

BETTER HORSES™



“High Country Cowboy”

watercolor by artist Don Dane, commissioned by the city of Pigeon Forge, TN.

It was the official poster painting for the Pigeon Forge cowboy poetry and music festival “2007 Saddle Up”.

{ Check out our featured artist each issue in the “Western Corner,” See page 4. }

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Hello Friends!

I hope all is well with you during these crazy times. Just trying to stay on top of what day and month it is can be a challenge in itself. From the reports at the different horse shows and events, the entries have been huge. Make sure you are checking and using the Better Horses calendar on our website to post your event and see what is going on.

This Fall publication might be a couple of pages smaller than normal, but has some great information in it. I would like to thank all of the Better Horses Team for their contribution to the paper. We have had rave reviews on the new LOUISBURG MARKET STREET & GALLERY III section. Thanks goes to Western Artist, Don Dane and the Louisburg Market Street for making this possible.

It was a sad time to have to cancel the 21st Annual Dream Ride in the Flint Hills September 11th thru the 13th. We look forward to having it in 2021 and hopefully get this pandemic behind us. Better Horses TV and Better Horses Radio have achieved a milestone by being cleared Nationwide on RFDTV and also the Better Horses Radio Show being cleared Nationwide on XM Sirius Radio channel 147. Thanks to Better Horses Ed Adams for helping make this happen. Soon we will also expand to the Cowboy Channel.

Purina Animal Nutrition has been holding some great Virtual Equine Meetings that are full of information. Make sure you go to their website at www.purinamills.com to keep on top of them. Soon we will be starting our 22nd year of our Better Horses publication. You can sign up for a subscription to get all five issues delivered to you. See page 3 for subscription details.

Many of you are aware of my health issue and might wonder on how I am dealing with it. I am focusing on raising my relationship with my Lord & Savior Jesus Christ. My hope is to reach out to as many friends and family to encourage them to raise their relationship with Jesus Christ. Don't wait to do this, begin now! You never know what is going to happen. Take my word, it will improve your relationship with everyone.

I want to thank you for all you do and being a part of Better Horses. Don't hesitate to let me know if there is anything I can do for you.

Love you all and Happy Trails,



Ernie

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WESTERN ART CORNER

Jim Clements

Jim Clements is an oil painter who considers himself blessed to be a working artist. "To me, painting represents ultimate freedom -

so it's just natural that the wide open spaces, rich history and independent people of the American West translate so well to canvas. My desire is to honor the spirit of the West in each painting I do."

Working in newspaper illustration and advertising over two decades kept his drawing skills honed, as well as in his free time continuously painting. "Observations of life, as well as painting from life, are critical to artistic advancement", he explains. He also gratefully acknowledges the advice, instruction and encouragement of many of today's best known oil painters throughout the years, who have been such an integral part of his own professional growth.

In addition to his website and galleries, Jim's award-winning work can also be seen at various Art shows and Western festivals throughout the year. His work is



Jim Clements

collected internationally and has won numerous awards over the years. His paintings have been featured in various magazines and are in the permanent collection of The Couatts Memorial Art Museum in El Dorado, KS. He was also the solo artist at a show in the Woolaroc Museum in Bartlesville, OK. After New York television producer Robert Rose saw them, several of his American Indian paintings were featured on an episode of Raw Travel, which is aired world-wide. Another TV host and Producer, Jim West of Chicago, purchased a painting and then later did a feature article in his magazine on Jim's paintings. Jim counts actors Barry Corbin (Lonesome Dove, Urban Cowboy, Conagher) and Robert Fuller (Laramie, Wagon Train, Emergency!) among his collectors. His work has also been praised by popular singer Michael Martin Murphy (Wildfire, What's Forever For, Long Line of Love) as "A true master painter of the American West".

Jim has worked with actors, both famous and not-so-famous, as well as cowboy friends of his over the



years to create his paintings of the American West.

Jim's home and studio are located on the prairie in the Flint Hills region of south-central Kansas.

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El Dorado, Kansas 67042

Ph: 316.655.1248

Website: www.jimclementsart.com

E-mail: jim@jimclementsart.com



GALLERY III

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Just for Grins



Lifelong Western Showman Takes Exotic Animal Entertainment Nationwide

By Frank J. Buchman

Never shy with a jive, he forwardly claims to be a “distant cousin of a fellow named Noah who had a big boat.”

Requiring a bit of head scratching, most people can figure out the connection to the prominent Biblical figure.

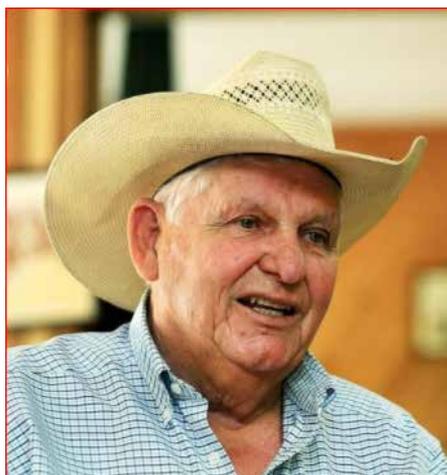
Joe Hedrick may not have quite the diversity of animals that were on Noah’s Ark, but quite close.

“I’ve always enjoyed working with animals ever since I was a kid,” Hedrick admitted. “It was natural that once I got a llama other exotic animals became my life’s venture.”

Naming all of the species that the Nickerson entrepreneur owns requires an animal dictionary.

“I don’t know the number of animals here, close to a thousand sometimes. It varies with babies arriving all the time,” Hedrick acknowledged.

Widely recognized for Hedrick’s Exotic Animal Farm on the Reno County home place, the life’s story is more.



Joe Hedrick is a born showman diversely lifelong entertaining audiences around the country now with unique exotic animal presentations.

“I grew up working with my family at rodeos throughout the Midwest,” Hedrick recalled. “My dad, Jerry, started out competing in rodeos, then became a clown, and finally announcer with contract entertainment.”

Living in a travel trailer, the Hedrick rodeo family performed in a different town every weekend.

“My older brother, Jerry Jr., and I became clowns following in Dad’s boot steps,” Hedrick said. “We did trick roping and with our sisters presented a variety of trained animal acts.

“I had a guanaco, a cousin to the llama, that was the first animal I trained personally,” Hedrick recalled.

Always an attraction for rodeo spectators was when the Hedrick family came honking in the Bucking Model T Ford.

“Dad enjoyed developing that act which included Mom and all of the family,” Hedrick smiled. Their original Hedrick Bucking Ford remains a prized family possession.

Continuing to clown, Hedrick attended Fort Hays State College on a rodeo scholarship riding rough stock. There he met and married his wife Sondra (Hutchins), a barrel racer, to carry on the rodeo family tradition.

“I taught high school industrial arts for a time, clowned some and did

contract acts,” Hedrick said.

Exotic animal population continued to expand with antelope, elk, deer, and a chimpanzee. “Then all ‘H’ broke lose,” Hedrick admitted. There were soon zebras, giraffes, camels, kangaroos, ostriches, reindeer, potbelly pigs, tortoises, more llamas and about every other exotic creature alive.

“I bought, sold and traded exotics with zoos, owners and breeders all over the country,” he said.

Displaying his animals for the grand opening of Harry Herbel’s Surplus City at Herington was the start of Hedrick’s Petting Zoo.

“We’ve had four petting zoos on the road going all over the United States through a booking agent,” he said.

Pony rides have always been popular but now Hedrick’s camel rides attract as much interest.

Soon, Hedrick began raising his own exotic animals. “We started out with two zebras, and now have about 50, two camels and now have 70. A couple kangaroos, now I don’t know how many,” he tallied.

“It became complex scheduling tours so we renovated a farm building into a bed and breakfast,”



Animals are provided by Joe Hedrick for Christmas shows presented annually by the Rockettes in New York City.



Camel races coordinated by Hedrick Exotic Animal Farm at Nickerson are crowd pleasers at gatherings nationwide.

Hedrick said. "Visitors can look out their windows and see all of the animals."

Pig races were first observed at a convention Hedrick attended. "The crowd just went wild and I knew we



Elk, camels, zebras, giraffes and dozens more species of unusual creatures roam the Hedrick Exotic Animal Farm near Nickerson.

should do that," he said. "Our racing pigs have been popular throughout the country, even on red carpets of swanky hotels."

Ostrich, camel and zebra races with Hedrick's animals thrill nationwide community gatherings. "I've been contacted about doing a reality show featuring animal races which I think will develop," he noted.

Animals are provided for many nativity scenes each Christmas season. "We also work animal acts with the Rockettes in New York City during the holidays," Hedrick added.

Annually contracting six dozen engagements, the coronavirus has impacted this year some.

Added to diversity, Hedrick is a professional auctioneer and a farmer with several thousand acres.

"We have a stock cow herd, about 200 head, and background the calves to sell as yearlings," he said.

Dedicated workers help get everything done. "We've had more

than 40 employees sometimes, but about half that now. I truly appreciate their hard work," Hedrick emphasized.

"This is a family business," Hedrick insisted. "My wife handles the bookwork and has her helping hand in everything. Sondra is especially good birthing animals."

Their son, Aryn, was a champion bull rider and works all aspects of the operations, dedicated to cattle. Daughter Hallie lives with her family at Lawrence, but has an important part in native home operations through modern technology.

"Our five grandchildren are also involved. Some of them might even end up in rodeo and show business," Hedrick said.

"Only 76," Hedrick has no slowdown in sight. "I have a lot more entertainment ideas up my sleeve. It's been a great life. I was born a showman and always will be," Joe Hedrick declared.



Rides on camels are often more popular than pony rides when Joe Hedrick offers them at fairs and other community get-togethers.



Hedrick's Exotic Animal Bed & Breakfast at Nickerson attracts visitors from throughout the nation for relaxation mingling with exotic creatures.



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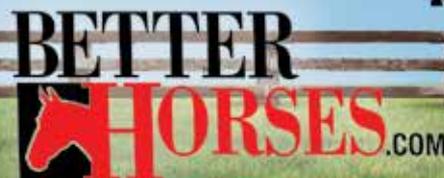
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Woodard Mercantile adds Eureka, KS store to better serve Flint Hills area.

On July 1, Woodard Mercantile officially opened in Eureka, KS. They spent the first month and 1/2 renovating their new location on Main Street which was Flint Hills Feed & Supply. While re-doing the ceiling, it was discovered that a fire damaged the original ceiling at some point; however, a portion of the ceiling was salvageable and will be used as trim boards.

Growing up on small farms, Gerald and Leslye Woodard both shared a passion for the farm and ranch industry. With that passion in mind, the Woodard's opened their first store in Maize, KS in 1991.

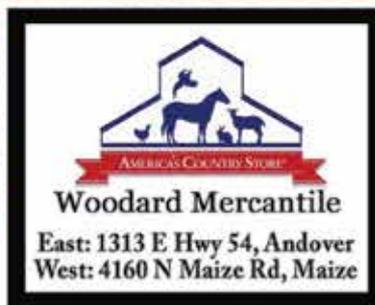
Gerald and Leslye have three grown boys, Gage, Grady and Gavin.

Just three years ago, they expanded and opened their second location in Andover, KS. "We're excited about the excitement Eureka has shown us," stated Gerald. "The community has been very welcoming and we look forward to continue to operate with a home-town feel," he continued. All three locations follow the same motto, "Where service and convenience don't cost extra."

Woodard Mercantile, in Eureka, looks forward to serving the

community with all of their feed, animal health, lawn and garden, large tack and unique item (metal art work, chimeneas, etc.) needs. Many products that the store now has were not able to be carried because of the stores size. With three locations, the buying power is a lot better and they're able to carry a very wide range of supplies in the tack and supplements area that a small store just can't do by themselves. The Eureka location will be open Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., with staff members: Larry Hayes (manager), Terry

Hughes, Justin Cain and returning to the Eureka team is Nancy Corns, who will serve as a sales representative for the southeast Kansas area. The Eureka location of Woodard Mercantile can be reached at 620-750-4031.



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Lacerations in Horses – An owner's guide to understand the degree of injury and how to apply first-aid care.

Camila Souza, DVM, MS, DACVS

Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Surgeons – Large Animal Assistant Professor of Large Animal Emergency and Surgery Services Kansas State University, College of Veterinary Medicine

Lacerations are one of the most common reasons horses are seen on emergency at the Kansas State University Veterinary Health Center. As a horse owner, dealing with a laceration is usually not a matter of “if it will happen,” but more a matter of “when it will happen.” You can have the best fence, watch your horses very closely every day and they will still find a way to hurt themselves. It is that one screw sticking up a little bit higher on that fence board, or that corner they like to scratch themselves on, or that one time it decides to try jumping a fence just to see what is on the other side, but can't quite clear it, when most injuries might occur.

Although there are a lot of things owners can do to prevent injury to their horse, it is even more important for owners to know what to do when their horse suffers a laceration. This article will address the most common wounds we see in horses and cover first-aid care horse owners can provide to their animals before transporting them to the closest hospital, or while waiting for the veterinarian to arrive.

First things first – Proper first aid measurements

Step 1: Know what you are up against

A thorough inspection of the wound is crucial for gathering as much information as possible and determining the severity of the problem. This can help guide the owner on their next step in caring

for the wound and determine if veterinary care is necessary right away. The information gathered during inspection can also be useful when calling your veterinarian so she/he can plan on the supplies needed when coming to see the horse.

When inspecting a wound, owners should note:

1. Anatomic location of wound
2. Size and depth of injury
3. Presence of active bleeding
4. Involvement/exposure of deeper structures (e.g. tendons/ligaments, bone, etc.)
5. Degree of contamination (a.k.a. how dirty is it?)
6. Degree of discomfort (e.g. unable to bear weight on a limb, breathing heavier, sweating excessively, trembling/shaking, etc.)
7. Timing of last tetanus vaccination

Examples of wounds that need to be seen by a veterinarian right away are wounds with active bleeding that cannot be controlled with pressure; wounds exposing deeper structures (like bone, tendons and internal organs); and wounds causing extreme discomfort.

Step 2: Clean and Stabilize

Once the initial assessment is complete, steps can be taken by owners to help provide more comfort to the animal and get a head start on treatment. Horses live in a much dirtier environment than humans, cats or dogs, and often wounds

are covered in a mixture of blood, soil, hay or even manure. For this reason, cleaning the wound as soon as possible is a must to get rid of debris and even microorganisms present in the wound. Initial cleaning will minimize the chance of bacteria actually being established in the tissues and will therefore reduce the likelihood of infection. The initial cleaning will also allow for a better assessment of the size, depth and severity of the wound.

To properly clean a wound, move your horse to the cleanest area you have available and use a garden hose to rinse off debris. It is important the water pressure is low to avoid pushing debris even deeper into the wound. If the horse will allow, you can gently pick the dirt off the wound with gloved hands while running water over it. In case you do not have a hose nearby, you can wet a clean towel with warm water and use that to wipe dirt from the wound. Avoid using soap or other disinfecting products, such as alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, iodine or chlorhexidine, as these can be very irritating and toxic to the tissues. Saline can be used instead of water, but it is not usually necessary in that initial rough cleaning. Only touch the wound with clean hands and preferably wear medical gloves to minimize introduction of more bacteria.

Once the wound has been grossly cleaned take another close look to re-evaluate size, depth and involvement of other structures.

The location, extent and potential damage to deeper structures play a big role in determining how the wound needs to be treated.

After the wound is clean, keep it protected until veterinary care can be given. Bandaging becomes extremely important if you need to transport your horse to a hospital for further care and even more important if veterinary care cannot be provided right away. A well-placed bandage can help not only to keep the wound clean and control active bleeds by application of pressure, but also provide some mechanical support and protection to the injured skin and other structures involved, and thus prevent further damage.

The location and extent of the wound will often determine the type of bandaging and protection the wound will need.

It is important to ensure that horses are properly vaccinated against tetanus. *Clostridium tetanii* is the bacteria that causes tetanus, it is abundant in equine fecal material and therefore in equine environments. In the event that a horse has not been appropriately vaccinated against tetanus and suffers a wound or penetrating injury, they could develop a life-threatening complication of developing tetanus.

The description below provides details regarding the structures that can be affected and how to manage wounds based on their location.

Continued on Next Page

Leg wounds

What can be damaged: Leg wounds are the most common type of laceration we see, and the dirtiest as well. Noticing the exact location on the leg is crucial to determine the course of action. Horses' legs do not have a lot of tissue coverage and even the smallest wound can damage tendons, expose bone and penetrate joints or involve other synovial structures*. Penetration of synovial structures and damage to tendons/ligaments can have serious repercussions for the horse's life and future athletic career.

Lacerations on the back part of the leg (palmar/plantar aspect) have the potential of damaging the flexor tendons and suspensory ligament that support the limb. Lacerations on the front part of the leg can damage the extensor tendons responsible for helping the horse advance their limb forward and place their foot flat on the ground. Damage to the extensor tendons are usually better tolerated by horses and carry a more favorable prognosis than if flexor tendons are affected. Laceration on the inside or outside of the leg may damage collateral ligaments and lead to destabilization of joints.

Lacerations over joints often penetrate these spaces and seed bacteria deeply into the joint. If treatment is not provided in a timely manner, infection is harder to clear and damage to the cartilage ensues, eventually leading to arthritis. Deep lacerations that expose bone can lead to what is called a "sequestrum," where one piece of the bone loses blood supply and is walled off from the parent bone by the body in an attempt to get rid of dead tissue. Cases in which sequestrum develops may take longer to heal and have persistent drainage until that piece

of bone is removed either by a veterinarian or by the body itself.

*Synovial structures are sterile, fluid-filled pouches that surround joints or tendons and ligaments so they glide better during motion.

First-aid care: A good lavage with water can really help remove the largest debris and improve visualization for a more thorough assessment. Because of the lack of extra skin on their legs, any skin flap should be left alone and not removed. Bandaging is crucial to support flaps of skin and damaged tendons/ligaments.

The more unstable the leg seems, the stiffer the bandage applied needs to be to prevent further trauma and provide more comfort to the animal. Duct tape or white athletic tape can be used as the last layer over a cotton bandage to make it stiffer and more supportive. Even the smallest leg wounds can penetrate joints and are better assessed by a veterinarian as soon as they are identified. Delaying proper care on a leg wound can have devastating consequences as bacteria multiplies very quickly and start to form a film that is not easily penetrated by antibiotics.

Large flaps that are not sutured right away rapidly contract (shrink) and are unable to cover the defect completely later, resulting in prolonged healing times, development of exuberant granulation tissue ("proud flesh") and less favorable cosmetic outcomes.

Chest wounds

What can be damaged: Depending on the depth of chest wounds, penetration of the thorax may occur, allowing air to enter the thoracic cavity which may lead to collapse of the lung (pneumothorax). Once the lung is collapsed it cannot exchange

oxygen, and the animal will have difficulty breathing. Damage to lung tissue and fractured ribs can also lead to accumulation of blood in the chest that may need to be drained by a veterinarian.

First-aid care: Listen for noises of air being sucked in as the horse breathes or moves around, although air is not always heard rushing in and out of thorax. For this reason, until a veterinarian can properly assess the horse, chest wounds should be covered with gauze or a clean towel and a tight wrap using an elastic bandage, or even duct tape, to minimize the risk of an undetected pneumothorax progressing into respiratory distress.

Abdominal wounds

What can be damaged: Abdominal wounds usually cause variable damage to the multiple muscle layers that form the abdominal wall, and if deep enough can penetrate the abdominal cavity causing damage to internal organs such as intestines, spleen, liver, bladder and kidneys. When damage to the organs has occurred, usually horses will look a lot more compromised (e.g. breathing heavy, discolored gums, laying down, reluctant to move, etc.) and as blood loss or extreme contamination of the abdominal cavity with bacteria from the intestines occur, the animal can progress to a severe state very quickly.

First-aid care: If the animal has an object penetrating into an area, while waiting for veterinary care to arrive, do not remove it as it can cause damage to large blood vessels and lead to worsened bleeding. If possible, cut the object so it is shorter and does not drag on the floor or get caught on things. It is recommended that the protruding object be left long enough so it can

still be grasped. An alternative type of injury may involve a tear to the skin, resulting in a flap that needs to be repaired and replaced with sutures. In this situation, if a large flap of skin is found hanging loosely, try to hold it back to its normal location while applying a bandage. Application of a clean towel, cotton roll or gauze roll followed by an elastic tape can be done to help hold large skin flaps in place, minimize further trauma and provide some support. Avoid placing the elastic or adhesive tape directly onto injured skin.

Head wounds

What can be damaged: Head wounds are often associated with fractures of bones in the skull or jaw. These wounds can affect teeth and eyes.

First-aid care: Bone fragments and loose teeth should not be removed in case there's a possibility of being re-attached or helping provide temporary stability. Often these wounds cannot be bandaged and should be gently cleaned until veterinary care is provided. Radiographs are sometimes needed to identify the full extent of injuries, including potentially fractured bones.

In summary

Horses are active and curious animals. Even under the best of circumstances, traumatic injuries can occur. Horses should be evaluated on a routine basis to determine if injuries have occurred. When present, wounds should be carefully rinsed with water and evaluated to determine their severity. In the event of serious injury or obvious pain, examination and management by a veterinarian is the appropriate course

Continued on Next Page

of action.

Take-home points

- Lacerations in horses are common and may affect several important structures.
- A rinsing lavage with tap water will help remove debris and reduce microorganisms to allow for a better assessment of the

wound.

- Disinfecting or antiseptic solutions should be avoided as they can be toxic to tissues.
- Bandaging the wound temporarily until a veterinarian can assess it, will provide support, maintain a cleaner wound and prevent further trauma.
- Even the smallest leg wound

can penetrate a synovial structure(s), which is a serious injury. It is ideal to have wounds near joints and tendons evaluated by a veterinarian as soon as possible.

- Wounds that have big flaps of skin need to be sutured as soon as possible to allow for optimal healing and to minimize

complications such as exuberant granulation tissue (proud flesh) formation.

- Work with your veterinarian to establish a proper vaccine protocol to ensure that your horse is vaccinated against tetanus on an annual basis.



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Summer Flint Hills Cattle Roundup Brings Family Closest To Mother Nature

By Frank J. Buchman

Watching the sun come up as cattle graze in the Flint Hills under blue skies with family on horseback creates spiritual reality.

“Regardless of anyone’s beliefs there’s nothing so close to the heart as that intimate feeling with Mother Nature,” Jerry Hedrick said.

The lifelong cowboy is forever positively affected by the warm sensation during summer pasture gathering.

“I’ve been involved with many facets of Western life, but working with family on horseback is the ultimate,” Hedrick affirmed.

Operating several thousand acres of native Chase County grassland, Hedrick brings his horseback “family” together every summer in late July.

From the rodeo entertainment Hedrick family at Nickerson, the cowboy became successful in corporate business.

“Through it all, I still wanted to have a Flint Hills ranch,” Hedrick said. “My wife Bev is a Chase County native growing up on the Walker Ranch near Cedar Point. Fortunately, upon retirement we now have our own ranch.

“It has been a dream come true for me,” he added.

Maintaining homes in a Kansas City suburb and near Strong City, the couple rotates living in both communities. “I keep horses at the two places and trade off so I always have one ready to ride,” Hedrick said.

The Chase County home has been developed to include horse facilities

while Saddle & Sirloin Club offers urban horse care. “Karlie Gibb looks after the Strong City place when we’re away,” Hedrick noted.

From youthful days working rodeos, Hedrick continued as a clown into adulthood before becoming demanded as a rodeo announcer.

“I was really following my namesake, dad Jerry, both as a clown and announcer,” the younger generation admitted. “Dad liked the entertainment side of Western life. But I actually took more after my grandpa’s love for training performance horses and working with cattle.”

Recognized for broad humanitarian services, Hedrick also served as an American Quarter Horse Association announcer a number of years.

A custom grazer, Hedrick manages summer cattle on his personal land and pastures subleased from other owners. “We’ve looked after pastures for the Langenegger Brothers for more than 30 years,” he noted.

“It’s like a family reunion when time comes to gather double stocked intensive grazed cattle,” Hedrick insisted.

“This summer 16 of us worked together for two days on horseback rounding up steers for shipping to feedlots,” he said. Included were Hedrick, his wife Bev, their daughter Ginger, husband Rob Rothhaas, and children Chase, 15, and Lauren, 13.

“Our grandchildren are the fifth



Frank Higgs, Kip Strate, Bud Higgs, Colton Krueger and Makenzie Higgs gather yearling cattle from the Flint Hills in late July. (Doug Busby photo)



In the catch pen, cattle that have been intensive grazed short season on native pastures are sorted by Bud Higgs, Frank Higgs, Jerry Hedrick and Rob Rothhaas to be loaded on trucks headed to feedlots. (Doug Busby photo)

generation having an interest in Flint Hills ranching,” Hedrick pointed out.

Additional “family” helping with roundups was Frank Higgs and his son Bud plus Makenzie and Troy, Bud’s children. “We’ve worked with the Higgs family for many years and ride several Quarter Horses of their breeding program,” Hedrick noted.

Lawrence Osgood and his sons Paul and Garrett were there with the Krueger brothers Bo and Colton, and Kip Strate. “Paul Osgood lives in Spur, Texas, but came back to Chase County for two weeks to help ranchers,” Hedrick said.

“We’re really a close knit ‘family’ who all enjoy working together horseback in the beautiful Flint Hills,” he added. “Bev’s homemade hot rolls after the cattle are loaded sure helps make everyone eager to get the job done.”

Management of the Flint Hills is extremely important to Hedrick.

“It is much different than years ago when cattle were on pastures full season until mid-October,” he said. “Of course, cattle size, weight per acre, determines stocking rates

Continued on Page 16



Still on horseback after gathering Flint Hills pastures in July, the ranch home near Strong City was a perfect setting for a family portrait. Included are Bev Hedrick, Jerry Hedrick, Lauren Rothhaas, Chase Rothhaas, Ginger Rothhaas, and Rob Rothhaas. (Doug Busby photo)

for intensive grazing. But generally we intend to turn out twice as many cattle for half a season.

“Grass has higher protein in the

early months for the least expensive cattle gains. In most years, they’ll put on 2-3/4 to three pounds a day,” Hedrick explained. “The native

pastures are not overgrazed and have time to recover in late summer for the coming year.”

July heat creates hardship when moving cattle sometimes so roundups begin before sunrise when it’s still cool.

A trick roping artist since childhood rodeo days, Hedrick, also a leather craftsman, still entertains occasionally with Western acts.

“What I really enjoy doing most now is team roping, especially helping others learn to rope,” he said.

During practice sessions, Hedrick prefers roping live cattle, however sometimes has mechanical assistance. “I am generally a header, but I can rope either end,” he said. “I have a ‘Smarty Steer’ mechanical device for practice at Saddle & Sirloin.”

Tension is on when Hedrick comes out of the heading box. “I don’t intend

to ever miss,” he insisted. “It’s always important to catch for a heeler, but more so for young cowboys learning to rope and train horses.

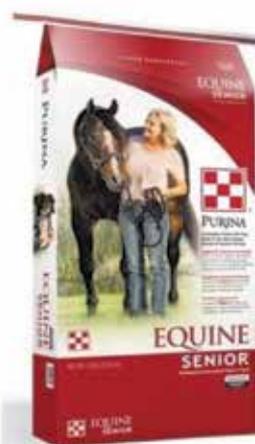
“I want to help in every way I can,” Hedrick said. “That’s been my family’s Western way of life always assisting others which seems different than in other parts of society.”

Whatever age, it’s always important to be among the winners. “Just 80,” Hedrick won a “pretty good check” out of 200 teams at a recent roping in Oregon, Missouri.

“I’ve seen and done a lot with cowboys, rodeo and horse people during my life. Nothing compares to working with family horseback in the Flint Hills,” Jerry Hedrick declared.



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The Fit Rider

By Al Dunning

A number of factors can enable you to sustain or improve your equestrian abilities. Stability in your seat with a strong sense of balance is derived from rhythm, timing and feel. While all of these traits can be learned, some riders are naturals when it comes to being “part of the horse.”

Confidence, seat, and balance play an even more important role as we age, and physical fitness is essential in the scheme of body strength as well as mental maintenance.

Fitness can have an amazing impact on how we ride. Balance with riding is controlled by your core and legs. Your core takes care of your seat and your legs maintain your stability and base. Strengthening your core, which maintains back wellness, is derived from “sweat-equity” – doing such exercises as sit-ups, leg lifts, lat-pulls, isometrics, planks and about any weight training exercise while you concentrate on

contracting your stomach muscles. Strong legs allow a rider to squeeze your thighs to not tilt forward, keep your heels down to retain your stirrup, or stay around your horse with your leg cues. Leg exercises like squats, deep knee bends, leg press and stair climber can strengthen your lower limbs.

Cardio fitness also plays an important role in riding stamina. Walking or jogging can help your fitness and cardio, but many of us have hip, knee, foot, or leg issues that preclude concussion exercise. Using the elliptical machine, riding a bike or swimming laps are all good alternatives to improve cardio and core.

A professional fitness trainer can design a customized program to optimize your fitness performance. The pro can give you specific exercises to focus on the areas of your body that need the most attention while avoiding injury.

Knowing how to do an exercise correctly will insure that you are getting maximum benefit from your workout.

Motivation is key to success. Having a goal will inspire you to take the time necessary for self-improvement. A workout partner or a professional fitness trainer can help to keep you motivated on your fitness journey. Having an appointment that you look forward to (or at least feel obligated to attend) will help you to keep your resolution to get strong. Even two or three days a week of concentrated exercise will lead to results.

As a rider, once you are no longer worried about a balanced seat, you can concentrate on being actually “with” your horse in a proper rhythm with each footfall or movement. The term “feel” means that you don’t need to look at it, that it comes natural, you can sense it, and are totally comfortable with “it”... Being

one with your tennis racket can make you a better player. Being one with your basketball can make you a better player. Being one with your horse can make you a much better rider. This is what feel is about. Being fit can help you concentrate, be focused, and confident.

~Al



Hearty Grub with Mark Burkdoll

Cowboy Taters:

- 1 pound red potatoes (about half the skins removed) sliced thin
- 2 Tbsp melted butter
- 1/4 cup whipping cream
- 1 cup shredded onions (yellow)
- 1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- salt and pepper

Mix all ingredients together and put in cast iron skillet and press down tightly. Cook on stove top over high heat until the cheese starts to melt then move to oven to finish (15 to 20 min depending on the thickness of the potatoes). Put under broiler last couple minutes to brown the tops.

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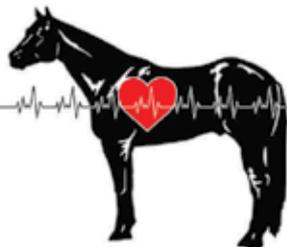
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Pecan Cheesecake Bars

- 2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 2/3 cup plus 2 Tablespoons butter,
melted, cooled slightly,
and divided
- 4 (8 ounce) packages cream
cheese, softened
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup flour
- 6 large eggs
- 1 1/2 Tablespoons vanilla, divided
- 3/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup light corn syrup
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 1/2 cups coarsely chopped
pecans

Caramel sauce

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
Line one 9x13-inch baking pan
with foil, letting excess extend
over sides of pan. Spray foil with
cooking spray with flour.
In a medium bowl, stir together
graham cracker crumbs and 1/3
cup plus 2 Tablespoons melted
butter; press into the bottom of

the prepared pan. Bake for 8
minutes. Remove from the oven,
and let cool completely on a wire
rack. Leave the oven on.
In a large bowl, beat cream
cheese with a mixer until smooth.
In a small bowl, whisk sugar
and flour, gradually add to
cream cheese, beating until just
combined. Add 3 eggs, one at a
time, beating just until combined
after each addition. Beat in 1
Tablespoon vanilla. Spread
mixture onto prepared crust.
Bake until filling is set and slightly
puffed around edges, about 25
minutes. Let cool on a wire rack
for 5 minutes. Leave the oven on.

Meanwhile, in a medium bowl,
whisk together remaining 3
eggs; whisk in brown sugar, corn
syrup, salt, remaining 1/3 cup
melted butter, and remaining 1/2
Tablespoon vanilla. Gently pour
mixture onto cheesecake layer.

Bake until top is set, 35 to 40
minutes. Let cool completely in a
pan on a wire rack. Loosely cover,
and refrigerate until cold, about 4
hours. Use excess foil as handles
and remove from the pan, cut into
bars. Serve with caramel sauce.
Refrigerate bars in an airtight
container.

Falling into Winter- Preparing for cold weather before it arrives

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Horse owners enjoy the relief from summer heat that fall brings - cool rides, beautiful trails, and finals-bound horse shows. It is also a good time to get barn projects done and to think things over proactively for the winter months.

1. Obtain hay, secure grain storage, and check your water supply:

Be sure you have a quality hay source and the proper amount to get you through to hay season of the following year. If your hay supplier does not store your hay for you, have a climate safe area to store your hay in to protect it from mold and animals (barn, loft, or container). Rodents and other pests are attracted indoors during cold weather so grain should be stored in a container that pests cannot invade. Check all waterers for leaks and check that tank heaters

are in working order.

2. Prepare Shelter/Stalls:

If you do not normally use stalls during the rest of the year check that they are clean, in working order, and safe (no broken boards or exposed metal). Check that run-in sheds and shelter areas do not need repair from use in the summer months. Any sheet metal should be covered with wood (to avoid kicking through) and loose boards should be secured. Adding gravel or footing around troughs and turnout pens is a good idea before the ground gets soft with thawing from snow - this protects your facility from muddy areas and your horse's feet from conditions that favor thrush conditions. Consider lighting when possible - the days will get shorter and it is a convenience to be able to check on your horses in the light as you do chores. It is also extremely helpful to your veterinarian should you have an emergency after dark.

3. Check sheets, blankets, and other gear:

Bring blankets and sheets out of storage now to check for missing straps, holes that need repair, and to make sure that nothing has happened to them in storage (mice, moths, etc). Ordering any new cold weather gear is easier now than when you need it and companies face potential back order issues.

4. Discuss any health issues with your veterinarian:

Fall vaccinations are an important part of your horse's health care routine but are also a great time

to discuss any concerns with your veterinarian. Nutrition, weight, and other health issues are best addressed prior to the harsh winter months. Ensure that your veterinarian does a thorough oral exam on your horse and schedule a dentistry if needed. Deworming protocols also often involve the first frost so make a plan and know what product your horse should be dewormed with and when.



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Cowboy Church with Steve Stafford

Hello my friends! It's always good when we can get together, even for a moment in time, even through the Better Horses paper. You know we all need others in our lives. During the good times, we need others to share in that, and during the tough times, we have others to carry us through. If you know anything about

horses, then you know that most of them are a "herd animal". What I mean is that they do better with other horses instead of being by themselves. We were created, by God, to be the same. We do better when we do life with other people, people that care about us, love us, walk with us, laugh with us, and at times, weep with us. The Bible says this; Romans 12:4-5 NLT "Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are

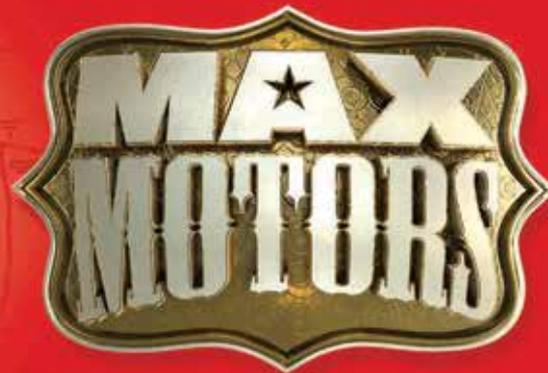
all parts of his one body, and each of us has different work to do. And since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others."

Okay, so as born again believers, we are all in the body of Christ, we all have work to do, which we are designed to do, for the cause of Christ, and to assist and help each other. So we are not alone, we belong to a "herd". We can work together, help each other, confide in one another, console each other, teach, preach, and listen to each other. As a pastor, I have to have help, in all things, on all days. If I didn't I would burn out quickly. But with others in my life, such as staff, friends, and family, the work goes

on. And it is easier, it is enjoyable, it is manageable, it is effective, and in this - Father God is honored. So the next time that you need help - ask for it, and the next time you see someone that needs help - offer it.

*Pastor Steve Stafford
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Kansans Rank High At National High School Rodeo Finals

By Frank J. Buchman

Kansas' high school cowboys and cowgirls have proven to be among the best in the country.

The combined Kansas team placed fifth at the recent National High School Rodeo Finals in Guthrie, Oklahoma, reported James Higginbotham.

Executive director of the National High School Rodeo Association, Higginbotham said the boys ranked second while the girls placed eighth.

Leading scorer for the Kansas boys was Ty Pope of Garnett who was runner-up to the all-around cowboy. He was third in saddle bronc riding and sixth in bareback bronc riding.

Taylor Todd of Rexford was fourth

runner-up to the all-around cowgirl while placing third in the reined cow horse event.

Fourth in the all-around rookie cowgirl standings was Grace Gardiner of Ashland.

Big individual event winner was Cable Wareham of Whiting honored as the champion saddle bronc rider.

Other Kansans placing in the top ten in event competition were also announced. They include Faith Miller, Allen, girls cutting, fifth; Lane Berkenmeier, Maple Hill, bull riding, sixth; and Trey Adams, Junction City, tie-down roping, ninth.



Ty Pope of Garnett shows his bronc riding ability that helped make him runner-up to the all-around cowboy at the recent National High School Rodeo Finals in Guthrie, Oklahoma. (Lone S Photography)



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Contracting Livestock For Youth Rodeos Becomes Council Grove Family Business

By Frank J. Buchman

A lifetime fascination for rodeo and especially bucking horses has turned into a family profession for one Council Grove cowboy.

"I grew up at Strong City, home of the Flint Hills Rodeo, and loved everything about rodeo," Jason Fillmore said.

His dad, Marion "Hop" Fillmore, was a successful amateur rodeo contestant providing assistance at the hometown rodeo along with his mom Jean Fillmore.

"My family has always been closely tied to rodeo and I got started competing some at a young age," Fillmore said.

Cattle production is the main enterprise of the Flint Hills and the young cowboy worked horseback with Chase County ranchers.

"Fortunately I had the opportunity to learn from some of the best cattlemen and rodeo cowboys in the world," Fillmore appreciated.

While he liked all aspects of cowboy life and the rodeo arena, Fillmore emphasized, "I really loved the bucking horses. Something about watching those horses, the bronc riders, and the pickup men stood out to me above all the rest."

Following his dream of being a rodeo cowboy Fillmore said, "I competed in several rodeo contest events with some success. But really I didn't get as far as I'd hoped."

His wife Dara was successful in the youth rodeo world of barrel racing while growing up. Then their children followed family tradition with personal rodeo accomplishments.

Son Blane roped tie-down calves and team roped successfully in

National Little Britches Rodeos and other youth rodeos.

Daughter Brea has collected barrel racing awards in Little Britches Rodeos, the National Barrel Horse Association and jackpot events.

Personally Fillmore continued working the sport of rodeo on a limited basis as a winning ranch rodeo team member.

Whenever an opportunity would arise, Fillmore worked as a pickup man for the ranch bronc riding event.

It was through his children's involvement in junior rodeos that

Fillmore saw the need for contracting rodeo livestock. "There are a number of top rodeo contractors throughout the Midwest, but not that many cater to youth," he evaluated.

"Because of that and my love for bucking horses, I decided to



Jason and Dara Fillmore and their children Blane and Brea are with bucking horses in their Fillmore Rodeo Company family business at Council Grove. (L.J. Harris photo)

develop a string of rodeo livestock," Fillmore said. "I started buying bucking horses from around the Midwest, and youth rodeo committees wanted to lease my stock."

Featuring bucking horses suited for youth contestants, Fillmore Rodeo Company now contracts all rodeo livestock.

"God gave me the opportunity to do what I've really always been destined with the sport of rodeo," Fillmore appreciated.

"We furnish all the calves and steers along with our horses, but now lease bulls from other contractors," he clarified.

Likewise, goats for youth to tie and sheep for the mutton busting event are contracted from other owners.

"My wife was a little hesitant about the business at first, especially having the string of rodeo broncs," Fillmore said. "But now, it's a family enterprise and everybody gets involved at home and working rodeos on the road.

"Our son Blane has especially taken an interest in rodeo stock contracting," Fillmore continued. "I really enjoy working with him and seeing him become part of the



Haflinger-Welsh cross pony broncs fit well for youth rodeo contestants aged 10 to 13 like Briggs Shannon on Acorn at a Christian Youth Rodeo Association event. (Avid Visual Imagery photo)

business.”

Starting mostly contracting for the Christian Youth Rodeo Association (CYRA), Fillmore said, “Now we work for several youth rodeo organizations.”

That also includes Little Britches Rodeos, and the Junior and Senior High Rodeo Associations.

While the coronavirus impacted this year, Fillmore annually contracts livestock for about 50 rodeo performances. One-hundred-twenty junior high and high school students participated in the rodeo Fillmore recently contracted at Council Grove.

Now about 40 bucking horses



Bucking horses have always been close to the heart of Jason Fillmore at Council Grove. He contracts livestock for about 50 junior rodeo performances annually.



Oklahoma Tommy is a top bareback bucking horse in Jason Fillmore's rodeo contracting business serving youth rodeos throughout the Midwest.

have been acquired for the Fillmore bronc remuda. “They’ve come from several other contractors. Horses that didn’t fit their strings have worked out well for junior riders,” he said.

“Sometimes it just takes more understanding and work to get horses straightened out so they want to buck,” Fillmore insisted.

Mares and geldings are in the bucking string in a variety of colors, sizes and shapes. “Certain horses go better bareback, or under saddle, and some broncs can go either way,” he said.

For the contestants aged 10 to 13, Fillmore has a herd of pony broncs. “They’re Haflinger-Welsh cross and work out well for the younger riders,” Fillmore said. “I want the horses to buck but not hurt the riders and let them make some qualified rides.”

Younger contestants can also compete on Fillmore’s bucking

steers, typically 800-pound former roping cattle, with a rigging or under saddle.

“We have several outstanding big broncs, stout 16-hands-plus feather-footed horses that know how to buck,” Fillmore insisted.

“Producing some of his own broncs, Fillmore explained, “It’s a long process because I don’t buck them until they’re five.”

Intending to contract livestock for college and amateur rodeos near term, Fillmore has his sights set on the professional ranks.

“I love the rodeo business. I’m confident I can produce bucking horses to qualify for the National Finals Rodeo,” he concluded.



Jason Fillmore, Council Grove, contracts livestock to junior rodeos while also sometimes serving as a rodeo pickup man. (Michael Talley photo)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM LAUNCHES FIRST INHALED THERAPY FOR HORSES WITH SEVERE EQUINE ASTHMA IN U.S.**

The Aservo® EquiHaler® (ciclesonide inhalation spray), an industry first in equine medicine, addresses an unmet need for horses with severe equine asthma.

Boehringer Ingelheim uses synergies between its human pharma and animal health research teams to set new standards of care.

Duluth, Georgia – September 15, 2020 – **Boehringer Ingelheim** today announced the U.S. launch of the Aservo® EquiHaler® (ciclesonide inhalation spray), the first FDA-approved inhalant therapy for horses with severe equine asthma.

Developed after a decade of collaboration between **Boehringer Ingelheim's** human pharmaceutical and animal health businesses, the ASERVO EQUIHALER offers the promise of relief to thousands of horses that suffer from severe equine asthma, which affects 11 to 17 percent of horses.^{2,3,4}

Horses with severe equine asthma typically have clinical signs that include difficulty breathing, coughing and nasal discharge, which can have a significant impact on a horse's performance and quality of life.¹ Over time, severely asthmatic horses may develop changes in the lung, which makes it difficult to breathe, even at rest.¹

"We understand the unique and inextricable link between animals and people. By delivering value through innovation, we strive to enhance the wellbeing of both and help shape the future direction of the industry," said Caroline Belmont, Head of US Global Innovation and US Regulatory Affairs at **Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health**. "We are focused on developing breakthrough therapeutics, like the ASERVO EQUIHALER, for animal disease areas with unmet needs to make a true impact in the lives of horses and their owners."

The ASERVO EQUIHALER marks an industry first in equine medicine, as until now, there has been no FDA-approved inhalant therapy for use in horses with severe equine

asthma. Severe equine asthma is an inflammatory disease of the lower airways caused by breathing in high concentrations of organic dust particles small enough to pass with air to the lower airways. Such particles are commonly found in hay and bedding.

Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health used the Respimat™ inhaler, developed by the company's human pharmaceutical business, as a basis to develop the unique Soft Mist™ Technology of the ASERVO EQUIHALER,⁵ which is designed specifically for use in horses. The ASERVO EQUIHALER includes an ergonomic handle and dosing lever for ease of user handling, and a nostril adaptor that fits inside the nostril of the horse, allowing them to easily inhale the medicated mist into their lungs.⁶

The active ingredient in the ASERVO EQUIHALER (ciclesonide inhalation spray) is ciclesonide, a glucocorticoid (steroid) that becomes activated in the lungs, which allows for the targeted delivery and activation of the medication. Studies in horses with severe asthma have demonstrated that administration of ciclesonide reversed airway obstruction associated with severe asthma, and to date, ciclesonide is the only glucocorticoid not associated with suppression of serum cortisol, a desired treatment outcome.⁶

To learn more about ASERVO EQUIHALER, visit the www.aservoequihaler.com.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION: ASERVO EQUIHALER has not been evaluated in pregnant or lactating mares. In a large clinical field study, the most common adverse reactions reported were coughing, nasal discharge, sneezing, and nasal irritation/bleeding. Administration of corticosteroids may worsen existing bacterial, fungal, or viral infection and may induce the first stage of parturition. Do not use in horses with known hypersensitivity to ciclesonide or corticosteroids. Not for use in humans. Keep this and all medications out of the reach of children.

About **Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc.**

The lives of animals and humans are interconnected in deep and

complex ways. We know that when animals are healthy, humans are healthier too.

Across the globe, our 10,000 employees are dedicated to delivering value through innovation, thus enhancing the well-being of both. Respect for animals, humans and the environment is at the heart of what we do.

We develop solutions and provide services to protect animals from disease and pain. We support our customers in taking care of the health of their animals and protect our communities against life- and society- threatening diseases.

Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health is the second largest animal health business in the world, with net sales of \$4.5 billion (4 billion euros) in 2019 and presence in more than 150 countries.

Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health has a significant presence in the United States, with more than 3,100 employees in places that include Georgia, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, New Jersey and Puerto Rico. To learn more, visit www.boehringer-ingelheim.us, www.facebook.com/BoehringerAHUS or www.twitter.com/Boehringer_AH.

About **Boehringer Ingelheim**

Making new and better medicines for humans and animals is at the heart of what we do. Our mission is to create breakthrough therapies that change lives.

Since its founding in 1885, **Boehringer Ingelheim** has been independent and family-owned. We have the freedom to pursue our long-term vision, looking ahead to identify the health challenges of the future and targeting those areas of need where we can do the most good.

As a world-leading, research-driven pharmaceutical company, more than 51,000 employees create value through innovation daily for our three business areas: Human Pharma, Animal Health, and Biopharmaceutical Contract Manufacturing. In 2019, **Boehringer Ingelheim** achieved net sales of \$21.3 billion (19 billion euros). Our significant investment of over \$3.9 billion (3.5 billion euros) in R&D drives innovation, enabling the next generation of medicines that save lives and improve quality of life.

We realize more scientific opportunities by embracing the power of partnership and diversity of experts across the life-science community. By working together, we accelerate the delivery of the next medical breakthrough that will transform the lives of patients now, and in generations to come.

#

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678-638-3123

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FARMERS & RANCHERS LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

SALINA, KS

Fall Classic Catalog Horse Sale Saturday, Oct. 10th

New This Year

Ranch Horse Competition
Friday, Oct. 9th @ 6pm

Rope Horse Preview
Friday 1-5pm

- 15 sorrel geld by Streaking Ta Fame-ranch team rope
 - 13 buckskin gelding grandson of Smart chic Olena-ranch/rope
 - 15 chest mare granddaughter of One Time Pepto-started great
 - 07 brown mare granddaughter of Reckless Dash-Rom, SI 87 proven producer
- & many more!**

*12th ANNUAL F&R FUTURITY
\$12,000 added money
Friday October 9, 2020 @ 8 a.m.



*05 buckskin stallion by grandson of Bueno Chex206 AQHA points roping, reining, cowhorse, halter, barrels many time world show super horse qualifier Reserve World Champion Working Cowhorse \$7572 NRHA

23rd Annual Fall Colt & Yearling Catalog Sale Sunday Oct. 11th @ 10am

Selling 200 baby colts and yearlings representing great bloodlines like: Pat Cowan, Peptoboosmal, Dash Ta Fame, Dash For Cash, High Brow Cat, Playgun, Docs Hickory, Docs Oak, Paddys Irish Whiskey, Three Dee Skyline, Sophisticated Cat, Shining Spark, Metallic Cat, Two Eyed Red Buck just to name a few. These colts and yearlings will be paid up in the 2022 and 2023 F & R Cow Horse Futurity.

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Dear Maggie,

We are ready to sell our property but are being told that we have missed the peak market and should wait until Spring. What do you think?

Winter Blues

Dear Winter Blues,

There are three positives for listing your property now and not waiting. First is that listings in our area are down 50% from this time in 2019. With COVID, many sellers have put off moving and that has created very low inventory. Second, interest rates are very attractive and buyers are taking advantage of these interest rates to buy now. And third, with many sellers thinking this is not a good time of the year to sell has created a great opportunity for you right now!

Although the number of buyers in the market for horse properties and farms does drop going into winter, the serious buyers are still searching. The buyers that are lost are the ones that are “just looking” but not quite ready to buy as yet. And since inventory for these specialized properties has dropped, there are fewer properties on the market for the remaining buyers to choose from. There may be a chance that a qualified winter buyer will be missed simply because the property was not on the market at the right time.

All this is a good thing for sellers if they are serious about getting their property sold. The lower the inventory, the better chance of selling. So, move forward with confidence that you have not missed any peak.

Maggie

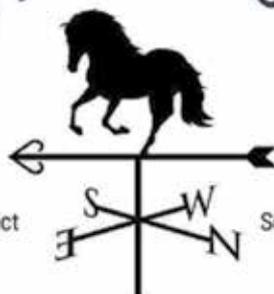
Maggie Stonecipher with The Property Shop at Coldwell Banker Good Life has built a reputation as a Trusted Real Estate Professional with Loyalty, Honestly and a Winning Heart. Serving 13 counties in and around Kansas City, Maggie specializes in buying and selling residential, horse property & farm and ranch properties. Licensed in KS and MO.



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