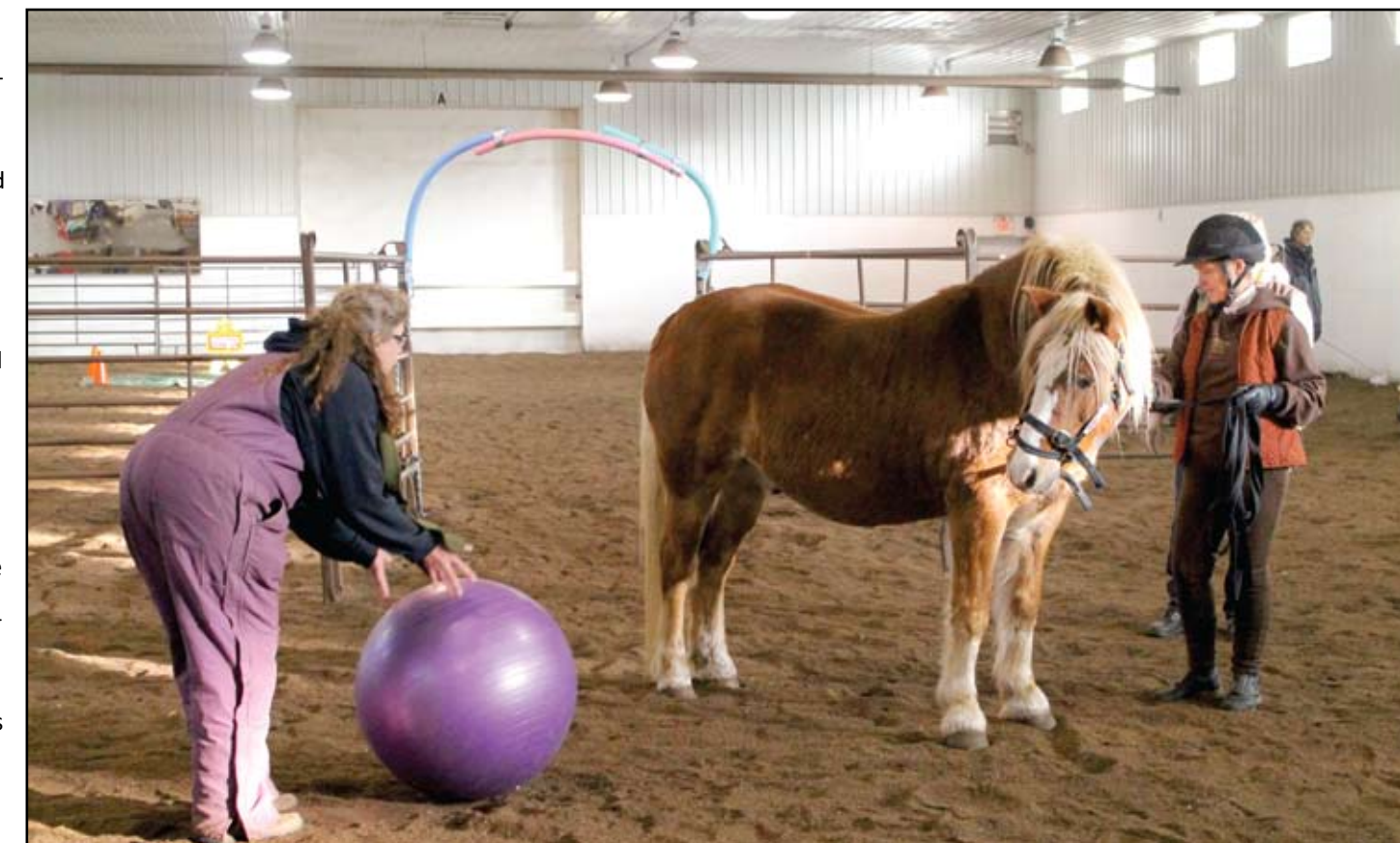
Key insights from Twinney this day were:

- When we strike a horse we are a predator, when horses strike each other they are establishing a pecking order.

- Backing up is not a normal action in the pasture; work vs. rest psychology is an effective tool when training horses.
- Match the energy of your horse when schooling on ground work.
- Ground work translates into work under saddle! If there are communication issues on the ground, there will be communication issues under saddle.
- Horses learn from repetition and the magic number is three to learn a new skill, such as head drop for bridling
- Horses are associative thinkers and the magic number here is five. For example, when teaching trailer loading we would choose do it in five different locations to truly cement the thought that the horse can load anytime, anywhere.

second to respond when presented with an issue. Timing is crucial because horses are largely associative thinkers.

Many participants remarked over the course of the weekend that not only did they



Opposite page bottom: Sara Sherman and Jean Young work together to get Lance over the jump in the Obstacle Course at Liberty - Anna Twinney Clinic at Spirit Horse Center in Brainerd November 2014.

Opposite page top: Jean Young at Spirit Horse Center - November 2014 Horsemanship Clinic.

Bottom: Jean Young and Carol Meredith help Scooter overcome his discomfort with the ball during the Spook Busting Day - Anna Twinney Clinic at Spirit Horse Center in Brainerd November 2014 .

Right: Carmel Jankovich works with her horse Angel and the parachute during the Spook Busting Day - Anna Twinney Clinic at Spirit Horse Center in Brainerd November 2014

Product Review: Anna Twinney's *Horse Whispering Defined* DVD

By Kari Hagstrom

Sometimes you just know. Your gut tells you that "something" is coming, or will change, or be affected within you and your life. You may resist or procrastinate, but as we perpetually ask our horses to overcome their reservations and resistances, so we, too, must overcome ours. So while I was delighted to have the opportunity to review Anna Twinney's "Horse Whispering Defined: A Rocky Mountain Horse Expo Experience" DVD—eagerly anticipated its arrival in the mail—I procrastinated. I knew this up-close exposure to Twinney's work would open up areas in me that would precipitate change; and we humans do so love to stay in our comfort zones.

So, with a deadline looming, and a need to meet commitments, I examined my resistance, and brought myself back around to looking forward to this "exposure" that would create change. After all, I love natural horsemanship, I love working with behavior, and love horses, so why worry? I popped the DVD in the computer, put on the headphones, and sat down to watch and listen to Twinney's compilation of clinics held at the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo, where she ably demonstrates the silent language of Equus, and how to pick up on speaking it, but more importantly, how to hear it.

What I appreciate most about Twinney's approach is her open and easy-going attitude toward outcomes. She has a goal and a destination in mind, certainly, but doesn't push to get there. She listens to and respects the dialogue between her and the horse. She listens to and respects the horse's attitude, tolerances, and openness to the

idea being presented. Twinney gently persists like water gently eroding stone, acknowledging and rewarding acceptance, until the horse chooses to accept what is being offered. The key being that the horse has the choice to accept: it's ok if the horse says "Enough. I've had enough and don't want to any more," the choice to not accept. This is an individual, here, that Twinney is interacting with, not at.

Truly, an active partnership of equals interacting and having a conversation—together—with the right to disagree, is present, based on mutual respect. In my opinion, we can all benefit from this lesson and reminder: If more of us treated other humans and other beings the way Twinney demonstrates for us to interact with and respect our horses, we could see a radically new and more welcoming world. These are, after all, transferrable skills. If we can learn to regard our horses as equal partners, why are we afraid to regard each other equally?

Twinney also points out the wisdom of identifying and knowing when to stop, when to end the session on a good note, before more resistance or discomfort is created: when you're at the point of wanting to try "one more time," that's the time to stop, she says.

When the Rosetta Stone was found in Egypt in 1799, containing the same texts in Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs, Demotic script, and Ancient Greek, it provided a key for unlocking the translation of Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs. The Stone was a way to decode the hitherto un-understood language, by cross-referencing the other two languages. The term "Rosetta Stone" has

since become synonymous with the "essential clue to a new field of knowledge," (Wikipedia).

This is what Twinney's work does for us: it guides us to seeing, feeling, and experiencing the essential clues to decoding the language of Equus, the silent language composed of body language, gestures, and the use of the eyes for elemental communication. This DVD, "Horse Whispering Defined," is a Rosetta Stone for working with and developing ever deepening levels of relationship with your horse. You cannot watch this work and not be changed in the way you see . . . everything. In a good way.

So, if you are amenable to some change, I strongly recommend this program. It is to be viewed and studied and absorbed multiple times. Twinney covers such areas as accustoming horses to working with and around parachutes and other challenge areas, the effectiveness of energy healing using Karuna Reiki (Twinney is a Karuna Reiki Master), animal communication, and above all the demonstrable power of dialogued and respectful interaction. While many other natural horsemanship practitioners and clinicians present similar material, what's neat is the way Twinney combines these areas into a whole form of communication and interaction: it's body language, and telepathy, and visualization, and action (or non-action), the incredible potency of the eyes in non-verbal communication, the reality of soul-speaking-to-soul through the eyes, and applied energy sensing and usage made conscious and wrapped into a wholeness.

Continued on page 18

Feild Moves to the Top of the World

LAS VEGAS — "Better late than never," said Kaycee Feild. Although he hadn't won a round at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo until Wednesday's seventh performance, it didn't lessen the joy for the two-time defending world champion bareback rider.

"It feels great. I'm so thrilled right now," Feild said. "I haven't been riding poorly and haven't been drawing poorly, but I haven't scored that well."

The numbers back up his argument. Feild moved to first in the average with his 83-point ride on Calgary Stampede's Shadow Warrior before 17,416 fans at the Thomas & Mack Center. He also passed four-time champ Bobby Mote for first in the world standings with \$168,251. He leads Mote — who missed out his horse in Round 6 and has little chance of winning an average check — by more than \$14,000 and third-place Will Lowe, a three-time champ, by nearly \$22,000.

Feild is trying to become the first bareback rider to win three consecutive world championships since ProRodeo Hall of Famer



Joe Alexander earned five straight from 1971-75. Alexander followed that with two regular-season championships (1976-77), in years the world title was decided



solely by performances at the NFR.

"Yeah, I know he could've won seven," Feild said.

The official record for bareback riding gold buckles is five, which Feild has in his sights.

"My ultimate goal is to beat five world championships," Feild said. "I want to win at least six. I'm still pretty young (26) for a bareback rider."

Feild was listed on the Justin Sportsmedicine Team's injury report earlier in the rodeo, but said his back feels better.

"The first two nights I was really feeling it, and felt like I didn't have enough power in my legs to help the

Top photo: Kaycee Feild, UT, winning bareback; left: Tyler Corrington, MN, carrying the MN state flag at the Grand Entry of the National Finals Rodeo. Photos by Tammy Scheffler

horse," he said. "I'd say it was 100 percent tonight." So, does the machine-like Feild feel like he's in control to claim another title?

"I don't feel that way at all," he said. "When you set your gear down back there with the top 15 in the world, you know anybody can take advantage like I did tonight. I feel like I'm doing what I want, what I intended. I haven't made any mistakes."

The amazing Cody Ohl claimed his fourth round win of the week, his third outright, in the tie-down roping and equaled Trevor Brazile's round-seven record of 6.7 seconds. Ohl has won \$72,566 in the first seven rounds, and holds a lead of \$20,626 over two-time defending champ Tuf Cooper, who missed his calf with his first loop and had to climb back on his horse and use his second rope to get a time of 22.4 seconds.

It was Ohl's 48th tie-down roping round win, extending his own record, and his 51st overall (he's won three others in steer roping), tying saddle bronc rider Billy

Continued on page 12

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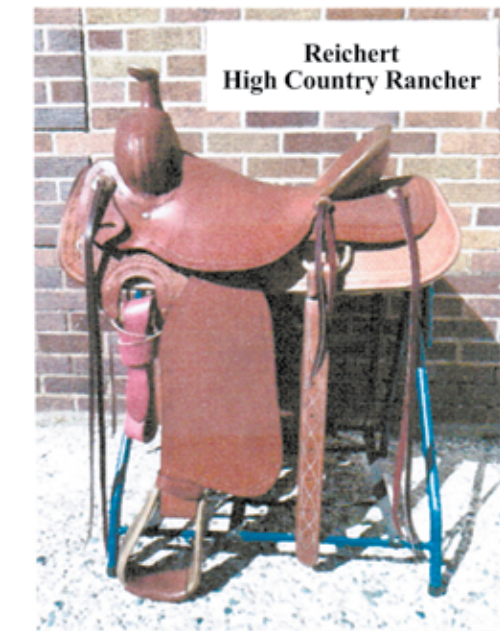
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My Week at the NFR, 2013

Editor's Note: This is the third year Tammy Scheffler has photographed the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas, Nev., for the Valley Equestrian Newspaper. Below Scheffler tells us about the venue and this annual event.

By Tammy Scheffler

During the day at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, Nev., there is a lot to do: Cowboy Christmas, Stetson Country Christmas, Cowboy Marketplace and South Point Western Gift Show. At Cowboy Christmas there is also the Fan Fest, where you get to interact with different NFR participants and see the contestants on stage speaking and getting interviewed. Throughout the 10 days of

the NFR, the contestants are at different places signing autographs. At night it's all about the rodeo.

The start of my days would be to head over to all the shopping areas—a different place each day. I would walk around and check out all the different vendors and people watch, too. I noticed that these vendors are not all just about horses; there are different vendors, such as hunting lodges, jewelry, and food booths with samples. At these different locations throughout the week the contestants had times where they would do autograph signing, either as a group or as individuals. After the day of shopping and people watching I would go home and get ready for the rodeo. I would drive over to South Point Hotel and

get on the free shuttle over to the Thomas and Mack Center.

Once at the Thomas and Mack Center I would check in with my press badge and go down to the media room. I would get all the paperwork for that night's rodeo, and at around 6 p.m. I would go to the arena, and find my spot in the photographer's motel and wait for the rodeo to start. It was interesting watching the coliseum fill up with people; it was quiet and all lights were on, and people would come in and wait for the rodeo to start. Once the rodeo started, the lights were turned down, there were laser lights and fireworks and a guy would do roping tricks on horseback. Some nights a lady would do acrobatics while riding. After

Continued page 12

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PRCA National Finals Rodeo Action

Continued from page 10

Contestants in the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, NV. Top left: Jacobs Crawley, Ennis, TX, stayed on his mount who went straight vertical and off the ground out of the shoot;

Top right: Dakota Eldridge, Elko, NV, winning round 2;

Right center: Tyler Pearson, Louisville, Miss., in round 6;

Bottom left: Parker Breeding, Edgar, MT, round 7.

Left center: Austin Foss, Redmond, OR, during round 3.

Etbauer for second place overall, four behind Brazile.

Ohl said he was inspired by events back at his ranch.

"It was the birthday of Myles Mayfield today; he's one of my hired hands back home," Ohl said. "He lost his mom this year to cancer and he said win this one for me and Mom. There could've been 100,000 ropers tonight and I don't think anybody was going to beat me, I promise you. We tried as hard as you can try."

Ohl is gunning for his seventh world championship, sixth in tie-down roping. His strategy is to stay aggressive.

"We're going to go at all three of these like three one-headers and see how it plays out," he said.

Brazile took second in the round in 7.3 seconds, and moved up to fourth in the average. The 19-time world champion was also second in team roping in Round 7; it was the first time a cowboy had won a check in the same round in two events since Brazile did it in 2010.

World team roping standings leaders Clay Tryan and Jade Corkill tied for the round win with Dustin Bird and Paul Eaves in a quick 4.1 seconds.

"I've been ready to make a trip to the South Point (home of the go-round buckle presentations) for a week now," Bird said.

"Dustin's roped really good



here," Eaves said. "He's turned two steers to win the round, and I haven't really held up my end of the deal yet. So it was good to catch one tonight. I wasn't doing a very good job getting into position on these steers at the start of the week. I've been a little too distracted thinking about my position. Tonight all I thought about was being dialed in on the feet."

Tryan and Corkill have won \$54,988 at the Finals and lead their closest pursuers in the world standings, Riley and Brady Minor, by about \$30,000.

"Breaking the five-second barrier tonight was my goal," Tryan said. "If we catch the next three good, we'll win it, no matter what anybody else does."

Corkill, the defending world champion heeler, said he just wants to remain steady.

My NFR Experience 2013

Continued from page 11

the opening acts, the anthem was sung, and some nights a singer would perform. Then the grand entry would start, where all the NFR riders come out and line up in the middle of the arena. Then the rodeo started. During the rodeo all of us photographers stood side-by-side in the mote taking pictures of the rodeo. After the rodeo was over we would go back down to the media room hang out there for a while. After that I would go back and get on the shuttle and go back to South Point Hotel. Around 11 p.m. in one of the lounges at South Point, a buckle ceremony was held every night. The buckle ceremony is open to the public so the place was packed. This past year the ceremony actually was shown on RFDTV. When that was over we usually went out and had dinner at one of the restaurants inside of South Point--they have a really good late-night dinner menu. Then I would head home, connect-up to my computer, load all my pictures, and go to bed. The next day I would start all over again.

Women of the NFR



Top left: Barrel racing legend, Martha Josey and her husband R. E Josey pose with Valley Equestrian photographer Tammy Scheffler (center) at the Wrangler NFR at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas. Top center: Lisa Lockhart Top right: Sherry Cervi and Stingray won another

World Championship, the NFR average, Horse with the Most Heart, and the prestigious Ram Top Gun Award taking home a total \$155,899 from the WNFR and a total \$303,317. for 2013, in Las Vegas in December. Reserve World Champion went to Mary Walker (not pictured) and her horse, Latte, won \$92, 274 at the fi-



nals and 2013 earnings of \$229,363. Right center: Jane Winters, round 5 during the WNFR; bottom right: Sabrina Ketcham during round 5; Bottom center: Rookie Taylor Jacob broke

the arena record with a 13.37 and NFR earnings of \$82,431. Middle center: Shada Brazile, wife of Trevor Brazile, during round 8. Bottom left: Jane Melby riding in the Grand Entry of the NFR.

Photos by Tammy Scheffler



Photos by Tammy Scheffler



The IRS and Business Plans

By John Alan Cohen, Attorney at Law

In recent years the IRS has ruled that a written business plan is important evidence tending to prove that you are operating in a businesslike manner. The Tax Court has said that in hobby loss cases you should have "some type of plan" for the venture. This applies whether you are involved in horse breeding, racing, other farming activities, classic car refurbishing, antique collecting, boat or aircraft chartering, and other areas traditionally under IRS scrutiny.

The IRS takes the view that a written business plan demonstrates your businesslike concern for the success of the venture. People engaged in a hobby do not have business plans. One of the most important things that distinguishes a business from a hobby is the existence of a written business plan.

There are numerous resources, some good and

others not, to assist you in drawing up a business plan. It is advisable to have a business plan drafted by a professional, and the fee will depend on the complexity of the facts involved.

Keep in mind that a business plan is one of the best items of evidence to show your true intentions. The IRS Audit Technique Guide asks revenue agents to ask for a business plan in horse and livestock audits, and the absence of a plan is evidence that the taxpayer is not operating in a businesslike manner. In audits, most individuals are caught off guard when asked whether they have a business plan. Some will say that their activity is very basic, that they know what they are doing, and that they don't "need" a business plan.

What is a business plan? The business plan narrates what your business is all about, what kind of opportunity you see, and how you intend to make money. It is a guide for carrying forward

your idea into a successful business operation. A business plan sets forth the overall market that you are targeting, and how your product or services compare with those of others. The length and breadth of the plan will depend on how much time you want to put into developing it.

The language of a business plan is usually simple and nontechnical. For many individuals, writing the plan is easy because of their prior experience in the field. For many, it is fun and creative.

The main focus of a business plan concerns your marketing strategy and financial projections. You should narrate your market strategy, and state why you believe this activity can be profitable. You could include as an appendix copies of market information you have researched. You should also describe your

competition and how you will be able to compete. You should set forth any competitive advantages that you have over other similar ventures.

In financial projections you want to show how much money you will need to spend to get the business going, what equipment, inventory, and materials you will need to obtain, and when you expect to make a profit. There should be an indication as to your reasonable estimate of revenue. This is usually very difficult to project. Just do your best, perhaps with the aid of others experienced in the industry. Your financial projections of profit should be reasonable, not exaggerated.

Preferably, your financial projections should cover a three- to five-year period. Some people hire an accountant or CPA to help prepare the projections, as this can further bolster the businesslike

nature of the document, although you will still need to spend time developing the figures.

Most people project operating losses for the startup phase of the activity, which can be from three to seven years or longer, depending on the particular activity.

Prepare your business plan now: don't wait to get audited. It is too late to muster up a plan once you are audited. The IRS wants to see business records that are maintained in the ordinary course of your activity, not those that you might prepare once you have been notified of an audit. Ideally, your business plan will be written before you start the venture, rather than midway through it.

If you are audited and you don't have an existing business plan you should still prepare one, and admit that you have prepared it in connection with your audit. That is better than nothing. You can explain that the plan has always been in your head, and you thought it would be best at this time to reduce it to writing so that it can be clear how you forecast that this activity can be engaged in for profit.

John Alan Cohan is a lawyer who has served the farming, ranching and horse industries since 1981. He can be reached at: (310) 278-0203, by e-mail at johnalancohan@aol.com, or you can see more at his website: www.johnalancohan.com.

The Pregnant Mare: Nutrition for the Final Three Months

By Dr. Juliet M. Getty

During the first 8 months of pregnancy, a mare may be fed like any other horse, with a balanced, high quality diet. But things are changing rapidly during the final three months of pregnancy: The mare now requires more calories, more protein, more omega 3s, and balanced vitamins and minerals, not only for the unborn foal but also to prepare for milk production.

Grass hay or pasture should be provided 'round the clock; she should never run out. If allowed to self-regulate her intake, she will likely consume 2.5 to 3.5 percent of her body weight as forage. Alfalfa hay should also be included to balance her protein needs. Alfalfa should never be fed exclusively (due to potential mineral imbalances). Strive for a 60:40 ratio of grass hay to alfalfa hay.

The fetus gains 1 pound per day during these final three gestational months. Hay alone will not meet all the mare's caloric needs. Furthermore, hay is missing many vitamins that would be found in living, fresh grass, likely not available

during these late winter/early spring months in most of the country. A quality commercially-fortified feed designed for broodmares will meet her nutritional needs as long as it is fed according to recommended amounts. Or you can mix your own feed by offering beet pulp, hay pellets, ground flax-seeds or Chia seeds, and other whole foods, along with a comprehensive supplement that provides balanced levels of vitamins, and minerals such as copper, zinc, and manganese, as well as selenium and iodine.

Attention to nutrition will help the mare maintain strength and health in this final stage of pregnancy as well as be ready for the significant demands of milk production and nursing.

Juliet M. Getty, Ph.D. is an internationally respected, independent equine nutritionist who believes that optimizing horse health comes from understanding how the horse's physiology and instincts determine the correct feeding and nutrition practices. She is the Contributing Nutrition

Editor for the Horse Journal, and is available for private consultations and speaking engagements. Her books include the reference resource, *Feed Your Horse Like a Horse*, plus the seven current volumes of the *Spotlight on Equine Nutrition* series on specific topics of interest to horse owners. Permission to reprint this article is granted provided the publisher informs Dr. Getty of its publication.

Dr. Getty provides a world of useful information for the horseperson at www.gettyequinenutrition.com. Sign up for her informative, free monthly newsletter, *Forage for Thought*; browse her library of reference articles; search her nutrition forum; and purchase recordings of her educational teleseminars. Her books are all available through her website with special pricing offers. And for the growing community of horse owners and managers who allow their horses free choice forage feeding, Dr. Getty has set up a special forum as a place for support, celebrations, congratulations, and idea sharing. Share your experiences at jmgetty.blogspot.com. Reach Dr. Getty directly at gettyequinenutrition@gmail.com.

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CDA Urges Pet Safety During Cold Weather

LAKEWOOD, Colo. — A winter storm is headed into Colorado forcing residents to head indoors to stay warm; the Colorado Department of Agriculture reminds everyone to also protect their pets during cold weather.

"If animals have prolonged exposure to cold conditions, despite having fur, they are still susceptible to hypothermia," said Dr. Kate Anderson, CDA's Pet Animal Care Facilities program administrator.

Hypothermia is most likely to occur when an animal

is wet. The signs of hypothermia are violent shivering followed by listlessness, apathy, a temperature below 97 degrees and, finally, collapse and coma. If you believe your pet is suffering from hypothermia, consult your veterinarian immediately. Prevention is the best medicine.

A few simple steps can help protect your animals during cold temperatures:

Keep pets inside. If animals can't be inside, provide a warm, comfortable place. Face shelter away from wind and provide a flap or door to help keep the animal's

body heat inside.

Bedding is essential. It insulates the animal from the snow and ice underneath the body and allows the animal to retain heat within the bedding.

- Cats may sleep under the hoods of cars to stay warm. If you have outdoor felines in your neighborhood, check under the hood before starting your car.

When walking your pet, keep them on leashes; they can't rely on their sense of smell in the snow and may become lost.

Wipe off your dog's legs and stomach after being outdoors to remove any ice, salt or chemicals.

Outdoor pets need more calories to produce body heat so extra food and water must be provided. Devices are now available to keep water dishes from freezing; if one is not available, fill and replace water frequently.

"A good common sense rule is if you need to bundle up from the cold, you also need to take steps to protect your pets," added Dr. Anderson.

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Educational Stages of Training Checklist

By Janice Ladendorf, Part 2 of 3

I have yet to buy a horse that didn't have some holes in his or her basic training. In the case of my last horse, he knew nothing when he came to me. Recently a professional trainer assured me that he finds gaps in the basic training of every horse that comes into his stable. Sadly, many inexperienced horsemen don't realize how well horses can be taught to behave.

John Lyons claims that any horse can become a per-

fect horse. When this statement is applied to manners, I couldn't agree more with him. One of my friends had always ridden western style. When I took her to a dressage show, I won't quote what she had to say about the manners of the horses she saw there.

To live comfortably and safely with humans, every colt or filly needs to learn the behaviors described in the first checklist below. To be safe to ride, a horse should show all of

the behaviors listed under manners and backing on the second checklist below. I dislike the term "breaking," so instead I use the English term, "backing." The behaviors listed under advanced riding are desirable, but are not as essential as basic manners.

If you review these checklists, you may answer "No" to one or more of these questions. If you do, then your horse may have been spoiled or abused by his former owners. His initial

training could also have been incomplete and left gaps. If you wish to correct any of these problems, you may need professional help.

Checklist 1 – Halter Training

- 1) Catching
 - a) Is the horse easy to catch?
 - b) Is he easy to halter?
 - c) Is he easy to unhalter and turn out?
- 2) Space
 - a) Does he accept your entry into his personal space?
 - b) Does he respect your space?
 - c) Does he respond well to "move over" commands?
- 3) Handling
 - a) Does he accept or enjoy the touch of your hands?
 - b) Does he accept normal grooming?
 - c) Does he allow you to handle all of his sensitive areas? They are generally his ears, inside his mouth, between his hind legs, underneath his tail, and his sheath or her udder.
- 4) Leading
 - a) Does he follow you without dragging behind or rushing ahead of you?
 - b) Does he lead equally well from on his left and right sides?
 - c) Is he easy to maneuver

- through gates, doors, and narrow spaces?
- 5) Standing
 - a) Will he stand quietly beside you without fidgeting or trying to eat?
 - b) Will he stand still for spraying, bathing, clipping, and veterinary procedures?
- 6) Feet
 - a) Does he allow you to pick up and clean his feet?
 - b) Does he cooperate well with the farrier?
- 7) Tying Up
 - a) Will he allow you to run a rope over, around, and behind his body and legs?
 - b) When he is hard tied, will he stand quietly without pulling back?
- 8) Loading
 - a) Will he walk calmly into a trailer?
 - b) Will he wait for a cue, then back or walk quietly out of the trailer?

Checklist 2 – Riding

- Preparation (Manners)
- a) Does the horse stand quietly to be saddled?
 - b) Is he easy to bridle and unbridle?
 - c) Does he stand still and brace himself for mounting and dismounting?
- Backing (Elementary Objectives)
- a) Does the horse go where ever his rider wants

- him to go?
- b) Does he move and keep on moving at whatever gait or speed his rider requests?
 - c) Is he easy to halt at any time?
 - d) Does he stand quietly?
 - e) Will he wait for a cue before he moves?

- More Advanced Work
- a) Does the horse feel well balanced at all times?
 - b) Does the horse pick up correct leads at a canter?
 - c) Does he respond to either bit or neck reining?
 - d) Will he back up from a halt?
 - e) Will he yield (pivot on) his forehead?
 - f) Will he yield (pivot on) his hindquarters?
 - g) Will he sidestep (leg yielding) to the left or to the right?

Information Resources:
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A Marvelous Mustang: Tales from the Life of a Spanish Horse, 2010.
Ladendorf, Janice M.
A Marvelous Mustang: Training Step by Step, 2014. DVD available from Amazon.com.
"Stages, Goals, Objectives, and Relationship Levels", Chapter 18, Human Views and Equine Behavior, 2014, pp. 171-181.

Goals, Objectives and Relationship Levels

By Janice Ladendorf, Part 3 of 3

No human can afford to forget that any time they touch a horse, his behavior and training will either improve or decline because of what they did or did not do. Since horses have bodies, minds, and spirits, our goals can be emotional, mental, and physical. Some of the major ones are described below.

1) Build and maintain a horse/human relationship based on mutual trust and respect. This is an emotional goal.

2) Encourage desirable patterns of behavior. This is an emotional goal.

3) Increase the attention span of a young horse and gradually improve his ability to focus on what humans want him to do. This is an emotional and mental goal.

4) Educate the horse's mind so that his ability to understand and communicate with humans continues to improve and becomes increasingly subtle. This is a mental goal.

5) Use gymnastic exercises to improve the horse's suppleness, balance, and way of going. This is a physical goal.

With a young or immature horse, great care should always be used to avoid over-stressing his mind and body.

Objectives

Goals may be broken down into specific objectives. They can be categorized under four classifications, three for ground training and one for riding.



a) Manners

If a horse has to live with human beings, then ideally he should be easy to handle and well behaved in almost any circumstances.

b) Instincts

To be useful to humans, a horse has to learn to overcome or ignore some of the instinctive behaviors that keep him safe from danger in the wild. Two major ones are the flight and herd instincts.

c) Preparation for Mounted Work

Ground work can do a great deal to help the horse accept a rider on his back and understand what he is supposed to do.

d) Backing (Elementary Usefulness) I dislike the term "breaking," so instead use the English term, "backing."

The horse learns to accept and carry a rider.

emotional and/or physical tension that may explode into dangerous flight or fight behavior. Such tensions are most often caused by fear, pain, or reluctance to accept the authority of humans.

Level Two – Tolerance

The cause of the horse's tensions has been relieved. Some respect, trust, and crude communication have been established. At this level, the horse is marginally safe.

Level Three – Acceptance

The horse respects and trusts humans. He usually stays calm and gives them relaxed, willing obedience. When the horse has reached this level, he has become generally safe.

Level Four – Focus

The horse is able to focus his total attention on listening and responding to a human, doing a job, or playing a game.

Level Five – Bonding

The horse enjoys interacting with humans and is proud of his or her accomplishments.

Every trainer will need to decide what relationship level he desires to reach. Generally the higher it is, the more time will be required to reach it. The horse will normally decide when he or she is ready to move up a level. His decision will be based on how he feels about the humans who are handling him. At any one point in time, a young

horse can be at different levels with various objectives. Maddening shifts back and forth among levels are also a normal part of the learning process. In new or frightening situations, a horse's general relationship with humans may easily drop one or more levels. This is why the tolerance level is marginally safe. If the horse drops back one level, he can easily become dangerous to handle. By their behavior, horses tell us what they feel towards us and the lessons we want them to learn. A sample objective with behavioral levels is shown below.

Objective – Catching

- Fear Level
Run away from humans.
- Tolerance Level
Allow humans to approach.
- Acceptance Level
Walk up to a human holding halter and/or rope.
- Focus Level
Come when called.
- Bonding Level
Watch for human and meet at pasture gate or stall door.

Objective – Turning Out

- Fear Level
Bolt away from humans.
- Tolerance Level
Fidget while waiting for release.
- Acceptance Level
Wait for human to remove rope or halter.
- Focus Level
Wait for cue before leaving.
- Bonding Level
Stay for compliments and/or petting.

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"Stages, Goals, Objectives, and Relationship Levels", Chapter 18, Human Views and Equine Behavior, 2014, pp. 171-181.

"Relationship Levels: Twenty-Two Objectives from Catching to Riding."
Available from www.jladendorf.com



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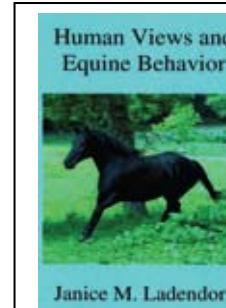
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Horse News Briefs

Simon and Brunello Named 2013 USEF Horses of the Year from the USEF Communications Department

Lexington, Ky. - At the USEF Year End Awards Gala, Abigail Wexner's Simon



and Janet Peterson and Liza Boyd's Brunello were named International Horse of the Year and National Horse of the Year respectively. Voting was open to the public in December and both horses, already fan favorites, were rewarded for their tremendous results throughout 2013 with support from voters. Simon (Mr. Blue x Naline) 1999 Dutch Warmblood gelding
Owner: Abigail Wexner
With rider Beezie Madden, who was named 2013 USEF Equestrian of the Year on Friday, Simon's year was one of top finishes in the U.S., and on the biggest international stages. Simon started the year in Wellington, Fla., where he secured a fourth-place finish in the Adequan Grand Prix at the FTI Consulting Winter Equestrian Festival, and jumped fault free as a member of the victorious U.S. team at the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup presented by G&C Farm.

Simon's biggest win of the year, and of his career thus far, came in April at the Rolex/FEI World Cup Final in Gothenburg, Sweden. After winning the opening Speed Leg, Simon kept up his good form throughout the week. It came down to a jump-off, but under the steady hand of Madden, Simon kept composure well and beat out 2012 Olympic Champions Steve Guerdat and Nino Bissonnets to earn his, and

Madden's, first ever Rolex/FEI World Cup Final title.

National Horse of the Year Brunello (Breeding Unknown) 1998 Hanoverian gelding
Owner: Janet Peterson and Liza Boyd

For years Brunello has been a star of the hunter ring. His signature style, consistent top finishes, and partnership with rider/co-owner Liza Boyd has made him a distinguished winner and fan favorite. They've been a fixture on the International Hunter Derby scene since the program's inception, and they earned their biggest win to date in August.



Photos: Far left: Simon (Kit Houghton/FEI) Above: Brunello (Shawn McMillen Photography)

Having won International Hunter Derby classes in each the previous four months, the Camden Spring International Hunter Derby in March, Atlanta Spring International Hunter Derby in May, the Summer International Hunter Derby in June, and the BRCHS International Hunter Derby in July, the pair went into Lexington at the top of their game. After the Classic Hunter round Brunello and Boyd found themselves in second place, but one good Handy Hunter round away from a shot at winning. Their round was excellent, and with it they earned the 2013 USHJA International Hunter Derby Championship.

Brunello kept up the success in the fall with second-place finishes at the Jacksonville Finale International Hunter Derby and the WCHR Palm Beach Hunter Spectacular.

"He such a special horse," said Boyd when hearing about Brunello's win, "I've had him since 2007 and every, every day he comes out and tries his heart out for me...he's the horse of a lifetime and he really, really deserves this award."

Kiefer Sentencing
William Kiefer, 63, was sentenced Dec. 31, after pleading guilty to nine counts of Class A misdemeanor (overworking, mistreating or abandoning) more than 100 horses that died of starvation in Burleigh and Morton counties in North Dakota.

The sentencing took place in Bismarck, ND, before South Central District Judge Thomas Schneider. Kiefer had not appeared in court for any of the proceedings.

The sentencing hearing was held Dec. 31 and the sentence was to start Jan. 9, according to the Bismarck Tribune. Jenny Michael reported that Kiefer will serve one year in prison on each count. Electronic monitoring may also be an option. The sentences will be served concurrently.

NYC Horse-Drawn Carriages

Horse-drawn carriage rides in New York City may become a thing of the past if PETA succeeds in a campaign to ban them. After two horses spooked to loud drumming noises, darted and died, the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals are campaigning to end the historic carriage rides in NYC and may have an advocate in the new Mayor, Bill Blasio. Veterinarian Dr. Harry Warner, former chairman of the American Association of Equine Practitioners' (AAEP) inspected the horses used in NYC upon the request of the carriage drivers. Warner said the horses were well-treated, adapted well to their job, and found no evidence of mistreatment. He further was quoted to say, "I didn't see a single horse that didn't show all the signs that we associate with contentment."

In an article by Jonathan Behr for Moneywatch: Ashley Byrne, a PETA spokeswoman, argued that Warner's comments were a "publicity stunt" for the carriage operators and argued that putting horses in contact with cars and trucks is "extremely cruel when you are talking about an animal who is sensitive and easily spooked."

Ally Feldman, the executive director of the animal rights group NYCLASS, argued that the time has come to shut these anachronistic businesses. "We've seen, time and time again, evidence of accidents and abuse," she writes in an email. "Accidents, unsafe action, sick and lame carriage horses." The ban will require approval of the New York City Council. The carriage drivers promise a court battle if the ban is passed.

Horse Slaughter

In the up and down saga about horse slaughter in the USA, it seems the animal rights' activist are currently in the lead. The most recent, as of this printing, the New Mexico Attorney General Gary King "filed a lawsuit in an attempt to block a planned horse slaughter plant from opening in less than two weeks," said Huffington Post writer, Susan Montoya Bryan. Time will tell, and next month, in the February issue, the Valley Equestrian News will be speaking to United Horsemen organization representatives about their plan to rehabilitate horses. Their web site, www.united-horsemen.org states, "United Horsemen is currently building a comprehensive rehabilitation, training and education program to provide unwanted and slaughter-bound horses with

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another chance at a comfortable, useful life. As part of this rehabilitation, training and education process, United Horsemen supports humane and regulated processing of horses that cannot be rehabilitated. United Horsemen also advocated responsible management of wild and feral horse populations on federal, state, tribal and private lands."

Jaci Rae Jackson Sentencing
According to the Facebook page, "People against Jaci Rae Jackson for being a Horse Thief an Killer" which seems to have the most current information about this case, the sentencing for Jaci Rae Jackson is scheduled for Jan. 27, 2014 in Idabel, OK. You may recall the story of the brutal killing of Credit Card, a quarter horse owned by the Smith Family in Emmet, AR. Credit Card was stolen from the University of Arkansas Mulerider Stables in Nov. 2011. He was killed and butchered. (See Nov/Dec 2011 issue of the Valley Equestrian Newspaper.) After years of litigation, Jaci Rae Jackson, the woman accused of orchestrating the heist and killing, will be sentenced. See the February issue for news about her sentencing.

Anna Twinney Product Review

Continued from page 10

After all, we all are bundles of energy relating to and interacting with each other in varying ways. We just don't realize it; but this program helps to make one aware of these subtle interactions.

Twinney's "present-ness," subtly and humility are beautiful to see demonstrated in an industry that too often becomes ego-driven over the message. Seeing Twinney dialogue with a horse in a way that becomes a dance is seeing the beauty of two essences interact and play and be together. It is something we can all learn and let ourselves become; it is a welcome change.

Anna Twinney is the founder of Reach Out to Horses®, based in Golden, Colo. She is recognized around the world for her unique, gentle and trust-based training techniques.

DVD available at www.ReachOuttoHorses.com.

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

(Lexington, KY) – To kick off The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. 60th year of providing equestrian education, the organization has received a generous gift of \$40,000 from a private donor. This will launch the annual funds drive effort to grow and expand education and training into the future. Since 1954 USPC has been a leader in providing equine education and promoting horsemanship. Many changes have occurred within Pony Club over the years but the commitment to quality education has never wavered.

USPC is very excited to be the recipient of a \$40,000 donation, and is now challenging USPC supporters, and anyone interested in advancing equestrian education and horsemanship, to give to the USPC 60th Celebration Challenge in an effort to DOUBLE this gift by January 31, 2014. "We want to build on the excitement of this gift and raise an additional \$40,000 as part of USPC's overall 2014 funds development campaign. This will support our goal of expanding educational resources to new audiences within the equine community," stated Kevin Price, CEO for The United States Pony Clubs, Inc.

The culture of giving is instilled in USPC members at

Oak Ridge Ranch

Continued from page 2

talent, endurance and strength, versatility and gentle demeanor. . . . [Our bloodlines include] Doc Bar, Zan Par Bar, Pepto Boosmal, Beuno Chexi Nic, Topsisail Cody, Sonny Dee Bar, and Tinseltown. . . . [For the Dakota 50/50,] my parents have one membership, and I have one. Between us we consign four horses a year to the 50/50." Despite the challenges, the sometimes rough weather,

all ages as they give back to their Pony Clubs, Riding Centers, and Horsemasters Groups by teaching and mentoring other horse enthusiasts. USPC doesn't just create knowledgeable lifelong horse people, they create lifelong community leaders who value volunteerism and a sense of giving.

To help USPC meet its \$40,000 goal for the 60th Celebration Challenge by January 31, 2014 please visit the Pony Club website. Your gift today will support future educational and leadership opportunities.

About Pony Club—The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. was founded in 1954 as a nonprofit national youth organization to teach riding and horsemanship through a formal educational program. There are approximately 10,000 Pony Club members in over 600 clubs and riding centers throughout the country. Many of the nation's top equestrians, including several of our Olympic team members, business professionals, government leaders and career military officers, have roots in Pony Club. USPC also offers educational opportunities to over 500 adult members in its Horsemasters Program.

Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame to Honor Inductees

Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame to honor inductees at Circle the Wagons Gathering and Cowboy Ball in Great Falls, Feb. 1

The Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame & Western Heritage Center (MCHF & WHC) extends an invitation to all to attend the 8th Annual Circle the Wagons Convention in Great Falls, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 at the Best Western Plus Heritage Inn.

"We have so much to celebrate this year, especially our deserving inductees," said MCHF & WHC President Bill Donald. "If you cherish our way of life, this event is a meaningful and fun way to honor those from our communities who serve as an example to the next generation. We look forward to seeing many of our members, trustees, board, and Legacy Campaign donors and anyone with an interest in Montana's Western Heritage in Great Falls."

The weekend will kick off Friday evening, Jan. 31 with a Cowboy Social featuring music by Mary Lu Loney.

The Inductee Recognition Ceremony Brunch will be held on Saturday, Feb. 1 at 10:30 a.m. to celebrate the notable accomplishments and lasting legacies of the inductees to the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame Class of 2013. Tickets are \$30 per person for the brunch.

"Last year our Inductee Recognition Ceremony brunch sold out early," Donald said, "So we encourage people to plan ahead and purchase tickets now."

The 8th Annual Cowboy Ball and Benefit Auction will kick off at 6 p.m. on Saturday with a social hour and auction preview. This event will feature a Chuckwagon Buffet and an evening of great Western music by World Livestock Auctioneer Champion Kyle Shobe and

his band The Walk 'Em Boys. There will be both a silent and live auction featuring unique and Western items. Tickets to the Cowboy Ball are \$45 per person or \$330 for an 8-person table. Registration deadline is Jan. 21, 2014. Register online at www.montanacowboyfame.org, by calling (406) 932-5444, or email cstenland@montanacowboyfame.com. A room block is available until Jan. 24, 2014 at the Heritage Inn Best Western Plus in Great Falls and reservations can be made by calling (406) 761-1900.

The mission of the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame & Western Heritage Center is "To provide a unique understanding of the cowboy way of life, Indian culture and roots of our western heritage by teaching others the colorful history that has shaped our state." To learn more, visit www.montanacowboyfame.org

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2002 Exiss GN Event SS310 LQ, 3H w/10' Trail Boss
Solid Oak LQ, Dinette, 6 cu Refg, 2 Burner Stove, Microwv, AC, Ducted Furnace, AM-FM-CD Stereo w/In-Outside Spkrs, Awning, Dual Elctrc Jack, Pckt Dr, 2 Lg Wrdrb Cbnts, Shwr, Sep. Stool, Walk-Thru Dr, Escape Dr, Stud Dvdr, Drp Dwn Fd Drs w/Fold Dwn Drs, Collaps. Rr Tack Lined-Insulated & Rubber Side Walls. Excellent Condition. **Sale Price - \$31,500.00**



2008 Cherokee GN Dix Tomahawk 3H w/8' Solid Oak
Dream Catcher LQ, Soft Touch Walls/Ceiling, Sofa/Slpr, 3.5 cu Refg, 2 Burner Stove, Microwv, AM-FM-CD, Shwr, Sep. Stool, Walk-Thru Dr, Escape Dr w/Drp Dwn Fd Dr-Low Mount Ltchs & Fold Dwn Bars, Stud Dvdr w/Rubber, Padded Dvdrs, Lg Rump Wall Wndws, Roof Vents, Dble Rear Drs, Collaps. Rear Tack, Spare Tire. Used Very Little. Like New. **Sale Price - \$29,500.00**



1998 Featherlite 6 Horse GN
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2009 Cimarron 3 Horse GN
7'6"X18'X7' Mangers, 4' to 8' Dress Rm, AC Brace, Cloth Rod, Carpet GN-Drop & Fir, Bridle Hks, Saddle Rack Setting, Brush Tray, 3 Drop Dwn Feed Drs w/HD Fold Dwn Bars, 3 Drop Dwn Drs Rump Wall, 3 Mangers w/2 Manger Drs, Dble Rear Drs w/Full Width Ramp, Stud Divider 1st Stall, Padded Dividers w/Slam Latch, Collaps Rear Tack, Saddle Rack & Bridle Hooks. **Sale Price - \$19,500.00**



1998 Sundowner 3H GN w/6' LQ All Aluminum,
3 cu Refg, Microwv, 2 Burner Stove, Dble S/S Sink, AC, Ducted Furnace, Radio, Lg Wardrobe Closet w/Hat Shelf, Shower, Sep. Stool, Walk-Thru Dr, Drp Dwn Fd Drs w/Fold Dwn Bars, Rump Wall Windows, Padded Slam Latch Dividers, Collaps. Rr Tack w/3 Swing Out Saddle Racks, Bridle Hks, Blanket Bars, Brush Tray. **Sale Price - \$18,500.00**



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w/6' Finished Dress Rm, 7'6"X24'X7', AC, Boot Box, Side Tack w/4 Swing Out Saddle Rack, 8 Blanket Bar, Bridle Hooks, Brush Trays, 4 Manger w/4 Manger Doors, Drop Dwn Feed Doors w/Fold Dwn Bars, Dble Rear Doors w/Windows, Slam Latch Dividers. Trailer Used 2 Seasons. Like New. Excellent Condition. **Sale Price - \$15,500.00**



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