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MARCH 6-7-8, 2020

SCHEDULE INSIDE!

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Hello Friends,

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at this year's Equifest of Kansas at their new home in Salina, Kansas at the Tony's Pizza Event Center. What a great lineup scheduled for March 6, 7, & 8th, including great clinicians, Breeds, the Trade Show and much more including two nights of Ranch Rodeo Action. We have a complete schedule of Equifest inside this Edition on page 6.



Better Horses TV continues to grow it's network, picking up St. Joe's KQ2-TV and KOZL channel 27 in Springfield, MO. To keep up with all that is happening go to www.betterhorses.com. My hat goes off to all the trainers that have contributed to this issue of Better Horses. I am going to try to ramp up the horse information Better Horses can bring to you. Whether it is print, radio, or Better Horses TV. Like we always say, we want to take your horse experience to a higher level.

Join us for the 21st Annual Dream Ride in the Flint Hills September 11-13, 2020, at the beautiful Clover Cliff Ranch in Chase County Kansas. See information on page 8. Come join us, you won't regret it.

It really looks like the American Royal is moving to Kansas. We are so excited about the new facility they are planning to build. With each issue of Better Horses, you can follow what is currently scheduled with the American Royal and be able to follow the progress of the New American Royal project. This is a real privilege to be able to do this (see page 12). My vision as we move deeper into 2020 and warmer weather, is that Better Horses can help bring you more Equine Education and events. It is amazing to see the growth in the interest of the Ranch and Ranch Versatility classes. If you can, plan to attend the National Versatility Ranch Horse Show at the Lazy E Arena in Guthrie, Oklahoma this June. If you want to find out more about the Versatility Classes, head out to Salina and go to one of J Henson's sessions at Equifest on the Versatility Horse.

Make sure you post your events on our calendar of events page on our website by going to www.betterhorses.com. Have you listened to our Better Horses Podcast? Go to your podcast app on your mobile device. Type in Better Horses and "shazam" there you have our Better Horses Radio Show!

I look forward to seeing you this year and thank you for all you do.

Keep the Lord first in your life.

"Happy Trails" & Ride for the Brand"

Ernie

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New Locale And Better Than Ever Equifest Of Kansas Set For Salina

By Frank J. Buchman

It's the place to be for all things horse, whether inside, outside, touching, smelling, looking at in real life or by pictures, with interests in riding, driving, whatever.

If there's the slightest affection for horses, the Equifest of Kansas will make hearts pump with excitement for everyone.

This will be the 23rd edition promising to be the best-ever in a new locale uniquely adding to the appeal.

Get the elaborate coordination in brief from the one guiding all of the intimate details: Justine Staten of the Kansas Horse Council (KHC).

"We've been a year in the making, well actually 23 years, but everybody's anticipating the upcoming Equifest at Salina," Staten declared.

As the main fundraiser for the KHC representing every facet of equine enthusiasm, Equifest is the most anticipated event each year, she affirmed.

"Equifest began in Wichita and remained there for 18 years, then was in Topeka for four years, and Salina hosts beginning in 2020," the KHC executive director said.

Equifest of Kansas will be March 6, 7, & 8, 2020, at Tony's Pizza Event Center and Saline County Expo Center, Staten clarified.

Salina offers ample green space, centrally located to two major highways and service by an airport with daily flights, Staten noted. There are plenty of hotel options for every budget and convenient RV hookups for equine exhibitors and attendees who prefer to bring their own place to stay.

This year will boast new layout opportunities with four indoor vendor

locations as well as outdoors, several different competitions daily, educational and informational displays all around and various attractions in EVERY building. The workshops have expanded and are certain to appeal to all.

We are excited to have Adrian "Buckaroo girl" Brannan on hand for daily workshops and arena entertainment as she will open the Ranch Rodeo on Friday and Saturday nights singing the National Anthem, then come back at halftime to croon another tune!

Headline clinician is Chris Cox, one of this country's leading horsemen and greatest teachers. Influenced in his early years by both the English and Western traditions, Cox has implemented a proven style and technique that can be applied universally across all disciplines. "With his practical, straightforward approach, Chris teaches horse people how to achieve results," Staten said.

Highly respected equine educator, experienced dressage trainer and competitor is Mette Rosencrantz. Mette is a seven-time national championship competitor bringing several horses and riders to the International Grand Prix level. "In addition to equine teaching certification, Mette has a master's degree in physical sports education from Stockholm University," Staten said.

A native of Wichita, John Staples is an anticipated clinician discussing hunter jumper as well as cross country training and showing techniques. Staples was named an alternate to the 1988 United States Olympic Eventing Team. In 2011, he coached the Costa Rica National

Team. "John teaches at Windermere Stables in Wichita, while hosting nationwide clinics and designing and building cross country courses," Staten said.

Jay Henson, president of the National Versatility Ranch Horse Association (NVRHA), will demonstrate horse skills required on a working ranch. The NVRHA showcases the ranch horse among breed associations, the ranching community, professional horsemen and versatility ranch horse riders.

Sarah Track, teacher and coach at William Woods University since 2010, will present daily programs on saddle seat equitation. "Sarah has coached her students to many championships at the American Royal in addition to other major competitions," Staten said.

Trainer at Equus Curito Equine Center in Louisburg, Ashley Purdin has been a regular competitor in "Top Horse" for four years.



"Organizing the Battle of the Breeds for Equifest this year, Ashley is an accomplished equestrian," Staten said. "Ashley will share her savvy presenting tips for gaining a horse's focus and foundation skills for bridleless riding."

A regular educator for Back Country Horsemen of America, Casey Hufstader will review mule packing basics and how to fit a pack saddle. "Casey is an experienced back country horseman who regularly provides training for emergency management all over the world," Staten credited.

Equifest workshops are to



Chris Cox will headline clinicians and diverse horse enthusiast programs and opportunities at the Equifest of Kansas, in Salina March 6, 7, & 8, 2020.

feature saddle fitting, ranch horse versatility, distance riding, dressage and jumping, Kansas Fence Laws and Sales Tax overview. There'll be opportunities to learn about state park trails and agri-tourism, plus tips for selling used tack.

Jim Gray plans to share Old West tales about Abilene, cattle drives on the Chisolm Trail and the Smoky Hill River.

SPECIAL this year is the inaugural Legendary KS Horsemen panel. A Q&A opportunity with renowned Kansas horsemen Denny Hassett, Duane Walker, C.A. Cofer and Brent Wright who will relate stories of their competitive careers.

K-State Vet Med will be demonstrating live scoping and what they look for, daily in the new Kenwood Hall showcase.

Equine massage tips and equestrian yoga will also be in the Kenwood Hall showcase.

In addition to the Battle of the Breeds, competitions are to include a youth judging contest, mounted shooting, ranch rodeo, farrier contest and more. There'll be horse breed showcases, cowboy poetry and music, kid's corral, silent auction, draft horse teams, Western art and more.

"Shopping is one of the most anticipated aspects of the Equifest of Kansas," Staten insisted.

"Anything to do with equipment, outbuildings, home décor and outfits for horses and equine enthusiasts will be available at Equifest," she promised. A complete schedule, vendors list plus arena and workshop details can be found at www.equifestofks.com.

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23RD ANNUAL

EQUIFEST OF KANSAS

presented by



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Salina, KS

March 6, 7, & 8, 2020



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Vendor Hours

Friday 9:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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Meet Miss Rodeo Kansas 2020
Tiffany McCaffrey
and more visiting rodeo royalty!



Schedule

Friday, March 6th

TPEC Arena

9:30	Opening Ceremonies: Draft Team Hitch
9:45	Mounted Shooters: Novice Competition
10:30	Chris Cox: "Groundwork In Preparation for Riding"
12:00	Battle of Breeds: Pattern Class Competition
12:30	Mette Rosencrantz: "Thinking Outside of the Box"
1:30	Mounted Shooters: Amateur Competition
2:15	Rake Arena
2:30	Chris Cox: "Is it Me or My Horse?"
4:00	Rake Arena & Set Jumps
4:15	John Staples: "Gymnastics: Bringing Your Flatwork into Your Jumping"
5:15	Parade of Breeds
5:45	Bring in Cattle/Announcer Break
6:15	Draft Team Hitch Demo
6:30	Opening Ceremonies & Introductions
7:00	Liberty, Inc. TravAlum Ranch Rodeo Competition

Ag Hall Arena

7:30	Horse Judging Competition
10:00	Opening Ceremonies: American Freedom Riders Drill Team
10:15	Special Demos & Breeds: U.S. Cavalry, MO Fox Trotters, BLM Mustangs
11:00	Sarah Track: "Equitation/Form to Function"
12:00	Laura Stimatz: "The Possibilities of a Working Cowdog"
1:00	Rake Arena
1:15	Jay Henson: "What is Ranch Versatility"
2:15	Ashley Purdin & Rhonda Martin: "Maximizing Your Horse's Potential"
3:15	Special Demos & Breeds: US. Cavalry, Rocky Mountains, Paso Finos
4:00	Casey Hufstader: "Mule Pack String"
5:00	Laura Stimatz: "Cowdog Selection and Puppy Training"
6:15	Ranch Rodeo Team Meeting

Kenwood Hall Showcase

12:00	Purina Equine Nutrition
1:00	Dr. Dylan Lutter: Live Horse Demo: "sports medicine and laser therapy benefits for your horse"
2:00	Tucker Stewart: "Kansas Fence Laws & Ag Sales Taxes"
3:00	Dendria McLaughlin & Julie Frank: Live Horse Demo: "Equestrian Yoga for Horse & Human"

Workshop Rooms

9:30	Rhonda Martin: "Improve Your Horse's Self Carriage and Comfort - Core Activation and Topline Strength Building for the Horse"
9:45	Dr. Andy Hawkins: "Equine Disposal Guidance"
10:30	Mette Rosencrantz: "The Importance of Cross Training for All Horses & Disciplines"
10:45	Michael Hook: "Old Town Abilene, 160 years in the Making"
11:30	Matt Jobe: "How to Get Involved in Mounted Shooting"
11:45	Sue Stringer: "Resources for Getting Started in Agritourism"
12:30	Jim Gray: "Head 'Em Up! Move 'Em Out! The Old West Texas Cattle Trails"
12:45	Casey Hufstader: "Mule Packing"
1:30	John Staples: "Bringing Your Flatwork Into Your Jumping"
2:00	4-H Special Presenter: Adrian Buckaroo girl, "The West Wasn't Won On A Salad"
2:30	Sue Stringer: "Resources for Getting Started in Agritourism"
2:45	4-H and Open Horse Judging Awards
3:30	Jay Henson: "What is the National Versatility Ranch Horse Association?"
4:00	Sarah Track: "Equitation, Form To Function"
4:30	Andrea Caponetto: "Buying Tack Online"

Schedule



Saturday, March 7th

TPEC Arena

- 9:30 Opening Ceremonies: Draft Team Hitch
- 9:45 Mounted Shooters: Pro Competition
- 10:30 Chris Cox: "Connecting the Reins, Feet & Seat"
- 12:00 Rake Arena & Set Obstacles
- 12:15 Battle of Breeds: Driving Competition
- 1:00 Mette Rosencrantz: "Warm Up Exercises"
- 2:00 Chris Cox: "Building Rider Confidence"
- 3:30 Rake Arena & Set Jumps
- 3:45 John Staples: "Cross Country: How to Influence the Horse"
- 4:45 Battle of Breeds: Jumping Competition
- 5:45 Bring in Cattle/Announcer Break
- 6:15 Draft Team Hitch Demo
- 6:30 Opening Ceremonies & Introductions
- 7:00 Liberty, Inc. TravAlum Ranch Rodeo Competition

Ag Hall Arena

- 9:30 Opening Ceremonies: American Freedom Riders Drill Team
- 9:45 Ashley Purdin: "foundation for Bridle-less Riding"
- 10:45 Special Demos & Breeds: U.S. Cavalry, Rocky Mountains, Paso Finos
- 11:30 Rake Arena
- 11:45 Sarah Track: "Saddle Seat Horsemanship"
- 12:45 Jay Henson: "Cattle Class: Ranch Cutting & Working Ranch"
- 1:45 Casey Hufstader: "Mule Pack String"
- 2:45 Special Demos & Breeds: U.S. Cavalry, MO Fox Trotters, BLM Mustangs
- 3:30 American Freedom Riders Drill Team Freestyle Demo
- 4:00 Rake Arena
- 4:15 Laura Stimatz: "Cowdog Training"
- 6:15 Ranch Rodeo Team Meeting

Kenwood Hall Showcase

- 11:00 Dr. Katie Delph: Live Horse Demo: "upper airway disease, stranglers, and the benefits of endoscopy"
- 1:00 Dendria McLaughlin & Julie Frank: Live Horse Demo: "equestrian Yoga for Horse & Human"
- 3:00 Dr. Katie Delph: Live Horse Demo: "stomach ulcers and the benefits of scoping your horse before treatment"
- 4:00 Purina Equine Nutrition

Workshop Rooms

- 9:30 Jay Henson: "Tack, Equipment & What Kind of Horse"
- 9:45 Caden Butler: "Estate Succession Planning"
- 10:30 Mette Rosencrantz: "Preparing Your Horse & Self for the Show Season"
- 10:45 Casey Hufstader: "Mule Packing"
- 11:30 Matt Jobe: "How to Get Involved in Mounted Shooting"
- 11:45 Erin Glassman: "Distance Equestrian Sports"
- 12:30 Jim Gray: "Trailin' Longhorns on the Chisholm Trail"
- 12:45 Adrian Buckaroo-girl: "Dear Cowgirl: Riding Through the Tough Stuff"
- 1:30 John Staples: "How To Influence The Horse"
- 1:45 Andrea Caponetto: "Selling Tack Online"
- 2:45 Sarah Track: "Saddle Seat Horsemanship"
- 3:30 Legendary Kansas Horsemen

Sunday, March 8th

TPEC Arena

- 9:30 Opening Ceremonies: Draft Team Hitch
- 9:45 Mette Rosencrantz: "Lateral Movements"
- 10:45 John Staples: "Stadium Jumping: How to Ride Forward Into Balance"
- 11:45 Remove Jumps
- 12:00 Draft Team Hitch Demo
- 1:00 Rake Arena
- 1:15 Chris Cox: "Controlling Head Tossing & Stiffness"
- 2:45 Rake Arena
- 3:00 Battle of Breeds: Freestyle Finals Competition
- 4:15 Happy Trails! End of Equifest 2020!

Ag Hall Arena

- 10:30 Opening Ceremonies: American Freedom Riders Drill Team
- 10:45 Jay Henson: "Versatility Ranch Riding & Ranch Trail"
- 11:45 Special Demos & Breeds: U.S. Cavalry, Rocky Mountains, Paso Finos
- 12:30 Sarah Track: "Horse Show Ringmanship for the Saddle Seat Rider"
- 1:30 American Freedom Riders Drill Team Freestyle Display 30 min.
- 2:00 Special Demos & Breeds: U.S. Cavalry, MO Fox Trotters, BLM Mustangs
- 2:15 Laura Stimatz: "Cowdog Trialing: Getting Started"
- 3:15 End in Ag Hall Arena

Kenwood Hall Showcase

- 11:00 Purina Equine Nutrition
- 12:00 Dendria McLaughlin & Julie Frank: Live Horse Demo: "Equestrian Yoga for Horse & Human"
- 1:00 Dr. Jason Grady: Live Horse Demo: "Endoscopic Evaluation of the Mare's Reproductive Tract"
- 2:00 J.T. Burnley: "How horses can help a child rise from crisis through healing and hope... JT's journey and childhood experiences move him to an International Dressage rider."

Workshop Rooms

- 10:30 J.T. Burnley: "Healing, Hope, & Horses"
- 10:45 Sarah Track: "Horse Show Ringmanship for the Saddle Seat Rider"
- 11:30 Rhonda Martin: "Equine Bodywork and Saddle Fit Basics for the Horseman -Understanding Equine Brain, Pain, and Training"
- 11:45 Adrian Buckaroo-girl: "Failure"
- 12:30 Jim Gray: "Trail's End at the Smoky Hill River"
- 12:45 Erin Glassman BCHA-KS Pres. & Wendy Bowles of Kanopolis State Park: "Kansas Treasures: State Park Trails"
- 1:30 Michael Hook: "Old Town Abilene, 160 years in the Making"
- 1:45 John Staples: "How To Ride Forward Into Balance"

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A Cowboy's Faith

By Frank J. Buchman

Memory Most Important Sense where something was left.

"What time is it? What day is it?
What month is it?"

Those are very serious questions
when one doesn't know the answer.

Mom was always very conscious
of what time it was, but when that
became unimportant she lost sense
of worthiness. Or so it seemed lack
of desire to care about anything that
was happening.

Memory is one of the most
important senses one has, perhaps
the most important of all. People in
younger years too often joke about
not remembering what they did or

Everybody forgets certain things,
but when one doesn't know who
they are, what they're doing, or
anything around them, it's terrible.

Dementia and Alzheimer's disease
are two of the worst and most
dreaded illnesses in the world. While
certain treatments have shown
to be limitedly effective, in reality
there appears to be low cure for the
ailment.

It's been said one prefers to be
physically incapacitated rather than
completely mentally deficient. Both
are bad, but it's sure important to
know what is happening around one

even if unable to participate.

Research on the problem
continues with few positive results
commonly considering it an
uncontrollable inherent issue. That
appears true as those with memory
issues in their family often have
similar difficulties despite efforts to
prevent.

Keeping the body and mind active
and interested in everything that's
going on does help prevent memory
loss it's said.

Yet there are certain incidents
such as a wreck nearly five decades
ago that cannot be remembered.
Things before and after are recalled
completely, and stories heard and
read can be recited, but no precise
details.

Likewise there is no reflection
of specifics from a recent serious
health setback except what
happened before and after. The
stories that are told about the
situation become blurred with the
actual facts. Timelines surrounding
it all are completely array confusing
from one conversation to the next.

However, remembrances of
early childhood activities, teachers,
classmates, certain horses, horse
shows, and delivering groceries are
all precisely vivid.

With poor memory comes
lack of desire, low energy, and
procrastination which has always
been an issue of sorts. Blame
it on the medicines and hope to
remember more.

Reminded of Psalm 88:9: "I call to
you, God; I wring my hands, I plead
for my memory."

+++ALLELUIA+++



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Bloodlines Built by the Flint Hills

By Andrew Oleen

Anyone living outside of the Midwest with a cursory idea of Kansas would find the Flint Hills to be a geographical oddity. Preconceived notions of flat, characterless land that the Great Plains are known for would conflict with the view that these neighboring band of hills provide. Soft and steep curves, covered in tallgrass prairie that sways in the wind, colliding and moving as one large sea of green, undulating waves. At the crest of these rolling hills you will find rim rock acting like sentinels, orbiting the heads of the hilltops. Limestone that has resisted erosion juts out exposed and worn smooth by weather and time, sometimes hidden with the rich bluestem grass.

The beauty that this varied and unyielding land holds is also what has preserved it. The rocky soil has deterred any potential sodbuster from tilling up the native grass. Overlooking the odd powerline or highway, this unique land has been able to exist and retain its significant look for centuries, allowing ranchers and their livestock to thrive in the Flint Hills. Cattle dot the hilltops grazing all day long to their hearts' content during the spring and summer months. But when it's time

for the cattle to come home, how can a rancher be assured all critters are accounted for? It sounds like the perfect terrain for a sure-footed Oleen Quarter Horse.

On the Oleen Brothers Ranch it's hard to imagine not having horses as an available tool to assist in the daily cattle operation. Located in Dwight, Kansas, in the Heart of the Flint Hills, it's especially crucial to maintain a work horse herd. Whether it be an older cow that has grown wise to a feed truck that heads for the corral, a renegade calf not quite ready to leave mother come weaning time, or herds that lack incentive to climb out from their watering hole, there aren't a lot of options when cattle won't cooperate. It's hard enough at times to traverse this land on foot and can be virtually impossible with an ATV. Sometimes four wheels just aren't enough. That's why Arden and Jan Oleen decided to begin their own horse breeding program.

During the early 80's, with their budding cattle operation of registered Horned Herefords and later registered Angus cattle, the Oleen Brothers deemed it imperative to have a steady flow of hardworking horses to ride for the ranch. This venture began with the purchase

of their first stallion, a grandson of Leo, named Speed N Crome. The Brothers' herd started with a mare that Arden had ridden for several years and was very fond of, named Lacy Taylor. She was a bay great granddaughter of Leo who traced to King on her dam's side. Several other mares bred were traced to the lineage of Old Taylor (who was by King and out of a daughter of Poco Bueno), Peter McCue and Leo. Speed N Crome has since passed, along with his prodigious son JAK Black Leo who died in 2018, but their bloodlines live on through Black Leo's grandson JA Valentine Skeet and the countless Leo mares that exhibit strong maternal traits, including their abundant milk which sets up any colt for success.

Jan and Arden appreciate all breeds of horses but have found the Quarter Horse to be a perfect fit for handling cattle. Selecting the best traits that quarter horses have to offer, much like their cattle herd, is approached with rigorous scrutiny. Beginning with disposition, a "mind for cattle" is a necessity. A horse that watches as well as listens to it's rider is a must. Athleticism is a no brainer, keeping up with cattle in difficult terrain requires big boned

horses to weather the sharp terrain and strong muscle definition to generate that shock of speed when you need it most. "We need good horses to get the days' workload done." Jan explains. "We take the same approach as we do with cattle. We identify the bloodlines and the crosses that work for us and then we know they'll work for our customers. Horses or cattle, it doesn't matter, we don't sell anything we wouldn't use ourselves."

Oleen Brothers have had a Production Sale for over thirty years, always the fourth Monday of March (this year March 23, 2020). Selling Registered Horned Hereford and Black Angus Bulls as well as replacement heifers, both fall bred and spring pairs (Hereford, Angus and Black Baldies). Since their horse program has grown, Jan and Arden have included colts in their sale for more than twenty of those years. "Our Horse Herd has grown beyond the numbers we need as an operation," says Arden. "We are now looking to outfit other cattle operators with horses defined by the same disposition, conformation and performance that we require in our horses so they can thrive and grow."



Blythe Pasture



Morgan Pasture



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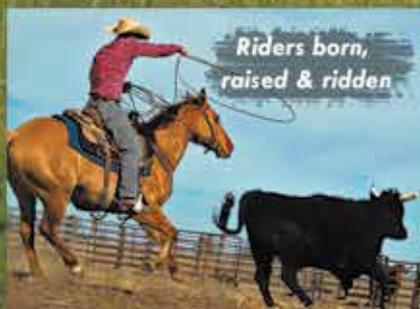
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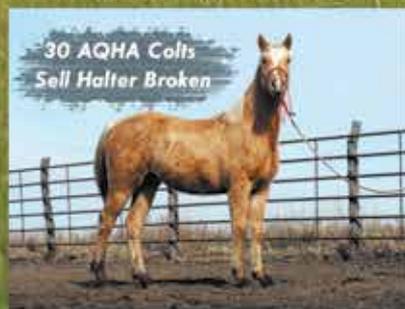
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For Immediate Release
December 10, 2019

American Royal Plants Roots, Celebrates Future Home

American Royal acquires land for “Epicenter of Agriculture”

KANSAS CITY, KS – The American Royal Association is one step closer to its future home after recently acquiring 115 acres in Kansas City, Kansas. The Association’s vision is to be the national destination for the food and agriculture industry, the Epicenter of Agriculture – a vision that will elevate the presence of the longstanding Kansas City tradition.

The American Royal purchased 47 acres earlier this year. Recently, the Patterson Family Foundation acquired 80 neighboring acres and signed a 99-year lease agreement with the American Royal Association for 68 of those acres, providing the American Royal a total of 115 acres for the new complex.

“My late father, Neal Patterson, believed in the value the American

Royal holds for the future of agriculture,” said Lindsey Patterson Smith, member of the American Royal Board of Directors and Director of the Patterson Family Foundation. “While we wish he were here to see this progress, my family and I are proud to be involved in this important initiative and are excited to see what the future holds. This is about more than just building a state-of-the-art complex; it is about creating a place where relevant conversations and events around food, fiber and fuel happen. The American Royal will be a hub that brings people of all ages and backgrounds together to celebrate and advance the industry that impacts all of us every day.”

Earlier this fall, the American Royal submitted its preliminary

development plan to the Unified Government of Wyandotte County. This submission was the first in a series of requirements the American Royal will complete over the next six months. On December 9, the Planning Commission of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County approved the preliminary development plan and the special use permit for the American Royal complex.

The one million plus square foot complex with accompanying outdoor plaza/arena will allow for an expansion of the current 14-week programming to 365 days of the year. The highly flexible facility features over 800,000 square feet of indoor, programmable event space including significant barn and exposition areas, three performance arenas, one warm-up arena, a large educational area with integration throughout the entire complex, and over 50,000 square feet of high-end exhibit space.

The American Royal has been a nationally recognized brand of excellence for more than a century. Beginning in 1899 as the National Hereford Show, the American Royal

has evolved into a comprehensive season of food and agriculture activity, hosting a variety of events. Today, the Kansas City tradition celebrates its 120-year anniversary and is experiencing a successful year of growth and expanded reach.

“Support for the American Royal is strong and growing,” said Glen Alan Phillips, president and CEO of the American Royal. “We have contestants coming to Kansas City from over 38 states and 14 countries to compete in our various events. Our livestock and equine shows were up in entries and maxed out the current facilities. Our Pro Rodeo sold out, including 200 standing-room-only tickets, and the American Royal World Series of Barbecue continues to be the world’s largest barbecue competition. We’re excited about this continued growth and the opportunities the new complex will provide to fill these needs in the future.”

To create and construct this industry hub, the American Royal selected JE Dunn Construction and Gould Evans as the design-build team.

Randy Bredar, Executive Vice



President of JE Dunn Construction noted, "Like the American Royal, JE Dunn Construction has roots that run deep in Kansas City and across the region. We are honored to be working alongside the leadership of the American Royal and Gould Evans on a project of this magnitude and importance. Together, we are ready to design and construct the nation's Epicenter of Agriculture, right here in our home of Kansas City."

"This is one of those design opportunities that, at its core, combines a rich history with a

dynamic vision and the challenge to create the experiences that celebrate both," said Tony Rohr, National Managing Principal at Gould Evans. "We are proud to be a part of the team to bring the American Royal vision to life."

A ceremonial groundbreaking is expected Spring 2020, with construction beginning Summer 2020. The core complex is to be complete by winter of 2021.

www.americanroyal.com/ournewhome



About the American Royal Association

A Kansas City tradition since 1899, the American Royal currently provides opportunities for youth and adults from around the world to compete in a variety of events including our Livestock Show, Pro Rodeo, Equine Shows, and the World Series of Barbecue. These events allow the American Royal, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, to give over \$1 million annually for youth scholarships and to support agriculture education programs.

2020 AMERICAN ROYAL Activities & Events

Youth Leadership Day.....	Feb 21
Backyard BBQ & Steak Cook-Off.....	March 20-21
Annual Meeting/Volunteer Appreciation.....	Apr 23
BBQ Rub Contest.....	Apr 26
BBQ Sauce Contest.....	May 3
Leadership Summit.....	Jun 17
Steak Contest.....	Jul 28
The Royal Showcase - A Youth & Open Horse Show.....	Aug 8-9
Cutting Horse Show.....	Aug 21-23
Quarter Horse Show.....	Sept 3-6
World Series of Barbecue®.....	Sept 17-20
Field Trip (formerly known as School Tours).....	Sept 22-25
Youth Rodeo.....	Sept 22-25
Pro Rodeo.....	Sept 25-26
Hunter/Jumper Horse Show.....	Oct 6-10
TableSteaks.....	Oct 8
Livestock Show.....	Oct 14-25
Jr. Premium Livestock Auction.....	Oct 18
BOTAR Ball.....	Oct 24
UPHA National Championship Horse Show.....	Nov 9-14
Uptown Hoedown.....	Nov 21
Arabian Horse Show.....	Dec 5-6

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Blister Beetles & Alfalfa: A Guide to Protecting Your Horse

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Citation: Hanna
 Royals, Museum
 Collections:
 Coleoptera, USDA
 APHIS PPQ,
 Bugwood.org

Blister Beetles: What's the big deal?

Just hearing the words “Blister Beetles” is enough to cause panic among many horse owners, and for good reason: ingestion of just a few grams of these tiny bugs can be rapidly fatal to horses. Blister Beetles are commonly found across the United States, and they tend to congregate in alfalfa fields (as they are attracted by the flowering alfalfa). The most common species in the Midwest tends to be the Striped Blister Beetle (pictured above). The beetles produce a toxin called Cantharidin that when ingested is readily absorbed by the gastrointestinal (GI) tract and excreted by the kidneys, leaving a trail of damage along its path.

Signs of Blister Beetle Ingestion

Blister beetle ingestion and subsequent Cantharidin Toxicosis may present in several different ways depending on the amount ingested. The onset of clinical signs can vary from hours to days after eating, and severity of clinical signs can range from mild abdominal discomfort to severe colic and acute death. The most frequently reported signs are:

- Depression
- Anorexic/decreased appetite
- Abdominal pain/colic signs
- Frequent drinking/submerging muzzle in water
- Frequent attempts to urinate with or without voiding urine
- Increased heart rate, respiratory

rate, or rectal temperature

- Dark pink mucus membranes (gums/oral mucosal surfaces)

If untreated, symptoms can progress to erosions (ulcers) on the oral mucosal surfaces, blood tinged urine, shock, heart failure, and death. Due to its rapid progression, it is extremely important to contact your veterinarian IMMEDIATELY if you suspect that your horse has ingested alfalfa contaminated with blister beetles.

Diagnosis By Your Veterinarian

It is often hard to definitively diagnose Cantharidin Toxicosis on just clinical signs alone, so veterinarians like to perform several laboratory tests in order to help gain more information. Early in the course of diagnostic testing, stomach contents and urine may be collected and sent off for analysis to detect Cantharidin. Blood samples may also be drawn and tested, as several typical abnormalities can occur from Cantharidin Toxicosis; these include hypocalcemia (low blood calcium), hypomagnesemia (low blood magnesium), hypoproteinemia (low blood protein), and sometimes elevated Creatine Kinase (muscle enzyme). These tests will help veterinarians in determining the severity of disease and prognosis for survival.

Treatment Options

The main options for treating Cantharidin toxicosis focus on

prompt and persistent treatment of the clinical symptoms, since no antidote is available:

- *Gastric Lavage:* Affected horses will have a nasogastric tube passed by the veterinarian and have all stomach contents removed (this is often when the stomach content sample is collected). The veterinarian may also choose to administer Mineral Oil (laxative) or Activated Charcoal (absorbent) in order to try to prevent further toxin absorption by the intestinal tract.

- *Intravenous fluid therapy:* IV fluids are very important and necessary to help correct any dehydration an affected horse may experience, and to promote diuresis through the kidneys (to minimize toxic renal damage). Depending on the results from blood samples drawn, the veterinarian may also add in calcium and/or magnesium to the IV fluids if the horse is hypocalcemic/hypomagnesemic.

- *Analgesia:* As you can imagine, the significant amount of GI irritation and inflammation that occurs from Cantharidin toxicosis can be very painful for affected horses. For this reason, veterinarians often administer Non-Steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (such as Banamine) to help decrease inflammation and pain.

- *Other Medications:* Depending on the individual case, veterinarians may administer other medications to help with GI irritation. For example, Sucralfate is a medication given by mouth and binds to gastric ulceration, acting as a “band-aid” to help prevent further mucosal irritation.

Prevention is Key

Even in the earliest cases of

diagnosis and treatment, prognosis for survival can be guarded.

Prevention is the key to protecting your horse, and there are several recommended steps to take:

- Closely inspect each flake of alfalfa hay being fed to your horse. The number of crushed beetles can vary widely within a bale; even if a flake from one end of the bale is beetle-free, a flake from the other end could contain many!
- Try to buy first-cutting hay or last-cutting hay. Bales from the first cutting are usually harvested prior to beetle emergence in the fields, and bales from the last cutting are usually baled after adult beetles become inactive.
- If first or last-cutting hay is not available, ask your hay supplier if they inspect their fields prior to harvesting. If Blister Beetles are noticed in certain areas of the field, harvesting these areas should be avoided for several days until the beetles have left.

Take-Home Point: Blister Beetles can be deadly, but with careful harvesting practices, close inspection of your alfalfa, and vigilant monitoring for clinical signs, your horse can safely enjoy the health benefits of alfalfa hay!

Sources:

David G. Schmitz, DVM, MS, DACVIM (LA). *Overview of Cantharidin Poisoning. Merck Veterinary Manual.*
 Schmitz, DG. *Cantharidin toxicosis in horses. J Vet Intern Med. 1989; 3:208–215.*





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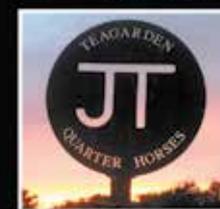
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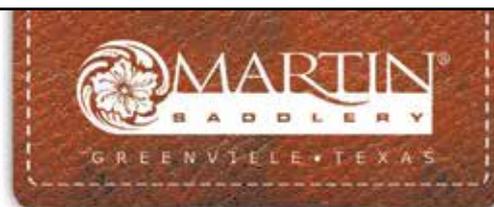


Hearty Grub with Mark Burkdoll

Creamy Cheesy Grits

1 cup Quick Grits (not instant)
2 cups water
1 cup milk
1 cup heavy cream
1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
1/2 cup shredded swiss cheese
4 or 5 slices bacon (diced)
1/2 cup chopped onion
1/4 jalapeño pepper (diced fine)
salt and pepper

Cook the bacon to crispy then add the onions and peppers and cook until tender. Put the water, milk and cream in a pot and bring it to a boil, slowly whisking the grits into the liquid. Reduce heat and stir occasionally. When the grits get tender add the cheese and bacon mixture and stir to incorporate. You can adjust the thickness by adding milk or water.

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Horses Old And Young Can Have Longer Productive Lives

By Frank J. Buchman

A combination of better understanding management with innovative nutrients and supplementations Old and young horses' lives can be improved with a combination of better understanding management with innovative nutrients and supplementations.

Dr. Fred Gardner had the auditorium of horse enthusiasts all ears in his entertaining educational presentation substantiating that statement.

At a supper meeting hosted by Roger Brummel of Brummel Farm Service at Garnett, the horse doctor's discussion highlighted personal experiences.

Ernie Rodina, known as The Horse Guy from the Better Horses Network coordinated the session with 14 additional sponsors.

A horse owner since childhood, Gardner was a general practice owner of the Countryside Veterinary Clinic. "No longer an owner, I now work at the clinic specializing in equine care and treatment," the veterinarian explained.

Handling all aspects of horse health issues, Gardner was emphatic in crediting equine technician

Lisa Johnston for her dedicated assistance. "Lisa does the hard dirty work and I take the credit," Gardner acknowledged in most serious jive.

In typical smiling always congenial commentary, Gardner apologetically, yet with obvious pride, announced the birth of his granddaughter.

"I've been procrastinating in preparing this program because Jackie and I had to see our new granddaughter," he exclaimed. "When we heard the good news, Jackie started making quilts, and of course I got her a pair of ponies.

"Every little girl must have a pony," he smiled. "So I got her both Bonnie and Clyde that way we knew we had the best one for our granddaughter."

Of course, grandbaby pictures along with her own ponies were shown to the audience. "I had to try them out," Gardner continued smilingly displaying pictures driving one pony with a cart at the fair.

"There aren't as many horses being raised nowadays, so extending the life of productive horses becomes more important," Gardner said.

"Fortunately, we have lots of things we can do to keep an older horse usable longer," the horse doctor insisted.

Shack is Gardner's own horse which he showed photos of and explained how the old animal has maintained usefulness.

"He has a proven show record, but health issues have prevented him from performing at his earlier potential," Gardner said. "However, we've been able to manage those concerns with feet and teeth care plus nutrition so Lisa shows him successfully.



Ernie Rodina known as The Horse Guy for the Better Horses was moderator for the Winter Horses Meeting hosted by Roger Brummel of Brummel Farm Service at Garnett. The educational, entertaining program was also sponsored by 14 additional businesses.

"Shack is still crippled but with corrective shoeing, regular teeth treatment, supplements and the right feed, they win," the doctor verified. "However, Shack does have the ability and heart which are also essential ingredients with the rider's training and handling."

Pictures of Gardner's other old horse called Trigger were also shown explaining despite age he has a useful life. "Lisa has Trigger too and does quite well riding and showing him with the required management and handling," Gardner credited.

Obesity and lameness are often the most frequent problems in older horses. "We always want to feed our horses, but often they get too much feed and do too little," Gardner said. "It's best to have an area where the horse can exercise on its own and have access to forage."

Grazing pasture is desirable with the vitamins and minerals naturally provided by the grasses.

"If you feed hay, additional vitamins, minerals and amino acids are needed," the horse doctor said. "Horses generally do well on

forage rations alone. However, daily feeding of concentrates is fine, but it's essential to have a balanced nutritional diet for the horse."

Big round bales of hay are a convenient horse feed source but require certain management, according to the veterinarian. He showed pictures of how he puts the hay in large bags to limit waste and improve consumption.

"The accumulation of uneaten hay and horse droppings must be cleaned up to prevent horse feet damage," Gardner explained.

During the winter, long hair can create an inaccurate assessment of a horse's condition. "Be sure the horse is in adequate flash, and it's not just a lot of hair," Gardner advised. "Horse body condition can be evaluated with tapes available from feed dealers."

A horse's teeth have a major influence on their consumption. "Regular teeth checkups are essential to make sure a horse is consuming the feed he's being given," the horse doctor said.

"Sharp hooks can develop on
Continued on the next page



Lifelong horse enthusiast-horse owner, veterinarian Dr. Fred Gardner enthusiastically shares personal horse experiences and recommendations for horse care at a meeting in Garnett.

teeth making slow and inadequate chewing so these points must be filed down," he explained.

Proper hoof care is as important as proper nutrition, the veterinarian said. "A horse should have regular trimming and evaluation every five weeks, some horses even more often than that," Gardner insisted. "Many lameness situations can be treated with proper shoeing and using modern medicines we didn't use to have."

Water is the most essential nutrition ingredient for horses, often overlooked in both hot and cold weather.

"I have an automatic waterer that operates without electricity but provides clean water at all times," Gardner said. "This may not be the best, but it sure works better than chopping ice or a bucket of dirty water."

Ponies are often easy keepers requiring a watchful eye from owners. "Now Bonnie and Clyde like to eat, but they can eat too much if I don't watch them," Gardner stated. "They do well on grass and hay, but must not over consume or laminitis known as founder can become an issue."

Young horses require correct management to ensure successful careers. "While proper nutrition is essential, too often young horses are fed too much as well," Gardner informed. "Balanced feed rations with adequate vitamins and minerals plus regular daily exercise are required for a developing performance prospect."

In conclusion, the devout horse caretaker declared, "With modern medicine and proper management, horses have longer healthier lives than ever."



New Location, New Sale Records for Triangle's "January Sale"

**Feb. 5, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Oklahoma City, Okla.— There was an obvious buzz of excitement amid a standing room only crowd for the annual Triangle Winter Sale, held Jan. 23-25 in Oklahoma City's State Fair Park. The crisp air and optimal timing for both buyers and sellers has historically made the sale, dubbed the "January Sale," among the most anticipated horse sale events in the nation.

This year's relocation from longtime sale site in Shawnee, Oklahoma, to Oklahoma City upped the energy level even more, and closed with another record-breaking net average of \$8,500. The average was achieved with an impressive 88-percent sales completion on 641 catalogued horses, less withdrawals, and surpassed last year's record-breaking Winter Sale average by \$300—while including 94 additional consignments.

"To have an increase in the overall average with nearly 100 more horses in the sale is remarkable," says Jim Ware, owner of Triangle Horse Sales. "It wasn't just one category of horses that sold good— each session sold really well. And to have completed sale numbers like we did is unheard of in this kind of consignment sale. Reaching an 88-percent sale rate is unbelievable."

The three-day sale event kicked off Thursday evening, Jan. 23 with a newly introduced session named the Performance Triangle. This session featured cutting, reining and cow horse consignments that were black-type 2018 prospects and breeding stock, which averaged \$9,250. The



Sarah and Mozaun McKibben of Whitesboro, Texas, led the way at the 37th Triangle Winter Sale with the two high-sellers. Hip 342, OBR Going To Be A Star, a 6-year-old Pony of Americas gelding sold for \$115,000 to the Shane Barrington family of Weatherford, Texas. And Hip 319, Gunners Top Jessie, a 2012 gray gelding sold for \$75,000 to Autry Morlan of Bloomfield, Mo.

sale session included a dinner hosted by Oklahoma State Fair Park and the Oklahoma City Convention and Visitor's Bureau as a welcome to the new location for guests that included buyers attending from three foreign countries and 33 states in the US.

At the forefront of the Winter Sale excitement was a flashy chestnut leopard pony that triggered a pre-sale flurry of interest as Hip No. 342, consigned by Mozaun and Sarah McKibben, Whitesboro, Texas. When OBR Going To Be A Star (a 6-year-old Pony of Americas gelding), affectionately known as "Skittles" entered the sale ring, all eyes were on him waiting to see the outcome.

In the end, the gavel closed on a \$115,000 sale after tug-of-war



bidding, with "Skittles" ultimately going to the Shane Barrington family of Weatherford, Texas. The sale made "Skittles" the sale topper and a national record sale for a family gelding.

The sale also featured exceptionally strong geldings age three years and older, which averaged \$18,000 on the top 50 head sold, while all 115 in this category

averaged \$11,500. The strong top sales created a Top 10 average of \$46,000 and helped advance 136 horses into Triangle's Top \$10,000 Club—the largest number from any one sale since the designation was first implemented in 2015.

Ware says the progressively strong averages the last few years have been reflective of the nation's positive economy and escalating demand for performance horses. Since Triangle's 2015 Winter Sale, which reached an overall average of \$6,500, the Top 100 Sales average has increased drastically, reaching \$19,000 for Winter Sale 2020.

"It's a reflection of the overall economy," Ware says. "The horse market has experienced ups and downs throughout my lifetime for different reasons, but right now we're experiencing a good, good market. All kinds of horses are in demand and bringing top money."

The second-high sale was achieved by a reining gelding, Hip No. 319, Gunners Top Jessie (Gunners Peppy Oak X Topsail Jessie Girl by Top Cruise) for \$75,000. The gray 2012 gelding was also consigned by Mozaun and Sarah McKibben and purchased by Autry Morlan, Bloomfield, Missouri. Gunners Top Jessie led sales for reining-bred horses, which was the highest averaging discipline of the sale at \$18,500 per head for National Reining Horse Association money earners and \$8,800 for all categories of reiners including mares and prospects.

Another top sale was Hip No. 541, Metallic Style (Metallic Cat X Docs Stylish Legacy by Docs Stylish Oak), purchased for \$42,000 by Jose Ortega, Burbank, Illinois, and sold by Rob and Sue Stevenson of Mineola, Iowa. The 2014 red roan stallion was the leading sale among cutting/cow

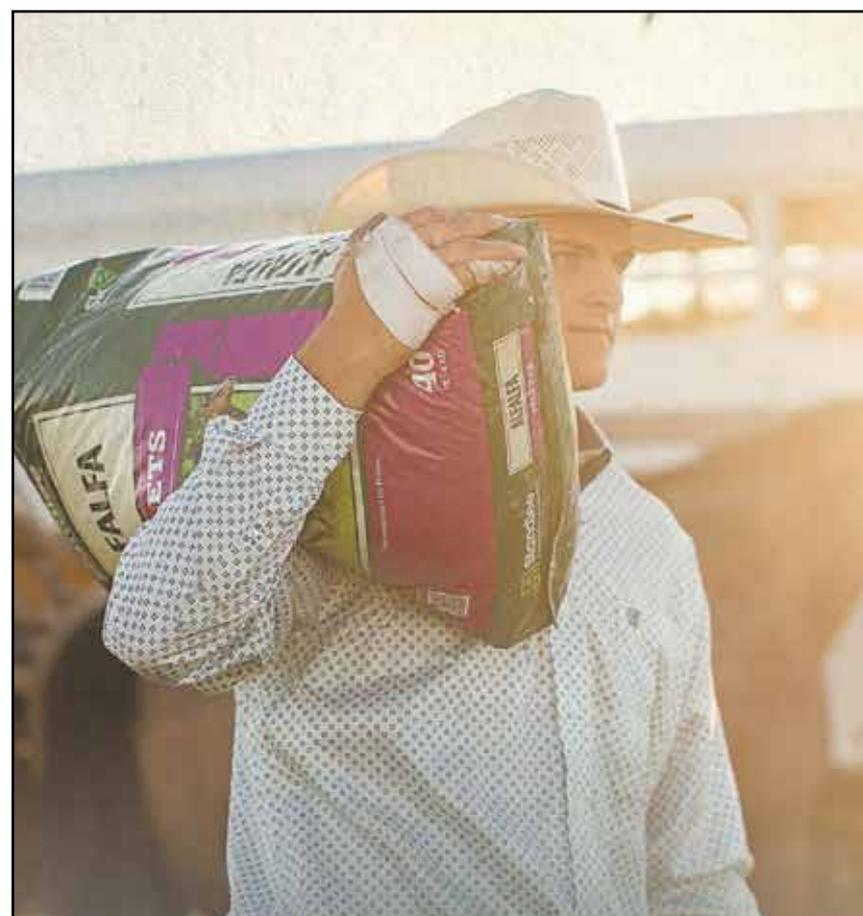
horse bred consignments, averaging \$15,050 for National Cutting Horse Association money earners and \$10,050 for all categories.

Flag Ranch, Torrington, Wyoming, was a featured consignor, dispersing 72 horses, and gleaning two of the top sales. Hip No. 386, First Prize Diver (PYC Paint Your Wagon X First Prize Pearl by Mr Jess Perry) sold for \$41,000 as a multi-disciplined roping/barrel racing competitor. The 2012 gelding was purchased by Richard Montera, Greeley, Colorado, while Red White N Smooth (Smooth As A Cat x Star Fillaree by Gray's Starlight) followed closely as Hip No. 398 for \$40,500. Flag Ranch sold the 2012 stallion as a competitive roping horse to Robert Witte, Overbrook, Okla.

The Flag Ranch dispersal finished with an impressive average of \$12,700 (stallions and mares), as did the Shawnee Session at \$7,250.

The Triangle Spring Sale is slated for May 1-2, 2020 at Oklahoma City's State Fair Park. Consignments close March 20. For more information, go to www.trihorse.com.

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Cowboy Church with Steve Stafford



Hey folks, hope you're doing okay. Isn't this weather crazy? One day it's 70, the next it's 20. One day blowing snow and ice, the next sunny and blue skies. Whew, I'll be glad when Spring gets here. And you know what else, it won't be long until Day Light Savings Time kicks in. Now I don't get this one either. Why not pick one, and then just leave it alone? Of course, if I could ever figure out how to change the time on the clock in my truck, I probably wouldn't mind it so much. You know I kind of like more daylight time, gives me a chance to get more done. Oh wait a minute, I still have the same amount of sun light hours as I did before, I just don't get it. The Bible tells us a story about this fellow who needed more daylight to get his work done too. In Joshua Chapter 10, it says that Joshua prayed for more daylight. In fact he was so out there in his faith, he prayed for a whole day more of it. Now that's a lot of faith, which is what it takes to fuel an outrageous prayer like this. And you know what happened? God gave it to him. Let's take a look at what the Scriptures say about this.

First the scriptures tells us this in Joshua 10:12 "Joshua prayed to the Lord, 'O sun stand still over Gibeon, O moon over the Valley of Aijalon.'" So the sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed

going down about a full day." WOW, did you hear that? God, the creator of all the stars, the planets, the moons, and time, said stop, and they did!

Why not? He created the entire solar system just by speaking the words. Psalm 33:6 "by the word of the Lord, were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of His mouth." In fact the Bible says that God not only made all the stars, but He named them and put them in their place. Isaiah 40:26 "Lift your eyes, and look to the heavens: who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name." And guess what else? He also created time. It was He that made a 24 hour day, well, to be 24 hours long! So If He wants to stop time, or the universe, or anything else for that matter, HE CAN! I just love the Bible, and how it reveals all that we need to know about the one who also created you and me. So the next time that you look up into the heavens at the stars, just remember, they all have a name, just like you and me. The next time you run out of time in a day, just remember God gave us exactly how much time we need to accomplish what He has in store for us today.

Hey, it was good to visit with you again, see you at church this Sunday!

This is Steve Stafford, I am the pastor at Risen Ranch Cowboy Church, and a very proud member of the Better Horses Family.



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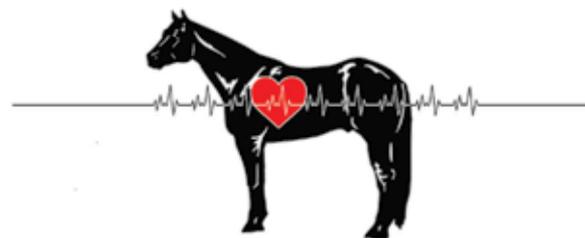
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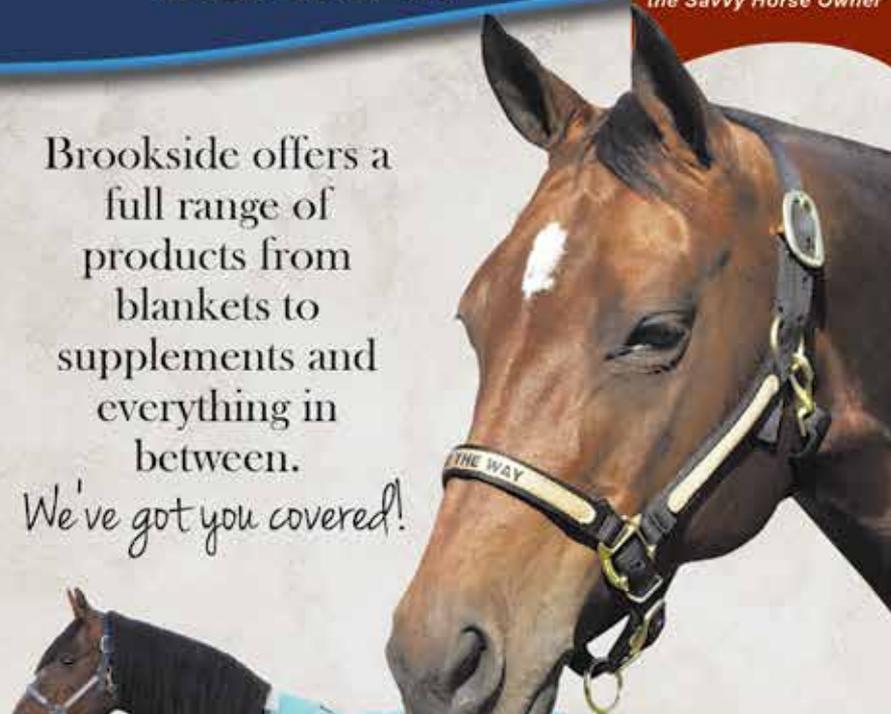
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VRH-The Return of the All Arounder

By Tricia Smith-Hickey

Versatile-Versatility; the ability to adopt to many different functions or activities; having or capable of many uses. Therein lies the definition of the versatility ranch horse. By now, most have heard of the versatility ranch horse (VRH) shows, in some form or the other. If you haven't, you soon will, as VRH is one of the fastest growing equine sports, especially in the western discipline. It is helping bring back the days of 'old when a horse isn't trained in one specialty but is an all-around that can do a multitude of things, whether in the show pen, out on the ranch, or just a pleasure to ride.

There are various classes and levels of classes offered in most shows to encompass all levels of skill and training, both for the horse and for the rider. There are many different organizations that offer ranch horse classes, many of which may differ from association to association. If you want a relaxed, just grab your horse out of the pasture and go have a fun day, check out some of your local associations. Most offer at least a variety of ranch horse classes. There are also associations designed to help the beginner learn how to help advance knowledge of the different classes by offering one day of instructional classes, with a trainer or experienced ranch horse instructor, followed by a day of competition in each of the divisions.

If you want to step up to a more national level, most of your national associations are carrying the versatility classes. For example, AQHA offers a full slate of VRH classes, even going so far as having a specialized VRH World show,

which this year will be held at the Lazy E Arena in Guthrie, Oklahoma, in June. The last qualifying day for the 2020 VRH World show will be February 29, 2020. If you are local to Kansas or the surrounding states, check out the Kansas Quarter Horse Association at KQHA.com. They will be hosting one more qualifying show for the 2020 VRH World show in Hutchinson, Kansas. You can show and/or qualify in one or all of any of the classes offered.

The great thing about this sport is actually the "versatility" of it. Classes range from a ranch trail, ranch riding, and some are adding a ranch rail. If you like cattle classes, there are several different types, including a ranch cutting, ranch boxing, and even a full ranch working cow horse class. And don't forget to add in some reining on ranch horse conformation classes. The biggest aspect these classes promote is having your horse broke, where it listens to your commands without a fuss or hesitation and moves freely and naturally. You don't need a \$100,000.00 horse or \$10,000.00 saddle, with \$5,000.00 worth of tack and clothing. As long as you have a well broke horse and good working, legal to association tack, long sleeve shirt and pants, you are good to go show.

Then you break these classes down into beginners and amateurs, open riders, and youth riders. This makes it a fun filled day for the entire family. And another great aspect you are starting to see at many of the shows to make it more family orientated, is the all-inclusive fees. One basic fee for a full weekend of family fun. You will see some very

stiff, serious competition, followed by an evening being enjoyed after the show by young and old alike, laughing and joking about all the fun they had that day.

So, if this sounds like something you would enjoy, feel free to contact any of your local associations, a local trainer, or anyone you know that is associated with showing. That's the great thing about those of us that show VRH, we are happy to help, and love to have new people join in the fun. You can also feel free to contact myself, and I would love to help you get involved with our sport!

For more information contact:
Tricia Smith-Hickey
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620-767-6159 or 620-341-2899



Mark Hickey riding Royal Catillion in Versatility Ranch Horse at the VRH World Show in Guthrie, Oklahoma. This demonstrates the natural headset and extension jugges look for in the extended trot.



Logan Hickey and Hudson Lange studying the ranch trail pattern at the Kansas Buckskin Horse Association All Breed show in Topeka, Kansas. VRH shows gets the whole family involved and teaches the younger generation sportsmanship.

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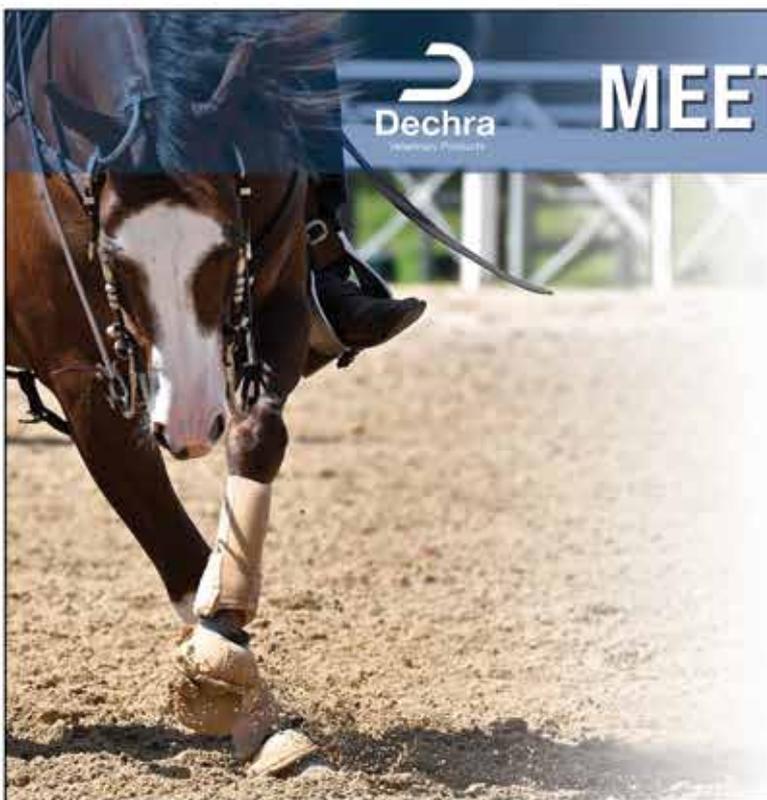
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Property Shop Dressage & Combined Training Schooling Show Series Launched for 2020

By Maggie Stonecipher

Last fall a group of horse enthusiasts met to discuss why previous dressage and combined training schooling shows in the Kansas City area were not well attended, were cancelled, what gaps needed to be addressed, and if those gaps could be addressed, what interest was there in a 2020 schooling show series. After gathering feedback and input from our community, plans moved forward with a dressage and combined training schooling show series.

One of the first challenges was to secure the funding with a Sponsor

to launch the schooling show series. The Property Shop Team stepped forward to be the sponsor and assume the financial risk of getting this off the ground in 2020 with a goal of being self-sustaining after that. If the shows are successful, 75% of the profits realized in 2020 will be donated to area horse related 501(c)(3) programs and the other 25% will be used to fund the 2021 series.

The Property Shop Dressage & Combined Training Schooling Show Series will be held March 7 (Judge Nancy Gorton), May 16 (Judge Scot Fernandez), September 12 (Judge Heidi Williams) and October 17, 2020 (Judge Becky O'Bea) at

Phalen Equestrian Center in Bonner Springs, KS. Dressage, Western Dressage and Combined Tests will be offered but other disciplines are welcome under the Test of Choice classes.

The shows will be held rain or shine (except for hazardous conditions such as ice or snow) and there is no minimum number of entries. This means you can put these shows on your calendar with confidence that the shows will be held!

Classes will be divided into Junior, Amateur and Open divisions if three or more are in the division with ribbons for 1st to 6th place and Champion & Reserve Champion

Awards for each show. The October 17th Show will offer Championship Classes based upon points earned at the first three shows!

The shows are USDF Regional School Show Awards eligible and scores are also eligible for KCDS Year End Schooling Show Awards under the KCDS Awards Program requirements.

For more information check out the Property Shop Dressage & CT Schooling Show Facebook page, on the Horse Show tab at ThePropertyShopTeam.com or email PropertyShopSchoolingShows@gmail.com. Hope to see you at one of the shows!!!



Dear Property Shop Team,

My husband and I get so busy with everything going on that we often forget about things that need to be done around the house and property. How can we keep track of what needs to be done when? Thanks, Too Busy.

Great Question Too Busy! Competing priorities can be challenging and regular home maintenance often gets forgotten. When did I change the filter last? Did I clean the gutters last fall? How long has it been since the chimney was cleaned? I know that trim needs to be painted but I'll get to it later. It gets compounded if we don't know how to do some of it ourselves and have to make service appointments. I know I have had to wait for that "we will be there between 10 and 2" appointment.

But regular maintenance can save you thousands in the long run and is essential to maintaining and even increasing your home's value. Just like with your car, most things will run longer and more efficiently with a little up keep. Plus, your home is most likely your largest investment and you should treat it as such.

There are several ways to make sure you stay on top of home maintenance. Write items in your calendar just like a doctor's appointment. If it is scheduled, then it becomes a priority. Then keep a home maintenance folder or binder for each key item. Make notes and keep receipts. When you do go to sell someday, buyers really appreciate the maintenance history and it increases their perception of how well the home and property has been maintained! I moved in 2019 and know how much I appreciated the house binders that

were provided by the sellers. We have referenced them a dozen times over the past 10 months!

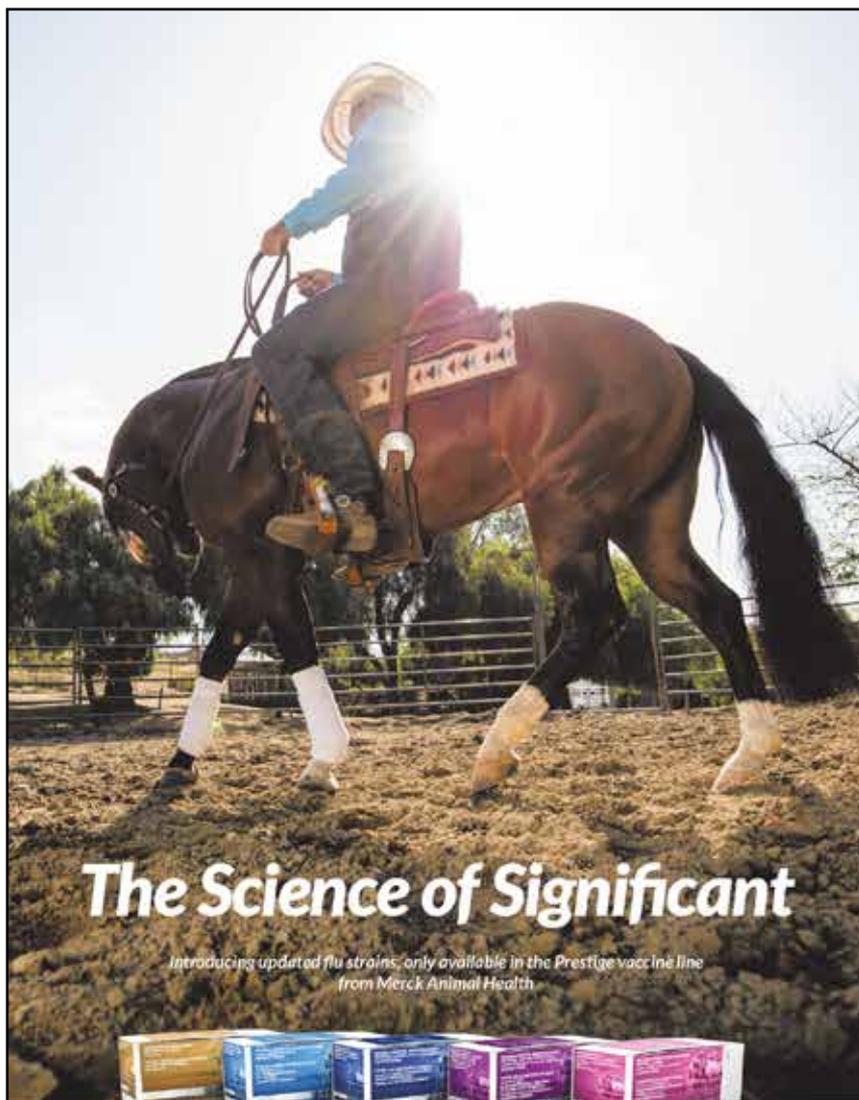
If you are more organized with technology, there are several apps available that will provide a checklist and then remind you when you need to do those items. Check out HomeKeeper, BrightNest and HomeZada to help you stay on track with your home maintenance.

Hope this helps!

Maggie



Maggie Stonecipher is the lead for The Property Shop Team that serves 13 counties in and around Kansas City. Along with Tara Myers and Jolene DeMoss, The Property Shop Team specializes in both Residential properties as well as Horse & Farm properties. The Property Shop Team is dedicated to serving our clients with Integrity, Respect, Service & Knowledge. We are licensed in KS & MO.



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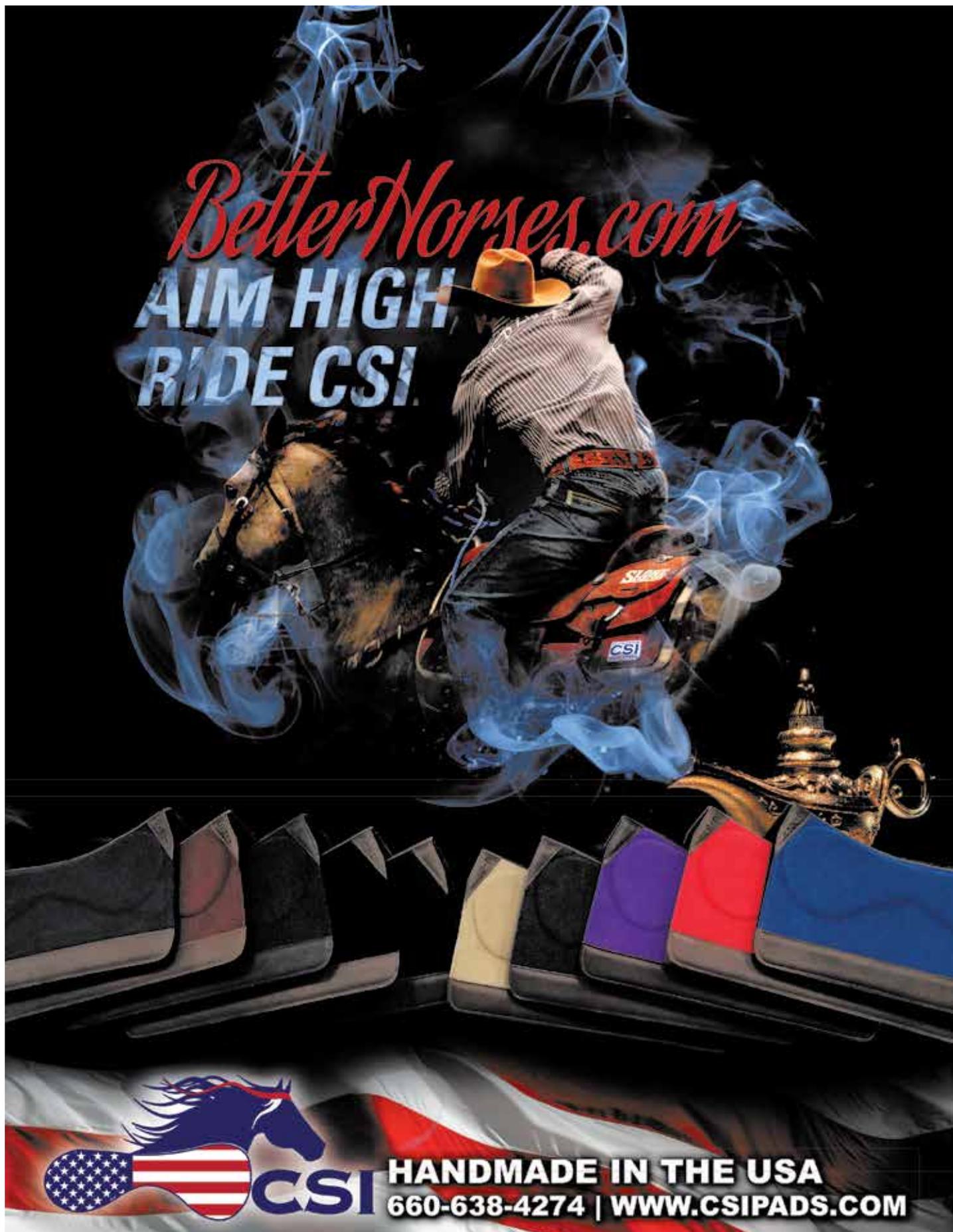
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Chuck Sperry, A Class Act

By Carolyn Kaberline

If you've been to any of the Quarter Horse shows in Kansas, you have no doubt met Lloyd Charles Sperry, Jr. better known as Chuck Sperry. He's the one opening and shutting arena gates, setting the trail courses, and helping out with numerous other tasks associated with shows—all while showing himself and coaching his clients. He's also the newest inductee into the Kansas Quarter Horse Association's Hall of Fame.

Sperry hails from Mound Valley in Southeast Kansas, with his family moving to Altamont when he was six.

Sperry has been fascinated with horses since the first time he saw them—so much so that when he was only four or five, he rode out of town on his bike and spent the day on the backs of some horses he found in a pasture. Needless to say, his parents weren't happy with the way he spent his day.

Although he played trumpet in school, was a member of the Boy Scouts, loved hunting and fishing, and even took up dance to help him recover from an injury—physical therapy was limited then, he always came back to horses. His folks bought him his first horse when he was 10. Between his pasture riding days and his first horse, he rode everything he could get his hands on, which was probably a good thing since the horse his parents bought was one he could grow up and learn with.

Sperry loved every moment of horse ownership: he belonged to the

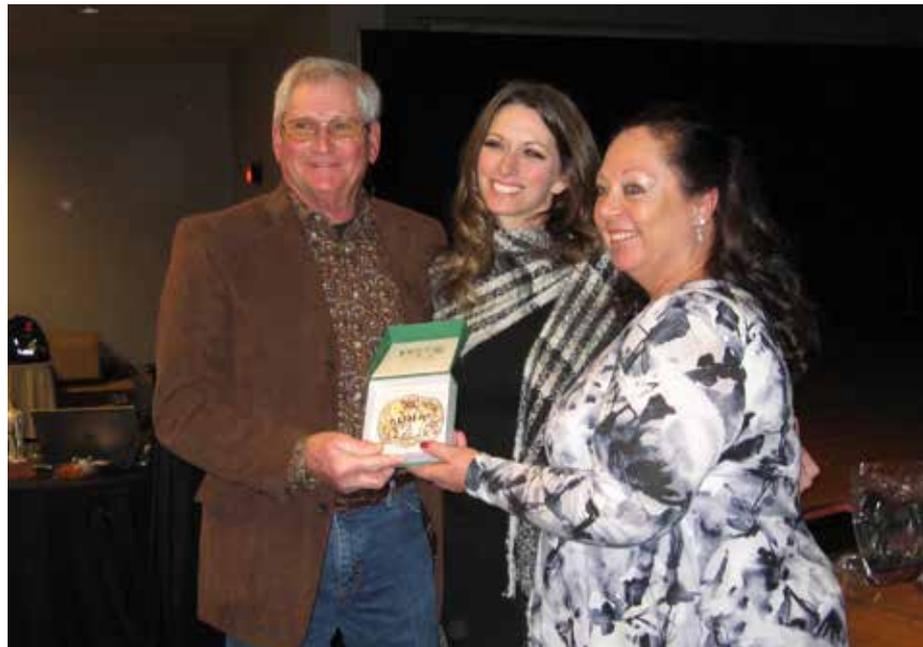
local saddle club and was on its drill team. Since he had a cousin who did a lot of roping, he took that up along with pole bending. He ran a lot of 21 second patterns with a few even timed at 19.

His future as a horse trainer was pretty much assured even back then—he trained every horse he bought.

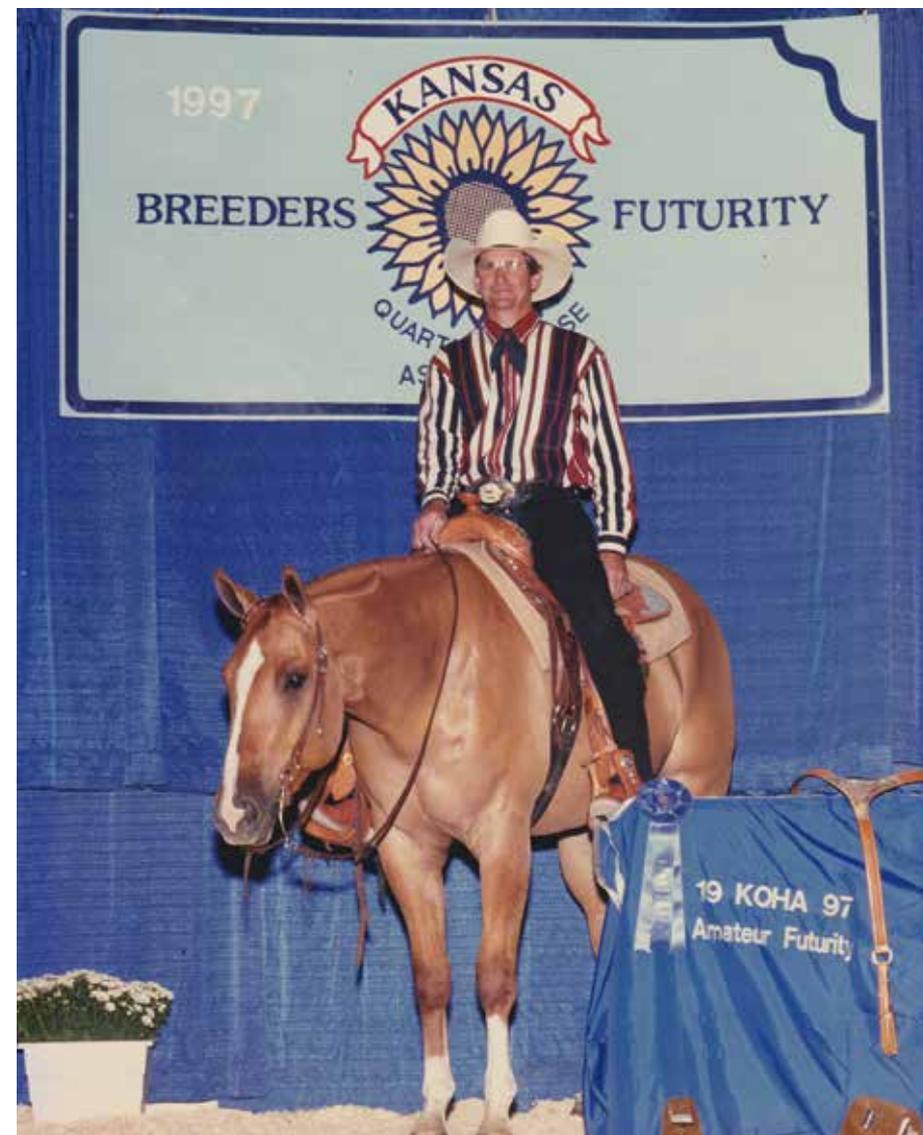
One of the few times he has been without horses was when he served in the Marine Corps from 1967 to 1971. While in the Marines, he was stationed in San Diego, San Antonio, Norfolk, Newark, and Okinawa. Upon his return he went to Labette Junior College and Edmond State University in Edmond, Oklahoma. He graduated from there and earned a mortician's license, taking up his dad's trade. He moved from Altamont to Phillipsburg in 1976 and from there to Beloit in 1988.

He got back into horses in 1989 while raising a family and had success in the show pen. He started showing in AQHA shows in 1992 when his daughter Jessica got into showing and joined KYQHA. After having some more success as an amateur, Sperry decided to turn professional and began to train horses while working other jobs. He credits Craig Cole, Jeff Mellott, and Murray Griggs with helping him the most—especially in pleasure and trail, which were new events to him.

One of his first successes was Just Say Whoa, better known as Darla, a buckskin mare he traded Jerry Wright for. That mare went



Chuck Sperry with daughter Jessica Streit and KQHA President Brenda Salsbury at the KQHA banquet.



Chuck Sperry aboard Liz's Gold Boy, better known as Sunny, who won the Kansas Futurity as a three year-old and four Buckskin World Championships. He also earned a lot of AQHA points.

on to earn a lot of AQHA points and Buckskin World Championships for both Chuck and Jessica. Although the mare was later sold, he bought her back for his youngest granddaughter to begin her show career. He believes if they would have had versatility classes back then, Darla would have been a top contender. He says the mare is now 25 or 26 and owned by Lee Granada.

Another early success was Liz's Gold Boy, better known as Sunny, who won the Kansas Futurity as a three year-old and four Buckskin World Championships. He also earned a lot of AQHA points.

Sperry moved to Topeka in 2000 when Jessica and her husband Anthony were looking for a place to buy while they both went to Washburn University. Although he had held a lot of jobs over the years—ranging from the three paper routes he had growing up, to dog catcher, to judge, to mortician and later to retail sales—horses were never far from him, and so he decided to go into training full time—a decision he's never regretted.

In addition to his own success in the show ring, he seems to have a knack for selecting good horses for others. What does he look for? Good movement and cadence—especially looking at what the legs do; balance; self-carriage, and eye appeal. He says if the horse doesn't catch his eye right away, he is turned off and passes on that horse.

He also gets high marks from his clients. Vickie Mzhickteno, whose daughter Jessica, now rides with him says, "Chuck has helped her build confidence as a rider and a person. He's patient, kind and consistent. He's shown her how to deal with her anxiety and handle a variety

of situations. He also treats all his animals fairly and kindly; he's very soft spoken and very hard working. He's a true gentleman."

Shelbi Stous Wiggs has very fond memories of her time working with Sperry. She says "One of my favorite memories from my time riding with Chuck is when he tried to get me to sing a song in my head to better keep my rhythm. George Strait came on the radio, and he started singing aloud. At the time, I was young and somewhat shy, so I thought that he was crazy for loping around and singing out loud. It's no coincidence that the song became my all-time favorite George Strait song, and I think of this memory every time I hear it! Looking back, most things I learned from him in the barn could also be applied to other aspects of life. Chuck helped shape the person that I am today, and I'm very thankful for that. Being inducted into the KQHA Hall of Fame is a well-deserved honor."

Family is also very important to Sperry and much of his career has involved his daughter Jessica, and now another generation has joined the fun. His granddaughters Isabella and Rylea both hold World Champion titles on horses he's trained. Although his grandson Graeson has not taken to the horses like his two sisters, Sperry has still been able to share his love of the outdoors, especially fishing and hunting, with him.

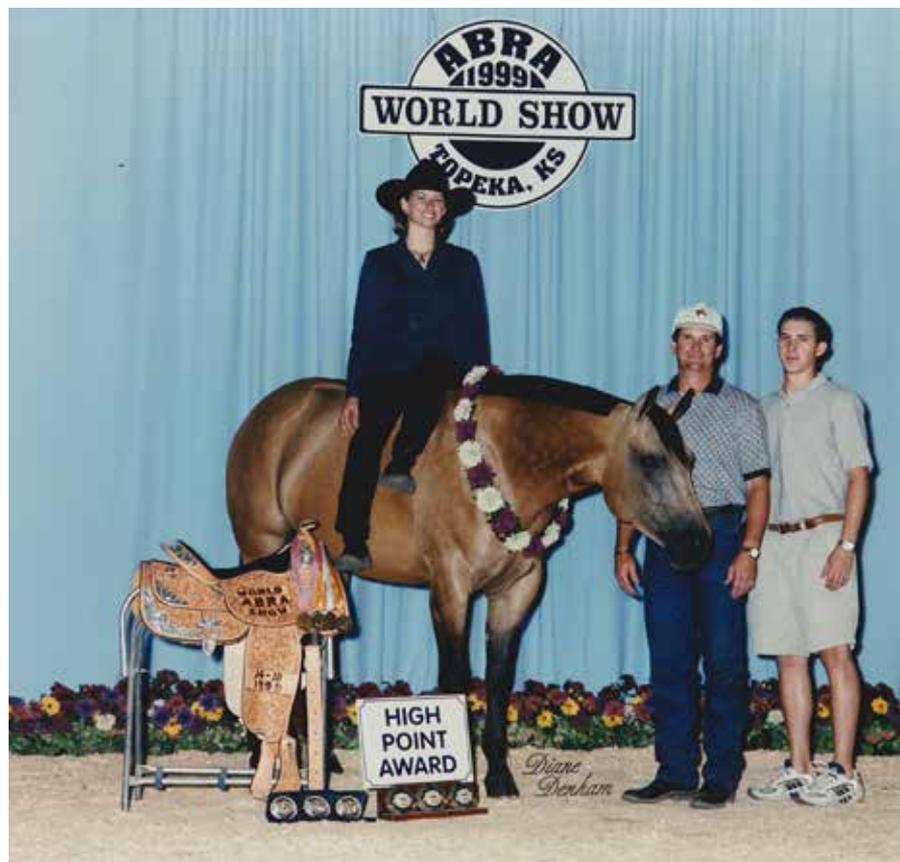
His daughter Jessica, who now lives in Layton, Utah, with her husband and family, was able to surprise her dad at his induction at the KQHA banquet held in Topeka in January and says, "I'm so honored and happy to witness my dad receiving this award. Horses have shaped who I am. Without my dad and his commitment to the

American Quarter Horse and KQHA my experiences would have been very different. I can't remember a time he didn't jump in and help. I was taught being a member didn't mean receiving an award; it meant making the club better, contributing by filling a need and supporting the association by showing up regardless of whether you got anything in return. He has spent countless hours volunteering, holding offices, offering advice, seeking ways to make KQHA unique and fun for all, and to make it a sustainable association. He has always put the horses first and has taught countless others to have the same passion and respect."

Through the years Sperry has been very active in the Kansas Quarter Horse Association. He was nominated for the Hall of Fame by

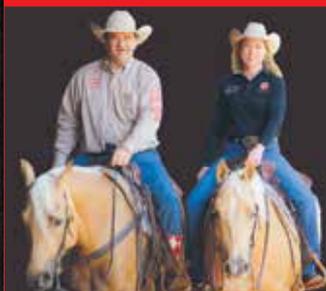
Craig Cole who says "Chuck has been highly involved with KQHA... serving on the Prairie Classic Committee, Region 8 Committee and numerous other committees throughout the years. He has served as Vice-President and President [of the association]. He has provided trail patterns and volunteered setting trail courses for the past several years for nearly every Quarter Horse show held in Kansas. He is an active Past President and highly involved in KQHA, and I feel a very deserving nominee for the Hall of Fame honor!"

For his outstanding dedication and service to the Kansas Quarter Horse Association and the Quarter Horse industry, it is a great honor to see Chuck Sperry inducted into the KQHA Hall of Fame.



Chuck Sperry with daughter Jessica Streit on Just Say Whoa, better known as Darla, and son-in-law Anthony Streit.

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- 1 pound peeled and deveined shrimp
- 1 Tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons essence
- 1 1/2 smoked turkey sausages, sliced
- 1/2 cup diced green pepper
- 1/2 cup diced onion
- 1 Tablespoon minced garlic
- 1/2 cup chicken stock
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/2 cup heavy cream

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- 2 Tablespoon salt
- 2 Tablespoon garlic powder
- 1 Tablespoon black pepper
- 1 Tablespoon cayenne pepper
- 1 Tablespoon dried oregano
- 1 Tablespoon dried thyme
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan

Heat 1 Tablespoon of olive oil over medium high heat in a large sauté pan. Season the shrimp with 2 teaspoons of the essence. Place shrimp in the pan and sauté until almost done. Remove shrimp and set aside. Place remaining oil in the pan and sauté the onion and green peppers. Sauté, stirring until onions are translucent, about 3 minutes. Add the sausage and cook another minute. Add the garlic to the pan and sauté another 30 seconds. Add the chicken stock to the pan and scrape with a spoon to remove any browned bits that have formed in the bottom of the pan, about 30 seconds. Add the Thyme, 1 Tablespoon of Essence and 1/2 tsp. salt and cook for 2 minutes. Add the cream to the pan and cook an additional 2 minutes. Return the sauce and pasta, stirring occasionally for about 3-5 minutes. Remove from heat and add the Parmesan and basil.



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grandson of Flying X 6
Ranch horse, Ranch Horse Competition



Lot #75, \$12,800
2016 Gray gelding by Three Dee Skyline
Very broke, futurity eligible,
Ranch Horse Competition

Lot #25
2004 Sorrel Gelding, son of Bar Diamond Hank
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May 2019 High Sellers

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Ranch Horse Competition
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Spring Spectacular Catalog Horse Sale

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Friday, May 15Ranch Horse Competition 6 PM

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Through The Eyes Of My Son(s)

By Kerry Kuhn Horsemanship

Ever since I was a little boy, I have had an overwhelming passion for horses. My granddad, Dale Lukens, was my inspiration. Back then as I watched him work with his horses, I would go with him every chance I could get. I was always under foot. I tried my best to emulate him and how he did things. He always took the time to show me why he did things the way he did. But as close as I watched him, there were some things that I couldn't see back then...

Today, I'm the father of three sons, 18, 10, and 9 years old. These boys challenge me everyday as I watch them trying to grow into men. My biggest challenge is watching them navigate life through the genetics that were passed on to them. What I mean by that is watching them act like me! But in the challenges, they are also blessing me and opening my eyes to things that I couldn't see back when I was their age.

Recently, my 10-year-old son, Kolt, has shown an interest in horses. As that interest began to grow, I unconsciously found myself in the same role my granddad was in years ago. I wish I could say that I instantly jumped at the chance to teach my son about horses, but that wasn't the case. Most people would look at me and think that having my son(s) pursue horses would be an answered prayer for me. In some ways, it has been, but not in the manner I would have expected.

You see, as the parent, I thought I was supposed to have all this knowledge to share with my sons and help them to see things in life that they can't see yet. Sometimes that is the case, but most times it's much different than that, at least for

me anyway.

As Kolt began to spend time with me on my horses, it was like my eyes were being opened to this whole new version of myself that I had avoided almost all of my life. Now ride along with me here, because some of you might be way further along in the journey than I am. Kolt's involvement on and with my horses was exposing my selfishness, and in various degrees.

First off, I had to come to terms with something that in the past was easy for me to avoid, the idea of someone messing up my horses. In the past I could simply avoid this issue altogether by not letting anyone spend time on my horses. But now that it was my own son, how was I going to get around that one? I know, I know, this sounds petty. And like I said, most of you are probably much further along. But I have to speak from my reality. It's not like I could just tell my son that he had to go learn about horses somewhere else because I didn't want him messing up mine. Well, I guess I could have, but what kind of parent would I have been then? So I bit my tongue and tried once again to emulate my granddad, and unbeknownst to me, there was a much deeper blessing behind it all. Watching Kolt lope my horses around wasn't messing them up, it was exposing holes in them that I didn't want to admit were there.

At first, I was at a loss. My ego and my pride were really struggling with what I was seeing. I even tried to blame Kolt at first for what was showing up, but because it was my own son, it was much harder for me to simply point the blame. Thank the



Lord that as the summer went on, my perspective began to change. I stopped seeing Kolt as the problem and began to see him as maybe the best blessing I'd been given when it came to my horsemanship.

The reality of the situation was I wanted to blame someone that is almost a foot and a half shorter than me, whose feet hang nowhere near mine when in the saddle. He didn't have the balance, the feel, the timing, or the knowledge I had. So it had to be his fault, right? Well, that is definitely the perspective I started with. But as my perspective began to shift, I began to see areas that I could improve my horses that would make things much easier for him. So I went from that parent that simply hollers at their kid constantly to do this and this and this all the time, to a parent that had to go take a long hard look at himself in the mirror and come up with the courage to try something new, like apologizing to my son for all of the hollering, and thanking him for helping me to see some things that I needed to work on in my horses myself that would greatly improve the situation for everyone.

So our training time today has turned into this, a brainstorming session between me, my son, and

the horse that he happens to be riding at the time. What I mean by that is we go into each session with a plan that will help everyone to get better. We usually focus on one primary thing that day and then talk through what's happening and what could be improved as we go. As I'm pointing out things that Kolt can change or adjust in himself, I'm also making notes of things that I need to work on with that horse myself. As I then go back and work on those horses in between sessions with Kolt, I am finding a whole new level that I had never been able to see before. What a blessing that has been. The feel and willingness that my horses now carry because of this approach is profoundly different. It's easy for me to say that this lesson with Kolt has been one of the best things that's happened to Kerry Kuhn Horsemanship in the last 15 years.

I'm seeing through all three of my boys, that I can learn as much from them as they can from me, if I'm willing to. That being said, I can't speak about Kolt without speaking about my other two sons as well.

Kauy is my 18-year-old and is currently going to college and playing baseball. He doesn't have much interest in horses, well actually none, but that's ok. His passion is

baseball, and he's very good at it. As I watch him invest time in his workout and practice routine each week, I am inspired in ways that are humbling to me. It takes time, hard work, and effort to get better at something, and his goal is to out work everyone on the team. He's in the weight room eight times a week, when it's only required five times. He shows up early to practice and stays late almost every day. When his body is tired and sore, he puts his shoes on and gets after it. He doesn't make excuses, he simply asks for help and more instruction as he tries to perfect his swing. I've always felt driven to a certain degree as I have basically been self-employed my entire life. But as I watch Kauy pursue his dream to potentially play ball in the major leagues, I am challenged to up my game even more.

I used to think I had to be around a horse in order for me to get better with them. Now that my perspective has shifted, I'm noticing just how much watching my son play baseball is even helping my horsemanship. You see, errors are a regular part of the game. In fact, to play error free baseball is pretty rare. It's not the errors that keep a team from winning, it's the mindset they play with in spite of the errors. So, the idea that everything has to be perfect when you're working with horses is no longer an issue for me. Yes, I'm striving to be the best I can be, but my sons are reminding me that it's not about being error free, it's about having the right perspective.

I watch Kolt accomplish more on his horse than most adults can, and his feel and timing are just beginning to grow. Posting on the right diagonal, having your seat just right, your hands perfect, it's all relative, relative "more" to the frame of mind



that has been built in your horse.

That brings me to Kody, my youngest. He's not into the horses as much as Kolt, but he does enjoy being around them. He's my little "techy", he loves to work with computers and such, so we've found the perfect spot for him. When he's not on a horse, he's actually running the camera. Yes, my 9-year-old has become my cameraman, and the little rascal is pretty darn good at it already. It brings a smile to my face every time I look into the camera and see Kody standing on a cooler behind it. He takes pride in what he's doing and always asks me how he did. Whether he ever pursues horses in his future is totally up to him. I just

have this sneaking suspicion that we will all be working for him at his company someday.

As I reflect back to my days as a kid spent with my granddad, thanks to my sons I can now see the things I missed. My granddad never tried to control me. He always gave me the freedom to be me. As he shared with me what he knew about horses, he always encouraged me to be better than he was. He never tried to force his passion or his idea for my life on me. He always made time for me. He never made me feel like I was slowing him down. And he was never worried that I would mess something up. Now I have the opportunity to share those same traits with my three boys.

To any of you parents out there, I will leave you with this. Get involved with your kids' passions. That doesn't just mean show up for their games or competitions. Be a part of their daily practice and workouts with a perspective that you could even learn something from them. If they are interested in horses, you have a responsibility as the parent to help get that horse in the right frame of mind for them. Don't just throw them up there and holler at them about what they need to do. Throw your own leg over that horse and help that rascal to be more responsive and patient so when your kids get back on, it's easier for them.

They say a horse is a mirror image of its owner, well, my kids are a mirror image of their father. I'm trying to learn from my horses every day by looking more at myself. And I'm so thankful that I'm willing to learn from my three sons now too.



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continue to help our horses get better. This became very evident to me earlier this summer at a breakaway roping school I had. There was a handful of ropers at that particular school that were very novice and their horses were also

very novice, a horrible combination for an inexperienced roper. It was amazing to me though as we went through the day, and this group of ropers started to understand about position, how quickly they improved. It was a great reminder to me how simple it is to rope the neck if we put ourselves in position to take a high percentage throw. Handling your rope sharp is super important, however if your horse isn't putting you in position to get a high percentage throw every time, your catch percentage will eventually go down. Most horses that I have come in for tuneups have two major issues: 1. Score bad and 2. Bad position. I have a college girl that started roping with me this last week and the very first day her horse scored bad and his position was bad in relation to the calf. She struggled a bit with her roping that first day and rightfully so. We worked on just scoring and position for a couple days and it was like watching a completely different

roper on a completely different horse later that week. She roped sharp and her horse worked sharp. We have to continually help our horses understand what we want them to do. It doesn't matter how much they cost, or how old they are, or who trained them, or how much you've won on them, a horse continually needs that reinforcement of correct repetitions to keep that good foundation and consistent competitive performance that makes our job so much easier. The next time you start struggling in your desired discipline first ask yourself, what can I do to help my horse get better? It's pretty simple, when our horses get better.. we get better. Have a great week of training and we'll talk next month.

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Spring Will Spring - and So Will Foals!

Katie Delph, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVIM
Assistant Professor, Equine Internal Medicine
Kansas State University



facility so that she and the foal can have immediate attention if needed.

Once you see signs of impending parturition, you'll want to watch closely over the next couple of days for progression to labor (see Table 1). Now you're either watching the camera closely at night or even sleeping in the barn so you don't miss your new foal's arrival. Signs of labor starting (Stage I) indicate that the foal is getting into position. In horses, Stage II, where the foal is actually born, should only last 20-30 minutes. If you don't see a foot within five minutes, don't see progression of labor within 10 minutes, or see abnormal tissue, call your veterinarian immediately. The longer this stage of labor lasts, the chances of a live foal can decrease. The final stage of labor, passage of fetal membranes, should occur within three hours in horses.

Once your foal is born, you will want to monitor closely that they begin to try to sit up within five minutes of birth and start to have a suckle reflex within 5-20 minutes as well. They begin to try to stand within 30 minutes, and ideally they

As we look forward to spring, we also look forward to foaling season. It is an exciting and fun time of year if everything goes well. If not, it can be very stressful. Below are tips to follow to ensure that your newborn, and much anticipated foal, is meeting proper milestones and tips for what to do if things aren't going quite right.

Of course, the first step is anticipating when your mare is getting ready to foal. Normal length of gestation (pregnancy) in horses is around 335-342 days. If she has foaled before, she may tend to have a similar gestational length in subsequent years. In preparation for your new foal, with your veterinarian's guidance, your mare should be vaccinated during pregnancy and you should have a clean environment prepped for delivery. Some mares need extra attention from a veterinarian for parturition (giving birth), for example, if they have had problems foaling in the past. If you have concerns, speak with your veterinarian or the KSU-VHC about the possibility of your mare foaling out at a veterinary

Signs of impending labor	Stage I: Coordinated uterine contractions	Stage II: Delivery of foal	Stage III: Passage of fetal membranes
- Waxing of teats -Relaxation of pelvic ligaments/ tailhead rises -Vulvar lengthening	-Restlessness -Sweating -Signs of discomfort -May last a few hours	-Starts with water breaking -See feet within 5 min -Should only last 20-30 min	-Mare passes placenta -Within 3 hours of parturition

Table 1: Signs of impending labor and stages of labor



Foal born at the KSU-VHC

1	Stand by 1 hour
2	Nurse by 2 hours
3	Passage of fetal membranes by 3 hours

Table 2: 1-2-3 Rule

should be standing at one hour. They will seek the mare's udder as soon as they are standing and should be nursing by two hours of age! A good rule-of-thumb to remember is the 1-2-3 rule (see Table 2). If they don't hit these milestones, especially if your foal hasn't stood by two hours or nursed by three hours, or if you have any concerns, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Hopefully your foal reaches all these milestones. Your veterinarian should still examine your foal within their first 18-24 hours of life based on their recommendations. Your veterinarian will be able to pick up on subtle problems that may need to be addressed. Additionally, they can assess for passive transfer of immunity. Due to the anatomy of the equine placenta, foals need to ingest colostrum in their first day of life to obtain passive immunity, or antibodies, for protection against infections. The earlier your foal nurses colostrum, the better chance of adequate immunity because

the gastrointestinal tract's ability to absorb antibodies decreases by the hour and isn't able to absorb any intact antibodies by 24 hours. If your foal doesn't have adequate passive transfer, your veterinarian may have to give a plasma transfusion to give your foal antibodies. Your veterinarian will evaluate for the need for other treatments too. Some foals that don't hit these milestones or become ill, need supportive or intensive care in the hospital. With foals, it is best to be cautious and recognize problems early so do not hesitate to contact your veterinarian or KSU-VHC.

If you have questions about neonatal foal care or foaling services, contact the Equine Internal Medicine or Reproductive Services at the KSU Veterinary Health Center at 785-532-5700 or at www.ksvhc.org.





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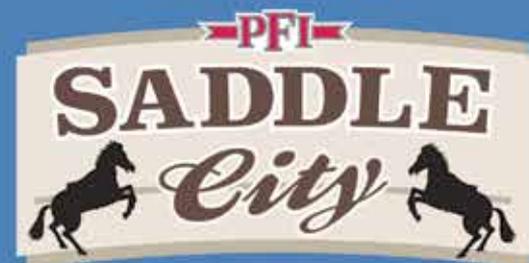
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