

# BETTER HORSES™

26<sup>th</sup> Annual

# EQUIFEST

OF KANSAS

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Kansas' Premier

# All-Breed Horse Fair

March 16-19, 2023

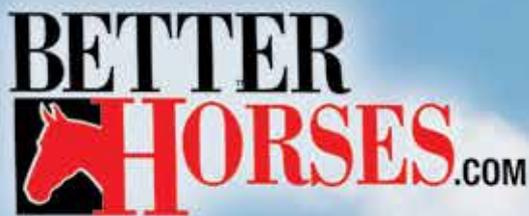
Salina, KS

# & Exposition

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<b>RFD-TV</b>	<b>Cable Network</b>	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>2:00pm</b>
<b>Cowboy Channel</b>	<b>Cable Network</b>	<b>M-F</b>	<b>6:00am</b>
<b>Rural Radio</b>	<b>Sirius XM Ch. 147</b>	<b>W-TH</b>	<b>10:00pm</b>

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<b>Kansas City</b>	<b>KCWE-TV29</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>8:00am</b>
<b>Topeka</b>	<b>KTMJ-TV43</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>6:00am</b>
<b>St. Joseph</b>	<b>KQTV-TV2</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>Wichita</b>	<b>KSNW-TV3</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>5:30am</b>
<b>Oklahoma City</b>	<b>KSBI-TV52</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>2:00pm</b>

Catch all episodes on the Better Horses YouTube & Podcast Channels.



Be sure to subscribe to the Better Horses Newspaper

Welcome to the Stallion Edition of Better Horses,

As you can see on the front page, our readers get the first look at the upcoming Equifest "All-Breed Horse Fair" line-up beginning March 16th sponsored by the Kansas Horse Council (KHC). [www.kansashorsecouncil.com](http://www.kansashorsecouncil.com)

A special thanks and congratulations to KHC Executive Director, Justine Staten, for her exceptional effort as Equifest's "hardest working" Event Manager, now celebrating its 26th year.

The American Horse Council is a great start in getting involved with horse councils in your state. [www.horsecouncil.org](http://www.horsecouncil.org), including the newly formed Missouri Horse Council, [www.missourihorsecouncil.com](http://www.missourihorsecouncil.com).

2023 will be the year of friendly competition. More local and regional horse shows are reporting increased activity year over year. Recreational riders are finding their way to the show ring resulting in horse shows and clinics seeing a rise in all-time attendance. It's also exciting to see more recreational riders hit the show ring.

This season Better Horses will continue its strong coverage of horse shows while showing valuable horse tips needed to improve horsemanship and riding skills.

As promised, Better Horses is embracing ranchers with our new section "Better Cattle". Look for talented, informative and entertaining segments coming to our Radio and Television programs.

You can view the most recent Better Horses TV and Radio programs on [www.BetterHorses.com](http://www.BetterHorses.com).

For all of our equine research junkies here are some horse statistics as of January 7, 2023:

- There are 7.25 million horses in the U.S. The recreational category holds 43%, while show horses account for 17%, racing and racehorse breeding 17%, work horses for farms, ranches, police, rodeo and polo 8%, and the Amish owned represent 2%.
- According to USDA, the Quarter horse and Thoroughbred Horse breeds remain most popular breeds in the U.S. The top five breakdown by breed are as follows: Quarter Horses 39%, Thoroughbreds 10.2%, Arabian Horses 7.8%, Paint Horses 6.1%, and Appaloosa 5.9%.

Here at Better Horses, we would like to thank you for reading, watching and listening to Better Horses. We try to showcase all breeds, because we know how important each horse is to their respective owner.

Keep your seat in the saddle and your eyes on the trails!



**Better Horses TV with  
Ed Adams and Susie Arbo**



**Better Horses Radio with  
Ron McDaniel, Ernie Rodina  
and Dawn Dawson**

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# Kansas Horse Council presents the 26th Annual Equifest of Kansas

**Press Release: January 25, 2023**

*From: Kansas Horse Council, Executive Director, Justine Staten*

Kansas Horse Council presents the 26th Annual Equifest of Kansas, the largest equine expo in the Kansas area filled with shopping, food, music, clinics, workshops, and a whole lot of fun!

In two operating arenas, (Tony's Pizza Events Center Arena and Saline County Expo Center Ag Hall Arena) you can watch over 100 horses performing throughout the three and a half days, displaying a variety of breeds, disciplines, special demonstrations, and competitions!

This year our cover artist is Kathryn Leitner, the 2021 AQHA Artist of the year and the featured image is titled, "Adrift on the Hard Grass". In the arena, Curt Pate is showcasing Horsemanship, Stockmanship (Cattle Handling) and Working Dog demonstrations, Buster McLaury is presenting on Groundwork, Despooking (Obstacles) and Trailer Loading, and Patrick Sullivan is presenting introductory level Bridle-Less Riding, dealing with the Herd Bound Horse and going over Advance Liberty Riding Skills. Additionally we welcome Sally Batton who will be covering How To Ride Like a Varsity Athlete, Equicize (Aerobics in the Saddle), Biomechanics of Bending (Jump Course) and we'll also learn about Polocrosse!

Entertainment is at it's best bringing you Broken Spoke Clydesdale Hitch, the Pegasus Riders, the American Freedom Drill Team and Wichita Mounted Police. Don't miss some fantastic celebrity music talent with

Savanna Chestnut - a Kansas native who is making a name for herself in the Country Music world, Gary Pratt — Oklahoma Rancher, Singer, Songwriter and Actor, plus Caleb Martin, Singer, Songwriter and Actor, currently in the TV miniseries 1923-a prequel to Yellowstone!

Competitions are again a big part of EquiFest this year. We'll start off with the KQHA Youth Open Horse Judging Competition followed by a Draft Horse Feed Team Race, the annual blacksmithing competition for Farriers, a Driving Derby and a Breakaway Roping competition. On Friday and Saturday nights don't miss the Atwoods-Cargill authentic Ranch Rodeo with cowboys, cowgirls and their skilled mounts competing in fast and woolly, action-packed, real working events including wild cow milking and trailer loading!

Stroll through the Stall Barn to check out horses up close. Learn about different breeds. You will find everything from pony to draft and all sizes in between. See carts used for driving horses. Meet the Fort Riley Commanding General's Mounted Color Guards near their historic encampment. Check out the displays.

"Shop till you Drop" with wall-to-wall shopping in the 4H Building at Saline County Expo plus the TPEC Concourse and Great Plains Manufacturing Convention Hall. All offer something special you can't live without!

Food awaits sampling! You'll find authentic Kettle Corn (inside 4H Building) and Candied Nuts (on TPEC Concourse). Located between Ag

Hall and the 4H/Ponderosa building at the Saline County Expo Center will be several food trucks with kicked up American cafe' food, and gourmet burgers. Dine anywhere with your food truck or concessions food!

Settle in at the Ponderosa! The 4H Stage offers music, and live audience interaction if you want to be on TV! Everything Horses & Livestock will be conducting podcast interviews on stage and Speaking of Horses will host an audience participation Equine Trivia game live daily- you might become a celebrity.

Best of America by Horseback, one of the longest running shows on RFD TV and The Cowboy Channel will also be on site, sharing stories and capturing some of the EquiFest activities. Come meet them and learn about some favorite places to explore.

Workshops provide entertainment and education covering topics. This year Tammy Pate joins us to offer some equestrian yoga. The Annual Legendary Kansas Horsemen's panel returns for the 4th year, featuring successful equine hall of famers who will share stories of their horse careers.

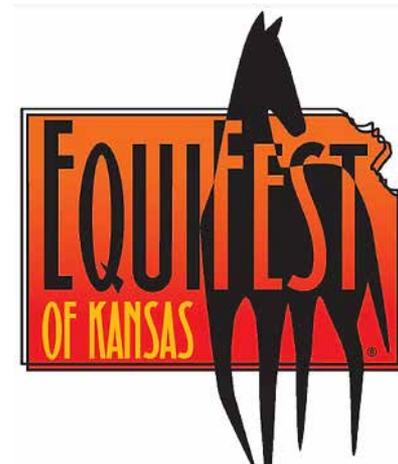
Parents can bring kids for fun in the Kids Corral or Trike Races that celebrate a Decade of Derbies at EquiFest. Plus, Kansas Rodeo Royalty will be around for pictures and autographs.

The Kansas Horse Council Foundation Silent Auction returns with some great deals! Your contribution supports equine enthusiasts pursuing a college level degree or trade

certification!

There's a lot to see and do at EquiFest of KS in Salina! It takes volunteers to make this happen. If you might be interested in volunteering let us know! We've always got something for you to help with! Interested in participating as a clinic or demo rider? We have opportunities! To find out more, go to [www.equifestofks.com](http://www.equifestofks.com) to the Get Involved tab, or contact the Kansas Horse Council Office by phone at 785-776-0662, by email- [director@kansashorsecouncil.com](mailto:director@kansashorsecouncil.com) or by a message through our website: [www.equifestofks.com](http://www.equifestofks.com). If you'd rather DM through Facebook Messenger, that works too — search "EquiFest of Kansas brought to you by Kansas Horse Council".

For updates and schedule, go to [www.equifestofks.com](http://www.equifestofks.com). Wristband Tickets on sale at the Tony's Pizza Events Center Box Office daily during the event. Prices are \$20/day or Twilight Discount \$10 after 5pm. Kids 12 and under are always free. You can get a deal with \$50 for all 3 days. Sunday is a FREE day for ALL.



# Prairie Land Partners John Deere Presents

## THURSDAY, MARCH 16TH

### TPEC Arena

- 9:30am Presentation of Colors Opening Arena  
 9:45am KSU VHC presents stall barn tours  
 10:00am Wichita Mounted Police Demo  
 11:00am Sally Batton-Ride Like a Varsity Athlete  
 12:00pm *Rake Arena*  
 12:15pm Patrick Sullivan-Intro to Bridleless Riding  
 1:15pm *Rake Arena*  
 1:30pm Ryan Cole-Opportunities to Compete in Versatility with KQHA  
 2:30pm Buster McLaury-Groundwork Before you Hit the Trail  
 3:30pm Curt Pate Horsemanship Back To The Basics  
 5:00pm *Rake Arena*  
 5:30pm Broken Spoke Clydesdales Hitch Demonstration  
 6:00pm *Special Thanks to our Sponsors*  
 6:15pm Celebrate EquiFest-Music Performances & Equestrian Action  
 9:00pm Good Night from EquiFest of KS 2023!

### AG HALL Arena

- 7:45 to 10:15am KQHA Open Youth Horse Judging Contest  
 10:15am *Set up for Driving Derby*  
 10:30am Decade of Derbies Carriage Competition  
 11:30am *Rake Arena*  
 11:45am CowTales Presented by Curt, Buster & Company  
 KSU VHC presents the 2023 BREED/DEMO SHOW (3 groups @ 10min. each)  
 12:15pm  
 12:45pm Free Run Clydesdale Babies in arena  
 KSU VHC presents the 2023 BREED/DEMO SHOW (3 groups @ 10 min. each)  
 1:00pm  
 1:30pm *Rake Arena*  
 1:45pm Pegasus Riders-Trick Riding 101  
 2:45pm Sally Batton presents Equicize  
 3:45pm Wichita Mounted Police-Demo  
 5:00pm *Evening competitors check in open/Calves brought in*  
 5:45pm *Rake Arena*  
 6:00pm Begin Dual Sanctioned Breakaway Roping Jackpot  
 8:30pm *Open Arena*  
 10:00pm Good Night from EquiFest of KS 2023!

# Prairie Land Partners John Deere Presents

## FRIDAY, MARCH 17TH

### TPEC Arena

- 9:30am Wichita Mounted Police-Emergency Response Horses  
 10:00am Pegasus Riders-Demo  
 10:15am *Set 6-8 jumps*  
 10:30am Sally Batton-Biomechanics of Bending  
 11:30pm *Remove jumps/Rake Arena*  
 11:45am Patrick Sullivan-Helping the Herd Bound Horse  
 1:00pm Round 1) Draft Feed Team Races  
 2:00pm *Rake Arena*  
 2:15pm Buster McLaury-Horsemanship 101 for the Trail Horse  
 3:15pm *Buster & Curt Bringing Stock In for Stockmanship*  
 3:30pm Curt Pate-Stockmanship  
 5:00pm CowTales Presented by Curt, Buster & Company  
 5:30pm Broken Spoke Clydesdales Hitch Demonstration  
 6:00pm Patrick Sullivan-Why Liberty

### AG HALL Arena

- 9:30am KSU VHC presents stall barn tours  
 10:00am Round 1) Gambler's Choice Draft Obstacle Race  
 12:00pm Round 1) Draft Horse Cultivator Challenge  
 1:00pm *Rake Arena*  
 1:15pm KSU VHC presents the 2023 BREED/Demo SHOW (6 groups at 10 min ea.)  
 2:30pm Free Run Clydesdale Babies in arena  
 2:45pm *Set up for Driving Derby*  
 3:00pm "Decade of Derbies" Carriage Competition  
 4:00pm *Rake Arena*  
 4:15pm Sally Batton-Polocrosse Demonstration & Game  
 5:00pm Wichita Mounted Police-Emergency Response Horses  
 6:00pm *Ranch Rodeo Team Team Meeting*  
 6:30pm *Open Arena for other participants*



**Friday, March 17th TPEC Arena Continued**

- 6:20pm *Rake Arena*  
 6:30pm *Special Thanks to Our Sponsors/Recognize HRP Awards*  
 6:45pm *VIP Wagon and Ranch Rodeo Teams Intros, Prayer & Anthem sung by Caleb Martin*  
 7:00pm *The RANCH RODEO at EquiFest COMPETITION 2 events*  
 8:00pm *Halftime Midpoint Music & More*  
 8:15pm *The RANCH RODEO at EquiFest COMPETITION 2 events*  
 10:00pm *Good Night from EquiFest of KS 2023!*

# Prairie Land Partners John Deere Presents

## SATURDAY, MARCH 18TH

**TPEC Arena**

- 9:30am *Wichita Mounted Police Presentation of Colors*  
 9:45am *KSU VHC presents the 2023 BREED/Demo SHOW (6 groups at 10 min ea.)*  
 10:45am *Buster McLaury-Trailer Loading Issues*  
 11:45am *Rake Arena*  
 12:00pm *Patrick Sullivan-Advanced Liberty Work*  
 1:00pm *Round 2) Draft Feed Team Races*  
 2:00pm *Rake Arena/Remove Props*  
 2:15pm *Sally Batton-Equicize*  
 3:15pm *CowTales Presented by Curt, Buster & Company*  
 3:30pm *Curt Pate's working dogs demonstration*  
 5:00pm *Curt & dogs assisting with bringing in remaining cattle*  
 5:30pm *Broken Spoke Clydesdales Hitch Demonstration*  
 6:00pm *American Freedom Riders Drill Team*  
 6:20pm *Rake Arena*  
 6:30pm *Special Thanks to Our Sponsors/Recognize Bud Newell Award*  
 6:45pm *VIP Wagon and Ranch Rodeo Teams Intros, Prayer & Anthem sung by Caleb Martin*  
 7:00pm *The RANCH RODEO at EquiFest COMPETITION 2 events*  
 8:00pm *Halftime Midpoint Music & More*  
 8:15pm *The RANCH RODEO at EquiFest COMPETITION 2 events*  
 10:00pm *Good Night from EquiFest of KS 2023!*

**AG HALL Arena**

- 9:30am *KSU VHC presents stall barn tours*  
 10:00am *Round 2) Gambler's Choice Draft Obstacle Race*  
 12:00pm *Round 2) Draft Horse Cultivator Challenge*  
 1:00pm *Rake Arena*  
 1:15pm *KSU VHC presents the 2023 BREED/Demo SHOW (6 groups at 10 min ea.)*  
 2:30pm *Free Run Clydesdale Babies in arena*  
 2:45pm *Set up for Driving Derby*  
 3:00pm *Decade of Derbies Carriage Competition*  
 4:00pm *Rake Arena*  
 4:15pm *Pegasus Riders-Trick Riding 101*  
 5:30pm *Open Arena for Ranch Rodeo Participants*  
 6:00pm *Ranch Rodeo Team Meeting*  
 6:30pm *Open Arena for other participants*



# Prairie Land Partners John Deere Presents

## SUNDAY, MARCH 19TH

### TPEC Arena

9:30am	<i>Set up for KS Horse Mafia</i>
9:45am	KSU VHC presents stall barn tours
10:00am	<i>KS Horse Mafia presents "Through The Eyes of the Judge" EXCA Clinic with Lee Hart</i> <i>Learn how to judge-you be the judge-scorecards handed out</i> <i>LET THE GAMES BEGIN! Watch &amp; Judge the actual EXCA Competition</i> <i>Awards to closest scorecards matching (match the official) and awards to competitors!</i>
1:00pm	<i>End of Trail for 2023</i>

### AG HALL Arena

9:30am	Wichita Mounted Police-Presentation of Colors
9:45am	Wichita Mounted Police-Emergency Response Horses
10:15am	KSU VHC presents the 2023 BREED/Demo SHOW (6 groups at 10 min ea.)
11:15am	<i>Rake Arena</i>
11:30am	Rex Buchman-A Human/Animal Connection with the Lord
12:30pm	Ryan Cole-Opportunities to Compete in Versatility with KQHA Q&A
1:00pm	<i>End of Trail for 2023</i>

## Equifest Workshop Rooms

Time	Room	Thursday, March 16th
9:30am to 7:00pm	202C	Legacy Group Gathering Room
9:30am to 5:30pm	202AB	Punch But Pretty Clinic
9:30am to 10:30am	201A	Time with Tammy Pate
10:30am to 2:00pm	203A	KQHA Youth Horse Judging Holding & Reasons
10:30am to 2:00pm	203B	KQHA Youth Horse Judging Holding & Reasons
10:30am to 2:00pm	203C	KQHA Youth Horse Judging Holding & Reasons
10:30am to 2:00pm	201A	KQHA Youth Horse Judging Holding & Reasons
2:00pm to 3:00pm	201A	Special Guest Speaker for KQHA Youth Horse Judging Contestants
3:00pm	201A	AWARDS FOR KQHA HORSE JUDGING
3:30pm	201A	PICTURES FOR KQHA HORSE JUDGING

Time	Room	Friday, March 17th
9:30am to 7:00pm	202C	Legacy Group Gathering Room
10:00am to 10:45am	201A	Discovering Horse Opportunities in Agritourism PANEL with Michael Green Watkins C Ranch, Kelsey Tully KS Dept. of Travel & Tourism, Ross Peddicord- Horse Industry Board of MD (RECORD)
11:00am to 12:00pm	202AB	Time with Tammy Pate
12:30pm to 1:30pm	201A	Sally Batton-Riding in College: Saddles, Studies & Showing
2:30pm to 4:30pm	202AB	Felipe Masseti Leite- Longrider presentation and documentary film- Tentative

Time	Room	Saturday March 18th
9:00am to 7:00pm	202C	Legacy Group Gathering Room
10:00am to 10:45am	201A	Sally Batton-Riding in College: Saddles, Studies & Showing
11:00am to 12:00pm	202AB	Time with Tammy Pate
12:30pm to 1:30pm	201A	Joleen Lawson- The Burning Down of Paradise the Rise thereafter a personal story of the 4 county Fires in 2021
2:00pm to 4:00pm	202AB	Legendary KS Horsemen's Panel

Time	Room	Sunday, March 19th
9:00am to 1:00pm	202C	Legacy Group Gathering Room
10:00am to 10:30am	201A	Wendy Bowles KANSAS STATE PARKS - "Between the Ears photography contest winner" - Facebook Live Presentation
10:30am to 12:30pm	202AB	Linda Lilly - Her experience, then film, "A Mind Like Still Water" - Tentative



# Improving Handlers' Relationships with Horses at EquiFest Of Kansas

By Frank J. Buchman

"Building a better relationship with your horse can open a world of possibilities for your teamwork."

Curt Pate, Helena, Montana, will share horse relationship opportunities on the trail, ranch or in competition at EquiFest of Kansas.

He's a clinician coming to the Saline County Livestock Expo Center and Tony's Pizza Events Center at Salina, March 16-19.

His horsemanship abilities as well as being an effective communicator have made Pate sought as a clinician worldwide.

With his ability to think outside the box and willingness to share his skills, Pate challenges others to do the same. Demonstrations and clinics on colt starting, horsemanship, stockmanship, and safety set Pate apart.

His lifelong experience in ranching adds credibility and enables him to communicate his methods effectively to cowboys, horse owners, and cattle ranchers.

In addition, Pate continues to seek out new learning opportunities to increase and hone his knowledge and skills.

"My life has been a life learning about livestock from cowboys, horsemen, hog farmers, shepherds, dairymen and others," Pate said. "I not only learned about livestock, but also about all kinds of different management types and agricultural operations."

Studying animal science at college on a rodeo scholarship, Pate dropped out within a year. "There were lots of reasons, but mostly I felt I could learn more at home," he said. "Since

that time, I have always been on a livestock operation, and can't imagine not being."

His personal experience incorporating effective stockmanship principles supports a "for profit" mindset. Pate recognizes growing public scrutiny surrounding livestock production and the impact improved handling practices create for sustainability of the industry.



*Curt Pate, Helena, Montana, will present demonstrations and clinics on colt starting, horsemanship, stockmanship, and safety at the EquiFest of Kansas in Salina, March 16-19.*

Proper pressure on horses and all livestock at a different angle and at varying amounts are keys to stockmanship. "These techniques work without a negative experience for the stockman or the livestock," Pate emphasized.

"Sometimes you cannot see pressure or understand its effects until it has created a problem," Pate said. "Negative pressure creates stress; positive pressure creates contentment."

An avid environmentalist, Pate is passionate about grazing animals to improve the environment and to contribute to a profitable ranching. "We need to utilize the Earth's resources in a way that works like a good ranch," Pate said. "Combining Mother Nature with technology, then adding common sense and integrity."

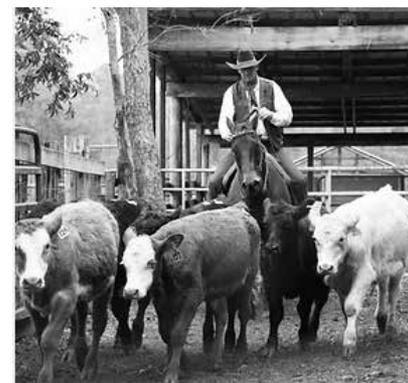
He is co-author of the book, *Ranch Horsemanship*, and was consultant on the 1998 Robert Redford film, *The Horse Whisperer*.

The world has changed in the way needed to work stock, and the modern-day instructor is helping to get this done.

"But let's not forget those of the past who dedicated themselves to the care and handling of livestock," Pate insisted. "From the Texas trail drivers of the 1880's to the shepherds of biblical times, to the yak herders in Mongolia. I am certain there have been a few good ones in all the livestock that have been handled through time. It seems a little arrogant to think otherwise."

"So, for my part, I am sharing things I have learned through my life from good and bad stockmen. When I give a live demonstration or write something it is partly how all these experiences have influenced me."

"It's essential for horse handlers to focus on keeping themselves and their horse steady," Pate said. "Our actions can be a detriment to our



*At the EquiFest of Kansas in Salina, March 16-19, stockmanship skills will be one of the presentations given by horse clinician Curt Pate, Helena, Montana.*

horses if we're not careful. Sometimes a minimalist approach offers the most to your horse.

"We want to instill discipline in our horses, but we need it in ourselves as well," Pate said. "Be a 'thinking horseman' when you pick up the halter."

When training a horse, Pate said, "Never think predator-prey relationship. Teach your horse to accept pressure, but too much pressure can make a horse feel threatened by his handler."

"Always work with the horse to achieve mental and physical balance and stay calm to relax a nervous horse," Pate continued. "Keep groundwork to a minimum, use as little equipment as possible, and practice the emergency stop."

"Self-discipline is a virtue to remember when you're with your horse," Pate encouraged.

Pate's schedule and other details about EquiFest of Kansas in Salina, March 16-19, are available at [www.equifestofks.com](http://www.equifestofks.com).



# 'Everything Horses' Featured For EquiFest Of Kansas At Salina

By Frank J. Buchman

Calendar dates must be circled in red for the EquiFest of Kansas, March 16-19, at Salina.

That's the announcement from Justine Staten, executive director of the Kansas Horse Council, producer of EquiFest.

The first EquiFest was at Wichita in 1998, then in Topeka starting in 2016, and Salina has hosted EquiFest since 2020.

"This year's EquiFest is four days instead of three days like in the past," Staten clarified. "It will again be at the Saline County Livestock Expo Center and Tony's Pizza Events Center."

More than 15,000 people have annually attended EquiFest which serves as the Kansas Horse Council (KHC) primary fundraiser.

"The KHC provides the Kansas equine industry with leadership and direction through education, promotion, and public policy advocacy," Staten said.

"What makes EquiFest so special

is the variety," Staten emphasized. "There'll be all breeds of horses and all disciplines represented throughout the competitions, demonstrations, and displayed exhibits."

In addition, EquiFest features educational and informative workshops, world-renowned clinicians, music, poetry, history, and storytelling.

The horse trade show is open all four days featuring wall-to-wall vendors in multiple locations. "They'll offer something for everyone, clothing, accessories, saddles, tack, home décor, trucks, trailers, tractors, implements and more," Staten said.

Children are the future of every horse activity, so a special Kids' Corral is again being developed encouraging youth involvement. A new feature is Trike Races to simulate the EquiFest Driving Derby, which is attracting many entries, Staten said.

The EquiFest youth horse judging contest has been revamped this year with additional divisions to increase participation for impressive awards.

Everybody always asks: "What will there be to eat?" According to Staten, "If you like a variety of food, check out several food trucks and concessions on site. Again, there's something for all tastes."

Attendees at EquiFest will also once more have an opportunity to meander through the stall barn. "You can see up close anything from long-eared minis to gentle giants. Living history is on display at a military encampment," Staten said.

Plus, there'll be a farrier competition, ranch rodeo, dancing



*A product of the big ranch country in West Texas, Buster McLaury brings a unique perspective into his clinics and demonstrations at EquiFest of Kansas, March 16-19, at Salina.*

horses, draft horse races, and breakaway roping competition.

Among clinicians are Buster McLaury, Texas cowboy; Curt Pate, Montana stockman; Patrick Sullivan, liberty horsemanship; and Sally Batton, equestrian team coach.

Demonstrations include Broken Spoke Clydesdales, six-horse hitch; Pegasus Riders, trick-roman riding; Wichita Police Mounted Unit, search-rescue operations; and trainer Ryan Cole, versatility horses.

Workshops throughout the four days are to feature agrotourism panel, Kansas horseback trails, extreme cowboy races, and legendary horsemen panel.

Special guests are Kathryn Leitner, horse artist-writer, Gary Pratt, country musician; Caleb Martin, horseman-celebrity actor; and Steve Stafford, Sunday morning church service.

Complete schedule of activities is available at [www.equifestofks.com](http://www.equifestofks.com).



*To be featured at the EquiFest of Kansas in Salina, March 16-19, Curt Pate, Montana stockman, has conducted demonstrations and clinics on stockmanship, colt starting, and ranch horsemanship throughout North America and Europe.*



*Justine Staten serves as executive director of the Kansas Horse Council, which is producing the EquiFest of Kansas, March 16-19, in Salina.*

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# Selecting a Performance Prospect

By Brent Wright

Anyone who has ever wanted to ride or show in a performance horse event, whether it's reining, cutting, cow horse, or any other discipline has been faced with the question of which horse should I use to accomplish my goal. Most people probably have a list of criteria to help them make that decision.

Here are a few of my guidelines. I look at pedigree first. I've found it more likely to find what I am looking for in horses bred to do the job I'm wanting them to do. That being said, pedigree is not a determining factor for me. It's a good place to start. A good horse is a good horse no matter how it is bred. It's just more likely that he be found in a family of horses that excelled in your area of interest.

Next on my list is confirmation and for the purpose of this article, we'll talk mainly about horses that are not of rideable age. If they are broke to ride it makes our decision easier, but usually more expensive. When I look at a colt I like to stand back a ways looking at overall balance. Do all his parts fit together? Is he square on his feet and legs? Does he have sufficient bone? Is he attractive to look at? I pay particular attention to his head and eyes. While we get fooled sometimes, the head and eyes can give us a clue as to the trainability and attitude the horse will have. I think the overall appearance of the colt is important because in my business I am probably going to try to sell this horse. It is a lot easier to sell a pretty horse than one that is plain looking. Also judges are human

and when they see you riding a good looking horse it naturally catches their attention.

If the prospect looks interesting to me I would like to see him move around. Maybe put him in a round pen and see how he gets around. He needs to appear smooth, light on his feet, lope up under himself, and carry his head in a natural position. To me it's good if they have a well-rounded top line from head to tail.

If they're still in the game after all this and the price is in my range I'd probably do a minimal Veterinary check, X-Raying hocks, stifles, and front feet. If there's nothing that I can't live with and get him bought I bring him home and that's when my work begins. If I have made a good choice my work will be more enjoyable.

These are just a few of the things I think about when evaluating a performance prospect, and not an exhaustive list. To each and everyone, I wish you all the best with your horse endeavors.

God bless.



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## Hearty Grub with Mark Burkdoll

### Cowboy Lasagna

- 1 1/2 lbs ground beef
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- 1 small can tomato sauce
- 1 small can tomato paste
- 1 small can V8 tomato juice
- 8 to 10 red potatoes (sliced super thin like on a mandolin)
- 1 large yellow onion (diced)
- 1/2 green pepper
- 1/2 jalapeño (no seeds)
- 2 cups shredded sharp shedder cheese
- 1 cup shredded Swiss cheese
- 1/2 cup shredded parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup shredded Mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 package Williams spaghetti seasoning
- 1/2 package Williams taco seasoning
- 1 Tbsp dried Italian seasoning
- salt and pepper to taste

Brown the beef then add 1/2 the onion, all the peppers, both the 1/2 packages of dried seasonings and the Italian seasoning.

Cook until veggies are tender then add all the tomato stuff and bring up to temperature.

In a 9 x11 baking dish layer the meat then potatoes, then onions then cheese in two layers finishing with the cheese.

Cover with foil and bake at 350 degrees for about 30 minutes then remove foil and cook until done.

# Large Farm Tractor Demand Expands With Overall Machinery Sales Down

By Frank J. Buchman

Comparatively higher grain markets and often well above average yields evidently hastened big farmers to buy equipment before year's end.

Sales of four-wheel-drive tractors and combines were up in November, according to the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM), Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

"While total sales markets are down, sales of larger ag-focused equipment continue to be strong," said Curt Blades, AEM official.

The overall reduction in numbers is attributed to small tractor sales, which were experiencing unprecedented growth during the pandemic.

"However, with large tractor and

combine efficiency, it's easy to see why those segments continue to grow," Blades evaluated.

Total farm tractor sales for November 2022 were down 14.5% from 2021. Year to date, 250,688 total farm tractors were sold through November 2022. That's down from 293,099 a year earlier.

Sales for two-wheel-drive under-40-horsepower tractors in November were down 27.9% from 2021. There were 8,266 November sales, down from 11,470 the previous November.

Through November 2022, the Association of Equipment Manufacturers official said 163,105 tractors had been sold in the lower

horsepower category. That's down from 200,768 at the same time 12 months earlier.

November sales for two-wheel-drive 40 to 100 horsepower tractors were down 10.7% with 4,055 sales, and 4,542 in 2021.

Year to date, 60,969 of the mid-horsepower tractors had been sold, down from 68,316 a year earlier, Blades noted.

Sales for two-wheel-drive 100-plus horsepower tractors in November were up 6.2%, with 1,278 sales, compared to 1,203 the year before.

Through November, the Association of Equipment Manufacturers official said 23,665 big horsepower tractors

had been sold. That's up from 20,878 at the same time in 2021.

Sales of four-wheel-drive tractors were up 7.1% in November, with 165 sales, compared to 154 the previous November.

A total of 2,949 four-wheel-drive tractors were sold nationwide through November, down from 3,137 by the same time the previous year.

Sales for self-propelled combines were up 8.3% in November, with 314 sales, compared to 290 a year earlier.

The Association of Equipment Manufacturers reported 6,535 combines had been sold through November. That's, up from 5,646 at the same time last year.




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# Create a Rewarding Connection with Your Horse

By Al Dunning

True horsemanship cultivates a positive relationship between horse and man. Much of this occurs through a deliberate process we call training - and by training, we mean guidance and preparation. We tend to think of this, by the way, as something man does to the horse. But if you're around horses long enough to make some big mistakes, believe me, you will be on the receiving end of some good training by the horse!

If the horse to man relationship is to be successful, training must occur. Thus, if better horsemanship is the goal, specific training techniques must be adopted. It is the small things that a real disciple of horses recognizes. Horse training is not an exact science

for which there is a prescribed, step-by-step method. It is more about developing "feel" toward the horse and using it wisely.

Each day and along each step, the horse poses a different set of challenges that you must adapt to with what is commonly called "horse sense." The uppermost level of horsemanship relies on inspiration rather than on a mechanical approach. Training a horse to perform superbly requires the ability to feel your way through each step in the process. With a step-by-step, mechanical approach, you can train a horse to do ordinary maneuvers such as stop or turn, but to train a horse to do something extraordinary, you must

get inside that horse's head and begin to think like the horse.

Years ago, when I began training horses, a trial-and-error approach was common. We would see if something worked, and if it didn't, we would switch to something else. That was largely the way one learned how to train horses then, but today there is no need to take that particular path. One reason is that today horses are bred to be genetically superior at performing certain tasks. In addition, there are many knowledgeable people who are willing to help you, and it can save you most of the trial-and-error process.

Perhaps the most positive change in the industry is that good trainers today strive to reach the horse through greater awareness and greater understanding. This approach has been called by many names and is embraced by the majority of trainers. They accept this concept because it is a humane and effective method.

Both my daily work with horses and the ideas I communicate are based on my own adaptation of this concept.

In essence, I'm saying to you, "You don't have to fight this horse." Obviously, discipline will be necessary at times; we are working with a large, powerful animal that has a will of its own. But it doesn't have to come down to a battle of wills. Because of my impressive group of mentors, I can try any one of the methods that have already been proven effective. I continue to teach the methods I've learned and successfully train many world champions through my training, clinics, articles, lessons, and my online training course, Team AD.

Instead of relying on trial and error, I can use methods that are tried and true and I can combine these techniques with my own feel for what is right for the horse. My desire is that your years of horsemanship will bring you the rewards, the joy, and the exhilaration mine have brought me.

*Arizona horseman, Al Dunning, has been a professional trainer since 1970. His expertise in all facets of western events have elevated him to great successes in the AQHA, NRHA, NRCHA, and NCHA. He trains, shows, conducts clinics, operates AD TACK and runs Dunning Consulting, LLC. Learn more at [www.aldunning.com](http://www.aldunning.com)*





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# BETTER CATTLE

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#### Bull Sale Season is Here!

In the U.S., the National Charolais Sale is the annual event that signals the beginning of the four-month period we often refer to as “Bull Sale Season”. This year’s National Charolais Sale featured exciting genetics consigned by progressive Charolais breeders from across the United States. With active bidders from Canada and the U.S., the rapid pace of the sale was fueled by a large face-to-face crowd and numerous on-line bidders. A pick-of-the-herd from the iconic Lindskov’s LT Ranch sold for \$180,000 to kick-off this year’s National Charolais Sale.

The camaraderie and enthusiasm in the sale arena at this event was electrifying! What an exciting way to begin 2023 with this sale grossing over half a million dollars! With Spring only one month away, Bull Sale Season is well underway.

As a commercial cattle producer, you are aware of the importance of selecting the best bulls possible for your herd. Since your herd bulls provide at least half of the genetic make-up of your herd, it is imperative you invest both time and money to select the best bulls possible to advance the profitability of your herd. For those of you who start the breeding season by synchronizing

your replacement heifers, you know the Artificial Insemination (A.I.) sires you select will have a major impact on the level of success you have at the beginning of the calving season nine months after the first heifers are bred. It is important to consider calving ease direct, birth weight, scrotal circumference, and maternal traits if you plan to keep replacement heifers out of your first calf heifers. If you sell your calves by the pound at weaning, you will also want to consider weaning weight EPDs. Choosing proven sires whose EPDs have high accuracy values (closer to a value of one) will help minimize the variation in your calf crop. Many of you have or will soon attend a sale to purchase herd bulls to put with your cows after they have been bred A.I. or, in some cases, instead of using A.I., these will be your new herd bulls. My advice is to choose wisely because all bulls are not created equal.

If you retain ownership of your calf crop through the feedyard, you will also want to consider carcass traits (backfat, carcass weight, marbling and ribeye area) when selecting your A.I. sires and/or your new herd bulls. During my first three months at AICA, I received several phone calls from Charolais breeders asking me to visit with packer buyers about the carcass merit of Charolais and Charolais influenced cattle. As many of you know, Charolais and Charolais influenced cattle have plenty of advantages in the feedyard.

First and foremost, these cattle are very efficient at converting feed to gain. This efficiency is partially derived from the Charolais advantage in muscularity and their ability to produce carcasses with large ribeyes per hundred weight. Certain bloodlines of Charolais cattle are also known to produce a high degree of marbling, which is the intramuscular fat found within the muscle that gives meat its desirable flavor.

In January, I visited with Charolais breeders who have been breeding Charolais cattle that excel in carcass merit (marbling and muscle) for several generations. These breeders talked about the success they have experienced increasing marbling and muscling in the bulls they sell their customers, as well as in the calves their customers are producing. Because of the extra carcass merit found in Charolais and Charolais-cross calves, these animals are excellent candidates for premiums offered by carcass based “grids” such as “GeneNet” and “Sterling Silver”. Last year, I learned that one of the major packers is now offering a premium for market cattle weighing over 1,600 pounds. In my opinion, this is good news for Charolais breeders and those who buy their bulls, as Charolais cattle tend to be leaner (less fat) at heavier market weights than some breeds. Thus, Charolais and Charolais-cross cattle should produce a lower percentage of Yield Grade 4 and 5 carcasses at

1,600 pounds, making them a breed of choice for packers seeking heavier market cattle.

Best of luck as you plan your strategy for selecting A.I. sires and choosing your new herd bulls. As a final reminder, choose wisely, the bulls you purchase will certainly impact next year’s calf crop and if you keep their daughters as replacement heifers, your new bulls will influence your herd for many years to come!



# Why Not

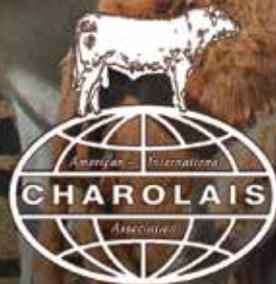
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<sup>1</sup>Esther Dorice McCabe, 2018, Kansas State University,

Dept. of Animal Sciences and Industry, College of Agriculture,

"Breed trends and effect of breed on sale price of lots of beef calves marketed via video auction"

# BETTER CATTLE

## Building A Winning Team of Experts Improves Cattle Business Management

By Frank J. Buchman

“Championship teams all have people with unique skills and expertise advising and coaching them.”

Likely against principles and thinking of many perhaps most farmers and ranchers, “You should have your team of advisors too.”

That’s according to Elizabeth Belew, who has a beef cattle nutrition PhD from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Michael Jordan, Babe Ruth, Joe Montana, Mia Hamm. All four are considered some of the greatest athletes and champions in their respective sports.

“They also share a common thread in surrounding themselves with a team that took them to the next level,” Belew said.

“Farmers and ranchers can have a team that helps their cattle business win too,” the nutritionist repeated. “Working with a team of experts or advisors is beneficial to ensure farm and ranch cattle operation goals are met.”

The team roster would include nutritionist, veterinarian,

Extension agent, banker, sale barn representative, and accountant.

“Each can individually focus on different components to get a farm and ranch cattle operation to the next level,” Belew emphasized.

Nutritionists can help farmers and ranchers capitalize on genetic decisions using nutrition to optimize performance.

A veterinarian knows the proper health protocols for vaccines or wormers to utilize in each operation.

“Don’t forget about the value of the perspectives of other cattle producers you trust,” Belew reminded.

“For newcomers to the cattle business,” Belew said, “talk to somebody who has been in the business for a long time. Bounce ideas off them.”

“Maybe they are specialized in another segment of the cattle business and can provide a different point of view.”

Taking steps to pool information gathering from a variety of sources can help optimize opportunity and reduce risk for an operation.

Start looking for an advisory in the local area, the specialist suggested. “You may already have cultivated business relationships with several people,” she pointed out. “If you don’t know someone with specialization in herd health, nutrition, or finance, ask other producers for

recommendations.”

Don’t be afraid to utilize experts from outside the local area.

“Agriculture trade shows and conferences are places to network to meet new people who may have knowledge that can be utilized,” Belew said.

“Once you’ve built a team of advisors, consider talking with them quarterly,” she continued. “It doesn’t have to be a formal meeting with everyone all at once. Most discussions can happen through individual phone calls with questions and answers.”

It can be beneficial for the advisors to visit individual farmers and ranchers during the year. “They might observe something in the management that is excelling or an area which needs improvement,” the specialist said.

Try meeting with the advisors once a year as a group, she advised. “Meeting together can be advantageous. They can share their expertise with one another to ensure all facets of the business are aligned,” Belew said.

For instance, a banker might gain further insight into what is happening in the cattle markets by speaking with a sale barn representative.

“The group meetings can be for supper at a local café, at the farm-ranch home, or even a conference all are attending together,” Belew said.

“Building a team won’t happen overnight,” she clarified. “It takes time to find the right people and build trust.”



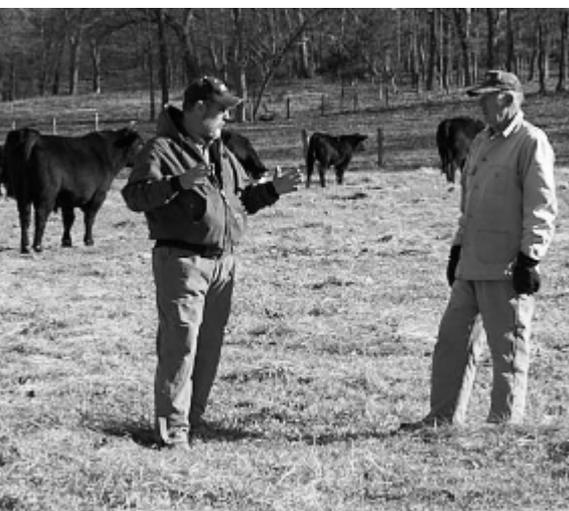
*Elizabeth Belew has a doctorate degree in beef cattle nutrition from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas.*

Each advisor must have some understanding of the business situation and personal goals.

“Once they do, they can provide input that helps push the agriculture operation forward,” Belew emphatically stated.

### Team Roster

- Nutritionist
- Veterinarian
- Extension agent
- Banker
- Sale barn representative
- Accountant



*Beef nutritionist Elizabeth Belew recommends “building a winning team” of advisors to improve cattle management.*

# Surviving Horse Trailer Accident

By Kathleen Sales

In June of 2021 we traveled to Hawaii for two weeks. In preparation for my time away I arranged for a friend to take care of my hard keeper thoroughbred Mowgli. He was going to have two full weeks of his normal grain and hay plus plenty of acres of grass to graze on. As a horse owner we all know how we worry about our horses. This ensured less stress for me thinking he was on a grass eating vacation of his own with good people to watch over him.

We returned home after our vacation and like every horse loving owner I was anxious and happy to bring him back to my barn home. I had a training cancellation that morning so I hooked up the trailer and headed out to bring him home. He was happy to see me and I was happy to see him. I loaded him up and headed up the road. Now this road is wavy. It was being used as a detour for quite a few years as another main road was being repaired. This road has many hills, is in terrible shape, and is narrow

with no sides. The sides it does have are deteriorated and crumbling. Z Highway was dangerous.

I did not get far before the horrific and unexpected happened. I was driving up one of the hilly parts of the road with low visibility to oncoming traffic. I stayed in my narrow lane and was watching to see if an oncoming car would appear over the hill. We were near the top of the hill and alone on the road. My passenger right trailer tire skipped over the deteriorated crumbly edge. There was a ditch right next to the road and it was deep and long. I have a bumper pull trailer and I felt an intense pull in my steering wheel as the trailer slid down to the right. I thought I have to keep going to get the trailer momentum changed. It was pulling the truck down as the trailer slid into the ditch! In my rear view mirror was a terrifying image of my horse trailer behind me at a 45-degree angle sideways! Mowgli was in the trailer with no understanding of what was happening. He was so innocent and

at the mercy of me getting us out of this!

I got the trailer out of the ditch and behind us again only to experience the consequences of forces. The energy that pulled us down and back up sent us fishtailing! I had the strongest grip possible on that steering wheel! Nothing I did could fix this! I tried! We went back and forth a few times before it was too late. I was just a passenger to this inevitable law of physics. My only concern was for my horse. All I cared about was his safety. He depended on me! I was all he had and he trusted me. I couldn't fix this.

The truck went sideways and rolled two and a half times! I felt all of it! I will never forget that intense power! All I could think about was getting to my horse. I held on as the truck and I rolled over and over waiting for it to stop. It stopped in a front yard on its side. That last half roll was the longest! As it finally rested on its side before it got settled I unclicked my

seatbelt! The truck landed driver side down. My window was shattered.

I placed my hands in the grass saturated with shattered glass. I climbed through the window. It was sharp and cut me many places on my hands. I got out and ran! I saw the trailer was not behind the truck! I am most certain that is when panic and shock set in!

I ran what seemed like forever to find the trailer on the road sideways! When the truck rolled it broke from the trailer. The trailer tipped and slid sideways on the road by itself! I have an open stock three-horse slant load. I yelled Mowgli's name! I'm running! He is thrashing and kicking in the trailer! It is very loud! He hears me coming, hears my voice, and he stops kicking. Neighbors who heard the crash came out to help. A stranger said, "He heard your voice and stopped fighting." I looked in and saw him laying down upright on the side of the trailer. He was looking at me, his brown eyes wide and panicked! He had the trailer mats on top of him. I



could not see his body or legs.

I tried to gently move a mat. Mowgli saw what I was doing and remained still. To this point I had no knowledge of my injuries. My left hand and arm would not move and were useless. I turned to the concerned and helpful neighbors and started directing. I climbed in and crouched right in front of Mowgli. I kept my gaze on him. His big brown eyes focused on me. He read my eyes and he knew I was his way out of this. He did not move. He watched, fixated on my voice as a comfort and understanding to him. This is a moment I will never ever forget. That bonded us deeply together.

I asked the neighbors to gently lift the mats off him and place them down on the side of the trailer. Mowgli looked at me and waited. I got up and stepped back to give him room. He waited and watched. He stayed focused on my eyes and voice. I nodded and gave the okay for him to move. He thrashed to get his legs out from under him. I was so very scared for him. He got up but had to crawl out. The mats gave him good secure footing as we headed out. Mowgli came out of that sideways steel trailer and stood up tall! He held his head up high and whinnied into the air! Then he walked over to the grass and started grazing!

My gelding was okay! I collapsed on the lawn and had no more energy. A neighbor took him and kept grazing him. The ambulance and the sheriff had arrived. I had refused care until I took care of Mowgli. The sheriff patted me on my head as I sat exhausted! He said, "Looking at that truck I do not know how you have a head still intact"! It

was then that I looked at the scene! The battered truck lay in someone's yard on its side! The trailer up the road by itself was on its side! I got in the ambulance and they started checking me out. Mowgli was grazing and doing well. The sheriff came in and sat down and asked me what happened? I told him and he said that he saw the ditch. He saw the swerve marks and the road. He told me how bad the road is. He said they have had many accidents on it. He proceeded to tell me that two years ago in the same place a dump truck tipped and a driver lost his son in the accident.

I had a neighbor call my husband and my barn. My shock had set in and I had no energy to make the calls! My phone and wallet were still in the truck. She told my husband all I was worried about was my horse. He said that sounds right and I must be okay! He started to come our way. My barn, Grace Petty, at Lee's Summit Equestrian, came right away! Grace was in the middle of teaching a lesson and told her student she had to go! Grace got there and headed straight to Mowgli. I told her he looks good and I was proud of him! He would not get in her trailer! He was just flat out saying no! He finally got in with the help of the firemen and police! Grace took him back to the barn and had Lee Summit Animal Hospital come out and check Mowgli over. I went to the emergency room.

I was okay but had cuts on my hands and arms, a sprained wrist and elbow on my left arm. Mowgli was okay! He had a hole in his flesh in his forelock from hitting his head that we treated. The vet said he would develop a hematoma on his right hip in two weeks. He did and we treated it

and drained it when it developed. He had to have chiropractic adjustments to help him with the trauma. Mowgli and I have good friends and support through rescue workers, volunteers, neighbors and the horse community. I found out there was a community page on Facebook dedicated to Z Highway and petitions to get it fixed. Friends prayed and cried with me when I told them what happened. This was a message from my son Luke: 'Momma you are either bullet proof or a superhero.. we are so happy you're alive and breathing, we love you.'

As equestrians we love our horses. They have a large part of our heart. They help our dreams come true. Trailering our horses is always a concern. Those big, sensitive, beautiful, empathetic flight animals trust us each time they go into a small trailer space. It is amazing how much they trust! Mowgli to this day loads just fine in the very same trailer from the accident! We fixed broken lights and got a better hitch system. My truck sacrificed the most and to this day I am grateful but still miss it! I am very grateful for horses. I am grateful to still be able to go down the road every time pulling my big beautiful friend behind me!



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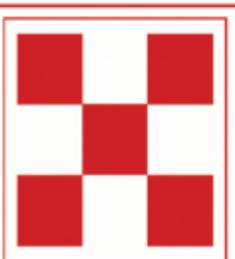
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# LEARNING FROM MY MISTAKES

By Kerry Kuhn

One of the hardest things for me to do in my life is to admit or own up to when I've made a mistake. Mistakes seem to make a person feel inferior, inadequate, and sometimes even unworthy. The effects seem to take on this negative connotation that can create unbelief and discouragement towards things that don't even pertain to the mistake itself. For some, it can be so powerful that it ends up becoming our identity or how we see ourselves. What we often miss, what I often miss, is the opportunity to learn from our mistakes and how they can actually be the catalyst for improvement or making progress in our life. Those mistakes, that can be so hard to swallow sometimes, can also benefit our horses too, if we will let them.

It took me many years working with horses to be able to see mistakes from a different perspective. By no means would I say that I have everything figured out with this concept, but I at least can see from a changed perspective. This new frame of mind is allowing me to redefine how I approach these situations (mistakes) and giving me the chance to ultimately change the outcome. I wish I could have seen this earlier in life, but I suppose it comes down to timing for all of us. Until we are ready to see something, it's probably not going to make the paradigm shift in our life that might be needed. So all I want to do here is plant a seed, a seed that hopefully will continue to grow until it brings forth that life changing harvest that can set us free.

From my experience, horses are drawn towards what makes them feel comfortable or secure. If you make something hard for them, they tend

to look or move towards something easier. This can be physically and/or mentally, the key is to give them or allow them the option. What makes that difficult is our frame of mind. Let me explain....

If we have a tendency to view mistakes as only a negative thing, then we tend to react to said mistakes in that same negative mindset. A negative outlook toward a mistake is often met with a negative attitude which usually is more focused on the punishment. This mindset often involves a level of anger that only breeds more negativity.

I often say the best way to describe working with horses is like parenting. As parents, we all get to weigh the outcomes with our children through how we handle or deal with their mistakes, and our own too. Probably the best give away of the mindset I have at the time, is the anger that is either present or not at that moment. When I'm viewing a mistake as an opportunity to learn, I can much easier address or respond in a way that is void of anger. When I can only see the negativity of a mistake, unfortunately anger usually pours out of me. This has proven true with my kids and it has proven true with my horses. As I strive to not be so driven by my own blindness at times to see the whole picture, I still sometimes get stuck. But I'm making progress everyday, and I'm proud to say that my kids and my horses are both reaping the benefits.

What's helped me the most has been to redefine a mistake in my head before it ever shows up. That's me trying to create a proactive approach to what might show up instead of

simply trying to operate out of a reactive approach in the moment. I personally try to get myself out of the "right or wrong" mentality and try to train myself to see the scenario in a "more than one option" mentality. I mean, that's really all a mistake is. A chance to make a choice faced with more than one option. What comes with each option is a consequence or result. As a horseman, all I need to do is understand the consequence or result for each option and let my horse make their own decision. If I'm trying to get my horse to choose option A, I need to remind myself that he/she has more than one option. I want option A to have the best consequence or result, but I don't want to necessarily steer my horse away from the other options they have as well. If I allow my horse to choose the other options and experience the consequences of them, they become more driven to look for another option making option A that much more appealing once they choose it.

I know first hand my kids struggle with being controlled or feeling forced to make a certain decision. I shouldn't be surprised, after all, they do have my DNA. But I have also sat on many horses that have that same struggle. And I've made the mistake of simply trying to control them too. Honestly, I've probably noticed the biggest change with my horses when

I became willing to work on myself away from my horses.

As I have traveled across this country the last 25 years, every horse and owner I've been blessed to work with has made me a better horseman. I'm not just trying to teach others, I'm also trying to better myself everyday. As I've worked on this concept in my own life, I've shared it with countless others from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Mistakes don't define us...they help shape us!

I've spent most of my time these last two decades traveling and teaching and I'm ready to make a small shift in my priorities. I'm still going to travel some and do some clinics, but on a little smaller scale as I have some really nice horses and want to invest more time in their training and future. We plan to host a few more clinics at our facility in Medicine Lodge giving me more opportunity to keep our horses progressing in their training. I am also working on a new venture with my oldest son, Kauy, bringing health and fitness for the rider to our horsemanship videos. If you're interested in this new platform, our clinics, our horses for sale, or our signature tack, please check us out at KerryKuhn.com.



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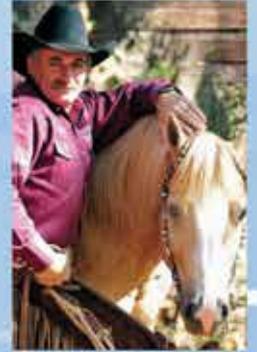
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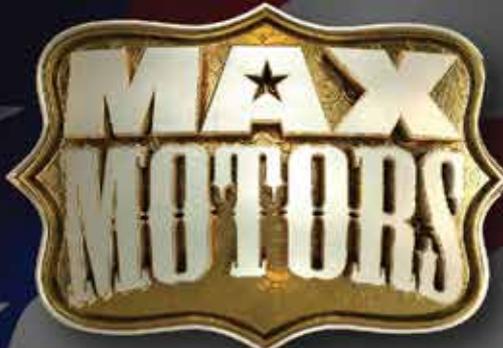
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Unfortunately, we as veterinarians often meet new clients and their horses for the first time on emergency – a colicking horse, a swollen eye, a laceration. We much prefer to meet you and your horse for general wellness visits though. Those emergencies go much more smoothly when we already know the owner and horse, when we know their healthcare history, and when we have a working relationship already established. Additionally, some emergencies can be prevented with a good wellness care plan in place.

Horses generally receive their vaccines 1-2 times per year. Our “core” vaccines, as determined by the American Association of Equine Practitioners, are annual vaccines and include a combination vaccine and a rabies vaccine. Combination vaccines vary in what they have in the product, but are often referred to as “3-way, 4-way, 5-way”, or even “6-way.” The number just refers to the number of vaccines that are wrapped up into one shot. For example, a “6-way”

vaccine protects against the following: rhinopneumonitis, influenza, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, Western Equine Encephalitis, Tetanus, and West Nile disease. The rhinopneumonitis and influenza components are recommended to be boosted at the 6-month mark in horses that are travelling or around a lot of other horses (i.e. not in a closed herd). Combination vaccines are for sale at farm stores for owners to give to their horse intramuscularly. However, these vaccines are not usually backed by the company if not administered by a veterinarian. For example, many vaccine companies will pay for diagnostics and treatment in horses that develop a disease their horse was vaccinated against by a veterinarian or in horses that have an adverse event occur in response to the vaccine (“vaccine reaction”). The rabies vaccine cannot be purchased over the counter and must be given by a veterinarian. This vaccine is especially important as rabies is zoonotic (can be passed from animal to human) and fatal. Additional risk-based vaccines, such as the strep vaccine (“Strangles”), can also be given to horses if determined to be a safe and appropriate decision by the veterinarian. \*Additional considerations are in place for horses

that are naïve to vaccines, pregnant mares, as well as horses under one year of age.

At your wellness visit, your veterinarian can evaluate your horse’s teeth to determine if he/she is due to have his/her teeth floated. Horses have “hypsodont” teeth, which means they continue to grow through their life. As youngsters, their tooth roots are very long because of this. Over their lifetime, they will grow that tooth out as far as it can go. The wear patterns on their teeth as they grind their food can cause sharp points to develop. Dental floats can address these sharp points to keep the mouth healthy long term, as well as, identify and address any other issues that may be occurring.

For many years, we thought rotational deworming was best. In recent years, we have discovered that we need to deworm based on fecal egg counts. You can provide your veterinarian with a manure sample from your horse. Contents will be evaluated microscopically to determine if your horse is a low, moderate, or high shedder of fecal eggs. Deworming protocols can be planned based on which category your horse falls into. Deworming too frequently or with the wrong products can select for resistance to the



dewormer.

Getting to interact with clients and their horses on a non-emergent basis can allow us insight on your horse’s medical history, feeding, and care. It is important for you to keep good records of these subjects, along with current feeding regimen, farrier care, medications, and supplements. Knowing these things will greatly help your veterinarian when an emergency does happen. And when it does, we will be here to help!



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# 'Cribbing' Problem In Horses Generally Impossible To Stop

By Frank J. Buchman

"That horse is eating the barn down!"

Anybody who has handled very many horses has likely made that scary exclamation.

It is true that certain horses will chew and suck on anything wood whether stall, barn, hitching post, fencing, whatever. That's called "cribbing," and a horse who does it is called a "cribber."

Without knowing the exact cause for cribbing behavior in horses, prevention is difficult, according to Sara Mastellar. With an advanced degree in equine nutrition and behavior, Mastellar defined cribbing as a stereotypy or seemingly functionless repetitive behavior.

It is characterized by grabbing an upright object with the teeth and pulling with an arched neck and sucking air.

"Many horses exhibited wood chewing behavior before manifestation of cribbing," said Mastellar.

Horses that crib may spend anywhere from 15 to 65 percent of their day cribbing.

Approximately four percent of horses in the country are cribbers with cribbing mentioned in literature as early as 1578. However, cribbing has not been reported in feral horses that are free ranging.

"It is possible that aspects of management may cause the cribbing behavior," Mastellar said.

Specific causes of cribbing are yet to be determined and the behavior may be due to a combination of factors. Diet, genetics, boredom, stress, and copying another horse have all been suggested as causes of cribbing.

Horses that have more grain in their diet have been shown to be at an increased risk of cribbing. Studies indicate that horses fed sweet feed

have been known to crib more than horses fed oats.

In a horse owner survey, only one percent of horses developed a cribbing habit after exposure to another cribbing horse. It is unlikely horses learn cribbing behavior from one another.

Genetics could also play a role as Thoroughbreds and warmbloods are more likely to crib compared to other breeds. "A study found that cribbing is heritable and can be passed onto offspring," Mastellar said.

Horses that crib will have increased wear on their incisor teeth but not cause problems for the horse until they are older. Additional teeth wear may ultimately shorten the life of the horse because they are not able to eat as effectively.

Moreover, cribbing horses may be harder keepers due to increased energy expenditure spending time cribbing instead of eating. Horses that crib are at risk for colic and are more likely to have stomach ulcers.

"All of these issues contribute to the unpopularity of cribbing horses and a potential reduction in market value," Mastellar said.

Reduced risk of cribbing is associated with increased time spent outside, and social contact with other horses. Keeping foals solely on grass through weaning might reduce cribbing.

"Once cribbing behavior is established, it is unlikely a horse will ever completely cease to exhibit the behavior," Mastellar said.

Studies suggest that cribbing horses may have some physiological and mental differences or atypical hormone levels.

Horses that exhibit cribbing behavior may react to situations differently than their non-cribbing counterparts. However, cribbing horses seem to have less anxious

temperaments and are equally trainable when compared to non-cribbing horses.

The decision to inhibit a horse's ability to crib should weigh the possibility of increasing stress against other health issues.

Many managers also consider the destructive nature of cribbing behavior on barns and fences.

"Cribbers are motivated to crib and will work hard for an opportunity to crib," Mastellar said. "This motivation makes keeping an established cribber from engaging in cribbing behavior particularly difficult."

The characteristic cribbing collar is the most commonly used method to prevent cribbing. "A collar can be effective preventing cribbing, but they are only effective when the horse is wearing it," she said.

Horses that are allowed to crib after being prevented from cribbing will have an increased cribbing rate "It's as if to make up for lost time," Mastellar said.

"Cribbing rates increase after a concentrate meal. So formulating diets that contain more forage and less grain can help to mitigate cribbing behavior," Mastellar said. Horses fed many small concentrate meals may actually crib more because cribbing is associated with feeding time.

If there is a need to keep a cribber stabled, providing a toy has been shown to reduce cribbing rates slightly. Turnout, socialization, and prevention of boredom are all forms of stress reduction for these horses.

Additional possible ways to reduce cribbing include eliminating cribbing surfaces, taste deterrents, cribbing surface electrification, pharmaceuticals, oral antacids, and surgery.

Cribbing in horses is likely a permanent behavior pattern once



*Cribbing is a repetitive behavior characterized by a horse grabbing an upright object with the teeth and pulling with an arched neck and sucking air.*



*With an advanced degree in equine behavior, Sara Mastellar defined cribbing as a stereotypy or seemingly functionless repetitive behavior in horses.*

established. The exact cause of cribbing in horses remains to be determined.

Therefore, consider not breeding to a horse that cribs. Provide plenty of forage. Allow horses turnout time. Encourage interaction with other horses," Mastellar summarized.





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# The Spirit of The Cowboy

By Frank J. Buchman

“The dawn of the new year prompts reflection on the past and renewed hopes for the future.”

Prodded heavily to release personal email when buying new boots as commented recently, the business’ advertisements flowed daily as expected.

The American cowboy is a pillar of Western heritage that has endured for centuries, and is an undeniable source of inspiration.

Though the world continues changing, the cowboy legacy stands unshaken as verified by three cowboys spanning multiple generations.

Ross Coleman, Molalla, Oregon, is a rancher, father, and bull riding legend. “You enjoy the work. You’ve got to love the land, and you’ve got to love your livestock,” Coleman insisted.

“You get up early in the morning and work all day for not very much

pay,” he said. “But you love everything about riding a good horse, going across good country, and taking care of cattle.

“Things on the ranch are not always perfect, but you learn something,” Coleman continued. “Being a cowboy, whether in the rodeo world, or on the ranch, you’re going to be humbled. Humility is a lot better than pride,” champion bull riding cowboy rancher Ross Coleman declared.

Thomas Saunders V is a sixth-generation rancher and member of the renowned Saunders family at the Fort Worth Stockyards.

“Spirit comes from the soul,” Saunders acknowledged. “It’s not something that happens to you. It’s something that happens in you.

“It’s a blessing to have the cowboy and ranch lineage and history in my family,” Saunders granted. “I’m very proud of my cowboy ancestors from whom I came. I’m very proud of how

they carved me out to be a ranching cowboy.

“Land is legacy, and we’re certainly proud to have withstood the test of time by persevering and moving forward with our ranch,” cowboy rancher Thomas Saunders V declared.

Tilden Hooper, Carthage, Texas, is a professional many times champion rodeo bareback bronc rider.

“There are day-to-day differences between rodeo cowboys and working cowboys,” Hooper contended. “But at the end of the day, the values are the same. It’s hard work. Your handshake means everything.

“It’s putting your hat on every day, pulling it down hard. Going out there and doing whatever it takes to get through the day, and get it done.

“The spirit of the cowboy is special. It’s everything that’s America. It’s freedom, it’s hard work, it’s loyalty.

“The cowboy is the last wild, free

thing left.”



*Tilden Hooper, Carthage, Texas, is a professional many times champion rodeo bareback bronc rider.*



*Ross Coleman, Molalla, Oregon, is a rancher, father, and bull riding legend.*



*Thomas Saunders V is a sixth-generation rancher and member of the renowned Saunders family at the Fort Worth Stockyards.*



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Butter

### Sauce

1 pound mushrooms, sliced

1 cup sour cream

1/4 cup dry Sherry

1/2 to 3/4 cup slivered almonds

1/4 butter

4 scallions, green and white parts chopped  
 2 10 1/2 ounce cans cream of mushroom soup

Combine flour, salt, pepper and paprika. Dredge chicken breasts in seasoned flour. In a large skillet heat butter and brown breasts on both sides. Place in a shallow baking dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 30-40 minutes.

In a skillet, sauté mushrooms and scallions in butter for five minutes. Add undiluted cream of mushroom soup and mix through over low heat. Stir in sour cream, add sherry and heat through. Pour over chicken breasts. Can freeze at this point. Sprinkle almonds over top and bake about 30 minutes.

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# Managing Musculoskeletal Soundness in the Breeding Stallion

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 Certified Equine Rehabilitation Practitioner  
 AVCA certified in Animal Chiropractic  
 Clinical Assistant Professor  
 Equine Performance Medicine and Surgery  
 Kansas State University

As we arrive at the 2023 breeding season the thoughts of many people involved in the equine industry turn towards stallion performance. Slots in the stud book have been or are being filled and collection or breeding dates are being solidified. The focus of these activities often centers on the reproductive soundness of the stallion. For many of these horses a breeding soundness exam is enough to prepare them for the coming season. For others, a different kind of soundness should be considered to maximize the potential of the stallion.

Musculoskeletal fitness of the stallion is as important to the breeding season as breeding soundness. Depending on the breed, discipline, and desirability of the stallion the season may approach six months duration of active breeding or longer if frozen semen needs to be banked. Longevity and consistency is the name of the game. An under-conditioned stallion or one with pre-existing musculoskeletal conditions may not be equipped to handle the demands of the breeding season. It is important for stallion owners to consider the challenges for each stallion they manage and develop a plan to keep them as comfortable and mobile as possible.

## Stallion Fitness

It is important to consider the strength and fitness even of normal stallions, particularly those which are not in regular riding or training programs. Core strength and spinal

mobility are important components of the breeding season preparation. A routine exercise program with specific, planned movements to strengthen an out-of-shape horse and address any specific deficiencies of a stallion with known lameness issues can go a long way towards maintaining or prolonging the breeding capacity of the stallion. It is all too easy to let a breeding stallion loaf in his stud pen during the off season, all fat and sassy with a nice hay belly.

A sound stallion should have daily turnout of eight or more hours or at least 30 minutes of controlled exercise or light riding. Additional exercises, such as mobility stretches and trotting over obstacles, can be used to engage a stallion's core, build top line, and improve pelvic mobility. Assessing and maintaining spinal mobility through regular chiropractic care is also important to ensure that not only is the horse moving as optimally as possible but that his body is functioning at peak ability. A more precisely planned training schedule will be needed if a stallion will have a particularly rigorous breeding schedule or has to manage being shown during the breeding season.

A stallion with lameness issues is more challenging to manage. Often, the tendency is to rest or restrict exercise in horses with lameness issues with the thought that you are relieving pain. While exercise restriction is important in managing acute injuries, more often than not

it is more important to design a controlled exercise program that includes low impact activities and complementary therapies that manage the pain arising from that horse's musculoskeletal disease. Weight management through implementation of an appropriate diet is also an important component to reducing the impact of chronic injuries and lameness issues.

## Neck, Back, & Pelvic Soreness

A sore back, neck, or pelvis (aka axial skeleton) is one of the most detrimental conditions to manage in the breeding stallion and may be one of the most difficult to diagnose. In some cases, it is debilitating enough to eliminate libido and prevent the stallion from breeding at all. This pain may be due to a primary injury of the spine and surrounding tissues or it may be secondary to another cause such as osteoarthritis. Stallions may exhibit obvious pain or they may show more subtle signs such as reduced libido, difficulty mounting the mare, unsuccessful intromission, or irregular pelvic thrusts.

An injury causing acute soreness that may be manageable in the short term, especially in stallions with high libido, can deteriorate into a chronic nagging condition that prevents successful breeding if it is not addressed appropriately. Stallions with these signs should be examined by an equine clinician experienced in axial skeleton problems as well as the more common causes of lameness



*Shockwave therapy can be useful to manage pain in stallions with chronic musculoskeletal conditions.*

in the limbs. Motion palpation, high powered radiographs, or ultrasound of the trouble spots may be necessary to diagnose the primary problem. While we are becoming more astute at diagnosing equine back problems and providing targeted treatment, it may be difficult to reach a diagnosis due to the horse's size. Direct treatment of vertebral facet arthritis, kissing spine lesions, soft tissue strains, or sacroiliac (SI) pain can be very effective where a diagnosis can be reached or pain localized. However, trials of different medical therapies combined with broader application of integrative therapies such as shock wave, cold laser, chiropractic, and/or acupuncture may be necessary to manage the pain and allow a stallion to complete a breeding cycle. In some cases, rest and rehab may be needed to allow an injury to heal before returning to the breeding pen.

## Osteoarthritis

Osteoarthritis is the most common cause of lameness in horses. Many stallions deal with this disease as a result of their previous performance careers, a traumatic injury, or simply due to their age. While any joint in the body can be affected the knees (carpi), fetlocks, hocks, and stifles are the most commonly affected. Where possible, it is best to localize the source of the pain and utilize radiographs to fully assess the severity of the arthritis in order to make appropriate treatment recommendations.

Most commonly, oral non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are used to manage the pain and facilitate motion. This is often all that is needed for short term relief from pain due to mild to moderate joint disease. These medications are often not enough to fully address more severe arthritis and long term administration comes with a host of potential toxicity issues. Direct injection of anti-inflammatory medication into the affected joint(s), such as corticosteroids or biologic therapies, are often very effective and can be combined with as-needed NSAIDs to manage arthritis pain.

It is important to maintain light, low impact exercise in horses with arthritis as motion is necessary to nourish cartilage and remove metabolic waste from the joint. Other physical therapies such as underwater treadmill, cold laser, joint mobilization (among many others) can be utilized either alone or in combination with medical therapy to manage pain or reduce the reliance on long term administration of NSAIDs.

Unfortunately, there is no cure for arthritis. Eventually all horses will stop responding to medical therapy. In these cases, some joints can be fused to alleviate the pain and allow a valuable stallion to continue breeding, but in other cases the stallion may need to be retired or alternative methods of collection explored.

## Foot pain

Many equine enthusiasts are familiar with the saying “No Hoof, No horse” and it certainly rings true here as well. An excellent relationship with your farrier is crucial to managing these conditions whether it be thin soles, chronic abscesses, laminitis, or navicular problems. While addressing each specific condition would require an article unto itself, maintaining proper hoof balance and hoof quality is of utmost importance. Preventing long toes & low/underrun heels are important goals in managing foot soreness. Obtaining radiographs of the feet can be very helpful to guide the veterinary/farrier team in appropriately trimming the horse and providing the best therapeutic options. Most stallions can be managed barefoot, but some may require therapeutic shoeing techniques along with medical therapy of specific problems to remain comfortable.

## Adaptations to manage pain in stallions

Various management strategies and facility design tweaks can be utilized to improve stallion comfort and even prevent injury. One of the most important things to keep in mind for stallions with musculoskeletal issues is keeping the breeding schedule at a manageable level. The work load of even heavily booked stallions can be reduced with careful



*Assessment and palpation of the pelvis and lower back is an important area to investigate in stallions with musculoskeletal problems.*

planning from the mare management aspect. Mares can be managed so that they are serviced only when very close to ovulation with only one cover per cycle being needed or allowed (depending on the stallion’s abilities). Another option that works well for less heavily booked stallions is to limit the number of days each week that mares are serviced or collections are performed.

The ergonomics of the breeding facilities should be considered to reduce the stress placed on the stallion’s back, pelvis and legs. Breeding ramps, placing the mare downhill, or even just adding a few non-slip mats to manage height differences are relatively simple and accomplishable modifications. The footing should be non-slip, not overly deep, and provide some cushion. Heavy well-drained sod is often the simplest but rubber footing materials or even wood chips can be used. If the stallion’s temperament will allow, providing him some leeway to move while also approaching from directly behind and possibly supporting or guiding him from the side can all

be tactics to increase the likelihood of a successful service in severely weak or painful stallions. Limiting the number of mounts per service to one or at most two in more severely affected stallions can increase the longevity through a breeding season or even extend a breeding career.

## Conclusion

Preventing and managing musculoskeletal injuries in breeding stallions requires synchronization of many different turning wheels, but with the dedication of a stallion’s management team, this can result in a successful breeding season even for substantially limited stallions. Managing the stallion’s fitness and weight are key foundational components of a management strategy. Using targeted medical therapies along with integrative therapeutic strategies to improve mobility and manage pain can improve a stallion’s breeding efficiency and longevity.



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## Cowboy Church with Steve Stafford

It was mid December, the temps took a dive, from 40 degrees one day, to 5 degrees below 0 the next day, with a wind chill of 30 degrees below 0. And then add three inches of snow on top of that. I went out to the shop, something was moving. What could it be? It was a stray dog. Trembling from the cold, trembling from hunger, trembling from fear of this giant looking down at her. Great now what do I do?

I don't want to take her in the house, but if I don't she may not survive the harsh elements of the weather. So I gather her up in my arms and carry her into the house. Where there is protection from the world, where she will be fed, where she will find love. What happens next could only come out of a made for TV Christmas movie. We find two more, her pups. So now what? Yyou guessed it, they came in too. Our new found friends disrupt everybody and everything. The cat is terrorized, our old dog just looks sad, as if she has been replaced. Papers fly off the table, glasses fall off the table, the remote goes flying across the room. Why? Because the new dogs are not on the floor where they belong, but up on the tables where they most certainly do not belong.

Made me think, isn't this our story? Were we not strays when we came in the presence of God? Were we not cold, scared, hungry, as we came before the throne of grace? And did not Jesus just welcome us into his presence, his heart, and put his love into ours? Just as we saved those strays, Jesus saves us.

When the angel came to Joseph before the Christ child was born, he said this to Joseph,

Matthew 1:20-23, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Yes, Jesus came for one reason, to go to a cross, not his cross, but ours. He did nothing wrong, he was found with no sin, yet we are the sinners. We deserved the cross. Jesus came only to deliver us from the penalty of our sin. We were strays, he picked us up, holds us close to his heart, loves us and forgives us unconditionally. We simply must invite him into our hearts, our minds, our lives. Just like Miss Debbie and I invited those strays into our home to give them life, Jesus does the same for you, and for me.

So it's our prayer here today at Better Horses, that you too know Jesus as your Savior. All strays are welcome....

Pastor Steve Stafford  
 Risen Ranch Cowboy Church  
 Carthage, MO



# What You Want vs. What You Need!

By Maggie Stonecipher

Congratulations!! You are starting your search for your perfect property!! It is exciting to start horse property shopping, but it is smart to start with a good list of what you want versus need. Once you have your list, prioritize the items into MUST have and LIKE to have. No property will be perfect so bring your list to each showing and make notes based upon your prioritized list.

Here are some items to consider:

- **Quality Land** – reshaping land to make it horse friendly is expensive and requires lots of maintenance. Try to start a high ratio of usable land and the more the better.
- **Water Management** –
  - Many rural properties may be on a well. You want to inspect the well for not only quality, but quantity. A good well can be a positive but a bad well can be a nightmare. My husband and I recently experienced this when our well began to fail and we moved to rural water. Not nearly as expensive as we thought it would be and we are so glad we had to make the move. Water quality is significantly better and our well had become costly to maintain. So the move made sense to us.
  - If the property is on a public water source, make sure to get monthly water costs for at least the previous 12 months.
  - Plumbing – make sure the plumbing system is of quality and has been maintained. Burst

pipes in the winter are no fun.

- Drainage – how well does the property drain? Check for erosion and signs of poor drainage. These will only get worse and will require attention and maintenance.

- **Strong, Safe Fencing** – Fencing is expensive. If the fencing is not well maintained and safe, you will have an immediate expense in making it so. Or, you will have vet bills. Look for fencing that has posts no more than 10' apart and constructed with safe materials. Wide, solid gates are also important so that you can get equipment through them.

- **Stable** – A well situated barn should be structurally solid with a grain room, tack room, solid stalls at least 12x12, safe electricity and easy access to water. The barn should be well ventilated but not drafty. Examine all the electricity and boxes well. Has it been professionally installed and maintained. Any loose wire, overloaded outlets, DIY work, use of many extension cords are all red flags.

- **Waste Management** – The average horse generates 35-50 lbs of manure a day. How are you going to manage that? If your horses are in stalls or paddocks, it is a daily issue. And even in pastures you must factor in impact to the soil and quality of the grass. What equipment do you need? Tractor, manure spreader, UTV,

etc. Where are you going to put it and manage the mounds that grow?

- **Presentation** – Take note of your first impressions of the property. Is the property neat, clean, mowed? Is the barn clean, swept, stalls clean, rodent free? Is the house clean and well maintained? You are touring a property on a good day when it should be well presented. If it is not, then you need to question how well it is maintained on a regular day.

Finally, do not go it alone! A top agent can help you get to closing. They not only know the process and documents, but also have a great circle of resources for inspections and any issues or concerns that arise. Getting under contract is just the honeymoon. Getting to closing is the real test! Good Luck!!





  
Kathy Wismer  
PHOTOGRAPHY



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