

June 2014



The Valley Equestrian Newspaper

Cutest Foal Contestants



Who Do You Choose?



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- *Dressage: An Invitation to the Casual Rider*
- *Road to the Ultimate X Showdown*
- *"Because My Daughter Grew Up With Horses"*

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Road to the Ultimate X Showdown Trainer's Challenge Off the Race Track, Around the Barrels

By Kari Hagstrom

Lindsay Jensen, 23, professional barrel racer and horse trainer, owns and operates Rush Meadow Farm Performance Horses, Detroit Lakes, Minn. (www.rushmeadowfarm.webs.com). She is one of 15 trainers from across the country accepted by application into the 100-day Ultimate X Showdown Trainer's Challenge/Barrel Race (UXS), put on by Dreaming of Three. The UXS is for off-the-track thoroughbreds, with a total purse of over \$10,000, with \$5,000 paid out to the winner. All proceeds go to support off-the-track thoroughbred rescues. The UXS Trainer's Challenge/Barrel Race will be held Sept. 5, 2014, at 7 p.m. at Simmons Equestrian Center, Negley, Ohio.

Dreaming of Three is a non-profit organization that does charitable fund raising through rodeo and a passion for horses. Based on the founder, Jackie Harris' experience of losing her

step-father to cancer, and her father to heart disease, Dreaming of Three was born of a desire to support three charities (American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, and St. Jude's Children's Hospital) by donating Harris' barrel racing winnings, and incorporating the symbolic three barrels of barrel racing. Over time, Dreaming of Three has grown to include a Rodeo Kids Program, where kids with cancer or heart disease and their families are taken to rodeos. It also includes disaster relief fund raising, with Team DO3. For more information, go to www.dreamingofthree.org.

Valley Equestrian: Lindsay, how did you get into barrel racing?

Jensen: I started riding when I was six years old, on hunter/jumper horses and also showed ponies. I had this pretty grey mare, who was kind of small and didn't want to be a hunter/jumper. I was about 16 at the time,

and dating a cowboy, who introduced me to barrel racing, and one thing led to another. I went to college at Northwestern Oklahoma State in Alva, where I majored in agriculture and business, and participated in college rodeo. I've since turned pro, and ride the Great Lakes circuit two to three times a week. My goal is to get to the NFR [National Finals Rodeo].

VEN: What's your training philosophy?

Jensen: I guess I use New Age techniques. I like to be soft but firm. The horses have to like you to work for you. If they like you, they'll work better for you. It's like with a boss at work: you work better for your boss if you like him or her. I've been a professional trainer for five years now, and usually train eight to nine horses a month. My horses are spoiled to a good point—they still respect me and don't walk all over me, but they work better for you if you're their friend.

I really like training horses and teaching people about horses and how to ride. I'm fortunate to have good support people in my life who allow me to train, rodeo, and participate in events like the UXS.

VEN: How did you become involved with the Ultimate X Showdown?

Jensen: I heard of it through Dreaming of Three and the Internet. I applied last year, and won reserved champion.

VEN: You're

training Miley for the UXS, what's her story?

Jensen: Sikura's Gift, aka Miley, is a five-year-old thoroughbred mare, who raced until last fall (2013). She won \$26,595 [in lifetime earnings], which is decent for her career. I've had her for about a month. She's quiet and receptive. She'll keep trying if she doesn't understand what I'm trying to teach her. She wants to learn. She stands 15.2 hands, with a wide back and front, with short cannon bones that are conducive to barrel racing. So she has good possibilities [for this challenge].

VEN: Many of the horses in the UXS will be sold after the competition; will you sell Miley or keep her?

Jensen: That depends on how things go. It depends on the possibility of uses Miley shows. If she seems like a good prospect, I'll keep her on my string of barrel horses. My top horse right now is Andi, a retired thoroughbred mare I got through the Minnesota Retired Racehorse Program. I also have a young quarter horse I'm working with.

VEN: What do you hope to accomplish by participating and hopefully winning the UXS?

Jensen: I want to show that thoroughbreds can race barrels just as well as other breeds. That they have heart and the heart for it. Some horses are limited by their bodies, in that they don't have the right structure to excel at barrels, and some don't have the right attitude or aptitude, but it can be a good avenue for them. Especially the off-the-track thoroughbreds, who are often well-mannered and do well in a new discipline.



Follow Lindsay Jensen and Miley on their road to the Ultimate X Showdown on our Face Book page: www.facebook.com/VEnews. We'll also follow their progress in the next few issues of The Valley Equestrian Newspaper and online at www.theveonline.com.

Photos are Lindsay Jensen and her horse, Miley.



AHC's 2014 Issues Forum and Convention Approach

The American Horse Council's National Issues Forum on June 24 will feature this year a program on "Where Have All the Horses Gone." "Every major equine breed registry has seen a dramatic drop in the number of registered horses over the last ten years. What are the reasons? Is this a function of the economy or a fundamental, permanent change in the industry? What will it mean for the industry, short and long-term? Are some breeds and activities affected more than others?" noted AHC president Jay Hickey.

The AHC's Forum will address these and other questions surrounding this critical issue. Tim Capps, Director of the Equine Industry Program at the University of Louisville, will be the keynote speaker and will try to put the situation in context. Have we been here before? Is this a result of the downturn in the economy or something different? Does the industry have the correct data to make such determinations and plan for the future? Mr. Capps has been involved with the horse industry through his professional life in various capacities and now brings his experience and academic background to the issue.

The Forum will also feature three panels featuring a cross-section of breed registries, trainers and other stakeholders offering their thoughts on the drop. "We have lined-up speakers from the American Association of Equine Practitioners, American Quarter Horse Association, Arabian Horse Association, Maryland Horse Breeders Association, National Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association, The Jockey Club, Thoroughbred Racing Associations, and United States Equestrian Federation to discuss how the drop affects them and what they might be doing, said Hickey. "This is a very diverse group." This year's National Issues Forum will be held on Tues-

day, June 24, in Washington, DC during the AHC's annual convention. The annual meeting will run from June 22 to 25 at the Washington Court Hotel.

Attendees will also hear an update on Time to Ride, an initiative of the American Horse Council's Marketing Alliance, by Patti Colbert, of PCE Enterprises. Time to Ride has launched a national campaign and contest with a goal of introducing 100,000 new people to a horse experience between May 31 and September 7, 2014. Nationwide, 1,000 members of the horse community will have the opportunity to compete for \$100,000 in cash and prizes in three different categories based upon size. Up to 1,000 "hosts" may enter Time to Ride's "100 Day Horse Challenge." There will also be an update on the industry's National Equine Health Plan and the Equine Disease Communication Center by Dr. Nat White, past president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners. Dr. White has been spearheading efforts to draft a National Equine Health Plan. The plan is intended to prevent or mitigate disease outbreaks, which have cost the industry millions of dollars in care, biosecurity, and lost revenue because of cancelled or restricted commercial equine events. Fundamental to that plan is an Equine Disease Communication Center to coordinate and disseminate timely and accurate information about diseases in general and outbreaks when they occur. Plans have moved forward for such a communications center and Dr. White will update attendees on those efforts.

The AHC's convention will also include the AHC's Congressional Reception, the Congressional Ride-In, and

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meetings of all AHC committees and the Unwanted Horse Coalition. "As always, the AHC's annual meeting brings together the horse industry's leaders, stakeholders, service providers and rank-and-file to discuss common issues of importance," said Hickey. AHC's Congressional Reception will be Tuesday night, June 24, on Capitol Hill. This is an opportunity for the horse community to visit informally with Members of Congress to renew old friendships, make new ones, and discuss industry concerns. The annual Congressional Ride-In will take place

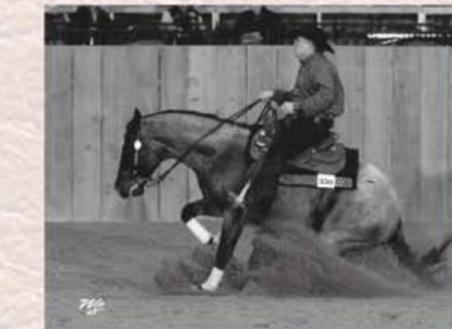
all day Wednesday, June 25. The Ride-In allows members of the horse community to meet with their elected representatives and federal officials to discuss important issues affecting them. All members of the horse community are encouraged to participate, even if they don't attend the AHC convention. The Ride-In literally illustrates the goal of the AHC to "Put More Horsepower in Congress." More information on

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these Forums and the entire AHC annual meeting, including registration and hotel information, can be found on the AHC's website, http://horsecouncil.org/events.php or by contacting the AHC.

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About Our Cover

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The Valley Equestrian Newspaper
Cutest Foal Contestants

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Also made:
• America's Last Stand: The Conestoga Horse
• Dressage: An Invitation to the Casual Rider
• Road to the Ultimate X Showdown
• Because My Daughter Grew Up With Horses

It's foaling season again! Time for the 2nd Annual Cutest Foal Photo Contest. Clockwise from left: 1. This is Ivan--his dam, Sochi, was rescued last February during a Wadena County humane case with two other pregnant pony mares, a 9-month-old, and a 6-month-old orphaned colt. There were three dead ponies on the property. Ivan was born on Mother's Day and both mare and foal are doing great! Both will be available for adoption from MHARF upon weaning. 2. Foal submitted by Eddie Speissegger. 3. Creek Side: This is a 2014 Gypsy colt born Easter Monday, (April 21, 2014) In Irish, the day is called Luan Ca'sca, so we decided to name him: Creek Side Rock On Luan, he is by RR Rockets Red Glare and RR Loonagh. 4. Sheldak Ranch submission, Unnamed, born April 19, 2014, an Appaloosa colt out of Sire: Ima Cool Kelo by Imagine and Dam: Kiss The Commander by Master In Command. 5. This is "Taylor" a wild foal in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Her dam is Spotted Blue and sire is the magnificent stallion Copper. This year the theme chosen for names was country western singers and it has proven to be very fitting. 6. Dan Drewlow submitted his foal, Nite Moves x Zip Along Sister APHA Colt. Vote for your favorite at: www.facebook.com/VE-News or thevenews@gmail.com. See the winner in the July issue!

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By John Alan Cohen



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Dressage As I See it
By Staci Grattan

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Page 17 Cowboy Poetry with Orv:
"Knee High to a Dapple Gray Mare"

Page 18 Horse Industry News



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Left: The Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer held the kick-off for their 10th Annual Ride at the Dilworth, MN, VFW with food, entertainment, silent auction and karaoke. For Karen Hensky it was the 4th consecutive year her head was shaved. More photos on page 6.

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Editorial Information

The Valley Equestrian Newspaper welcomes free-lance articles, cartoons, artwork, poems, photographs, etc. that we might use in the publication. We accept no responsibility for the material while in our hands. Materials will be returned if sent with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Photographs or graphics electronically submitted should be in color and must be at least 200 DPI resolution and four inches wide.

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

Editor's Clipboard

Vote for your favorite cutest foal on our Facebook page or by email to thevenews@gmail.com.

With foaling going on, it's a good time to think about what our horses do for us in the article, "Because my daughter grew up with horses." It is also a good time to think of how we value, serve, care for and protect our friends. "Drivers Take Heed" offers cautionary advice for drivers maneuvering around a horse trailer on the road. "The Dreaded 'D' Word" looks at how

dressage can enhance our interactions and riding experience. "Road to the Ultimate X Showdown 100-Day Trainers' Challenge/ Barrel Race" follows an off-the-track thoroughbred into a new career. And a lost American breed is highlighted in "A Lost Breed: The Conestoga Horse." Treasure your horses and the many ways they enhance our lives. Enjoy your summer, from "The Valley Equestrian Newspaper!"

Kari Hagstrom, Editor



Lady Long Rider, Bernice Ende, left Medora, ND, today with her horses, Essie Pearl and Montana Spirit, and headed East. We wish her the best on her journey. She told us, "She just LOVES North Dakota. Your state is so full of surprises, plateaus, buttes, badlands and flatlands." She averages 30 miles a day. Happy Trails Bernice.



A Dream Come True!

Kaye Lervold Cover (far right) had always wished to ride on the ocean and recently her daughters and friends did just that with a trip to Mar Vista Stables in Daly City, CA., situated on the Pacific Ocean on a sunny California spring day. Left to right: Justin Krull, Keiona Krull, Kim Cover, Trail Guide, Kelly Cover, Kaye Cover. Kaye is a member of the VEN's Reader's Board.

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READER'S LETTERS
Drivers Take Heed

Dear Drivers, My most valued possession is inside the trailer behind my truck. He stepped into that rolling steel box because I asked him to and he trusts me. He's a living, breathing creature, and all 1,200 lbs. of him are precariously balanced on four tiny hoofs as my truck and trailer wind down the road. My horse is not a boat or camp trailer, and I cannot stop quickly or turn sharply without risking his safety and even his life.

Know that I will do just about anything to avoid hitting the brakes with a horse in my trailer. However, if your Suburban is hidden in the blind spot behind my two-horse trailer and I do have to stop suddenly, you're too close to stop without ending up in the trailer with my horse. When I make those wide turns, I need them to prevent my horse from scrambling. Please give me room and time to turn.

And that large distance between me and the vehicle in front of me? It might look like enough room to fit three sedans bumper-to-bumper, but it's actually

the distance I need to stop softly and safely without my horse falling.

Those times when we're headed up a hill, my speed is as fast as I can go. My foot has the accelerator pressed to the floor, and no matter how hard you try, your Honda can't push us up this hill. I promise I'll move to the right lane when it becomes available or pull over if I find a safe spot on the shoulder, but until then I ask for your patience and some space.

Lastly, my set-up weighs three tons, and that much weight prevents me from swerving. When you pass me going 80 mph uphill on a blind corner, you don't just put my horse at risk: Your driving threatens the lives of the oncoming driver, my passenger, me, you, and everyone in the vehicles behind us.

So next time you see a horse trailer, assume an animal's in there. Please give them some space and offer some patience. By driving safely, we'll all get where we're going.

Thank you,
Horse Owner
By Michelle N. Anderson

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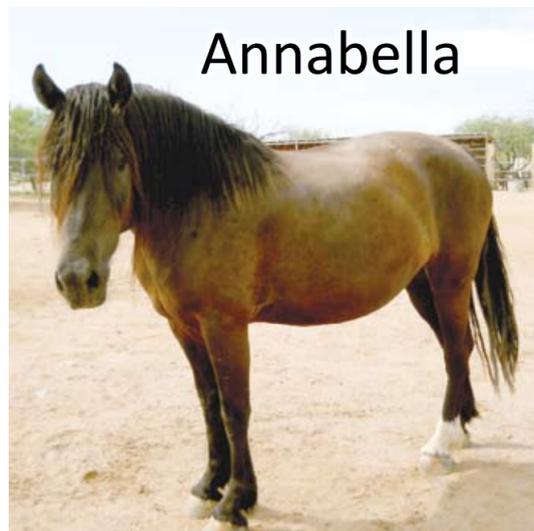
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Coco

animal. She is up to date on shots and waiting for a home. Please feel free to contact Alison at 701-220-4449 or hhhmhr@mac.com for more information

Charles Wilhelm: Ultimate Foundation Training

Western Pleasure 101 — Selection of A Horse

This is the first of three articles for amateur riders wishing to show in Western Pleasure who are working without a professional trainer. This article will discuss the selection of a western pleasure horse.

Conformation is also important for a western pleasure horse. A horse with a relatively short back and a thin throat latch is preferred. The hocks should sit up underneath the horse. The horse should be naturally balanced and able to carry itself easily. A horse that

the judge's eye. In a class of five it may be different but if the class is large, you want a horse that has a presence, will stand out and catch the judge's attention.

It is desirable to have a horse with a naturally slow gait. The best western pleasure horses I have worked with have a naturally slow, quiet gait. This doesn't mean that you can't take a thoroughbred and make it into a western pleasure horse. I've seen thoroughbreds with a pretty lope and jog. You probably want to start with a horse that has a slow, pretty lope and jog already and then fine tune those gaits. If you have a horse that has the looks but is a little more forward, you can work with the horse to bring it down. If the horse is too forward, the pace of western pleasure will be too much work for it and it will probably not be able to maintain the gait.



Attitude is very important for a western pleasure horse, any arena horse or any performance horse. If you are purchasing a horse for western pleasure, the number one quality to look for is a quiet attitude. A high-strung horse is not considered a quiet minded horse. A horse with a high emotional level does not normally make a good western pleasure horse. A western pleasure horse must be able to handle pressure. For example, the horse must accept being trailered and being tied to the trailer for periods of time. He must tolerate the noise of the crowds and the activities going on. The horse must tolerate other horses in the show arena who come up behind or pass too close. A horse with a good, quiet mind is easily trained and makes a good western pleasure horse.

naturally carries its head at wither height is a good prospect. The withers should not be lower than the hips as that makes it more difficult for a horse to have self carriage at a slower speed.

It goes without saying that the horse needs to be sound and stay sound. The horse does not need to be flashy but a horse that stands out and catches a judge's eye can be an asset. A sorrel or bay horse with four white stocking feet or a paint horse will usually catch a judge's eye. Any horse that has eye appeal to the judge is going to stand out. This could be good or bad, depending on the horse's performance. If you are in a class with thirty horses and you have a lot of average looking horses, a stand out horse can make the difference. So, looks are important but if the horse does not have a presence, it will still be hard to catch

These are the things we want to look for when selecting a horse for western pleasure. We always want to select a horse that is right for the discipline we have chosen. A horse that would be a good western pleasure horse would probably not be a good candidate for jumping. Every horse has its area of expertise where it works best and is most comfortable.

Next month we will discuss training the horse and then we will follow up with the proper show clothing and equipment.

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demonstrations. His training center in Castro Valley, California is among the top equine educational facilities in Northern California. Charles offers extensive hands-on learning programs for every level of horsemanship.

Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer Kicks-off 10th Year!



Left to right: Roger Christopherson; Karen Hystad; David Christopherson; Michelle Christopherson; John Lopez and Troy Winter.



Photos by Ley Bouchard

The Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer held the kick-off for their 10th Annual Ride at the Dilworth, MN, VFW with food, entertainment, silent auction and karaoke. The Valley Equestrian Newspaper is a proud continuing sponsor of the 10th Annual Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer. See other upcoming fun, fundraising events listed on page 15 of this issue of the VEN.

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A Lost Breed: The Conestoga Horse

By Janice Ladendorf

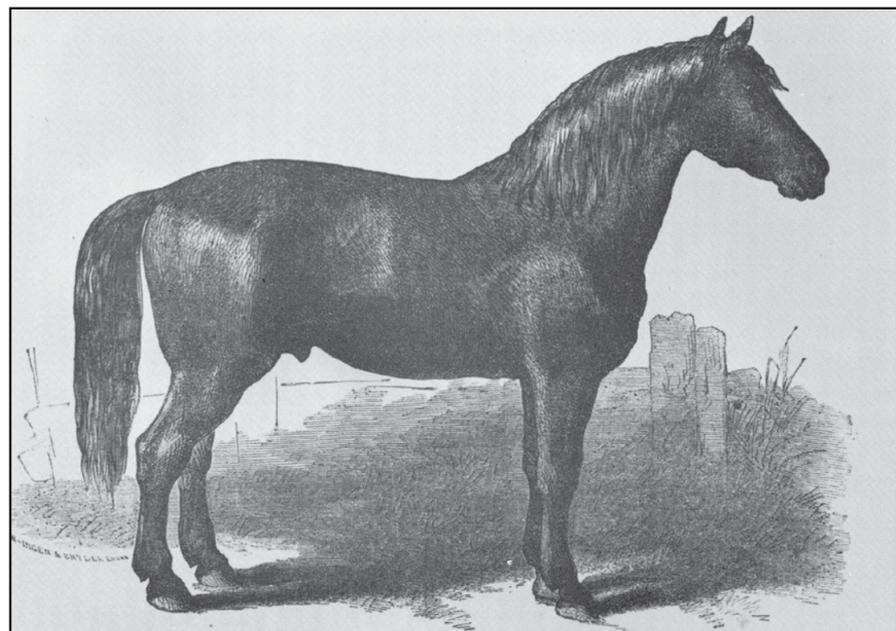
Before the advent of the automobile, horses were bred to work. Horses who served a specific purpose could be bred together to meet an economic need. When the need ended, a versatile breed could adapt to new demands, but some just disappeared. The Conestoga horse is an example of such a lost breed. The name,

agents in what would become Lancaster County. They believed the trees there grew out of soil that would be excellent for farming. Hundreds of Amish trekked west to join them. They used pack ponies to carry their belongings over the trails through the dense forest. To establish their farms, they had to first clear away the hardwood trees. Their intensive, diversi-

Unlike farm wagons or the later prairie schooners, the Conestoga was a freight wagon and had a unique design. The bottom was bowed in the middle to prevent the load from shifting around as it went up and down hills. If it was used to cross deep rivers or streams, it could be caulked with tar. The wagon had large wheels with the biggest ones on the rear of the wagon. These wheels

and the driver moved his team and wagons farther to the right when they encountered traffic. The Conestogas began our practice of driving on the right, rather than the left side of the road. Wagon drivers used one of two methods. In the first one, the driver walked on the left side of the team and guided them with verbal commands, such as Hup, Gee, Haw, and Oh. This method worked well for local drivers with a pair of oxen or small horses. In the other method, the driver rode the left wheel horse and used a long thong or jerk line to guide the left lead horse. Selecting a natural leader for this horse was the key to making this method work. It worked well with the four- and six-horse teams needed to pull more weight for longer distance.

The heavy Conestoga wagons required draft animals to pull them; but in the early 1700s, mules were not an option. On the Eastern Coast, the first mules



Conestoga, was initially given by the English to one of the Iroquois tribes who lived around the Susquehanna River. The Conestoga River or Creek is one of the tributaries of this river. The history of the Conestoga wagon and horse begins in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Many of the first settlers in Pennsylvania were farmers from Germany, Switzerland, and Holland. In 1709, Hans Keer and Martin Kendrig purchased 10,000 acres of land from William Penn's

fied style of farming soon produced surpluses, but to sell it they had to go 60 miles east to Philadelphia over forest trails. They had to also haul their grain 40 miles to a grist mill. Their solution to these problems was to invent the Conestoga wagon. James Logan, William Penn's secretary, created the first written record of these wagons when he bought one from James Hendricks of Conestoga in 1717.

let it pass through shallow streams and over stumps or rocks on the road without damaging the freight it carried. The wheels could be rimmed with iron. The top was covered with white canvas to keep its contents dry when it rained. The unique design of this wagon did not include a seat for the driver or passengers, but did include a lazy board that could be pulled out to make a temporary seat.

The Conestoga wagon was always driven from the left,

were gifts made to George Washington after our Revolution. As time passed, they became popular in the Southern states, but not the Northern ones. In the first part of the 18th century, oxen were still heavily used for a variety of farm tasks. Until the invention of the iron plow in 1797, only oxen or exceptionally strong horses could turn over the soil and create deep furrows. Compared to horses, oxen had heavy bodies and short legs. They could pull heavy loads, but could not move as fast as horses. The

development of a special breed of horse was required to pull the heavier wagons more quickly over long distances.

Unfortunately, there is no historical evidence of what bloodlines the Amish farmers used to create the Conestoga horse. They had two potential sources for acquiring horses. The first one was Indian ponies. Long before the English arrived in the New World, Spain had established missions to civilize native tribes, such as the Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Cherokee. These tribes had acquired and bred many fine, but small Spanish horses. Their average height varied from 13 to 14 hands. When these horses escaped from captivity they turned feral. By 1670, farmers had started complaining about problems with the wild herds. They ranged through Virginia, Maryland, and the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in Pennsylvania and New York. The tribes sold horses they had bred or caught to the colonists, who used them for riding, driving, and most often as pack ponies.

Their second option was to use horses descended from those imported from Holland or Sweden. The Dutch held New York from 1609 to 1664 and brought horses there as early as 1630. Until the 20th century, the Dutch preferred to use light draft horses for farming. Their imports to the New World probably included light draft horses from Friesland, Groningen and Gelderland. All three breeds were used for riding, driving, and farm work; but the Groningen was the heaviest and least showy of the three. The Swedish settled along the Delaware River and held land there from 1638 to 1655. They also imported a few horses to the New World.

The first Conestoga wagons were probably small enough to be pulled by a pair of oxen or small horses. Some of the Amish farm wagons continued to use this size. A painting done of an inn in 1850 shows such a wagon with a two-horse team. As the narrow trails turned into rough hilly roads, horses could make better time than oxen. If stronger horses could be bred, both wagon size and freight load could be increased. Unlike most of the other colonists, the Lancaster farmers fed their animals well and kept them in warm barns during the winter. Whether their first horses had been Indian ponies or Dutch horses, if their foals were well fed in their growing years, their size could have increased.

According to George Shumway, the first Conestoga horses were mostly light draft horses that could be ridden, driven, or used to pull heavier loads. The medium-sized horses excelled as carriage horses. One drawing of an early Conestoga horse was published in 1842. He shows signs of both Spanish and Dutch ancestry. Whatever bloodlines the Amish actually used, by 1750 they had produced horses that could pull their Conestoga wagons in four-, six-, or eight-horse teams. On General Braddock's campaign in 1755, he used four-horse teams to pull his 150 freight wagons. In both our Revolution and the war of 1812, Conestoga wagons and horses hauled commissary and artillery supplies for our soldiers.

After the Revolution, road building became a priority for the new republic and soon a new era began for the Conestogas. In 1790, a new turnpike linked Lancaster to Philadelphia.

Continued on next page

The Conestoga Horse

Goods could now move faster in heavier wagons. The new territories west of the Appalachian Mountains also needed a market for their products. They could either send them by flatboat down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans or send them by Conestoga over the mountains. Freight charges were high, but transport across the mountains could be quicker and more reliable.



The Conestogas developed for this trade were nicknamed Pitt wagons. According Robert Howard, they could carry three to four tons of freight plus feed for the horses. Their six-horse teams could haul them 15 to 20 miles in one day. They often traveled in trains of 20 to 30 vehicles. The round trip from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia took about one month. The teamsters liked to decorate the bridles of their teams with red, white or blue ribbons, as well as long tassels or pompoms. Each horse carried an arch for bells over his mane. The lead horses carried five soprano bells, the swing horses, four tenor bells, and the wheel horses three bass bells.

A still controversial topic is the color of these wagons. Robert Howard states that the bodies were painted blue and the wheels red. With their white canvas, he suggests that these colors may have preceded the use of these same colors in our flag. While the conservative Amish farmers may not have used them before our Revolution; afterwards the flamboyant teamsters could have enjoyed using these patriotic colors. The American army might also have used them to decorate their freight wagons.

In the 19th century, the use of iron plows and tools expanded and farm size increased. This change

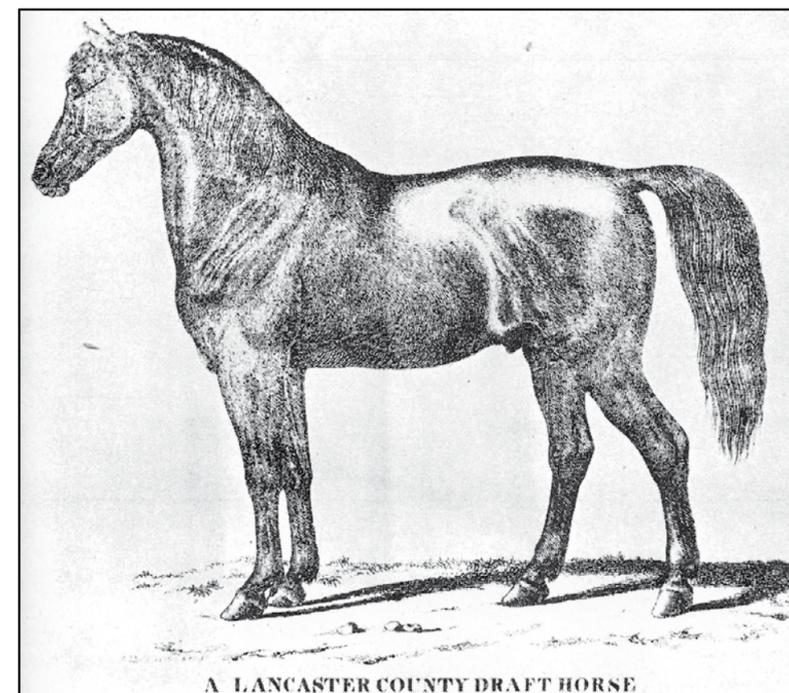
created a demand for more powerful horses. Both Morgans and Canadian horses initially met this need and their bloodlines may well have been used to upgrade the Conestoga horse. In 1867, John Strohm pub-

lished a drawing of what he considered the ideal Conestoga horse. The horse is a three year old stallion that is 16-hands high and weighs 1,350 pounds. In general conformation, he looks very much like the drawings

of the earliest Morgans in Linsley's book, but he is both taller and heavier than those Morgans. By 1850, the Conestoga was well on the way of being an established breed, but by then they were no longer needed for hauling freight over long distances. Canals and railroads had taken over this task. Although the Conestoga breed name gradually disappeared with the use of the Conestoga freight wagons, the Amish farmers kept a few of these horses for their own work. They can still be seen today pulling Conestogas in parades and other public events.

Before 1850, Agriculture Societies began sending

experts to Europe to evaluate their animals, including their draft horses. In France, the Percheron had been bred for centuries to pull heavy coaches or diligences through deep mud on their bad roads. Beginning in 1839, American breeders began importing these light draft horses to the northern states and some of them may well have been used to upgrade the Conestoga horse. The Dillon family specialized in breeding heavier horses. They used several of the first Percherons to upgrade the local draft horses. By 1870, they had begun selecting and importing their own Percherons from France. Therefore, many of the Conestoga horses probably became part of the foundation stock for the heavy draft breeds that began to flourish after our Civil War.



A LANCASTER COUNTY DRAFT HORSE

FIGURE 41. The earliest known illustration of a Conestoga horse is this, published in 1842 in *The Farmer's Complete Farrier*, by I. Daniel Rupp. This long-legged horse is typical for the period from the late 18th century up to the early 1840's.

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For over fifty years, Janice Ladendorf has been studying horsemanship and training her own horses. She is the author of three books, *Practical Dressage for Amateur Trainers*, *A Marvelous Mustang: Tales from the Life of a Spanish Horse, and Heart of a Falcon*, 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.

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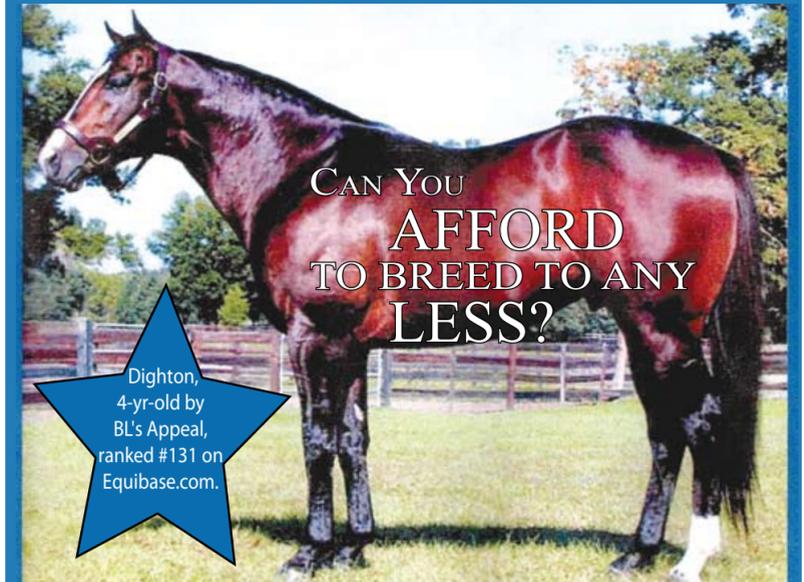
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WHAT HORSES DO FOR OUR KIDS:

“Because My Daughter Grew Up with Horses”

[Editor's Note: This wonderful, thought-provoking letter has been sighted on the Internet many times. We wish we knew who the author is, but that remains an unknown. We thought it too good to pass up, so for your consideration, please enjoy this homage to how valuable and meaningful horses can be in our lives.]

My daughter turned 16 years old today; which is a milestone for most people. Besides looking at baby photos and childhood trinkets with her, I took time to reflect on the young woman my daughter had become and the choices she would face in the future. As I looked at her I could see the athlete she was, and determined woman she would soon be.

I started thinking about some of the girls we knew in our town who were already pregnant, pierced in several places, hair every color under the sun, drop outs, drug addicts and on the fast track to nowhere, seeking surface identities because they had no inner self esteem. The parents of these same girls have asked me why I “waste” the money on horses so my daughter can ride. I’m told she will grow out of it, lose interest, discover boys and all kinds of things that try to pin the current generation’s “slacker” label on my child. I don’t think it will happen, I think she will love and have horses all her life.

Because my daughter grew up with horses she has compassion. She knows that we must take special care of the very young and the very old. We must make

sure those without voices to speak of their pain are still cared for.

Because my daughter grew up with horses she learned responsibility for others than herself. She learned that regardless of the weather you must still care for those you have the stewardship of. There are no “days off” just because you don’t feel like being a horse owner that day. She learned that for every hour of fun you have there are days of hard slogging work you must do first.

Because my daughter grew up with horses she learned not to be afraid of getting dirty and that appearances don’t matter to most of the breathing things in the world we live in. Horses do not care about designer clothes, jewelry, pretty hairdos or anything

else we put on our bodies to try to impress others. What a horse cares about are your abilities to work within his natural world, he doesn’t care if you’re wearing \$80.00 jeans while you do it.

Because my daughter grew up with horses she learned about sex and how it can both enrich and complicate lives. She learned that it only takes one time to produce a baby, and the only way to ensure babies aren’t produced is not to breed. She learned how babies are planned, made, born and, sadly, sometimes die before reaching their potential. She learned how sleepless nights and trying to out-smart a crafty old broodmare could result in getting to see, as non-horse owning people rarely do, the birth of a true miracle.

Because my daughter grew up with horses she understands the value of money. Every dollar can be translated into bales of hay, bags of feed or farrier visits. Purchasing non-necessities

during lean times can mean the difference between feed and good care, or neglect and starvation. She has learned to judge the level of her care against the care she sees provided by others and to make sure her standards never lower, and only increase as her knowledge grows.

Because my daughter grew up with horses she has learned to learn on her own. She has had teachers that cannot speak, nor write, nor communicate beyond body language and reactions. She has had to learn to “read” her surroundings for both safe and unsafe objects, to look for hazards where others might only see a pretty meadow. She has learned to judge people as she judges horses. She looks beyond appearances and trappings to see what is within.

Because my daughter grew up with horses she has learned sportsmanship to a high degree. Everyone that competes fairly is a winner. Trophies and rib-

bons may prove someone a winner, but they do not prove someone is a horseman. She has also learned that some people will do anything to win, regardless of who it hurts. She knows that those who will cheat in the show ring will also cheat in every other aspect of their life and are not to be trusted.

Because my daughter grew up with horses she has self-esteem and an engaging personality. She can talk to anyone she meets with confidence, because she has to express herself to her horse with more than words. She knows the satisfaction of controlling and teaching a 1,000 pound animal that will yield willingly to her gentle touch and ignore the more forceful and inept handling of those stronger than she is. She holds herself with poise and professionalism in the company of those far older than herself.

Because my daughter grew up with horses she has learned to plan ahead. She knows that choices made today can effect what happens five years down the road. She knows that you cannot care for and protect your investments without savings to fall back on. She knows the value of land and buildings. And that caring for your vehicle can mean the difference between easy travel or being stranded on the side of the road with a four-horse trailer on a hot day.

When I look at what she has learned and what it will help her become, I can honestly say that I haven’t “wasted” a penny on providing her with horses. I only wish that all children had the same opportunities to learn these lessons from horses before setting out on the road to adulthood.

Author unknown

New Tax Court Case Discusses Passive Loss Issue

By John Alan Cohan, Attorney at Law

The IRS will often argue that a taxpayer is not eligible to deduct losses for a horse business because it’s a “passive activity.” The Material Participation Test (sec. 469 IRS Code) defines a passive activity as a business in which the taxpayer does not “materially participate.”

An important new Tax Court case on this subject is *Tolin v. IRS Commissioner* [T.C. Memo 2014-65], ruled in favor of the taxpayer on this issue. The taxpayer, an attorney in Minneapolis, devoted significant time to thoroughbred racing and breeding. The IRS claimed that the taxpayer’s losses from the thoroughbred business should be disallowed because they were passive activity losses. (The IRS conceded that the activity was a business, not a hobby.)

The Material Participation Test requires that a taxpayer

engage in the activity on a “regular, continuous and substantial basis.” The test also requires that the taxpayer actually does participate in the activity as a principal or a manager, and that he actually does exercise the powers of decision-making reposed in him.

The taxpayer in this case argued that he had spent over 500 hours per year in the activity – thus satisfying one of several alternative standards to prove material participation.

He sent his breeding stallion to trainers, and the horse was entered in a number of races, earning \$77,638. The stallion then sustained a leg injury that prematurely ended his racing career. The taxpayer then offered the stallion, Choosing Choice, for stud service, and bred to three of his own mares. He stood the stallion on a farm in Louisiana to take advan-

tage of that state’s breeding incentive program. As to his own foals, he sent them as yearlings to individualized training programs.

The taxpayer gave credible testimony about time he spent in managing his thoroughbred activity. He conferred daily by phone with his stallion manager, trainers and another adviser; he called breeders who might be interested in his stallion, and even made “cold calls” to members of the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders’ Association directory. He mailed a promotional package to interested breeders with personalized letters. He placed full-page print ads in the Louisiana Horse, and Louisiana Stallion Register. He made numerous trips to Louisiana during the years at issue, and met as many horse breeders and farm managers as possible while there.

Administrative tasks included reviewing and paying bills, keeping the books, arranging for mortality insurance, paperwork for registration. He subscribed to and read a number of horse industry publications, and attended seminars regarding equine health. He supervised editing of a video on his stallion.

The IRS disputed the time claimed by the taxpayer. Time spent on an activity may be proven by any reasonable means. It is not necessarily to have contemporaneous logs, although if available, that constitutes very strong evidence. The IRS argued that much of the time spent by the taxpayer constituted activities as an “investor,” not as an entrepreneur of a

going business. Under the Material Participation Test, activities as an “investor” are specifically excluded from time counted towards meeting the test.

The Tax Court disagreed with the IRS on this point, saying: “Petitioner was directly involved in the day-to-day management and operation of the thoroughbred activity; therefore, any investor work he completed qualifies as participation for purposes of section 469.”

In proving time expended people usually do not have contemporaneous logs. Time may be proven using phone records, credit cards invoices, and a narrative summary of the activities. Activities include phone conversations, emails,

research, preparing and distributing promotional materials, business trips, registration and insurance paperwork, reviewing and paying bills, recordkeeping, continuing education and administrative tasks. Third party witness testimony (from trainers and advisers) is important to corroborate a taxpayer’s statement of time expended.

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

Local Horse Show Group Creates Program for Ex-Racehorses to Shine

The Kentucky Derby, held the first Saturday in May, at Churchill Downs, may represent the pinnacle of what a thoroughbred racehorse strives for while on the track, but a local group is giving those same horses something to strive for off the track as well.

The Giddyup Horse Club, based in Spearfish, SD, announced this week that they will be offering a series of awards specifically for thoroughbred ex-racehorses that compete at their show series in 2014.

An extension of the “Thoroughbred Incentive Program” offered by the Jockey Club, the national organization that registers all thoroughbreds, the awards are designed to encourage people to purchase and compete with what are sometimes referred to as

“racetrack rejects,” those horses that are finished with their racing careers and are looking for a new lease on life.

“I spent my younger years competing on thoroughbreds, when that was America’s first choice for sport horses,” said Dorothy Snowden, Vice President of the Giddyup Horse Club. “More recently, European imports have taken over and it is great to see programs like this from the Jockey Club that give people an incentive to reconsider what I feel is America’s greatest equine athlete, the thoroughbred racehorse.”

The series will kick off at the Giddyup Horse Club’s first show on June 14 and features high point awards available in eight different categories. The awards are open to any competing thor-

oughbred registered with the Jockey Club’s Thoroughbred Incentive Program. A full list and details of how to enter can be found on their website at www.giddyup-horseclub.com.

“I have used thoroughbreds all my life and it is great to see we have a program like this starting in our area,” said local thoroughbred breeder and trainer, Dale Simanton of Horse Creek Thoroughbreds in Newell, SD. “They can do anything any other horse can do and most of the time do it better.”

For more information, photos or an interview contact: Heather Benson, Back Forty Media and Marketing heather@backfortymarketing.com Phone: 605-660-6599



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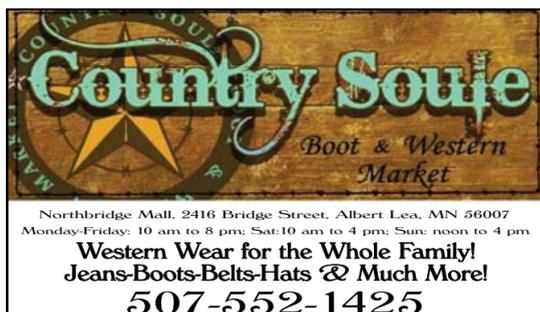
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The Dreaded "D" Word: Dressage as I See It, An Invitation for the Casual Rider

By Staci Grattan

As a born and raised "backyard rider," I've had horses basically my whole life. I come from a line of "do-it-yourselfer" backyard horse-men and women.

As a preteen from a financially-challenged family, I joined 4-H and decided to give showing a go. We lived about seven miles from the local fairgrounds, so every year I would ride my horses there (we didn't have a horse trailer) and spend the week showing in 4-H classes pertaining to Western riding, and occasionally an open halter class. While at those show grounds I saw kids who had trainers and coaches and horse trailers and fancy saddles (and more than one saddle?), and rode "English." I remember watching the parents "warm

will be able to relate to that impression.

I recall scoffing at the people running their horses around like crazy in circles on a long rope before the kids would climb aboard. I remember thinking, "Why are these people running their horses around and tiring them out before they get on?" I remember looking at the tiny "ridiculous" saddles and thinking, "Yeah, not in this lifetime." Looking at the direct contact reining and thinking, "Sheesh, why are they pulling on that poor horse's mouth like that? That's just terrible!" And asking the question, "Don't they do anything other than circles?!"

Words like canter, collection and contact had no place on my vocabulary at that young

my love affair with dressage.

A lot has happened in my horse life since then: I've gone from private backyard breeder to commercial stable owner where I do some training and riding instruction, from training with a local instructor regularly with internationally-recognized natural horsemanship and classical dressage experts. My love of dressage and its most basic and simple offerings remains; dressage is not rocket science, it's just good, solid, basic horsemanship!

This article speaks to all horse lovers. However, as a former casual, self-taught backyard rider who was intimidated by "that fancy dressage stuff," I invite casual riders and horse enthusiasts to explore the value of the principles, teachings and philosophy found in the oldest form of horsemanship.

Why Dressage?
1. Health, wellness and longevity.

I believe good horses are like fine wine – they just keep getting better and better. Let's face it, we put a lot of love, time and energy into our horses and we want them to last forever. Proper body mechanics by horses under saddle go a very long



Staci sitting on the ball - "Connection and partnership - the ultimate goal in any form of horsemanship including classical dressage."

way toward joint longevity and injury avoidance. We know this to be true of any athlete, and horses are no different. The concept of collection, as well as self carriage, is valuable for any horseman or woman to explore and implement.

Physical collection in the horse not only makes for a more pleasant ride, it also potentially saves your horse from a whole host of injuries and promotes long-lasting physical strength. True physical collection and proper body mechanics are an integral teaching in classical dressage. Note, I did not say competitive dressage, as in my opinion that is another topic entirely.

2. Decrease negative tension. Dressage teaches us to "ride every stride" and think ahead. Dressage horses look "hot" and out of control to many casual observers – and they can be. However, the goal and teachings of the classical dressage masters I have studied and

In Hand work - "Lateral in hand work can be beneficial in multiple ways including addressing strength and flexibility issues, mental relaxation and focus and mutual connection."

studied with is to increase sensitivity, certainly, but also to decrease tension. The more aware we are, the more "with" our horses we are. Many classical dressage masters promoted a partnership and dance with the horse. Side note: Horses who are moving "correctly," with heads down and backs lifted, are taking direction from their riders and remain much calmer. Horses who are moving along in "anti-collection" (term coined by Dr. Deb Bennett), backs hollow, heads up in the air, are often not really "with" the rider, carry tension and possibly have more of a propensity to spook, etc.

3. Connection, physical and mental assessment and riding preparation. Many classical dressage teachings include groundwork in the form of proper

mindful lunging and in hand work. Please note, I say "mindful" lunging in which the horse and human are mentally connected and the human is paying attention to the horse! When I say "properly moving" I mean that the horse is coiling his loins, stepping under himself, lifting the base of his neck higher than the haunches and lifting his back as best he can, based on his physical fitness level and conformation.

Not only are these things very valuable tools for connection on a deeper level, they also allow the human to do a physical and mental check-in with the horse. There is huge mental and physical value to lunging in which the horse must move correctly at a walk and a

Continued on page 17



Photos courtesy Bourne Photography



Lunge Line - "A shared connection and proper body mechanics on the lunge line can be beneficial in multiple ways."

up" the horse and wondering why they were running their horses around in a circle on a long rope. What? Keep in mind this was nearly 30 years ago and I was a self-taught backyard rider; you can understand my amazement and confusion.

This was my first exposure to "English"-style riding and it formed a lasting impression. I believe many of you

age and well into my 20s. Dressage and "English-style" riding seemed silly, pointless and frivolous.

In my late 20s I had a pretty hot trail horse. I was in over my head but unwilling to admit it. I decided I needed "a better seat" and began exploring local riding instructors and researching training and riding concepts. I ended up with a local dressage instructor and began

Statement in Response to BLM's Capture of Wild Horses in Southern Utah

Salt Lake City, UT (May 6, 2014) ... In response to news that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) had captured and removed eight wild horses from public lands in southwestern Utah, the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign (AWHPC), a national coalition of more than 60 organizations, issued the following statement:

"It is unfortunate that the BLM is caving to pressure from ranchers in southwestern Utah and rounding up wild horses from public lands there. The preservation of wild horses on our western public lands is strongly supported by the American public while livestock grazing on public lands is not.

"We call on the BLM and the state of Utah to exert leadership to resolve the conflicts with ranchers who view wild horses as competition for cheap grazing on public lands. This is a solvable issue. Wild horses range on just one-tenth of the BLM land available for livestock grazing in Utah. There are 3,000 wild horses in the state – that's one horse per more than 700 acres of land.

In the Bible Springs Complex, which is at issue in Iron County, the wild horse population estimates appear to be wildly exaggerated. BLM's projected population of 777 wild horses is a 41 percent increase over the agency's 2013 estimates, something that is biologically impossible and contradicted by the BLM's own claims that range conditions are deteriorating to the point that horses have died as a result. Even if true, a population of one horse per 229 acres cannot be considered overpopulation, particularly when twice as many livestock are still authorized to graze on the same public lands.

The solutions to the wild horse challenge are at hand, yet BLM continues to ignore them. The National Academy of Sciences warned that BLM's practice of removing large numbers of wild horses from the range was fueling higher population growth and that 'continuation of business as usual practices will be expensive and unproductive for the BLM and the public it serves.' The prestigious scientific body was clear that available birth control is a more affordable option than continuing to remove horses to long-term holding

facilities. Yet the agency is capitulating to radical ranchers by proposing to remove more horses from the range and failing to use birth control as recommended by the National Academy of Sciences. This just continues the same broken approach to wild horse management that is costing taxpayers tens of millions of dollars annually and robbing our iconic wild horses of their families, their freedom and their lives."

More information:

- BLM 2013 wild horse population estimates
- BLM 2014 wild horse population estimates and grazing allocations

The American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign (AWHPC) is a coalition of more than 60 horse advocacy, public interest, and conservation organizations dedicated to preserving the American wild horse in viable, free-roaming herds for generations to come, as part of our national heritage. AWHPC's founding organization is Return to Freedom (RTF), a national non-profit dedicated to wild horse preservation through sanctuary, education and conservation, and also operates the American Wild Horse Sanctuary in Lompoc, CA.

Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer

AUGUST 15 & 16, 2014 10 a.m. Rain or Shine

Get the Details Here! or at the website: www.cowboyupride.com

June 16th 2014: Cowboy Up Burger Night American Legion, Moorhead, MN. Sponsored by Sons of the Legion.

June 27th 2014: Cowboy Up "Swing for the Cure" Golf Tournament

August 15th 2014: Trail Ride from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Extreme Race 6 p.m. Join us for some Extreme Fun at the 10th Annual Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer Extreme Races in McLeod ND. Prizes will be awarded. Teams will be formed on site so come on out & join the fun.

All proceeds will benefit the Roger Maris Cancer Center.

Email lori.zabel@yahoo.com with any questions.

August 16th 2014, 10 a.m. 10th Annual Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer McLeod, ND



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Dr. Getty Nutrition Information

Calculating with ppm (parts per million) in two easy steps **Horses that graze on pasture 24/7 eat more slowly**

Reading a hay analysis or puzzling over the ingredients in feed or supplements can be a chore, yet when considering particular elements—selenium, for example—some minor math can make a major difference to your horse's health.

Feed tags and hay analysis often list ingredients as "ppm" or parts per million. Does this confuse you? You aren't alone. The best way to think of ppm is as milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) of feed (since a mg is a one millionth "part" of a kg). Therefore, when using mg/kg, you have to make sure you're dealing with kg of feed (instead of lbs) in order to make your calculations.

Consider this example: Let's say your hay contains 0.2 ppm (mg/kg) of selenium. How many mg of selenium does 10 lbs of hay contain?

First, you need to convert the lbs to kg. Since there are 0.454 kg in one lb, make the conversion by multiplying lbs by 0.454. So, 10 lbs multiplied by 0.454 equals 4.54 kg (10 x 0.454 = 4.54). Now you're ready to calculate mg of selenium.

Multiply 4.54 kg of hay by 0.2 ppm (or mg/kg) (4.54 x 0.2 = 0.91). That gives you 0.91 mg of selenium in your 10 lbs of hay. Formulas to remember:

- Convert lbs to kg: lbs x 0.454 = kg



- Calculate to find mg: kg X ppm (or mg/kg) = mg

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.

Buy Dr. Getty's comprehensive resource book Feed Your Horse Like a Horse at Dr. Getty's website, www.gettyequinenutrition.com,

and have it inscribed by the author. Or buy it at Amazon (www.amazon.com), Barnes and Noble (www.barnesandnoble.com) or Books A Million (www.booksamillion.com). The seven separate volumes in Dr. Getty's topic-centered Spotlight on Equine Nutrition series are available at her website, where Dr. Getty offers special package pricing, and also at Amazon in print and Kindle versions.

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

If you let your horse out to graze on pasture for only a few hours each day, and provide hay the rest of the time, you've likely noticed how he approaches the grass like a vacuum cleaner, barely lifting his head the entire time he is outside. On the other hand, horses who graze on pasture 24/7 are more relaxed, eating less grass at a slower pace, taking time to rest and interact with buddies.

Researchers at North Carolina State University were interested in just how much pasture horses consume at varying combinations of pasture and hay availability. What they found confirms what we have all witnessed. At varying levels of pasture turnout, an 1100 lb (500 kg) horse will consume the following amounts of grass dry matter (all horses were given free choice hay when removed from pasture):

- 24 hours/day: 0.77 lb per hour (0.35 kg/hr)
- 9 hours/day: 1.32 lb/hr (0.6 kg/hr)
- 6 hours/day: 1.65 lb/hr (0.75 kg/hr)
- 3 hours/day: 2.2 lb/hr (1.0 kg/hr)

The less time you allow for pasture grazing, the more excited your horse will be at the opportunity to have fresh grass and he will eat

nearly three times faster than if he had access to pasture 24/7.

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 will be speaking June 29 on "The Horse's Decidedly Different Digestion - The Foundation to Good Health" in Santa Ynez, California. In her presentation, Dr. Getty will take a close look at what makes a horse's digestion unique and how correct (and incorrect) feeding practices impact longevity, vibrancy, and prevention of obesity, colic, ulcers, and laminitis.

Lecture and Book-signing: 2:00 - 6:30
Tickets: Adults - \$50
Students - \$15 (ages 12-21)
Children - \$10

The event is hosted by the Renew A Horse Foundation. Reserve tickets by contacting the foundation at info@renewahorsefoundation.com or 805-689-6188. More information coming soon on the web at www.renewahorsefoundation.com.

horsefoundation.com.

Buy Dr. Getty's comprehensive resource book Feed Your Horse Like a Horse at Dr. Getty's website, www.gettyequinenutrition.com, and have it inscribed by the author. Or buy it at Amazon (www.amazon.com), Barnes and Noble (www.barnesandnoble.com) or Books A Million (www.booksamillion.com). The seven separate volumes in Dr. Getty's topic-centered Spotlight on Equine Nutrition series are available at her website, where Dr. Getty offers special package pricing, and also at Amazon in print and Kindle versions.

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

COWBOY POETRY WITH ORV

KNEE-HIGH TO A DAPPLE GRAY TEAM

TOO SMALL TO PICK EGGS?

Some hens laid their eggs in the horse manger; But to gather the eggs, would pose a danger. I was knee-high to a team of dapple grays; A strong team to pull hayracks and bob sleighs. At 1800 pounds, the burden beast, A team so imposing, to say the least. And while the fresh egg lay on the hay, I had to walk past a giant dapple gray.

MOVING CAUTIOUSLY

At first Dad would say, "Whoa, Jim," and "Whoa, Dan," And I would echo like a little man. "Whoa, Jim," I'd softly say, and "Whoa, Dan." The little guy they could barely see, Was only as tall as the horse's knee. Then I would negotiate my way In between a large team of dapple grays.

"WHOA" IS ME

I had not seen an elephant by then, So this was the largest creature, when I asked softly to enter their horse stall. Both were huge, but the gentlest team of all, A silver gray with dark spots all over, As they stood there munching hay and clover. I fetched the egg, still warm and laying on the hay. And retraced my steps past the dapple grays.

REPLACED BY A TRACTOR

A tractor purchase would replace the team; It was part of the farming progress scheme. We didn't need a second team at all; It was a disappointing empty stall. Replaced by two boards to make a calf pen, It would hold about eight young stock or ten. I missed the horses with the chicken-pox spots, And their gigantic hooves that looked like yachts. We still had a manger and eggs and hay, We missed that handsome team of dapple grays.

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The Dreaded "D": Dressage As I See It

Continued from page 14

trot. Side note: Do NOT underestimate the mental and physical benefit of working with your horse at a walk on the lunge line.

In hand work, as taught by several classical dressage masters, also offers benefit to nearly any horseman as a tool for several reasons:

a. Lateral work done in hand, such as shoulder in, keeping in mind physical limitations and conformation, offers an opportunity

to address physical or mental limitations from the ground by strengthening and suppling. Difficult canter/lope departs can be improved with shoulder in work either under saddle or in hand.

b. In hand work (as well as lunge line work) offers a great opportunity to work through mental and physical issues. The saying goes, "If it's a problem on the ground it will be a problem up top!" Why not address tension,

anger, insecurity issues from the ground where you are able to offer more support?

4. *Contact = Conversation = Partnership.* Classical Dressage teaches us about contact with the rein. Contact is a two way conversation between the horse and rider; we do not have an unmoving "death grip" on the rein, nor do we ignore it entirely until we need to stop or turn. Rather we are constantly and lightly in touch with each rein and

varying the pressure by a light give and take. Contact can be accomplished with a loose rein if that is your style. The point here is that contact is a method of conversing with your horse; much like your seat and leg, we are creating a conversation and ultimately a partnership.

Any time you can broaden your horizons it's bound to be a positive experience. There are many

"roads to Rome," and in this case many of the principles I outline above may or may not be covered in other disciplines. The true purpose of Classical Dressage, as I see it, is to care for and create partnership with the horse. Training is done on a slow and consistent basis, always keeping within the comfort zone of both partners without shortcuts or gimmicks. As truly the oldest form of organized horsemanship, dressage offers proven and time-tested methods for your consideration. Check it out! You might just be amazed at how basic and simple the concepts are and how universally they apply to all levels of horsemanship and span disciplines.

Staci Grattan and her husband, Brion Fornshell, co-own Spirit Horse Center in Brainerd, Minnesota. Staci enjoys using her focus on good solid horsemanship basics, true classical dressage and natural 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 go to www.spirithorsecenterinc.com.



"Whatever your riding style and discipline - self carriage, light contact and collection to whatever degree your horse is physically, mentally and conformationally able to give you, will be of value over the course of your time together."

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Industry News

Caramello Named Director of UHC

Washington, D.C.—May 16, 2014. Dagmar Caramello has joined the American Horse Council as the Director of the Unwanted Horse Coalition. As the face of the UHC, her responsibilities will include overseeing communication efforts between the UHC and the greater equine community, working closely with UHC members to enhance current and future efforts of the organization, and establishing and cultivating relationships with new UHC members and donors.

“We are very pleased to welcome Dagmar to our team,” said UHC Chairman Dr. Doug Corey. “She has both participated and worked in the horse industry, and brings experience and enthusiasm to her new position with the Unwanted Horse Coalition.”

Ms. Caramello grew up in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. She developed a passion for horses at the early age of five which has continued into her adult life. In 2011, she graduated from Penn State having majored in English and minored in Equine Science. Shortly thereafter in 2013, she received her Master’s Degree in English from the University of Maryland. Already an active competitor on the Mid-Atlantic eventing circuit, Ms. Caramello, in recent years, has become intimately involved with the Maryland Thoroughbred racing industry as an exercise rider—a position she took on full-time while pursuing her graduate degree.

“Having worked on the racetrack for three years, I’ve gotten to see first-hand the number of horses out there who are not only capable, but are hugely deserving of second careers. There is a lot of untapped potential at the racetrack. Just because a horse isn’t a very talented runner, or has lost interest in racing with age, doesn’t mean it can’t have a bright future in a new job. I am excited to join the Unwanted Horse Coalition as an advocate for unwanted horses of all breeds and backgrounds.”

The Unwanted Horse Coalition

The mission of the Unwanted Horse Coalition is to reduce the number of unwanted horses and improve their welfare through education and the efforts of organizations committed to the health, safety and responsible care and disposition of these horses. The UHC grew out of the Unwanted Horse Summit, which was organized by the American Association of Equine Practitioners and held in conjunction with the American Horse Council’s annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in April 2005. The summit was held to bring key stakeholders together to start a dialogue on the unwanted horse in America. Its purpose was to develop consensus on the most effective way to work together to address the issue. In June 2006, the UHC was folded into the AHC and now operates under its auspices.

Colorado Horse Tests Positive for Equine Herpes Myeloencephalitis

LAKEWOOD, Colo. – The Colorado State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (CSU-VDL) has notified Colorado Department of Agriculture’s State Veterinarian’s Office that the horse which was showing signs consistent with Equine Herpes Myeloencephalitis (EHV-1) on 5/14/14 tested positive for EHV-1. The horse was euthanized due to complications from the

said State Veterinarian, Dr. Keith Roehr. “Owners should consider the risk for exposure to EHV-1 at upcoming events to be elevated and owners may want to consider keeping their horses at home to limit their individual risk.”

The EHV-1 positive horse and its stable-mates have a history of travelling to events within Colorado

process of contacting all Colorado contestants that were involved in these events.

Important recommendations:

- If your horse attended any of the above events or has a direct link to a horse that attended one of these events:
- Monitor its temperature twice daily and report temperatures greater than 101.5 F to your veterinarian.
- Isolate your horse from others if possible for 21 days past

clean properly between use.

Symptoms include fever, decreased coordination, nasal discharge, urine dribbling, loss of tail tone, hind limb weakness, leaning against a wall or fence to maintain balance, lethargy, and the inability to rise. While there is no cure, the symptoms of the disease may be treatable. EHV-1 is not transmissible to people; it can be a serious disease of horses that can cause respiratory, neurologic disease and death.

Additional Resources:

- A Guide to Understanding the Neurologic Form of EHV Infection: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahss/equine/ehv/equine_herpesvirus_brochure_2009.pdf
- Biosecurity-The Key to Keeping Your Horses Healthy: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/2011/bro_keep_horses_healthy.pdf
- CDA Animal Health: www.colorado.gov/ag/animals and click on “Animal Health.”



neurologic form of EHV-1.

A second horse that resided with the EHV-1 positive horse has developed a fever and is considered a suspect case but is not displaying any neurologic signs at this time. This second horse attended some of the same events within the rodeo/barrel racing circuit as the original horse. Because of these developments and the recent history of other EHV-1 cases in other states, the State Veterinarian’s Office in Colorado recommends that equine event organizers and horse owners competing in the rodeo/barrel racing circuit exercise extreme caution with regards to the planning and holding of equine events.

“Disease prevention practices and good biosecurity should be implemented,”

over the last few weeks and there is a potential link to other horses that have attended the National High School Rodeo and Colorado Junior Rodeo Association events located in:

- Henderson (April 26-27)
- Eagle (May 2-4)
- Rocky Ford (May 10-11)

The Colorado State Veterinarian’s office is in the

the event.

- Contact your veterinarian if your horse is showing other signs of illness or if you have concerns about its health.
- Limit horse-to-horse contact at equine events.
- EHV-1 can be spread on tack, grooming equipment, feed/water buckets, and people’s hands or clothing. Do not share among horses;

North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame to again produce an NDRA rodeo in the cowboy capital of North Dakota

MEDORA, N.D. - The North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame, the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation and the Medora Convention and Visitor’s Bureau and Chamber of Commerce presents the Medora NDRA (North Dakota Rodeo Association) Badlands Rodeo June 6th and 7th at the Rancho Rama Arena in Medora.

Sponsored by the Medora Convenience and Liquor Store, the Medora NDRA Badlands Rodeo, nestled in the heart of the majestic North Dakota Badlands, will feature 360 cowboys and cowgirls competing for top prize money.

Performances will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday June 6th and at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 7th. In addition, live music and dancing will be featured at the post rodeo street dance, starting at 9 p.m. next to Boots Bar & Grill.

Tickets for the rodeo are \$10 and can be purchased at the gate. Children up to 12 years of age will get in free. For further information call (701) 623-2000.

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Research Indicates Combining Horses and Children with Autism in a Therapy Setting May Improve Motor Performance and Behavior

Research from Washington University in St Louis indicates that treating children who have autism in occupational therapy sessions utilizing the movements of the horse, commonly called hippotherapy, may significantly improve balance, social responsiveness and other “life outcomes.” The Horses and Humans Research Foundation provided funding to Washington University in St. Louis with the purpose of determining if using horse movement (hippotherapy) could improve balance and behavior in children with Autism. The team measured outcomes from Occupational and Physical Therapy using horse movement (hippotherapy) for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The project was innovative because it used objective quantitative data collection in addition to qualitative standardized clinical scales.

The project followed thirteen children with Autism Spectrum Disorder as they participated in 12 weeks of 45-minute weekly hippotherapy sessions. These weekly treatments were conducted by an occupational therapist (OT) or OT Assistant who used horses, their movement and related activities as a primary part of the OT treatment.

“Hippotherapy is commonly used for children with ASD,” said Principal Investigator Tim L. Shurtleff, OTD, OTR/L. “However, up to this point no systematic evidence had been published on the impact of hippotherapy on children with ASD. No studies of hippotherapy have been reported about children with ASD but

many children with ASD participate in hippotherapy. Evidence was needed to support treatment planning, and to support reimbursement for these interventions.”

Quantitatively, several variables studied indicated that participants had significant improvements in balance. Improving balance may enable these children to participate in many activities which may have previously been difficult for them.

Qualitatively, interviews with parents to measure social responsiveness, sensory response, adaptive behaviors and outcomes at home, at school and on the playground were used to determine if treatments made a difference in the lives of the participants with ASD.

Several “life outcomes” were found to be significant. Parents reported the child learned to listen better, became less stubborn or sullen, showed higher levels of confidence during participation in leisure activities, played and interacted more appropriately with peers and they gained better body awareness.

Based upon these results, hippotherapy treatment may provide an alternative treatment that could enable children with ASD to participate more in typical activities of childhood with their peers.

Horses and Humans Research Foundation is the only organization dedicated solely to funding research to support the equine-assisted activities and therapies field. Since its founding, HHRF has awarded \$400,000 in

professional research efforts led by eight research teams in the United States, Canada and Germany. This is the second grant the Washington University in St Louis team has received from HHRF.

To make a donation and/or learn more about this and other Horses and Humans Research Foundation projects please email info@horsesandhumans.org or visit <http://www.horsesandhumans.org>.

North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame Induction Nominees Announced

Ten individuals have been selected as honorees for induction into the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame (NDCHOF) in 2014. Inductions ceremonies will take place in Medora at 1:00 p.m. on June 21 at the Tjaden Terrace.

The list of 2014 honorees by category includes:

Pre-1940 Ranchers – Richard Moore

Modern-Era Ranchers – Stanley Pope Ranch – Brooks Hereford Ranch

Cowboy Long Rider – Andy Moore

Special Achievement – Blaisdell Rodeo Club

Pre-1940 Rodeo – William Hadden

Modern Era Rodeo – Wayne Herman and Jerry Weinberger

Rodeo Arena – Emerson Chase

Livestock – Skoal’s Centennial

The NDCHOF board of directors reviews all nominations in advance of the NDCHOF annual meeting at the Seven Seas Hotel in February and presents a list to the organization’s trustees to vote on by ballot. Ballets

are returned to Roene J. Hulsing, CPA in Dickinson for tabulation by May 1 with results promptly forwarded to board of director’s President Phil Baird.

For biographies on each of the 2014 NDCHOF nominees and honorees go to northdakotacowboy.com. Call the NDCHOF at (701) 623-2000 with any questions.



Facebook Finds



The RCAF “roped” airplanes into Canada from the United States. In the early years of the war, Canada needed training aircraft and the United States was producing them. Canada bought the planes, but because of American neutrality, they could not be flown to Canada.

Instead, factory pilots flew them right up to the Canadian border in North Dakota and Montana (as well as Maine).

The grounded planes were then roped, attached to

teams of horses and hauled across the 49th parallel. Then Canadian crews took them onward to their destinations

Photo: Joe Wilson is at the reigns of a team of horses pulling a Hudson airplane across the United States-Canadian border near Pembina, N.D., during the early days of World War II.

Photo Credit : State Historical Society of North Dakota, with thanks (<http://bit.ly/1juGRfu>)



Saying Goodbye to Moose....

Sad news as we learned that the World Champion Black Percheron Stallion, “Moose” has passed away. He was an incredible horse and our hearts go out to Windermere Farms...

“It is with heavy heart that we mourn the loss of Windermere’s North American Maid “Moose”. We were blessed to have this horse as a member of our family. In the barn, or in the show ring, he was always a gentleman and an ambassador to

the breed. We look to the future and the offspring he has left, but will always carry a piece of him in our heart. May he look over our herd and guide us down the road that lies ahead.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9cMHfjocDc> Timeline photo Windermere Farms...
<http://www.windermerefarmspercherons.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Windermere-Farms/302076069838028>

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