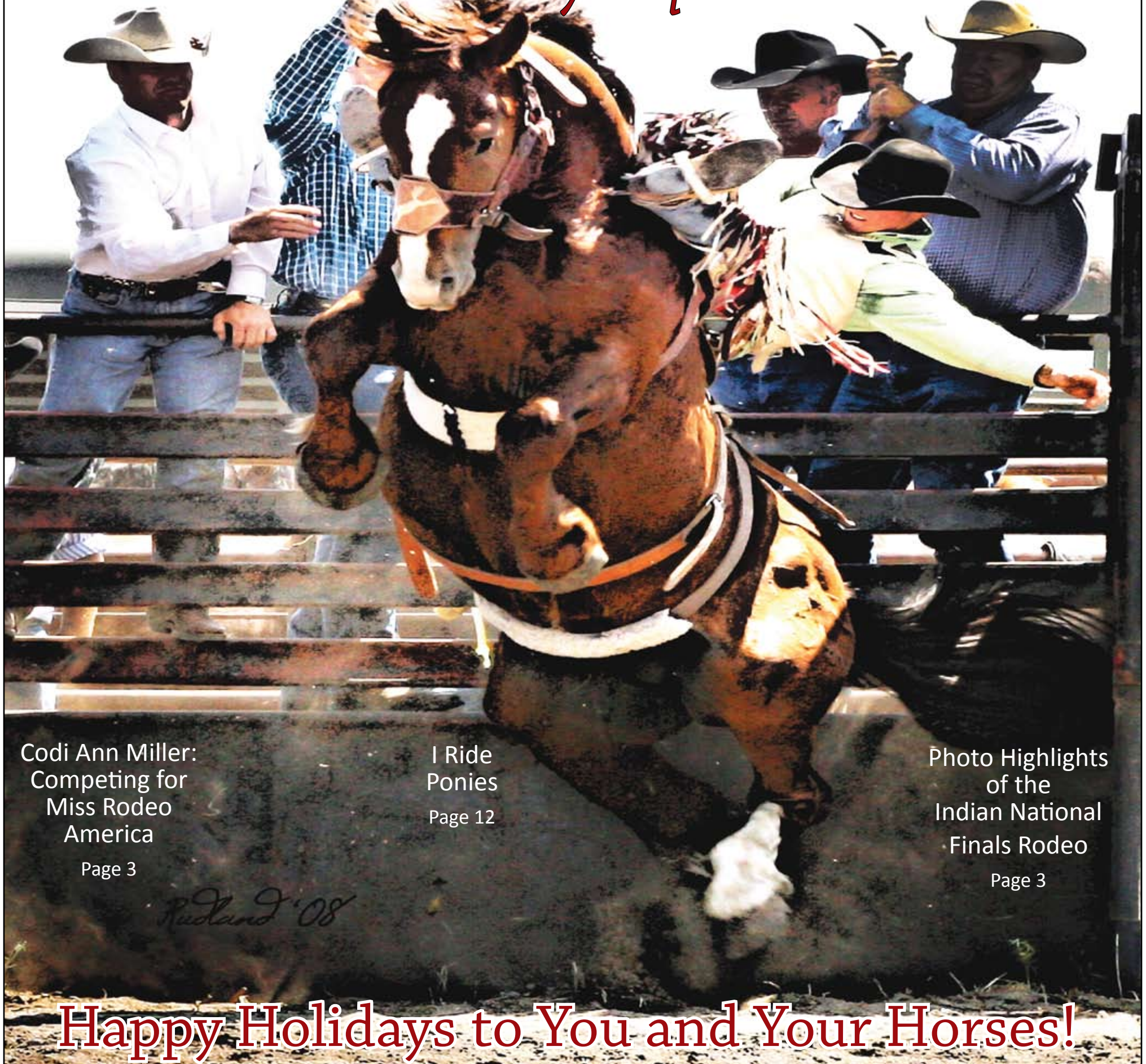


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The Valley Equestrian News



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Indian National Finals Rodeo



Fran Marchand

The Indian National Finals Rodeo was held Nov. 3-7 at South Point Equestrian Center in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Tammy Scheffler covered the event for "The Valley Equestrian News" bringing to us some wonderful footage of the event.



John Boyd III and Lucius Sells

Congratulations to the 2014 World Champions!
Bareback Riding - Buck Lunak
Steer Wrestling - Jeremiah Jodie
Ladies Breakaway - Josey Johnson
Saddle Bronc - Fran Marchand
Tie Down Roping - Scott Rogers



Top right: Josey Johnson

Jakki Young



Buck Lunak

Photography by Tammy Scheffler

Team Roping - John Boyd III and Lucius Sells
Ladies Barrels - Jakki Young
Bull Riding - Slick Phelps
Mens All Around - Cam Bruised Head
Womens All Around - Faith Holyan

Many more categories of winners may be found at the INFR web site: www.INFR.org



Scott Rogers

Miss Rodeo North Dakota:
Codi Ann Miller

December is the time for the National Finals Rodeo held at South Pointe Equestrian Center in Las Vegas, Nevada. Codi Ann Miller competes for the title of Miss Rodeo America during this event. We used the power of the internet to catch up with this busy lady. Here is your chance to get to know Miss Rodeo North Dakota, Codi Ann Miller.

VEN: You are a fifth generation rancher. Is that cattle, horses, both? What do you do on the ranch?

CAM: My family's ranch was homesteaded around 1906 near Amidon, ND. My dad and brother raise some crops, hay, and cattle; while my sister Kit and I sell and train ranch horses. Being able to travel this year has really allowed me to not



take for granted where I come from. I participated in ten years of 4-H, showing cattle, pigs, and sheep, as well as competed in rodeo. The cowgirl I am today is truly thanks to the way my family raised me and growing up in southwestern North Dakota.

VEN: How do you enlighten people about animal welfare in the PRCA?

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Inside the December VEN

About the cover: Our December cover is by North Dakota artist-photographer, Michelle Rudland, of About You Photography. We feature "Launch" in celebration of both the INFR and the NFR. Watch for NFR coverage in the January issue!



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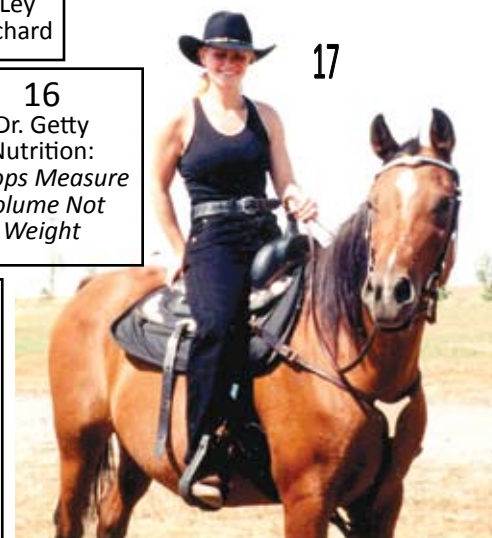
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Editorial Information

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VEN Editorial

“There are currently more wild horses in captivity than allowed to live in the wild,” according to the website of the “American Mustang” Movie, and according to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) documentation.

This battle over public land rages with a solution not in the foreseeable future. A variety of conflicting interests for more than a couple reasons, depending upon your point of view, will impact the ultimate outcome. Where do you stand on the issue? What are you willing to do to support your feelings about the issue?

We see images of wild horses chased by helicopter contractors (reportedly earning \$2 million for each roundup to run entire herds including young foals that are unable to keep up and incur injuries and loss of life) into HMA (herd management areas) designated by the BLM. These HMAs are completely unlike the spaces the wild horses are accustomed to

roaming; many times they are separated from their families and herds, cramped into paneled spaces totally unlike the life to which they were accustomed.

These are our tax dollars being spent to keep the otherwise wild and roaming horses. We don't know what it would be like to be torn from our family unit. We can imagine based on empathetic feelings but we are not horses. Do you believe horses have feelings? Do you believe horses have souls?

There was a profound, provocative and interesting series written by Victor Wolf for “The Valley Equestrian News” (VEN) a few years back that explored the philosophical and religious basis of this question (see the online articles starting in the July 2010 issue of the VEN at <http://www.theveonline.com/pdf/archive/2010/July2010-full.pdf>).

Wolf's conclusion was that horses do, indeed, have

souls. And as we look at the ways in which horses impact our lives on a daily basis, I think that we should consider this question more carefully, especially in the way we allow our taxes to be used in relation to caring for horses and other animals over which we ultimately have control.

One of the criteria of “The Wild Horse Annie Act” intended protection from slaughter for wild horses. No longer is this policy being followed as the number of horses in captivity is unmanageable.

You may recall that horse slaughter is not an option in or on American soil; however, horses continue to be transported across our borders to Canadian and Mexican slaughterhouses. This is old news to many, and surprising news to others.

At a time when horses are being dumped at auctions, public lands, private lands, rescues, and left to starve or neglect and abuse, it is time

for us as an industry to decide how we want to handle this ongoing issue that is not going away but only becoming more desperate. It is like the great divide between the wealthy and the poor in America.

Some of our horses, trained for hunter-jumper, eventing, reining, team penning, barrel racing, dressage, showing, racing, endurance and any number of other disciplines, no matter what the breeding, will be bought and sold for tens of thousands of dollars while others, are unsaleable, discarded as though they have no value, simply because someone did not put the time into them, or care enough to provide the training and time to create a valuable animal.

Velma B. Johnson, Wild Horse Annie, started a grass roots campaign to stop the use of wild horses for slaughter. Many organizations have gathered around the issue. The most famous of which is probably Ginger Kathrens who started the Cloud Foundation. (See an article about Kathrens on page 7 of the September 2010 VEN at: <http://www.theveonline.com/pdf/archive/2010/sept2010-full.pdf>).

We need solutions. The untenable horse calamity is untenable and must have a resolution in order for the horse industry to thrive and the value of horses to improve. Do you have a solution to offer? Send your suggestions to the editorial staff of the VEN, found on page 4, or post them to our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/VENews. We will gather your remarks and suggestions and print them in the January issue of “The Valley Equestrian News.”

In the meantime, during this gift-giving season, please remember the rescues that care for unwanted horses and provide training, education, homes and volunteer opportunities. Your tax-

COWBOY POETRY WITH ORV

Making Wooden Christmas Toys

I'M CALLED A WHAT? Some of the fondest memories and joys are of constructing wooden Christmas toys. “Open Your Heart” programs, I remember, Sponsored year after year in December. The American Legion sponsored the program. I was behind schedule and in a jam. The homemade toys may not be on the shelf.

OPEN YOUR HEART AND GIVE I enlisted some help from volunteers, Talking fast, like a fast-talking auctioneer. The lumberyards saved leftover wood blocks. A shop teacher sawed those donated stocks. We assembled for kids down on their luck. We made wooden cradles, mixers, and trucks. Needing some paint, I was beside myself. If only the North Pole would lend me an elf!

A COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM Some patients, out on pass, put on the paint; They hustled, stirred, and brushed without complaint. And soon there were a hundred homemade toys To brighten the season for girls and boys. My kids went to school next day, and did say, “Dad's making wooden toys for Christmas Day.” But, this time the last laugh was on myself, When they told their class, “Must be an elf!”

(Bismarck, ND, American Legion Post)
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deductible donation goes a long way towards helping the rescues care for unwanted horses. Three rescues are featured on page 6 of this issue of the VEN are among the rescues in our region that accept tax-deductible donations.

Merry Christmas! Thank you for reading this issue of the Valley Equestrian News. Please patronize the advertisers that made this issue possible. We wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

Ley Bouchard
Editor & Publisher

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Wyatt

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So Big is a 2-year-old gelding. He is approximately 33 inches and has a sweet disposition. He has not been handled a lot but is halter broke. With some TLC he will make a great little guy. He is healthy and has good feet with no history of founder. He appears to be a bit scared of large dogs. He would be best suited for someone who has knowledge of horses and someone who can work with him.



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Happy Holidays to You and Your Critters!

Help Us Help Them

It is a mission of the Valley Equestrian News to help improve the unwanted horse situation in America, and to help increase the value of horses so horse slaughter is not a viable option. To that end, the VEN offers free space on this page to advertise horses available for adoption from certified rescues. If you know of a rescue or operate a rescue that wants free space on this page, please contact us: Ley Bouchard, editor, at: theVENews@gmail.com.

Minnesota Hooved Animal Rescue

PO Box 47, Zimmerman, MN 55398
(763) 856-3119

Fareed is a beautiful 15hh 2007 bay Arabian gelding who successfully competed in the 2010 MHARF Trainers' Challenge. This very nice gelding has a wonderful temperament, is broke to ride (suitable for an advanced rider) and would make a great trail or competitive trail/distance horse! For more information on adopting Fareed please email:



Fareed

info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org

Charles Wilhelm: Ultimate Foundation Training Stall Manners

I recently saw an article video on YouTube by another recognized trainer who suggested that basically, horses are entitled to their space and we should not just barge into their stalls but accommodate them. Sometimes areas like this are simply based on philosophy. There are many good and well-known trainers who have demonstrated their talent by the handling of the horses they work with. For me, I think of the nature of the horse and always remember there is a pecking order. When I approach a stall, a corral or any type of enclosure, and I open the gate and have to squeeze my way through because the horse won't move, I consider that a lack of respect. Again, this is my philosophy and it is not a right or wrong. However, considering natural horse principles, that behavior tells me, the horse is attempting to be the leader. If I am to be the leader, the horse needs to move out of my way.

want the horse to back away from the door or the gate. This allows me to enter safely. If I don't ask the horse to move away and I finesse my way through the gate, I am putting myself in danger. I have seen videos where the horse is very quiet natured but something startles it. I always think about what could happen.

When working with horses, we always want to be looking ahead of the situation and thinking about what could happen. We all know that horses have a natural flight instinct. Once the flight instinct is engaged, a horse does not care if you are standing in the way. For our own safety, we must teach the horse to respect our space, but we must also continue to be alert.

We do not have to be rude or obnoxious in requiring a horse to move. That in itself can create another set of problems. I did a presentation on the Bay Area Equestrian Network (BAEN) teaching stall manners that sums up my philosophy. When I approach a stall or corral, I

of safety. The horse must respect you wherever you are, including the stall.

I have heard many times: my horse bit me for the first time; my horse kicked me for the first time. It usually occurs in the horse's space, the stall, paddock or corral, because it is a manifestation of the horse's attitude. Once the horse shows an attitude, it is not good for your safety and it shows you do not have a good relationship with the horse. The horse must trust and respect you. As I understand the behavior of horses, there are two choices, we lead or they lead. If you accommodate a horse and let that horse be in control in his space, it is a safety issue for you. Also, the safety will also lose respect for you in other areas.

Over the years, I have seen people in the corral with their horses doing all kinds of things. The horses follow them around like puppy dogs. That is good and it is something magical but it is a very small percent of horses that will do that. Also, it does not mean the horse has respect for the person. For a long time I believed that to be the leader of the horse, the horse had to follow me. That is fine philosophy-wise because it makes sense. Practically, it is not functional. On three

different occasions, when I was leading a horse behind me, the horse spooked and actually knocked me over. The last time I was hospitalized with a concussion.

I have never had a horse here at the ranch that disliked me because I taught it to respect me in its stall or because I controlled the environment of the stall, corral or pasture. In fact, the opposite is true; we actually establish a stronger bond because the horses have learned to trust me.

Internationally known and respected horse trainer Charles Wilhelm is the creator of Ultimate Foundation Training which combines the best of traditional, classical and natural horsemanship. This method is applicable to every riding discipline. Charles is one of the few clinicians who is known for his superb skills in communicating with and motivating people as well as horses. His training methods reflect his motto, "It's Never, Ever the Horse's Fault."

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Celebrate a Season of Blessings!

THE INVISIBLE VAQUEROS: PART 2 - ENGLISH COLONIES IN THE NEW WORLD

By Janice Ladendorf

Who were the Puritan Cowboys and the Carolina Crackers?

When the Spanish came to the New World, the only domestic animals they found here were dogs and llamas. They brought horses, cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs first to the Caribbean Islands and then to Mexico. As they moved north from Mexico City, they found an ideal country for ranching and raising cattle, but had to train their best peons to be vaqueros. When their empire expanded into southern Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and California, they needed even more vaqueros to handle their expanding herds.

In the early 1800s, Americans began moving into Texas where they soon collided with Spanish ranching enterprises. A long standing controversy exists over how much influence the Mexican vaqueros had on the emergence of the American cowboy. Some believe the Americans brought all the information, skills, and tools they needed with them. Others believe the first Texas cowboys learned everything they needed to know from the vaqueros. In my opinion, neither of these views is the correct one. Regardless of the discipline, profession, or craft, we all stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before. The vaqueros and cowboys had to have shared a common heritage beginning with the domestication of cattle in Europe.

By the time Europeans discovered the American continents, they had tamed, handled, herded, and bred cattle for thousands of years. Three distinctive life styles had evolved in Europe. They are farming, nomadic, and ranching. Since the early explorers found no

cattle in the Americas, each group of colonists had to bring both their cattle and their inherited skills with them. What breeds of cattle they brought varied from area to area. Each one was selected and bred to suit the desired life styles. From

easy to feed and fatten on a high forage diet.

As they settled in the New World, the Puritans established small towns surrounded by unfenced fields and common pasture lands. To keep their cattle

starving time began for both people and animals.

The Pynchon family found a way to resolve this problem. In 1635, William Pynchon founded the town of Springfield in the valley of the Connecticut River. He soon grew wealthy from the fur trade and his stock thrived on the rich riverside pastures. In 1646, he discovered an excellent market for meat in the British-owned islands of Barbados, Bermuda, and Jamaica. To better serve his customers, he built the first commercial American meat-packing plant.

His son, John, turned out to be just as innovative and interested in profit as his father. In 1654, he tried a new procedure. He imitated the Caribbean buccaneers or pirates when he fenced a small field, built a shelter, and fed his cattle all winter. Body heat keeps animals kept inside warm so they need far less to eat. Along with hay, his men gave his cattle vegetable scraps from the kitchens, malt-hops-barley residues from home brews, pulp from the cider mill, and similar protein supplements. By spring his cattle were plump, gentle, and friendly. His men drove them one hundred miles across the Old Bay Path to the Boston common where all cattle and horses to be branded with two brands, one to identify the owner and one to identify his or her common pasture.

out of the crops, they had to be stalled at night. Early in the morning, a herdsman drove them out to graze and at night he returned them to their owners. This routine allowed for milking the cattle twice a day. The men who herded the cattle did not have a high status in the community. In 1647 a law was passed requiring all cattle and horses to be branded with two brands, one to identify the owner and one to identify his or her common pasture.

At that time, English farmers still used oxen as draught animals and regarded horses as mounts for noblemen. The Puritans soon discovered how useful horses could be as pack animals or riding horses. In the English winters, stock did well outside with some supplemental feeding. In New England, the colonists found winters to be far more severe. When their stocks of preserved food and hay ran low, the

techniques on the trail drives. The only breed of horse ever developed in colonial New England was the Narragansett Pacer. These horses were used for riding and racing by the well-off, but not for handling cattle by the low status drovers.

In my opinion, the Puritans did not use horses to handle their cattle. Branding and roping from the ground are techniques Europeans had used for thousands of years. They had also learned how to herd cattle on foot and horseback. Cattle who are regularly fed and handled by people can be safely driven by humans on foot while cattle who have gone feral need to be driven by men on horseback.

Specialized breeding for meat or milk began in the early 18th century. From their initial imports, the New England farmers developed a uniquely American breed of Devon cattle. From New England, it gradually spread as far south as Florida.

Spanish Cattle

On his second voyage to Florida, Ponce de Leon brought horses and cattle with him. When the survivors fled in 1521, they probably took their valuable horses back to Cuba, but may have left some cattle behind. When the Spanish returned, they brought more cattle with them and ranching in Florida soon became a profitable business. In their attempt to Christianize and civilize the Indians, Spanish missions and ranchos spread north as far as modern Charleston. As the Spanish colonists gradually retreated back to Florida, they left both horses and cattle behind for the English settlers. By 1706, there were no longer any Spanish people left in the lands claimed by English colonists in Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia.

Florida remained in Spanish hands until 1821. Within their borders, they could keep their strains of cattle and horses relatively pure. In the 1830s, many Americans began crossing Spanish cattle with other cattle breeds, but some stayed with the Spanish "criollo" breeds. Today the Florida Cracker cattle are small-to-medium sized, as well as docile and relatively easy to manage. They are hardy and known for their resistance to parasites. They produce excellent meat and resemble "retinta" cattle, one of the three breeds the Spanish brought to the New World. Unlike the Texas Longhorns, their horns grow up instead of out. Some believe maneuvering through the Florida brush selected for this shape. They are also called Cracker or scrub cows.

Florida Crackers with their upright horns.



Settlement in South Carolina

In 1670, English colonists began settling on the coastal lowlands of South Carolina. They imported their first stock from other colonies, but feral Spanish cattle and horses already roamed there. The Spanish had bred cattle mainly for meat. To get more flexibility, the southern colonists crossed them with multipurpose breeds, like the emerging American Milking Devon.

Continued on page 14



An example of the American Milking Devon at Mount Vernon.

their first landings, the New England colonies followed the farming life style. The cow pens in the Carolinas used the ranching style, but did provide some extra feed for their cattle in the winter.

New England

Most of the Puritan colonists came from farming communities in England and intended to follow the same life style in the New World. Since the Devonshire cattle lived near the British ports in 1623, the Puritans began by importing cattle from North Devon. This hardy breed of medium sized, multipurpose cattle was the ideal one for a farming life style. Their milk is high in butterfat and can be turned into excellent cheese or butter. They produce high quality meat and make excellent draught animals. As a breed, they are active, intelligent, and strong, but cannot easily be handled by novice drivers. They are also

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The Valley Equestrian News Team

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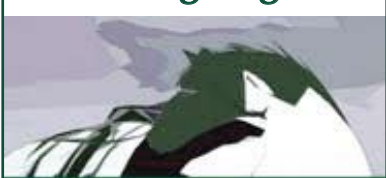
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I Ride Ponies

By Steve Edwards, Mill Swamp Farm in Virginia, American Indian Horse Registry

Submitted by Fran Lynghaug, author "The Official Horse Breeds Standard Guide" and "Dennis Brouse on Horse Training."

The sorrel stallion charged down the runway and slid to a stop with the rails of the auction pit only inches from his nose. With eyes opened wide and nostrils flaring, he tossed his head and threw his flowing mane to the side. He eyed the audience, stomped, snorted, and then did something that I did not know horses could do: he seemed to propel himself straight up, turn in the air, land, and tear back up that same runway at top speed. He disappeared as quickly as he had appeared. He was, then he was not - there was nothing in between.

This little stallion was the first moving mustang I had ever seen. I have been around horses all my life but had never seen such athletic ability. A few hours earlier, I watched an experienced mustang gentler lead this young stud around the ring only minutes after

he was first roped. Surely he would sell quite high in the ensuing Bureau of Land Management wild horse auction.

He did not sell high. In fact he didn't sell at all. No one even bid on him. For all his ability, for all his willingness to learn, for all his stunning beauty, he was not a horse. He was a pony and modern American adults do not ride ponies.

I ride ponies and I am an adult. I ride ponies and I am a large adult. I ride ponies and I ride them long and hard.

I ride because they give me what I want, which is to ride for hours on wooded trails with my family. I have no need to drive a beer wagon and I do not fox hunt. I will never ride in the Kentucky Derby. In short, I do nothing with my ponies that would require me to feed an extra 400 pounds and two hands of horse-flesh. My Indian horses range from about 13.1 to 14.2 hands. They have heavy bones and iron-hard hooves. I doubt if any of them weigh over 900 pounds. Each carries my 200

pound frame with grace and ease.

I ride ponies because they are healthy, easy keepers. My Indian horses do not need grain. Indeed, it often takes quite a while before a mustang will even try to taste grain. They live wonderfully on grass and hay. On such a diet, I have never had a colicked horse. With the help of a mineral block supplement, they grow

tough, dense hooves that have yet to require a shoe. I ride ponies because they are easier to handle than tall heavy horses. I do not need a cherry picker to saddle up. I do not need an elevator to mount up. When I fall off, I only have a short descent to the ground. When they step on my feet, I do not end up lame.

Even with all these advantages, I am still asked why

I ride those "poor little things" that are, after all, "only ponies." Americans love big things.

We are the only nation that feels the need to super-size a meal containing a three-layered hamburger. We drive SUVs and root for seven-foot tall basketball players and 300-pound football players. To make matters worse, children often start out on ponies and then graduate to horses - ponies are viewed as the equine equivalent of training pants and horses, especially big horses, are the big boy pants of the properly potty-trained equestrian. Many riders are self-conscious of their own weight problems and feel that they call attention to their weight by riding the smaller equines. Worst of all, many riders are simply unaware of the carrying capacity of a well-built, well-conditioned pony. I will never forget being told by a woman with lifelong equestrian experience that my 14-hand Indian horse could never carry her because he was "just a pony." She looked to weigh about 50 pounds less than me.

riding over the hill to them, they did not see him astride a Clydesdale. Nor was he even riding a warmblood (like the thoroughbred crosses the Cavalry rode). Like all the victorious warriors on that day, he rode a mustang, likely one that was "just a pony."

Aside from all of their other advantages, I ride ponies because of the sense of history that they project. De Soto invaded America on ponies. Crazy Horse defended his homeland on ponies. There was a Pony Express, but there never was a Horse Express. Quannah Parker lived on a pony and Roman Nose died on a pony.

I ride ponies because heart is not measured in hands.

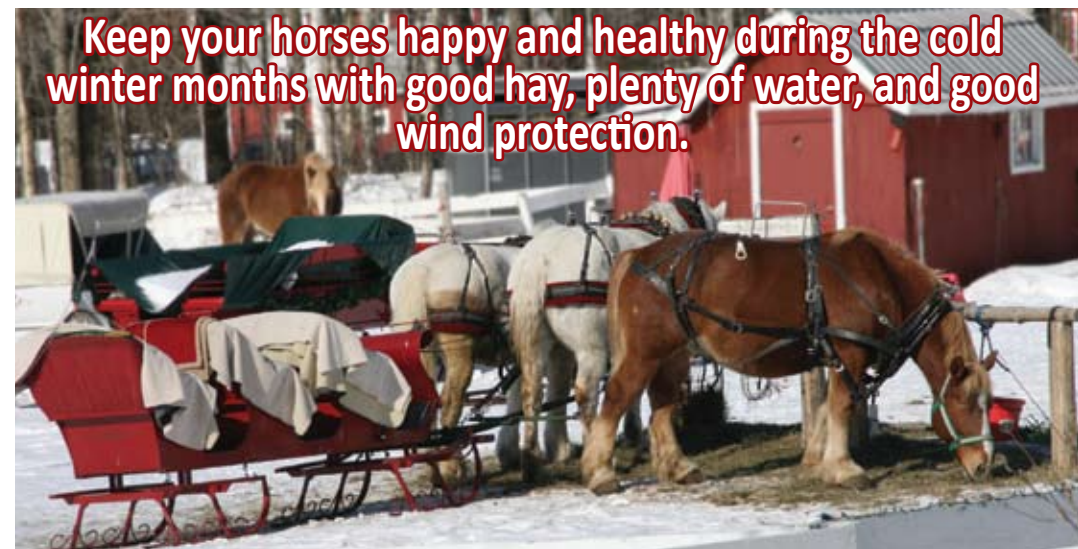
(Note by Lynghaug: It is imperative to investigate the capabilities of a potential small horse or pony if its purpose is for riding by a large person. Not all are sturdy enough, but those that have the bone structure and conformation for it, such as some Indian mustangs, can do well carrying a large adult.)

"Mustangs have taught me more about horses and myself than anything else I have ever done...patience, prayer, body language, understanding, not taking things personal, creative thinking, different perspectives...If more people understood the true reward and could grasp the real meaning, no mustang would ever want for a home." Fred Woehl

Not all cultures have shared our silly prejudices against ponies. An Indian named Gall was one of the top four leaders of the Sioux and Cheyenne forces at the Little Big Horn. As a young man, he weighed around 240 pounds. When Custer's men looked up to see Gall



Here is a picture of Tradewind and me in the Smithfield Christmas Parade. He is a formerly wild Corolla stallion who was captured because he was totally crippled with founder. Two years of Pete Ramey-style trimming, gentle training and conditioning made it so he won the Horse of the Americas National Pleasure Trail Horse of the Year in 2011. He carried me 206 hours in the woods that year, the vast majority of that time spent at a canter or trot.



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The Sad Saga of Lucas

By Ley Bouchard

Was it a random act of violence, a hate crime, a hunting accident, or a pre-meditated, malicious act of vengeance?

Tiffany Cross wants to know. She has offered a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest of the person or persons who shot her horse, Lucas, to death, while he grazed in the



pasture Oct. 14 with his two herd mates.

"Tuesday morning, I found him," Cross said. "I knew just walking down the road that he was dead. The poor

boy was shot twice. It was terrible. I lost it. I have never had anything like this happen before. I immediately thought it was colic; we always have to wet his grain. The other two horses were still in the pasture with him. I panicked and called my boyfriend and he came out and found it was a gunshot wound, two shots, not one." Cross lives on a farm near Red Lake Falls, Minn. "The

vet came out to do a necropsy; our vet came out to do that and recovered one of the bullets. He was shot by the

fence, he ran to and did some circles, and fell and bled to death."

Lucas was an off-the-track thoroughbred, gray gelding that Cross had owned since

he was five years old. He was 18 at the time of his death.

"I took him to the fall show series in Crookston, he was doing really good; he placed in the first two games both Saturday and Sunday. He did amazing; he won over \$160 in payday," Cross said.

"He's an old boy; he's 18, a retired race horse. I got him in New York. They did show jumping on him. I got him at his age five; the previous owners had him on glucosamine shots in the hocks. I never did the shots, if you kept him fit, and didn't pound him, he could do anything: kids, trails, for hours, events, jumper shows, pony club, 4-H. I've owned horses all my life. Lucas could do it all."

Cross has owned horses all her life and worked with horses in up-state New York before moving to northern Minnesota. Lucas was the only horse she moved to Minnesota. She considered Lucas her best friend. "I never thought that would happen, in the middle of nowhere,



and nothing ever happened in New York" she said.

Cross posted on Facebook shortly after her horse Lucas was found dead on October 14, "I'm so sad right

now I just found my amazing friend and partner Lucas dead in his field he was the best boy and I am so lost."

Blaize Zimmerman, investigator for the Pennington County Sheriff's office said that office has "very little to go on at this point."

Officials know Lucas was murdered by a small caliber rifle. A road grader performed maintenance on the road the by the pasture where Lucas grazed so whatever evidence was left behind, a shell casing or tire tracks, was destroyed. There is speculation, but the police can't make an arrest based on rumors or hearsay.

"I think someone deliberately picked him out and shot him," Cross said and believes she knows who killed her horse. She believes it is an act of vengeance. She

saw a Facebook comment that was quickly removed; however, she kept a screen print of the remark to show investigators of the crime.

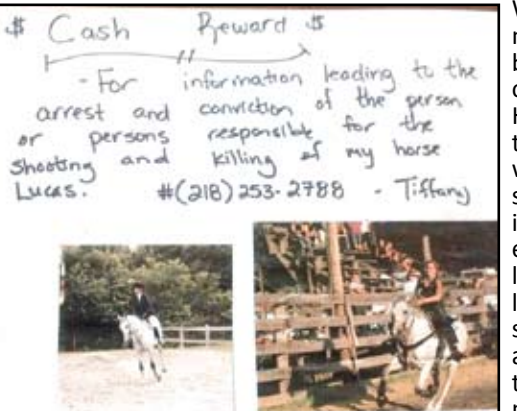
Police have the bullet but are not saying what caliber. "They have to match the rifle to the bullet so I think they are not talking about it," Cross said. "The kids probably dumped it. The second bullet is what killed him; it bounced off his ribs and punctured his aorta."

yet."

Cross is offering a \$500 reward to anyone with information that leads to the arrest and conviction of her beloved Lucas. "This is like losing a child," Cross said. "I had him half my life."

Lucas' death a hunting accident? Not likely. Lucas was white, standing in a pasture with two mares. A random act of violence? Maybe; but why Lucas, why on that day, "in the middle of nowhere?"

We may never know, but someone knows. Hopefully, the reward will generate some needed information, evidence, and lead to a resolution of this sad event. "I am waiting for them to prove me wrong," said Cross,



Zimmerman said he had "not been able to totally eliminate" from suspicion the person who made the Facebook remark adding, "It's an ongoing rift between the two families."

Zimmerman says "There are a lot of things working against us," in finding the culprit who killed Lucas. "We have no leads but we got the word out to the high schools; past informants have not provided anything

"but I don't think they will find the person."



Bluebonnet Horse Expo Adopts Out 20 Horses and Raises Over \$30,000 to Help Needy Horses

Organizers of the eighth annual Bluebonnet Horse Expo declare the event a huge success. "Twenty horses have found homes so far, and we have several more adoptions pending. Plus we raised over \$30,000 and that money will help us help many other horses!" said Jennifer Williams, Ph.D., executive director of Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society and coordinator of the Bluebon-

net Horse Expo.

This event, like six of the seven previous Expos, was held at the Travis County Expo Center in Austin, Texas on October 18. The Expo included clinics by Aaron and Riva England, Michael Battenfield, Dan Keen, Kate Love, Mark and Miranda Lyon, Kaylon Sullins Rubinson, Kathy Sullins, and Dr. David Warren.

Twenty-three horses com-



Aaron England works with rescue horse Canela during a trailer loading demo.



Mark Lyon worked with rescue horse Gemma during a clinic on working with pushy horses.

peted in four divisions in the Bluebonnet Rescue Horse Training Challenge, a training competition in which professional trainers and foster homes have 90 days to work with a rescue horse. The grand champion was Shimmer, shown by Tracy Mahan, the reserve grand champion was Cooper, shown by Kristy Tillman, and third place overall was Napoleon, shown by Hilary

Proceeds from the Bluebonnet Horse Expo will go towards caring for the many starving, abused, abandoned, and stray horses and other equines Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society helps throughout the year.

Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the

lives of equines by educating and helping owners, assisting law enforcement agencies, rehabilitating abused and neglected equines, and placing them into safe, permanent homes. The success of the Bluebonnet Horse Expo means that Bluebonnet has already taken in several new equines to rehabilitate and rehome and has room to help other law enforcement agencies with their cases.

Plans are already underway for the 2015 Bluebonnet Horse Expo which should take place the third Saturday in October at the Travis County Expo Center. For more information, visit www.bluebonnethorseexpo.com, call (888) 542 5163, or email Jennifer Williams, expo coordinator, at jenn@bluebonnethorseexpo.com.



Rescue horse Pilgrim prepares to compete in the Garry Ledetter Memorial Rescue Horse Training Challenge.

THE INVISIBLE VAQUEROS: PART 2 - ENGLISH COLONIES IN THE NEW WORLD

Continued from page 8

Horse racing was popular, but initially limited to quarter-mile races. The first racers were Spanish or Chickasaw horses. Unlike the Narragansett pacers, these horses were quick, handy, and born with the cow sense needed for dealing with semi-feral cattle. They are one of the foundation stocks used to create the American quarter horse.

While the colonists were looking for a good cash crop, they followed the farming life style. They grazed their cattle on common pastures; but to keep them tame, the slaves brought them into pens every night and fed them something. In the winter, what they got was

corn blades and crab grass hay. The colonists shipped meat to the Bahamas and Bermuda. These British-owned islands were only a week's sail from Wilmington or Charleston. When rice turned out to be valuable as a cash crop, stock raising moved west to the Piedmont.

The first cow pen community was established on the frontier in 1710. It was near the fall lines of the Savannah and Pee Dee Rivers. They sold their meat, leather, and work animals to planters in the eastern low-country and to British-owned islands in the Caribbean. Investors looked for the tall grass savannas where their cattle could graze on the luxurious cane

and pea vine grass. They also wanted marshes nearby for winter grazing. Most of them owned the acres around the actual settlements, but not the pastures their animals grazed every month of the year. They followed the ranching life style.

A standard cow pen community had a house for the manager, cabins for the workers, gardens, land cleared for corn, and spacious pens for the animals. The pens had wings so herds of cattle, horses, and hogs could slowly be driven forward until they could be pushed through the open gate into the pen. From time to time, herds had to be driven into the pens for special tasks, such as brand-

ing, gelding, and sorting out cattle to be driven to the eastern markets. In the winter, many communities also fed cattle in the pens. Every cow pen community had its own unique brand. In the larger communities, cattle could be divided into herds who had their own pasture areas and pens. The pens were usually about ten miles apart. In this warm climate, animals needed a lot of salt. To keep the animals close to the pens and familiar with people, salt was regularly scattered outside of them.

Cow Hunters and Crackers

The keepers or supervisors of the cow pen communities were usually white, as were some of the workers. As in

New England, Scottish and Irish men were shipped to the southern colonies and sold as indentured servants. When they had served their time, they often settled on the frontier. Many German and Swiss immigrants moved south from Pennsylvania and joined them. The farther west the cow pen communities moved, the more white frontiersmen may have worked for them. When white workers disappeared, sometimes they turned into stock thieves or outlaws. The rest of the workers were Black and mostly enslaved. Some of them fled to freedom with their horses.

By 1724, ads for slaves to work in the cow pen communities identified them as

cow hunters. Many of them had initially come from areas in West Africa, such as Ghana or Gambia, where they had lived as nomadic herders of cattle. Their new owners soon discovered how many useful skills they had brought with them. Some even had experience in handling horses. These men soon figured out what jobs could best be done on horseback and which ones should still be done on foot. They may have been the ones who used salt to keep stock near the pens.

The cow hunters also used blacksnake whips. These whips had hardwood handles about three feet long and lashes ten to fif-

Continued on next page

The New Senate and Tax Reform

By John Alan Cohan, Attorney at Law

Now that Republicans will control the Senate, the question arises whether this will result in tax reform; or at least impact how the IRS conducts its business.

Top aids to the president have made the IRS hostile turf to honest taxpayers. The IRS has targeted individuals and organizations. IRS bureaucracy has demanded agents to lead no-change audits, to make greater demands for documents, and to disfavor settlements.

Senate committees are likely to investigate IRS abuses with fervor, and there may well be tax reform of some sort, in an effort to boost business and to create more jobs. Amending the Tax Code to any degree is a

daunting challenge. There are invariably partisan political questions when it comes to cutting overall tax revenue.

The Tax Code is extremely complex. In the last ten years almost 4,500 changes have been made to the Tax Code. Many elements of the Code help subsidize activities tied to policy objectives such as economic growth or "socially desirable" economic behavior (e.g., home ownership). Some policies are static and may become ineffective or counterproductive as circumstances change.

It is unlikely that tax reform will do much to change personal income tax rates; though there is a good chance corporate income tax rates will be modified in

an effort to discourage outsourcing. The top corporate income tax rate is considerably higher than that of other countries around the world.

Any tax reform is complicated by the fact that there are both winners and losers, and the losers will resist efforts to change tax breaks they might presently enjoy.

A key to real tax reform actually consists of changing key personnel in the IRS. Many policies that impact taxpayers consist of policies generated by the senior bureaucrats and IRS regulations.

A significant segment of audits will continue to be in the hobby loss area. Taxpayers in all income segments continue to be target-

ed for such audits. Many farmers, ranchers and horse owners invariably have "day jobs" that constitute their main source of income. The ranch or farming activity usually incurs losses for a number of years, and these losses are used to offset taxable income. Taxpayers want to ultimately make a profit in their venture, but in the meantime they are entitled to take tax deductions so long as the horse, livestock or farming activity is operated "for profit," that is, the taxpayer has the "intention" of making a profit despite the fact that there are losses.

The best way to convince the IRS that your horse, ranch or farming activity is not a hobby is to show profits (2 out of 7 years for horse activities, 2 out of 5

for other ventures). Most cases involve taxpayers with no profit years, in which case it is important to have substantial documentary evidence and excellent books and records. The IRS will want to see cost projections, a business plan, evidence that you have relied on experts or have become an expert yourself, professional appraisals of bloodstock and land, and many other items of information.

Often the IRS agent will obtain damaging information directly from the taxpayer, or the taxpayer will not provide solid enough answers to the questions raised. In most instances it is helpful to have a representative interact with the revenue agent (either a CPA or tax attorney), as this helps protect you from falling into traps.

Professional representatives are in a better position to convince the IRS that your activity is operated "for profit" within the meaning of IRS regulations. Moreover, often enough revenue agents need to be educated on particular elements of the industry and to learn why it may take a significant period of time until profits are forthcoming. Remember that for almost any tax problem, there is a solution.

John Alan Cohan is an attorney who serves the horse, livestock and farming industries. He can be reached at: (310) 278-0203, or email at johnalancohan@aol.com. His website is JohnAlanCohan.com.

THE INVISIBLE VAQUEROS: PART 2 - ENGLISH COLONIES IN THE NEW WORLD

teen feet long. A special tip was used to give the whip a sharp, popping, or cracking sound. The men who used the whips often achieved a high degree of accuracy. As they drove cattle into towns, they liked to announce their arrival by cracking their whips and people began calling them crackers. Unfortunately, these whips could not be used to herd the ferocious longhorns in Texas. Today they are still used in Australia where they could have been introduced by loyalists fleeing from the American Revolution.

The last technique involved the use of what they called bulldogs. These dogs drove cattle by nipping at their heels and held them by grabbing their noses with their teeth. Some of the breeds they used were Catahoulas, Tennessee brindles, and leopard dogs. An innovative Black cowboy imitated these dogs when

he learned how to hold cattle motionless with his teeth. He is credited with starting the modern rodeo sport of bulldogging.

From South Carolina, the cow pen communities spread into North Carolina and Georgia. In the 1750s, pastures suffered from over grazing and an epidemic wiped out most of the cattle in this area. After the Revolution, the lands once used by the cow pen communities were gradually converted to cotton. Cattle-raising moved west first to Kentucky and Tennessee, where the land was forested and well watered. In the 1820s, they began moving to Texas where they found a whole new world of open plains, brush, and feral longhorn cattle. What they took with them was their Chickasaw horses and their bulldogging dogs.

Conclusion:

Colonists in New England used the farming life style and their starving began in mid-to-late winter. The innovative John Pyncheon introduced the idea of providing cattle with shelter and supplemental food during the winter. His trail drive to Boston in the spring yielded a fat profit and others began imitating him. Their tame and docile cattle could be driven on foot. These colonial farmers created a new breed, the American Milking Devon.

In the 17th century, the Spanish established missions and ranches in Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas. When they pulled back to Florida, they left many horses and cattle behind. When the English settlers came, they found these animals. They caught, tamed, and bred them to stock imported from the other colonies. The colonists in South

Carolina found a lucrative market for meat in the British-owned Caribbean Islands. Their cow pen communities used the ranching style, but in heavily wooded areas. Many of the slaves imported from West Africa had been nomadic herders and they applied their skills when they were sent to these communities. To drive cattle, cow hunters and crackers used Chickasaw horses, blacksnake whips, and bulldogging dogs.

To Be Continued: In part 3, the evolution of ranching in Mexico and the lifestyle of the vaqueros will be discussed.

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Miss Rodeo North Dakota: Codi Ann Miller

Continued from page 3

CAM: Animal welfare is what we promote in the PRCA and in our western lifestyle. As a rodeo queen, it has been very important for me to be able to educate the nation on animal welfare, and how our animals are cared for with the utmost respect. I have recently received my masters in beef advocacy, which has allowed me to have more knowledge to share where our food comes from. It has been an exciting year promoting rodeo and agriculture.

VEN: In your Cowgirl Suzie campaign you ask the audience to tear apart the Suzie doll and try to piece it back together again; they learn that the pieces never go back the same way. Why did you create the Cowgirl Suzie campaign?

CAM: When I was 15, I competed in my first pageant. I then became Miss North Dakota Teen USA 2009. My Mom helped me create "Cowgirl Suzie."

The reason I got the drive to speak to kids about bullying is because I wanted them to be proud of where they came from and not let the changing trends or hurtful words change who they are. Cowgirl Suzie is basically an anti-bullying exercise to educate children on rodeo and how to live a positive lifestyle. Everyone is teased throughout their lives, but it was important to me to teach the youth

to take those hurt feelings and build character from it.

VEN: The traveling you have logged since October, is that with following the PRCA? What is that life like? As Miss Rodeo North Dakota, do you have gigs arranged for you? Do you have a manager?

CAM: Since January 1, 2014, I have traveled over 30,000 miles. These miles are not only PRCA events, they are also miles to local/regional rodeos, school visits, and clinics/coaching to help me prepare for the Miss Rodeo America Pageant.

As Miss Rodeo North Dakota, I have been pretty lucky in the fact that I pick where I want to go. I had a goal this year to attend every event I was contacted and invited to go to. It was very important to me to travel western North Dakota as much as possible, because we haven't had a Miss Rodeo North Dakota from this side of the state since Ashley Andrews in 2006 (who was also the last Miss Rodeo North Dakota to win Miss Rodeo America!).

The Miss Rodeo North Dakota Board does oversee my schedule, but I am my own manager!

VEN: How old are you? What year at MSU? What is your ideal job after graduation? What kind of boutique do you want to operate and where?

CAM: I am 21, my birthday is in January.

I graduated from Black Hills State University December of 2012 with a degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management. I am attending Minot State University, and will have about a year left to complete my Bachelors in Marketing. I do hope that through my travels and connections as Miss Rodeo North Dakota, and hopefully as Miss Rodeo America, that I can enter the world of Western Merchandising. I currently work at the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame, in Medora, where I tend to the events and social networking. However, my dream would be to open up my own boutique of vintage and current western fashions. I have always loved design and fashion.

VEN: How many horses travel with

you? In what events do you participate?

CAM: Throughout the years, how Miss Rodeo North Dakota travels has changed a lot! There are no sponsored pick-ups or trailers, and thus I cannot fit my horse in my old Cadillac! Although, this has been very beneficial, because at the Miss Rodeo America Pageant, the contestants do not ride their horses; it is the luck of the draw, just like the cowboys at the NFR. So during the year, I normally will borrow a horse from a stock contractor, pickup man, or a contestant. This is great practice for the horsemanship contest during the pageant. I could joke and say my favorite horse this year would be a white gelding from a pickup man. The horse didn't like the fireworks that had just finished firing, and tried really hard to buck me off when we entered the arena. Fact of the matter, I never dropped the American flag, but instead cowgirl-ed up and rode that sucker through!

I excelled in high school rodeo, winning two saddles and state championships in the pole bending. I had also qualified for state in barrel racing and goat tying. I have continued to barrel race and goat tie in local rodeo clubs and jackpots, since graduating high school. Many of our ranch's horses come from Colonel Freckles bloodlines.

VEN: What other campaigns have you created?

Dr. Getty Nutrition Information

A reminder from Dr. Getty: Scoops Measure Volume, Not Weight

The directions on most feed bags offer guidelines in terms of pounds (or kg) you should feed. If you use a scoop to measure your horse's feed, how many pounds are you actually feeding? Are you assuming that a 2-quart scoop, for example, offers 2 pounds (0.9 kg) of feed? This can be a dangerous assumption.

Scoops provide volume – they measure quarts or liters; they tell you nothing about weight. Even those scoops that offer weight measurements on the outside are estimates at best, because it depends on what you put in the scoop that determines the weight. One quart of marbles is going to weigh more than one quart of cotton balls. By the same analogy, one quart of oats is going to weigh more than one quart of shredded beet pulp.

Knowing how much you are feeding is important for several reasons.

VEN: What other campaigns have you created?

CAM: I have really used Cowgirl Suzie

First, your horse can potentially become obese from too many calories. Second, since the stomach is relatively small, it can only process a small amount of food at a time, so supplemental meal size should be limited to no more than 4 lbs. (1.8 kg) for an 1100 lb. (500 kg) horse.

Finally, following the manufacturer's directions is the best way to ensure that your horse is getting all of the vitamins and minerals listed on the label, otherwise additional supplementation will be important, and the only way to follow manufacturer's directions is to weigh the feed.

A scale is a must-have piece of equipment for any barn. Weigh your feed and mark your scoop so you do

not have to weigh it each time you feed. If you change feeds, be sure to weigh the new feed; do not rely on the previous measurement.

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 available for private consultations and speaking engagements.

Dr. Getty's comprehensive resource book, Feed Your Horse Like a Horse, is available at Dr. Getty's website, www.gettyequinenutrition.com, as well as from Amazon (www.amazon.com) and

other online book retailers. The seven separate volumes in Dr. Getty's topic-centered "Spotlight on Equine Nutrition" series are also available at her website, where Dr. Getty offers special package pricing, and from Amazon (in print and Kindle versions) and from other online retailers.

Dr. Getty's website, www.gettyequinenutrition.com, offers a generous stock of free, useful information for the horseperson. Sign up for her free monthly newsletter, Forage for Thought; browse her library of reference articles; search her nutrition forum; and purchase recordings of her educational teleseminars. Reach Dr. Getty at gettyequinenutrition@gmail.com.

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VEN: What other campaigns have you created?

to combine all of the things that are important to me. I just hope to continue being an advocate of the Western lifestyle, whether

I come home with the national crown, or not. This way of life has shaped me into the person I want to be, and I

want to continue to give back to it.

An Oldest Horse Tale: A Tribute to Daisy, aka Curious Kate, a 29-Year-Old Arabian Mare

By Jamie Greenley, Lisbon, N.D.

This is a tribute to Curious Kate, aka Daisy, born in 1986. I am so thankful to have been given such a wonderful gift and amazing friend.

I wanted to write and tell everyone about my amazing 29-year-old Arabian mare that brings tears to my eyes just thinking of her. Her story and dedication to people is something that I needed to write about and share with other people.

Daisy, my Arabian mare, is an amazing, tough, super kind mare that is so much more than just a horse. She has been one of my best friends and really a savior to me and to the breeder who delivered her one night that was very dark in his life. The man who owned Daisy's dam and sire was a prominent Arabian breeder in the 80s and had many very special show Arabians. They were the kind that could go

out and work cattle, be shown the next day in halter and working classes and then be your kid's best friend at the end of the day. He told me that Daisy's dam lines had hearts of gold, and like Daisy, they would follow their human companion into a lion's den if they were asked to do so, without question or hesitation. They trusted people beyond what any one animal or human should probably trust someone or something else. They just had that remarkable spirit about them that is so rare.

Daisy's sire, Easy Money, was an Arabian stallion that was a remarkable athlete, proven to be the best of the best, and wanted by many breeders because of his greatness. Daisy's breeder had gotten offered tens of thousands of dollars at the time for her sire

Easy Money, but he turned down all the offers on him as he knew he was very special.



Daisy's breeder told me that you just know when you have something special and he did in her sire and dam. Together they made the most outstanding horse I have ever had the pleasure to know and be a part of my life.

A person only has a few true friends whose friendship last over long periods of their life. Daisy, who just happened to be in the form of a horse, came to be part of my life sixteen years ago; her loyalty, kindness and dedicated friendship can never be replaced,

nor do I think I deserved it from such a wonderful being. I am so thankful and find myself so lucky to have been able to have such a loyal friend in my life. Daisy would come over to be with me, no matter what horse was in the herd, no matter how many or how far out they were. If she sees me, she will be at the gate as fast as she can get there.

When I found Daisy, the sale ad said, "A very special mare for sale." I had wanted horses all my life but it wasn't until I was an adult that I was able to finally get a horse of my own. Before Daisy I went through many bad experiences with horses and was getting to the point of giving up on the idea of getting a horse thinking it was too late in my life to start with horses as I did not know anything about them. I was very down and sad thinking of how



The Oldest Horse
The Valley Equestrian Newspaper loves older horses!
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 Email: thevenews@gmail.com or mail a photo (with stamped returned envelope) to: The VEN, PO Box 64, Sabin, MN 56580

give me that peace, a feeling of importance, and in many ways she saved me at a time when I needed saving.

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Daisy is the kindest, most gentle soul in the world; everyone who has met her has fallen in love with her; she is a one in a million horse for sure.

Daisy's grand-sire, Magnat, was a racing legend in Poland who still holds records today. Magnat was one of a very few Arabian stallions that the Polish government kept for their own breeding stock. In Poland horses had to be tested on the race track for their temperament and Magnat was outstanding.

I had wanted horses my whole life but maybe with all the bad stuff occurring with horses I had purchased, maybe horses were just not in my future. That's when I came upon Daisy's ad. I bought her and brought her home, we started becoming friends and companions; she was so gentle to me and everyone that came out to see her or ride her; she just took care of everyone.

Daisy is the kindest, most gentle soul in the world; everyone who has met her has fallen in love with her; she is a one in a million horse for sure.

Just like her sire and grandsire, Daisy loved to run. She would walk out like an old plug with a kid on her back, but if I ask her she would run like no other horse I had ever seen or ridden. Daisy had two galloping speeds: she had a fast speed and then she had a speed that was unbelievable! She would be running and then I would ask for more and knew I had better hold on; it was like a



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freight train taking off, cutting through the wind.

Daisy is so amazing; I know I will never find another equine friend like her. She is a one in a million horse and I wish I could turn back the hands on the clock so I could keep her forever, but I know the day will come when I no longer have her in my life and it will be a very sad day. I know I can never repay or thank Daisy enough for all she has done for me and given to me. She has never asked for anything in return, never hurt a fly or done anything wrong in her life. She has given so much to so many and for her undying loyalty and kindness Daisy will always be remembered and loved back.

Happy Holidays!

From Our Barn to Yours!

Industry News

Vesicular Stomatitis (VS): 355 Colorado Quarantines Since Beginning of Outbreak. Guidelines for Livestock Shows, Fairs, Exhibitions, and Events

BROOMFIELD, Colo. –As of 11/12/2014, the Colorado Department of Agriculture's State Veterinarian's Office has 43 locations under quarantine after horses and cows tested positive for Vesicular Stomatitis (VS); 312 of the 355 quarantines have now been released.

"As colder weather and snow has moved into the area, the fly population should be reduced and decrease the transmission of VS. Hopefully the incidence of this disease will trend downward with the temperatures, but continue to be vigilant for the clinical signs of the disease and report any suspicious cases to the State Veterinarian's Office," said State Veterinarian, Dr. Keith Roehr.

COUNTY CURRENT QUARANTINES

Adams	4
Arapahoe	1
El Paso	4
Fremont	5
Huerfano	1
Jefferson	3
Larimer	3
Logan	4
Morgan	2
Pueblo	10
Sedgwick	1
Weld	5
Total	43

For a map of Colorado counties with confirmed cases, visit http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth?1dmy&uril=wc%3apath%3a%2Faphis_content_library%2Fsa_our_focus%2Fsa_animal_health%2Fsa_animal_disease_information%2Fsa_equine_health%2Fsa_vesicular_stomatitis%2Fct_vesicular_stomatitis.

VS can be painful for animals and costly to their owners. The virus typically causes oral blisters and sores that can be painful causing difficulty in eat-

ing and drinking. Positive premises are eligible for quarantine release 21 days after lesions have healed in all affected animals.

If you plan to transport your horse to another state, be sure to check with the State Veterinarian's Office in the state of destination as to any special new restrictions for movement of your horse into their state. Some states have instituted new requirements for the import of Colorado horses due to the VS outbreak.

Veterinarians and livestock owners who suspect an animal may have VS or any other vesicular disease should immediately contact state or federal animal health authorities. Livestock with clinical signs of VS are isolated until they are healed and determined to be of no further threat for disease spread. There are no USDA approved vaccines for VS.

While rare, human cases of VS can occur, usually among those who handle infected animals. VS in humans can cause flu-like symptoms and only rarely includes lesions or blisters.

Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) Signs and Transmission

VS susceptible species include horses, mules, cattle, bison, sheep, goats, pigs, and camelids. The clinical signs of the disease include vesicles, erosions and sloughing of the skin on the muzzle, tongue, ears, teats, groin area, and above the hooves of susceptible livestock. Vesicles are usually only seen early in the course of the disease. The transmission of vesicular stomatitis is not completely understood but components include insect vectors, mechanical transmission, and livestock movement.

"The State Veterinarian's Office is not recommending that livestock shows be cancelled. Instead, it is more important to consider certificates of veterinary inspection prior to or on site observations at entry into events and then insect control measures during before during and after events occur," said Roehr. "If event organizers have questions, they can contact our office."

Tips for Event Organizers and Livestock Owners:

- Strict fly control is an important factor to inhibit the transmission of the disease.
- Avoid transferring feeding equipment, cleaning tools or health care equipment from other herds.
- Colorado veterinarians and livestock owners should contact the state of destination when moving livestock interstate to ensure that all import requirements are met. A list of contact information for all state veterinarians' offices is available at www.colorado.gov/ag/animals and click on "Import Requirements."
- Colorado fairs, livestock exhibitions, and rodeos may institute new entry requirements based on the extent and severity of the current VS outbreak. Certificates of Veterinary Inspection issued within 2-5 days prior to an event can beneficial to reduce risks. Be sure to stay informed of any new livestock event requirements.
- The CDA website has a document that has guidelines to help equine shows, fairs, and competitions reduce their risk to VS: <http://www.colorado.gov/cs>
- During an event, important VS disease prevention procedures include minimizing the sharing of water and feed/equipment, applying insect repellent daily (especially to the animals ears), and closely observing animals for signs of VS.
- If moving livestock internationally please contact

President Announces Executive Actions on Immigration

from the American Horse Council

President Obama announced Nov. 20 a series of immigration executive actions relating to border security, deportation proceedings, and undocumented immigrants, including action to defer deportation for certain individuals that in effect provides them with temporary legal status and the ability to work legally.

It is unclear to what extent these executive actions will apply to any undocumented workers in the horse industry. But it is very likely that there are workers in the horse industry who meet these requirements and will benefit from the president's actions. Certainly there are experienced workers in the horse industry who lack proper immigration status and do not have valid residency documents. It is impossible at this point to tell how many and whether they would continue to work in the horse industry once provided general work authorization.

Specifically, the president has directed the Department of Homeland Security to create a new deferred action program for people who are parents of U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents and have lived in the United States for five years or longer, if they register, pass a background check, and pay taxes. Such Individuals will have the opportunity to request temporary relief from deportation and work authorization for

the USDA APHIS VS Colorado office at 303-231-5385 to determine if there are any movement restrictions or testing requirements for VS. For additional information, visit www.colorado.gov/ag/animals.

three years at a time if they come forward and register, submit biometric data, pass background checks, pay fees, and show that their child was born before the date of the president's announcement.

Additionally, individuals who were brought to the United States as children can apply for this deferred action program if they entered before January 1, 2010, regardless of how old they are today.

Many specific details have yet to be announced. It is unclear at this time if Congress will move to block these executive actions and/or when this new deferred deportation program will begin. The Secretary of Homeland Security is expected to issue new guidelines shortly on how the executive actions will be applied and enforced. The immigration executive actions and new programs will continue until ended by some Congressional action, by the next president, or by the passage of a comprehensive immigration bill.

Comprehensive immigration reform has been a priority of the horse industry for many years. The difficulty horse

farms, horse shows, trainers and others have had recruiting American workers has forced many to rely on foreign workers and utilize both the H-2A and H-2B temporary foreign worker programs to meet their labor needs. However, these current programs are not reliable and are extremely burdensome to use.

In addition, many of the workers employed in the industry may lack legal status. Deporting these workers would have a devastating effect on the farms, ranches, training facilities, and trainers who have relied upon them for years. A way to permanently legalize such workers is critical to the industry.

The president's action does not fix or even address the many problems with the H-2A and H-2B programs or address undocumented workers that don't meet the requirements for this new program. For these reasons it remains critical that the administration and Congress take action on comprehensive immigration reform.



Lack Of Data in BLM Wild Horse Program Moves Forward in Court

(RENO,NV) - Oct. 28, 2014- Last week more documents were filed in the ongoing legal saga of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

11-13, 15-16, 18-28 and 32-33, and which also causes inhumane methods and conditions to occur, and which causes roundups to

to protect them, although much of the area still allows private livestock grazing. At the last removal in 2012-2013 Leigh's camera

ten-year removal plan of wild horses from the Owyhee Complex in northern Nevada.



Laura Leigh, presi-

dent and founder of Wild Horse Education, alleges that wild horse removals are unlawful at the Owyhee Complex due to insufficient data and analysis of available data. Leigh also asserts that removals that occurred under this plan have violated First Amendment notions.

In documents filed last week through Leigh's attorneys, Danielle Holt and Michael Beede, Leigh moves these claims forward as allowed by the court.

"Because the plaintiff may reasonably expect that the same agency conduct would likely repeat in other areas of the Owyhee Complex during the ten-year EA as that outlined in paragraphs

captured images of wild horses being repeatedly electric shocked (hot shot), babies run until they could not keep up and even wild horses colliding with barbed wire fences.

In an earlier order the court included expectations for conduct that disallowed the above mentioned practices. In summer of 2013 BLM announced removal plans at the Snowstorm HMA, part of the Owyhee Complex.

After documents were filed addressing the lack of data, BLM cancelled Snowstorm.

Wild Horse Education is devoted to gaining protections for America's wild horses and burros from abuse, slaughter and extinction. Main website: <http://WildHorseEducation.org>.

The Owyhee Complex is comprised of five distinct Herd Management Areas (HMAs) consisting of more than one million acres of public land and the removal plan covers nearly two million acres. The removal area also covers areas removed from use by wild horses after the 1971 Act of Congress

Epic Night of the Horse™

It's Not an Evening Show - It's an Evening of Dreams at the 2015 Midwest Horse Fair!

MADISON, WI – Saturday's evening production at the 2015 Midwest Horse Fair will be Epic Night of the Horse™, presented by Blain's Farm & Fleet, April 18 at 7:30 pm at the Alliant Energy Center.

This year, through one gifted little girl's epic equine dreams, become immersed in a world of wonder where horses will awe and astound you, while weaving an inspirational message of living your dreams in full color.

It's not just another evening show; it's an evening of dreams, EPIC dreams. Dreams that will take you far from reality - with echoes of the past, humorous antics of the present, and powerful possibilities of the future. Epic Night of the Horse™ is produced by the Midwest Horse Fair.

Please Note: Tickets for the evening entertainment are in addition to your general admission tickets and will go on sale to the general public on January 11, 2015 through Ticketmaster.

- Premium Seats (lower level except VIP rows): \$20.00
- Regular Seats (upper level except last two rows): \$12.00
- Bargain Seats (last two

rows of the upper level): \$7.00
The 36th annual Midwest Horse Fair will be held April 17-19, at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, WI.

The Midwest Horse Fair is owned by the Wisconsin Horse Council, Inc. All proceeds from the Fair are returned to the WHC and are used to represent and foster a unified equine industry in Wisconsin, promote the equine leadership, education, service, and communication, and to take a proactive role in the future growth and development of the equine industry.

Visit www.MidwestHorseFair.com for additional information.

The Class of 2015 Pinto Heritage Foundation Hall of Fame recipients named

Minnesota Pinto recognizes and congratulates Karen Clark - she will be inducted into the PHF Professional Horsewoman of the Year Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City next March.

Also being inducted into the Class of 2015 is Pleasure N You (known to those who loved him as "Merlin"), owned by Abby Lund Foley. Merlin will be added to the PHF Equine Hall of Fame.

<http://www.pinto.org/index.php/pinto-heritage-foundation>

We are very proud of all those representing Minnesota Pinto!

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