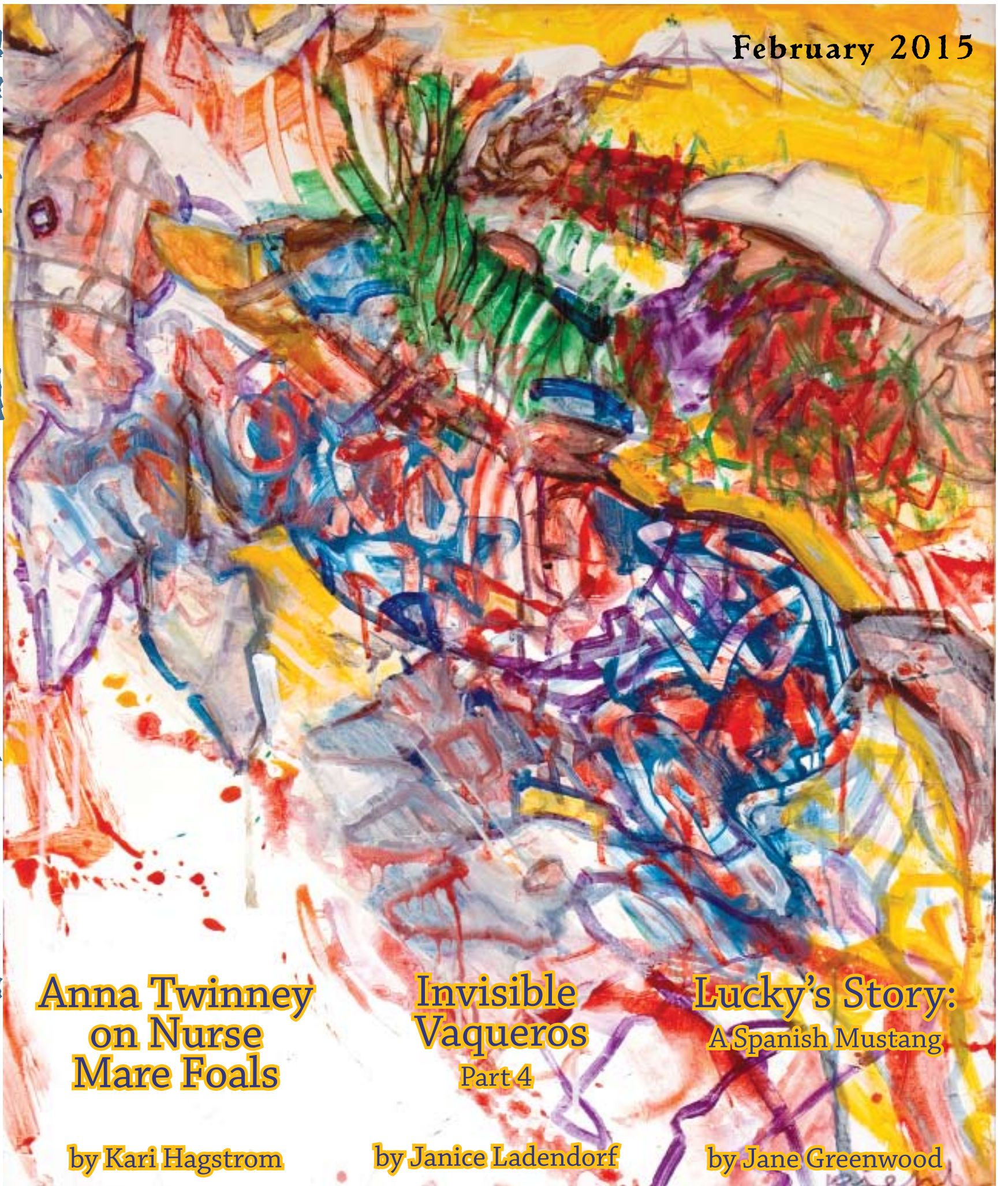


# Valley Equestrian News

February 2015



**Anna Twinney  
on Nurse  
Mare Foals**

by Kari Hagstrom

**Invisible  
Vaqueros  
Part 4**

by Janice Ladendorf

**Lucky's Story:  
A Spanish Mustang**

by Jane Greenwood

By Jane Greenwood of Zen Cowboys Spanish Mustangs

The very first purebred Spanish mustang born in our remuda named himself. It's a long and cold story, but one that shows the determination of this rare breed to survive against all odds...

It was the coldest February day that Minnesota had



seen that year, 1996. Wind chill temperatures were down around minus 50 and it was snowing to beat the band as I left for work. I had called my boss and asked if they needed me to come into work and they assured me they did. So I bundled up and headed out into the storm for the 20-mile drive. As I drove, I thought back to a conversation I'd had with my husband, Wes, earlier that week. Our big black mare, Coal Ghost, looked like she was bagging up. But that was impossible! We hadn't put her in with our young stallion, Tobu Chi, until the previous May, so no baby was due until April.

The car radio warned people to stay inside, exposure to the weather was sure to cause frost bite within minutes. I thought about Wes coming home from a long day at work and having to do chores in this weather. At least I'd be working inside

a nice cozy restaurant. It took me well over an hour to drive to work. I wondered why I'd bothered when I got inside. The busy casino was practically empty; apparently even die-hard Minnesotans were heading the weather reports and staying home.

# LUCKY'S STORY

Where could he have put them? We had an old chicken coop we'd converted into a shed for the two weanling Spanish Mustangs we'd bought from North Dakota in February. It was attached to a large corral, but it had a cement floor, and with all its cracks and holes it let in almost as much cold and wind as the barn did. Had the foal even survived a few minutes in this weather?

"Hello?" Wes said, his voice calm.

"Is the baby still alive?" I asked, "it must be premature." Premature foals rarely survive even under the best conditions.

About 5:30 p.m. I got a call from my 16-year-old step-daughter, Jenny: "Guess what?" she said breathlessly. "What?" "Coal had a baby!" she happily exclaimed.

My heart sank. We had an old, old barn that all the adult horses shared. The doors didn't close and one end was totally open, this had been a very bad winter and there was ice and snow everywhere. The horses were shaggy and fine, but a baby certainly wouldn't be!

"How is the baby?" I dreaded the answer, but Jenny had sounded so happy. "Just fine, Dad's out there with them now; he told me to put some towels in the dryer to help keep the baby warm. Oh, here he comes now."

While I waited for Wes to come to the phone, I was plagued by questions:

"Yep, it's a good sized colt, must weigh at least 175 pounds, so he's not premature. She had him down at the bottom of the pasture hill near the edge of the woods, and I had to carry him up that hill. When I headed out to feed and saw Coal wasn't with the rest of the herd I remembered what you'd said about her bagging up and started to worry. Then I saw Toby with a smear of blood across him and knew I'd better find that mare and fast! I had to chop the gate open and I have them in the old chicken coop. I'm trying to get the colt dried off as he's still really wet, so I'd best go."

I threw down the phone and told my boss I was leaving. I knew I had to try and find some straw or hay for the concrete floor of the shed.

We were feeding the horses round bales and so had nothing there we could use. I called a few people before I found an acquaintance who said she had some old hay she would give me. None of the people I'd called could believe our mare had foaled on February 3rd! And no one could believe a foal born outside in this blizzard was still alive! Me either.

As I drove home after stopping to pick up the hay, I listened to the excited radio



announcer telling everyone to stay inside, this was the worst February blizzard ever, temps were expected to go down even further during the night, and driving was dangerous. I feared I would find the worst when I got home.

Jenny was sitting in the living room watching TV when I burst into the house. She looked up from her program. "Hi! Dad's still

out with the baby."

I hurriedly changed my clothes, putting on as many layers as I could find and ran out to the shed. There lay Wes on the floor, covered in a heavy horse blanket, his body wrapped around a little brown one. Our big mare Coal, stood a bit off to the side, looking down at them. There was little difference between the temperature in the shed and the temperature outside.

"Is it still alive?"

"Yep, and getting stronger every time he eats."

As the colt stirred, Wes pulled back the horse blanket and I could see he had the foal's legs tucked inside his coveralls and jacket. The colt was also wrapped in a little pony blanket we had, duct tape wrapped around it, holding it together. I had to laugh at that.

Wes helped the weak colt up and guided him to the mare, supporting his weight as he drank. At least he had a good appetite! We spread the hay around the shed and that made it a little warmer on the ground, then I sent Wes into the house for some hot coffee. It was going to be a long and cold night for all of us.



As I lay on the ground, my head inches from the mare's hooves, my body trying to share what little warmth it had, I thought about the colt. We were trying to preserve this special breed; he would have been the first of our breeding program. Would he die?

It was a long and cold night. Wes and I lay together with the colt, one on each side, rubbing his body to help circulation and keep us all as warm as possible. The wind chill reached minus 70 that night, and we spent most of it in a shed!

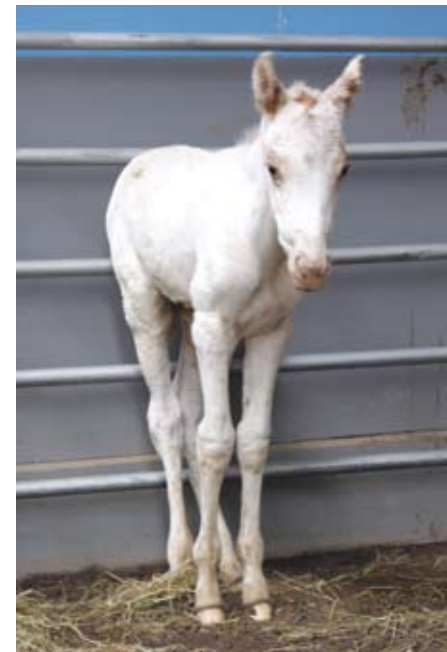
Around 4:30 a.m. it became obvious to us that he was now able to get up and nurse then lay down on his own, so we headed into the house to warm up and grab a couple hours of sleep. When we went out early the next morning, there was our mare happily eating the old hay we'd spread on the floor and her new son greedily nursing beside her.

Later that day our vet was the first to say it, "You know, I don't think any other breed would have survived, except maybe an Icelandic. He's lucky to be alive!" Every time we told anyone his story that's what they would say: "Why he's lucky to be alive!" And that's how Lucky 2B Alive SMR#2460 got his name.

# Nurse Mare Foals: An Interview with Anna Twinney

By Kari Hagstrom

Recently, "The Valley Equestrian News" spoke with internationally recognized holistic and natural horsemanship clinician, Anna Twinney, founder of Reach Out to Horses®. The nurse mare foal industry is predominantly known to be a sub-industry of the racing and performance horse industries. It is a practice in which the thoroughbred or performance mare is bred and gives birth. The foal is taken from its mother and placed with a surrogate mare who has just given birth and is lactating. The surrogate mare's foal is removed from its mother, often within 24 hours of birth, and usually left to figure out how to survive on its own, with a bucket of milk replacer in a stall, and little to no idea of how to drink from a bucket. The general attitude is one of "if they make it, they make it." Apparently no provisions are made for these foals. The sole purpose of the nurse mare industry is to continue the breeding, racing or performance availability of the thoroughbred or performance mare: immediately breed her back, or keep her racing/performing. The racing industry requires live cover of a mare; it does not allow the use of artificial insemination. It is important to point out that many breeding farms do not do this practice. Many breeders allow the foal to accompany the mare. A lot of nurse foals are rescued, but many are not. Many die of neglect. The VEN spoke



Foal Diary Day 1: Snow

with Twinney about her involvement in rescuing and working with nurse mare foals.

Anna Twinney: How it came about for me was that I was at Ray of Light Farms in

is expected from the foal at birth, at weaning, etc. You really encompass the whole thing on this course.

That particular year, I think we had about eight PMU foals come in from a joint rescue, we teamed up with Ray of Light and Equine Angels. I had been asked through social media whether or not I could find some foals homes, I found myself on the telephone, saying, "Rescue the foals; we'll figure it out."

It's one of those things where you hear yourself saying that, and immediately ask yourself: "Now what have I done now? How is this all going to come together?" Although I had never met the lady before, the next thing I knew they had been rescued and were attending the foal gentling clinic. "What I can do, is put the basic training on them, get some exposure for them, show them in

East Haddam, Conn., and I'd been involved with the PMU [pregnant mare urine, used in the estrogen replacement product, Premarin®] industry for maybe a decade at that point, and what I'd developed, was not just the "Success: Foals in Training™" DVD, but I'd developed the course. As part of the trainers' course, I ask my trainers to participate in gentling foals. I think it's really a unique course, because not many individuals will hand over their foals for training, so here's an opportunity for novices in the field of foal gentling and foal handling to have that opportunity to put the first touch on the foals and begin to train them. And the course also involves the early learning of what is imprint training, how much handling should we be doing, and what is considered to be over-handling. What

Their names were Sunday and Macey. And the story goes like this: My client went to visit the nurse foal farm, and she found Sunday. Sunday was in a little weaning stall, tiny baby, and she had a bucket in front of her to drink from. She was on her own. And when asked how the foal will do, or how well she knows to nurse, the answer was, "she'll either figure it out, or she dies." It was a Sunday, this is how Sunday found herself a new home.

It was the first introduction to me, as a clinician, after all these years, of the nurse foal industry. I'd never heard of it. And so, I cannot blame anybody else having not heard about these industries when they're not involved with horses, or if they are amateurs, not



Foal Diary Day 1: Snow and handler.

many years, and unless you are seeking it out actively, it may be that it never crosses your path as a horsewoman. It crossed my path in 2012.



Foal Diary Day 1: Getting acquainted.

front of the audience, and then at the end of the six days' training we will have an open day for people to come and learn about the foals and see how far they've come; an adoption day."

professionals in the field. Unless you're doing this all the time, or in the rescue industry, they don't just simply cross your path. And these industries go under cover, or are hidden for so

And it shocked me to hear about the industry.

How it appears to me, this industry's been around since 1970, at least, that we know of. Predominantly you

find nurse foal farms near race tracks. So that would mean in Florida, New York, Connecticut, California, Kentucky, you'll find the nurse foal farms. And the nurse foal industry is such that the performance horse mares, be that through the eventers or jumpers, dressage, or race horse mares, go into foal, and they may

carry the foal. Now, as we know, the thoroughbred industry, do not approve of AI [artificial insemination], it has to be live cover. Breeding mares carry their foals throughout the full gestation period, and when they give birth, they either go back to be served again, and some locations don't want the foal at foot, while others will want that mare to go back into performance right away. They wean the baby, and I've heard that it happens at about 24 hours, within 24, 48 hours. That baby goes to another mare, she's called the nurse mare, and this mare could be anybody. Generally speaking, a warmblood of some kind, Appaloosas, warmbloods, etc. And these mares will of course have given birth to a baby. Well, sadly, this baby is classed as a by-product of the nurse foal industry. They are weaned from their mother there and then, so that she lactates for the new foal. She doesn't take the two, she just takes the new foal; she becomes the surrogate mare. That foal is

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**About the Cover**

We at the VEN love Walter Piehl, North Dakota's cowboy artist! His work, gracing our cover this month, is "Flag Time Cowboy Joe." The vibrant colors and energy are typical of the traits Piehl brings to his work.

See more of his work exhibited at the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center February 7 through March in Pueblo, Colorado.

REPRESENTING  
*the West*  
February 7 - March 15, 2015  
White Gallery



This exhibition showcases over 100 pieces of original artwork answering the question of what the American West means to each artist. Juried by Walter Piehl, Jr., a Western artist known for his vibrant, expressionistic paintings capturing the energy for rodeo, especially of the horse and rider.

**Sangre de Cristo Arts Center**  
210 N. Santa Fe Ave.  
Pueblo, CO 81003  
719.295.7200  
sdc-arts.org



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*Foal Diary Day 5: Snow, and friends being led in the arena. Anna Twinney article begins on page 3.*



**New Anna Twinney DVD "Whispers from the Wild Ones: Mustangs as Our Master Teachers™," Offered Free to Equine Rescues and Service Organizations**

Join international equine behaviorist and natural horsemanship clinician, Anna Twinney, founder of Reach Out to Horses™, (ROTH), in the wilds of Wyoming to discover what the American Mustang can teach you about true, trust-based horsemanship. The new 2-DVD set, "Whispers from the Wild Ones: Mustangs as Our Master Teachers. Trust-Based Training for the Untouched, Rehabilitated, Spooky, Sensitive and Traumatized Horse" is now available at [www.reachouttohorses.com](http://www.reachouttohorses.com).

- "My mustang is untrainable. So I've just left her alone in the pasture."
- "I tried training my mustang but he became extremely aggressive."
- "I can't help my mustang if she colics or has a physical issue because she won't let me halter her, pick up her feet, etc."

Having a horse that you can not touch or help, should they get into trouble, is dangerous for both horse and human.

This crosses over to domestic horses as well. What many don't realize is that the methods for the mustangs can be highly effective with your horse at home as well. Untouched, traumatized, rehabilitated, very sensitive and fractious horses can all be helped by the secrets the mustangs have to share.

Incorporating her decades of experience in equine behavior, herd dynamics, body language, and interspecies communication, Anna Twinney will be your guide to the world of the wild horse, as she shows you how to take the lessons from the wild and untouched ones and apply them to your horses.

Wild horses are not domestic horses in the wild. Like wolves and dogs, mustangs are very different from the horses in our barns and pastures at home. To truly be successful, trainers and guardians alike must find a new way of training that understands this crucial difference, and works with the mind and heart of the wild horse.

It is especially important if you have adopted a mustang and found yourself struggling with common mustang issues. Have you found yourself saying:  
• "I can feed my mustang but I can't touch him."

the very same techniques taught on the exclusive Reaching Out to the Untouched Horse Clinic.

In this 2-DVD program you will discover how to:  
• Gentle any horse calmly, safely, and without stress.  
• Discover the value of



visualization, energetic connection and body language.  
• Use trust-based training without the use of roping, choking or using chutes.  
• Build permanent trust and respect between horse and human  
• Recognize, capture and

work with the whisper of the horse.  
• Speak the subtleties of the language of the horse.  
• Encourage horses in the pasture to come to them (no more chasing or catching).

- Read their horse's character, personality, history, and learning styles and match the training program.
- Differentiate between "flooding" and desensitizing.
- Use appropriate feel, timing, and pressure/release.
- Acknowledge the "try" to encourage and motivate their horses.
- Use new tools and aids like the Horseman's Rope and the Equestrian Education Rope for life-long lessons.
- Introduce their horses to the halter, leading, bathing and other skills.
- Eliminate biting.
- Use water for training.
- Fill holes in their horse's training.
- And much more...

Entering the world of the mustang will help you to truly understand your

horse and to gain the partnership you've always dreamed of creating.

**Help us spread the word around the globe and save our mustangs.**

For many of us, the plight of the American Wild Horse is well known and close to our hearts. But most people, even those in the equine industry, do not know the seemingly insurmountable odds they are up against. These majestic beings face removal from their homes, round-ups into cruel and soul-crushing capture, and some say, their eventual extinction, unless we do something to stop it.

There are over 50,000 wild horses and burros currently in BLM holding pens waiting for their fates to be revealed. Mustang lovers have tried to adopt some of these horses and rescue them from these horrible conditions. Unfortunately, for many of these horses, their rescue turned into a worse ordeal and even death. Why? To put it bluntly, mustangs are not domestic horses, and when trained and treated as such, they can be dangerous, often resulting in the injury of horse and human.

"The American Mustang has held a dear place in my heart since the days I began working with them at Flag Is Up Farms, and I have made it my life's mission to help them wherever and whenever I can," says Twinney.

"My goal has been two-fold. First, to share the plight of

the mustang with the world and, second, to educate people in the way of the mustang - to show them how to work, train and care for the wild horse.

"Being a voice for these horses has allowed me to raise thousands of dollars and save hundreds of horses over the years. Thankfully I am not the only voice. Many great people have made it their life's mission to save the mustangs as well, and I am grateful for their tireless and selfless efforts.

"Because of that, I've decided to give "Whispers from the Wild Ones" to as many like-minded organizations as I can. I truly believe that the information in this 2-dvd set could be invaluable to them and their missions. We have partnered with many organizations over the years, but we can't possibly work with all of them. And this is where you can make a difference!"

Do you have a favorite organization that you think would enjoy and benefit from this information?

Tell Reach Out to Horses (ROTH) who they are and for a \$10 donation they will send them a copy of the DVD set FREE! Your \$10 will cover the shipping and handling and allow ROTH to focus its resources on getting the DVD to them. It is possible to donate 1, 5 or 10 DVD's to the organizations that inspire you. Go to <http://www.reachouttohorses.com/bethevoice.html> to donate or for more information.

"We are excited to share this groundbreaking work and I want to personally thank you for helping us with our mission. Together we can be the voice for the voiceless and give the Wild Horses of the American West a second chance at life on the lands they were promised," says Twinney.



**ZEN COWBOYS SPANISH MUSTANGS**  
**Registered Mares and Geldings for sale**  
**Lonsdale MN call 507-744-2704 for info.**

# Rescued Treasures: New Life Begins When You Adopt-A-Horse

Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary  
520-398-2814 - Green Valley, AZ  
or [info@equinevoices.org](mailto:info@equinevoices.org)

Helen is a striking, sorrel, 15 year-old, draft/cross, former PMU mare. She is a big, strong lady but very sweet and gentle. She halters, leads, loads, and picks up her feet. Helen will need an experienced horse person and further training with lots of love. Helen's adoption fee is: \$1,200



Contact: Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary, 520-398-2814 or [info@equinevoices.org](mailto:info@equinevoices.org)  
Meet: By Appointment

Minnesota Hooved Animal Rescue  
PO Box 47, Zimmerman, MN 55398  
(763) 856-3119  
[info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](mailto:info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org)

Christa is a 2004 solid sorrel paint cross mare. She's a quiet girl, and rather easy to handle, but does not enjoy a lot of affection (such as hugs) so may not be a suitable horse for smaller children. Christa was the 2009 MHARF Trainer's Challenge Champion and is trained to ride and drive.

She has some show experience and has been used

as a lesson horse for beginner and intermediate level riders, but has not yet found her "forever home". If you are interested in adopting Christa please email us at [info@minnesotahoovedanimalrescue.org](mailto:info@minnesotahoovedanimalrescue.org) or call (763)856-3119. Visit us at [www.mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](http://www.mnhoovedanimalrescue.org) for our complete adoption guidelines and a list of available horses.



Christa

## STALLION VENTURE WITHSTANDS TAX COURT SCRUTINY

By John Alan Cohan, Attorney at Law

Sometimes the Tax Court can yield a surprising decision.

Tax Court judges are appointed the same way as all federal judges, by the president, and approved by the Senate. The judges all have significant experience in tax law, but their reputations vary in terms of how sympathetic they are to arguments given on behalf of taxpayers.

In this case, the judge was sympathetic to a taxpayer who conducted a horse activity with no profits, but whose testimony was honest and sincere as to her efforts to make a profit despite the difficulties.

This case, Coldiron v. Commissioner [Docket No. 5180-

125] involved Linda Coldiron, who worked part-time as a successful consultant. Losses were about \$562,000 over an eight-year period, and income was negligible.

The petitioner started with a young stallion with excellent bloodlines that petitioner thought she could promote at shows, and then breed. Petitioner researched the profit-making potential of various horse breeds, and decided to purchase an Andalusian stallion with an impressive pedigree, for \$12,500. The horse was insured for \$25,000.

She purchased a property in need of improvements, intending to use it in the horse activity, and constructed a residence, doing much of the work herself to avoid costs.

There was no formal business plan, but petitioner calculated costs and expenses, and anticipated that the property would increase in value. She registered her business name, maintained a separate bank account, and had business cards and letterhead stationery.

She hired a professional trainer, and the stallion won championships. An injury laid up the horse, and meanwhile petitioner developed promotional materials for use in marketing, including a website. The horse was chosen to represent the Andalusian breed in a national advertising campaign. Petitioner entered the horse into more shows, winning several titles.

The court concluded that Ms. Coldiron intended to

make a profit, and allowed deduction of the tax losses. The court said: "It appears from the record that the efforts to promote Marciano as a top Andalusian stallion were successful in that his credentials were consistent with other top Andalusian stallions with demonstrated and successful stud careers."

The court noted that petitioner applied her prior marketing experience in developing the income-producing capabilities of the stallion, she changed her operating methods to improve chances of making a profit, and she maintained complete and accurate books and records, including a summary for each year showing expenses broken down by categories.

This case shows that even if a horse activity focuses on one principal horse, the expenses may be justified from a tax standpoint so long as there is convincing evidence reflecting the taxpayer's intentions.

Many judges will require more documentary evidence than shown in this case. Lacking a formal business plan, Ms. Coldiron was able to overcome this obstacle by her own witness dynamics. Apparently, the taxpayer was well-prepared, and her testimony was convincing. Another element was that petitioner's stallion in fact achieved recognition, and this was evidence that the petitioner could eventually make a profit in stud service and marketing of foals.

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](mailto:johnalancohan@aol.com). His website is [JohnAlanCohan.com](http://JohnAlanCohan.com).



# Charles Wilhelm: Ultimate Foundation Training

## Getting a Horse to Accept a Farrier

It is relatively common for a young horse to dislike having his feet or legs worked on. Horses are prey animals. It takes a lot of trust for a horse to allow a foot to be picked up as this prevents the horse from running away. Your horse may be used to you and be relaxed when you pick up a foot to clean it but you do represent the pressure around the feet and legs that a farrier will. It is common, particularly for a young horse, to dislike being shod but if the horse hasn't learned to accept pressure of any kind, he is going to react with fight or flight. Also, farriers with their chaps, tool boxes and other equipment may be frightening for a young horse.

Situations like a horse fighting a farrier are why I do a lot of basic foundation training. All horses need this type of training. Horses must learn to pick up their feet on cue. They also must

learn to accept pressure around the feet. In training, we put more pressure on a horse around the feet and legs than an owner. An owner will usually be gentle, maybe too gentle. We want to push buttons. We want the horse to react and then we work with the horse to get it used to the pressure. We do this to prevent someone coming along and touching the horse or trying to pick up a foot and getting kicked.

As we progress in the training of a horse, we add more pressure around the legs and feet. We pick up the

horse that is accustomed to pressure around the legs will likely do nothing. An untrained horse may rear, kick, or jump and injure the child.



horse that is accustomed to pressure around the legs will likely do nothing. An untrained horse may rear, kick, or jump and injure the child.

tional learning comes from this base. Working with the emotions of a horse is one of the more difficult areas and one that takes knowledge of how to do it and patience in doing it.

A farrier may put a stud chain on a horse to gain control. If this is the first time in the horse's experience, the horse will go into fight and flight mode. Things can get ugly very quickly. Flight instinct causes horses to go through fences, over cliffs, run out in front of cars and run over their owners. Horses don't have the concept of preservation except to flee or fight. This is why we must gradually build up a tolerance of pressure.

We begin by tapping, not hitting, with a dressage stick. Once the horse is comfortable with that we pick up the legs. We sack out the horse with a plastic bag and later a tarp. We put a soft cotton rope around the legs so that if they ever get tangled up in something they won't panic and hurt themselves. By the time a horse is ready to see a farrier the horse is totally calm being handled and touched around the feet and legs.

Here at the barn we see 35 to 40 horses a month and they all go through this type of training. We just had a horse come in that supposedly had to be drugged because he would not let a farrier get near him. I worked with the horse for a couple of twenty minute periods within an hour and then the farrier was able to put shoes on him without him exploding and being concerned. When I started, the horse's emotional level was very high and he was ready to go into flight mode. I worked through that and once he was quiet I began to work around his legs to

accept pressure. When the farrier came up to him it was no big deal.

Most of the problems with a horse, no matter what they are, are caused by a lack of basic foundation training. The solution is to start teaching the horse in baby steps.

You may be so excited to ride the horse that you don't want to take the time or you forget the importance of the basic ground work. Every horse needs good ground manners. They also need to accept the pressure of being around strangers, farriers, and vets. Your horse needs to accept having his legs and feet touched. You should be able to touch your horse all over. This may take time and you should begin slowly with small steps, building up as the horse becomes more accepting. You may need to find a trainer to work with the horse to build up tolerance in steps.

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.

**A CENTER FOR THE ARTS PRESENTS**

## AMERICAN MUSTANG

Documentary, 2013, Family Friendly, 72 minutes

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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".

Charles' warm and relaxed demeanor has made him a favorite at regional and national clinics and demonstrations. His training center in Castro Valley, California is among the top equine educational facilities in Northern California. Charles offers extensive hands-on learning programs for every level of horsemanship.

*Charles Wilhelm*  
"IT'S NEVER, EVER THE HORSE'S FAULT"

Ultimate Super Horse Challenge™

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I think of a horse in terms of a pyramid. The base has four corners. Each corner represents an aspect of the horse: mental, physical, emotional and nutritional. A horse needs to be mentally engaged, to learn to respond to physical cues, to be calm and to have proper nutrition. All addi-

# THE INVISIBLE VAQUEROS: PART 4 - VAQUEROS AT WORK

By Janice Ladendorf

**W**ho created the first western saddles and started roping with spinning lariats?

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 that begins with the domestication of cattle in Europe.

Three distinctive life styles evolved there - the farming style, the nomadic style, and the ranch style. The colonists in New England used the farming style. They generally handled and drove their docile cattle on foot. They also created a new breed of cattle, the American Milking Devon. The

Carolina crackers used the ranch style. They took their Chickasaw horses and cattle dogs with them to the open ranges in Texas. These dogs drove cattle by nipping at their heels, and could hold them motionless with a bull-dog grip on their noses.

The ranching style began in Spain and the Conquistadors brought it with them to the New World. Soon they began using their form of rancher-organization ("mesta") and the hacienda style of ranching. Their peons were held in debt bondage. Since the vaqueros rode horses, they regarded themselves as superior peons. They developed chaps to protect themselves from thorny trees and plants. At their fiestas, they introduced competitive events, some of which are still used in modern rodeo. To do their job, they needed suitable horses, new types of saddles, and new ways to catch and throw cattle from horseback.

### Vaquero Horses

By 2000 B.C., the Spanish had bred what is known today as the Andalusian

horse. This famous breed was probably created by crossing oriental blood with the native Sorraias. When the Romans conquered Spain, they established many breeding farms there to serve their need for cavalry horses. Later, war raged between Spain and the invading Moors for almost 800 years. To defeat the Moors on their fast, handy African Barbs, the Spanish had to use similar fighting techniques and horses. To maximize speed and agility, they could not wear the heavy armor worn by the medieval knights in England, France, and Germany.

Both the Andalusians and the Barbs are Spanish breeds and similar in type. Like the Barbs, the Andalusians had always been used for war and hunting, tasks which required great courage, speed, and agility. Because the Andalusians lived in a cooler climate, they were somewhat taller and heavier than the Barbs. During the Reconquest, the Spanish probably captured some Barbs from the Moors. Given the way they felt about the Moors, they may

have used these Barbs, but not necessarily bred them to their Andalusian horses. During the Reconquest, the sport of "rejoneo" (bullfighting on horseback) was used to train both horse and rider for battle. During this long war, cattle ranching also began in areas where agriculture had been devastated by the never ending raids and battles.

After all of the Moors had been driven out of Iberia, the Spanish had to find an outlet for all their unemployed soldiers and they found one in the New World. When Columbus discovered no horses there, exports to the Caribbean began immediately. The small, tough Sorraias had a better chance of surviving the arduous ocean journey than did the larger Andalusians. Beginning with the Cortez expedition, they began shipping horses from the Islands to New Spain (Mexico).

Back in Spain, the nobility had always ridden highly bred, beautiful Andalusians. For centuries, they gave or sold their horses in all the European courts. What the lower classes, including the vaqueros, had always ridden was the smaller Sorraias. In Mexico, the Spanish owners and ranch managers naturally preferred to ride highly trained Andalusians. When the vaqueros could own their own horses, all they could afford was the smaller Sorraias, who did have great endurance. What they needed were tough, hardy, handy horses with cow sense. When the hacienda system took over, the vaqueros benefited from the breeding programs established by the

owners or "hacendados." What emerged from these programs was the type of horse shown in the photograph below. The Chickasaw horse, who came later to Texas, came from similar Spanish bloodlines.

light armor, he used this saddle and rode with long stirrups. It was designed for the "al la bride" style of riding. The second type of saddle was designed for the "jineta" style of riding with shorter stirrups and a bent



Vaquero riding "jineta" style with shorter stirrups and a bent knee. Illustration by Jo Mora.

### Vaquero Saddles

In evaluating saddles, there are three critical factors. They must be comfortable for the horse to wear and never bruise or rub sores on his back. They must keep the rider safe, secure, and in balance with the horse. Finally, they must be designed to work efficiently for whatever type of the job the horse is asked to do. At the time of the Conquest, the Spanish used two types of saddles. Both were carefully fitted to insure the horse's comfort and keep the rider in balance with his horse. One was the Spanish war saddle ("silla de mantura"). It was heavy and cumbersome, but held the rider securely between the pommel and cantle. When the rider wore partial or

knee. As compared to the war saddle, it had a lower fork and cantle, but did not yet have a horn. It was not as secure as the war saddle, but gave the rider more flexibility. Since the vaqueros often had to ride fast over rugged terrain, they needed flexibility so they used the "jineta" saddle. The war saddle was designed to keep the rider secure when he used long lance to kill his enemies. The "jineta" saddle was designed to let a rider use a shorter lance to kill animals and men. The gauchos of Argentina fought in every revolution and they specialized in using their lances in battle. During the drought

Continued on next page



Tough, hardy, handy horses with cow sense emerged from the breeding programs on the haciendas

# THE INVISIBLE VAQUEROS: PART 4 - VAQUEROS AT WORK

Continued from page 8



A charro standing on his horse, twirling his lariat (left). Charros riding in a parade. All are wearing traditional woven sombreros with wide brims.

years, the California vaqueros used lances to kill wild horses, as is shown in the drawing below by Jo Mora.

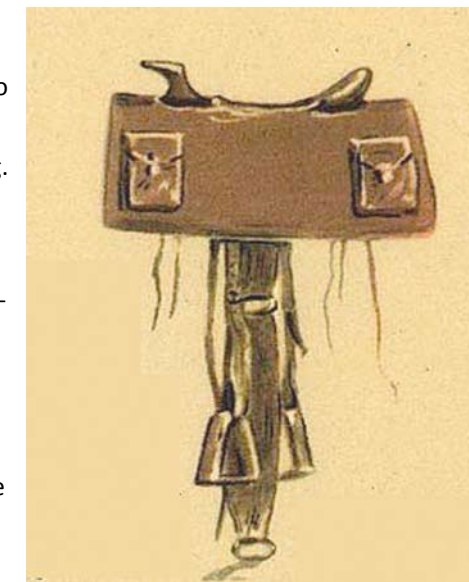
According to Frank Dean, the vaquero saddles ("silla de vaqueros") had been created by 1750. They were the "jineta" saddle with a horn for dally roping. At first, these saddles had a narrow horn. Later, they changed to a larger, platter shaped horn. Initially, they used the Spanish rigging that fit underneath the horn. Later, they used a center fire rig where the single girth is in the middle of the saddle, but attached to both the pommel and the cantle. A vaquero saddle is similar to the modern A-fork or slick fork saddle and is still used by those who still practice vaquero horsemanship. In Mexico, they are now called charro saddles and widely used in cowboy (charro) competitions.

"Hacendados" expected their vaqueros to provide their own equipment. They used available materials to make their own saddles and tailored them to suit their personal horses and preferences. Their saddle trees and stirrups were made out of wood. Since they had goats, their girths could be woven out of mohair



by their wives. Otherwise, they used rawhide. Rawhide is cured, but not tanned. Cured hides are stiff and must be softened to exactly the right degree before they can be used. The saddle was first covered with softened rawhide; then the covering was damped so it would tighten as it dried. The vaqueros also used rawhide to make their bridles, saddle accessories, and leather clothing.

Like the McClellan saddle, the vaquero saddles were not particularly comfortable for the riders. The vaqueros used "mochillas" to resolve this problem. They were rawhide covers cut to fit over the whole saddle. For parades, a vaquero could also throw a fancy "curaza" over the "mochilla." For long rides, he could add a "corona" with pouches. He could also attach an "anquera" or flanker to the back of his



An example of the type of "mochilla" used by the Pony Express, combining features of the "mochilla," the "corona," and the "anquera."



The Mother Hubbard saddle is a vaquero saddle with the "mochilla" permanently attached to the saddle. This one is shown covered in tanned leather.

"mochilla" they used is shown below. It combined features from the "mochilla," the "corona," and "anquera."

When the Americans started moving into Texas, they learned from the vaqueros, used vaquero equipment, and called themselves vaqueros. The word, cowboy, did not come into use until 1870. The

first true Western saddle appeared in 1850.

As soon as saddlers began using tanned leather, vaquero and Western saddles started looking more like

our modern saddles and could have patterns carved into the leather. To dress them up, silver could also be used. Today handmade vaquero or charro show saddles are extremely expensive. Since modern vaqueros no longer make their own gear, their skill of working with rawhide has almost been lost. Working vaqueros now buy the same equipment as do cowboys and wear similar clothes.

### Vaquero Roping

When the Spanish brought their horses and cattle to Mexico, they encountered both familiar and unfamiliar environment conditions. They started haciendas in areas where there was little or no wood available to build corrals or pens. In these areas, they had to apply what they had learned in Spain to roundup their cattle without any enclosures. They also started haciendas in areas where thorny trees and plants thrived. Weaving through these areas to catch or drive cattle challenged the vaqueros and led to the development of new tools.

As settlements moved north, every day the cattle had to travel farther to find enough grazing. The ones who survived had endurance and a rangy build. Some of their ancestors had been bred for bullfighting and there are many documented incidents of these cattle attacking humans on foot. In Spain, predators

had always been hunted for sport and to protect domestic animals. In the New World, the natives had no reason to hunt similar species. Instead of being protected by men, range cattle had to learn to defend themselves against predators, such as wolves, mountain lions, grizzly bears, and poisonous snakes. The ones who survived became fast, agile, and increasingly aggressive.

Vaqueros in Spain had used an iron-tipped lance ("la garrocha") to herd cattle. These lances functioned as cattle prods. A skilled vaquero could also use one to knock a bull, steer, or cow right off his or her feet. They are awkward to carry and difficult to use in brush country. Learning to handle them effectively also takes a considerable amount of time. In New Spain, the vaqueros had to find a better alternative. Today "la garrocha" is still used on Spanish ranches, in the sport of Doma Vaquera, and to control fighting bulls in the Mexican arenas.



An example of a hocking knife used by vaqueros.

As cattle proliferated, they became valuable mostly for their hides and tallow. New Spain shipped thousands of hides annually to Spain. Vaqueros soon began using a hocking knife ("desjarretadera" or "media luna") to kill cattle. It consisted of a half-moon shaped blade,

Continued on page 12

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## Anna Twinney on Nurse Mare Foals

Continued from page 3

then either put out, I guess, to pasture, or in a stall to fend for themselves.

As a horseperson, we tend to know that these foals don't adapt well to artificial nursing. They start to look for places to nurse; they start to look for the udder of the mare. And so when the water or the milk just stays in the bucket, many of them struggle to know the milk from the bucket is drinkable. And that's the thing, either they make it or they don't make it. You find orphan foals because they've been pulled from the mare at 24 hours, 48 hours, could be a week old, depending on when that mare's needed.

Now, sadly in the industry, these foals are also known as "ponyskins." And "ponyskins" is the reference made to when they go to the feedlot, and truly their skins are used for leather in and around the world. You have to look very carefully at the labels as to who supports that industry and who doesn't.

So these two beautiful foals survived, they found themselves on the clinic. And Sunday was a peach, absolute peach. Really beautiful to gentle, and she had

multiple people handling her. Macey had learned to have a bit of an inappropriate behavior. On the second day she went to double barrel (kick) the student, and we had to literally get her [the student] to jump out of the pen. [Macey] had learned to move a human's

*"Now, sadly in the industry, these foals are also known as 'ponyskins.' And 'ponyskins' is the reference made to when they go to the feedlot, and truly their skins are used for leather in and around the world."*

feet. She had been adopted, as far as I know, or she had gotten a home, but the person wasn't quite clear on how to handle foals. And if we allow the whisper; there may be a look, a glance, ears pinning, a butt turning, all it takes is one, two, three times for a foal to do

that and they quickly learn that they can maneuver a person out of that area, that they own it. And if they've got a nice big ego it will get inflated and they can become quite unhandlable. A similar situation occurred when we went to lead. She was so smart, she would [position] the person [back far enough] during leading, that she could put a cow kick in, or run forward and kick them or [put the person] forward enough that she could bite them. So she had learned how to move people when she was free, and also how to manipulate them when they were on the lead rope, so to speak. So we really had to instill some guidelines and ground rules for her.

This awakened something in me, that I said, "I want to be part of this." This is happening right here in our backyards. These were barns in New York and Connecticut, in the backyard, and we needed to kind of expose the industry.

Now, there's many rescues that hone in purely on nurse foals, they have been highlighted, and it's wonderful; they will save the foals. We went all out and

Continued on next page



Foal Diary Day 2: Group interaction.

## Anna Twinney on Nurse Mare Foals

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we saved mares and foals. We saved mares with foals at foot, we saved foals that had been orphaned, and we saved mares that had yet to give birth. Well over 18 were saved; and the idea here was that if we could remove the mares, we could either slow down or begin to shut down that particular location. That was the idea. We thought, and were told, they would most likely give

to be, generally speaking, kind, gentle, and have all of their needs met. When we look at the PMU industry, the foals have been with the mares approximately two to four months, depending on when they were born, they've been out in a herd, out in a beautiful pasture, and weaned abruptly. But generally speaking they've had time with their mothers, they've had mother's

for orphan foal syndrome--a phrase I coined.

When they came in, this group of rescues was more sick or sicker than I'd seen in a long, long time. I had not seen something quite like that. There were behavior patterns that we hadn't witnessed, either. And it brings tears to your eyes when you see foals sucking on the bucket, or having



Foal Diary Day 2: Snow and Lacy.

birth in January—I created the clinic around that. They did not. We had to postpone the clinic; we moved it to an April date, and even then not all of the mares had given birth. But we had a good group of mares, foals at foot, and foals, and it was extraordinary to have them.

Now bear in mind, I've been gentling foals for around 15 years-- and all foals are different. We like the saying, "A horse, is a horse, is a horse," but at the same time, we are dealing with an athlete, versus a mustang—very different. When you're dealing with a foal versus a geriatric—quite different. And so the foals also are quite different. If we have a domesticated foal born in a life of luxury, they're going

milk, they have a good body score, maybe some lice, some trauma for sure, and different behavior patterns, but either way they've been with the mare for a number of months.

We found that not to be the case in the nurse foal industry. It was a matter of hours or days that they had the mare with them, so they were deprived of colostrum, deprived of the nutrients in the mother's milk, deprived of the nurturing, and even learning the language of "Equus"; deprived of it all. And if we're looking at orphaned foals, as we did in the last issue ["Valley Equestrian News," January 2014], these would be primary candidates

sucked on each other's ears, even on each other's sheaths, because they were looking for something to suck on. It can be seen as cute; to me it was heartbreaking. Heartbreaking to witness the suckling on ears and so on, and looking for that nurturing, and looking for that comfort, and that natural mechanic of the milk coming through that way. It wasn't lovely to see; it was heartbreaking. We would get some foals

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*"It can be seen as cute; to me it was heartbreaking."*

Anna Twinney

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# THE INVISIBLE VAQUEROS: PART 3 - RANCHING WITH VAQUEROS IN SPAIN AND MEXICO

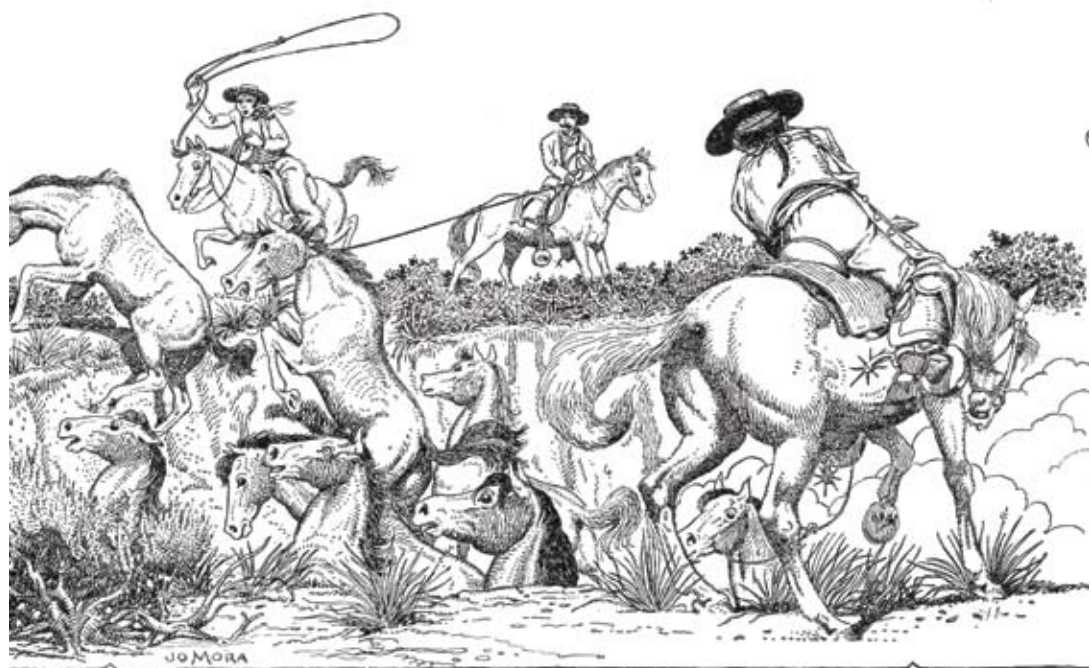
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sharpened on the inner curve, and attached to a stout pole from ten to twelve feet long.

From horseback, the vaque-ro used his hocking knife to cut the animal's hamstring. Once the tendon had been cut, the helpless animal fell to the ground and could be paralyzed by striking it with the pole behind the head. While the rider continued to cut more animals, others killed the cattle, skinned them, and removed the tallow. All too often, the meat would be left to rot. When this efficient method of killing began to decimate the herds, the "mesta" outlawed it, but it continued on the northern borders for years.

When the vaqueros could no longer use hocking knives, they tried adding a rope loop at the end of the similar type of pole. This technique had been used for centuries by the Mongols and Tartars. To be effective, the rider had to put his horse in a strategic position so the person or animal to be caught would be thrown off balance. It worked particularly well against mounted knights in armor. Like "la garrocha," this technique worked best in open country.

From the beginning of domestication, ropes had been used to trap and control cattle, but only from the ground. This technique worked best when the animal had already been herded into an enclosure, as the Carolina crackers did. It was probably used in Spain and taught to the vaqueros. When they tried roping from horseback, they encountered one major problem. Once they had the loop over the animal's head or horns, they had no way to anchor the rope to their horse. They tried hooking it to the cinch rings of their saddle and to the horse's



Jo Mora drawing shows California vaqueros roping wild horses.

tail or neck, but none of these techniques worked particularly well. The Argentine gauchos ran into the same problem and invented the "boleadors" to solve it.

What the vaqueros had to create was not one, but two inventions. First, they needed something to act as a mobile snubbing post and someone had a brilliant idea. He added a horn to his saddle. The rigging of the saddle needed some strengthening, but this technique did work well. Their other invention was the lasso or lariat. It could be spun and tossed to efficiently catch an animal from on foot or horseback. The vaqueros made their own lariats out of strips of twisted rawhide or fibers from the agave cactus. To give a lariat enough stiffness to hold a loop, they had to wind the fibers around a core to give it enough stiffness to hold a loop. They called the ones they made out of rawhide, "la reata." The standard length for a lariat was 30 to 60 feet. Thirty feet worked best in brush country. In the open country of California, the vaqueros used longer lariats

from 65 to 110 feet.

Lasso can be used as a noun or a verb. The verb came from the Spanish word, "lazo," and the noun from an Americanization of "la reata." Initially it meant the ropes used by the vaqueros before they invented a rope with a core. Lariat initially meant the ordinary ropes used to picket horses. Today both words mean the special ropes used by charros, vaqueros, and cowboys to catch animals. According to David Dary, lasso is typically used in California and lariat in the Southwest. The charros and vaqueros spent many years inventing and testing a variety of specialized loops, spins, and throws. The houlihan throw was what worked the best with horses. They enjoyed using their skills to catch any animal who moved, including coyotes, wolves, bears, prairie dogs, and eagles. Their techniques made quite an impression on the Americans who came to Texas and let vaqueros teach them their skills.

After the Civil War, the Texans introduced double rigging so they could actually

bulls attacking humans on foot. The vaquero saddle evolved from the Spanish war and "jineta" saddles. When the vaqueros added a horn, they could use their horses as mobile snubbing posts. These were the first Western saddles. The vaqueros also invented lariats and they could spin them until the right time came to flip them over the horns or feet of the animal they wanted to catch. The modern art of charro roping is based on the loops, spins and throws they developed.

**To Be Continued:**

In part 5, vaquero horsemanship will be discussed.

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**Acknowledgements:**

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The photographs of charros and the "mochilla" are courtesy of Wikipedia.

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tie the lariat to the saddle horn. What worked the best for the vaqueros on the King Ranch was dally roping in the brush and tying fast on the open range. By the end of the 19th century, horses had gotten bigger and cattle smaller. The most temperamental and obstinate bulls had also been eliminated. These changes meant roping did not need to be as sophisticated, but the special loops, spins, and throws developed by the vaqueros are living on in charro competitions.

**Conclusion:**

When the Spanish came to the New World, they brought their horses with them. Survival and their breeding programs produced an agile, fast, and courageous horse who could face, herd, and rope fierce cattle who towered over him. Many documented instances exist of

# Nurse Foals Have Special Needs

Continued from page 11

maybe pinning ears and protecting their food, to say, "This is mine." or foals ignoring people going in, or indeed, really withdrawn, like a learned helplessness, really, really withdrawn, disconnecting.

We named the foals and two foals in particular come to mind. One was called Snow; he was tiny. He was probably the size of a boxer dog, or maybe a German shepherd, about that size, and that gives everybody a visual. He was beautiful, a cremello. And I remember this very clearly, because every time we would stroke his back, he would collapse onto the ground, and it was very evident that there was something not right. We watched him. He really wasn't able to pee, and we didn't see a penis come out in any way. Within a couple of days we had him gentled: we had the halter on, we could touch him all over, and within days we got the vet out. The vet went to explore, with just one or two fingers to see if there was a penis inside, and said she couldn't feel it, but ultimately that area around the sheath was so small and tight that the penis just could not drop. With that, we think there was a urinary infection, and so something on the back, the kidneys, etc., was so painful, he just dropped to the floor. We doctored him every day.

they had the herd dynamic, the interaction, etc. In the morning, we'd bring them in these stalls, so that we could come in and out. And what that means is, you want to make sure the lessons are short. They could vary from five minutes to 20 minutes, depending on the ability of the little foal, and the handling only as much as they can take, so it might be that we would sit in front of them, interact or just leave. It may be that we would feed from a bucket so that they could connect with us that way, and we'd provide the food.

We'd never deprive them of food and water; and I have heard that, too, that other clinicians have the belief that as the leader, you take them to food and water, in the training area. I've never done that. I've always done food and water for the foals, for the mustangs, so they have access to it, so they can eat at leisure and feel safe. And one thing that the nurse foals in particular would do, if they were a little worried, if they didn't want to interact, if they were concerned, they'd go to the bucket, and they'd put their head in the bucket. This didn't take days for them to do; this took moments for them to do, to realize: "I go and drink, and they will stand back, they will leave me alone." Now, I wanted that to be their

There was an awful lot of preparation, every few hours, preparing the milk replacer, creating the food for them. Making sure that they would be in a herd in the evening, so they could interact and have the body warmth. I remember we put several foals in stalls together, so they got the time in the arena to frolic, to play around, and then they'd go in. I think it was more than two—usually we put two PMUs together, maybe it was two or four of these little guys together, so they had the company,

"get out" clause, that any time they were uncomfortable, they needed to be able to tell us, or we needed to change what we were doing and make it better for them. They always had the water, the food; sometimes we'd sit and watch.

Within the buddy system with my students, the handlers are always in twos. One would go in with one foal, and the other would watch. And then you'd give that foal a break and you'd go in with the other foal. And that way you're not over-handling, not over-working the foal, you're giving them a mental break, you're not over-stimulating. And it also means that you can buddy-up when it comes to doctoring, sheath cleaning, to be looking at picking up feet, or blanketing for the first time, etc. Because ultimately, when these foals get adopted, they're going to be handled by one or more people. And that also prepares them for the farrier or the vet, so they're not on high alert and disconcerted by the fact that the only time two people come in it's for a pain-related issue. We will

team them up [with people] with time, but only when they're ready. And so it's really neat to see these foals come around, and be so very little. We have morning watches; we have night watches where we have to go in at

wonderful stuff. Then they were handed over to the rescue so that they could be treated with whatever they needed. And it turned out that Lacy was less than 24 hours away from dying, when Bonnie took her to the vets. She took [Lacy]

some kind of e[quine]-fever, either virus or parasites. By either way, it was something that these foals had that could have been prevented by the person breeding the nurse foals. They were put through hell and back, they were put through life-threatening circumstances for weeks and months on end, because of one woman's neglect. That was the sad thing. And yet another saved these foals by making sure she got them to the right vet, and making sure that they got treated with the best care they could have.

Valley Equestrian News: It's the power of one, isn't it?

Twinney: Isn't it amazing. And now one year later—well, now it's 18 months later, Snow is amazing. I took a picture of him not that long ago, but he's gotten huge.

And I never knew, I never knew if his growth would be stunted, what he'd turn out to be, how his health could be compromised, you know, all of these things, and he's just ballooned and blossomed in a year and a half, which is amazing. And then Lacy just got adopted by one of our Reach Out to Horses® trainers, her name is Cindy Corona, she's a vet in Connecticut, and she took a shine to Lacy; she's adopted Lacy. And Lacy's found herself in amazing hands with Cindy; not only does she know the Reach Out to Horse® methods, but she's a vet, and she'll provide a beautiful home for her. And [Lacy's] an Appy; she's a bay Appy with a beautiful speckled butt.

We are tracking these foals, to see how their lives are turning out, as much as we can. A couple of the foals went to North Carolina. I went out there to do a clinic in September, and I saw two

Continued on page 15



Foal Diary Day 2: Snow's first halter.

11 at night and make sure they have their food as readily as possible. Both Lacy and Snow stayed at Ray of Light—Bonnie made sure that she kept them—they needed special care, special attention. And she continued with this hard work we were exposed to for just a week. And we as a team got them ready with the haltering, the leading, picking up feet, the blanketing, the doctoring, farrier prep, and all of that

and Snow to Tufts Veterinary School because they were running temperatures. They always seemed to be eating and drinking, but they were running temps; Snow would be very sensitive over his loin region. And bless her, Lacy must have hidden all this and had a huge pain threshold, because you couldn't tell any of that with her. I believe it turned out to be



Foal Diary Day 3: Snow learning halter cues.



Foal Diary Day 3: Lacy and a friend.

## COWBOY POETRY WITH ORV

### I Admire the Grain Buyer

#### BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

Tall grain elevators in ev'ry rural town.  
They cast a long evening shadow at sundown.  
Lessons in peacemaking from up by the border,  
Grain bought & sold & stored, don't call them a hoarder.  
Most small town firms were co-ops, owned by the farmers.  
Mornings before combines go, guys stop, bench warmers.  
Plowing, seeding & harvest & plans to acquire,  
To sell bounty for cash from the local grain buyer.

#### BINNING'S THE KEY WORD/DOUBLE MEANING

Grain kernels elevated from pit to the top,  
Sorted by variety, bazillions would drop.  
When the bin became full it was joy & a thrill.  
"Full" was a "discouraging word," truckloads stood still.  
Bumper crop years, each farmer had many bins filled.  
They wished to sell wheat to buyers to have wheat milled.  
A 'plugged' elevator gave growers stress & ire.  
Pity the pained position of the grain buyer

#### BACKTRACKING

Mem'ries abound from duties in the early days.  
Grain wagons towed by horse & (don't laugh) donkey brays.  
Hydraulic lifts were often used to lift wagons  
Front wheels or unload gunny sacks they'd been baggin'.  
Most teams stood quiet but an excitable horse,  
Bedlam resulted, when they became "out of sorts."  
Truck hoists rested lifts, more crops raised without barbed wire,  
Fairbanks Morse scales, kids & teams, recalled by grain buyers.

#### GOOD/BAD YIELDS

Huge Corporations would hire employees to lead.  
In small towns Co-ops, growers own. Now farms buy seed.  
Mother Nature smiles on tiny kernels of grain  
To sprout & grow from sunshine & droplets of rain.  
Vignettes of buyers working in grain dust & heights  
Seeding & harvest, open early & late nights.  
Absence of drought & grasshoppers & hail transpired.  
Decades of change & challenge intrigue the grain buyer.

#### SAVVY PEACEMAKER

There was a board member meeting confrontation.  
That caused our friend, the buyer, some consternation.  
THEY wanted a new policy enacted TODAY!  
The hired elevator manager had no say.  
But he protested, "I buy the grain from my friends,  
This plan could be the touchy point where friendship ends."  
There was a caution used when he dared to inquire  
By this kind man, Alf Wall, who was their grain buyer.

#### THEY AGREED TO DISAGREE

"You know they are stockholders & they are my boss.  
Your new plan would make my customers take the loss.  
I really feel they need to vote on this bad plan.  
Listen, I can't, in good faith, be the 'hatchet man.'  
It is an affront to them, this plan I deplore.  
I can't, in good conscience, open the front door."  
When they counted the votes, the board threatened to fire  
Mister Wall, the candid, & loyal, grain buyer!

#### SIGN ON ELEVATOR DOOR

After ending the board meeting & the quibble,  
On a cardboard sign, were 2 words he'd scribble.  
It was his quiet method, he would disagree  
To open myopic eyes, of the "powers-that-be."  
When a board member went to check, he was wishing  
To retract that bad plan, when he read, "GONE FISHING."  
I share with you the simple reason I admire  
That honest, peace-loving man, Alf, the grain buyer.

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## Youth Enjoy Blacksmith Class

Members of the Guild of Metal-smiths lead a group of parent/child teams in learning how to do blacksmith and metal work at the Minnesota School of Horseshoeing (MNSOH) headquarters in Ramsey, Minn. The 4-week class is conducted by volunteers of the Guild of Metalsmiths.

The classes on Saturday after noons, teach methods of firing and bending iron that typically are reserved for blacksmiths. The Almelund Threshing event spurred the interest of George Pomeroy, 10. His father, Tom, welcomed the interest and found the Guild's classes on the internet.

The classes are not gender specific.

More information about the Guild of Metalsmiths may be found at: <http://www.metalsmith.org/> or contact Minnesota School of Horseshoeing at: <http://mnschoolofhorseshoeing.net/>.



Photos clockwise from top: Mark Gilbert watches his son, Dante, 11, hammer the iron rod he just removed from the fire pot making it red hot and pliable for bending.

George Pomeroy, 10, hammers his iron piece into the shape he needs for the class.

Lower left: Claudia Larson feeds air into the fire while heating an iron rod in the fire pot making it pliable so she may hammer it into the size and form she wants. Her dad, Brian, watches.



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Photos by Ley Bouchard

## Nurse Foals

Continued from page 13

of the foals there, as well. It was amazing to go to North Carolina; and in those days [one foal] was called Ranger, I think, and Freckles. They were both there, grown up to both be stunning, stunning horses, a buckskin and another Appy. Just stunning horses, really long-legged, beautifully put together. And how tragic would it have been if these foals would have lost their lives. Now, you just don't know what you're going to get when you get a nurse foal, because you don't know the parents, and you don't know the demeanor of the mare, etc., but it was a highly successful rescue. It was very touching and very taxing.

It was one my most challenging rescues I've ever been part of, and so much so, that I took a little backseat after it and [chose] to not be part of rescues for a little while. I can certainly go in as a trainer and clinician, but to truly be part of the rescue, it was too taxing. We received some positive mails

from the press releases, but we also received some hate mail, and I took it personally and it was very hard to overcome that. It was very hard because my name was on all the press releases, and so it went all over the United States and people were critiquing it and were full of malice. And some were full of pride that we were doing something with it. So we got such a kickback from it that that also affected me at the time, and so I had to revisit how I would approach the rescues, or at least take a break from it to get refreshed again.

VEN: What you think about the possibility of any solutions?

Twinney: This industry is not done in the UK, it's not done in New Zealand, so I can't tell you



Foal Graduation: Anna Twinney and Snow. Photo by Susan Solomon.



Lacey and Lorraine practicing leading.

every country around the world, but I can tell you there are countries that do not do this. Although [to put] the whole thing on the positive side, the nurse mare can be needed if a foal is orphaned; you find another mare. Or if the foal is rejected, you find a mare willing to help. So there's certainly a good intention around some of it. But when you start breeding, basically breeding for slaughter of that foal, it's not the way to go. We treat them as livestock: "She'll survive or she dies," or she goes for sale. If you want to rescue it's a high price. We forget that they're babies. That's not acceptable.

So there's ways to either change this, to realize that, one, a lot of the thoroughbred industry will allow the foal at foot. I worked in the thoroughbred industry, and all of the breeding barns that I knew of in the Santa Inez Valley would allow the foal at foot, so that's certainly acceptable, while others won't. We also need to consider laws to prevent these innocent beings being treated like livestock.

It's amazing where it goes; people start breeding, they get into it as a business, and then they get lost in it. Like the PMU industry, or "let's breed for live consumption." To breed and rent out your mares and just allow those on the side to die if they don't make it, that's not humane. Surely there should be laws that horses are kept adequately.

VEN: With the horse racing industry it's such an iconic image of the foal and the mare running together in the green pastures of Kentucky. It's sad. You wonder who came up with this idea, and then got other people to join in with it.

Twinney: Yeah, exactly. You know, where did it get lost? Was it truly a compassionate person that began it, offering their mare to nurse an orphan foal, and then suddenly it evolves into money only. As with anything it's sad when there are lives at stake.

VEN: Where does the imperative come in to either continue racing or to breed the mare back? You don't need to get rid of the foal to breed her back.  
Twinney: There needs to be a little more thought behind it. So

you'll be up against the racing industry which is like challenging a pharmaceutical company.

VEN: My hope is, as we are seeing social structures crumble from within, pretty much across the board, that raising awareness in this fashion will help. Off-the-track thoroughbreds are so popular now, that's got to be a helpful tie-in to "these are not just disposable 'things.'" They're living beings.

Twinney: The point is to just keep going.

There are many nurse foal rescues out there that could use your help or your support in rescuing these innocents. And many horses that need a good home and could be adopted. Do your research. For more information on Reach Out to Horses® and Anna Twinney's foal gentling methods, go to [www.reachouttohorses.com](http://www.reachouttohorses.com). You can also experience the foal gentling: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPWGUDJ1P-U>.

Next month, "The Valley Equestrian News" will discuss the plight of feedlot foals with Anna Twinney.

Photos by Anna Twinney



# Hemp Seeds Rival Soybeans in Protein Quality

by Juliet M. Getty, Ph.D.

Soybean meal is the most commonly added protein source in horse feeds. However, increasing numbers of horse owners are shying away from feeding it, most commonly because of allergic reactions. Most soybeans grown in the U.S. have been genetically modified, which is a concern for many. Furthermore, it is difficult to ascertain from a feed label if the soy product has been heat-treated (necessary for inactivating trypsin inhibitor found in raw soybeans). Finally, soy contains significant levels of phytoestrogens, which may influence behavior, affect breeding, or interact with other hormones. The good news about soybeans is their protein quality -- it compares favorably to protein found in animal sources. But there are other good choices, the most promising of which is hemp seed.

## Understanding protein quality

Proteins are long, complex chains of amino acids. Once protein is digested, the amino acids travel to tissues, where they are "reassembled" into proteins specific to that particular part of the body, assuming all of the building blocks (amino acids) are available. Your horse can synthesize some amino acids, but there are 10 that your horse cannot produce, or cannot produce in adequate quantity, and therefore, they must be in his diet (listed in Table 1). These are referred to as essential amino acids (EAAs). Most feeds contain some protein, and therefore, some EAAs, but if any EAAs are present in low amounts, they limit the extent to which the others can be utilized, resulting in leftover amino acids. And, unfortunately, amino acids cannot be stored to be used later. Instead, they are dismantled by the liver, putting strain on the kidneys to remove urea, and contribute to excess calories and

even glucose production.

## Hemp seeds

A relatively new food to western cultures, hemp seeds have exceptional protein quality. Their two main proteins are albumin and edestin, both of which have significant amounts of all EAAs. The protein in hemp seeds is comparable to that in soybeans and, in many cases, exceeds the EAA content of the animal protein, whey (found in milk), as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Essential Amino Acid (EAA) Comparison between Hemp seeds, Soybeans, and Whey (grams per 100g)<sup>1</sup>

EAA	Hemp seeds	Soybeans
Whey		
Methionine	0.58	0.23
Arginine	3.10	2.14
Threonine	0.88	1.02
Tryptophan	0.20	0.25
Histidine	0.71	0.29
Isoleucine	0.98	0.85
Leucine	1.72	1.40
Lysine	1.03	1.15
Valine	1.28	0.91
Phenylalanine	1.17	0.49

Hemp seeds rival soybeans as an ideal protein. What's even more impressive, however, is the ratio of each EAA to the lysine level -- a true measure of protein quality. With horses, quality is determined by comparing each EAA to lysine as it would exist in muscle<sup>2</sup>. Lysine is assigned a value of 100. The ideal values are shown in Table 2, which reveals how every EAA found in hemp seeds surpasses the ideal ratio beyond soybean's ability.

Table 2: Ratios of EAAs to Lysine, Compared to Ideals<sup>3</sup>

EAA	Hemp seeds	Soybeans
Ideal		
Methionine	56	27
Arginine	301	76
Threonine	85	61
Tryptophan	n/a	n/a
Histidine	69	58
Isoleucine	95	55
Leucine	167	107
Lysine	100	100
Valine	124	62
Phenylalanine	114	60

Hemp seeds are easy to find in stores that sell whole foods. Horses enjoy their palatable, nutty flavor. Adding ½ cup (providing 25 grams of protein) to your horse's daily ration will boost the overall protein quality of his diet.

Hulled (shelled) hemp seeds can be expensive, however. A more economical option is to buy whole hempseeds and grind them yourself. To obtain the same level of protein, measure approximately twice the volume.

## Bottom line

Domesticated horses cannot easily enjoy the variety of feedstuffs a natural setting provides. Even the healthiest grass pasture may not meet every nutrient requirement. Offering whole foods such as hemp seeds on a regular basis gives you another option for meeting your horse's protein needs.

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.GettyEquine-Nutrition.com](http://www.GettyEquine-Nutrition.com), as well as from Amazon ([www.Amazon.com](http://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 books make ideal gifts for horse-loving friends.

Dr. Getty's website, [www.GettyEquineNutrition.com](http://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](mailto:gettyequinenutrition@gmail.com).

1. Callaway, J.C. 2004. *Hempseed as a nutritional resource: An overview*. *Euphytica*, 140. Pages 65-72. Printed in the Netherlands.

2. National Research Council. 2007. *Proteins and amino acids. Nutrient Requirements of Horses, Sixth Revised Edition*. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press. Pages 64-65.

3. *Hemp seed and soybean values were calculated by dividing each EAA level by its lysine level (1.03 for Hemp seeds; 1.73 for Soybeans; shown in Table 1)*

# SYSO Raffle Winners Announced

Siouxland Youth Shooting Organization (SYSO) is off to a great start in 2015. This Sioux Falls 4H Shooting Sports club strives to instruct youth on archery, shotgun, bb gun, air rifle and air pistol skills to develop and encourage a life-long hobby and create opportunity for competitions suited to any skills level.

SYSO would like to thank everyone who bought raffle tickets to support their club activities. The drawing was held Sunday, January 25, 2015 at the clubhouse. The winners are: Grand Prize Shotgun: Jim Vanderwerff, Sioux Falls, SD

tion - but still be involved. Jim has always spear-headed ticket sales for the club, and usually buys quite a few himself... this year, he chose to buy ONLY \$5 worth: 3 tickets! It only takes one to win, and this year, that paid off! Congratulations, Jim, SYSO could not have been more pleased to have your name drawn out.

SYSO would like to remind everyone of it's March 8 OPEN CLASS BB GUN TOURNAMENT from noon to 4 at the Sioux Falls Izaak Walton League Club House. This fun shoot is open to the



First Prize \$100: Kevin Meyer, Harrisburg, So. Dak.

Second Prize \$50: Dan Haygood, Sioux Falls, So.Dak.

public and all ages who know how to shoot 10 spot/4 position competitions. Bring your friends and family for a FUN day. Concessions will be available. Call Stubbes 310-5968 or Swansons 743-5270 for more info and to sign up!



It was a very exciting drawing, and the grand prize winner was none other than our recently retired club founder! Jim and Lou decided after 20+ years of volunteering to hand the reins off to the next genera-

and some of the SYSO kids at Shooting Sports Practice Bottom photo: The VERY FULL barrel of raffle tickets.

Photos courtesy Cassandra Swanson



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**Wisconsin State Horse Council Equine Foundation**  
Presents the 2015 A Winter Day in the Park

Come to the Columbus Fireman's Park Pavilion, Columbus, WI.  
On Valentine's Day, February 14, 2015.

- Bobsled Rides • Sleigh Competition
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DOOR PRIZES: Silent Auction: Raffles: Music

Call 920-623-0393 or go online [www.wshc.org](http://www.wshc.org) (click on WSHCE Equine Foundation)

## Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame challenges Montanans to build on \$100,000 Gilhousen gift in 2015

The Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center (MCHF & WHC) looks to kick off 2015 in a big way by challenging Montanans to match the \$100,000 gift made by Klein and Karen Gilhousen of Copper Spring Ranch in Bozeman, Mont., to the Homesteaders Campaign. The Homesteaders Campaign funds the construction and endowment of the MCHF & WHC's cultural education center. As the statewide headquarters for the MCHF & WHC's educational programming, the center will inspire future generations through the examples of those that have contributed to our rich cultural heritage.

"We understand the importance of creating momentum to launch a fund raising campaign," said Karen Gilhousen. "We are excited to realize the building of this center as a tribute to those that have come before us and as a resource to the next generation as it carries on the great traditions of our Montana way of life." "History often overlooks the hardworking members of our communities who have selflessly contributed to the day-to-day improvement of our hometowns while providing leadership for the next generation," said Director of Finance Aaron Lyles. "The hall of fame exists most notably to celebrate and pass forward these examples."

Board member Mike Gurnett observed, "This is truly an idea for which the time has come. Each day we lose more of our heritage and it is our responsibility to act now. How many of us regret not capturing the stories of our parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors before they were lost forever?"

Officially designated by Montana state legislature,

the MCHF & WHC is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Having selected the strategic location of Big Timber, Mont., for its building site, organizers have worked with nationally renowned firms Storyline Studio and ConsultEcon to complete the exhibition design and operations planning for the center. The announcement of the Homesteaders Campaign marked an important milestone for the organization as it works to realize its vision of building Montana's premier Western heritage destination attraction. Gilhousen adds, "It is our hope that this initial challenge encourages others to become examples of leadership, and to inspire those who cherish our Montana way of life to invest in the promise it holds for the next generation."

Looking ahead to 2015, the MCHF & WHC will host its 9th Annual Circle the Wagons Gathering, Cowboy Ball & Auction Feb. 6-7 in Helena at the Great Northern Best Western Hotel.

For more information about the Homesteaders Campaign and the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame & Western Heritage Center, visit [www.MontanaCowboyFame.org](http://www.MontanaCowboyFame.org).

*The mission of the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame & Western Heritage Center is to "honor our cowboy way of life, American Indian cultures and collective Montana Western heritage." We exist to serve as a resource to all who wish to see this way of life passed forward to the next generation. Our vision is "to be the state's premier destination attraction that celebrates and passes forward Montana's unique western culture*

# Regional News

Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame to honor inductees at Circle the Wagons Gathering and Cowboy Ball in Helena, Feb. 7

The Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame & Western Heritage Center (MCHF & WHC) extends an invitation to all to attend the 9th Annual Circle the Wagons Convention in Helena, Feb. 6 & 7 at the Great Northern Best Western Premier.

"This is an exciting time for the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame," said MCHF & WHC President Bill Galt of White Sulphur Springs. "In this world focused on celebrity, fame and fortune, we are so glad to be able to honor those who set a positive example in their communities through their everyday deeds and hard work. We hope to see anyone and everyone who cares about Montana's Western heritage at this fun event in Helena."

The weekend will kick off Friday evening, Feb. 6 with a free Cowboy Social featuring entertainment by the Dillon Junior Fiddlers. The Inductee Recognition

Ceremony Brunch will be held on Saturday, Feb. 7 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 2014. Tickets are \$30 per person. Early registration is recommended as this event sells out well in advance each year!

The 9th Annual Cowboy Ball and Benefit Auction will kick off at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday with a social hour and auction preview. This event will feature 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 \$50 per person or \$450 for a 10-person table.

Register online at [www.montanacowboyfame.org](http://www.montanacowboyfame.org), by calling (406) 653-3800, or email [cstensland@montanacowboyfame.com](mailto:cstensland@montanacowboyfame.com). Rooms may be reserved at the Great Northern Best Western Premier in Helena by calling (406) 457-5500.

*The mission of the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame & Western Heritage Center is to "honor our cowboy way of life, American Indian cultures and collective Montana Western heritage." We exist to serve as a resource to all who wish to see this way of life passed forward to the next generation. Our vision is "to be the state's premier destination attraction that celebrates and passes forward Montana's unique western culture and heritage." To learn more, visit [www.montanacowboyfame.org](http://www.montanacowboyfame.org)*

## Horse Workshop Offered February 21, 2015

A full day Equine Educational program organized and sponsored by the UW-Cooperative Extension Service will be offered on Saturday, February 21, 2015 in Bristol, Wisc. This program will focus on planning, maintaining, and managing the facilities for housing and keeping horses.

Examples of some of the session topics include facility design, storage of feed and forage, watering and fencing options, arena management, and developing an emergency plan for fire, weather, and biosecurity events.

Speakers will include Dr. David Kammel/UW Biological Systems Engineering Professor, Liv Sandberg / University of Wisconsin Equine Specialist, Ellen Phillips of CP Enterprises, Peg Reedy and Kristine Ely/Walworth County Extension Agriculture Educators, and Phil May/ Manager, Sunflower Farms, LLC, Bristol.

This program is being organized and sponsored by the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Service. University of Wisconsin Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

The program begins at 8:30 a.m. and runs until 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be included with the program fees, which are \$25/person

or \$45/2 people and \$15/ youth on or before February 14, 2015. Registration fees increase after the early bird deadline.

For general information on this program, please contact Liv Sandberg, University of Wisconsin Extension Equine Specialist at 608-263-4303 or [sandberg@ansci.wisc.edu](mailto:sandberg@ansci.wisc.edu). Questions regarding registration should be directed to Kristine Ely at the Walworth County UW-Extension office at 262-741-4968 or [kristine.ely@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:kristine.ely@ces.uwex.edu). Online registration and payment by credit card is available at <http://kenosha.uwex.edu/2014/12/02/equineprogram/> or by mail. The brochure and information about the program can also be found at <http://walworth.uwex.edu/agriculture>.

This program is being organized and sponsored by the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Service. University of Wisconsin Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

## Mystic Lake Northlands Futurity Scheduled For July 5

Quarter Horse stakes include 13 races and estimated \$500,000 in purses

Shakopee, Minn. -- Canterbury Park officials today announced the 2015 Quarter Horse stakes race schedule, highlighted by the 28th running of the Mystic Lake Northlands Futurity July 5. Total purse money for the 13 stakes races is estimated to surpass \$500,000, making it the richest Quarter Horse stakes season in the Shakopee, Minn. racetrack's history. The Northlands purse is expected to be a record \$150,000. "Quarter Horse

racing at Canterbury Park should reach new heights in 2015," Vice President of Racing Operations Eric Halstrom said. "I expect record purses in the Mystic Lake Northlands Futurity and the Canterbury Park Quarter Horse Derby as well as strong overnight racing throughout the meet."

Canterbury Park's 2015 racing season runs May 15 through Sept. 12

## American Horsewoman's Challenge™ Turns to Fans to "Keep the Dream Alive"

Women's equestrian competition launches crowdfunding campaign to continue spotlighting women trainers.

SEATTLE, Wash.—February 13, 2015 The American Horsewoman's Challenge, a women-only equestrian competition, is launching a nationwide crowdfunding campaign to help sustain the momentum created by the first event and fund expansion in 2015. The Horsewoman's Challenge is a ten-month competition that recognizes and crowns the top female horse trainers in the United States and Canada. The competition is open to women trainers of any breed or in any discipline who would like to prove their skill and their horse's talents in Liberty, Western Dressage and Ranch & Trail Versatility. The capital campaign, running through February 27, 2015, will help provide grassroots funding needed to continue shining the spotlight on these horsewomen.

"The initial years of any equestrian competition are the toughest to sustain," said event producer James Hutchins. "The crowdfunding initiative is a way for individuals, who believe in encouraging and honoring North America's women trainers, to invest in keeping the momentum going."

The campaign is being hosted by Plum Alley, an online platform started by Deborah Jackson, who spent more than two decades on Wall Street helping clients raise money. Plum Alley helps entrepreneurs and innovators raise capital for women's projects. According to the company, crowdfunding is an efficient and inexpensive way to increase access to capital for women-centered businesses.

"Corporate sponsors, who are tasked with being good stewards of their company's marketing dollars, are rightfully cautious of young startup events," said Hutchins. "The crowd-

ing initiative gives the Challenge the necessary capital to sustain the initiative, but also prove to potential sponsors the incredible interest in the Challenge and the fans' commitment to its continued growth and success."

Contributors can choose one of several levels of support. Funding opportunities start as low as \$30. Depending on the level of commitment, contributors receive incentives from t-shirts and membership in the Challenge Remuda Club to 2015 event tickets, invitations to VIP workshops and hotel accommodations. Those wishing to learn more about the American Horsewoman's Challenge and be part of sustaining this unique event, can visit <https://plumalley.co/campaigns/american-horsewoman-s-challenge>.

*About American Horsewoman's Challenge: The American Horsewoman's Challenge was founded to recognize and crown the top female trainers in the United States and Canada. The competition is open to women trainers of any breed or in any discipline. It is an eight-month challenge to train a young horse and prove the trainer's skill and the horse's talents in Liberty, Western Dressage and Ranch & Trail Versatility. The initial competition was held in 2014. Entries for the 2015 competition are already being accepted. More information on the Challenge and how to enter is available at: <http://horsewomanschallenge.com>*

## Industry News

AQHA Prevails in Cloning Lawsuit

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit rules in favor of AQHA

The United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit today issued its opinion in AQHA's appeal of the judgment entered by the District Court in the cloning lawsuit. The Fifth Circuit's opinion, which reverses the District Court's judgment and renders judgment for AQHA, holds that the Plaintiffs' claims against AQHA fail both because the Plaintiffs' evidence did not prove a conspiracy to restrain trade and because "AQHA is not a competitor in the allegedly relevant market for elite quarter horses."

"We always knew our case was sound," said AQHA Executive Vice President Don Treadway. "Obviously,

this decision lifts a huge burden from the shoulders of our Association, and we are relieved to finally have a judgment in our favor," Treadway continued. "We have not yet had time to fully absorb the written opinion of the appellate court, but we are grateful for our legal system and for the tremendous support we continue to receive from our valued members and, of course, our employees."

*View information regarding AQHA's cloning lawsuit, including the Fifth Circuit's opinion at [www.aqha.com](http://www.aqha.com).*

*Additional information will be provided as it is available.*

## Ultimate X Showdown 2015

Teaming up with the Retired Racehorse Project at the Kentucky Horse Park!

What trainer would NOT want a chance at \$100,000 in prize money? This year the Ultimate X Showdown is teaming up with the Retired Racehorse Project and will be run during the Makeover Event at the KY Horse Park! The Ultimate X Showdown barrel race will be one of 10 classes that trainers can enter during the October 23-25, 2015 weekend. This year the Freestyle class will be run as a separate class however. The winner of each class will move onto

the "America's Most Wanted Thoroughbred" Event which is another chance at more prize money!

So now is the time to start searching for the perfect OTTB! You will have up to nine months to train! As soon as you acquire your OTTB, you can begin training. Read all the rules and apply here: [www.ultimatexshowdown.com](http://www.ultimatexshowdown.com) or <http://www.retiredracehorseproject.org/makeover-application>

## Now That's a Walking Horse!™ 2014 Grant Winners Announced

(Jan. 15, 2015)—Mounted police and therapeutic riding programs are among the 2014 recipients of The Humane Society of the United States "Now That's a Walking Horse!" grant and recognition program. The award program is part of The HSUS' effort to promote flat-shod registered Tennessee walking horses in venues other than traditional show ring rail classes. The HSUS is committed to ending the practice of horse "soring," which is the deliberate infliction of pain to Tennessee walking horses' legs and hooves to force them to perform an artificially high-stepping gait that is rewarded in the performance or "Big Lick" segment of the walking horse industry. The 2014 grant recipi-

ents include four therapy programs that use gaited horses, five organizations that focus on education and humane training of gaited horses, one mounted police division and two individuals who participate in non-traditional walking horse events. The award recipients include six individuals who ride and compete with walking horses in events that promote the breed's versatility. The youngest recipient is a 6-year-old boy from Michigan who will use the award money to continue his therapeutic riding lessons.

A full list of the 2014 winners and an application for the 2015 awards are available at [www.humanesociety.org](http://www.humanesociety.org).

## HELP WANTED

Like to talk horses?  
Have some extra time?



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