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(G)

Hello Friends,

I hope all of you are enjoying the Christmas Season! We are wrapping up 2019 and there is so much that has happened over this past year, and much more to come. October 1, 2018, I brought on a business partner to help take Better Horses to another level. Ed Adams is doing that by expanding our Better Horses TV to several new markets. Look at the ad on page 23, promoting our new TV affiliates and they are continuing to grow. I really got a



bonus with Ed bringing his wife, Tara into Better Horses handling all of the financials. She is the best! Ed and Tara, it is great to have you on the Better Horses team. One of the first accomplishments of Ed is finding and bringing Kelly Creech of Big Sky Digital in as our TV producer. He is taking our show to a higher level.

It has Officially Happened! The American Royal has secured land in its planned move to new facilities in a \$250 million complex to be developed in Wyandotte County. CONGRATULATIONS! The American Royal is now a DOTTE! This is Super and Exciting news for the Horse and Livestock Industry.

I hope to see you at the New Year's Stampede Rodeo December 27, 28, & 29th at the HEATED Hale Arena on American Royal Drive. Thank you goes out to the McKellips Rodeo Company for continuing this great tradition KICKING OFF THE YEAR 2020. See the ad on page 10 for more info.

Looking for a horse? I have too many and I am offering some for sale on page 8.

The second Annual Art of The Cowgirl Festival is happening again this January 24th thru January 26th at the Corona Ranch in Phoenix, Arizona. A great festival and event organized by Tammy Pate. To find out more information go to www.artofthecowgirl.com. Phoenix could be a great place to be in January!

I hope to see you at this year's Equifest of Kansas, March 6, 7, & 8th in Salina. See info on page 6. It is going to be a great time.

We are going back to the Clover Cliff Ranch in the Flint Hills near Clements, KS in 2020 for our 21st Annual Dream Ride on Sept. 11th thru Sept. 13th. See the notice on page 6 and call me to sign up for this year's ride. We are planning on having one of the best rides ever so call me at 785-418-6047 or email me at ernie@betterhorsesradio.com and get signed up. Would love to have you join us.

Better Horses is teaming up with Brummel Farm Service in Garnett in holding their Brummel Farm Service Regional Horse Meeting on Thursday evening, January 9th, in the Community Building at the Anderson County Fairgrounds in Garnett. Dr. Fred Gardner from Countryside Vet and Sarah Leonhard from Purina Animal Nutrition will be presenting the program. The event will kick off at 5:30 pm with a Complimentary Hamburger Fry. To RSVP, call Brummels at 785-448-3161. See page 8 for more info.

Hope you enjoy our last edition for 2019 and I will hopefully see you in 2020. Don't hesitate to contact me if there is anything I can do for you. Again, I want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Always remember the true meaning of Christmas and that is the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Happy Trails,

Ernie

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Here Comes Willy John

by Scott Simms

This story is about a special young horse and the talented young man who competes on him. Rojo Willy John 2 is a four-year-old gelding bred and owned by Rafter E Quarter Horses (Vaudry Edge) from Tupelo, Mississippi. Trained and ridden by Joshua Rushing of Hume, Missouri. Willy John is the 2019 EXCA Colt Futurity World Champion.

The blue roan colt is a Hancock bred horse, with Peppy San Badger on the top side of his pedigree. Mr. Edge has been breeding Quarter horses for over 40 years and still owns the dam, grand dam, and great grand dam of this colt as well as several generations on the top side of his pedigree. The colt was started by a friend of Mr. Edges, then Vaudry started riding him.

Willy was exposed to some cowboy obstacles, trail ridden, and soon became a favorite of Vaudry's. After coming to Missouri in August and watching a two day EXCA competition at Eagle Ranch in Collins, Mr. Edge made the decision that he had found a trainer that suited him. Vaudry visited with Josh and made the agreement to send the roan colt to the World show. Two things that impressed Vaudry, it was very evident that Josh spent a lot of time on the young horses he rode, and that he had a very quiet set of hands. This arrangement was different for Josh in that it only allowed him three short months with the colt before the World show. Normally he would have these colts from February or March until the EXCA finals in November.

Joshua Rushing is a 36-year-old cowboy who resides in Hume, Missouri, with his wife Holly,

daughter Addisen(10), and son Rhyder(7). He is a farrier, and a darn good one, horse trainer and competitor. Josh is also an ordained minister and deacon with Riverside Cowboy Church in Nevada, Missouri. He sets a wonderful spiritual example and is the consummate family man.

Joshua started competing in the UHCA and EXCA events in 2008. He was a founding board member and Past President of the UHCA. Seven times he has been the UHCA colt Champion, and twice he has been reserve. Twice he has finished reserve champion in the EXCA Colt Futurity, in 2016 with Twenty Will Do, and 2017 with Senorita Cat Man, both mares owned by C.C. Metzler, Double C Ranch Topeka, Kansas.

In 2018 Josh was EXCA Colt Futurity Champion aboard Shiney Buck O Roo owned by Bob Sullivan of Kansas City and bred by Mark Gratny. Buck then went on to be the 2019 Calgary Stampede Cowboy Up Challenge Champion in July of 2019 with Josh in the saddle.

Josh would be the first to tell you that he has a passion for training and riding colts. He enjoys developing young horses and watching them grow. He enjoys being part of the "firsts" in a colt's life, the first cow, the first creek to cross, the first log to jump. Exposing young horses to many natural obstacles and situations while developing a dialogue with the colt to see if they are ready to move on or need more encouragement where they are. Josh really likes to develop a well-rounded horse that can go on to excel in mounted shooting,



Vaudry Edge, breeder and owner, Joshua Rushing trainer, Craig Cameron, EXCA founder and CEO



Willy John jumping at the EXCA Colt futurity. Most EXCA courses will have some type of jumping element to them.



Free run round two — a free run is an opportunity to exhibit the speed of a horse and their ability to transition down.



Attacking the mogul — dirt moguls are built in the arena to simulate more natural terrain.

obstacle competition, ranch horse versatility, or cow work.

The Rushings like to dull colts, instead seeking to offer them new and unique experiences. Their facility is one of their biggest assets. Walnut Creek makes up the back border of their place, with strip pits, mounds, trails, and a 90-foot elevation drop that lends to making handy horses that learn to use different parts of their bodies. After Josh is comfortable with the colts outside, he will bring the horses into his arena to begin working on performance maneuvers.

Josh is one of the few trainers I know that will load his family and competition horses in the trailer and spend a three-day weekend at a trail riding facility, such as Pineville or Eagle Ranch. This allows the horses to see more natural terrain while

giving the colt a chance to relax and decompress.

His family is a big part of Josh's training program. Holly and the children can be seen riding and cooling out horses for Josh after a workout. Brushing horses and combing out manes and tails. They may go for a ride around the section or go help ranchers like Lowell and Teresa Anderson work cows, giving the colt exposure to non-competitive work.

As Josh and I finished working on this article, he shared several interesting stories. While helping announce at the EXCA World show, Josh and Craig Cameron, EXCA founder and CEO, noted that there were 11 alumni horses from past colt futurities competing at this year's World show in various classes. A testament to how well these horses had been started and how versatile they have become.

Josh Rushing travels all over the World teaching clinics, Canada, Australia, and France. He also has a busy clinic schedule here in this country. Josh related to me that his journey with the young horses is life long and ongoing. Always learning. He rides with other trainers and clinicians like Al Dunning, Fred Berschauer, Kylie Fowler, Marty Hunt, and Mark Gratny. Josh is constantly striving to improve his own horsemanship.

All of the horses in training with Josh are shod by him. There just aren't many soundness issues, as Josh puts the same intensity and passion into shoeing the colts as he does riding them.

As mentioned earlier in this article. Josh and Vaudry did not get together until August, no promises were made, or expectations expressed. Josh brought the colt home and started Willy John on performance

maneuvers, moving forward with his training. Willy John came together at the World show, the big stage did not affect the colt. The courses suited his athletic ability and he thrived on the competition. Mr. Edge told me he wanted someone who would ride his colt. He got him.

Josh also finished fourth and eighth with his other futurity colts at this year's World Finals.

*Josh Rushing Hume,
Hume, Missouri
Shoeranch@hotmail.com
Cell – 620-224-6562
Home – 660-832-4250*

*Photography is done by Shelby
Ratliff Photography*



Bridges or a combination of bridges are often used and stacked to simulate rough terrain



Cow work, cattle are always a highlight at EXCA world finals. Roping, sorting, and driving are typical. This year cattle were turned out as part of the course and riders exhibited their ability to track, work, or box the cow.

2019 has been an eventful year for the equine industry, facing challenges of sales tax issues, zoning issues, contract issues, flooding, and more. Horse folks don't discourage easily.

We are tenacious, goal oriented and adaptable.

We are constantly learning and striving for excellence.

As you go into 2020, keep that in mind.

Seek peace, make new friends, keep old friends, learn something new, set goals and be the best YOU ever!

Happy Holidays & we hope to see you at

Equifest of KS in Salina, KS March 6, 7 & 8, 2020!

-Holiday Cheers from The Kansas Horse Council

Want to be involved?

Volunteer at Equifest of Kansas! Go online to www.equifestofks.com and look for the

"Get Involved Tab", then "Volunteer". It takes you to the Sign Up Genius site.

You will need to create an account so your contact info is received.

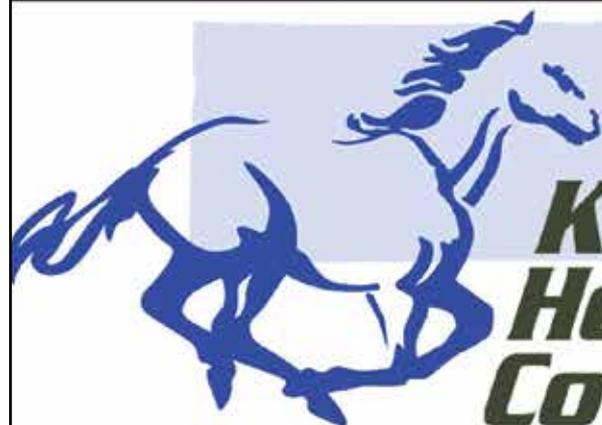
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LaCygne Ranch Couple Honored By Women's Professional Rodeo Association

By Frank J. Buchman

Two of the most ambitious lifetime dedicated rodeo leaders and supporters in the country have been appropriately nationally acknowledged.

John and Candy Teagarden, LaCygne, were honored by the Women's Professional Rodeo Association (WPRA) as the "Outstanding Individuals of the Year."

The Linn County ranch couple accepted the award at a WPRA lunch during the recent National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.

"This award acknowledges individuals who have devoted their time and talents to professional rodeo and the WPRA," said Cindy Gillespie.

"Their only compensation is the personal self-satisfaction received from benefitting the sport of rodeo," she verified. A regional WPRA director, Gillespie serves the Prairie Circuit including Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma.

"We were very surprised and humbled when we got the call that Candy and I were being honored," Teagarden said.

A director of the Linn Country Fair and Rodeo at Mound City 52 years, Teagarden insisted, "It isn't about us. It's about the individuals and small business sponsors who keep this great tradition alive.

"There are six of us 'old timers' who have been on our 30-member fair board since the 1970s," Teagarden said. "Fortunately there are now also a bunch of young men and women too. These board members and volunteers want to continue to keep the Linn County Fair and Rodeo strong."

With county population of about 10,000 people, the Linn County Fair in extreme eastern Kansas has a rich tradition.

"The nine-day early August fair enjoys a strong 4-H and youth program while annually hosting five night shows," Teagarden said.

Believed to be the oldest county fair in Kansas, the 150th anniversary is being celebrated next year. "Our 75th annual rodeo is scheduled for 2021 with many special festivities also planned," the enthusiast director informed.

Nearly every building on the 40-acres fairgrounds has been systematically replaced in the last four decades.

"Our fair and rodeo have enjoyed tremendous support from individuals and local businesses for generations," Teagarden acknowledged.

Rodeo committeemen and volunteers designed and completely replaced the bucking chutes, pens and arena fence in the 1970s and '80s. "New bleachers and state of the art stadium lighting were installed six years ago," the rodeo director noted.

A contestant and sponsor barbecue meal after both rodeo performances originated in 1990 under Teagarden's leadership.

In the following years, the hospitality meal has expanded to include contestants with their families at all evening fair events. There are two demolition derbies, and a truck and tractor pull as well as the rodeo.

Along with other rodeo committeemen, Teagarden was instrumental in forming the Eastern Kansas Pro Rodeo Series in 1984.

"It was designed to raise awareness of the member rodeos among both contestants and fans," Teagarden said. The Eastern Kansas Series continues today with the professional rodeos at Mound

City, Coffeyville and Eureka.

Candy Teagarden has provided vital support behind the scenes for efforts of various fair and rodeo committees. "That's been particularly for the publicity and the contestant-sponsor hospitality meals," Teagarden credited.

"Without Candy's support I would have accomplished very little," he admitted.

The Teagardens operate the five-generation family ranch and farm in northern Linn County.

"We've had a registered Quarter Horse breeding program for 30 years concentrating on barrel horse bloodlines," Teagarden said. "Our horses will work in or out of the

arena."

Daughters Dana, Amy and Leigh, their spouses and eight grandchildren were credited for being an important part of all activities.

The WPRA is the oldest women's sports organization in the country. Headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colorado, it provides opportunities for women's participation in rodeo events across the United States and Canada.

"They compete in the timed events of barrel racing, team roping, breakaway roping, and tie-down roping," Teagarden explained. "The association boasts more than 3,000 members, in excess of 1,500 events and payouts surpassing \$5 million."



John and Candy Teagarden, LaCygne, have been honored as the "Outstanding Individuals of the Year" by the Women's Professional Rodeo Association (WPRA). Presentation was made by Cindy Gillespie, WPRA Prairie Circuit director, during the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.



WINTER EQUINE MEETING

When: Thursday, January 9th



FEED GREATNESS™

Time: 5:30pm - 8:30pm

**Where: Anderson County Community Building
Anderson County Fairgrounds/Garnett, KS**

Admission: NO CHARGE

5:30pm - 6:30pm Complimentary Hamburger Fry & Registration
 6:30pm Opening & Introductions: Ernie Rodina/Better Horses
 6:45pm - 7:30pm **EXTENDING THE LIFE OF THE OLD BROKE HORSE**
Dr. Fred Gardner DVM
 Development of the Young Horse
Dr. Fred Gardner; Countryside Vet Clinic
 7:30pm - 8:00pm Selecting the Right Feed
Sarah Leonhard- Purina Animal Nutrition
 8:00pm - 8:15pm What's new from Purina Research
Sarah Leonhard-Purina Animal Nutrition
 8:15pm - 8:30pm "Your Local Purina Feedstore"
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2012 Meradas Money Talk mare out of daughter of Leagurette: Ranch Cutting; Ranch Riding; Ranch Horse Confirmation; Cowhorse; Ranch Reining

2015 Wimpys Little Step gelding out of daughter of Lenas Wright On/Leagurette mare. Will make a nice Ranch Riding; Ranch Versatility ; Sorrel; broke

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“FEED GREATNESS”

International Finals Rodeo finds new home at Lazy E Arena

August 28th, 2019: Oklahoma City, OK – The International Professional Rodeo Association (IPRA) along with the Lazy E Arena (LEA) is proud to announce a collaboration to relocate the International Finals Rodeo (IFR) for its 50th anniversary and beyond. Within this new partnership benefits will be seen by all members

involved from contestants to stock contractors to contract personnel. Furthermore, the life blood of the event, the fans, will as well have a refreshed experience from the Lazy E's rich history in western sports and improved production techniques.

As discussed in the live press conference on Wednesday, August

28th, increases to the contestant prize money will grow from \$26,000 per event to over \$33,000 per event in the seven standard events, continuing with equal money in the Team Roping for headers and heelers. We are pleased to announce that the Breakaway Roping will increase from a total of \$15,000 to match the seven standard events with over \$33,000. This will bring the total cash payout of the event up to \$300,000. Stock Contractors will see a 20% increase per animal in stock lease for the 2020 event. Contract personnel who are selected to work IFR50 will also see a 20% increase in pay.

When the Lazy E Arena was constructed in 1984, western sports, more specifically rodeo, were the primary tenant in mind. Fans that attend the upcoming International Finals Rodeo will be welcomed with a strong sense of cowboy heritage that lives inside the historic Lazy E Arena. They will also enjoy the unique amenities offered by the LEA including new seating options, an unobstructed, intimate view of the arena floor, and state of the art video, lights, and sound brought in for the new age entertainment. The LEA offers numerous RV hook ups as well as free parking for patrons attending IFR50 slated for January 17-19, 2020.

"This is a historic day for the International Professional Rodeo Association and the International Finals Rodeo. We are proud to announce a partnership with the Lazy E Arena that will help bring the IPRA and the IFR closer to its goals. Those goals include increased benefits for our members, sponsors, and fans. This move sets in motion a plan

of continued growth for years to come", says Dale Yerigan, General Manager of the IPRA. Yerigan, who has won 11 World Championships in the Steer Wrestling, has always had sense of what it takes to benefit the rodeo athletes and sees this move as one in a forward direction for all involved.

About the IPRA: The International Professional Rodeo Association (IPRA) has been providing rodeo excitement for more than 50 years. From big cities to small towns, from major league stadiums to portable arenas, the IPRA is the sport's second largest professional rodeo association sanctioning over 300 rodeos. The IPRA is keeping the spirit of the west alive from coast to coast throughout the United States and Canada.

About the Lazy E Arena: Just southeast of Guthrie, OK, and northeast of Edmond/Oklahoma City – was established in December 1984. From giving PBR its start to the Timed Event Championship of the World, the Lazy E has hosted world champions, world championships and personalities galore. In 2005, Gaylord sold the property to a partnership from Nevada, and in October 2013 the property was sold to the McKinney family from Midland, Texas. The ownership group has long recognized not only the tremendous facility, but also the importance of the Lazy E's place in Rodeo and Oklahoma history. The family has committed to maintaining the Lazy E as the World's premier western entertainment facility. Many updates and renovations are taking place at the Arena which will only enhance the lure of the Lazy E to the general population.



NEW YEAR'S RODEO

STAMPEDE

December 27, 28, 29, 2019

Friday & Saturday 7 pm

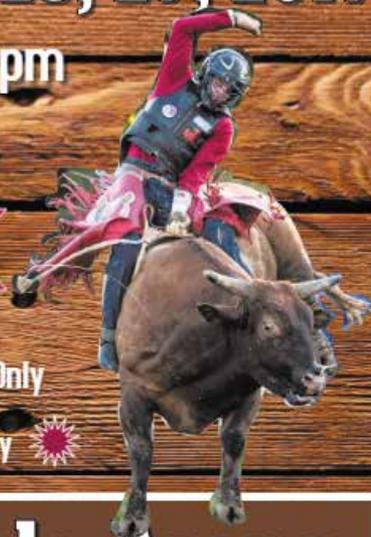
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Golden Spur Ministries

Sunday 7 pm

Bareback, Saddle Bronc & Bulls Only

9 am Timed Event Slack each day



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Members: Mon, Dec 16 10am-6pm

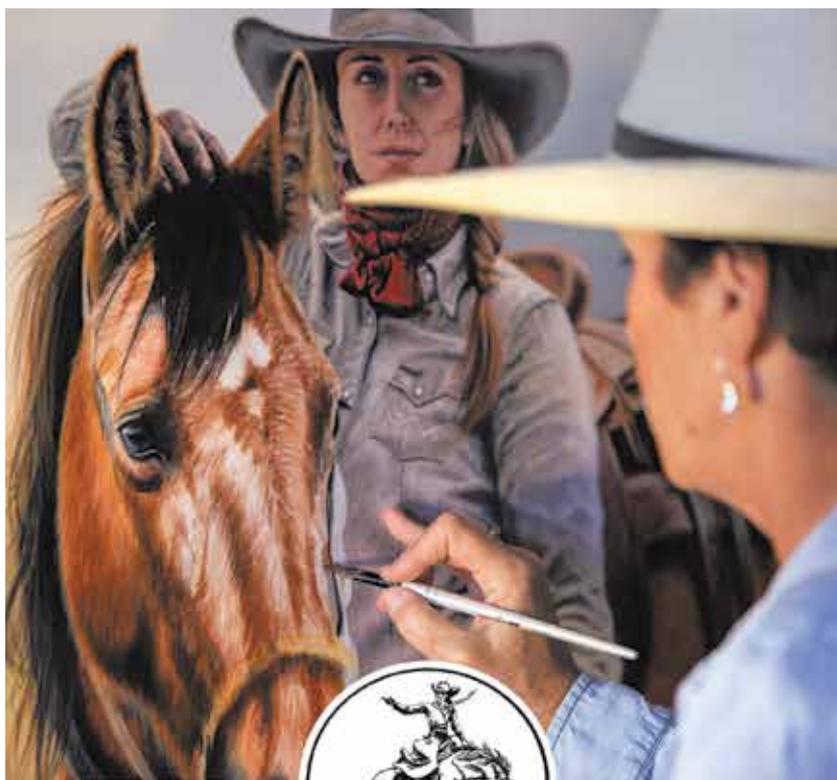
Non Members: Tues, Dec 17 10am-2pm

Info: www.crmckellipsrodeo.com or
call: 417-876-2353

Equestrian News: Waco, Texas

Baylor University Junior Sydney Scheckel of Richmond, KS had a phenomenal 2018-2019 season representing their equestrian team. She went undefeated in reining in the regular season and earned 2 MOP awards as well. A few of her other accomplishments included the following:

- 2019 NCEA All-American (reining, first team)
- 2019 Big 12 Rider of the Year (reining)
- 2019 All-Big 12 (reining)
- 2019 Academic All-Big 12 (first team)
- 2019 Farnam NCEA All-Academic Team (honorable mention)
- 5th place at the 2019 NRHA Derby National Collegiate Reining Championship



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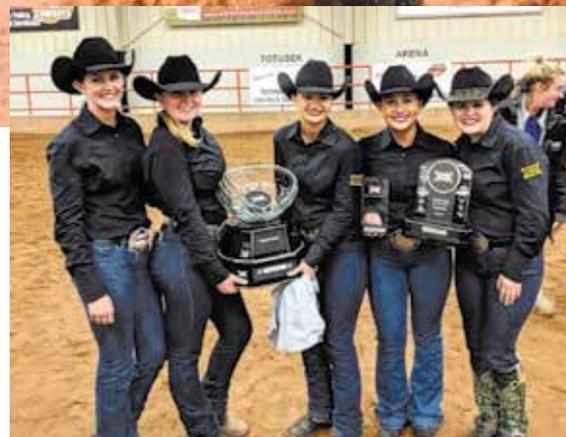
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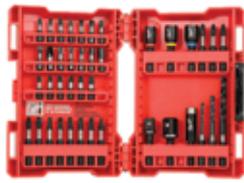
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Priefert




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Closing Christmas and New Years Eve at 5:30. Closed Christmas and New Years day.

NAMEDROPPIN' by Duke Neff

Hope the nice fall has been helpful to our horse people all over the Midwest...and hopefully we will have a little more of it!

I'll start with a sad...but very positive...note. We lost another contributor to our horse industry last week...CONNIE SHEPPARD passed away. CONNIE and MIKE have lived in BETHALTO, ILLINOIS, just east of ST. LOUIS, as long as I have known them...and that is a few decades. CONNIE and MIKE were very active in the early days of the PAINT industry... and they did everything... hosted shows, bred and showed horses and promoted the industry. MIKE was one of my favorite people to judge with... always prepared, pleasant, and professional. They had many outstanding horses over a number of years. I believe the last time I saw MIKE was at NATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CENTER in ST. LOUIS...we were both judging, but different breeds. My thoughts, prayers and fun memories are headed to Mike.

An update on HEARTLAND MINIATURE and HEATHER FRANKLIN. She managed the KANSAS STATE FAIR MINI Show recently, and said the spectator

stands were FULL for their show. Interesting for several reasons...and one is that the FAIR has dropped other breed shows in recent years... PINTO, PAINT and APP included. I asked CASEY WEST about this and he indicated KANSAS PAINT was offered a slot, but it would have been in mid-week in September... in what amounts in most cases to the first couple of weeks in a new school year. FWIW...my first breed show...many years ago...was at the Kansas State Fair... where I met BILL JAMES!!

Several visits with CASSIE WINTERS, who gains my admiration daily... runs the SPRING VALLEY RANCH in IOWA... takes care of all of her children under five... works a job largely from home...and tries to enjoy riding her horses. Was a real treat to talk with her about a RANCH HORSE event she was going to... talked about how trail and ranch horse classes were scored...happy to report she placed very high in her first effort. When in IOWA, was not able to see, but did call, LLOYD JOHANNINGMEIER and visit. He indicated the fall hunting season, on his hunting property, was going well. Delightful phone visit with SAMI

SCHEURING in CALIFORNIA about a whole raft of industry news. She is headed back this way to judge again and we will meet. She and RON have been close to those CALIFORNIA fires.

Nice to visit the NIGRO WESTERN STORE, back in my old stomping grounds...on Shawnee Mission Parkway. Both stores are still going strong...GEORGE runs one, PATTY the other. Over the years I always enjoyed visiting with TONY when I stopped in.

Old friend HEIKO KEUCHEL from HANNOVER GERMANY stopped in for an overnight visit. He had also visited with ANDREA KOEHN and CINDY PENCE-GIRARDIER.....I judged with HEIKO 25 years ago in AUSTRIA and have seen him most years since.

Phone visit with CLINT FULLERTON in advance of his trip to AUSTRALIA. Suggested he take two days and go to NEW ZEALAND, which would be at the top of all my judging travels. The judging facility there is at TAMWORTH and the best in the industry.

Phone visit with KAREN IVERSEN in FLORIDA regarding the major plans for the horse facility in

OCALA....ditto BOB GANDY. BOB said LARON HARMON DUBIN was in the hospital and not doing well... LARON aided the horse industry in every way possible...for years!

MISSOURI QUARTERHORSE has some interesting things going on... including a Horse Judging seminar... also OZARK FFA is doing some of the same things. HEART OF AMERICA BUCKSKIN will be hosting a show at LUCKY J ARENA about the time you get this...those are always nice events. Believe MARCH 23-24 are the dates.

Nice visit with old KANSAN JIM COONES...JIM has retired from the FLORIDA STATE FAIR and has relocated to the WACO, TEXAS area near his daughters. I hope to be able to make another fishing trip with JIMMY at some point.

Finally, as we wind up another year...join me in being THANKFUL for many reasons...where we live... how we live... who we live with... our friends. And with that parting thought...I shall return to the house and take VICKY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING.

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Is your mare ready for breeding season?

*Jason Grady, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVIM
Assistant Professor, Equine Reproduction
Kansas State University*

“I want to breed my mare, but what do I need to do?” is a common statement heard around breeding season. While hoping for a simple answer, the response is often a series of questions:

- How old is she?
- Has she had foals before?
- How many foals has she had?
- When was her last foal born?
- Has she been bred before, but did not conceive or has she lost a foal during pregnancy?
- Does she have a history of twins or placentitis?
- Have you seen her showing signs of estrus yet?
- Do you want to breed her with live cover or artificial insemination?
- If using artificial insemination, are you going to use fresh-cooled semen, or frozen semen?
- When do you want the foal to be born?

Based on the answers to these types of questions we are hopefully able to answer your question of “what do I need to do?” The answers provide us with valuable information to help you make an informed decision on what the next step is to successfully getting your mare pregnant, and starting the process of raising a healthy foal.

Seasonal Considerations

Mares are seasonal, long-day breeders meaning as day length (hours of sunlight) increases, mares begin to cycle. As day length increases during late winter and

early spring (February, March and early April), a majority of mares will have a transitional, spring estrus phase for approximately 60-80 days that is non-fertile followed by a natural, recurring estrous cycle continuing into fall. In early to late fall, as days become shorter, mares go through a fall, transitional estrous phase where they cycle less predictably and eventually stop cycling for the winter.

As previously mentioned, a majority of mares left to cycle naturally won't start cycling until April or May. If you are planning to breed your mare in late winter or early spring hoping for a January, February or even early March foal, then it is recommended to place your mare under lights for 16 hours a day starting on or before December 1.

By placing the mare under lights and artificially extending the hours of sunlight, the mare is triggered into her spring transitional estrus sooner, thus advancing the onset of her natural heat cycles. There are a variety of methods and protocols designed to artificially extend the day length for your mare. Visit with your veterinarian if you would like to discuss these different options for your breeding program.

Examinations in Preparation for Breeding

Now is also the time to determine if your mare is a good broodmare candidate through a physical exam. Ensuring the mare has an appropriate body condition and a good plane of nutrition prior

to breeding will improve your chances of getting her in foal and staying in foal.

Mares that are easy keepers and tend to be overweight often have lower pregnancy rates. Mares that are excessively thin or have chronic pain may fail to cycle, or have higher rates of pregnancy loss due to early embryonic death. Additionally, evaluation of the conformation of her vulva may help determine the likelihood of her getting pregnant. Poor conformation of her vulva is not an eliminating factor, but it is something we need to be aware of so the mare can be managed appropriately during the breeding and post-breeding process.

Several weeks prior to breeding, a reproductive examination should be performed. This is a good time to make sure your mare is up-to-date on vaccinations, is appropriately dewormed, and has a current negative Coggins test. If necessary, float her teeth prior to starting the breeding process.

A breeding soundness exam consisting of rectal palpation, transrectal ultrasound, vaginal and cervical exam, uterine culture and cytology, and possibly a uterine biopsy are recommended diagnostic tools to help you determine the readiness of your mare for breeding. Performing these diagnostics early in the breeding season helps determine where she is in her estrous cycle, checks for uterine infection, and gives an indication of the overall health of the mare's uterus.

Using the information collected, we are able to make better recommendations when answering your question, “I want to breed my mare, but what do I need to do?” You may be advised that the mare has a uterine infection that needs to be treated first, or that she might be a better candidate for embryo transfer



or other advanced reproductive techniques. Hopefully, you are advised she is ready to head to the breeding shed.

Stallion Fertility

It is important to recognize how stallion fertility plays a role in successfully achieving a pregnancy in your mare. Not all stallions are created equal, so visit with the stallion owner to determine if they know what the stallion's fertility is based on how you plan on breeding your mare. This may be best determined by the stallion's per cycle pregnancy rate or their end of season pregnancy rate.

Breeding your mare is a big decision with several factors for the mare owner to consider including stallion choices, reproductive options and veterinary costs, just to name a few. Ultimately, you, as the mare owner, and your veterinarian should have the same goal of achieving a pregnancy that results in a healthy foal. Working together throughout the process with someone you trust and who has knowledge and experience in equine reproduction will help you achieve that goal.

If you are interested in discussing the reproductive services available for your mare or stallion at Kansas State University, contact Dr. Jason Grady at the Veterinary Health Center at 785-532-5700.

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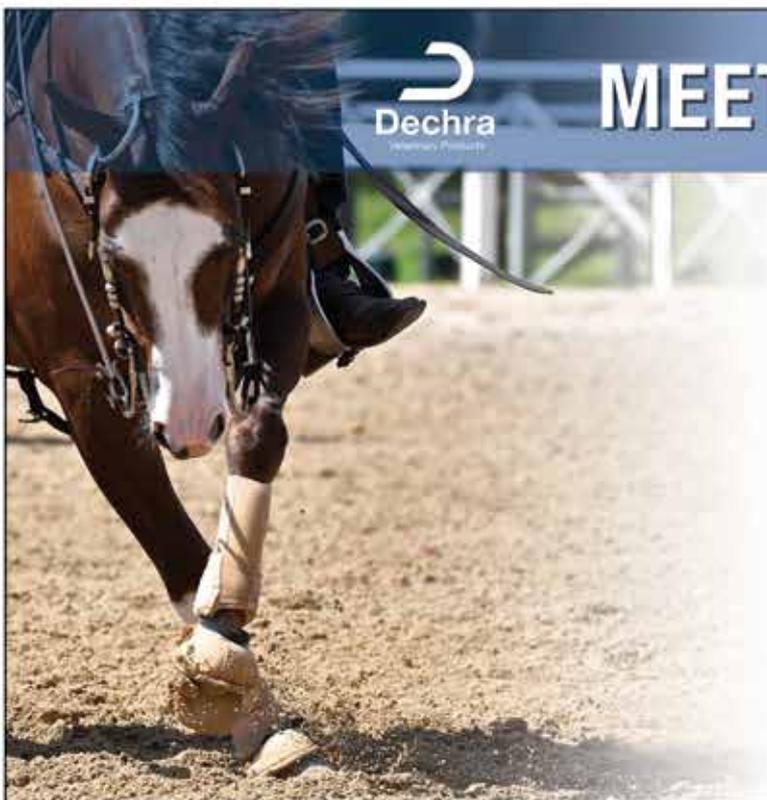
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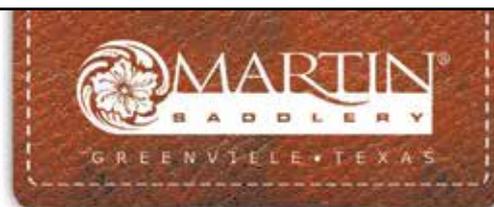
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Cowboy Church with Steve Stafford



So Much to be Thankful For

Well here we are once again, the summer has abruptly come to an end, the temperatures have gone down dramatically, the colors of nature are incredible, and it's college football every week, YAHOOOO! I really do love this time of year. Miss Debbie and I live in a cabin in the woods, and as temps lower, the trees get brighter. In fact, the woods come alive with color, beautiful reds, bright

oranges, soft yellows. The woods become a blaze of color.

The Bible says this in the creation account found in Genesis - God said "Let there be light, there was, and God said it was good." Then He said "Let the water have its place and the ground its place - and He said it was good." Then God said "Let the land produce vegetation - and God saw that it was good." Then He said "Let there be lights in the sky - and God saw that it was good." And then He said "Let there be fish in the water, birds in the sky - and God liked what He saw." Then God said "Let the land produce livestock and other creatures of the land - and once again God said it was good." And then He spoke His final creation into being when He said, "Let us make man in our image" - and then the Scripture says - "God saw all

that He had made, and it was very good." So the Scriptures tell us that in His well thought out time of creation, He liked what He saw, He was content in His creative handiwork. But the next time you get to feeling too good about yourself, just remember this, after all that God spoke into existence, He created you last. WE were the last on the creative "To Do List". He probably figured if He didn't do it this way, we would find some way to take credit for it. You know - He's probably right!

Here's the point I want to make, it was God's idea, it was His plan, it was His creative hands at work, it was His voice that put things in their proper place. All we have to do is enjoy His creation, but I think there is something else we should do - and that is - to "Have a heart of THANKSGIVING." We should all take some time to look around us, soak it in, bury it in our memories

and our hearts. And Thank God for the gift of nature, the beautiful blues of the skies, the gentle sound of a creek, the colors of the leaves, the laughter of a child, the loving touch of a friend. Oh my, so much to be thankful for.

But the greatest thing we should give thanks for is Jesus, who has come to dwell with us, to heal us, to teach us, to save us from the penalty of sin. Oh my friends, we have so much to be thankful for.

So from all of us here at Better Horses, and from Miss Debbie, myself and all our four legged friends here at the D bar S, HAPPY HOLIDAYS & HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS.

*Pastor Steve Stafford
Risen Ranch Cowboy Church
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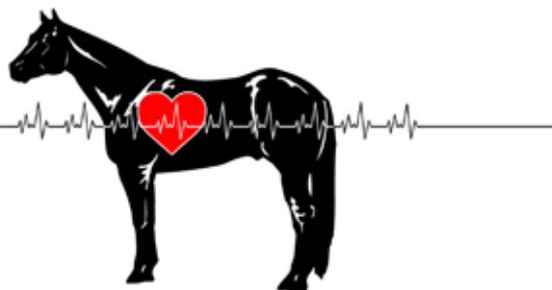
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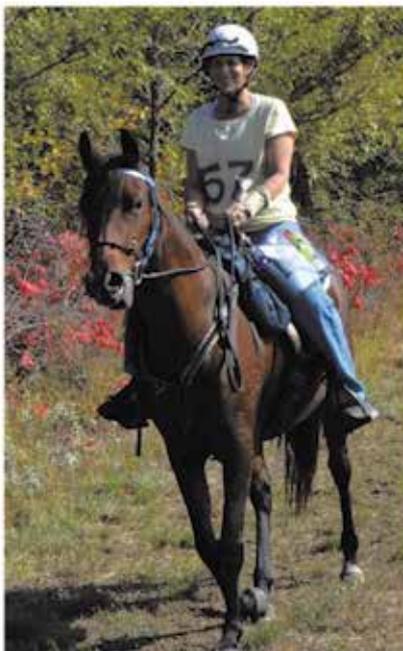
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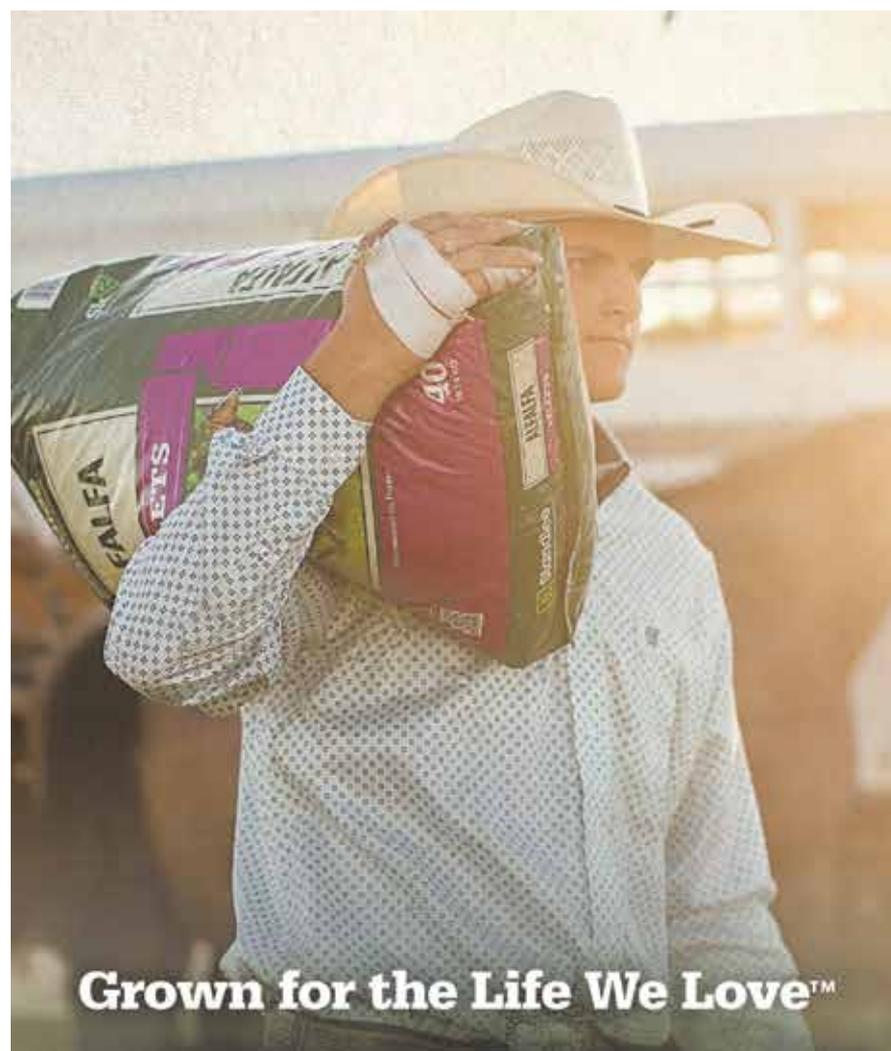
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Salina Couple Eager To Develop Younger Generation With Horses

By Frank J. Buchman

Five horses in a four horse slant trailer pulls in first as passenger heads pop up from travel morning naps.

Right behind is a front-seat, back-seat filled sport utility vehicle maybe a half dozen more gazing though the windows.

All pile out, nine plus five equines, making 14 total, and the horse show action begins.

Well now, that's when everybody can come. Sometimes there's just a handful of riders plus mounts.

"So many kids don't get to experience agriculture life. They spend so much time on computers, tech stuff, and miss out on benefits of dealing with livestock."

Steve George of Salina is heartfelt in that philosophy.

"I'm pretty blessed my wife Myra feels the same way," he insisted.

They're making sure family and often other young people in the community get those opportunities common during their youthfulness.

"I have such fond memories of growing up on a farm working with livestock. I want to help others have those pleasures and learn along the way," George said.

"Fortunately that has become possible with our daughters and grandkids," he added.

Yes, George is driving the trailer rig and Myra has the other carload.

Youthful passengers: daughter Jeannie, 17; grandchildren Allie, 14; Brysie, 11; Christian, 13; Jocelynn, 14; Jericho (JJ), six; and Kyler, 18.

Rattling their names with notable affection, George clarified, "Our daughter, Casey Long, is obviously a busy mom too."

It's not an all horse story, but likely inappropriate not to recognize the equine partners here also. Well, there's nine altogether on the four-

acre farm headquarters a mile west of town.

Just seven are on the present horseshow roster: Andy, Autumn, Bonnie, Brandy, Cowboy, Rey and Tuff. Back home are: Buddy and Sadie.

"We can only haul so many; so everybody usually has to share horses some," admitted George, who also competes.

"I keep busy helping get the horses ready while Myra makes sure the kids are as prepared as possible. She is in charge of logistics.

"That's pre-entries; adding and dropping classes, correct rider clothing, helping kids learn patterns; most importantly having the right numbers on. Organizing the chaos; Myra is a great organizer," George grinned. "God laughs with us every day."

It all began with 4-H club work, George verified. "The kids got started with bucket calves, even though we always had horses.

"Then there was sort of a fluke deal when a friend wanted to give us three horses," George continued. "We ended up taking them and that really was life changing as all of us got into horses,"

Of course, they participate in 4-H shows along with the Blackjack Saddle Club and occasionally the Eastern Kansas Horseman's Association.

"I grew up near Uniontown in Bourbon County and did mostly the racing events," George said. "Then I got started in more of the horsemanship type competitions which helps make better riders I think.

"We now mostly just compete in the pleasure and rail classes but there are occasional exceptions," he added.

Results announcements verify when the George family's Sundowner trailer pulls into an arena parking area, competition beware. It takes a good size satchel for the collection of awards those riders accumulate.

Best example was when they brought in 12 state fair qualifications from the district 4-H show. Then their stow was further enhanced with a handful of rosettes at that recent prestigious and certainly tough Hutchinson show.

Still the home farmstead is a "small zoo," according to George.

"In addition to the horses, there were nine beef steers and nine pigs before the Saline County Fair," George said. "That included projects of another girl in our 4-H club."

Semblance of a horseshow, Steve and Myra George had an even busier weeklong fair keeping kids and projects organized.

"It helped get them ready to go back to school at Bennington. They all attend school there which we like with more rural type kids and smaller class sizes," George said.

Involved in 4-H club work growing

up, George attended Fort Scott Junior College before graduating from Kansas State University. "I showed livestock and was always involved in judging," he said. "So I was on the livestock judging team at both colleges and graduated in agriculture education."

After a student teaching bout, George returned to K-State for graduate courses in economics. "I started with the Production Credit Association at Salina in 1984," he remembered. "Then in '97 I went to the Bank of Tescott where I still work here in Salina and also at Tescott."

Moving to their Saline County acreage in 1995, the original home with detached garage has much expanded livestock facilities today.

"It's been a continuing building process now with eight stalls for horses and additional livestock housing," George noted. More agriculture acreages are also still owned in native Bourbon County, where his brothers continue to farm.

Reflecting about that equine threesome getting the busy family all out horsey today, George credited Karen Vanier Young. "She had three



Steve and Myra George of Salina see many benefits of young people working with livestock. They give their daughter and grandchildren that opportunity especially with horses and horseshows. At the home barn Saturday afternoon were Myra, Jocelynn, Christian, Steve, Jeannie, Brysie and JJ. Allie and Kyler didn't make it that time. Horses joining in for the camera were Brandy, Tuff and Autumn.

older 4-H horses and wanted a good home for them," he said. "They were perfect for the kids to learn with."

Gypsy was 34-years-old when she passed away a couple of years ago. "Autumn is a 32-year-old and still going strong. She loves to be in horse shows, and the kids all love to ride her," George said. "They've all ridden Autumn at some point and she'll often be in several classes with different riders."

Their most "famous" horse has to be Jeannie's white and brown polka dot POA (Pony of the Americas) gelding called Tuff.

"He's 17-years-old and can do it all very well. Tuff's truly one of a kind, but only Jeannie rides him," George said. "Oh, I got to ride Tuff a couple of times."

Jeannie will sometimes let her nieces and nephews show Tuff in showmanship as well.

Occasionally new additions come

to the horse lineup as family projects so all have a mount when need arises.

While Grandpa-Dad and the seven younger generation "all ride a lot" Grandma-Mom Myra "takes care of everybody."

Steve George appreciates: "That's a fulltime job for Myra helping make sure we're all where we're supposed to be."

No slowdown in sight. "We've been blessed to spend so much time with our daughters and grandchildren," George said. "We'll continue going as long as we can. Hopefully we can help our great grandchildren and other young people with horses along the way."



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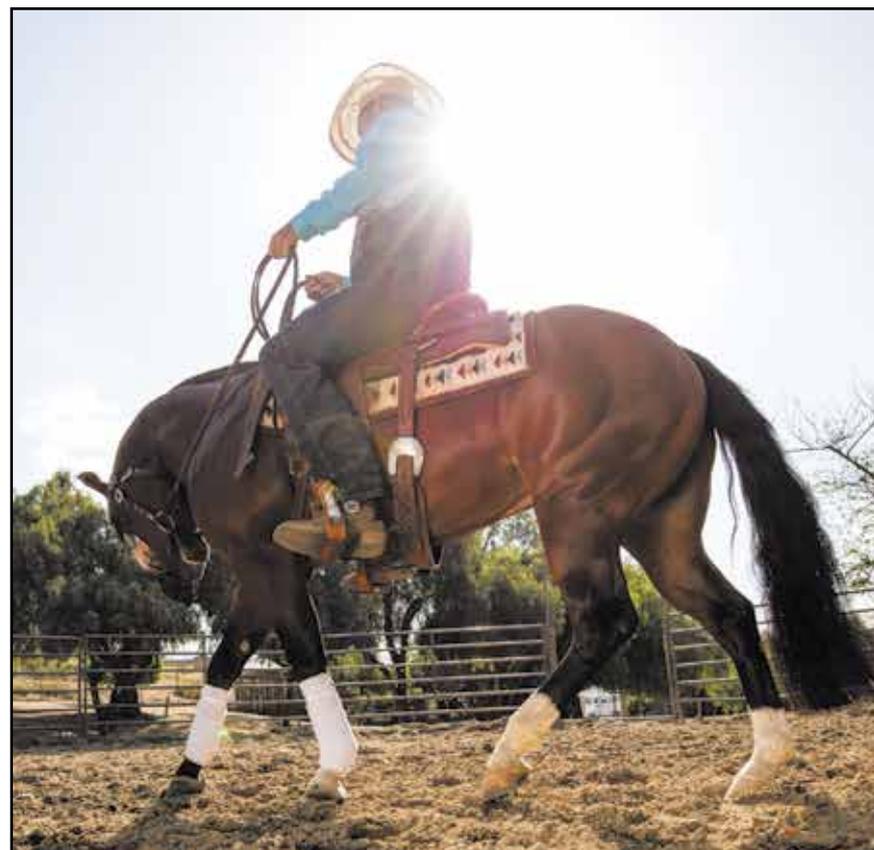
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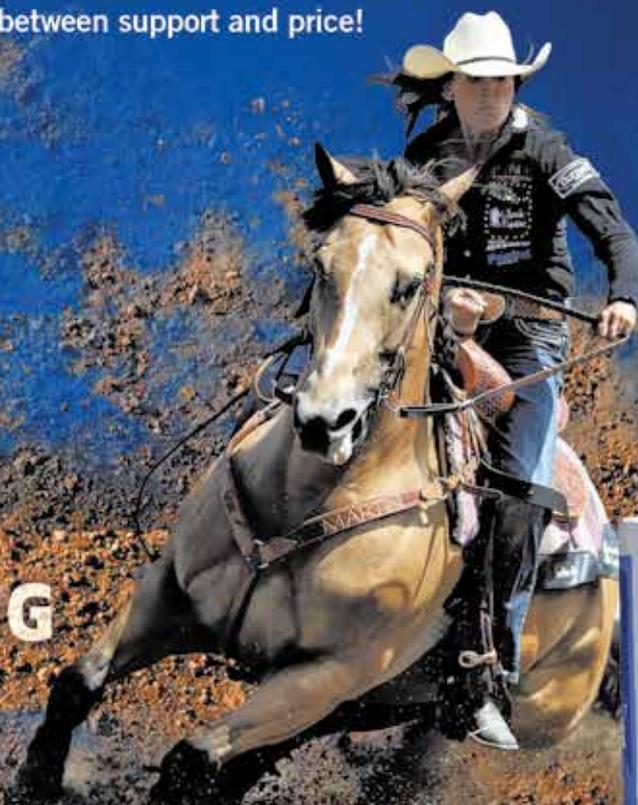
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BARREL RACING



To Top Dress or Not to Top Dress?

By Mike Norris – Missouri Association of Professional Farriers

Think back to your farrier appointments for your horse. Can you tell if your farrier puts your horse's hoof on a hoof stand and does he dress the dorsal wall back?

Do you understand what your farrier is doing, when he does this?

It is not always a standard practice for a farrier to top dress a foot. There are those that believe by rasping the dorsal wall we are taking away a portion of the hoof. This can be true to a point, however, a properly dressed hoof wall will always keep your horse comfortable. A properly dressed hoof wall should be in equal proportions from the buttress of the heel, through the quarters and through the toe. When a foot is dressed back and balanced it will also help to keep the bony column of the leg in check.

I am guilty, as many farriers are, of not always dressing feet back. When there is a healthy hoof

wall there is not always a need to dress the foot back. You must also consider a horse that is hesitant of the hoof stand could make it unsafe for the horse and farrier as well as the handler. Farriers also need to be cautious because a dorsal wall can be dressed back too far. There is a middle ground that needs to be evaluated on a horse by horse basis to maintain a healthy foot. Top dressing also allows the farrier to keep any flares in check and helps the farrier maintain a proper palmar angle in the hoof.

Hopefully this bit of information will help you at your next farrier appointment by giving you some understanding on what your farrier is doing.

And always remember the saying -- Healthy foot = Healthy horse



Here is a picture of a hoof that was not properly dressed back, notice how far the toe runs.



Here is a hoof that has a toe that is run forward because it is not properly dressed back.



Now, look at this picture. This is a hoof that is properly dressed back.



Here is the same hoof after it has been dressed back.



Wake up to Ernie the Horse Guy!

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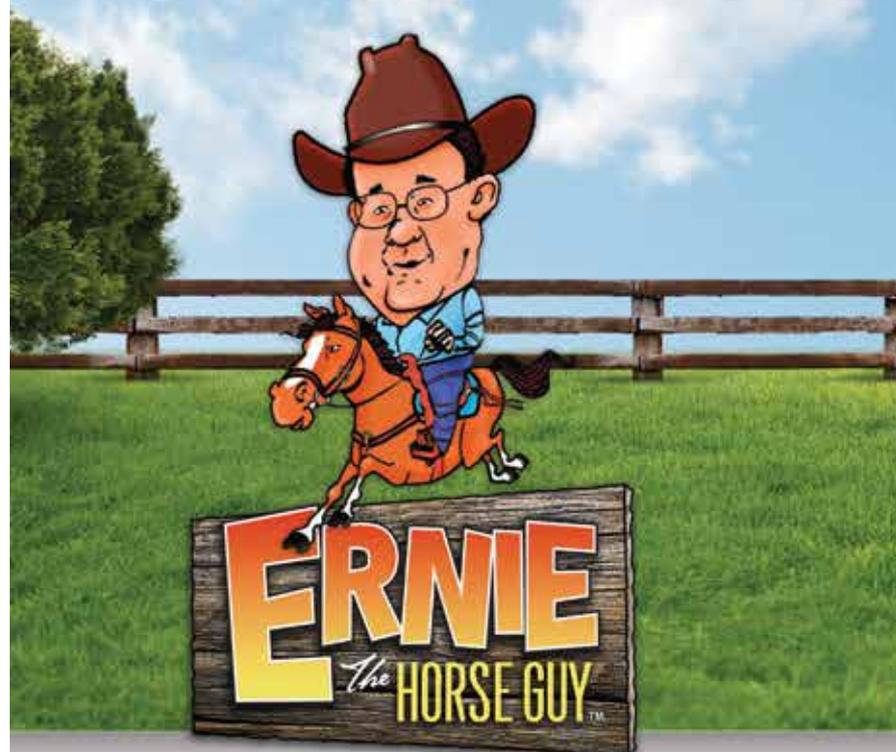
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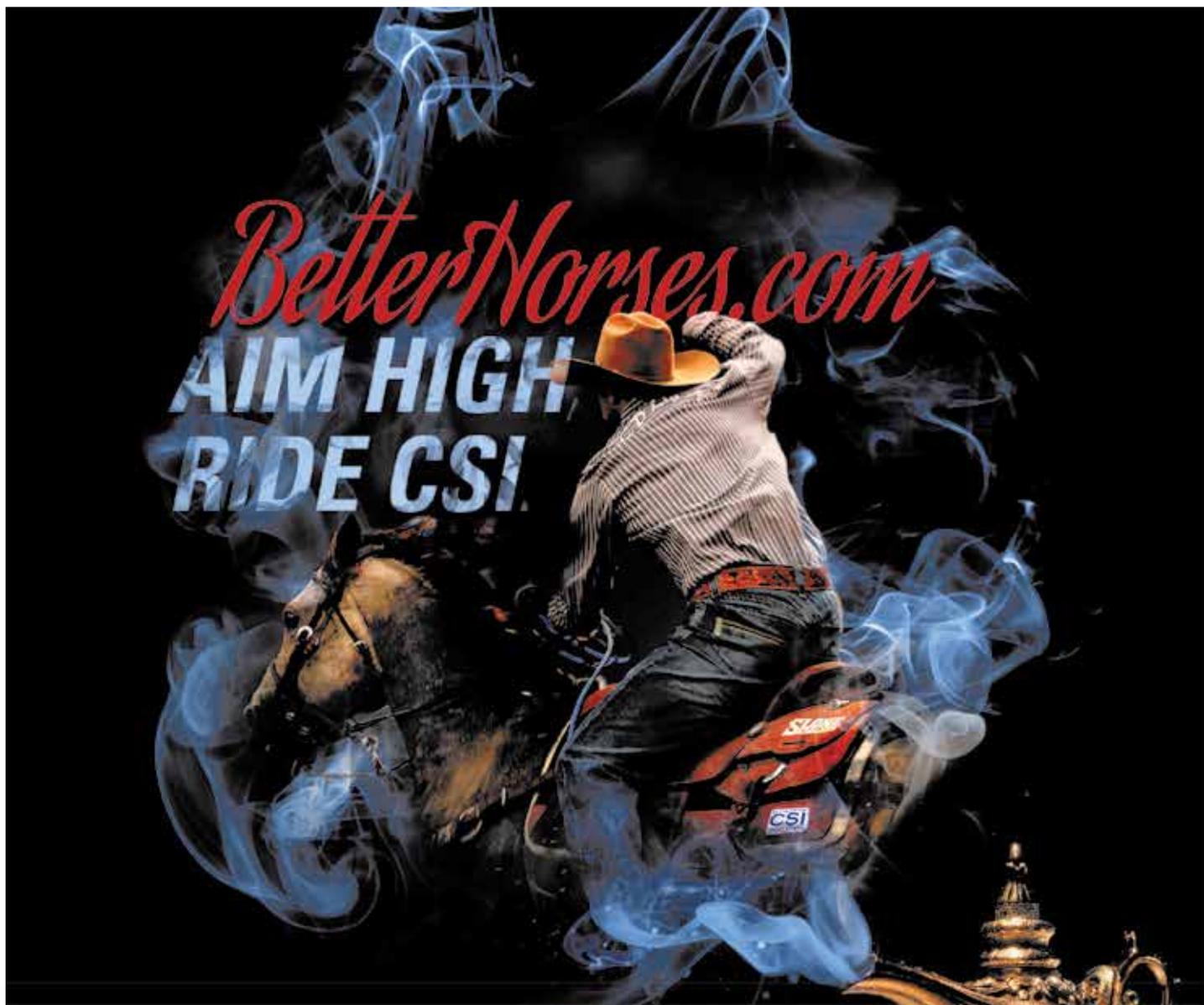
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5 pounds red potatoes, cubed into 3/4 inch cubes (*try to keep the the cubes the same size so they cook even*)

3 yellow onions (*coarsely chopped*)

20 to 30 Brussel sprouts (*cut in half*)

3 or 4 zucchini squash (*cubed to 3/4 inch pieces*)

5 Tbsp dried Italian herbs

8 oz parmesan cheese salt and pepper to taste

Coat all the veggies in vegetable oil and salt and pepper before you roast them.

Roast all at 450 degrees individually on an oiled sheet pan, as they cook at different times. Get a good color on the potatoes and the other veggies until they are tender crisp.

Combine all the roasted veggies together then add the dried herbs and the parmesan cheese and gently toss avoiding breaking up the veggies.

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Kansas Youth Rate At All American Quarter Horse Congress

By Frank J. Buchman

Young horse enthusiasts made a strong showing for Kansas at the recent All American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio.

Chanae Parker, Chessa Parker Kendall Schoenhals, and Brook Staten represented the Kansas Quarter Horse Youth Association in two competitions.

Justine Staten, executive director of the Kansas Horse Council, is the team coach.

"The Quiz Bowl was a tough competition, much different from the state 4-H contest," Staten clarified.

"An incorrect answer is not just a missed opportunity for points. It is also a deduction from the total," the coach explained. "There was a double elimination bracket so tension was high from round to round."

Questions were derived from any of eight approved resources. Points were then tabulated on the top three participants of the team. Forty-five individuals of the 60 total competitors had points tallied.

The Kansas delegation ranked eighth out of 14 teams entered.

Brook Staten placed 15th, while Chessa Parker was 20th and Kendall Schoenhals ranked 29th. Chanae Parker was 35th in the campaign for recognition.

Hippology is defined as the study of all things horse with Kansas' delegation participating in that competition the following day.

This contest was comprised of four phases. There was a written exam as well as identification of items related to horses.

In the judging division, entrants placed four different conformation and performance classes. Finally, there was the problem phase where contestants evaluated a situation and each attributed to a solution

discussion and assembling an impromptu puzzle.

Out of 14 teams, the Kansas group placed fifth overall receiving medals for the high ranking.

Additional team awards were third in horse judging, and fifth in both the written and problem solving divisions.

Out of 55 individuals, Brook Staten was third individually in horse judging and 10th in the identification division. Kendall Schoenhals was fourth high individual in horse judging.

"We are very proud of the hard work, focus, fundraising and success of these girls in these competitions," Staten credited. "The All American Quarter Horse Congress is an amazing place to go, see and learn.

"Top industry competitors in all disciplines exhibit throughout the month of October. Our nation's top horse breeders have incredible stall offices to show off their stock," Staten continued. "It's a shopper's paradise with something for everyone who is horse savvy. Breed and discipline associations along with collegiate equine programs are offered too."

The team members became acquainted during the Kansas 4-H Panorama at Rock Springs Ranch. "Hippology and Quiz Bowl competitions have been the springboard for their pursuing greater equine experiences," Staten informed.

A member of Riley County's Ashland Boosters 4-H Club, Chessa Parker, 18, has participated in horse competitions for seven years. She especially enjoys trail riding her own mare called Boo. "My goals are to obtain an equine certificate and complete my degree in animal biosciences with a minor in biology

from Kansas State University," Chessa said.

Also a Riley County Ashland Boosters 4-H Club member, Chanae Parker, 16, likes the 4-H horse competitions. She especially enjoys exhibiting her mare, Sarah, at the county 4-H show. "These experiences have provided great learning opportunities. I hope to be on the Kansas State University Horse Judging Team someday," Chanae said.

Active in the Riley County Leonardville Hustlers 4-H Club, Brook Staten, 17, has been riding horses since she was three. Exhibiting her horse, Jericho, in numerous horse shows, she was the recipient of a 2019 Kansas FFA Equine Science Entrepreneurship Award. "I trained and showed my Mustang, Porter, to second place at the state fair. My passion for learning

about the equine industry is sincere," Brook said.

From Reno County, Kendall Schoenhals, 17, has been showing horses since she was five. Participating in the Youth Equestrian Development Association, she has competed in a wide variety of events. She has shown a snaffle bit horse called Tag in both the two and three-year-old state fair divisions. "My proudest moment was winning third overall last year in the two-year-old-class," Kendall said.

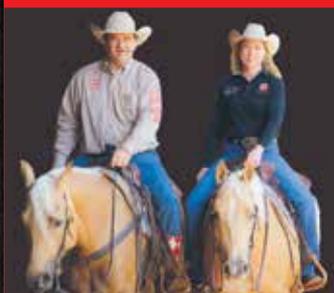
Two additional Kansas Quarter Horses youth shined at Columbus. Lexi McCollough and Fortheluvofthegame placed eighth in the 15-18 Western pleasure class.

Aubrey Gerdes and Zippos Mr. Goodbody were 19th in the Level One 13 and under showmanship.



Kendall Schoenhals, Brook Staten, Chanae Parker and Chessa Parker comprised the Kansas Quarter Horse Association Youth Team at the All American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio. They were fifth in the Hippology Contest and eighth in the Quiz Bowl division.

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Strong Fall Sale Average Led

by Cutting/Cow Horses and

Geldings Under Saddle

Nov. 8, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shawnee, Okla. — The recent 40th Annual Triangle Fall Sale, held Oct. 25-26, concluded with a successful \$6,200-per head average on 547 cataloged horses. This was up from last year's \$5,900 average and was led by cutting and cow horse-bred consignments, which dominated the sale scene with a \$13,000 per-head average for money earners and \$9,000 average overall, reaching a 90-percent sales completion.

Strong sales across all disciplines helped fuel a Top 50 average of \$14,440 and prompted the inclusion of 49 horses into Triangle's Top \$10,000 Club, designated for horses selling at more than \$10,000. At the conclusion of the Fall Sale, a total of 202 horses joined the Top \$10,000 Club for 2019.

These averages were reached despite cold, heavy rains covering much of the sale site and surrounding region during sale dates. Jim Ware, owner of Triangle Sales, attributes the resilient averages to steady overall sales, led by an especially solid group of cutting and cow horse-bred performance horses and geldings under saddle.

"We didn't necessarily have stand-alone high sellers driving the strong average for this sale," Ware says. "We had a very consistent sale overall. Sales on the cutters and cow horses were great and stood out the most. When you reach a 90-percent

sales completion in any one group, that's a big deal."

The 2013 sorrel mare, Catillac Smooth (Smooth As A Cat x CDs Masterpiece by CD Olena) was high seller and led the cutters and cow horse group, bringing \$25,500. The mare sold as Hip No. 153 and was consigned by Barney Mac Smith, Weatherford, Texas, and sold to Jamie Mitchell of Seymour, Missouri. This was followed within \$500 by Hip No. 141, the 2012 sorrel gelding, Cuttin Money (High Brow Cat x Money Talks Smart by Smart Mate) consigned by John Kelley, Powell, Ohio, going to Richard Mairs, Wooster, Ohio, for \$25,000.

Overall, 71 geldings under saddle, aged three years old and older, went for an impressive average of \$9,600. Reining-bred horses averaged \$8,000 for money earners, while the total average for the discipline was \$6,600. The Shawnee Session included ranch-broke horses, riders and roping horses, which sold for an average of \$6,500 for trained horses under saddle and an overall average of \$4,300.

The high selling reining-bred horse was Hip No. 532, Hickory Spooks Gun (Spooks Gotta Gun x DG Hickorys Sparkle by Indian Sparkle). The 2018 bay colt sold for \$10,000, consigned by Eldridge Management Corp., Gregory, Arkansas, and purchased by Cooper Smith, Whitesboro, Texas. Hip No. 544, the 2014 palomino gelding, Aristos Gold Buddy (Smart Aristocrat x Poco Buddy Lynn) sold for \$17,500 to lead the Shawnee Session. Aristos Gold Buddy was sold by Preston and Rebekah Hartfield, Holdenville, Oklahoma, to Kent Thiessen, Elk City, Oklahoma.

Ware says sale-ready horses always stand out among less fit, untrained horses and it is reflected in

sales. Buyers came from 27 states across the country and were looking to purchase the best in quality performance horses.

"There were a lot of first-time sellers at this sale, which is great," Ware says. "Some had outstanding horses, and others had horses that were not as in demand or as fit and ready to sell."

"Overall, it was a really good group of horses," he continued. "And consignors were getting what they wanted for them. When the strength of the overall sale is considered, if your horses didn't sell really well—and some didn't—that should be something to consider in terms of how to make changes in your program."

The Fall Sale also marked the fourth year for the Triangle Barrel Horse Classic, a sale section implemented in 2016 to market finished barrel horses and prospects. The sale also provides added incentive for barrel-bred yearlings participating in the affiliated John Read Foster Challenge. The Barrel Classic consignments held steady at \$5,000, while horses qualifying for the incentive averaged \$3,000.

Deedashing SI 92 (First Down Dash x Deeachick by Chicks Beduino), led barrel sales with a purchase price of \$24,000. The 2006 sorrel mare was sold with an embryo by Frenchmans Guy (Sun Frost x Frenchmans Lady by Laughing Boy), purchased by Bill Shipley, Madera, California, and consigned by Atwood Quarter Horses Inc., Kenwood, California. A second embryo by Frenchmans Guy x Deedashing SI 92, was sold to Alexia Willis, Maysville, Oklahoma, for \$10,200.

Atwood Quarter Horses Inc. also sold a second mare, Shegetscash (Peptoboonsmal x Corona Cash by Firstdown Dash) for \$22,700. Mikey

Matts, Whitesboro, Texas, purchased the 2007 red roan mare, which sold as Hip No. 233 with embryo by Dash Ta Fame (First Down Dash x Sudden Fame by Tinys Gay).

Triangle Horse Sales recently announced its new location for the 2020 sale line-up at Oklahoma State Fair Park in Oklahoma City. The location will serve as the new home to Triangle Sales, which has been in business since 1979. The Winter Sale is scheduled for Jan. 24-25 and nominations are due Dec. 6, 2019; the Spring Sale will be April 24-25 and the Fall Sale is slated for Oct. 23-24.

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Redfield Rancher Is Family Man Demanded In Arena As Professional Rodeo Pickup Man

By Frank J. Buchman

"It's an exciting job that I really enjoy doing."

Andy Eck of Redfield is emphatic about his desire to serve as a pickup man at rodeos throughout the Midwest.

Yet, sometimes Eck is the unsung hero of arena action. Attention from the announcer and bleacher filled spectators is directed to the cowboy spurring his bronc anticipating ride completion buzzer.

That's when Eck's tedious most important job begins, making sure the cowboy is safely dismounted from the bucking horse. The contestant gets applause while the pickup man's efforts are generally just taken for granted, even ignored.

Still Eck's work is not yet completed as the typically still bucking, running bronc must be safely penned. "It's essential to get



Andy Eck of Redfield prepares for action as a pickup man at Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) competitions throughout the country.

the arena cleared efficiently to keep the rodeo action alive for the paying spectators," he declared.

"The cowboys and contractors appreciate what we do. That's what counts for their safety and care of the quality livestock" Eck insisted.

However, the Bourbon County rancher quickly clarifies; it's all a team effort.

"There are two pickup men working together for the safety of the cowboy and the bronc," Eck pointed out. "I have the opportunity to work with some of the best pickup men in the business in my opinion."

Two additional expressions of appreciation were emphasized by the professional cowboy. "Number one, I am thankful for my God. It wouldn't be possible without the blessings from my Holy Savior," Eck professed. "I praise the Lord each day for the great life he's given me and never let pride get in my way.

"Every time I ride into the arena, I pray to my God for guidance and safety for everyone at the rodeo," he added.

"If it wasn't for my wife Shanna, the boys and I wouldn't be able to do what we do. She's always at our side helping and encouraging us," Eck affirmed. "Shanna has gone to work for 27 years at Gates Rubber in Iola. Then she comes home ready to help with the cattle and whatever needs done at the ranch or a rodeo."

Highlight for Eck's career came at the recent Prairie Circuit Professional Rodeo Finals in Duncan, Oklahoma. "It was a privilege to be selected to work that major rodeo featuring the top cowboys and livestock of this

region," Eck appreciated.

"What made the rodeo even more exciting for me was working with Rex Bugbee, who I really admire," Eck added. "Rex is an Emporia native who picks up at many major rodeos around the country. He is truly an outstanding pickup man; the cowboys and rodeo contractors appreciate his great work."

Making his first circuit finals to serve as a pickup man was even more special for Eck. "It was the 20th anniversary since I last competed there in the bareback bronc riding," he noted. "That was kind of unusual



Rodeo and ranching are a family affair for Andy and Shanna Eck and their sons Colt, Bryce and Trent.



Especially close to his heart is when rodeo pickup man Andy Eck of Redfield is assisted by any of his three sons Colt, Bryce and Trent. All have served as assistants to their dad as pickup men starting at an early age. Trent, just nine here, pulls in to help a rodeo bronc rider to safety.

and really meant a lot to me too.”

Actually Eck always wanted to be a cowboy and has followed his dream fulfilling it today as a working rancher. “I grew up at St. Marys and Spring Hill before coming to Bourbon County,” he said. “We have a cow herd, background cattle, and do a lot of cowboy day work for others in the area.”

Competing in the bareback bronc riding as a teenager, Eck earned a rodeo scholarship to attend Fort Scott Community College. “That was a great experience being on the team riding at National Intercollegiate Rodeos Association rodeos,” he said. “John Luthi was an outstanding coach, and we had top cowboys and cowgirls; my lifetime friends.”

From amateur and college ranks, Eck’s bareback bronc riding abilities led him to the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. “I competed throughout the country and qualified for the Prairie Circuit Finals several years,” he calculated.

Then as a professional rancher as well, Eck was sought for rodeo teams of other ranchers he worked for. “I enjoyed being on the teams and competing at ranch rodeos and in the Working Ranch Cowboys Association,” he said. “I haven’t done that much lately because I’d rather be a rodeo pickup man and keep busy doing that.”

Eck works most of the rodeos served by New Frontier Rodeo Company owned by Jimmy Crowther of Gypsum. “I am anxious to help contractors who call for my services when there isn’t a rodeo booked,” he confirmed.

Horsepower is key ingredient to being a rodeo pickup man. “I have a handful of great horses I use for picking up,” Eck verified.

To fit Eck’s criteria a pickup horse must “have ability, be willing, controllable and go where he’s pointed.”

The horses in Eck’s pickup remuda are described as “big,

stout Quarter Horses with plenty of speed. I have one off the track that has some Thoroughbred and that sure doesn’t hurt anything,” he contended.

The majority of the horses have been trained entirely by Eck. “That way they know me and I know them. We can work with each other,” he stated. “Still I don’t start using a horse for picking up until they’re five or six years old. They must be mature enough to handle the tough work physically and mentally.”

Cowboy blood has extended into Eck’s sons who all are involved in the ranch work and rodeo. They include Colt, 17; Bryce, 15, and Trent, 12.

“Colt and Bryce ride in the Kansas High School Rodeo Association, and Trent is getting started too,” Dad said proudly. “Their Mom is their biggest supporter. We couldn’t ranch or rodeo without Shanna’s continued encouragement.”

Both of the older boys ride bareback broncs like their dad did, and Bryce also competes in saddle bronc riding. “I see them advancing in their rodeo careers possibly into college rodeo maybe even Fort Scott as well,” Dad said. “The boys are real cowboys turning into top riders.”

Additionally the Eck sons are following in their dad’s boot steps

with an attraction for picking up rodeo broncs. “I’ve had my boys pickup with me a number of times since they were even younger. That is really exciting,” he admitted.

In addition to the family cowherd and backgrounding operations, Eck looks after other ranchers’ cowherds and custom grazes cattle. “We buy all of our feed, but it’s still always a challenge to find grass for grazing. I try to take care of it the best possible,” he commented.

The Eck cowboys are also called on to start and train colts for other owners over a wide area. “We ride a lot of young horses and with our cattle operations they’ll get plenty of work experience,” Eck said.

“With day work, the rodeo schedule, and it all, there’s never a dull moment. We keep busy,” Eck added.

No slowdown or change in sight for the rancher, cowboy, demanded professional rodeo pickup man.

“I sure plan to keep doing what I’m doing. It’s so exciting and enjoyable working with my family, the cowboys, the contractors and the livestock,” Andy Eck avowed. “I’m so blessed by my God, my family and the life I’ve been given.”



Following in his dad Andy Eck’s boot steps, Colt Eck shows championship form on a bareback bronc as a contestant in the Kansas High School Rodeo Association.



Andy and Bryce (just 13 then) Eck work together as father-son pickup men rescuing a cowboy from a rodeo bucking horse.



At the Linn County Fair Rodeo in Mound City, pickup man Andy Eck is mounted chute side as New Frontier Rodeo livestock is readied for arena action.

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a frustrated state of mind. It's not a lack of communication, it's a lack of understanding between horse and rider and what responses are being asked. This applies to all disciplines, our horses are a reflection of what we know, and how well we communicate with them and help them understand what we are asking. It's just that simple. You need to be able to ask for a response and get the same response every time from your horse. That's what's called a foundation. When a horse understands what is being asked of them they start to develop confidence in the rider/trainer. Always remember that we are constantly training our horse's minds to think and help them understand what responses we are asking for. Correct repetitions create good habits. Hope this helps! Have a great month of Training and God Bless!

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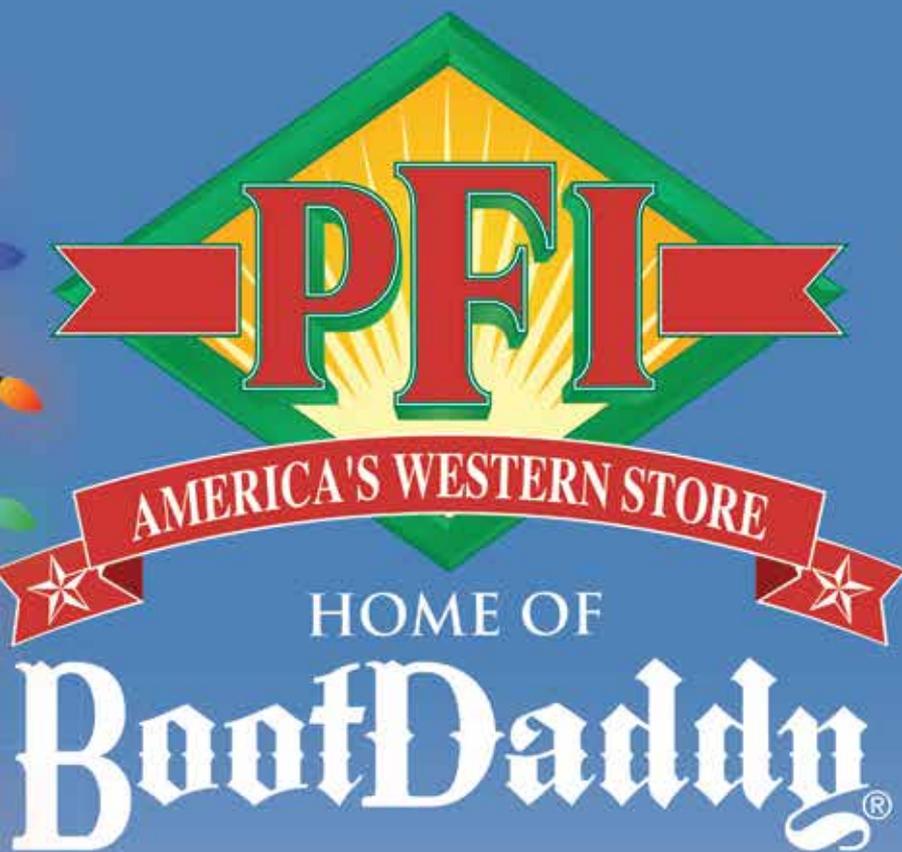
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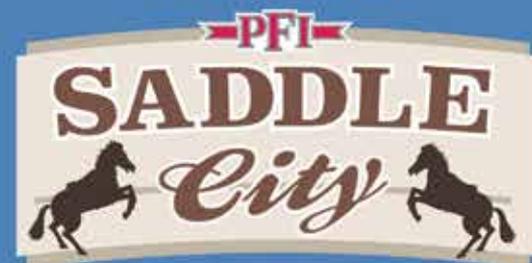
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