

The Valley Equestrian News

January 2015



You Can Save a Life:
Anna Twinney on
PMU Foals
by Kari Hagstrom

Holding the
Vision
by Staci Grattan

WNFR
Highlights
Photos by
Tammy Scheffler

You Can Save a Life: Anna Twinney on PMU Foals

By Kari Hagstrom

Oprah Winfrey, in an interview with Barbara Walters on ABC's "Barbara Walters Presents: The 10 Most Fascinating People of 2014," when asked what she had learned in life and what is the one thing she knows for sure, responded: "The one thing I know for sure is that everybody's life matters."

Everybody's life matters. Every life matters. Life is life: it doesn't matter what form it takes. Quantum physics and genetics tell us what spirituality has been telling us for ages:

We are all one. We are all connected. We are all related. We are all in a state of relationship to each other, to all things, all beings. No-one and no-thing lives in a vacuum. We are the same particles and genes differentiated into individual consciousnesses. Pretty neat, huh?

Yet here we are in this world, this level of reality, where we carry on convinced and trained to believe that we are still in the Roman gladiator games, fighting to the death. Over what? We've been seduced into being addicted to comfort and ease. We have been told by various "authority figures" that we have the right, the need, the obligation to subdue, subjugate, dominate, rape and pillage our way through the world, especially the natural world (which by the way, we are a part of, not apart from). Sadly, we have become addicted to moral comfort and ease, in particular: we have come to believe that any life outside of our own is there for our use and is disposable. I say this as "we," because this thinking comes from a portion of "our" collective

consciousness, and we all have areas of being addicted to comfort, ease, using and disposability. However, the balance is shifting. "We" are recognizing that this way of being doesn't work, that we foul our own nest and shoot ourselves in the foot by not treating all life as though it matters: trees, oceans, the air, the Earth, dogs, wolves, people and horses. "We" are seeing through the ruse of egotism that says we are so clever and inventive to use and dispose of what we choose; "we" are realizing

ideas and beliefs, we create new possibilities and healing for all. So what is this article really about? It's about saving lives. Human and equine. It's about opening hearts and opening minds to live and see and think just a little differently, just a little more comprehensively, as though every life matters. It's about not giving in to what my friend Kristin calls "compassion fatigue": feeling so overwhelmed by the desperate needs of the world that you just shut down on it. It's about being

that is redundant of natural and herbal treatments? If you choose Premarin® products you are.

Premarin® (from PREgnant MARE urine), a hormone replacement product which helps to ease menopausal symptoms, is produced by placing rubber collection bags on pregnant mares (usually draft or draft-cross mares—they're bigger and

Monty Roberts' head trainer at Flag Is Up Farms. "Back then, PMU horses came with significant remedial issues: inappropriate ground manners, body-slaming, biting, difficulty picking up their feet, they'd had no supervision or support. The mares were unhandled, they didn't know life and yet were often angry as I believe their interaction with humans had been

labeling creates an opening for education. "About the time I was leaving California, a client who was active in saving PMUs hired me to go to Canada to gentle colts, yearlings, two-year-olds, weanlings and mares. I ended up going three times on these training contracts. I remember very clearly—that the colt-starting contract was 30 days with 30 horses that

I worked with. A week per horse. This was supposed to be the 'easiest of contracts,' with 'kind, loving' untouched horses. A number of men would stand around and watch as I was working with these horses, all of whom had worked within the PMU industry, it seemed as though waiting for me to fail. These horses [mares] were only used to halters, and

were fresh off the peeline. They put their ears back, had mouths open ready to bite, charge, kick, run over the top of me and ultimately they showed a whole range of behaviors. Naturally, I was concerned and upset, wondering how this was going to go and whether I could keep myself safe, so I called my husband, Vin [Mancarella] to talk it over. He suggested that I give the mares 24 hours, time to 'let the penny drop' on the situation. After all, there's no book on this.

"Sure enough, after 24 hours, the mares turned around. It was then that I had the realization they were in fact green, remedial horses. They had no life experience. They only knew the halter through restriction, with barriers behind them, which meant they had no understanding to be haltered, led, tied or indeed to be bathed. Everyday something showed up. One

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Photos taken just moments apart, from fear to friendly. Ranger in a Foals in Training clinic with Anna Twinney. Ranger was adopted by Paul Lemay.

Photos by Dana Uzwiak.

that we are like the sorcerer's apprentice, trying to solve a problem by creating greater problems that are not easily solved. And "we" are recognizing the problems and seeking solutions that create new outcomes that reflect that all life matters. But first we must clean out the dark corners, look to see what's there, what can be changed, what can be saved, and what needs to be let go. I'm not saying this as a woo-woo New Age idea, or some airy-fairy rose-colored glasses ideal: It is impractical to continue layering-on problems on top of problems—you've got tear out the old carpet before you lay down the new, you know? You've got to clean the stall before you put a new horse in it. Or, you don't put new wine in an old wineskin.

In clearing out the dark corners, releasing outmoded

selective and aware, practicing enlightened self-interest (you can't take care of others if you don't take care of yourself) and "tikkun olam," knitting up the tattered sleeve of the world. Except, selectively, attending to the tattered sleeve of your world, your neighborhood. It is exhausting to try to heal the whole world, so heal yourself, heal the areas you are particularly interested in. Be positive, practical and productive in that way. Be aware of what you are choosing. You don't have to knit up the whole sweater, just the end of the sleeve you happen to be at.

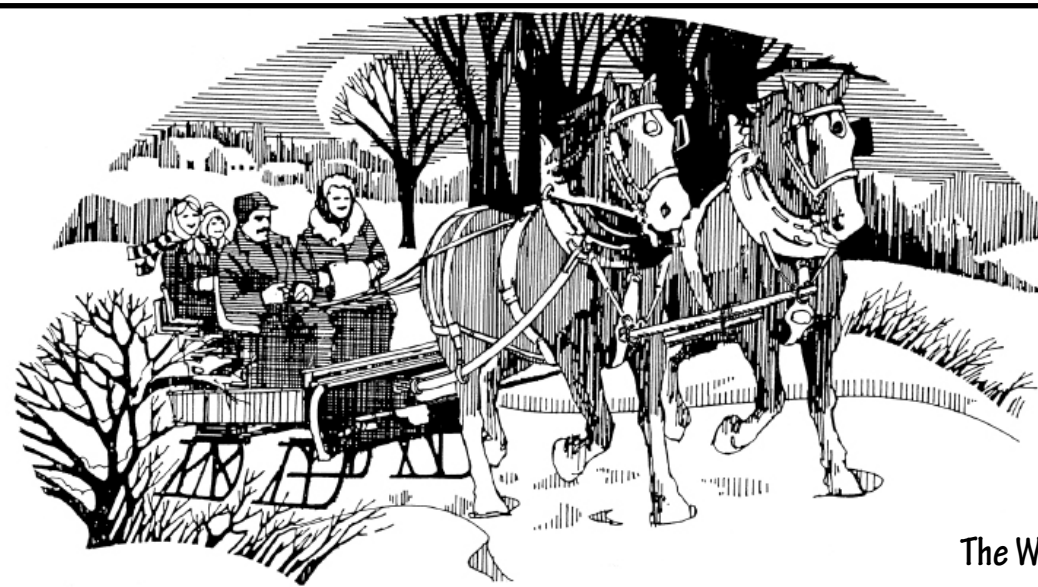
Be aware of what you are choosing. Are you choosing to support babies being torn from their mothers simply so the mothers can be kept in a reproductive state for the sole purpose of producing hormones that are used in a cancer-causing product

produce more urine), attached to collect the urine. The mares are kept contained in a standing position for maximum urine collection, with seldom a chance to lie down. The bags are seldom take off, and cause chafing and irritation; they are attached to a tube that feeds into a larger collection system. The mares are kept pregnant in order to produce the hormones that are harvested in the urine. So if they are kept pregnant all the time, they are regularly producing foals, right? What becomes of them?

In a recent interview, Anna Twinney, holistic horsemanship clinician, equine behaviorist, and founder of Reach Out to Horses®, www.reachouttohorses.com, discussed the issue of PMU foals. Twinney has worked with PMU foals and mares since her days as

either abusive or inappropriate, and hence I began to call them *green remedial horses*. The offspring, known as by-products of the industry, were weaned early and often over-handled by people. The foals had what I coined 'orphan foal syndrome.' These were last-chance horses, and people were not understanding of the situation or the horses, and were not very receptive toward them because of the behaviors and the labels people attached to them.

"Today they're not labeled as much and don't display the same qualities. It has been known that facilities on the East Coast won't take PMU horses. However, we've had great success stories. On the East Coast, people will label PMUs 'Canadian horse' or 'sport horse' to get around the PMU label. The different



65th Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Festival

PARADE Feb. 14, starts at noon: Open to sleighs, cutters, bobsleds, wagons, buggies, and riders; animal units only.

www.sleighandcutterfestival.org

The Waseca, MN Sleigh & Cutter Festival is a fun escape from winter after the holidays are over. If you like horses, ice curling, ice sculptures and a great parade, this event is for you. We have activities for all ages! A few of our events include a \$1,750 'FROSTY' and MEDALLION HUNT, card tournaments, dance, dinner and 30 more activities. Go to our new web site for a complete list of events.

mare, Tatiana, did a lovely job of trying to paw a hole to China, another turned her head violently and pulled the tie-ring off the wall. I was starting horses under saddle in a week, which is normal for me to do with the ROTH methodologies. By day five or six, the mares went backwards beyond day one, wanting to attack. There was no logic to it or reason I could come up with. There are two ways to judge your efforts, one is to realize that you're 'only as good as the last horse you've worked' in this business and the other is to watch your horse's progress the following day to see how well you did the previous day, and so I was concerned. Finally, some of the men who had been standing around watching casually stated that it was the 'first sign of frost.' I found out that at the first sign of frost, they round up the mares, wean the foals, and put the mares back on the peeline. While it's known that the foals get shipped to feed

lots. The mares were triggered, remembering the days they'd have their foals taken from them and be put back in confinement. The next day they were back to normal.

"In about 2005-2006, we had a number of fillies and colts to halter train. They found it difficult to pick up their feet. I came to believe that the foals were acting on a cellular memory, for they were picking up their mothers' distress in utero: the pregnant mares are put up on a "table," a squeeze-chute tipped to accommodate trimming hundreds of horses' feet to save time and money. The foals were in utero while this was done.

"Reach Out to Horses® has worked with Equine Voices Rescue in Arizona, and Equine Angels in Connecticut (Frank Weller is the author of the book "Equine Angels," a 'happy book' about PMU success stories) and Ray of Light Farm in

Connecticut, where we offer seven-day foal-gentling clinics—it's a win-win for the trainers and the foals. The foals are ready for adoption at the end of the seven days.

We made a DVD, "Success: Foals in Training" which follows a foal-gentling clinic. The DVD trailer is on YouTube as well as other videos on working with PMU foals. <http://www.bing.com/vid-eos/search?q=foals+in+training+dvd+trailer&FORM=VIR E1#view=detail&mid=756F93DAB1A54C1E24D0756F93DAB1A54C1E24D0>

"The DVD follows five PMU foals specially selected for the program, and it follows them through their first encounters. We ended up with one of the foals from



Left: Ranger being started under saddle by Mac Harris. Photo by Sanna of Ray of Light Farms, CT

came into my life and class, she was a challenge: she'd turn her butt to you, and be ambivalent about interaction, protecting herself and her space. And yet she was so smart. She would attack or ignore you, but she wouldn't look at you, she wouldn't face-up. I spent some time teaching Aria to face-up, which changed her world. She excelled, accelerated in her training, gaining acceptance and acknowledgement: she'll share breath and investigate your face from that moment onwards.

During the holistic horsemanship certification course at Ray of Light Farms she really bonded with my husband, Vin, but then was allocated to someone new to handle for the second week. At this time Aria had developed a bone disorder known as OCD, which is often caused by poor nutrition in the mare, she was due to undergo surgery. As Vin entered the pasture to visit with Teagan, his allocated

A couple of years later Aria

horse for the week, Aria promptly walked up, bit Vin because she was so upset at him for not taking her out and walked off again. It was then that Vin decided he would adopt Aria, unconditionally, and so Aria came home with us too!

"[Currently], there are about 6,000 foals per year that come out of PMU farms, which have moved to Canada. They're hard to rescue and most go to slaughter: the prices go up when the rescues approach the farms. One way is to go directly to the PMU farmer who has lost his contract, as many have, and to offer to buy the foals in batches as the farm shuts down, thereby saving the foals the stress of arriving at feedlots. There's a fine line here: the offer is to support the farm to close down, not to enable the farmer to continue. Now, I'm hearing that the

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Happy New Year!



Tammy Scheffler, left, joins the ranks of other seasoned NFR photographers Mary Jane Baumgarten, center, and Mary Morrow, right. This is the fourth consecutive year that Scheffler has covered the NFR for the "Valley Equestrian News" at South Point Arena and Equestrian Center in Las Vegas, Nev., held at the top of December each year. See her rodeo photography throughout these pages, at www.theveonline.com and at www.Facebook.com/VENews. Read more about the NFR winners and Cowboy Christmas on pages 10-11, more photos in this New Years' issue. Photo left: Sage Kimzey, bull riding at the NFR in Las Vegas, Nev. About the Cover: Fallon Taylor rounding a barrel at the NFR in Las Vegas.

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*Photo right: Anna Twinney
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Welcome to the New Year 2015

From the Publisher's Desk

I dedicate this issue of the "Valley Equestrian News" to my mom, Gladys Forseth, who passed away December 12, 2014. Now as I reflect on her life and influence on me, I wonder why I did not dedicate an issue to her while she lived and could enjoy the accolades or complain about the anecdotes.

Back in the day when Mom grew up on the farm, in the 20s and 30s, rural life meant growing nearly everything you (and your critter family) needed to survive. The horses were important to the survival of the farm. They pulled the plows and hay wagons, manure spreaders and other implements important to farm work. Horses also served as transportation.

Mom was born in 1921, the second of eight children and the first daughter. As the oldest female child, Mom learned how to cook and clean and care for children. She was a tomboy, loved her "Pa," and wanted to stay outside with him to work on the farm but Mom was needed inside, too, with Grandma.

Mom's favorite horse was Mae; coincidentally, my middle name. Mae was a product of Mac and Dixie, both draft-crosses, which were used for farm work. Mom told me stories of how she and her six brothers would huddle in the sleigh or wagon in wintertime. Grandpa placed a horse blanket over them to stay warm while he drove the horse team across the fields to Clover Blossom Country School. One particular day it was storming badly and Grandpa could not see in the whiteout conditions. He let the horses have their lead and they brought the

family safely into the farm-yard.

Mom enjoyed grooming the horses, especially Mae, and rode her bareback whenever possible. Mom had friends across the field and needed Mae to get to and from. Her best friends were Mae and also Rex, the family dog, she told me recently.

Mom and her family survived the Depression. They knew how to take care of themselves, make or grow what they needed to survive. If something broke, through innovation and creativity they fixed it. They didn't call the 'guy' or run to town for a part or take it to the shop. Those types of hard-working and creative folks we won't see again.

Mom was a World War II veteran; one of the rare breed that joined the war effort enlisting into the Women's Army Corp. It was not a popular decision with her folks; she didn't give them a chance to forbid it, she simply went to Fargo to enlist, and went home to the farm in Hendrum to let them know.

Mom enlisted in the Women's Army Corp during WWII because she wanted to do her part. She was young, looking for a bit of adventure and had never been far from home. She posed quite a pin-up, too. She was a dish! She could have been 'Rosie the Riveter,' especially since her middle name was Roselle. Instead, she went through basic training at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia and selected Letterman General in San Francisco to work as a nurse. She was a rare and tough bird there, too, as the only white, Northern farm girl that would take

care of the black injured soldiers being sent from Pearl Harbor and Korea. The white Southern gals would not touch the black soldiers. The army did not force them to do so. Mom considered it an honor and told me how they showered her with affection and appreciation for her efforts. One soldier she remembers fondly as he died cradled in her arms, crying for his momma. Mom and other nurses carried the litters of men over rocky shorelines up to the hospital. After Mom was honorably discharged, she helped the war effort by canning



Gladys Storsved Forseth and her favorite horse, Mae.

vegetables in the old potato house in Halstad, Minn.

Mom was a hard worker; girls raised on farms in the 20s and 30s were taught how to work. She followed her father around the farm and learned to milk and care for the cattle, horses, pigs and chickens. Skills that would be useful her whole life long.

When I was seven or eight, one day Mom told me to go get our yellow Lab, Duke, and meet her outside the well house. We lived

northeast of Halstad, Minn. at the time, on a county road between Helgoes and Lervolds. When Mom came out, she had some tool, I don't recall specifically, but if I had to guess it resembled what we use now to trim horses' hooves. Mom grabbed a burlap bag out of the well house, and on the pavement outside the small building where we would play hopscotch as kids, she took the burlap bag, put it over Duke's head and front feet and instructed me to hold him still while she castrated him. Duke ran off to the woods immediately

and I didn't see him until the next day. I suppose we didn't have money for veterinarians or neutering family pets and neither did Grandma and Grandpa, who evidently showed Mom how to do such a job. My mom used her medical training in many ways throughout her life! I'm not surprised she didn't ask my brothers to accompany her on that task.

Mom worked as a nurse for Dr. Erickson in Halstad, Minn., in grocery stores as

a cashier and stocker, was the local Avon lady, director of the Halstad Senior Center, drove beet and grain trucks, retired from the Rural Electric Coop after 10 years of service, supported my father's creativity in his inventions and all the while was the best Mom in the world.

She loved us kids; she supported our aspirations with a quiet and firm resolve. She was crazy in love with her grandkids and would stop all her other duties and responsibilities at home to run to our sides when our children were born. Mom was a good neighbor, citizen, and patriot. She set a fine example for the lives of those around her.

Mom would rather be outside working with animals or gardening, anything that would afford her the opportunity to be in nature. Grandma and Mom both loved horses; a love they passed onto me. I am able to love because she loved me and taught me in so many subtle ways how to love and care for people and the creatures placed on this earth.

Love is a legacy -- cherished, nurtured and passed down through the generations. Because Grandma and Grandpa Storsved loved and showed Mom how to love, I and my siblings and our children have been taught that lesson. It is our prize, honor and obligation to pay forward that love of life, love of the earth and love of people in the subtle and easy way that she did.

Mom showered her love and exuberance for life on her family of siblings, parents, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, children, grand and great-grandchildren. I was blessed beyond com-

prehension to have been born to Gladys and her entire family at that place and time in history. From Mom, Grandma Rachel and many uncles and aunts I have received their legacy: a love of horses, nature and life, a tenacity and determination born of our Norwegian ancestry. Those Vens and Storsveds were hardy stock. The acronym for this paper, "The Valley Equestrian News," or VEN, was my Grandma Rachel's maiden name. I didn't make the connection until several years into production. Odd coincidence or something else, I'll never know.

We don't often know the why, maybe we don't even find out in our lifetime, but be assured there are reasons and mysteries in life for which the journey is the exciting part and the pieces don't all fit together until we have arrived.

We honor and dedicate this issue of the Valley Equestrian Newspaper to my Mom who taught me to love all of nature, to never give up, follow my dreams, trust in my God-given instincts, and to use the strength and perseverance that she used throughout her life. I know she continues to help me now as she has all her life on this plane.

My mom is on the next big adventure of her soul quest, where I am certain she will be joining her Mom, Dad, and siblings, my Dad, Mae and Rex in the best reunion of their existence. After all, science teaches us that matter does not die, it merely changes form.

Happy New Year, everyone; listen, love and cherish your Moms! Hopefully, you will have yours for 93+ years, as I did mine.

Ley Bouchard, Publisher

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

Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary
520-398-2814 - Green Valley, AZ
or info@equinevoices.org



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Katya

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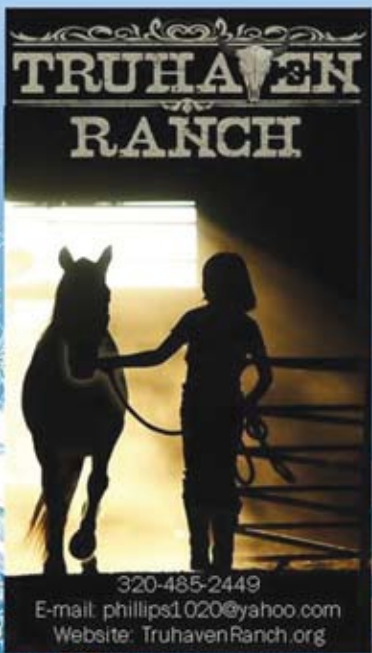
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Charles Wilhelm: Ultimate Foundation Training

Using Treats to Train a Horse

I personally do not believe in giving treats when training because a horse is a very easily conditioned animal. When I was located at a training facility that I drove to every morning, my horses would nicker and come running up to the end of the paddock because they recognized the sound of my diesel engine even before they saw the truck. It became a conditioned response for them. Most people thought that was nice and that they loved me but actually they knew that once I got there, they would soon be fed. They also got to be aggressive, running into the stall, nickering and basically yelling feed me, feed me, feed me. They would crowd the gate opening and it was hard to get the hay into it. This was some twenty years ago and it was then I began to see the importance of appropriate stall manners. Running

into the stall and making a big ruckus, charging the gate to get at the food was just not appropriate or safe. I had to teach them manners. I taught them to stay at the back of the stall and they learned that they were not to rush in and crowd me when I opened the gate to throw in the hay. They learned to wait until I gave them the okay to come in.

So what has that got to do with giving training and treats? It is the situation, the horse looking for and expecting food. I have a client at the barn who gave carrots to five or six horses every time she came in. They began to nicker when they saw her and even though she put the carrots in the feed bins, the horses became aggressive. She found that it was difficult to give the carrots because the horses were crowding the openings. It was the same

basic situation. Horses conditioned to receiving food and becoming aggressive when it was not given fast enough.

The point is that we should not establish a pattern and we should establish respect. Teaching people to require respect from their horses is a difficult lesson to get across. Most everyone would agree that when we are working with a horse, we want to use the least amount of pressure when we ask for something. For example, if the horse moves into our space we ask it nicely to move back. This is a lesson that is easy to teach. What is not so easy to teach is that when the horse doesn't move back, you must increase the pressure in order to maintain the horse's respect. Most people understand this principle intellectually but in reality can't follow through with enough force. Follow

through often forces us to get out of our comfort zone but for safety, if nothing else, it is essential that we have the respect of our horses.

In 35+ years of training problem horses, performance horses and starting colts, my experience is that people do not follow through. Once I have trained a horse and the horse knows the correct cues, I want my clients to know and use those cues correctly when riding the horse. In doing that the owner will earn the same level of respect from the horse that I have established. If the owner does not use the cues correctly or follow through when the horse tests, the horse will not respect the owner. Having the respect of the horse is a big deal. It not only makes for a more pleasant relationship, it makes the horse safer to

be around.

Unfortunately, no matter how many times I say how valuable ground work is, I find that most people don't want to spend time doing ground work. Ground or in hand work can teach a horse to be respectful and make a huge difference when we get in the saddle. When I see a horse dancing at the end of a lead line, I know immediately that horse has no respect for the person leading it. Most people have a difficult time teaching the horse to have good ground manners and maintaining those manners. It takes consistency and follow through. If a horse is not behaving well and you give it a treat, you are reinforcing the behavior and teaching it to be disrespectful.

There are trainers, called clicker trainers, who use treats as training rewards. Even they will tell you that it requires finesse and perseverance to transfer a horse who has been trained by receiving treats to performance without the reward. I've seen well known clicker training clinicians who do a very good job but constantly have the horses in their space looking for that treat. While this method works, I don't believe it is the best way to train a horse. Train your horse to recognize and respond to cues. Be consistent in your use of the cues and follow through until the horse responds. Any horse can be trained or taught to do tricks like bowing, rearing and going up on a pedestal even without treats.

I have had many a person come to me and say their horse won't load into the trailer. I usually find that the horse was taught to go into the trailer using treats or hay. This may work at times however, when a horse's emotional level is high, for whatever reason, food will

not work. When there is no physical cue, there is no way a horse will go into a trailer. A horse that is frightened or hurt or simply upset will not respond to the lure of food. I've seen butt ropes, brooms and rakes used on horses to get them to load and they still won't go in. I find that overall, no matter the discipline, anything to do with treats usually jeopardizes my client's safety. In this industry at least 85% of the clientele are women and safety is always the first concern. If you use treats to teach your horse and you are able to maintain his respect, he keeps his distance and does not step into your space, then you are probably one in a thousand. This doesn't mean that giving treats doesn't work to train a horse but I don't believe it is the best way.

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

By Janice Ladendorf

Who created protective associations for ranchers? Who invented chaps and started rodeos?

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.

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. What they carried over to open ranges in Texas were their horses and their cattle dogs. The conquistadors brought the Spanish ranching style with them to the New World.

cattle on the open ranges, they had to brand them and use their handy, highly trained horses to herd them on their periodic roundups and overland cattle drives. Two types of ranching had developed by 1500. Seigniorial ranchers owned large herds and generally controlled large grazing grounds in unpopulated areas. These areas had probably been devastated by the long war with the Moors. In New Spain, this system was used by the missions on the unpopulated frontiers.

stolen cattle did not begin in the New World. They start whenever cattle are run on open ranges. The Spanish eventually introduced this type of organization into the New World.

Two types of vaqueros worked for the Spanish ranchers, free-men and bonded servants.



Examples of the famous Texas longhorn breed.

Free-men contracted for a year. At the end of each year, they were paid with cash or cattle or both. Some were permitted to run their cattle with the ranch herd. Bonded servants were tied to whoever had taken over their debts and they were not paid regularly. The more cattle in a herd, the more men would be needed to take care of them. Crews always included a foreman or "mayoral" and could have three to twelve vaqueros. Some crews used dogs to help them herd cattle. The larger crews often included a "conocedor" who memorized cattle descriptions so he could identify stays or lost stock.

more and more aggressiveness into their range cattle, soon only men on horseback could safely approach them.

What the Spanish brought to the New World was

southeastern missions were shipped out of Cuba. When the Spanish retreated to Florida, they left both cattle and horses behind in South Carolina and Georgia. To obtain cattle docile enough for draft work, the Carolina crackers crossed feral Spanish cattle with stock imported from the other English colonies.

The conquistadors who came to Mexico were interested in gold and

glory, not in establishing settlements or ranches. When the Aztecs drove them out of Tenochtitlan, the conquistadors lost all the gold they had gathered. Some eventually settled down on land grants given to them by the crown. Cortez owned twenty-two Indian settle-

three breeds of cattle - the "Ganado barranda" (piebald), the "Ganado retinto" (tan or reddish), and the "Ganado prieto" (the black Andalusian fighting bulls). They shipped them first to the Caribbean Islands, then to Florida, and finally to Mexico. They may never have brought any of the aggressive "Ganado prieto" cattle into their southeastern settlements, but they certainly brought some to Mexico. These were the three breeds used to create the Texas longhorn.

Ranching in Mexico

Cattle first came to the New World in 1498. By the early 1500s, livestock raising had spread to Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Cuba, and other islands in the West Indies. Spanish cattle thrived on these islands and some escaped and turned feral. Most of the cattle sent to Florida and the



Conquistadors entering Tenochtitlan.

Continued on page 9

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

Continued from page 8

ments in the Valley of Oaxaca and registered the first cattle brand in New Spain (Mexico).

became the prototype for stockmen's associations in both Mexico and our southwestern states.

To support and expand their

became abusive. When the friars had filed enough complaints with the crown, the government replaced it with the "repartimento" system. It allowed them to

phase.

In Mexico, most of these men were "mestizos" with mixed Spanish and Indian ancestry; but some were

"hacendados," preferred to live in urban luxury and they sent their managers or "estancieros" out to the ranches. They held their peons as bond servants. They were given basic housing and some food. If they needed anything else, they had two choices. One, they could make it or grow it themselves. Two, they could buy items from the ranch store at prices set by the owners. Some stores sold quality items at reasonable prices while others did not. Peons did have job security, but most of them fell into debt and their children inherited their debts. This system of debt peonage is not unusual and has been used in many forms through history. In the late 19th century, similar systems trapped workers in company towns and locked many freed slaves into an exploitative system of tenant farming.

probably have been too expensive for a vaquero to purchase, but the "hacendados" and "estancieros" could afford such embellishments to their equipment.

Unlike the cowboys, the vaqueros never carried guns. They carried a long knife in a long scabbard they hung on their right leg. Guns were too expensive for them to purchase and difficult to use from horseback. Our romantic image of a cowboy always shows him carrying a revolver in a holster at his side, but these guns were only good for killing humans and rattlesnakes at short distances. Rifles or carbines had to be used for longer distances.

Cowboys and vaqueros may have done the same basic job; but they led different lives. Vaquero means cowman. Most vaqueros were married and stayed on one hacienda all their lives. They knew their animals and the land they grazed. As they grew older, their patron usually found them less strenuous jobs. Cowboys were mostly young, single, and footloose. They rarely saw a woman. Some were lucky enough to find permanent jobs on well-managed ranches, a few managed to start their own spreads, but many spent the time between trail drives or roundups without a job. Eventually most of the drifters got shot, hung, or found other occupations.

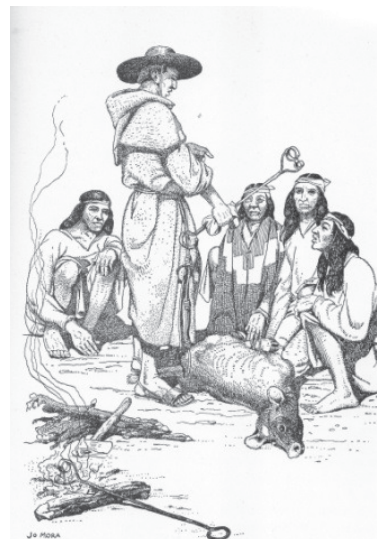
Vaquero Lifestyles

Unlike the cowboys in the United States, the role played by the vaqueros in New Spain was not romanticized. They never became more than peons, but they were superior peons because they faced danger every day and used horses. The working vaqueros could never expect to be promoted beyond the level

Indians, descendants of Negro slaves, or mulattos with mixed Indian and Negro ancestry. These vaqueros could own their own horses and equipment, but in 1574, a new law forbade them to own horses or sell stock. This law was part of the restructuring that created the hacienda system. Some of the vaqueros turned into banditos, but most settled down to working for

rent workers to the landowners; but it also failed. In both cases, the cause of the failures was the 95 percent decline in the native population. It was caused by deaths from the European diseases the Spanish unknowingly brought with them.

Somehow Spanish landowners and mission priests had to find, train, and keep enough vaqueros to handle the day to day care of their expanding herds. Their solution was to use the hacienda system. At first, the conquistadors did not allow Indians to ride horses. As the need for vaqueros steadily increased, this law was ignored and eventually canceled. Both friars from the missions and ranchers selected young, brave, athletic men to train as vaqueros. Many of the friars in the mission were sons of the nobility and had been well trained in fine horsemanship. They trained vaqueros in a series of steps. A student had to master each step before he could go on to the next

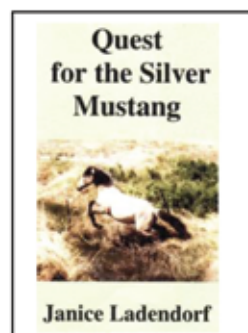


Illustrations by Jo Mora show friars training mission Indians to become vaqueros in California.

When settlers began grazing their unbranded cattle on the lands south and west of Mexico City, they let them wander at will. Many destroyed Indian irrigation channels and crops. In return, the Indians slaughtered and ate some of their cattle. The Spanish answer to this explosive situation was to create a "Mesta." At first, it dealt only with brand registration and stray or stolen animals. As ranching expanded, so did what the "Mesta" controlled. This "Mesta"

new colony, the Spanish had to use native laborers. Their first workers were Aztec captives who had been branded with the letter G. The Spanish also took over the "encomienda" system from Aztecs. It required Indians to labor a set number of days each week as their chiefs or the Spanish gentry directed. This system rapidly

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Silver-mounted rowel spurs worn by vaqueros.

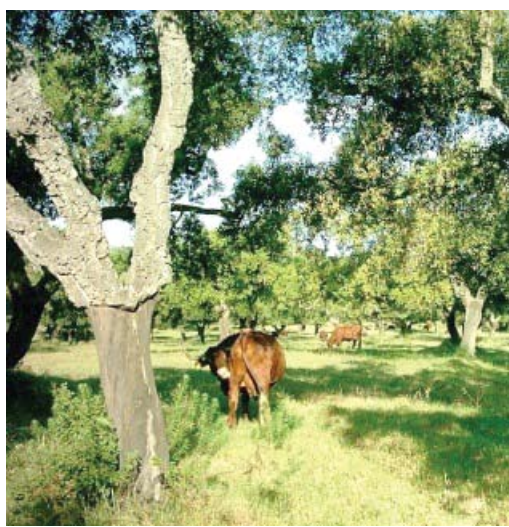
lower salaries on the new haciendas. The hacienda system was not used just in ranching, but to any profit-producing enterprise.

When the hacienda system was first implemented, many of the owners, or

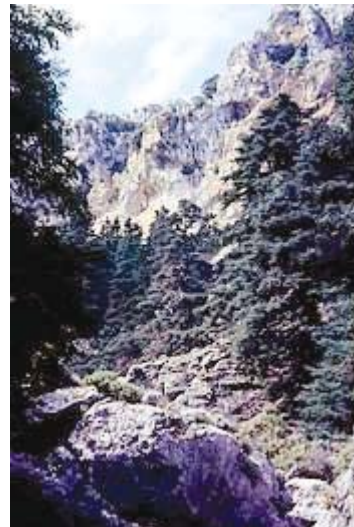
of foreman ("caporal"). The managers and owners may have practiced vaquero skills, but they thought of themselves as "charros." The vaquero badge of honor was the rowel spurs they wore with or without boots. The silver mounting would

Continued on page 12

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



Photos of Andalusia. Note the similarity to the terrain of the American Southwest.



Ranching in Spain

In the 11th century, cattle ranching began in the provinces of Leon and Castile in northern Spain. As soon as the Spanish had taken Andalusia back from the Moors, they introduced cattle ranching there. In many ways, the terrain in these areas was similar to what the conquistadors found in northern Mexico, southern Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and California.

As soon as the Spanish ranchers began running

In municipal or private ranching, many people owned a few cattle that usually grazed together on ranges around the town. To manage conflicts among owners and farmers, municipalities developed the "Mesta" or stockmen's guild. It regulated grazing rights, compensation for crop damage, wages, branding, periodic roundups, removal of unbranded strays, marketing and slaughter, and penalties for breaking the rules. Problems with unbranded and

The Moors drank milk and ate many milk dishes. When they left Spain, they took their milk cattle with them. By that time, the Spanish no longer wanted to own and breed cattle for milk. They focused on breeding cattle for meat and the fighting arena. They also preferred to use mules for draft work. The king of Spain gave George Washington the first mules in the young United States. As the Spanish bred

Cowboy Christmas Gift Show, Cowboy FanFest retail and fan interactive area also sets attendance record at Las Vegas Convention Center

The Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, the richest and most prestigious rodeo in the world, attracted its largest crowds to date. During the ten performances at the Thomas & Mack Center from Dec. 4 - 13, total attendance reached 177,565, eclipsing the previous mark of 176,558 set in 2013. In addition, the Cowboy Christmas Gift Show and Cowboy FanFest brought record crowds to the Las Vegas Convention Center over the ten days. Total attendance reached 200,179, surpassing the previous record attendance of 196,856 set in 2013.

Sold out for 280 consecutive performances, the Wrangler NFR attracts the top 15 contestants in bareback riding, steer wrestling, team roping, saddle bronc riding, tie-down roping, barrel racing and bull riding as they compete for a share of the \$6.375 million purse. Qualification is based on the Professional Rodeo

Cowboys Association World Standings.

The 2014 Wrangler NFR World Champions crowned last night included Trevor Brazile, who claimed his record 21st gold buckle and 12th all-around world championship. Also winning gold buckles were Kaycee Feild, bareback riding; Luke Branquinho, steer wrestling; Clay Tryan and Jade Corkill, team roping; Spencer Wright, saddle bronc riding; Tuf Cooper, tie-down roping; Fallon Taylor, barrel racing and Sage Kimzey, bull riding.



Top: Clay Tryan, right, and Jade Corkill, left, steer roping. Center: Don Gay, announcer. Bottom left: Colorful Fallon Taylor. Bottom right: Kaycee Feild, bronc busting.

With more than 300,000 square feet of show floor and just under 350 exhibitors from across the United States and Canada, the Cowboy Christmas Gift Show featured unique products, including custom-made jewelry, western wear, boots and spurs, furniture, original art, handmade crafts and home goods.

Western lifestyle, giving fans a chance to enjoy the best that rodeo has to offer.

The area featured live music and entertainment in Rodeo Live presented by Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the Boot Barn Rodeo Saloon, demonstrations and competitions in the Wrangler Rodeo Arena presented by Priefert, interactive booths and rodeo exhibits in Lucas Oil Rodeo Way, the NFR Social Arena and more.

Adjacent to Cowboy Christmas, Cowboy FanFest added 100,000 square feet of the best of the

For more information on the Wrangler NFR, Cowboy Christmas and Cowboy FanFest, please visit www.NFRexperience.com or through social media at /LasVegasNFR and use #WranglerNFR.



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Wrangler National Finals Rodeo Concludes Year Long Run for World Champion Titles



BRAZILE, KIMZEY, FEILD REWRITING PRORODEO RECORD BOOK

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – The annual show-and-tell presentation of how much Trevor Brazile has altered the ProRodeo record book has to share the stage this year with a couple of the sport's great young rough-stock cowboys. Any recounting of the year's great achievements has to start with the King of the Cowboys, who upped his record for most total world championships to 21 – with his record 12th all-around gold buckle (record ninth in a row) and fifth in steer roping – and he took his record total earnings past the \$5.5 million mark (\$5,532,121) and his record total of National Finals round wins to 60.

But then you have to talk about the kids.

Oklahoman Sage Kimzey, 20, didn't just become the second rookie bull rider ever to win a world championship (joining Bill Kornell, 1963), but he obliterated the rookie earnings record by more than \$100,000, broke the bull riding earnings record

and his final season total of \$318,631 put him 11th on the all-time single-season earnings list. Brazile has the first eight spots on the list (this year's total of \$494,469 is No. 2), followed by Matt Austin (\$320,766) and Kaycee Feild (\$319,986) – which means Kimzey fell short by \$2,135 of breaking the sport's single-season record for one event.

All Feild did was win his fourth-consecutive world championship and fourth-consecutive WNFR average title, a parlay unmatched in rodeo history. The four consecutive average titles has only been managed one other time in any event, by team roping heeler Leo

Camarillo (1968-71). The four average titles also tied the overall event record set by Bruce Ford (1979-80, 1982 and 1987). Four contestants extended their WNFR event records for most round wins – bareback rider Bobby Mote (25), steer wrestler Luke Branquinho (23), team roping heeler Rich Skelton (35) and tie-down roper Cody Ohl (52). Ohl also advanced his WNFR record for most sub-seven second runs, which he ran to 11 with his 6.8-second winning run in Round 10.

Top: Luke Branquinho, steer wrestling; Bottom: Trevor Brazile and Trevor Graves.

Photos by Tammy Scheffler



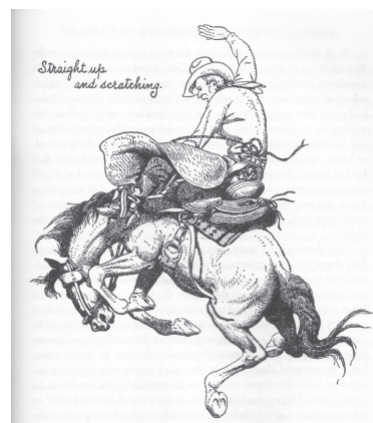
THE INVISIBLE VAQUEROS: PART 3 - RANCHING WITH VAQUEROS IN SPAIN AND MEXICO

Continued from page 9

ers and the ranch employees. Finally, the "latifundio" is a huge ranch divided into management areas and is found mostly in north Mexico. One of the American counterparts is the King Ranch.

In the early days, a ranch headquarters often was a fort. The owner and his family lived within its walls, but it would have space for a chapel, storerooms, workshops, stables, and the ranch store. The employees and their families typically lived in huts inside the walls. As the Indian and bandit threat declined, the owners might live separately in a stone house, but one they could quickly turn into a fort. Their peon families lived in "jacals." They were one room huts with dirt floors. The standard size was ten by fourteen feet. The walls could be built out of mud (adobe), grass, or wood, but most of the roofs were made out of straw. Every one of them had a small altar. Cooking was mostly done outside and the family might eat their meals in a "ramada" or shaded arbor. The wife usually planted corn, beans, and pumpkin vines in a small garden near her "jacal." Most families had a few chickens, a goat, and maybe a pig. Their basic diet was meat, beans, rice, and camp bread. Good cooks produced delicious tortillas, tamales, and enchiladas. Over the years, Mexican food became increasingly popular in the United States. Unfortunately, vaqueros did not get to spend a lot of time with their families. They worked six days a

week for 12 to 14 hours a day. During roundups they could be gone for days. Sometimes they had to spend weeks or months out on the range watch-



To Mora drawings of California mission Indians that illustrate taming the bull and riding a bucking bronco.

ing over the cattle. When they were far from home, they lived in crude lean-tos. They ate "atole" (corn meal mush), beef, and wild game. They also made a hot drink ("pinole") with corn powder, cinnamon, and sometimes added chocolate.

What the vaqueros wore reflected both their dual heritage and what worked well for them in their jobs. The Indians knew how to weave natural fibers and they used that skill to create sombreros with wide brims to protect themselves from the sun. Others adapted European leather and felt hats to

provide similar protection. They wore bandanas, shirts of cotton or wool, and short jackets. When it rained, they could wear waterproof leather jackets or ponchos. Their pants tied at the sides and went only to the knee. They wore no boots and often went barefoot. If they had shoes, they were made out of buckskin.

In northern Mexico and our southeastern states, they often had to ride through a country full of thorny acacia trees and plants, like cactus, which also produced thorns. Below the knee, they wore leather leggings to protect their legs. When that didn't provide enough protection, they tried hanging two huge slabs of rawhide ("armas") from their belts. One fell on their right side and one on their left side. Later they used narrower slabs ("armitas") and tied them together below the knee. These were the first chaps. They could be fringed and made out of buckskin, calf-skin, or the pelts of goats, sheep, bear, wolf, or lion.

The vaqueros did not work all the time. Fiestas were a regular part of their lifestyle. Along with feasting and dancing, they included competitive events, such as racing. Except for bulldogging, they are the ones who started modern rodeo events, such as riding bulls and bucking horses. Rodeo

comes from the Spanish word, "rodear." The vaqueros also had more dangerous contests. Examples are "cobeda" or tailing the bull, and "paso de la muerte," the ride of death. In this ride, the vaquero had to leap from his horse onto the back of a wild horse and stay on him until he stopped bucking or running.

Conclusion: Ranching began in Spain during the Reconquest. Two systems of ranching developed: the "seigneurial" one and the municipal one. Stockmen's guilds or "Mestas" emerged to manage conflicts between members



California mission Indians in vaquero garb. Illustration by Jo Mora.

of the municipalities who grazed their cattle on the open range. In Mexico, the Spanish tried the "encomienda" system, then "repartimento" system, and finally the hacienda system.

To regulate the haciendas, they developed "Mestas" similar to the ones in Spain. The vaqueros were peons, but superior ones who rode horses. The Spanish trained them, but held them in debt bondage. Most of them were "mestizos." They developed clothes suited to their job, such as sombreros and chaps. At their festivals, they held many types of contests, some of which turned into rodeo events.

To Be Continued: In part 4, the working equipment developed by the vaqueros will be discussed.

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Acknowledgements: The five line drawings were done by Jo Mora. They are used with the permission of the Jo Mora Trust, www.jomoraatrust.com.

Photographs and painting of conquistadors entering Tenochtitlan courtesy of Wikipedia.

For over fifty years, Janice Ladendorf has been studying horsemanship and training her own horses. She is the author of four books, *Human Views and Equine Behavior*, *A Marvelous Mustang*, *Quest for the Silver Mustang*, and *Practical Dressage for Amateur Trainers*, as well as many articles about using humane training methods to build a partnership with your horse. She has a B.A. in History and a M.A. in library science. In her advanced studies, she has focused on inter and intra species communication. She has been a librarian, an inventory analyst, and an accountant. She is currently retired and lives in St. Paul, MN.

The Overweight Horse Who Won't Stop Eating -- Leptin Resistance is the Key!

By Juliet M. Getty, Ph.D.

Your horse is overweight. You've been told to feed him a lot less hay and you're desperately trying to do the right thing. But it won't work! It won't work for your horse any more than a strict diet would work for people. We have known this for years when it comes to human obesity. The reason is simple – dieting restricts calories, which lowers the metabolic rate. Weight loss may occur at first, but the body goes into "survival mode" and starts to hold on to fat and becomes sluggish in burning calories, making it extremely easy to put all the weight back on. Horses have an additional issue: Their digestive tract cannot tolerate periods of time without food; it requires a steady flow of forage. There are several reasons for this, including the constant secretion of stomach acid, the potential for ulcers, the need for the cecum to be full in order for digested feed to exit at the top, and more. Please take a look at my book, "Equine Digestion - It's Decidedly Different," for a complete understanding of how the horse is designed on the inside.

Free-choice forage (hay and/or pasture) does not make a horse obese; on the contrary, restricting forage is what leads to obesity. You should reduce or even eliminate the amount of concentrates you feed (e.g., beet pulp, grains, commercial feeds, etc.) but you must never reduce forage (be sure to add a vitamin/mineral supplement to a hay diet). Ideally, you should test your hay[i] to make certain it is low enough in calories, sugar, and starch to be fed to an overweight horse (who is likely insulin resistant) and then, feed it free-choice, 24/7, all day and all night. At first the horse will overeat, but once he gets the message that

the hay is always there, that he can walk away from it and it will still be there when he returns – then, and only then, will he start to self-regulate and eat only what his body needs to maintain condition. If you let him run out of hay, even for 10 minutes, he will always perceive that as a shortage, and will continue to overeat.

But why does self-regulation take forever to occur in some horses? It often has to do with the way he was previously fed. If the horse had been enduring periods of time where there was no hay, his body went into starvation mode; that is, his metabolic rate severely declined. Now that you're feeding free-choice, he will gain weight (which is temporary for most horses, especially if you are providing him opportunities to move). But for some horses, the drive to continually eat seems to never end and self-regulation appears impossible. The reason? Leptin.

Leptin comes from body fat

Excess body fat, especially regional fat deposits along particular areas of the body[ii], is a clear indication of the tissues' reluctance to recognize insulin. Insulin is required for glucose (blood sugar) to enter the cells. When the fat slows down the tissues' recognition of insulin, the pancreas will continue to produce more and more in an attempt to finally get glucose to enter the cells. Elevated insulin tells the tissues to hold onto body fat, making the horse even fatter.

Enter leptin. Leptin is a hormone that is secreted from body fat. It is a good hormone; it tells the brain that the horse is full and he can stop eating. This mecha-

nism works perfectly for the horse of normal weight. But the overly fat horse does not get the message that he is satisfied; the signal that the brain is supposed to get

is supposed to do. But it doesn't.

Why not?



that says I'm no longer hungry doesn't happen. He has become leptin resistant.

In an effort to help the horse lose weight, more times than not the horse owner will be advised to severely restrict the amount that the horse eats, and this starts a vicious cycle: The horse will likely lose some body fat and hence, the leptin level will drop. A decline in leptin signals the horse to eat more, potentially gaining back all of the body fat lost (which also happens in humans[iii]) combined with a decreased metabolic rate making it very easy to put back the pounds. Forage restriction, in particular, is extremely detrimental because the stress involved will increase cortisol, which subsequently induces elevated insulin, which promotes fat storage, and you're back where you started.

But that's the key! The more body fat, the more leptin is produced. That should be a good thing, no? The higher leptin level should tell the brain that it has had enough to eat, right? That's what leptin

It has to do with inflammation. Body fat produces inflammatory molecules known as cytokines. These substances have two negative impacts: First, cytokines disrupt insulin action, reducing the cells' insulin sensitivity, making your horse store more body fat. And second, and very important, cytokines impair the neurons in the brain's hypothalamus[iv] —the area that normally responds to leptin!

What's the solution?

Reduce inflammation.[v] This can be accomplished through dietary changes and adding anti-inflammatory nutraceuticals to the diet:

- Improve protein quality by feeding several sources: Mixed grasses and legumes, as well as whole foods such as ground flaxseeds, split peas, copra meal, whey protein isolate, hemp seeds, and chia seeds.
- Avoid added sugar and starch by eliminating sweetened feeds, cereal grains, wheat middlings, and rice

purchase recordings of her educational teleseminars. All of Dr. Getty's books are also available from Amazon and other online retailers. Reach Dr. Getty directly at gettyequinenutrition@gmail.com.

(i) Testing your hay for its caloric content (digestible energy), as well as its sugar (ESC) and starch levels, is the only true way to know if the hay is appropriate to feed free-choice. Equi-Analytical Labs offers economical tests to provide equine-based results – www.equi-analytical.com. Equi-Tech test is recommended.

[ii] Areas include a cresty neck, crease going down the spine, fat along the ribs, behind the shoulders, on the tail head, and even over the eyes.

[iii] Rosenbaum, M., Goldsmith, R., Bloomfield, D., et al., 2005. Low-dose leptin reverses skeletal muscle, autonomic, neuroendocrine adaptations to maintenance of reduced weight. *J. Clin Invest*, 115, 3579-3586.

[iv] Guyenet, S.J., and Schwartz, M.W., 2012. Regulation of food intake, energy balance, and body fat mass: Implications for the pathogenesis and treatment of obesity. *J. Clin Endocrinol Metab.*, 97(3), 745-755

[v] Thaler, J.P., Yi, C., Schur, E.A., et al., 2011. Obesity is association with hypothalamic injury in rodents and humans. *J. Clin Invest*, 10.1172/JCI159660. [PubMed]

[vi] Please refer to articles on nutritional management in the Library section of www.gettyequinenutrition.com

[vii] Getty, J.M., 2014. The correct way to use slow feeders. <http://gettyequinenutrition.biz/library/the-correct-way-to-use-slow-feeders.htm>

Bottom line

By reducing inflammation, the brain will likely become more responsive to leptin, allowing the horse to stop eating when he is full. Stress needs to be eliminated through unlimited grazing on an appropriate forage. Slow-feeders can be useful in reducing intake.[vii] Combine all this with increased movement, and you have a formula for success. 🐾

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 website, www.gettyequinenutrition.com, offers a generous stock of free, useful information for the horseperson. Sign up for her free monthly newsletter, *Forage for Thought*; browse her library of reference articles; shop her online store of recommended supplements; search her nutrition forum; and

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You Can Save a Life: Anna Twinney on PMU Foals

By Kari Hagstrom

Continued from page 4

industry is moving to China, where the horses will be out of reach. There were once apparently 50,000 horses on peelines on American ranches. Now there aren't any here, because they've all moved to Canada, and on, apparently, to China. The industry has gotten smaller, going from 50,000 to 6,000, but most of the foals are still destined to slaughter. A lot of farmers' contracts have been lost. Products like Premarin® [and related products] create the demand for 'pony skins'; and thousands of foals are shipped live to Japan for live consumption.

"There are sanctuaries for PMU horses. Jennifer Kuntz runs the Duchess Sanctuary in Oregon, which houses over 150 PMU mares and their last foals. It is on over 1,000 acres, and managed so the horses can be horses [having freedom and interaction versus isolation and constraint]. It's the second largest sanctuary in the U.S., the mustang sanctuary in South Dakota's Black Hills being the largest.

"There's a psychological effect on the horses [from being in the PMU industry, not just the physical effects]," says Twinney.

As for the "compassion fatigue" many supporters of rescues and caring individuals may feel, Twinney recommends: "It's about balance, about regrouping and choosing your cause; not ignoring it. It's about how and what you choose."

"There are solutions: Educate doctors. I'd love to get into universities and address doctors-in-training, raise awareness and say, 'Do you know...?' I don't think a lot of doctors actually

realize where the estrogen comes from and how it is acquired, and if they were aware, they might prescribe other products. Another solution is to share the message with women. Again to

raise awareness, but also to let them know that they can start at home to make changes, even with something as simple as changing their diet. [Foods can affect hormonal levels and

responses. Certain essential oils—see the Oct. 2014 issue of "The Valley Equestrian News" at www.theveonline.com --have been noted as being beneficial for regulating menopausal effects, as have certain herbs. Complimentary medicine and holistic medicine have many options for addressing hormonal changes due to menopause—do your research. One need not be dependent on chemical medicine for support.] Premarin® and its related products have been found to be cancer-causing, so it's a win-win to choose other solutions. You can save the life of a foal, its mother, and yourself. The final solution, of course, is to save the foals."

Really, it all comes down to choice. How do you choose to be in this world? What do you choose to support? Are you willing to choose transitory personal comfort over the life and lives of innocents? Industries of extortion, use, abuse, disposability of lives, such as the PMU industry and others, are a blight, a fungus on the conscience of humanity that cannot fail to taint our outlook and our endeavors. It

is a mess "we" have created, and "we" need to clean it up—it's past time. What we choose in the outer world reflects our inner world. Do you want to create a beautiful world inside and outside yourself? It all comes down to whether you think that every life matters. You can end this industry that extorts the lives of mares, mothers, and treats foals, babies, as disposable refuse by the choices you make. You can save a life.

In the coming months, "The Valley Equestrian News" with Anna Twinney will explore and examine other exploitative industries, including feedlot foals and nurse mare foals. We will examine solutions and ways to make positive, proactive choices so you can be aware, and if you so choose, to help save lives.

For more information about Twinney's "Success: Foals in Training" DVD, go to <http://www.reachouttohorses.com/dvd.html>.



Top: Honeybrook and Aria arrive at the Reach Out Ranch in Colorado and settle in to their new home.

Photo by Anna Twinney

Bottom: Petey, Ray of Light Farms Ambassador.

Image by Sana of Ray of Light Farms



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COWBOY POETRY WITH ORV

MOVE YOUR DONKEY, COWBOY!

by Orv Alveshere

DONKEY BASKETBALL...INDOORS
Watching DONKEY basketball is enjoyable. I've always longed to ride. Knowing an immovable object like a donkey could injure one's pride. Having long legs seemed like it could prevent embarrassing falls from a short mount. Mentally scheming that I could stay on a donkey. Ev'ry shot could count. As an experienced equine rider, plus an accurate basketball shot, I knew what could spoil my plot, would be a fall from a quick stop juggernaut! My daydream came from watching games with background music of honky-tonky. I could enjoy playing a basketball game from the back of a donkey.

STARRING JACK AND JENNY BURRO
Laughs galore as stubborn donkeys definitely have a mind of their own, With unique, humorous and humiliating pratfalls from being thrown By a four-foot-high, accident prone, obstinate blockhead, so contrary. Quick bucks, spin bucks, or a sudden dash and stop would topple the unwary. Grand plans to organize a competitive game would soon be in disarray, Making fools of star players who came with talent to skillfully play. Rules were changed out of necessity. They don't play in a honky-tonky. To pass, receive, shoot or score, one must be mounted on a headstrong donkey.

HOLD YOUR NOSE FOR DONKEY DROPPINGS ACCIDENT
Picture the jovial audience laughing at expert riders. One cowboy, Six-foot-two, had legs touching the floor. His puny donkey looked like a toy. Kicking and urging that unyielding burro was stubbornly absurd. We don't know, but speculate, that rider uttered a discouraging word. Expert bronc riders rode like DONKEY-HOTEE...you know, that windmill guy. The referees were busy. Donkeys moved at inopportune times. It was wry, One-handed basketball was a challenge, like hearing in a honky-tonky. The worst of donkey basketball was...the best!! Guys acting like a donkey.

WHEN DONKEYS ARE OUTLAWED ONLY OUTLAWS WILL HAVE DONKEYS RIDING, PLAYING FOR FUN/UNCOACHED STRATEGY
In the middle of Montana some cowboys took the floor on short mounts. Plans for entertainment brought surprise events, to be taken into account. Bucked off, shied off, lurched off and rolled forward caused hilarious pratfalls, Eliciting taunts from visitor's fan club bench, adding some caterwauls. A big, burly redhead, let's call him Ralph, who picked up his stubborn, short steed. He hauled donkey to near the basket, mounted, caught passes, and took the lead. Like the Ralph I knew...from his new position, like star in a honky-tonky, He scored...sitting on a formerly ornery, hard-nosed, stalled donkey.

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The Polk County Conservation Board located in Granger, Iowa is seeking an energetic, highly motivated proven leader to supervise the daily activities of the Jester Park Equestrian Center stable, arena, buildings and surrounding grounds.

Barn Supervisor

Salary Range: \$45,399-\$59,549 excellent benefits. The supervisor monitors the care and health of the horses; treating horses under the direction of a veterinarian; ensures all facilities and equipment are in safe working order; requisitions supplies; fixes equipment; feeds, waters and exercises horses; and interacts with the public, horse owners, and suppliers in a variety of different settings. The ideal candidate will possess both a college degree in animal science or a related field and at least two years' experience in the care/boarding of horses.

Application, resume and cover letter deadline is January 9th, 2015
Apply online, job description and application is available at <http://www.polkcountyia.gov/hr/job-opportunities/>



1974 photo by Kim Utke: Prince Shannon and Shannon Utke, son of Dave & Kim Utke, Sheldak Ranch, Sheldon, ND.	California, where he was Reserve National Champion at his first show, Grand Champion at the Cow Palace, and went on to be nominated into the Hall Of Fame in 1996. He was Leading	Sire in nearly every category during his prime, siring many National & World Champions and High Point in Nation offspring.	Kim Utke, and was sired by Prince's Jim by Prince Plaudit, and out of Barretta Bright by Mighty Bright.
Prince Shannon was sold to Liz Tackett,		Prince Shannon was bred by Dave &	Kim Utke http://www.sheldakranch.com/

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Pelican Rapids, Minn. Holds Annual Lighted Horse Parade

Each year Pelican Rapids MN hosts a lighted horse parade as their Christmas Kickoff held the day after Thanksgiving at 6:30 p.m. It is a horse only parade.



This year there were 19 units. Jess Nelson and Ley Bouchard were the photographers this year. Teamsters listed in the program are: Wayne Erickson, Ginger Demmer, Brian Marquardt, Marcy Beaty, Sue Swanson, Nick Heeter, Dale Engen, Dave Kaste, Wally Rodewalk, Dick Schauer, Polly Thorsness, Carol & Jim Sheridan, Dick Rossow, Mike Doran, Ardean Johnson, John Berry and Megan & Jarod Roth.

Top: Ardean Johnson with his Belgian team from Detroit Lakes, Minn.

Photo by Jess Nelson



Above middle: A unit sponsored by the Trinity Lutheran Church. Below left: Dick Rossow, Rothsay, Minn., drives his Norwegian Fjord team.

Photos by Ley Bouchard

Right: Wayne Erickson drives his team for Sanford Health. Far right: Santa driving a mini for Weckwirth Veterinary. Lower right: Sue Swanson, Park Rapids, Minn. drives her minis for Riverview Health.



Photos by Jess Nelson

More photos may be found on the Valley Equestrian News Facebook page at www.facebook.com/VENews.

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Dr. Getty Nutrition Information Black oil sunflower seeds – Be sure to balance with omega 3s

Black oil sunflower seeds (BOSS) are a popular addition to the horse's diet. They are highly nutritious, offering protein, vitamins, and minerals and are especially high in magnesium (100 mg per ounce). BOSS are high in fat, as well, but the type of fat is mainly in the form of omega 6s, with very little omega 3 content. Since omega 6s are inflammatory, balancing with a source of omega 3s is important to consider, especially for the horse who is experiencing inflammation due to injury, aging, or obesity.

One cup of BOSS provides approximately 10,000 mg of omega 6s and only 34 mg of omega 3s. To bring this in line with the naturally occurring ratio of 4:1 omega 3s to omega 6s found in fresh grasses, you would need to feed approximately two cups of ground flaxseeds or chia seeds.

Be certain to feed only

the black seeds, typically purchased for wild birds; their shells are soft and easy to digest. Avoid the striped shelled seeds; their outer shell contains a large amount of indigestible fiber that cannot be managed by the microbial population in your horse's digestive tract. Related to this, a new supplement category is available at Dr. Getty's Free Shipping Supplement Store that addresses nutritional approaches toward reducing inflammation. Inflammation is the culprit of too much body fat, potentially leading to impaired signaling of leptin to let the horse's body know he has had enough to eat. Reducing inflammation will help bring your horse's body back to functioning normally.

Juliet M. Getty, Ph.D. is an internationally respected, independent equine nutritionist who believes that optimizing horse health comes from understanding

how the horse's physiology and instincts determine the correct feeding and nutrition practices. She is available for private consultations and speaking engagements.

Dr. Getty's comprehensive resource book, *Feed Your Horse Like a Horse*, is available at Dr. Getty's website, www.gettyequinenutrition.com, as well as from Amazon (www.amazon.com) and other online book retailers. The seven separate volumes in Dr. Getty's topic-centered "Spotlight on Equine Nutrition" series are also available at her website (where Dr. Getty offers special package pricing) and from Amazon (in print and Kindle versions) and from other online retailers. Dr. Getty's books make ideal gifts for horse-loving friends.

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



Holding the Vision By Staci Grattan

"It's not a matter of mechanics, it's a matter of heart."

Classical Dressage Master Dominique Barbier, December 14, 2014, during a clinic at Spirit Horse Center in Brainerd, Minnesota.

In horsemanship we spend quite a bit of time and energy working on the mechanics of handling and riding horses. Where are my hands? What are my legs doing? Could I have timed the hand or leg aid better? On the other end of the spectrum are those of us who are not mentally present and/or not focused on what it is that we want from our partners. Basically we leave all decisions up to the horse and "react" to what they give us.

The conversation between horse and human can get lost along the way as we "should" on ourselves "I should be doing this," "I should have done that" or we simply don't focus at all. Don't get me wrong, proper aids and mechanics are important, as is riding for pleasure in a relaxed manner.

As a riding instructor, trainer and lifelong student of horsemanship and classical dressage I see (or have been in) many situations where

horse handlers/riders know the aids but they are so focused on them that they end up "micromanaging" the situation. The best example I can think of is when we are learning to drive and we "overcorrect" the car and end up swerving down the road with timing that is "behind" the situation. We've all been there.

The flip side is the rider who isn't thinking about what they want. Instead they are either focused on what they do not want and/or not focused at all.

Perhaps you recognize yourself in one of the above scenarios. Maybe it is sometimes. Maybe it is always. Maybe sometimes it is one way and sometimes it is another. The good news is I have some insight on how to bring your partnership with your horse to the next level no matter what your discipline or riding style.

The truth is, no matter what our horsemanship style is, we all must provide leadership in our partnership with our horses. But, how do we accomplish this? The notion that leadership is entirely physical, i.e., giving aids and physical movements on the ground and in the saddle has long since left my mental airport. Currently, before I do anything else, I picture what I want. I breathe and

I focus and I give my horse the gift of being mentally present and give CLEAR direction via mental images.

My own horses and the horses that I handle regularly have now come to expect this mental guidance from me. Each one of them reacts a little differently to my "mental envisioning." However, one common denominator among them all, is that when I forget, or am tired



or distracted (even for a moment), when I come back to center and picture exactly what it is that I want, they all visibly relax and things begin to flow-- akin to a human sigh of relief. This is pretty incredible validation for my logical little human brain. I can almost hear the horses telling me, "Thank you for the clear direction!"

To add to this scenario, I ask you to consider how often you feel "behind the curve" when handling or riding your horses? Think about it, are we "reacting" to what they give us? Are we trying to force things physically by giving repeated similar aids that aren't working at all or only working in a mediocre way? It has been my observation that many of those handling and riding horses are not only not providing clear mental direction, they

I can imagine a few of you out there reading this shak-

ing your heads and thinking, "What?! Is she trying to tell us horses are telepathic?!" Maybe I am. However, even if you can't swallow that notion, how about the cold hard facts? The truth we all know about highly successful athletes is that envisioning a movement or and outcome can make the difference between winning and losing. Ask yourself, why is that?

Instead of saying "No, not that, no, no," what would happen if you responded with "This is what I want, this is what I want, this is what I want"? For me, this is best accomplished by visualizing and then holding that image. I want to clarify that statement by stating that doesn't mean we aren't flexible! We are always adjusting and readjusting our goals when working with our horses.

In my experience it works best when I hold the vision calmly and patiently. If I am getting a lot of "questions" from my horse I may adjust my end result goal to end the session on a good note. The important part of that equation is holding your picture calmly and patiently.

are not keeping a strong vision. There is no judgment behind that statement, it is merely an observation.

Horses will often throw mental challenges our way by asking "Did you mean trot?" or "how about this?" or "I'm a bit uncomfortable with this, How about that?" I believe in those situations we best assist our partners by providing not only the clear mental direction as discussed previously but also a consistent vision.

As we launch the New Year I hope I have given you some food for thought in regards to how you partner with and provide leadership to your horses. I encourage you all to find the vision and hold it as you work with your horses in 2015!

Staci Grattan and her husband, Brion Fornshell, co-own Spirit Horse Center in Brainerd, Minnesota. Staci enjoys using her focus on true classical dressage, basic and holistic horsemanship to assist horses and humans. Spirit Horse Center is located in North Central Minnesota and provides boarding, training, lessons and regularly hosts clinics and events benefitting horse owners and horses. For more information on go to www.spirithorsecenterinc.com.

Not only are you clear in your own mind and heart about what it is that you desire, you provide consistent clarity for your partner.

Staci Grattan and her husband, Brion Fornshell, co-own Spirit Horse Center in Brainerd, Minnesota. Staci enjoys using her focus on true classical dressage, basic and holistic horsemanship to assist horses and humans. Spirit Horse Center is located in North Central Minnesota and provides boarding, training, lessons and regularly hosts clinics and events benefitting horse owners and horses. For more information on go to www.spirithorsecenterinc.com.

Caption: Staci Grattan rides Legend, her Freisian x quarter horse gelding, at the recent Dominique Barbier clinic held at Spirit Horse Center, Brainerd, Minn. Photo by Mallory Bourn of Bourn Photography



The Oldest Horse

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The wind of heaven is that which blows between a horse's ears.

Arabian Proverb



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Regional News

Landowners face 2014 Farm Bill decisions

By Kevin Klair, Ag News Wire ST. PAUL, Minn. (12/8/2014)—Landowners need to be involved in 2014 Farm Bill decisions for their farms. In fact, two of the three farm bill decisions required must be made by landowners, rather than tenants.

By Feb. 27, 2015, landowners must make key decisions about updating payment yields and reallocation base acres. Current producers must choose between the price loss coverage (PLC) and agricultural risk coverage (ARC) programs by March 31, 2015. Landowners should be involved in all three decisions, though, since these choices can affect land values and future rental rates.

Yield update

Landowners have two choices:

- Update payment yields to 90 percent of average yields from 2008 to 2012
- Keep current payment yields

Yields can be updated on a crop-by-crop basis. This decision is simple; landowners should select the highest yield for each program crop. For most farms, updating the payment yield will be the best choice. Current payment yields either reflect average yields from 1998-2001 or from 1981-1985. Yields have increased significantly since both of those time periods. Payment yields will not be updated if the landowner does nothing.

The biggest challenge for landowners will be getting written evidence that documents the yields for 2008 to 2012. Landowners will self-certify the yield history for 2008 to 2012 to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (FSA). They will not have to pro-

vide any documentation at the time of sign-up. However, FSA can conduct audits, or spot checks, at any time from 2015 through 2018 to verify the yields submitted. If the tenant changed during the 2008 to 2012 time period, getting yield evidence for those years may be challenging. But even if tenancy doesn't change, it could before 2018 so getting written yield history and keeping it on file is important. If FSA conducts an audit, the agency accepts four kinds of yield evidence:

- Crop insurance data from the USDA's Risk Management Agency—specific year yields used in actual production history (APH) records
 - Production evidence based on quantities sold or placed in commercial storage
 - On-farm storage records
 - FSA loan records
- Base acre reallocation Landowners again have two choices:
- Reallocate base acres based on program crops planted from 2009 to 2012
 - Retain current base acre allocation

Total base acres cannot be increased; existing base acres can only be reallocated. Reallocated acres are based on plantings from 2009 to 2012, versus the current base acres, which reflect plantings from either 1998-2001 or from 1981-1985.

The decision to reallocate base acres is not as straightforward as the decision to update yields. Landowners may want to consult with their renters before deciding whether to reallocate acres. To minimize risk, a landowner/producer may want to allocate base acres to match

as closely as possible to what is typically planted on the farm. This will result in payments more closely corresponding to price and yield changes for the crops currently being produced. To maximize government payments, the base acre decision should be considered in conjunction with the PLC/ARC decision. Payments for both the PLC and ARC programs are calculated using base acres. The most feasible method to integrate these two decisions is to run one of the national decision aid online tools.

PLC/ARC decision

The PLC/ARC decision is made by the current producer as of the date of signing up for the program. A producer is anyone with a share in the crop and who shares in the risk of producing it. Under cash rental arrangements, the renter will make this decision rather than the landowner. Landowners are considered producers in share rental

arrangements, though. Once the election is made, the PLC-or-ARC choice stays with the farm until 2018, even if the tenant changes.

The PLC and ARC programs are designed to protect producers against different types of risk. PLC provides a payment to the producer if prices are below a pre-determined reference price; it helps producers mitigate the impact of low prices. ARC provides a payment if the current year's revenue, price multiplied by yield, is lower than the revenue during the previous five years; it is capped at 10 percent of the previous five-year average. It helps producers manage shallow revenue losses resulting from declining prices or yields.

Detailed fact sheets are available on each of these topics at <http://z.umn.edu/cropfarmbill>.

National online decision aid tools help analyze these decisions in more depth and run various price scenarios. They are at <http://fsa.usapas.com>.

Landowners most likely will consult with their tenant to evaluate these choices. The landowner can file an FSA power of attorney form with the local FSA office that allows the tenant to make these decisions for the landowner.

Kevin Klair is an agricultural economist with the University of Minnesota Extension.

Media Contact: Allison Sandve, U of M Extension, (612) 626-4077, ajsandve@umn.edu

Congress Passes Tax Extender Bill for 2014

Submitted by American Horse Council admin on Tue, 12/16/2014

The Senate followed the House of Representatives and passed the Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014 (H.R. 5771). The President is expected to sign the bill shortly, possibly this week before the lame-duck session of the 113th Congress ends.

The bill would extend for 2014 several tax provisions favorable to horse owners, breeders, and equine businesses that expired or were reduced at the end of 2013, including three-year depreciation for all race horses. The bill extends these provisions retroactively for eligible equine assets, including horses, purchased and/or placed in service at any time in 2014. The extensions are effective only through December 31, 2014. On January 1, 2015 they again expire or revert to prior levels.

Bonus Depreciation.

Anyone in the horse business could depreciate up to 50 percent of the cost of new property purchased and placed in service in 2013, including horses and other equipment. This was known as "bonus depreciation." It was restricted to new assets, which meant that the first use of the horse or other property had to begin with the taxpayer. This provision was not extended by Congress and had expired for 2014.

The legislation would extend bonus depreciation at 50 percent for the cost of new assets purchased and placed in service during 2014.

Depreciation of Race Horses.

From 2009 through 2013 all race horses were depreciated over three years, regardless of their age when they were placed in service. This provision was passed in 2008 through the efforts of Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY). This change, which eliminated the 7-year depreciation period for race horses, expired at the end of 2013. The legislation would extend the three-year recovery period for all race horses placed in service during 2014, regardless of age.

Conservation Easements.

Favorable rules for contributions by farmers and ranchers of capital gain real property for conservation easements, allowing a deduction of up to 100% of the donor's contribution base, expired for 2013. The legislation would extend through 2014 the enhanced deduction involving conservation easements.

The legislation was signed by the President Dec. 19.

Industry News

European Union Suspends Mexican Horsemeat Imports Audit Details Food Safety, Animal Welfare Concerns in Slaughter of American Horses in Mexico

WASHINGTON (Dec. 8, 2014) -- The European Commission dealt a game-changing blow to the North American horse slaughter industry with its decision to impose a moratorium on the import of horsemeat from Mexico following a series of audits by the Food and Veterinary Office. The audits echo the food safety and animal welfare concerns long voiced and probed by The Humane Society of the United States. The most recent audit published on Dec. 4 is a damning indictment of the horse slaughter industry and the Mexican authorities' failure to rectify previously identified problems.

Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The HSUS, said: "This predatory industry has once again been exposed for animal abuse and reckless disregard for consumer safety. The decision to shut down this hub for the North American slaughter industry should result in tens of thousands of American horses no longer facing the dread and terror of long-distance transport and inhumane slaughter. It's a huge moment in our campaign to end the slaughter of American horses through-

out North America."

The FVO audit raises serious concerns about the traceability of U.S. and Mexican horses. U.S. horses account for 87 percent of the eligible horses slaughtered in Mexico for export to the EU. The audit questioned the reliability and truthfulness of vendor statements about horses' medical treatment records. American horses are raised for use in show, sport, work, and recreation and are regularly administered drugs and other substances over the course of their lives that are potentially toxic to humans.

For example, a common pain reliever routinely administered to all types of horses, Phenylbutazone, is known to pose a threat to human well-being and has long been deemed unfit for human consumption.

The audit also outlined serious animal welfare concerns throughout the slaughter pipeline, including injured animals and lack of adequate care at the export facilities on U.S. soil, horses suffering during transport, and many American horses dying in slaughterhouse pens due to trauma and pneumonia. The

FVO acknowledges that the information received from groups such as The HSUS and HSI accurately depicts the extremely poor conditions in which horses are transported.

The HSUS has long argued that Congress should enact the SAFE Act (Safeguard American Food Exports Act), to halt the transport of horses for slaughter within the United States and also to our North American neighbors. With Congress last year defunding slaughter in the United States, and the EU's action to shut down imports from Mexico, there is no rationale for not banning this trade.

The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's largest animal protection organization, rated most effective by our peers. For 60 years, we have celebrated the protection of all animals and confronted all forms of cruelty. We are the nation's largest provider of hands-on services for animals, caring for more than 100,000 animals each year, and we prevent cruelty to millions more through our advocacy campaigns. Read more about our 60 years of transformational change

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Submitted by American Horse Council admin on Mon, 12/15/2014

On December 13, 2014, an omnibus appropriations bill, which will fund the government through September 30, 2015, was passed by Congress. This bill is a package that includes parts of the FY 2015 appropriations bills, except Homeland Security, and will fund most government agencies and programs until the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 2015.

The omnibus bill contains several provisions that impact the horse industry, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) FY 2015 appropriations bill. Normally, Congress debates and approves separate appropriation bills for each federal agency. However, Congress has been unable to pass any individual FY 2015 appropriations bills and has been relying on a Continuing Resolution (CR) that is an extension of previous bills to keep the government operating. This omnibus bill will keep the government open.

FY 2015 USDA Appropriations Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Equine Health

The bill appropriates \$871.3 million for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). APHIS is the USDA agency responsible for protecting the U.S. equine industry and responding to contagious equine disease outbreaks. Funding for Equine, Cervid, and Small Ruminant health is set at \$19.5 million, the same as FY 2014.

Horse Slaughter
The bill includes language that prohibits USDA from using any funds to provide

inspectors at meat processing facilities that slaughter horses, continuing a block that began in 2005, except for a brief period in 2012 and 2013.

No horse slaughter facilities are operating in the U.S. and this bill would effectively prevent any such facility from opening until September 30, 2015.

The language was included in the omnibus bill because both the Senate and House Appropriations Committees adopted amendments that prohibited funding for inspectors at horse slaughter facilities when they debated and approved their respective versions of the FY 2015 USDA appropriations bill. The Senate amendment was offered by Senators Mary Landrieu (D-LA) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC); the House amendment was offered by Congressman Jim Moran (D-VA).

Horse Protection Act

The bill provides \$697,000 for enforcement of the Horse Protection Act, the same as FY 2014.

Wild Horses and Burros

The omnibus bill also includes a provision that would prohibit the Bureau of Land Management from euthanizing healthy wild horses in its care or from selling wild horses or burros that results in their being processed into commercial products.

EPA and Corps Interpretive Rule

Earlier this year the Environmental Protection Agency

(EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) issued an "interpretive rule" (IR) regarding the Clean Water Act (CWA) exemptions for agricultural discharges of dredge and fill materials into "Waters of the U.S." that was made effective immediately. For the first time the IR limited the exemption for agricultural discharges of dredge and fill materials to 56 specified conservation practices. Previously, it was understood that the exemption applied to all "normal farming, silviculture and ranching activities, such as plowing, seeding, cultivating, minor drainage, harvesting for the production of food, fiber, and forest products, or upland soil and water conservation practices." The AHC opposed the IR because it could place new constraints on horse farms and ranches.

The bill would require the EPA and Corp to withdraw the IR and prohibit requiring a permit for dredge and fill material.

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act

The bill also extends the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) until September 30, 2016. FLREA is the authorizing legislation that allows the federal land management agencies to charge fees, but also limits when fees can be charged and how those fees are used.

The President signed the bill Dec. 16.

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