



The William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute

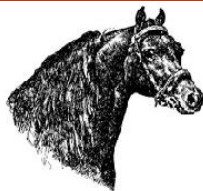
Stable Sheet

March 2007

Chazy, New York

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THE UNIVERSITY
OF VERMONT

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Upcoming Events

March 30-31, 2007
Reproduction Workshop
See article page

March 31-April 1, 2007
Horses 2007 Educational
Conference
www.esc.rutgers.edu/horses2007

April 28-29, 2007
Everything Equine
See article

May 11-12, 2007
New York Horse World Expo
www.horseworldexpo.com

EQUIDAY

Hosted by Miner Institute
Saturday, March 24, 2007

9:00am — Registration & Refreshments
10:00am-3:30pm — Program

10:00am—11:00am	<i>Equine Disaster Preparedness</i> Jennifer Zajackowski, PEC Safety Team
11:00am—12:00pm	<i>Equine Herpes Virus & Influenza</i> Dr. Jenny Wilkinson, VT Large Animal Clinic
12:00pm—12:45pm	<i>Lunch Break</i>
12:45pm—1:15pm	<i>Fashions for the Show Ring</i> Carol Tetreault, Adirondack Tack
1:15pm—2:15pm	<i>The "Gift" Horse Eats the Green\$</i> Dr. Betsy Greene, VT Ext Equine Specialist
2:15pm—3:15pm	<i>Barn Fire Preparedness</i> Jennifer Zajackowski, PEC Safety Team
3:15pm	<i>Door Prize Drawing</i> Must be present to win!

EquiDay is free and open to the public.
Miner Institute is located in Chazy, NY
1 mile west of Exit 41, I-87

For more information contact Karen Lassell
518-846-7121 ext 120
lassell@whminer.com

WHERE THE WILD HORSES ROAM

When I was a child, the words "Outer Mongolia" held a quality not dissimilar to the word *Timbuktoo*.....they represent a kind of yardstick for far, far away places. Somewhere that people can refer to and say, "Well, you may as well be in Timbuktoo", implying a) that wherever you are is far, far away and b) that it is damn well difficult to get to or c) get out of...

I went to Outer Mongolia in June 2006 to volunteer at Hustai National Park with the Takhi reintroduction project. Hustai National Park is situated a long 65 miles outside the capital city of Mongolia, Ulaan Baatar, and is home to arguably earth's only true wild horse, The Takhi, better known as Przewalski's horse.

Hustai is now home to 185 Takhi and the site of a conservation success story. In the early 70's it was discovered that no Takhi remained free living in the wild. A global conservation effort rolled into action, genetically mapping all the horses living in zoos and private collections across the planet. Due to the relatively small numbers of the horses, care had to be taken to keep inbreeding to a minimum. The horses were gathered in Lazares, France and also a site in Denmark where they were to begin their journey home. These horses had to re-learn to socialise in herd groups.

In the early 90's the first horses arrived in Hustai, Mongolia from Denmark; a significant event for the Mongolian people, who had just themselves achieved independence. I joined an ecovolunteer program to aid Mongolian researchers in their study of the Takhi behaviour. Nandintsetseg (Nandia) was researching habitat use amongst the horses: where they go, what they do there and what they eat. The research involved tracking the horses from dawn (when they had come down into the valley to drink) until mid afternoon when someone else would take over. I was armed with a GPS unit, a wind speed dial, a thermometer, clipboard and pen and a packed breakfast! The horses sometimes covered a good distance from the stream to their midday resting spot, often disconcertingly disappearing over a ridge long before I could catch up with them.

The main results of this research indicate that the Takhi herds share boundaries of their home ranges, they take to higher altitudes in summer to avoid flies and excessive heat, their home ranges don't change too

much if a new stallion takes over, and they return to the lower altitudes in the evening to graze. My own observations noted that they mostly choose not to mingle with domestic horses (who are chromosomally different), serious fighting between stallions is rare- most disputes settled with a squeal and a sniff, mares tend to form tight bonds with their offspring until they leave the herd, sometimes having two or three young grazing with them.

The return of the Takhi to Mongolia is one of the most successful conservation efforts of our time. More information on both the Takhi and ecovolunteering can be found at their website: www.hustai.mn

*Lindsay Perry
Student Intern from University of Limerick, Ireland*



Photos were taken by ecovolunteer Hans van der Vecht. The stallion Temujiin watches over his harem of 14 mares and 3 foals (bottom). A foal and a juvenile on the mountain (top).



NEW YORK EQUINE REHABILITATION

Morrisville State College (MSC) seeks to expand the capacity of its 302-student/400-horse operation to further the study of rehabilitation and physiology.

This project will offer horse owners across New York state and the Northeast with affordable and convenient access to aquatic and hyperbaric equine rehabilitation therapies. Eventually, MSC will offer the nation's \$102 billion horse industry an opportunity to employ students trained in a real-world laboratory setting, with the college's planned bachelor of science degree in equine physiology.

Students and horses at the new facility will have access to state-of-the-art equipment including an aquaciser, or underwater treadmill; a eurociser, the next generation of hot walker; a hyperbaric chamber which would enhance therapy programs by introducing oxygen into diseased or damaged areas; and a swimming pool, which would provide cross-training and a low impact means to recovery during post-operative care.

Stabling for an extra 80 horses and an endowed faculty chair and laboratory are also included in the college's plans.

Morrisville State College offers a bachelor of technology degree in equine science and two associate degrees in equine racing management and equine and science management. The school's current Equine Breeding and Training Center is a 34,000 square-foot breeding and hunter/jumper facility, and includes a breeding and foaling barn, hunter/jumper barn, stallion barn, a complete breeding laboratory, collection area, laptop classroom, and three indoor riding arenas.

In addition to the Equine Breeding and Training Center, the college has an 80-acre Equine Center complete with paddocks, stables, three indoor riding arenas and a half-mile harness racing track. Additional stables include a draft horse barn. MSC is also the only college to compete a six-in-hand draft hitch, which travels approximately 8,000 miles each year to promote the college's equine programs.

For more information see www.morrisville.edu/mcf.

*Press Release
March 09 2007 Article # 9104*

19TH ANNUAL EQUINE REPRODUCTION WORKSHOP

March 30 and 31, 2007*

The UVM Morgan Horse Farm in Weybridge, Vermont, the William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute of Chazy, New York and the Middlebury Large Animal Clinic of Middlebury, Vermont will host their 19th annual Reproduction Workshop beginning the afternoon of Friday, March 30 and continuing for a full day on Saturday, March 31, 2007.

Dr. Donald Hunt and associates are skilled veterinary practitioners in equine reproduction and physiology. They will discuss managing the uses of lights, hormones, and ultrasound in your breeding program, anatomy and physiology of the mare and stallion, embryo transfer, artificial insemination and foaling/neonatal care.

The topics covered by Dr. Josie Davis of the University of Vermont's Equine Studies Program and Katie Ballard, Director of Research and Equine Program Coordinator at Miner Institute, will include updates on materials, techniques and procedures for collecting, processing and transporting fresh-cooled and frozen stallion semen.

The staff of the UVM Morgan Horse Farm, Miner Institute and the Veterinarians will guide workshop participants through hands-on participation and demonstrations of ultrasound, teasing procedures, semen collection and processing, artificial insemination and frozen semen handling. The important step of training the inexperienced stallion to the breeding phantom is also demonstrated.

The registration fee of \$250 includes workshop materials and meals. Limited to 25 participants, but there are still a few spaces available. Call the UVM Morgan Horse Farm at (802) 388-2011, Monday-Friday, for further information.

Note: this is the correct date, it was incorrect in the December issue of the Stable Sheet.

NEW STATEWIDE EFFORT TO AID EMERGENCY RESPONSE FOR ANIMALS

Commissioner Introduces Creation of Empire State Animal Response Team

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker today announced the launch of an ambitious new training and education program conducted by the Empire State Animal Response Team (ESART). ESART is a private-public partnership that was created to serve as a unifying network of organizations, businesses and agencies that support the prevention of, preparedness for, response to and recovery from emergencies affecting animals. This partnership provides assistance to local municipalities for mitigation, planning, preparedness response and recovery activities for animals.

"Animals are a very important part of our society, and for many of us, are like family," the Commissioner said. "In times of emergencies, whether a single house fire or a flood that devastates an entire community, we want to make sure that our animals are included in the preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. ESART will train local response teams in order to ensure swift and effective response and recovery assistance to homes and businesses with animals."

Minimizing the personal loss or separation of animals from their owners during an emergency is only one of the benefits of this new program. ESART will also help decrease health and safety threats to humans and animals, minimize the economic impact, and can also help decrease the spread of disease during emergencies affecting animals.

Because disaster response begins and ends at the local level, ESART promotes and supports the creation of County Animal Response Teams (CARTs). CARTs are the actual responding units that would be activated and deployed by county emergency management offices to provide the initial assessment and response for animals affected by a disaster or emergency within their jurisdictions. When these resources are overwhelmed, or when specialized resources are needed, the county emergency manager can request support through the State Emergency Operations Center. ESART's member agencies will be activated to aid in the coordination and deployment of additional resources.

John R. Gibb, Director of the State Emergency Management Office, said, "The creation of this state team will go a long way in enhancing the State's and a local community's preparedness. We know that pet owners will many times jeopardize their own safety in order to look after their beloved animals. Incorporating plans for the safety of pets and service animals will, in turn, help enhance plans for the safety of their owners." Kelly Nilsson, Director of New York State Disaster Response Services for the ASPCA, said, "The ASPCA is proud to be a member of the Empire State Animal Response Team and to assist in its efforts to mitigate animal suffering, death, and separation caused by emergencies and disasters. We are committed to work with our partner agencies such as the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and the State Emergency Management Office to make this program a success."

ESART will provide support to CARTs through specialized training opportunities, planning guidance, additional resource coordination, and information concerning regulatory actions and best practices that may be useful to county teams. ESART is not a technical or field response unit. Specific training topics include technical animal rescue and recovery techniques, temporary sheltering planning, zoonotic disease awareness, and how to create a CART.

ESART is a collaborative effort of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, the State Emergency Management Office, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the New York State Veterinary Medicine Society, the Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory at Cornell University, and Cornell Cooperative Extension, USDA, the School of Public Health at the University of Albany, and the New York City Office of Emergency Management.

For more information on ESART, please visit www.EmpireSART.com.

Jessica A. Chittenden
Director of Communications
NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets
10B Airline Dr., Albany, NY 12235
518-457-3136

MANAGING HORSES ON SMALL ACREAGE

There are several considerations that must be addressed when keeping horses in limited or poor quality acreage. Ideally, we would house the horses in lush green pasture and rotate them from one well maintained broad sweeping field to the next on a regular basis. Reality usually sets in when people compare land prices, taxes, building costs and the amount of money in their budgets. When these factors are calculated, people often end up working to keep their horses on a smaller, less than desirable piece of land. There are many ways that we can work to maximize the use and stewardship of the land we have to work with.

We will look at several things that you can do to ensure that your horse is living in the safest, healthiest environment as possible, and that you are living up to your responsibilities in horse and land stewardship. First, we must provide horses with adequate shelter, whether it be in the form of stalls, shelters or natural wind breaks. The horse must have a safe environment with adequate and clean space that provides relief from the elements. In addition, the area where your horse is housed must be free from hazards including protruding nails, broken fences, barbed wire, glass or windows, and toxic substances or weeds.

Horses must also be kept on a routine feed, exercise, turn out (if stalled) vaccination, deworming and hoof and teeth care schedule. Horses are grazing animals by nature and instinct, and their digestive tract was designed to handle small amounts of medium to low quality roughage on a regular basis. When we give them one meal of high quality roughage and calorie packed concentrate, we are inviting potential digestive upsets such as colic or laminitis. Some of these topics will be covered in the nutrition talk. It is critical that horses are provided with a clean fresh source of water at all times, with the exception of after a heavy bout of physical exertion. For maintenance of physical as well as mental soundness, horses must receive regular exercise. Hoof care is another often neglected responsibility. Horses usually need to have their feet trimmed or shod every 7-8 weeks. This can vary depending on their use and the condition of their hooves. Consult your local veterinarian for recommendations on vaccination and deworming schedules for the area. Some parts of the country have higher susceptibility for different transmissible diseases and your veterinarian should be

able to provide a yearly schedule for vaccinations and rotations of various dewormers. You will be able to decrease the potential parasite load with responsible manure and pasture management as will be addressed later. Horses will generally require an annual appointment for dental work with the veterinarian. Since horses chew with a side to side motion, they wear sharp edges on the inside of their lower teeth and the outer edge of the upper teeth. The vet will use a dental float (file-like tool) to file off the sharp edges.

Pasture

Ideal pasture has the following elements: a high quality legume and grass mix that has established a good stand, well maintained and safe fencing, a fresh clean water source, and, no weeds, toxic plants, machinery, trash or dangerous objects. Poor pasture can be utilized to its fullest extent, but it will usually serve more as an exercise area, rather than a source for the majority of the horses nutrients. In addition, with poor pasture or an inadequate area for the number of horses present, there is a high potential for parasite, mud and other environmental or health problems without proper management steps.

Several ways that we can improve or maintain the maximum efficiency and health of small acreage include use of rotational grazing, sacrifice areas, weed control, and improvement of pasture through renovation, maintenance and rest. Rotational grazing will allow different areas of your pasture to rest and recuperate while the horses graze on a different section of pasture. Without proper management, horses can quickly destroy a high quality stand of pasture. Horses tend to be "spot grazers," and they will have areas that they have grazed close to the ground, while leaving areas of high growth untouched (usually where they have defecated). By sectioning your grazing area off into pieces, you will be able to manage manure by picking it up manually or using a harrow to spread it around and expose the parasite eggs or larva to death by sunlight. If you drag the pasture, you should keep the horses off of it for at least one week, to decrease possibility of parasitic re-infestation.

Sacrifice areas allow you to choose which parts of the pasture will be "given up" for the survival of the rest. Often, people will make a small paddock in the corner

or along one end of their pasture. This will be a very high traffic area, and you may need to use gravel, hog fuel, compost or some other source of fill to decrease the mud in extremely high traffic places such as feed, water and gate areas. You will have to provide a complete diet of roughage, concentrates and/or supplements to meet the nutrient needs of your horse while they are kept in the sacrifice area. If a horse is allowed to choose their own sacrifice area, you can be sure that it will be several different spots throughout the pasture, rather than one concentrated area. The actual size and shape of the sacrifice area will depend on land available, number of horses being housed, lay of the land and the amount of horse activity. Geriatric horses will not need as much "romping" space as a pen of yearlings. One other critical consideration is the diversion of run off from your sacrifice area. This can be achieved by several methods including choice of location, buffer strips, or other diversion techniques.

Pasture Management

The choice of seed types for planting new pasture should be made with the help of local extension or field experts to obtain the best pasture mix. Most of the time, a mix is more desirable than one specific grass seed, since different types can be mixed at ratios that will allow one to begin coming in when the other is at the end of its maximum production. The pasture mix will probably contain a percentage of grasses and legumes. Be very careful that the mix is blended specifically for horse pasture, and contains nothing detrimental for horses. As an example, some mixes that are advertised for horse pasture contain Alsike Clover, and this can cause extreme photosensitivity in horses. Grasses generally have a high dry matter intake, come on strong early in the spring and then late in the fall. They tend to provide thick turf and therefore be heartier to horse abuse than legumes. Legumes tend to have a higher protein and mineral content and flourish in the summer, but do not withstand the use and abuse of heavy grazing. It is important to select a seed mixture that is complementary to your lay of the land, soil type and drainage.

In order to establish a thick and hearty pasture, you will need to allow it to become well established after seeding. One of the greatest causes of new pasture failure is overgrazing prior to establishment of a good stand. In order to avoid over and undergrazing, you can rotate between smaller parcels, not turn horses out

until pasture is at least six inches tall, break up the parasite life cycle by harrowing or cleaning and/or composting manure, and keep pasture clipped to three to four inches regularly during the growing season (after you have rotated horses). This will help to control weeds and prevent the grasses from heading out. Also, if you use a chainlink harrow, this will help to break up the parasite life cycle and smooth out some of the hoof damage that may have occurred.

Regardless of whether you are improving or renovating your pasture, a soil test will be necessary to determine lime or fertilization needs. Soil tests should be representative of the entire pasture area and done every 2-3 years. The needs of your pasture will be partially dependant on the use and abuse level which is directly dependent of the species type and numbers that are utilizing the land.

There are several other health or environmental concerns that can be examined. For instance, pooling water provides an excellent habitat for fly and mosquito breeding and weed growth. If at all possible, drain any boggy areas to help decrease insect population. Other issues include toxic plants or weeds. Some types of pasture can be detrimental to your horse at different stages of growth or physiological states of your horse. Alfalfa can attract deadly blister beetles that can sicken or kill your horse even if he ingests a dead beetle. Fescue is a grass that is extremely hearty, but the majority of fescue is infected with an endophyte fungus that can cause thickened placenta, agalactia or abortion in pregnant mares. Sudan grass can cause cystitis if horses graze it during or after a flood or draught period, and finally, several ornamental shrubs can be toxic to your horse. Be sure to find out what types of growth you have in the area prior to turning out the horse. Many times, the horse will not consume the toxic plants and weeds unless there is nothing else to eat, but you cannot count on "smart" horses.

Finally, you have responsibilities to your horses, neighbors, and the environment. You can control internal and external parasites through manure management, regular grooming and an adequate deworming program (chemical control). Further, you need to control water run off by installing gutters, diverting water from the sacrifice areas (to decrease contamination and mud/muck). Good stewardship of the land will include proper manure storage and

INFORMATIONAL BOOKLET ON NAIS AND HORSES RELEASED

The Equine Species Working Group has released the second edition of an informational booklet titled "NAIS and Horses: The Facts Surrounding the National Animal Identification System and the Horse Industry in the U.S." The NAIS is a voluntary program intended to identify premises and livestock, and to record certain livestock movements for the purpose of disease management and control. The program's ultimate goal is to protect the health of U.S. livestock, as well the movement and marketing of animals, through a State-Federal-Industry partnership.

The NAIS and Horses booklet contains information on the NAIS, and includes the following sections:

- Introduction
- History of National Animal ID System
- Why Should the Horse Industry Participate in the Development of the NAIS?
- Equine Diseases of General Concern
- Methods of Identification
- Potential Benefits of a National Equine ID Program
- Current Status of NAIS
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Equine Species Working Group Members

"There is a great deal of misinformation regarding the NAIS that has and continues to be spread throughout the horse industry" say Jim Morehead, DVM, ESWG co-chair. "This booklet is an important resource that attempts to address this misinformation while providing up to date information on the program. It is important that industry members know the facts so they can learn about the NAIS, the efforts of the ESWG, and how a national identification plan might affect them."

The booklet has been updated to reflect recent changes to the program, including USDA's position that it is a voluntary program. It also includes the latest ESWG recommendations submitted to USDA in August 2006. One of the key recommendations made by the ESWG is that no equine movements should be reported. The group proposed that horses which move to a premises where a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI), Brand Inspection, VS-127 permit or International CVI are required should be officially identified and that the

records maintained through those currently existing and utilized movement permits capture the high risk movements that pose the largest threat of spreading disease. Animal health officials would be able to query the state databases in the event of a disease emergency to obtain the necessary records.

If horse owners choose to utilize microchips for the purpose of official identification, the ESWG recommends use of the ISO/ANSI compatible RFID chip (11784/85, 134.2 kHz) and that RFID reader and scanner manufacturers and suppliers should make an immediate effort to provide readers and scanners that can read ISO/ANSI 11784/11785 microchips, and read or at least detect all 125 kHz frequency companion animal microchips. USDA has recently announced its endorsement of the ISO standards if an owner decides to utilize RFID technology for NAIS participation.

The NAIS and Horses booklet is available on the ESWG website www.equinespeciesworkinggroup.com, along with other important and useful information regarding the ESWG and the NAIS, including the latest ESWG recommendations.

(Managing horses, continued from page 6)

disposal, prevention of run off through the establishment of drain fields or buffer strips. Additional precautions could include covering your manure or compost pile and locating the manure storage area away from any streams or running water. If you have rivers or streams running through your pastures, fence them off to prevent trampled banks that will result in erosion and contamination.

Ask yourself: What can I do both immediately and long term to be a more responsible horse and landowner.

*Betsy Greene, Ph.D.
Equine Extension Specialist
University of Vermont*

STALLION SERVICE CONTRACTS: *What should it include and what some terms mean.*

Name all parties involved, humans and horses alike! Be sure the agreement includes the registered names and numbers of the stallion and your mare as well as all dates surrounding the service and when it can be used.

Payment of Fees: The contract should have a clear outline of what fees will be paid and by what dates to fulfill the contract.

- The "Booking Fee" is a reservation to be in that stallion's book for the season and is generally applied to the stud fee. Booking fees can be annual, so if you need to re-breed your mare due to non-pregnancy or a dead foal, you'll likely be required to repay.
- The "Stud Fee" is the price paid to get a pregnancy or foal from this stallion. Check carefully to see what happens if you've paid your stud fee in full and the stallion is no longer fit for service (ie- infertile or dead). Some farms will refund you, less the booking fee; some will offer a substitute stallion. If none of the substitute stallions interest you, think carefully about this especially if the fee is very high!
- "Chute Fees" seem to be handling fees for semen, but they vary widely in price and what they cover. It can include: the collection fee (or not); one or more collections and shipments of semen; handling the mare for live cover; or taking the stallion to a station to be collected. This fee is usually found in the stock-horse breeds such as Quarter Horses, Paints and Appaloosas; I've not seen it on Morgans, Draft Horse, or Arab contracts.
- "Collection Fee" is the price of semen collection, which may or may not include shipping. Some stallions include a shipment or two in the stud fee, others increase the fee with each subsequent shipment. Ask the stallion owner what sort of semen quality you can expect- ask how many live, motile sperm you'll get in an inseminate and what that will be at 24 hours when you receive it to use. This is the right time to ask about conception rates for the stallion- how many mares did he breed last year and how many of those settled? How many cycles did it take to get those mares bred?
- "Mare Care" fees are usually a per day fee and can be "Dry"- a mare without a foal at side or "Wet"- a

mare with a foal. Understand clearly what the care is that your mare (and foal) will get. Will she be stabled? How much turnout and with other horses? What's the health status of horses on the farm? What vaccinations or health papers are required of your mare?

Transfer or Assignment of Contract: This will answer whether or not you can sell or give away your service to this stallion. If you choose not to use the service you have already paid for, what can you do with it? Not all stallion owners will honor the agreement if it is no longer for you or the mare you specifically named as the one to be bred.

Opening and Closing Dates: Understand the breeding season and make sure they jive with your schedule. Stallions that have busy show seasons might have a very limited time available to breed your mare either live cover or shipped semen. If they offer only frozen semen after a certain date, be sure your veterinarian is experienced handling and breeding with frozen semen. I've seen many show studs whose season closes on June 15th; that's about when I want to really start breeding! If you didn't use lights to manipulate her cycle starting back in December, getting an early ovulation is much more of a crap-shoot.

Live Foal Guarantee: It is generally accepted that a "live foal" is one that stands and nurses, but I have seen a LFG cover up to 72 hours old. In a textbook foaling, this will be within the first few hours of birth. The "guarantee" is the hard part and you'll need to read closely to determine what that is to each particular stallion owner. Most of the time, you'll need to have documented veterinary visits or proof that you did all the appropriate pregnancy checks including ultrasounds and palpations, as well as the Rhino shots at 5, 7, and 9 months of gestation. Then, if the foal is born dead or fails to stand and nurse, you'll again need a vet's evaluation. After this, your options can still be limited. Some stallion owners will only offer return service in this second season. Read carefully!

A SOLAR-HEATED WATER TANK?

I try to leave as many horses outside for the winter as possible for their health sake and it saves on shavings as well, but water can be the biggest issue. Our two larger pastures have Nelson waterers, which are automatic and heated and rarely seem to have any problems, no matter the temperature. The run-in shed that I wanted to keep a couple of coming 3yo's in doesn't have water running to it in the freezing months, so it needs to be brought to them. Between the barn that the shed is a part of being old and the fact that Morgans are notorious cord-pullers, I didn't want to use anything electric to keep the water from freezing; what other options are there?

I don't remember the catalog where I saw this contraption, but I searched the internet for the maker (avoiding catalog price increase) and found it here: <http://www.premierpub.com/amesco/default.htm> "The Bob Trough". Considering that one of the leading causes of winter colic is lack of water, it seemed to be a worthy insurance policy. Just to have the vet out for a colic emergency call can run into the hundreds of dollars and colic surgery is closer to \$5,000. It cost over \$500 to purchase the 42 gallon tank and to get it to Miner, but I really wanted to try it because if it worked....



I will admit, I was a skeptic, but it did do the job! When I first set it up for the fillies, they were a little unsure of this big, black box and were wary of pushing the floating cover to get to the water, but I monitored the level all day and did see both of them drink on day one, so "training" to it was easy. Even on the days that the temperature went to -30°F plus added wind, the water was available to the horses. The only time it seemed to freeze up was when snow accumulated on the float and then froze at the surface. It did this a few times with all the blowing snow we had, but I also could see that at least once the girls had been able to break the ice themselves to free up the float. When I broke the ice, it didn't take too much to work it loose and the water in the tank itself never froze.

If you'd like to see the The Bob Trough, please feel free to stop in to check it out or ask me while you're visiting for EquiDay and I'll take you to it. It doesn't seem to be flimsy, so I'm expecting it to last for many cold seasons to come, but I will be putting it away for warmer months. Is it fully worth the money? I'm not totally sure yet, but I think if it manages to last for many years, I would say so.

UVM Spring Showcase Sale Horse Exhibition and Open House

Highlights:

Proven Broodmares, Youngstock
Pleasure and Show Prospects

Date: May 27, 2007

Time 1:00 pm—3:00 pm

For more information contact:

UVM Morgan Horse Farm

74 Battell Drive

Weybridge, VT 05753

802-388-2011

uvm.morgans@uvm.edu



EVERYTHING EQUINE HIGHLIGHTS for APRIL 28-29, 2007

For 2007, a full line-up of nationally-known experts, including Lynn Palm, will provide information about equine health, training and driving, saddle fitting, dentistry, alternative therapies, emergency aid and more. Seminar topics range from nutrition, health to equine reproduction. There are workshops on spring tune-up, conditioning tips, using music in training and how to turn your horse hobby into a viable business. There will even be a series of seminars aimed at helping the first-time or novice horse owner get off to successful start. During the two-day show exhibitors will display their latest equipment, nutrition supplements, and equine-related supplies. Meanwhile, over in the seminar rooms and Poulin Grain Horse Arena and Purina Mills Demonstration Pen, horse-lovers will have a chance to see everything from jumping demonstrations to a live, endoscopic exam performed by Dr. Philip D. van Harreveld, DVM.

One of the big hits of Everything Equine has been the Vermont Horse Council's (VHC) annual equine variety show, "Horsin' Around on Saturday Night." Lynn Dow of VHC brought together 13 acts for the sold-out show last year. Organizers added a second show on Saturday afternoon to meet the demand for tickets this year. Proceeds benefit the VHC to further activities in the Vermont equine community. Shows will be at 12:30 and 6:30 p.m. Purchasing advance tickets (\$14 for the matinee includes Equine show admission and \$10 for the evening show) is encouraged.

On Sunday, April 29, the Vermont State 4-H Foundation will hold a stallion service auction. As of now, the services of a Morgan, Canadian, Paint, Quarter Horse, Thoroughbred, Arabian, Lusitano and a Bashkir Curly have been donated. The auction will raise funds for 4-H in Vermont, and in particular the 4-H Horse Project, which has 85 horse clubs and more than 900 members in the state. The auctioneer is Louise Moon Rosalie. "The bidding should be brisk and to add to the excitement of the day, each stallion will be on site during the auction," said Kurt Reichelt, the UVM Extension's auction organizer.

UVM Extension's Dr. Betsy Greene is thrilled by the growing attendance and enthusiasm shown at

Everything Equine. "The combined strengths of UVM Extension, the Exposition, and Vermont horse businesses and equine industry experts from the region make this one of the top shows in the Northeast," she said. "It was evident that people who are passionate and focused on their animals really find what they come looking for during the weekend," Greene said. "We bring together horse-related businesses, riding clubs and industry experts under one roof. It makes for a great weekend, especially for someone thinking about getting a horse who wants to talk with hobbyists, professionals and serious competitors about 'everything equine,'" she added.

"Everything Equine" is sponsored by University of Vermont Extension, Poulin Grain, Inc., Purina Mills, Guys Farm and Yard, Shearer GMC & Shearer Chevrolet, Blue Seal Feeds, Inc., Horsemen's Yankee Pedlar, The Equine Journal, The Horse Works, Tony's Tack Shop, Nutrena and Champlain Valley Exposition.

VALUE OF NEW YORK'S EQUINE TOPS 1.83 BILLION DOLLARS

The inventory value of New York State equine was \$1.83 billion on December 31, 2006, according to Steve Ropel, Director of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, New York Field Office. These results are from the first comprehensive state equine survey in 5 years and are the result of a cooperative effort supported by the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets and the equine industry.

The total inventory value of \$1.83 billion was an 8% increase, attributed to a larger inventory, over 2000's survey. The number of horses, ponies, donkeys and mules totaled 197,000, up 17% from the 168,000 head in 2000. All NY equine on December 31, 2006 averaged \$9,300 per head.

The survey also gathered information about related aspects of NY's equine industry, including land use, types of operations, equine use, asset value, and equine expenditures and revenues. Additional survey results will be available in the coming weeks, and a complete summary publication later this summer. Results will also be posted on the web site www.nass.usda.gov/ny

HORSE TRAINING? YOU FIRST!

As a species horses -want- to get along. If they know what you want and BELIEVE that they are able to do it they'll be doing it. It isn't about if the horse CAN, because often it is quite obvious that they can when some other person gets on and proves it, but whether the horse believes he can WITH YOU. (I am, of course, speaking to the Generic You.) The reason that some people are able to use traditional methods and end up with happy horses is because no matter what they do here is never any anger or other negative baggage. Every move (even a big one) is designed to support the horse's belief in himself that he CAN do it and he can rust that it will be OK. That person is able to come in with complete confidence in themselves and that gets transmitted to the horse.

There is a big difference (in my opinion) between that mindset (supporting the horse) and 'using force'. It may look similar to the casual observer but the HORSE'S perception (and that's the reality that counts) is clearly different to me. With the former you can see the horse's cares and worries melt away, whereas with the latter, matters spiral out of control.

The reason that people who just use force are not successful is because they are focused on what they don't want happening. Whereas another fellow can come along, handle the same horse, with the same level of energy and in seconds that horse is grounded and calm. How so? Because the second guy is focused on what he WANTS: to help that horse be calm and successful. Very different, and very "clicker" even with no clicker in sight.

Clicker training is the process of training an animal using a conditioned reinforcer, which indicates to the animal ("marks") the precise behavior that was correct. It was originally used in training animals such as dolphins and pigeons, for which traditional methods of obedience training aren't useful. Although it is a form of operant conditioning, the more popular name "clicker training" comes from the fact that the conditioned reinforcer used by many dog trainers is a small mechanical noisemaker called a clicker. Clicker training has also been successfully used in horse training.

If the result of every encounter with the horse is a happier, calmer horse who feels safe then no matter what method is employed, that horse is going to trust that person to keep him out of trouble. To start to develop this sort of relationship I find the "You First" rule is helpful.

Is the horse tense and excited, needing emotional control? Is the horse tight in his back needing to release tension in his muscles? Is the horse's movement chaotic, needing to become aligned, balanced and controlled?

The You First rule looks at the above from the horse's point of view. You want the above in your horse, you have to go first. You have to offer emotional control to the horse first in order to help the horse find it. You have to offer a relaxed seat if you want the horse to relax his back. You have to offer aligned, balanced, controlled energy if you want the horse to find it too.

None of that is very easy at all. But it certainly separates the 'men from the boys' so to speak when it comes to handling horses.

Sharon Foley

Sharon Foley is a student, teacher and author focusing on positive reinforcement based training practices. Drawing from 20 years experience with some of the best teachers in the world in the areas of clicker training, horsemanship, and classical dressage she has developed a unique approach to training horses. Enthusiastic about learning and helping her pupils excel, Sharon infects people and horses with a can-do attitude.

Her teaching and training practice is currently based out of Heritage Equestrian Center in East Greenwich, RI. She is available for clinics and consultations. Sharon's first book, "Getting to Yes: Clicker Training for Improved Horsemanship" is now at the printer and will be released to the public in Spring 2007. For more information go to www.horsemansarts.com.



William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute
1034 Miner Farm Road
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UVM RAFFLE FOAL

In order to promote the Morgan breed, the UVM Morgan Horse Farm raffles off one outstanding member of its annual foal crop soon to be born!

To purchase tickets for the 2007 Morgan Foal Raffle, send a check for the amount of tickets you wish to purchase, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope, to the address listed below. Tickets are \$2.00 ea./\$10.00 for a book of 7. Include your telephone number when ordering tickets, as we call the winner. The tickets will be filled out and the stubs mailed back to you along with a photocopy of the tickets. The drawing will be held on October 31, 2007.



UVM Morgan Horse Farm
74 Battell Drive
Weybridge, VT 05753
802-388-2011

AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL'S NEW AND IMPROVED WEB SITE AN ESSENTIAL RESOURCE

WASHINGTON, DC – Keeping abreast of national legislation and regulations that affect all members of the horse industry just got a little easier. The American Horse Council's newly improved web site at www.horsecouncil.org provides timely and educational information on any issues in Washington, D.C., that relate to horses.

"The American Horse Council's web site is a vital tool for our individual and organizational members and the industry as a whole," said Jay Hickey, American Horse Council president. "It is important for our members and the entire horse industry to stay informed on the issues and know when and how to make a difference."

Stay knowledgeable about what federal regulations there are and those being developed that directly affect the horse industry. There are also many equine health-related government resources and issues discussed on the web site.

As the national trade association representing the horse industry in Washington, D.C., the American Horse Council works daily to represent equine interests and investments. Organized in 1969, the AHC promotes and protects the industry by communicating with Congress, federal agencies, the media and the industry on behalf of all horse related interests each and every day.

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www.whminer.org