

Free—Please Take One!

March 2013

Where there are rivers,
There are valleys,
There are horses, and



The Valley Equestrian Newspaper

All breeds, all disciplines, all the time!



My Barn is My Castle...

The Barn Issue

Featuring: Trends in stalls, building styles, flooring and more!

Also Inside: North Dakota's Largest Horse Seizure, The Canadian Horse Breed and an overview of Working Equitation

It Takes A Village to Rescue Neglected Horses

By Ley Bouchard

It's been more than a month since Burleigh County and Morton County, North Dakota, Sheriff's Department seized 157 horses from properties owned by William Kiefer of Fargo, N.D. It was not soon enough for the more than 100 horses that perished in what one can only imagine would be a horrible death of starvation and dehydration in freezing temperatures.

Luckily, there are wonderful stories of how people have come together across the region and nation to help the surviving horses. It is a remarkable testament to the goodness of people who stepped up with donations of cash, tack, blankets, hay, feed, and many services to help care for and arrange for new homes, where the horses that have suffered such losses, will find safety and health.

Imagine being the horses that remain, having seen their friends, parents, or foals die such deaths.

These intelligent creatures know what is happening and are absolutely at the mercy of their caretakers.

Shelley Johnsen read about the neglect case and knew she had to do something. "I've always planned on getting more involved in adopting, fostering and helping horses," said Johnsen. "I'm on Facebook very little but a friend talked about getting blankets and it led me to get involved."

When the legal seizure came about Johnsen sent money. Then more horses were seized, and Tracy Tschakert, a dressage trainer from Barnesville, Minn., contacted Johnsen about a central location to bring the horses. Johnsen owns Rising Road Ranch near Hawley, Minn. Tschakert was arranging a trailer to pick up the seized horses and needed a place to bring them to meet up with people who wanted to adopt them.

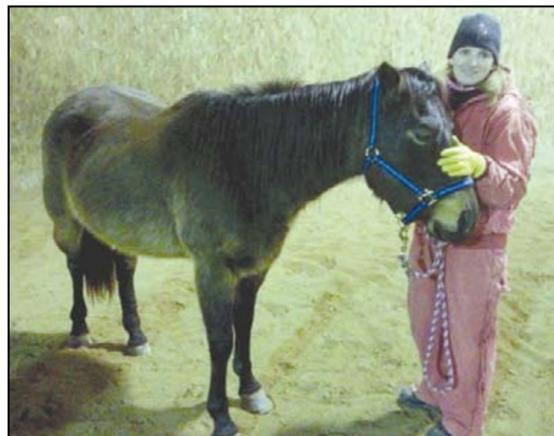
"I called every horse person I knew and many I did not," said Tschakert.

"The goal was to get the rescued horses into individual care. No matter how great a job Allison Smith was doing at the Triple H Miniature Horse Rescue, Mandan, N.D., I felt the horses would benefit most from being with individuals. I called the Morton County Sheriff and offered to find homes for 30, only because that is how many we could fit in one of Ziegler Transport trailers. They [Ziegler] were great, offering a reduced rate, and a friend offered to pay that. The Morton County Sheriff Department and Allison [Smith] managed the Coggins and health certificates, and Shelley [Johnsen] offered her place as a central location where new owners could come and pick up their horses. I planned to bring any not adopted home with me, but by the end of that night, we had homes for even the last three that we hadn't had adopted yet. I will end up keeping one, Little Grace, at least for a while, although she went home with friends for now.

Continued on page 17

Little Grace, one of the rescued mares, on her way to a new home.

Photos courtesy Kim Savageau Rask



"Big or small ... we feed 'em all."



DRIVE-THRU FEED

651-463-4793

Joe & Marilyn Palma

Monday - Friday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm / Saturday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
28008 Galaxie Avenue - Farmington, MN 55024

Serving Canterbury Park Horses for Over 25 Years.

Tack • Gifts • Specialized Feeds • Delivery

www.palmafeed.com

What If...



You could own a racehorse for less than it costs for your cable bill each month?

You can!

Through a racing partnership with Back Forty Turf Club. We create partnerships that stand true to our motto of "racing for the rest of us".

We offer:

- **Multiple Levels of Involvement**-starting as low as \$87 a month!*
- **Ease of entry**-no footwork: One-step, one signature to get in!
- **Peace of Mind**-Top management team of racing professionals to guide you.

2013 Partnerhips Forming Soon!

Racing at Canterbury (MN), Prairie Meadows (IA) and Arlington (IL) for summer 2013 season!

Check out our website for more information at:

www.backfortyturfclub.com



Back Forty Turf Club
"Racing for the Rest of Us"

*\$87 a month after \$1,000 enrollment fee

How NOT To Pick a Derby Winner



-Heather Benson

It is that time of year again, when each and every weekend fills a racing fan's heart with either flutters of hope or utter dismay. The dance to Derby Day has begun in earnest and 2013 presents a whole new twist with the official "Derby Points System." From now until May 4, we will see new stars crowned and many others fade away as each preparatory race determines who gets a coveted spot in the starting gate.

As a horse racing fan, each year I can expect to have dozens of friends, family members and co-workers ask me who I like to win that year's Kentucky Derby. As just about the only race that the casual fan is even aware of, the Kentucky Derby is the one race that every person involved in horse racing is expected to be an "expert" for weeks leading up to the main event. The problem is, that even for professional horse racing gamblers, it is also one of the hardest races to handicap (that is, in gambling parlance, to pick a winner).

The Kentucky Derby is that rare race on the American racing calendar that attracts horses from throughout the entire nation, many of whom have never raced at Churchill Downs before and as relatively unproven three-year-olds, are mostly unknown quantities; especially in regard to their ability to run the mile and quarter distance of America's premier classic race. Add that to the fact that a full twenty horses show up and crowd the starting gate and you have a recipe for a handicapping conundrum!

Personally, I have failed to correctly identify a Kentucky Derby winner since I was eight years old and I picked Sunday Silence based upon the time-honored handicapping analytics of 1.) He was black and 2.) He had a cool name. This worked well for me and he went on to nearly take the Triple Crown, in the process making me a lifelong horse racing fan. It has been all down-hill since then.

While throughout the rest of the year and at tracks ranging from Santa Anita in California to Fort Pierre, South Dakota, I can hold my own (and keep my cash) respectfully when it comes to wagering, choosing the Kentucky Derby winner has now eluded me for 23 straight years. To make things worse, for the past several years, every horse that I have picked and rooted for in the Derby prep races has inevitably ended up injured, rested or just too slow—depriving me of having a racing fan's rooting interest when the big race finally rolls around.

To that end, I recently decided to attempt reverse-psychology on Karma itself. For those of you who follow my blog at Back Forty Turf Club's website (www.backfortyturfclub.com), you know that a few weeks ago I went through the entire list of 369



early nominees for the Triple Crown series (which begins with the Kentucky Derby), scouring for the horses with the least dignified names. It must be noted that I always root against horses with undignified names, as I am convinced that names like "Panty Raid" or "Dean's Kitten" must never be enshrined in history next to Triple Crown greats such as Secretariat, Citation and War Admiral. Petty, yes, but ask yourself if deep down, you don't really feel the same?

My research found such gems as "Fevernthehouse", "Fear the Kitten" and "Dirty Swagg": all nominated and actively training for Triple Crown glory ... and all sporting rather odd names. This is when it occurred to me: I

Upcoming Kentucky Derby Prep Races:

March 9, 2013

Tampa Bay Derby 1 1/16 miles
Tampa Bay Downs 50pts to winner

San Felipe Stakes 1 1/16 miles
Santa Anita Park 50pts to winner

March 16, 2013

Rebel Stakes 1 1/16 miles
Oaklawn Park 50 pts to winner

March 23, 2013

Spiral Stakes 1 1/8 miles
Turfway Park 50 pts to winner

March 24, 2013

Sunland Derby 1 1/8 miles
Sunland Park 50 pts to winner

March 30, 2013

Florida Derby 1 1/8 miles
Gulfstream Park 100 pts to winner

Louisiana Derby 1 1/8 miles
Fairgrounds Racetrack 100 pts to winner

UAE Derby 1 3/16 miles
Meydan, Dubai 100 pts to winner

could make these oddly named horses my "official" Derby picks of 2013, thus either guaranteeing that they will either prematurely end their bid for Kentucky Derby glory (and saving me needing to worry about them winning it all) OR they will, in fact, win and for the first time in over two

The Risen Star Stakes, held at the Fair Grounds Racetrack in Louisiana, saw my first steps towards 2013 Derby glory when I've Struck a Nerve came home in front, paying \$279 to win. That win, combined with a 4th place finish in the Lecomte Stakes on January 19 gives him 51 total points and places him at the top of the Derby leaderboard (as of this writing). In addition, Fear the Kitten, also from my February 9th list, took 2nd in the Southwest Stakes on February 18 for 6 points. In addition, four other horses from the original list have at least 1 point to make the top 50 list. Not bad for a list derived solely from other people's odd name choices!

Highlights of BFTC's newly inaugurated "Odd Name Derby Dozen" include:

Bambazonki—Sounds like a cross between Bambi and Zeedonk (which itself is a donkey-zebra cross) created on the Island of Dr. Moreau.

Dispy Drew—Sounds like some new street drug that the nightly news will be warning us about next week.

Little Jerry—Though I never saw him run, I like the story of Little Current. I do not like Little Jerry-it sounds like a Seinfeld episode.

My Name is Michael—Like my cousin, I love Holy Bull line horses and as a South Dakota racing fan, I worship at the altar of Bill Mott ... but I neither love nor worship this name.

Sir Fire Foot—Seriously? Actually, let's dump all the "Sir" horses—that includes Sir Pulpit and Sir Searscorner. Sorry guys.

Standup Paddle—I debated on adding this name. I don't know what it means. It sounds really weird but not necessarily undignified. But what if it is some rude allusion to that book I refuse to read, "Fifty Shades of Grey", and I am just out of the pop culture loop once again? Better be on the safe side, it stays on the list.

The weekend of February 23 represented the start of the second leg of the Kentucky Derby prep races, dubbed officially as the "Kentucky Derby Championship Series." In this leg, the winners of each series race receives 50 points toward securing a spot in the gate (the Kentucky Derby is limited to 20 horses, those with the highest point totals from prep races are guaranteed a spot).

For the full list and regular updates of BFTC's "Odd Name Derby Dozen", go to www.backfortyturfclub.com. Next month, here at the Valley Equestrian News, we will take the time to get to know our "Odd Name Derby Contenders" a little closer when we interview their human "helpers."

Heather Benson is a former racetrack executive, professional handicapping analyst and owner of a Triple Crown winner (well, at least a horse that played one in a movie). But far more importantly, she is a still that girl who gets giddy when the starting gate opens and cries every time she watches a replay of Secretariat's Belmont Stakes. Join her each month as she takes you on a journey through the world of horse racing, from top to bottom, with a little bit of everything in between! Check out the Back Forty Turf Club racing blog at www.backfortyturfclub.com.

The Valley Equestrian Newspaper
 Vol. 7 No. 3
 PO Box 64
 Sabin, MN 56580
 theVENews@gmail.com
 (320) 209-8523
 Owner/Publisher/Editor
 Ley Bouchard
 (701) 361-8648
 leybou@gmail.com

**Regional Sales Manager/
 Creative Consultant**
 Tammy Finney
 (218) 790-6056
 RR3500@aol.com

Strategic Marketing Director
 Heather Benson
 (605) 660-6599
 valleyequestriannews@gmail.com

Advertising Consultants
 Kari Hagstrom
 (320) 766-2620
 kari.venews@hotmail.com

David Olson
 (701) 566-3704
 Dave.VENews@gmail.com

Contributing Writers
 Orv Alvesshere
 Ronda Anderson
 Heather Benson
 Dr. Juliet Getty
 Janice Ladendorf
 Fran Lynghaug
 Charles Wilhelm

The Valley Equestrian News is published monthly January through October and a combined holiday issue for November/ December.

Copyright © 2013
 LeKreations LLC
 All Rights Reserved
 The Valley Equestrian Newspaper

About the Cover

"My Barn is My Castle," is our Barn Feature for 2013. We have talked to various builders about what is new, what is trending, in stalls, barn flooring and interior barn accessories including tack rooms, feeding systems and more. See all about it on pages 11-14.

Throughout the pages of the March VEN, you will see old and new barns. The old barns are photographs taken from all over the region. If you recognize the barn on a particular page, email us at thevenews@gmail.com. If you identify the correct location of the barn (generally is good enough, we don't need a specific address), we will announce the winners in the April VEN issue and send the first correct answer, for each barn, a 3-month subscription to the VEN. So be sure to include your mailing address with your answer.



What's in This Issue?

- Pg.2** It Takes A Village to Rescue Horses
By Ley Bouchard
- Pg.3** Back Forty Turf Club By Heather Benson
- Pg.5** Editorial
Welcome Heather Benson to VEN Team
- Pg.6** Cowboy Poetry with Orv
How to Prepare for a Horse Expo
- Pg.7** Charles Wilhelm: Use of Spurs
- Pg.8** News Around the Region
A Round Barn in Wisconsin
- Pg.9** What It Means To Be An Empath
By Katherine Windfeather-Thompson

Where is this barn located? Send us your best guess to:

thevenews@gmail.com

(City and state needed only.)



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.

Copyright Notice: The Valley Equestrian Newspaper (VEN) is copyrighted and protected by federal copyright law. No material may be copied, faxed, electronically transmitted or otherwise used without our express written permission. Requests for reprinting must be submitted in writing to the editor.

Disclaimer: Articles that appear in The Valley Equestrian News do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial staff, officers or employees. Publication of any article does not constitute endorsement of the views expressed. Accuracy of all information is the responsibility of the authors.

Advertisements published in The Valley Equestrian do not constitute endorsement or recommendation of such product or service. The VEN does not condone the alteration of horses in any photograph that appears in advertisements in the newspaper and accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the photographs used in the advertisements supplied by others than its own staff. The onus is on the reader to satisfy themselves about the appearance or conformation of a horse before making a financial decision.

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.

- Pg.12** Trends in Stall Design
By Heather Benson



- Pg.15** The Canadian Horse
By Fran Lynghaug

- Pg.11 - 14** Barn Building Pitfalls
Barn Raising Kits & more

- Pg.16** From the Horses Mouth:
National & Regional News

- Pg.19** Working Equitation By Janice Ladendorf

Know What's Coming Up in Future Issues of the VEN!

April:
 What's New in Trailers?
 Horse Camping, Resorts
 and Trail Guide!

May:
 Pasture Design and Maintenance
 - Seed, Chemicals or Organic -
 - Equipment You Need!

See the complete VEN distribution list at:
www.theveonline.com

Publisher's Clipboard

I love barns. I love the smell, the sounds, the sense of peace they provide me. I love to bring my reading or writing with me to the barn, sit on a bale and ponder. The horses nickering or nuzzling me bring such joy. This month we are featuring barns, old and new, trends in building, stalls, flooring, bells and whistles. The upcoming months will follow with



what comes next: the pasture and fencing for your horses. Please take a minute to look at the old barn photos in this issue to see if you can identify any of them for your area. There are barns from Illinois, Wyoming and Minnesota, just to give you a little hint! Prizes awarded for the first to identify the approximate location of each old barn.

It is with great regret we continue our reporting on neglect and seizure cases this month. Even as people come together to find homes for many of the North Dakota seized horses (Page 2) more cases of seizure occur. As we go to print, Char Tuhy and the folks at High Tail Horse Rescue Ranch near Hawley, Minn., have taken in about a dozen horses.

It has been a hard year for horse rescues as they struggle with the high hay prices when they are at maximum holding capacity. If you can volunteer, donate cash, goods or services; please

contact your local non-profit horse rescue.

We need to have serious conversations about minimum standards of care for our equine partners. Let's discuss and find solutions for how we can help hoarders identify their situation, geld loose stallions and find ways to keep all horses healthy and happy. We are a community of horse lovers and together we can

find solutions to these industry and nation-wide problems. We encourage your letters about how you feel.

With the growing horse meat scandal, include in your letters, your thoughts about horse slaughter houses being considered in a couple states.

We are happy to welcome Heather Benson to the VEN Team, taking on the position of Strategic Marketing Director. Heather brings a wealth of equine knowledge to our organization.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the VEN! Please patronize our advertisers who bring you this issue.

Happy Trails!

Ley Bouchard, Publisher/Editor



The VEN Team Welcomes Heather Benson

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Heather Benson to the Valley Equestrian News Team in the role of Strategic Marketing Director.

As an agribusiness marketing executive with over a decade of experience in all facets of advertising, public relations, event and sales management, Heather Benson brings a wealth of experience to the Valley Equestrian News team. Through a combination of marketing know-how and outside-the-box thinking, she has worked with clients from small horse breeders to half-billion dollar ag retail companies to successfully create new customers, meet challenges of a changing marketplace and create new ideas to keep their businesses relevant in the 21st century. As a lifelong equestrian, she is very excited to work with Valley Equestrian's strong readership and customer base.

In her capacity as Strategic Marketing Consultant, Heather will assist in bringing together the overall vision of Valley Equestrian News by providing leadership for editorial/



Available now!
 DENNIS BROUSE ON
HORSE TRAINING
 Bonding With Your Horse Through Gentle Leadership
 The new book by *Saddle Up!*
 host Dennis Brouse with Fran Lynghaug

HORSE TRAINING
 BONDING WITH YOUR HORSE THROUGH GENTLE LEADERSHIP

This new book covers Brouse's pioneering and unique training methods, focusing on cooperation, encouragement and partnership. All the key horse training topics are covered with clear and concise direction and photography. Help fix your horses - not "break" them!

Includes a 30-Minute Training DVD!

Available online, at your favorite bookstore, and at www.voyagepress.com

The Valley Equestrian News Mission

The VEN's mission is to provide coverage of equestrian events thereby enhancing the lives of local communities and their businesses by promoting the equestrian lifestyle; to tell the stories of how interaction with horses improves people's lives; to make a difference in the lives of people with challenges through the work of the Valley Equestrian Newspaper.

Shop Blairview Saddle Shop, Inc.
 where you know! Now in three locations!

Blairview online at:
www.blairviewsaddleshop.com
 Best Prices • Best Selection • Best Brands • All locations • All the Time
 300 NEW AND USED SADDLES PLUS A COMPLETE LINE OF CLOTHING AND BOOTS

Blairview Saddle Shop
 1/2 mile S of I-94 on Hwy. 29,
 Alexandria, MN •
 320-762-5664
 Monday-Thursday 9 am - 6 pm
 Friday 9 am - 8 pm
 Saturday 9 am - 5 pm • Sunday Noon - 5 pm.

Blairview Outpost
 at Red Horse Ranch Arena
 in Fergus Falls, MN.
COME SEE US FOR ALL YOUR SADDLE AND TACK NEEDS!
 Open Friday thru Monday
 Call 218-998-4141 for more info

COWBOY POETRY WITH ORV

LOST BETWEEN BARN AND HOUSE IN A BLIZZARD

SNOW CAN FIND YOU: CAN YOU FIND THE HOUSE?
 Luckily he had just arrived home to the farm; Fast changing weather gave extreme cause for alarm. He had just returned from an urgent trip to town. Overcast clouds darkened the low sky like sundown; Suddenly the wind bore down with a vicious sound! The blinding snow was blowing sideways, coming down! Checking horses and cows, a time he did allow; That day he was wearing a brand new Mackinaw.

VIOLENT VELOCITY, WALKING INTO HEADWINDS
 History records that on that cold winter day Seventy-one mile-per-hour gusting winds came that way! In moments he couldn't see where he was going Against the vicious velocity it was blowing. But there was some distance from the barn to the house That he must trudge to get to his waiting spouse. He couldn't see through a nearly snow-caked eyebrow. He pulled up the collar of his new Mackinaw.

NO TURNING BACK IN ZERO VISABILITY
 Leaning against strong head winds to stay on his feet; Aware it was not the time to think of retreat. Losing body heat walking slow against the wind; He could feel it freezing all of his exposed skin. He was deathly afraid of getting lost that night; As he pulled his long coat and cap and mittens tight. But he realized he must struggle on somehow. It was luck he was wearing his new Mackinaw.

CHALLENGED NOT TO LOSE DIRECTION
 Leaving the barn he followed the long steel well pipe That would lead him to the windmill (vertical type). Knowing that would shorten the distance by one-third. But the loud roar of the storm was all that he heard. He tied a big blue handkerchief over his nose; He couldn't get his breath and he tugged at his clothes. Mortally afraid he'd veer off in the wind so raw; He was barely warmed by his new Mackinaw.

PACKED WITH SNOW
 He opened one eye and squinted and searched in the night; Then saw the glimmer of...yes, the kitchen light. Visibility was zero, just one big blur; She was glad see him. He was grateful to see her. The fam'ly was happy; all were safe in the house; Dad took off his winter coat with help from his spouse. But a strange mystery: no one can explain how A layer of snow was inside his Mackinaw!?

© Copyright 1996, rewrite 12-2009, all rights reserved by Orv Alvshere

2013 Expos or Horse Fairs

- Illinois Horse Fair, Springfield, Ill., March 1-3, 2013
- Rocky Mountain Horse Expo, Denver, CO., March 8-10, 2013
- SD Horse Fair, Sioux Falls, SD, March 15-17, 2013
- Iowa Horse Fair, Des Moines, IA, April 5-7, 2013
- Midwest Horse Fair, Madison, Wis., April 19-21, 2013
- Big Wyoming Horse Expo, Douglas, Wyo., April 19-21, 2013
- Minnesota Horse Expo, St. Paul, MN, April 26-28, 2013
- Western States Horse Expo, Sacramento, CA., June 8-10, 2013
- Calgary Stampede, Calgary, Alberta Canada, July 5-14, 2013
- Minnesota EquiFest, St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 12-13, 2013
- Big Sky Draft Horse Expo, Deer Lodge, Mont., September 14-15, 2013

How to Prepare for a Horse Expo, Fair or Festival

By Ley Bouchard

That time of year is upon us once again! It is time to shake off the winter and see what is new in the equestrian world. Get ready to shine up the boots and the saddles, take that cowgirl wardrobe out of hibernation and prepare for the fun season of expos in your area.

Horse expos, fairs and festivals are not for the novice shopper. Many of these events are several days in duration and if you go for only a day, expect to do a lot of walking to get to everything you want to see. An average expo will cover several blocks and in each building you may walk miles of circles around exhibitor booths. Being prepared and planning the day/s are the only way to come from it with a feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment.

What to wear?

Dress in layers and of course, dress for the event. Depending upon the time of year and the location, one can and does encounter a variety of weather conditions when planning to attend horse expos. In many years, the MN Horse Expo encounters sunshine, snow, rain, cold and often plenty of wind!
 The Western States Horse Expo in Sacramento usually has plenty of sunshine and rain is a rarity, but you might want to have a windbreaker, sun visor, sunglasses and layered so you can remove when it gets too warm.

At the WSHE there are many events inside and outside and or under the shade of trees, and so many things going on simultaneously that should you become uncomfortable in one setting you can move to another!

On the other hand, at the South Dakota Horse Fair, everything is under one roof so you don't have to worry about weather as much as body temperature. It doesn't hurt to check out the weather channel before attending so you know what to expect and can dress accordingly.

What to bring?

This is one area where experience matters. Dump out your purse or bring a bag that does not contain

all the usual detritus. You need only what you need for the event. Get yourself a good sized bag and inside it place other small bags with the items you can't live without for even a couple hours. For me that would be lip gloss, my plastic ID and debit card, touch up makeup, and water. You really don't want to be spending your hard-earned money on \$4-5 bottles of water!

A scarf or big hanky is a great, lightweight item to carry so you can use it as a headband, neckband, hankie, sweat rag, or wash rag. A Ziploc bag or two will keep items separated and dry. Those moist tow-



els, or pellets which when wet expand into a full size towel are also very handy, especially if you are traveling with children in tow.

This big bag you carry should have a nice wide, comfortable shoulder strap that will fit across your chest and lay on the side of your hip so you are hands free to pet that gorgeous horse walking down the avenue - oh, but be sure to ask the owner first! This bag should be large enough that you are able to fill it with brochures, business cards, literature galore, the Valley Equestrian Newspaper and other FREE materials you pick up BESIDES all the cool stuff you will be purchasing! Wait until the last to buy that saddle or driving cart - they are way too big to carry around all day!

Comfort is Key

Be sure you have walking shoes or boots that are comfortable. This is not a day for glamour unless you can combine glamour with comfort. Even if you sit to watch a presentation, you are going to do a lot of walking between clinics or presentations and the vendor areas are gigantic at most of the larger expos like the WSHE or MN Horse Expo which has several buildings to go through.

Bringing Children?

If you are bringing a child or children you have more guts than I can imagine. Depending upon their age, tenacity and patience, well, you know your kids! You want ample snacks, so you don't have to rely on the vendors or snack bar. The food prices are high at expos and there is not much variety in food and forget about healthy options.

Pizza, tacos in a bag, burgers, fries, cheese curds, and the usual fare will be found at these fairs. I have seen people bring little baggies of carrots, apples, oranges, (sliced and ready to eat) along with mini-cookies, dried fruits and trail mixes, cheese and crackers, clean candies and dried beef jerky. These are all nice items to carry for when you are sitting watching a clinician. It doesn't mean you can't enjoy a snack from the local vendor, it just provides

you and your family with options.

Photography and Notes

As a photojournalist it goes without saying that I have my camera bag along with note paper and pens. I have backup batteries, extra storage media should I have trouble with my SD card or run out of room, saints preserve us! You always want plenty of storage media for your digital cameras because you never know what cute image you will encounter at a horse fair. People are dressed in costume for the breed parades, riding in their best attire with their horse decorated, too. When walking around the exhibitor booth you may come across an item you could not afford but might be very well able to create and an image would be that little reminder of what and how it was done. I'm not encouraging any copyright or trademark violations, but crafts are open game!

Have you more ideas or trusted tips you use at horse expos? Email us at the VEN: thevenews@gmail.com and we will print your ideas and suggestions on the Letters/Editorial page 5!

Charles Wilhelm: Ultimate Foundation Training from Start to Finish

The Use of Spurs

Spurs are a training aid to assist us to get a horse to go in the direction we would like it to go. We are looking for a well trained horse, whether we want the horse to be an eventer, a dressage horse, a reiner or just a good trail horse.

You can look at spurs as the training wheels on a bicycle. At first the wheels are on the ground but as the rider becomes more proficient, the wheels are raised and eventually removed. With spurs it is as if we raise the wheels but we don't remove the spurs.

They are there if we need them but we don't use them unless we have to. Like any other aid, we don't want to depend on them to train the horse. We suggest what we would like the horse to do with a light-aid and, if there is no response, we use the spur as follow up. I use spurs on a daily basis because I ride all horses in spurs. They are part of me and I even go to dinner in spurs. They are a way of life for me.

However, I don't use them every time I ask a horse to go forward, do lateral work (moving sideways) or any other movement. I do use them as an aid, a follow through or a motivator. A dressage stick can also be used as an aid to help motivate and I regularly do mix the use of these two aids. I mix the use of a dressage stick and spurs so the horse I am working does not become dependent and respond

only to the spurs.

In the beginning, the spur is the last aid I use to motivate a horse. For example, to ask my horse to turn on the haunches, I want him to move his hind quarters around his front end. I bring my leg back to what I call the number three spot (just behind the cinch) and with the calf of my leg, ask the horse to move away from pressure. Every horse is different; some are more sensitive and others more dull just because of their nature. A cold-blooded horse, like a draft horse, will have a tendency to be less responsive while a thoroughbred will tend to be a lot more sensitive. I press with the calf of my leg and this is what I call a pre-cue. This is the aid that I really want to be able to use to motivate the horse. If the horse doesn't respond to the pressure and move his hind quarters, I pick up the inside rein, hold the outside rein and ask the horse to move away from the rein pressure. I also cluck to the horse to help put energy into the feet to create movement and then the last aid I would use is the spur.

With the spur, I may just tip it into the horse, just letting him know it is there. Here again, if I have a very responsive horse, a horse that is really sensitive, just tipping the spur in could motivate that horse to move off my leg. If I am working with a cold-blooded horse, or one that

has been nagged at or is dull around the sides, I may have to roll the spur up. In other words, after I tip the spur in, with my heel I roll it up. If that doesn't work, for the sake of communication, I'm going to bump that horse with my spur. I will keep bumping until I get a reaction. The moment I get some movement in the hind end, I stop.

I will do this exercise in the same order each time. I will pause and then put my leg back on the number three spot. If I don't get a response, I will pick up the inside rein and hold the outside rein, cluck and if there is no movement, tip the spur in, then roll it up. If there is still no response, I will bump with the spur until the hind quarter moves over. After a time, I may be going through this series and the horse will move when I roll the spur or even just tip it in. By repetition, being specific in my request and consistent in the way I ask, pretty soon the horse will move his hind quarters over with just a light request by the calf of the leg within two weeks. If you are only working two days a week, it may take three or four weeks.

Consistency, persistence

know the lesson? The horse knows the lesson when I mount and I put my leg on the horse to move the hindquarters away and the horse steps away from the pressure without me tipping my spur or following through with any other aid or other device. The same procedure can be followed using a dressage stick instead of a spur. I could tap the hind quarters with my stick to get movement.

What I am really trying to do is to get the horse to move his hind quarters over from just the cue of my leg without using either a spur or dressage stick. That is the goal but to reach it, it may take several days or a couple of weeks of repeating this exercise, being specific and consistent. If, every time you get on the horse and you are riding the horse, say five days a week, with consistent practice, the horse may move his hind quarters over with just a light request by the calf of the leg within two weeks. If you are only working two days a week, it may take three or four weeks.

Consistency, persistence



and follow through are the keys. Remember, the spur or the training dressage stick are the aids of last resort. If you use a spur every time, you may get results but the horse will start to get spur sour.

With continuous poking, a horse will start resisting. It is the same with constant use of a stick instead of using a pre-cue. The horse is going to get dull and not listen. Or, the horse will start resenting the constant tap, tap and start swishing his tail or other negative behavior such as the ears going back.

We need to be careful using the aids. You should only use the spur or the stick as the last resort or motivator but when you do use the spur or stick, you need to get a significant response.

We are not looking for pretty movement, we are looking for a quick response. If you use the aid and the horse is lazy and grudging in his response, you are going to end up using the spur every time. My rule is that if I have to use the spur or stick, I'm going to make the horse react to

it and move quickly. That is follow up to yielding to pressure.

Charles Wilhelm is internationally known as America's most respected horse trainer. His unique approach to horse training enables horse owners to train their own horses.

Charles is the creator of Ultimate Foundation Training; equine training techniques that combine the best of traditional, classical and natural horsemanship into a methodology that is applicable to every riding discipline.

His extensive background of over thirty-five years of training includes Dressage, Working Cow Horse, Reining, Western Pleasure and Trail class. He is one of the few clinicians of our time who is known for his superb skills in communicating and motivating people as well as his astounding natural abilities with the horse. He believes that "It's Never, Ever the Horse's Fault" and his training methods reflect that belief. Charles is one of the few trainers specializing in re-schooling horses with often-severe issues

LEARN WHY IT'S NEVER EVER THE HORSE'S FAULT

Charles Wilhelm

HORSEMANSHIP, CONFIDENCE, PERFORMANCE

DVD SPECIALS:

- Ground Manners, Leading & Loading
- Colt Starting
- Round Pen Logic
- Suppling & Riding Exercises
- Trick Training
- Ranch Versatility
- Solving Trail Problems
- Snaffles, Bridles & Hackamores: Proper Bit, Proper Fit
- Solving Pullback Problems, Cinchiness, Handling Feet & Legs

2013 price - Buy any 4 for \$99.95

Check out our website for more Specials!

New!
De-spooking and Crossing Objects Video







Watch Charles on HRTV DISH TV Channel 404
Shows air Sunday at 6:30 pm & 9:30 pm PST

www.charleswilhelm.com
510.886.9000



High Quality Feeds



Ultimate Mechanical Cow



Clippers



Sports Medicine Products



Ultimate Horse Bedding



Online Supplements



THE NETWORK FOR HORSE SPORTS

GW TACK SHACK INC

SADDLES, TACK, CLOTHING, JEWELRY & MORE

218-439-3131

Junction of US Highway 10
and County Road 11
Audubon, MN
Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday - Sunday
On site Farrier: Call Koby for appointment:
218.849.5356

Western Saddles:	Halters:	New & Used Boots:
• King Youth Series	• Cowboy	• Montana West
• Weaver	• Stockman	• Durango
• Double T	• Zebra print	• Twisted X
• The Rider	• and more	• Tony Lama
• Saddle King	• Headstalls	• Ariat
	• Bits	• Nocona
	• Clothing	
	• Jewelry	

AROUND THE REGION

Golden Eagles Set School Record Six Riders to Zone Championships After Strong Regional Championships

RIVER FALLS, Wis. – The University of Minnesota, Crookston hunt seat equestrian team had their final competition of the regular season Saturday, Feb. 23 at University of Wisconsin-River Falls. The Golden Eagles closed out the competition as the Reserve High Point Team for Zone 7, Region 3.

advanced in Intermediate Equitation Over Fences. Charles narrowly missed qualifying for the Zone Championships last season. In addition, Bettencourt and Denise Thompson (Jr., Rochester, N.Y.) qualified for Zones in Novice Equitation on the Flat. Hannah Nedrud (Jr., St. Louis Park, Minn.) and Annalee Sundin (Jr., Deer River, Minn.) move on to the Zone Championships in Walk Trot Canter and Clark moves on in Walk Trot. Sundin qualifies for the Zone Championships for the second-consecutive season.

UMC was led by exceptional rides in Saturday's competition. Head Coach Brooke Leininger was very impressed with how the riders performed Saturday. Paige Clark (Fr., Andover, Minn.) and Sable Bettencourt (Fr., Cloquet, Minn.) claimed their last remaining points Saturday and qualified last minute for the Regional Championships Sunday. Jessica Charles (Sr., Belgrade Lakes, Maine) claimed the Individual High Point Rider title Saturday and the team finished second overall, ending the season remarkably well.

At Sunday's regional championships, which were also held on the campus of University of Wisconsin-River Falls campus, the Golden Eagles saw a record six riders move on to the Zone Finals, which will be held on the campus of West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas. Charles



For more information, visit the Golden Eagle Athletics Web site at www.goldeneaglesports.com. Follow the Golden Eagles on Facebook at Golden Eagle Sports and on Twitter at @UMCAthletics.

Photo: Sable Bettencourt, Cloquet, Minn.

The University of Minnesota, Crookston is an NCAA Division II Institution and a member of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC). The Golden Eagle Equestrian team is a member of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA).

Cavallo Equestrian Arts at the MN Horse Expo Presents Ma'Ceo

Edina, Minnesota – The Minnesota Horse Expo announces five performances of the hit show Ma'Ceo by Cavallo Equestrian Arts scheduled for April 26-28 at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds during the Minnesota Horse Expo. Generations of skill and grace have come together to create Ma'Ceo, an equestrian extravaganza featuring dare-

devil stunt work and unparalleled beauty. Combining traditional dressage, aerial performance, Cossack riding and vaulting, performed by world-class acrobats and riders, Ma'Ceo is truly an exciting addition to the Minnesota Horse Expo schedule of events.



brothers. As a break from today's age of frills and technology, the world of Ma'Ceo takes people back to the roots of gypsy heritage. The product of seven generations of entertainment professionals and show producers, Cavallo Equestrian Arts stands on the shoulders of its predecessors presenting to the world the most breathtaking, heart-pounding, edge of your seat equestrian extravaganza of all time. Olissio Zoppe, and his family, have equestrian acrobatics in their blood on both sides of the family, Zamperla and Zoppe, 8th and 9th generation equestrian acrobats. For more information visit www.cavalloegarts.com.

Tickets for Ma'Ceo will be in addition to Expo daily admission and be available both online starting March 1 on the Horse Expo website and at the Ma'Ceo booth at Expo. Ma'Ceo performances are scheduled for 1pm and 5pm Friday and Saturday; 1pm on Sunday. Ma'Ceo tickets start at \$10 for ages 12 and under and \$16 for adults. For more information about Ma'Ceo and the full schedule of speakers, clinicians, PRCA rodeos, free horse, pony and wagon rides and more at the Minnesota Horse Expo, visit www.mnhorseexpo.org or call 877-462-8758.

"It is our dream to show the world the relationship we share with our horses, and the sheer excitement that they bring to all the lives they touch," explained Olissio Zoppe, Ma'Ceo Show Director and Cavallo Equestrian Arts Owner. Ma'Ceo presents rich acoustic music in a gypsy ring that sets the scene for an action packed ninety minute performance. An unrivaled cast of artists from around the world attempt death defying stunts, display dexterous feats and create breathtaking images alongside their equestrian

What It Means to Be an Empath

By Katherine Windfeather-Thompson

I recently stumbled on an article about empaths, and the timing was not coincidental for me. Some people are highly sensitive to the feelings of others, and considered to be empathetic. But being a true empath is a little more complicated, as one such person will actually experience the same emotions as those around them, whether that is their intention or not. This can include the very real emotions of animals, and that fact was painfully clear to me during a very unexpected "intrusion" into my own personal emotional space recently. But let me explain first how I came to realize I had such a "gift".

I spent much of my adult life as a professional race horse trainer, and as such, I never gave a lot of consideration to how I would just know things that were going on with certain horses in my care. I think that is the mark of every good trainer, though few in the horse world would acknowledge that fact, much less use such terminology.

But there came a point in my life back then, where, through a series of unexpected events, that career came to an end, and another began. I had a near-death experience that triggered a magnification of those abilities I'd never acknowledged before. And as much as I'd like to say it was a hoot, in the beginning it was anything but.

I began experiencing the emotions of a horse that had been taken away from me, for reasons I will not go into detail about here. They were heartbreaking for me to experience, because this horse had been very important to me. But it was no longer within my power to change the situation for either of us.

Over the course of several months I would know things were being done to him, or places he was being moved to, that most logical-thinking people would say I could not possibly have known. But inevitably, something or someone would confirm my accuracy, and at the time, that was difficult for me to process, much less understand.

Out of a desperate need to control this new found "ability," and provide some kind of buffer for the intense and very real pain I was experiencing, which was not even mine, I sought the help of some teachers who understood exactly what was happening to me. Through their careful guidance, I learned to control these emotions, and I also learned to read energy, as a clearly psychic individual, and use my abilities to heal animals and people. And for 17 years that has been what I have been doing.

I wrote and published a book about that journey that all started with that one horse. Recently, I've had indications that it might be time to write another; I've procrastinated long enough.

Recently, and much to my surprise, I awoke at 3 a.m., sobbing and in unbelievable emotional pain again; something that hadn't happened in a long time. I couldn't figure out what was happening until reality crystallized, and I realized the pain wasn't mine. It was from a mare who belongs to the owner of the ranch where I have boarded my own horses. This desperate mare was being ridden by a girl who was, shall we say "not a good fit," to put it the kindest way I can. The girl was a reasonably good rider, but she was insensitive to the overly strong signals she was sending this supposedly unfeeling horse, and the mare was falling apart completely. It would seem that the only way she could get through to her owner was through me, and I "knew" from what I was feeling that if the abuse didn't stop, the damage would be irreparable.

But to convey the manner in which I was receiving this information was out of the question, and speaking on this poor creature's behalf was going to be a very delicate maneuver. For you see, her owner adamantly refuses to "believe in this stuff," and verbally chastised me for writing such blasphemy, after she had read my first book. So, not only was it a challenge for me to process her mare's pain and make a separation from it, but I had to find the right time and way to deliver the message I was entrusted with, without setting myself up for more invalidation. There is an old adage that came to mind when considering this: "Don't shoot the messenger just because you don't like the message," or in this case, the "way it was delivered." For me, a more appropriate one to apply would be Emily Dickinson's "Tell all the truth but tell it slant— / Success in circuit lies..."

Fortunately, for all involved, a few days later I managed to relate what I'd physically observed happening when the owner wasn't around to see it, without divulging the other aspects of how and what I had felt during the process. It goes without saying that she would not have understood or even accepted such a thing was possible. Regardless of that aspect, she seems to have gotten the message, and I trust this sweet mare will thank me later, though more than likely not on this plane of existence.

This kind of experience had not re-occurred with such intensity for me



R U Ready for Summer Camping, Resorting, and Horsin' Around?

Make your plans and check them twice with the help of the Valley Equestrian Newspaper **Camping and Trail Guide** in April!

- ✓ Dust off the saddles
- ✓ Shine up the brass
- ✓ Oil the leather tack
- ✓ Patch the air mattress
- ✓ Check the propane tank
- ✓ Check the wagon wheels
- ✓ Make your food list
- ✓ What clothes to bring ?

Advertise your goods, services, accommodations and products in the April issue of the VEN!

Call us today!

<p>Kari Hagstrom (320) 766.2620 Kari.venews@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Dave Olson (701) 566-3704 Dave.VENews@gmail.com</p>
---	--

since my old stallion communicated his anguish to me some 17 years ago. It was virtually what inspired me to write the first book to begin with. And again, I had to speak the truth, and then let it go. This is what it is like to be an empath, and for those of you reading this story who are considered by others to be overly sensitive ... well, you have my complete empathy! There are ways and simple tools that can help protect you when a person or an animal "taps in" to your sensitive nature, and this is what I try to teach people how to do. Learning and using these can literally help you maintain your sanity. But then of course, some of you are going to say that I'm just plain crazy anyway, right?

Katherine showed horses for a professional trainer, and participated in rodeo sports, while working as a radio newscaster and copywriter, during her earlier years. She began her professional horsemanship career on the racetrack in 1975, as an exercise rider, and later as a licensed trainer, with over 25 years experience as a professional horsewoman on and off the racetrack.

She has consistently assisted people with their emotional and physical problems with their animals, and regularly conducts workshops drawing on her experience as a professional horsewoman and as a certified clairvoyant healer. She is the author of the successful book *When Doves Cried, and Horses Wept*. For more information, refer to her website at www.katherinewindfeather-thompson.com. You can contact Katherine by email at returndofthedove@gmail.com or by calling 916-770-9376.

A Round Barn in Wisconsin

By Ronda Anderson

In Mar 2010, I went with little brother Larry, and Dad, over near Frederic, Wisconsin, to see the place where Dad was born in a blizzard on the kitchen table in Feb. 1928. Grandpa had to meet the doctor part way out from town with a team and bobsled as the Model A would not have made it all the way out in the snowy country. The snow was blowing so hard the doctor couldn't see the team and sled arriving, but thought he heard something, and opened the car door. The team bumped into it, and tore the door right off the car. The doc had to stay overnight as it would have been suicide to

go back out in the blizzard in the middle of the night. Grandpa hauled him back to the car the next day and it was packed full of snow, so hard they almost had to use a pick-ax to clear out enough snow so the doc would have room to get in the driver's seat and steer the car. They hooked up the team and pulled the car full of snow back into town about 6 or 7 miles, driving part of the way over the top of fences on the hard-packed snow. (Grandma was a little woman, and Dad was a big baby, and her first. He wasn't breathing when he was born, and Grandma was hemorrhaging, so the doc had to tell Grandpa, "I can't save both of them; which one should it be?" He was told to work on Grandma and told Grandpa what to do to try to save the baby, born rather dark and blue. Dad of course, was hung upside down, and swatted on the rear, and eventually started breathing, and little Grandma survived to have 4 more kids and lived to age 89.) Dad grew up to

father 12 kids (his one major accomplishment in life!!)

The original house he was born in, and the barn, are still there. The trees and house have changed enough so Dad didn't recognize those, but the barn is still the same, and one of the few round barns left in Wisconsin, probably, or maybe anywhere. I think the design was rather ingenious for 1928. The silo went up the middle of the cow barn as you can see, sticking out the top of the rest of the roof, and the picture (right top) shows how the haymow entrance was on the hill side of the barn, so you could drive a team of horses and hay wagon right into the haymow, unload and drive around the back-side of the silo and back out on the earthen ramp for the next load. There is also a lower level where the cows were housed and milked, and the silo



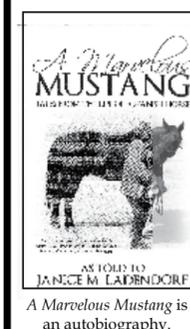
opening down near the cows. Other features include a silo and a manger/stanchion area where the cows' heads would have been so they were close to the silage pile. The stall areas indicate that the cows back then must have been smaller than our pedigreed Holsteins are now. They had a clever gravity powered water box to fill the early version of automatic water cups between each pair of cows.

The inside of the haymow level is still in such good shape it holds the modern corn wagons used by the current owner of the place, so it must have been stoutly built! The house was empty when we were there, and my youngest brother Larry was briefly tempted to try to buy the place. Too bad it's an hour or two away from the rest of the family; it would be cool to own that old barn, maybe even turn it into living quarters. I have an old book, a large hard-cover, called "Living Barns" about people who have done that, sometimes taking a large old barn apart and marking each piece, moving a long ways away, then reconstructing the whole thing elsewhere!

Photos by Ronda Anderson

Terrific Horse-Lover Books

by Jan Ladendorf



A Wonderful Mustang is an autobiography.



www.jladendorf.com

Buy them at Amazon.com or BN.com



Heart of a Falcon is an historical novel.

Quality Feed Pays Off!

J & S Farmer's Mill
104 5th Avenue SE
Barnesville, MN 56514
218.354.2247
Toll Free: 1.877.521.0150
Home: 218.493.4574

For all your horse feed!
Jim & Sue Heng, Owners

Ashley Bruce Presents Free Seminar on Equine Digestive System March 20 in Fargo, N.D.

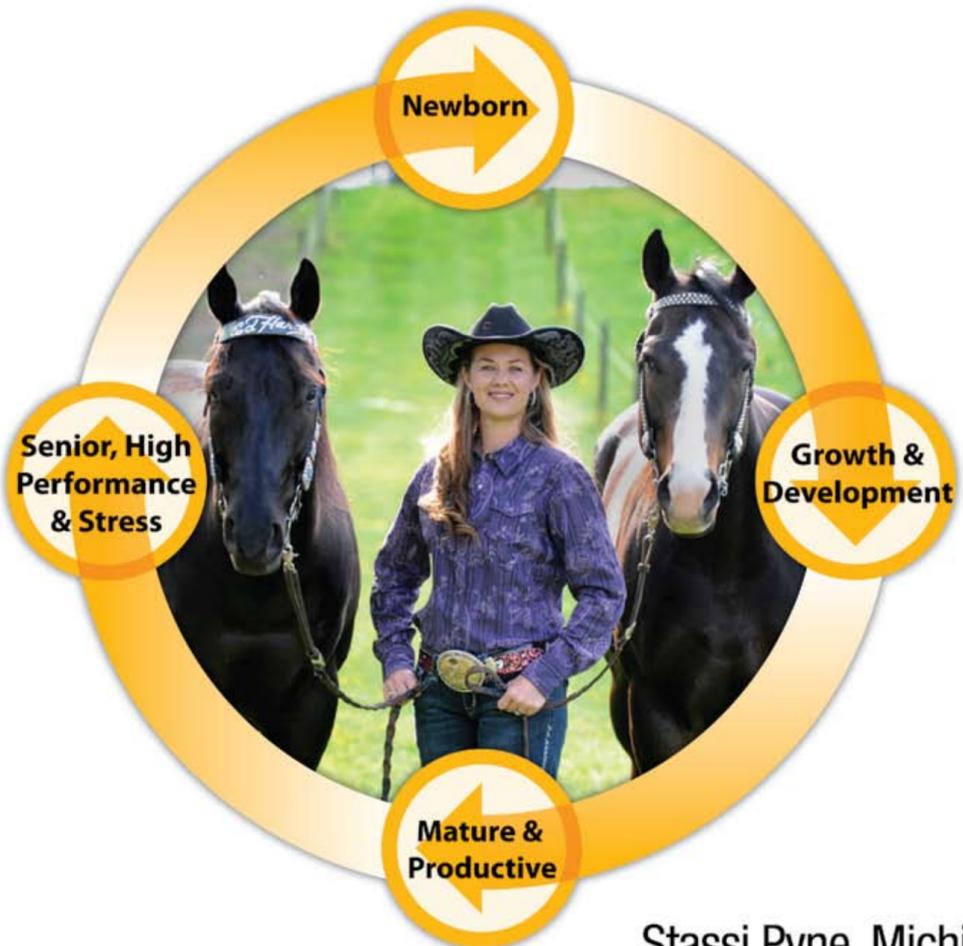
Representing Conklin's® Animal Product Division, Fastrack® Product Specialist Ashley Bruce, Kansas City, MO, will lead a presentation on the use of direct-fed microbials in horses from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20, 2013. Dr. Michael Bishop, Business Development & Chief Technology Officer and Head of the Animal Division will be on-hand to facilitate discussion afterwards.

The session will begin with a general overview of the complex equine digestive system including a discussion of the function of the main ingredients in Fastrack and how they benefit your horse throughout its entire life cycle. Recommended feeding programs and recommendations for bringing out the best performance in your horse will be discussed. Horses experience many stresses during training and competition causing several digestive and immune response issues that lead to costly physical and health related problems. Ashley will draw on her equestrian experience and training to provide insight on how Fastrack products can propel a horse to its full potential.

Conklin Company, Inc., introduced the Fastrack product line in 1985 and it has become synonymous with quality and achievement in livestock and companion animals worldwide.

The meeting will be March 20th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The POD Agri-Business Center located at 3401 Interstate Blvd South, Fargo, ND 58103 and will be hosted by Bigg Dogg Agg. Pre-Registration is appreciated for the noon meal but all are welcome. Call 218-790-0013 or 218-287-7734 to Register.

Put your horse on the **FASTRACK** to a more productive life.



Stassi Pyne, Michigan

2011 & 2012 International Professional Rodeo Association World Champion

Proudly Sponsored by:
CONKLIN FASTRACK

Contact:
Mark & Pam Fillbrandt

Fargo March 20 10am-3pm

Mark's Cell: 218-790-0013

Follow us on Facebook: "Conklin Fastrack Equine and Companion Animal Supplements"



Finally the Best Solution!

HorseStallsUSA--A Division of Vafac Inc.



For over 25 years,

Horse Stalls USA has provided customers a team of top professionals for the design and manufacture of horse equipment. We offer unparalleled design, the highest quality materials and the know-how that only comes with decades of experience working with the top horsemen and women throughout the world. Let us show you the difference of what the BEST solution can do for your barn!

www.hordestallsusa.com

Pictured: Our low-front, "Freedom-Style" stalls built inside a log-constructed building on a cattle ranch.



HORSE STALLS USA

A Division of Vafac Inc.

6700 Pryor Lane, Spotsylvania, VA 22553 tel: (540) 840-4875 hordestallsusa@aol.com

The Air Down There

By Heather Benson

When horseowners set out to build their dream barn, they plan for the correct relation between stalls and grooming area; the number of riders and tack space and probably the correlation between horses and hay bales...but one oft-overlooked barn building duo is how stall flooring and ventilation interact.

Think about the last time you entered your barn during the coldest days of January, when you had all the horses snug in their stalls and all the door and windows battened down. What was the air like? After one of those weeks where temperatures stayed below zero for five or six days and your horses stayed inside every day, what was the air like then? If the answer was further towards Los Angeles smog than a clear mountain meadow, chances are that your barn has ventilation issues, likely exacerbated by stall flooring problems.



Full Ventilation Door with a ComfortStall Therapeutic Equine Flooring System
Photo courtesy of Horse Stalls USA

Research conducted by veterinarian Karen Hayes, author of *The Perfect Stall*, has found that poorly fitted traditional rubber mats allow urine to pool underneath. As urine collects in this dark, oxygen-devoid area, anaerobic bacteria begins to break it down and the result is your barn filling with the noxious gas, ammonia.

Ammonia is that pungent, burning odor you run into when cleaning your horse's stall. While part of a natural decomposition process, if the ammonia fumes do not have an escape route via a ventilation system, they can cause problems quickly. Beyond the unpleasantness of walking into a barn that virtually knocks you over with its smell,

they can cause a myriad of health issues for horses. In humans, ammonia exposure causes inflammation of the lungs, eye irritation and airway hyperactivity. Numerous studies have shown these same effects in horses.

Protecting your horse from excessive ammonia exposure means building a barn with ventilation and flooring plan designed to prevent these issues. Joy Koch, founder of Comfort Stall Therapeutic Flooring, recommends that people who decide to build a new barn put flooring and ventilation as a first thought, rather than an afterthought in the design. "Create a checklist before you build and make sure your builder understands the unique needs when it comes to housing horses," she said. "People want to just put down a concrete slab and concrete is simply not suitable for stalls. It doesn't take too much more effort to simply put in bigger footings, which allows you to build a stall base that drains. This is key to stall comfort and barn air quality."

Another way that horse owners can prevent ammonia build-up is through the use of seamless flooring systems rather than the traditional 4x6 rubber mats. Dr. Hayes suggests seamless systems as a way to prevent any urine from pooling under the stall, thus allowing you to remove all of it during daily stall cleanings. Several manufacturers, including ComfortStall, have designed equine-specific systems that achieve this.

Last but not least is the creation of an adequate ventilation plan for your barn. Good ventilation is simply creating a constant air exchange with the outside environment for an enclosed space: good air comes in, bad air goes out. Simply moving air within a barn does not necessarily equate to good ventilation; you may just be moving all your bad air around in a big circle! In cold temperatures, a barn's entire air volume must be exchanged with new, outside air at least 4 times per hour. In warm weather, that requirement grows to 60 air changes per hour. Good ventilation can be achieved via windows, dutch doors to the outside, cupolas and gable vents. Older barns can often be retrofitted with Positive Pressure Air Tubes at minimal cost. The bottom-line is the keep the air moving on out!



BARN PROS

EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES

NATIONWIDE®

PRE-ENGINEERED BARN PACKAGES

ALWAYS FREE SHIPPING

Some restrictions apply - call for details!

BARN, BARN HOUSE, GARAGE, SHOP AND ARENA KITS WITH CUSTOMIZATION OPTIONS MORE THAN 100 MODELS TO CHOOSE FROM



866.844.2276

www.barnpros.com



Kimberwick Series

CALL for our 2013 CATALOG!

Classic EQUINE EQUIPMENT

800 444-7430
www.Classic-Equine.com

Horse Stall Systems • Treadmills
Exercisers • Gates • Arenas • Flooring

European Series

Official Horse Stalls and Treadmill of the United States Equestrian Federation

"Euro" Style Stalls Making a Big Splash in the US

By Heather Benson

It is easy to conjure images of elegance and refinement when adding the word "Euro" to the beginning of any word, but in the case of so-called "Euro-style" horse stalls, elegance goes hand-in-hand with practical use.

"Euro-style" stalls, or "low-front" stalls as most manufacturers prefer to call them are designed with relatively open fronts and a low stall door with no partition at the top. The aisle-facing stall wall slopes down from each side, with the lowest point meeting in a center-mounted hinged, rather than sliding, stall door. Many Euro-style stalls feature decorative elements on the stall front as well, emulating an "old-world" feel.

While many horse owners simply choose Euro-style stalls on aesthetic value alone, they become more popular for owners looking for a barn design that appeals to a horse's social needs. The open design allows a horse to have freedom to put his head in the aisle and fully view his surroundings, as well as interact more with neighboring horses. "A lot of people do choose them just for the more elegant, open look," says Christy Schultness, Director of Marketing for Classic Equine Equipment, one of the largest sellers of Euro-style stalls in the US, "But many more are choosing them because their horses seem to enjoy them."

Demand has been growing for Euro-style stalls in recent years. Classic Equine Equipment has seen Euro-style stalls

steadily gain in marketshare over traditional stall fronts since first introduced to their line in 2000. In response to customer demand, Classic recently launched a new line of low-front stalls, the Kimberwick series, that is able to use existing columns in a barn and allows people

to have more flexibility whether they are refurbishing an older barn or building new. "The original Euro-style stalls have very specific building requirements, we knew that with growing demand, we needed to offer a low-front stall that could fit in a wide variety of barn designs in an affordable way, the Kimberwick does that," says Christy.

Philip Pryor, owner and founder of Horse Stalls USA, was one of the first people to bring Euro-style stalls to the United States market. He reiterates the affect low-front stalls seem to have on horse temperament: "When done right, you can see the horses are more at ease with their surroundings." He adds that people enjoy how the low-front stalls feel as well. "It is like a nice, open kitchen-it is easy to move around, you have ease of access to your horse and it creates more light and feels less cluttered."

Low-front stalls are not ideal for every equine housing situation, however.

"Obviously you can't put stallions and in-season mares in stalls they could potentially jump out of," Philip says. "And if you do not want the public having easy access to your horses, they might not be the best fit either. But for the typical horse and horse barn, they work well." Many barns choose to build one or two full front stalls should a situation arise where the added safety is required.

Whether you choose them for looks alone or to allow your equine friend to have a "chat" with passersby, Euro-style low-front stalls are making a big impact in today's barn design and appear here to stay for the long-term.



Full barn, custom installation of Euro-style stalls.
Photo courtesy Classic Equine Equipment



A Kimberwick-series stall from Classic Equine fitted to an existing barn.
Photo courtesy Classic Equine Equipment.

Before **After**

Hooves in Motion

Farrier Service

hoovesinmotionfarrierservice.webs.com
Pictures, Prices, testimonials and more on the web.
701-446-7608 (call or text)
Like us on facebook at
http://www.facebook.com/HoovesInMotionFarrierService
Can do any size of horse trims, shoes, or special needs.

Barn Building Pitfalls

By Heather Benson

When getting ready to build a barn, everyone creates their personal "to do" list. But what about those things you need to avoid—the to NOT do list? We asked barn design experts from Comfort Stall, Barn Pros Inc. and Horse Stalls USA for their expert advice on avoiding the biggest barn building mistakes.

Philip Pryor-Owner, Horse Stalls USA: "I see a lot of stalls that have raised thresholds that create tripping issues for horses. I have personally seen a million dollar racehorse go into a stall and

come out a \$50,000 racehorse because he tripped and injured himself walking through the stall door. Attention to details like that can save a lot of headaches and money."

"In stalls, avoid too-soft woods that can lead to splintering. At Horse Stalls USA, we use all hardwoods chosen for their ability to withstand rotting and splintering. But also be sure that the stall walls have some 'give' so when a 1200-pound horse kicks, they don't break their leg."

"In general, use the best of everything you can find: good quality steel, strong frames for doors and install the best ventilation system you can afford."

Justin Harries-Director of Business Development, Barn Pros Inc.



The open design of this barn promotes good air flow. Photo courtesy of Horse Stalls USA

Barn Raising: "Kit" Barns Come with All the Bells and Whistles

For every horse barn built right, there are probably several more that don't quite meet the needs or expectations of the horse men and women who use them every day. A host of variables must be considered when building any facility to house your equine friends, many of which are unfamiliar to general contractors who typically spend their days building the ultimate master bathroom rather than the ultimate broodmare foaling stall. One way that many horse owners have sought to remove some of the mystery involved with barn building is to go with a barn "kit" from one of the many equine-focused manufacturers.

Barn kits, also known as pre-engineered barns, have been around for much longer than many people think. The Sears Roebuck catalog of the early 1900's featured several models that included all the necessary building materials and could be transported by rail direct to your new farm

site. Today's barn kits offer a wide variety of options for horse owners—ranging from small multi-use to large equestrian centers complete with indoor arena. And like the Sears Roebuck barns of the past, they are delivered complete with all needed materials right to your front door!

Justin Harries, Director of Business Development for Barn Pros, Inc., describes their typical customer as someone who is looking for a predictable, straightforward package that allows them to customize for certain needs, such as foaling stalls or multiple tack rooms. Barn Pros, with over two decades of experience in pre-engineered equine buildings, offers a large number of timber-framed barn options ranging from old-fashioned gambrel style to modern barn-home combinations...but they all have one thing in common, they are specifically engineered for equine safety, comfort and well-being. "We want our barns to be an appreciable asset for our customers," says Justin. "We focus on safety and durability, as well as keeping the aesthetics pleasing." To that end, Barn Pros has invested heavily in



Photo courtesy of Barn Pros, Inc.

Pros Inc.

"Create safe spaces. We always build barns with a minimum 12-foot wide breezeway. Headroom is also key. Horses are big animals and you need to build a space that allows plenty of room for you and them to move around safely."

"Always try to work with a builder that has at least some horse expertise. Horses are expensive and certain elements of a barn must be installed correctly to be safe. Don't ever compromise on safety."

"Ventilation is a big deal. Don't underestimate the effect it can have on the health and well-being of your animals. Cuploas, gable vents, windows and dutch doors to the outside are all ways that you can add ventilation."

"Good lighting is a must, this can be achieved through optimal window placement and creating open spaces. Open spaces also make horses, in general, happier by allowing them to see each other and not feel trapped."

Joy Zamoyski Koch-Creator and Owner of ComfortStall Therapeutic Flooring "Avoid having too many 'brass balls' and aesthetics and not enough safety in your planning. What good is a beautiful barn if you or your horses could be injured using it."

"Use flooring engineered specifically for horses, such as ComfortStall. A typical 4x6 rubber mat bought at the local feed store is only about 3 percent softer than bare concrete and allows urine to seep

between the mats and pool beneath, creating a health hazard and odor issue."

"In general, flooring often gets thought of last and gets done incorrectly. You wouldn't put down a gorgeous walnut floor in your new house and promptly cover it in cheap carpet, so why spend all the money on concrete only to decide it is not right for horses and cover it with mats? Work with your builder from the get-go and do it right the first time. Take the time to excavate and put down a proper packed soil foundation. You will save money in the end."

Classic Equine Equipment
www.classic-equine.com

Barn Pros Inc
www.barnpros.com

ComfortStall Stable Supply Company
www.comfortstall.com

Horse Stalls USA
www.horrestallsusa.com



A Kimberwick-series stall from Classic Equine fitted to an existing barn. Photo courtesy Classic Equine Equipment

researching optimal barn layout, stall design, ventilation and lighting to meet those equine-specific needs.

Barn kits also offer farm owners a wide variety of options when it comes to the actual construction process. Justin says that their customers tend to fall into one of three categories: The complete Do-It-Your-Selfer-These customers throw old fashioned "barn raising" parties and do the majority of work themselves; Owner acting as General Contractor and then those who hire a General Contractor and have it built by that team. Barn Pros works hard to provide the different levels of direction and customer service, depending on the situation. The barn kits allow their customers to be flexible as to what and how much work they want to take on as well as how much or little they want to spend on labor to get their barn installed.

While a pre-engineered barn may not work for every horse owner's needs, they do provide a great alternative when experienced equine

facility architects and builders are either unavailable or unaffordable. As with any large construction project, taking the time to create the best structure that meets your unique needs is key and barn kits are one way that horse owners can ensure that their four-legged friends get everything they need, and then some!

Jeff Springer
Feed Manager

Farmers Elevator
225 E. Hampden Ave. Fergus Falls, MN 56537
(218) 736-3301

The Canadian Horse: "The Little Iron Horse"

By Fran Lynghaug

"Big, brave heart." "More athletic than a warmblood, calmer than a sport horse, faster-learning than a hot blood, and more beautiful than any breed I have ever met!" "Very hard to find its equal in other breeds." These are some of the comments recorded by judges about the incredible Canadian Horse.

This remarkable breed has strength and endurance that is legendary. It is said that the Canadian Horse is capable of generating more power per hundred pounds of body weight than any other horse. It is a low maintenance animal that is intelligent, willing, incredibly athletic, and sound. As a hardy breed, it easily lives up to its nickname, "The Little Iron Horse."

Despite all this, the Canadian Horse may be the best kept secret of the century. Though it was instrumental in the development of the United States, and a horse well known to North American colonists, it is an unsung hero. It also was a major contributor to Central American horse breeds, yet most horse enthusiasts and even many Canadian residents are unaware of it. The Canadian Horse is a 340-year-old secret!

History

The Canadian Horse, or *Le Cheval Canadien*, originated from horses sent to Quebec in 1665 by King Louis XIV, who instructed that only the best animals of his kingdom be selected for the trip. Thus the two stallions and twenty mares that went to New France (Canada) were from his

Royal Stables of Normandy and Brittany, the two most renowned horse breeding provinces of France at that time. He also sent additional horse shipments in 1667 and 1670, which together formed the basis of the new breed, called the French Canadian Horse of the Old Regime. The early English name for it was simply French Canadian Horse.

The horses that were sent were of Breton, French Norman, Arabian, Andalusian, and Spanish Barb descent. The heavy Breton draft horse, although small, was noted for its soundness and vigor. The Norman horse closely resembled the Breton, but gave more evidence of infusion of oriental blood, possibly Arabian, Turkish, or Barb. The Andalusian was the most likely ancestor of the French Canadian and was descended from sires brought into Normandy and *La Perche* (habitat of the Percheron breed) for breeding purposes.

The French Canadian Horse thrived in Canada, and its characteristics closely resembled the Norman and Percheron. Until the British conquest of 1780, the French Canadian bred true to form without any mixture of foreign blood. After the conquest, other horses began to be imported and they were crossed with the French Canadian. However, the remaining purebred French Canadian Horses of 1850 were scarcely altered from their breed type of one hundred years before.

About the time of the American Revolution, the French Canadian was

becoming very well known. Many (perhaps most) of the horses were sold or traded to northern New England freighters and farmers, who praised the breed's attributes in articles printed at that time. By the 1820s and 1830s, New England's horses became so noted for their strength, endurance, and freedom from disease that the operators of stage coaches preferred them above all others.

The Canadian also played a major role in the American Civil War, and it has been said that the North won simply on the fact that its soldiers had the better horse—the Canadian. It's primary role was as an artillery mount due to its versatility as a riding/driving horse with superb endurance, strength, a quiet disposition, and easy-keeping tendencies, but it was also used extensively as a cavalry mount. It was a true warhorse, but was never recognized as such.

Many purebred French Canadian horses were entered into the early studbooks of the Standardbred and American Saddlebred horse registries. Foundation sires of these breeds were often pure Canadian, or they were bred to Canadian mares. The Tennessee Walking Horse and Missouri Fox Trotter also claim Canadian ancestry. The Morgan's early studbook had Canadian Horses recorded, and Morgans certainly had a considerable amount of French Canadian blood. At the end of the nineteenth century, the superiority of the northern Indian pony in disposition, intelligence, and conformation compared to the pure bronco was ascribed to the fact that



J Kinsey

it was partly French Canadian in origin.

The first studbook for the Canadian Horse Breed Registry was started in 1886, but due to the desire for a larger draft breed and the advent of farm machinery, Canadian Horse numbers dwindled. In 1907, the Canadian federal government livestock commissioner started a new studbook with improved standards and formal inspections. However with the advent of mechanization, there was nearly a complete disappearance of the Canadian Horse outside of Quebec and Ontario.

When promotion of Canadian Horses at the Calgary Stampede began in 1991, there were only 1,500 Canadian Horses in existence. Yet the Canadian Horse became one of the very few breeds granted breed status in Canada and in 2002 it was officially named the National Horse of Canada, a long overdue and well deserved honor. Today the Canadian Horse is growing in popularity, though the demand far exceeds the availability of these still rare horses.

Standards

Living with hard use, sparse feed, and extreme weather conditions, the Canadian Horse developed into an easy-keeping, strong, and hardy animal, fulfilling its historic reputation as the "Little Iron Horse."

that are well balanced and of good quality and strength. The forearm and gaskin are especially well muscled. Bone is dense and clean, joints are lean and clean.

Mane and tail are thick, long, and usually wavy. Coat is soft and shining,



J Kinsey

The breed is particularly recognizable by its finely chisled head and arched neck. The head shows intelligence, spirit, and no excess of nervousness.

As a general purpose equine, it shows a well proportioned body, good setting of limbs, sturdy legs with good bone, and has exceptionally hard, strong feet. It stands squarely and its body is symmetrical in shape. Its physique displays power and good health as well as agility through perfect alignment of the various components

Photos by Jacqueline L. Kinsey

skin is soft and elastic. Color is usually black, but this can also range from bay or brown to light chestnut. Although there once were gray horses in the breed, it appears that the gene for gray coloration was lost when the breed's numbers became severely depleted during the 1970s. Height is 14 to 16 hands.

Continued to page 17



From the Horse's Mouth: Industry News

IEBA Intervenes in New Mexico Horse Processing Lawsuit

The International Equine Business Association (IEBA) today filed court documents in order to intervene in and defend Valley Meat in the Valley Meat LLC. v. Vilsack et. al. and HSUS, Civ. No. 12-CV-1083, Federal District Court for District of New Mexico, lawsuit. This case was brought by a meat plant in New Mexico who is attempting to force the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) to comply with existing federal law and complete the final inspections allowing the plant to begin to process horses.

The plant has complied with all federal requirements, but without final inspection which has now been delayed for over a year, it cannot open for business. Valley Meats made substantial changes to their facility, laid off employees, and met all requirements but has been unsuccessful in obtaining the necessary inspection. This in spite of the clear letter of the law requiring USDA to provide inspection after annual riders were lifted from the Agriculture Appropriations bill passed by Congress in November of 2011. The original suit was brought pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) for "agency action unlawfully withheld or unreasonably delayed."

Unfortunately the case got significantly broader and more complicated when Front Range Equine Rescue (FRER) and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) moved to intervene in the litigation on January 14, 2013. HSUS is arguing that because of its continued political and litigation pressure as well as its federal rulemaking petitions to stop FSIS from inspecting horse processing plants, HSUS should be granted intervenor status in the litigation. In the litigation, the HSUS will argue that horse slaughter should be prohibited and that the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) applies to all inspections and licensing of horse processing facilities.

In addition to its Motion to Intervene, the HSUS has filed a Motion to Dismiss the New Mexico case claiming that the New Mexico court does not have jurisdiction over the litigation because of HSUS' previous litigation of the industry. IEBA is intervening to support Valley Meats because if HSUS is successful in arguing that NEPA applies, as a practical matter, it is unlikely that any horse facilities will ever open. IEBA member companies are seeking to open horse processing facilities in a number of different states to restore the U.S. horse industry, provide a humane option for horse owners, serve the thriving worldwide market, and to serve the niche domestic market for high-quality U.S. cheval. Cheval is the common term for meat produced from the equine species in the same way that beef is the term for meat from cattle, and pork is the term for meat from hogs.

In addition, HSUS has filed a motion to dismiss the New Mexico case. IEBA, as well as animal agriculture and horse industry supporters nationwide are afraid that if HSUS is successful in having this case dismissed in New Mexico, that HSUS will

bring another challenge in the D.C. District Court before the same judge who ruled that the "fee-for-service ante-mortem horse slaughter inspection system" rulemaking required NEPA compliance in the case that closed the last remaining horse plant in the U.S. in 2007 in Illinois. We strongly believe that a better forum for that litigation would be the District Court in New Mexico, rather than in the D.C. District Court. Of gravest concern of all, however, to the broader meat and animal agriculture industry is that if the HSUS is successful in arguing that NEPA applies to horse slaughter, they will attempt to argue that NEPA applies to all animal slaughter-cattle, pork, chicken-which would provide them endless opportunity to obstruct and challenge all meat production in the U.S. and interfere in the entire meat industry

Joining IEBA to intervene in the litigation to assist Valley Meat in opposing the HSUS arguments are several organizations as well as individual horse industry professionals. Found at the IEBA web site are the Motion to Intervene which was filed Feb. 20 in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico, and the Memorandum in Support of Motion to Intervene, along with associated affidavits from the intervening parties-the International Equine Business Association, Sue Wallis affidavit; New Mexico Cattle-growers Association, Caren Cowen affidavit; South Dakota Stockgrowers Association, Silvia Christen affidavit; Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund United Stockgrowers of America (R-CALF USA), affidavit Bill Bullard; Marcy Britton affidavit, Bill and Jan Wood affidavit, Leroy and Shirley Wetz affidavit, and Doug and Judy Johnson affidavit. Also attached is "The Promise of Cheval" a comprehensive and documented report produced by IEBA.

Financial assistance is needed. IEBA welcomes contributions to our legal fund in support of this intervention. Please make checks payable to IEBA, and send to Sue Wallis, U.S. Chair, IEBA, PO Box 71, Recluse, WY 82725 or contact Wallis at 307 680 8515, sue.wallis52@gmail.com.

Do you have an old photo or a story to share?

If so, we'd love to hear from you! Send your old photo (with caption) or news story to us and share it with readers nationwide! If you wish to have your photo returned, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.



Please mail submissions to:
The Valley Equestrian Newspaper
Box 64 • Sabin, MN • 56580
thevenews@gmail.com

Wild Horse Freedom of Press Case Gets Another Day in Court

(Reno, NV) Wild Horse Education, (WHE) a Nevada organization devoted to the protection of Mustangs and Burros on public lands, continued a landmark legal challenge in federal court in Reno over the last two days. The organization founder and Plaintiff, photojournalist Laura Leigh originally filed this case, now known as the Press Freedom Case, in 2010 against the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the federal agency, tasked with the care and management of these heritage animals and the Department of the Interior.

The case created a published opinion in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals supporting press freedoms. "When the government announces it is excluding the press for reasons such as administrative convenience, preservation of evidence, or protection of a reporter's safety, its real motive may be to prevent the gathering of information about government abuses or incompetence." Newsgathering Press Access and the First Amendment, 44 Stan. L. Rev. 927, 949 (1992). Cited in Leigh v Salazar, 677 F 3d 892."

Leigh filed because she was continually and consistently denied access, given discriminatory access compared to other members of the press and experienced arbitrary restraints to the horses and burros during BLM roundups, in effect denying a First Amendment right and access of the public to BLM operations.

The Reporters Committee for Free Press and National Press Photographers Association have signed on to

this case through Amicus.

During court proceedings over the last two days Leigh's attorney, Gordon Cowan, presented compelling arguments demonstrating that historically access to wild horses during roundups has been provided, that there is a serious public interest in wild horses, and that BLM has been increasing restrictions over the last three years.



Terri Farley, a well-known children's author was one of the witnesses for the Plaintiff. Asked why she got involved in this case, Ms. Farley, responded, "Years ago, I wrote my first Phantom Stallion book. I included dedications to BLM for all the help they

gave me in being able to see wild horses at roundups. I would not do that today.

Another individual who offered testimony was Elyse Gardner, author of the blog "Humane Observer." After the hearing she said, "I must acknowledge Laura Leigh's tremendous effort and sacrifice, intelligence and perseverance, in making this stand for all of us. I was profoundly honored to be a part of the testimony supporting the effort to keep watchful eyes informing the public on the treatment of our wild horses and burros."

When asked for comment on the two day hearing attorney Gordon Cowan quoted the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals "The free press is the guardian of the public interest, and the independent judiciary is the guardian of the free press. Thus, courts have a duty to conduct a thorough and searching review of any attempt to restrict public access."

Leigh exhausted from testimony that today brought members of the public watching in the gallery to tears stated, "The American public has a right to know how our wild horses and burros are handled by the government. We have a right to get that information through observations and documentation provided by an independent source such as public and press observations. I am eagerly awaiting the Judge's ruling, as it is critical to the public's ability to see what is actually happening and the public's ability to address anything the public finds damaging to their wild horses and burros.

Federal District Court Judge Larry Hicks said he does not expect to rule on the case until after March.

WHE currently has active Federal litigation addressing inhumane treatment. These cases, investigations and supporting documentation, are supported solely by Wild Horse Education, a registered Nevada non-profit. <http://wildhorseeducation.org/>

It Takes A Village

ND Rescued Horses Continued from page 2

"The entire experience was very emotional," said Tschakert. "I still get choked up thinking about it. There were some of the 30 in pretty good flesh, but about 10 were very frail, two that are obviously pregnant, and likely mother and daughter, who did not get more than 8 feet apart after unloading. I announced that those two must go together, and they did, to a very nice man, Brad Anderson. They are lucky mares."

Tschakert had not taken on a massive project like this before but said, "I had friends that called and we were just talking about ways we could help. We came to the conclusion that the horses would be best off with individual care. We just wanted to find a way to make that happen for as many as possible. I am surrounded by people who see possibilities rather than obstacles. That's a gift that not many people get, so I feel the need to take advantage of it as much as I can."

"I made some contacts and figured if we could get them placed that would leave more room to help other horses," said Johnsen. "Body scores were 3 and 4. They had access to hay and water. We truly had no idea what we were going to get. They thought it would be 30 mares but there were 6 geldings in the group.

Several were very well bred. A little gray gelding, that would have been at my place, had one of my friends not wanted him, was the first to come up to me. Tammy Christianson took him. He had a freeze brand on him; he hopped in the trailer like he had been showed. She verified his AQHA registration and found his breeder who was sick about what had happened to the horse."

"These horses, you just knew they knew you were helping them," Johnson explained. "It was an unbelievable emotional experience to know what they had gone through, watching their friends, foals and parents die. They were happy to be out and meandering around my arena.

Now that I understand what I can do and be confident in how it can be done, I would take them all if I had unlimited space and money. We have space, we have the setup, and we can afford to do more. That is the good thing about it. I think I can contribute more positively about it. Several were adopted because of the people I knew, and the whole process can grow.

There are more good people than bad," Johnson said. "I shed a lot of tears about this from the first time I heard about it, I cried myself to sleep night after night. When the horses started coming off the truck it was a monumental thing. I cried until the last was adopted. Now the new owners are taking photos and sending them me. It's been neat to hear back.

Two mares were here — one was jet black the other chestnut. Sunday morning when there were 12 left to be picked up, the black mare still looked relatively good, we were positive she was bred, and the adoptive owners were thrilled — they own a horse therapy place. The mares were going with them. That black

mare was right at my shoulder and you could hug on her. Then I saw the most amazing thing: the man fell in love with the chestnut mare, and he started across the arena to get hay and she left the other horses and started following behind him. Neither horse is pregnant."

Kim Savageau Rask tells of her involvement in the adoption: "I knew Tracy [Tschakert] from a barn I used to work at. I saw information about the rescue on Facebook and talked to my husband and we said, 'What's a couple more?' I have always wanted a gray so we adopted two bays and a gray. They seem healthy but skinny, you can feel their bones, the tailbones, the spines. They don't seem to have ringworm. We are feeding vitamins, weight booster, beet pulp, grains and hay to put the weight back on them. We have three other mares and are slowly getting them acclimated. I am really amazed at all the trauma the horses went through and how they still trust so. They come over and want loving and they want to give a hug, except the other little gray that tells us 'No, I don't trust you yet, you have to earn my trust,'" says Rask.

Alison Smith owns Triple H Miniature Horse Rescue and was the recipient of the most severely malnourished horses. Smith



Three of the adopted horses enjoying clean hay, water, and warm blankets went to the home of Kim Savageau Rask near Abercrombie, N.D. Photos courtesy Kim Ssavageau Rask.



advised: "We have 22 mules and 17 horses left. The 17 horses are in severe condition and will need many, many months to recover. We had the mares tested and no one was pregnant (anymore), most aborted at the ranch, it appears. We have had many volunteers initially to help check the horses in and visit. That has now dropped off to about 5-7 die-hards," she says with a chuckle.

"If we have a volunteer day, I'm sure many will appear. There has been an overwhelming interest and many donors.

"It has been an amazing group effort to save these horses. It restores one's trust in man again. Working in rescue you tend to lose that when you see how a person can treat an animal and then something like this happens and you realize not everyone is like that. It is important to remember that as we have many amazing people who adopted and I can tell you these will be the most loving and forever homes a horse could dream of!

"We have faced many of our challenges already, worrying about pregnancies, worrying about re-feeding syndrome and about the stresses of moving the horses. The challenges we still deal with are getting weight on, tending injuries and eventually finding adoptive homes. We will also be holding an auction for the county for the 22 mules and hope to find them homes and the county hopes to regain some of its expenses back as well. After that we can sort of get back to "normal," whatever that is, for a rescue with the 17 horses that need immediate daily care and get our life back a bit. It has been a 24-hour a day job for 3 weeks now and we are pooped!

We are holding a volunteer, donor, appreciation event April 6th at the Stage Stop Bar in Mandan, N.D. at 7 p.m. and we have the whole upstairs rented. Easy Street Band is playing for us and a good time should be had by all. Our way of saying thanks to all who helped in one way or another."

The situation may have a happy ending for some of the horses, but for more than 100 horses we wonder why the situation was allowed to go so far? The situation had been monitored for some time. Complaints about the horses came from the public but little was done until it was too late for dozens of dead horses. "If people will learn one lesson from this incident," Johnsen said, "I would want it to be that it is important for people to speak up, and if not heard, to speak up again. The neighbors had been told, when they talked to the authorities, they were told to not feed the horses because they [the authorities] needed to build a case."

Twenty-two mules will be auctioned at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 2 at Triple H Miniature Horse Rescue, 4747 22nd Ave., Mandan, N.D. to recover some of the \$11,000 in expenses the county has incurred. Donations are gratefully accepted by the rescue at the above address.

Little Iron Horse

Continued from page 15

Gaits and carriage are graceful and free, with vigorous movement. Hocks, knees, fetlocks, and pasterns all bend well in higher movements and in harmony.

Temperament is energetic and spirited without nervousness: calm and docile.

Good natured and truly versatile, the Canadian can be found doing almost any type of equine discipline. Perhaps best known for its driving ability, Canadian Horses has won many prestigious driving awards throughout North America and in Europe. Generally easy to handle, it's calmness, hardworking nature, and people-oriented personality make it ideal for pulling carriages and as a backcountry trail horse in mountain parks. Some serve on the Montreal and Calgary City police forces for mounted patrol.

Canadian Horses are registered through the Canadian Livestock Registry.

Credit: Canadian Horse Breeder's Association

Condensed from: The Official Horse Breeds Standards Guide by Fran Lynghaug

Fran Lynghaug, www.Equestrian-horses.com., is the author of the popular horse breeds book, "The Official Horse Breeds Standards Guide" and "Horses of Distinction." She also partnered with TV's PBS personality, Dennis Brouse, to author "Dennis Brouse on Horse Training, Bonding With Your Horse Through Gentle Leadership." All these books are available at Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, and other book stores.

RESCUE TIMELINE

Dec. 6: After complaints from neighbors, state animal health field inspector and Morton County deputy sheriff go to Kiefer's property to do a welfare check on the animals

Dec. 18: Two veterinarians travel to Kiefer's ranch to assess the condition and body score of about 190 horses and mules — Kiefer was later provided a copy of the veterinary's report with suggestions about how to help alleviate the stressful conditions of the horses

Jan. 24: Deputies again visited the Kiefer ranch after requests for a welfare check. The deputy found a dead horse by a hay corral.

Jan. 25: Morton County Sheriffs obtained a search warrant and a seizure order.

Jan. 28: Officials came to the Kiefer ranch and found dozens of dead horses piled in various out-of-the-way places.

Source: The Forum, Sunday, Feb. 24, Fargo, N.D.

Classified Section

Marketing Specialists Wanted

Join the growing, prospering equestrian team at the Valley Equestrian Newspaper! Make \$\$ while pursuing your passion for horses!

Qualifications include experience in sales & marketing, honest, friendly, self-motivated, a computer with internet access, a car and phone.

Please send a resume and cover letter, call or email:
Ley Bouchard, Publisher
The Valley Equestrian Newspaper
PO Box 64 - Sabin, MN 56580
701.361.8648
thevenews@gmail.com

Complete Equestrian Company
Lessons • Training
• Horse Education & Adventures
Lakeville, MN 612.414.7597

A pony is a childhood dream,
A horse is an adulthood treasure.
~ Rebecca Carroll

Kayla T Krzes
White Pines Farm
Cleveland MN
Boarding • Lessons
\$150/month for one horse \$250.00/month for two
Stalled at night, indoor riding arena, bathing area, tack room, feed room and outdoor riding pen are available for your use.
please message or call Kayla at
(320) 296 4712

Herd Reduction
Foundation Quarter Horse
Mares for Sale
(Doc Bar, Three Bars, King, Leo and Poco Bueno)

mostly used as brood mares, price negotiable



218-790-1790

Do You Know This Barn?



Email the VEN Team at: thevenews@gmail.com or call the VEN line at 320.209.8325 with the approximate location to win a 3-month subscription. Winner's names will be announced in the April issue of the VEN!

Classified ads

Black and White Only

\$10 for up to 50 words

\$20 for a photo classified ad

Color Classified Ad

\$30 for a color photo classified ad

To place a classified ad call:
701.361.8648

or send a check to:
PO Box 64, Sabin, MN 56580
along with your ad copy.

Horse Boarding

3 Gems Tack & Stables
1175 85th Ave NW,
Moorhead, MN
text/call
701-306-4478
3GT@3GemsTack.com
www.3GemsTack.com

Offering indoor/outdoor boarding for \$250. monthly, lessons, indoor/outdoor arenas, round pen, trails, 4-H club and more.

ADVERTISERS' INDEX

Advertiser	Page No.
Barn Pros	12
Back Forty Turf Club	2
Blairview	5
Cannon Falls Trailer Sales	20
Charles Wilhelm Ultimate Training	7
Classic Equine Equipment	13
Conklin Fastrack	10
Cowboy Leather	19
Dennis Brouse Horsemanship	5
Farmer's Elevator	14
Hooves in Motion	12
GW Tack Shack	7
Janice Ladendorf Books	9
J&S Farmer's Mill	9
Minnesota School of Horseshoeing	19
Palma Feed	2
USA Horse Stalls	11

What do YOU need in a trailer?

The Basics to the Bells and Whistles,

April in the

Valley Equestrian Newspaper!

What are the current trends in living quarters?
How to be safe when traveling with your horses?
Travel problems to watch for.

Call for Great Ad Rates!

Marketing Specialists

Kari Hagstrom

(320) 766.2620

Kari.venews@hotmail.com

Dave Olson

(701) 566-3704

Dave.VENews@gmail.com

Working Equitation

By Janice M. Ladendorf

In prehistoric times, long horned cattle ranged widely in Europe. When cattle were domesticated by humans, specialized breeding could begin. Spain and Portugal also bred horses for range work and bullfighting. When the Conquistadors came to the Americas, they brought their horses and their cattle with them. They soon discovered that buffalo could not be herded like cattle. Even today, some cattle are still run on ranges in Iberia, France, and Italy. The Camargue horses handle such cattle in France, as do the Marremma horses in Italy.



Like eventing, working equitation is a multi phased discipline. Eventing began as a way to test the skills and abilities needed by a cavalry horse while working equitation tests the skills and abilities needed by a cow horse. In 1996, France and Italy started these competitions and were soon joined by Portugal and Spain. Other nations have discovered it and begun competing both internally and at the international level. Associations now exist in Mexico, Brazil, Australia, Sweden, Belgium, Germany, and the United Kingdom. It is relatively new in the United States. Both teams and individuals may compete in this relatively new equestrian discipline.

In 2001, I heard about working equitation through the Classical Riding Club. The idea of combining obstacle work with dressage intrigued me. My Spanish Mustang soon let me know how much he enjoys obstacle work, especially in the long Minnesota winters when so little can be done outside. We have both enjoyed applying classical dressage to these new challenges.

Working cattle requires the same skills and abilities from the horses. For example, there are many similarities between American reining and Iberian Doma Vaquero competitions, but what the humans do may vary. For example, cattle are roped in the United States, but not in Iberia. What they use instead is the garrocha, a pole that is derived from the ginetta lance. From country to country, tack and attire may vary considerably. Under the American rules, attire and tack options are flexible. Depending on personal preference and the breed of horse, competitors may choose among working dressage, working western, Spanish, Portuguese, and hunt styles.

Working equitation includes four phases. They are the dressage trial, ease of handling trial, speed trial, and cattle test. In the United States, competitions have been structured into a series of eleven levels. They range from the young horse in hand level to the international one. Several have been especially designed for children. Speed tests are introduced at the intermediate levels while the cattle test is used in team competitions at the regional and international level.

Dressage training should give the horse suppleness, as well as the ability to adjust his balance and speed. A working cow horse must be able to work well and easily off his hindquarters. At one time, I had the opportunity to work cattle with my fourth level dressage horse. We both enjoyed it and our experience convinced me that dressage training can do much to help a working cow horse improve his performance.

What the dressage trial should demonstrate is the horse's willingness to work and his rider's precise control over his speed and paces. The judging rules may appear to be similar to the ones used in competitive dressage, but they have been heavily influenced by classical Iberian dressage. Competitive dressage looks for brilliance while working equitation looks for relaxation. A working cow horse must always be calm, but ready at any moment to glide or explode into action.

The dressage tests used in working equitation gradually demand more and more from both horse and rider. This is done in three ways. One is to increase the difficulty of the required exercises; two is the required gaits. Gait progression in the tests is walk, walk-trot, walk-trot-canter, and ends at the highest levels with walk-canter. Finally, the elementary tests require riding with two hands on the reins, the intermediate tests shift between two and one hand, and the advanced tests require riding with one hand on the reins.

The ease of handling trial is an obstacle course. The obstacles have been designed to demonstrate the horse's willingness to obey, his agility, his ability to solve problems, and that he can stay calm under pressure. To go through some of them, the rider needs to be able to control where the horse puts every one of his feet. They are judged on style and maneuverability.

Like the dressage tests, the obstacle trials gradually demand more and more from both horse and rider. As the levels go up, more obstacles are added to the course and the difficulty of each one may increase. For example, the low jump begins with walking over a pole and ends with cantering over straw bales. The bridge, the gate, the side pass, and backing through obstacles are similar to the exercises used

in our trail classes. Unlike our pole bending and barrel racing, the slaloms and the barrel obstacles require a high degree of lateral flexion and precision, as well as speed. New obstacles, such as the livestock pen, elevated bank, and water filled ditch, are also included.

The speed trials use most of the same obstacles, but are designed to demonstrate that the horse can remain calm and controllable under increasing pressure. During the cattle test, the horse should demonstrate all of the qualities described above and show cow sense. In this test, each horse must take a cow from the herd and drive it into a pen with help from his teammates.

Working equitation is a discipline that demands versatility from both horse and rider. It is a new form of competition that can also be used for cross-training or simply to have fun with your horse. More information on it can be found at workingequitationusa.com.

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 an M.A. in library science. In her advanced studies, she has focused on inter- and intraspecies communication. She has been a librarian, an inventory analyst, and an accountant. She is currently retired and lives in St. Paul, MN.



"COWBOY LEATHER"

We Carry a Complete Line of CODY LEATHER Products! Wholesale and Retail Prices

Call Shari Today
218.385.3835



Do You Know This Barn? If you can identify the barn's approximate location, email: thevenews@gmail.com to receive a 3-month subscription of the Valley Equestrian News. We will announce the winners next month.



PROFESSIONAL FARRIER PROGRAM MINNESOTA SCHOOL OF HORSESHOEING

6250 Riverdale Drive NW
Ramsey, MN 55303

763-427-5850
800-257-5850

www.mnschoolofhorseshoeing.com

**Elite Trailers.
The Name Says It All.**



**TRADES
COMING IN
WEEKLY!**



**EACH AND EVERY ELITE
TRAILER IS CRAFTED
WELL BEYOND INDUSTRY
STANDARDS WITH
EMPHASIS ON
RELIABILITY,
DETAIL, SAFETY
AND COMFORT.**



Experience the ELITE Difference



2007 Elite GN 8'X33'X7'6" Dlx 3H w/15' LQ & 4' Mid Tack, Solid Hickory, Raised Panels, Sofa-Str, 2 Barrel Chairs w/Flip-Up Table, 6 cu Refg, 2 Burner Stove, Convection Oven, Ducted AC, 20,000 BTU Ducted Furnace, 60 Gal Water Tank, Western Pkg, Built-In TV, Autosearch Satellite System, DVD-Stereo/ Surround Sound, Pocket Dr w/Full Length Mirror, Huge Bthrm w/Hanging Cists. Sale Price: \$54,900.00



2007 Sooner GN 8'X32'X7'6" Tall 3H w/14' Sierra Big Sky LQ & 4' Mid Tack, Oak Raised Panel Cabinets, Sofa/Dinette, 6 cu Refg, Dble Stainless Sink, Microwv, 2 Burner Stove, Ducted AC, Ducted Furnace, Vaulted Ceiling, Wstrm Hardware Pkg, AM/FM/CD Stereo w/In-Outside Spkrs, Lg Bthrm, Neo Angle Shwr w/Glass Dr/Sky Lght, Vanity & Lrg Cists, Lg Awning, Dual Hyd. Jacks, 4' Mid Tack/Carpeted Walls, Bridle Hks. Sale Price: \$39,500.00



2005 GN 7'X22'X7' Exiss Sport 3H 8' LQ, Dinette, 3.5 cu Refg, 2 Burner Stove, Microwv, Ducted Furnace, AC, AM/FM/CD Stereo, Shwr w/Glss Dr & Skylight, Sep. Stool, Walk-Thru Dr, Escape Dr, Drp Dwn Fd Drs w/Low Mount Latches & Fold Dwn Bars, Collaps. Rr Tack, 3 Saddle Rack, Slam Latch Dvdrs, Awning, New Brakes & Bearings. Serviced Out & Ready To Go. Excellent Condition. Sale Price: \$25,900.00



1997 Featherlite GN 8'X26'X7' 4 Horse, 8' LQ, Dinette, 3.5 cu Refg, 2 Burner Stove, Microwv, Ducted Furnace, AC, Lg Bthrm w/Vanity, Shwr, Sep. Stool, Cist, Walk Thru Dr, Awning, Elect. Jack, Escape Dr, 3 Mngrs w/2 Mngr Drs, Carpeted Rr Tack, 4 Saddle Rack, Bridle Hks, Stud Dvdr, New Brks/Bearings/ Batteries. Very Clean. Well Taken Care Of. Sale Price: \$25,900.00



1996 GN 8'X30'X7' Exiss Extreme 3 Horse, 13' LQ, 4' Mid Tack, Full LQ, Dinette, Electric Jack, Rear Ramp, Serviced and Ready To Go. Very Clean Sale Price: \$25,500.00



1998 Featherlite GN 3H w/9' LQ, AC, Ducted Furnace, Microwv, 3.5 cu Refg, Radio, Sofa-Sleeper, Overhead Cabinets, Vanity w/Sink, Shwr, Separate Stool, Walk-Thru Door, Escape Door 1st Horse, Stud Divider 1st Stall, 2 Mngrs, Carpeted Rear Tack w/3 Saddle Racks, Bridle Hooks & Brush Tray, Padded Dividers. Everything Works & Serviced Out. Sale Price: \$22,000.00



2005 Sundowner GN 7'X19'X7' 727 3H, 6' to 10' Drss Rm, Carpet GN-Drp-Fir, 3 Saddle Rack Swing Out, Bridle Hks, Brush Tray, Walk-Thru Dr, Escape Dr w/Drp Dwn Fd Dr & Low Mount Latches, Drp Dwn Wndws Rump Wall, Padded Dvdrs, Lower Stud Dvdr 1st Stall, Collaps. Rear Tack w/Swing Out Saddle Rack, Bridle Hks, Dble Rr Drs w/Wndws & Dble Cham Latches, 2 Load Lights. Sale Price: \$13,900.00



2007 BP 7'X17'X7' Exiss Sport 3H, 4 Saddle Rack, 5 Swing Out Blanket Bar, 4 Corner Shelves, Bridle Hooks, Camper Door w/Screen, 3 Drop Dwn Feed Doors w/Fold Dwn Bars, Slam Latch Dividers, Collaps. Rear Tack, Load Light, Spare Tire, Brakes-Bearings-Lights Serviced. Nice Clean Trailer. Sale Price: \$10,900.00



2000 Titan BP 7'X16'X7' Tall Classic II, Dress Rm, 3 Saddle Rack, Bridle Hooks, Escape Door w/Drop Dwn Feed Doors & Fold Dwn Bars, Dble Rear Doors, Slam Latch Dividers, Plexiglas on Rump Wall. Trailer In Excellent Condition. No Rust. Sale Price: \$5,900.00

CANNON FALLS TRAILER SALES

1 Mile East of Hwy. 52 & Cty. 86 • Chuck Erdahl, Owner/Manager - Dan Erdahl, Sales/Service
888-263-7212 • www.cannonfallstrailers.com