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COURIER

Voice of the Illinois Horse Industry

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Where Do Horses Fit?



Sheryl King, PhD
President, Horsemen's Council of Illinois

Before the turn of the 20th Century, there was no debate about where horses fit into agriculture or the role they played in our lives. Before the advent of the internal combustion engine, horses were an essential work animal. At that time, horses outnumbered other farm species and what distinguished horses from other farm livestock was their presence on farms *and* in our cities; they cultivated our fields, milled our grain, transported people and goods, and literally moved mountains.

In our modern mechanized and computerized world, however, the role of the horse in our society is less certain. **The debate about whether a horse is a livestock species or a companion animal may seem trivial to many, but in reality the designation is pivotal to the survival of this animal in our society.**

America's attitude about our horses' place is split, putting them in a precarious position with one foot in agriculture and one foot in the household. Not only is the designation of the horse fuzzy between one horse owner and the next, it can change for a single horse, depending on its age and use. Most would agree that the *production* of horses – that time between breeding, foaling and raising prior to marketing – fits into the realm of agriculture. However, the *utilization* of the majority (over 80%) of horses for recreation tends to favor their treatment, and consequently their perception, as pets – albeit large and expensive ones. In reality, we need both entities in order to make the horse industry work – each relies upon the other to sustain the large and diverse horse industry and all of the dependent ancillary industries (think tack, togs, trucks, trailers, vets, farriers, farmers and feed dealers). Toward the end of their natural or useful lives, the picture once again becomes muddy as we struggle with end-of-life decisions for our horse; this becomes worse should the horse become one of America's tens of thousands of unwanted horses.

Why should this matter to the rest of agriculture? **The legal, political, economic and moral implications of horses as livestock versus pet have the potential to entirely change the horse industry in the US - and changing the horse industry will impact other agricultural industries.** With a national population of about 9 million, horses consume vast quantities of agronomic commodities (fodder, grain, bedding, supplements, etc). The horse industry helps prop up vital services used by other types of farming, such as large animal veterinarian access, fencing, trucks and trailer manufacture and sales and much more.

Horses can protect our farmland and greenspace. In areas of heavy human population, horse farms often lie on the outer fringes of residential areas where they create a buffer zone that protects the more outlying farming areas from urban sprawl. In short, if you can keep the horses, you will protect the farmland beyond.

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Coming in the Next Issue

Russ Derango - Part 3

Trails and Land Use

More on HCI Survey

Member Association Profile

HCI Annual Meeting

DO IT YOURSELF - Mane and Tail Detangler

- 1 part non-alcoholic mouthwash
- 1 part conditioner
- 1 part baby oil
- 1 part water
- * if using spray bottle add more water to avoid clogging



The mission of Horsemen's Council of Illinois is to educate, mobilize and represent Horsemen and the equine industry to ensure a thriving Illinois horse community.

2015 Illinois Horse Fair & Horsemen's Council Sponsors



Ten (10) Year Anniversary for Illinois Equine Industry Research & Promotion Board's Grant Funding

On January 1, 2004, Public Act 93-0135 went into effect requiring voluntary assessment on commercial equine feed sold in Illinois. The funds are administered by the Illinois Equine Industry Research and Promotion Board. The first grants from this fund were submitted and awarded in 2005. We are now celebrating a decade of providing funding that allows horse lovers the opportunity to help expand and enhance programs that allow others to experience the benefits of what horses can bring to families and communities.

Since the first assessments were collected in mid-2004, almost \$700,000 has been returned to the horse community through programs such as trail improvements, research on equines, disabled riding programs, and horse club enhancements such as fencing, announcer stands, new electrical service and even a horse ambulance!

2015 IEPB GRANT RECIPIENTS

- King City Saddle Club - Arena Fence Promotion Project
- Saline County Agricultural Fair Assn. - Saline county Ag Fair Improvements to Horse Show Arena
- Salem Ranch - Paddock Fencing
- McHenry County Conservation District - horse trailer parking lot
- Illinois Boots & Saddle Club - Facility Improvement Project
- Walk-On Therapeutic Riding Program - site enhancement
- Plainfield Park District - Normantown Trails Equestrian Center Facility Improvements
- Illinois Equine Foundation - Establishment of the Illinois Equine Protection Fund
- University of Illinois - Pulmonary Disposition/Adult Horses
- Specialized Equine Services and Giant City Stables - Lift Device for Safe Loading/Unloading of Equine Therapy Clients

The Promotion Board extends a heartfelt thanks to all of the feed manufacturers and feed stores who assist the program by collecting the horse feed assessment and submitting to the board. Without these partners, the Promotion Board would not have been able to fund these important programs.

Following is a listing of the remitters from the 2014-2015 seasons. Please take a few minutes to personally thank your provider of horse feed for their contributions to the program. And if you don't see your feed store on this list, share this article with them and let them know about the program. Complete information on how to participate in the program including the mandated legislation, forms for remittance and requirements can be found on the Promotion Board website at <http://www.horsemenscouncil.org/Board/EPBindex.htm>.



ADM Alliance Nutrition, Inc.
Bellflower Feed Mill
Bluford Grain Co. Inc
Boney's Farm Store Inc.
Cargill Animal Nutrition
Cargill Inc.
Cissna park Co-Op, Inc.
Country Acres
Dearwester Grain Services, Inc.
DeKalb Feeds, Inc
Earlybird Feed & Fertilizer
Eastern Grain Marketing
Elburn Coop
Farmers Grain-Litchfield-Fillmore
Farmers Pellet Mill LLC
Feed Solutions, MN
Gateway FS, Inc
George's Farm Supply
Graham Feed Company
Graymont Cooperative Association
Grayslake Feed Sales, Inc.
Hamel Coop Grain Co.
Hopedale Agri Center, Inc
Hubbard Feeds Inc.
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Jersey Farmers Elevator
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Provimi North America, Inc
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Purina Mills
Ragland Mills Inc
RCM Co-op
Roanoke Milling Co.
Roy Umbarger & Sons, Inc.
RPA Farmers Co-Op
Rudys Farm Center
Rumbold Valley Farms, Feed Division
Sigel Feed & Grain, Inc
Tabor Feed Mill & Farm Supply
The B B Milling Co
Tractor Supply Co.
Tri County Feed Mill
Wakefield Mill & Elevator Inc.

Meet Our Board Members

The board members of Horsemen's Council of Illinois serve as the volunteer leadership of the organization. They are responsible for the governance, finance and accountability of HCI, and best serving the interests of Illinois horsemen and the industry. The board of directors meets monthly to conduct the business of HCI. They are in frequent communication with each other and with the HCI Operations Manager. They are passionate horsemen and devote considerable time to their role on the HCI board. Each of them serves as a resource to the organization and to our members. Throughout the year we will introduce you to them.



For **Paula Briney** of Chatham, Illinois it's all horses, all the time and she wouldn't have it any other way – that is all she's known since childhood. The Briney family is distinguished in horse circles around the state and the nation. Paula's father, Paul and mother Sally are huge advocates for the horse industry and have been honored for their work. Last year Paul was honored with the Van Ness Award at the American Horse Council annual meeting in Washington, DC. Brother, Rob is also a big support.

As the manager and head instructor of her family's Pratense Farm Paula teaches English lessons and coaches her students in their competitions. She competes in Saddleseat and dressage events. She has a BS from Stephens College in Equine Science with a minor in Business

Paula advances the horse industry by volunteering her time and leadership with many organizations. She is a lifetime member of the United States Pony Club and a graduate of their program at the H-A level and is still very active in Sangamon Valley Pony Club. She works with the CenterLine Dressage organization which is part of the United States Dressage Federation of which she is lifetime member. Paula has been a delegate to the USDF convention for the last 10 years and is an active competitor. She has Bronze, Silver, Gold Medal rider status with USDF, has passed their judges program with distinction and is accepted into the USEF "r" dressage judge program. She serves on the Youth Charity Horse Show board as co-vice president. She loves the Saddlebred and now serves as the committee chair for the ASHA Sporthorse committee and is vice president of one of their charter clubs called Versa.

Paula's parents helped organize Horsemen's Council of Illinois and Illinois Horse Fair, so she is a ready resource for other board members and volunteers. She joined the board of HCI in 2013. Paula has organized the English clinics, demonstrations and breed demos for Illinois Horse Fair for many years.



Equine Health Alerts

Recently cases of Equine Herpes Virus and Equine Infectious Anemia were reported in Illinois. Owners, veterinarians and public officials are taking appropriate measures and closely monitoring the diseases.

Information about EHV and EIA can be found at the Illinois Department of Agriculture website:

<http://www.agr.state.il.us/EquineHerpesVirus>

<https://www.agr.state.il.us/AnimalHW/ahequineanemia.html>

If you do not have access to the internet, call Cheryl at the HCI office to receive a printed copy. 217-689-4224.

Illinois Equine Foundation Responds to Tornado

Thanks to the caring action of HCI Members Diane Dorsey and Nelson Preston, horse owners Dawn and Rick Geist have some help in recovering from the devastating tornado of April 9th in Fairdale and Rochelle, Illinois. The tornado took all but two foundation walls of the barn, all of their hay and very sadly the life of one horse.

Diane and Nelson were also affected by the storm but quickly turned their attention to others in need. Nelson is a farrier and made the rounds checking on his friends and clients. He and Diane contacted Horsemen's Council with news of some of the losses. Board members of HCI and the Illinois Equine Foundation developed an assistance plan and offered applications to horse owners impacted by the tornados.

The Illinois Equine Foundation has awarded a \$500 grant to Dawn and Rick Geist. The \$500 is to help replace the hay that was destroyed in the tornado so they can feed one remaining horse that survived the tornado.

HCI and IEF are developing a Equine Crisis Response plan and fund to assist with future needs. If you would like to donate or be part of the planning team, contact Kevin Kline, kkline@illinois.edu.



Illinois Equine Foundation

Since 1987 the Illinois Equine Foundation has provided a tax-free way to help the Illinois equine community through charitable giving.

The Foundation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes within the meaning of section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Its purpose is to promote equine events, equine activities and equine education and to include the establishment and administration of related scholarship funds, grants, financial assistance, research projects in support thereof.

Tax deductible contributions to strengthen and support these worthwhile goals are gratefully accepted. Contributions can be designated as general or earmarked for specific uses. Gifts can be made in any amount and may be received as monetary sums, stock, annuities and other assets, bequests from estates, endowments or other means.

For more information contact the Illinois Equine Foundation through the Horsemen's Council of Illinois office at 217-689-4224.

FROM THE HCI OFFICE

- **MEMBERSHIP** - As of May 15 HCI has 476 dues paying members: 321 individuals, 62 families, 93 associations and nonprofits and businesses. In addition the members of clubs and associations can be added to the membership list to receive HCI emails. Submit your membership roster to hci@horsemencouncil.org. Help us reach 1,000 members by encouraging others to join.
- **BROCHURES AVAILABLE** - The best way to gain new members is to have the membership brochure in hand to share. If you would like some to pass along, contact the HCI office.
- **NEW WEEKLY BULLETIN** - beginning in May a newly formatted weekly email bulletin is released on Wednesdays announcing events around the state, current news briefs and health alerts. We encourage all members to share their events and news
- **NEW PRESCRIPTION BENEFIT** - Association Resource Group has added a new prescription discount card benefit for HCI members. Save 10% to 65% on most prescriptions at 60,000 pharmacies. One card serves your household and PET MEDS. It is a FREE Benefit. To print your card visit: www.associationresource.citymax.com/prescription-drug-card.html. For more information visit the Horsemen's Council website or call Cheryl Waterman at the HCI office 217-689-4224.

(Where Do Horses Fit? Continued from page 1)

And horses are also a bellwether of people's attitude toward agriculture. Horses are often the only large farm animal that a city dweller will ever contact in the flesh. As such, they act as ambassadors between farm and city – a role that is increasingly important in a society becoming more divorced from the realities of their food production. The reverse is also true; since horses can generate a greater emotional appeal than other farm animals, animal rights movements have cut their teeth on horse issues first, learning the tactics that succeed in order to move forward into other areas of animal agriculture. Consider that California was the first state to ban horse processing - what was learned in this campaign led to successful referenda to ban gestation crates for hogs, and battery cages for chickens.

To protect the horse industry as well as farming, the legal definition of a horse within our state and federal statutes needs to be consistently and unequivocally a livestock species. Major institutions such as the American Association of Equine Practitioners, a branch of the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the American Horse Council agree.

There is no consistent definition of horses from state to state. In California horses are considered a companion animal, in New Jersey they are definitely livestock. To date, horses remain as livestock in all Illinois statutes excepting one – **the Humane Care for Animals Act; and that one statute has the potential to cause trouble that can reverberate** through our entire farming system.

Designated as a livestock species, horses enjoy greater latitude in many things. For example, as livestock, horse welfare regulation falls under the jurisdiction of the USDA. Because it is a federal agency, the USDA's standards for humane care are consistent from state to state and they can be enforced federally and by each state's Department of Agriculture. Think about the humane regulations for dogs and cats who do not fall under any federal jurisdiction – every state, county or municipality can have their own rules and regulations regarding the keeping of companion animals and those rules can, and do, vary widely - from preventing ownership of particular breeds within a municipality to strict leash laws (including mandatory poop pickup, which has recently become an issue in some states with equine using public trails) as well as licensure requirements. Violate these rules and you can be fined, or your animals could be impounded.

Most local animal control officers have no horse experience at all, and most county animal control boards are made up of dog and cat owners; if horses are companion animals, these are the people who would have the power to make and enforce the rules governing the ownership and management of your horses. How many owners would we lose from the industry if every horse had to be licensed every year? Some counties require proof of spaying or neutering, or if a pet is left intact the owner must apply for a special breeding-animal license and conform to even more rules. For example, current legislative initiatives are afoot to regulate the number of intact (a.k.a. breeding) companion animals that a person can own, and how offspring can be sold. Would a mare be considered a breeding animal unless spayed? (!)

Companion animal statutes in numerous jurisdictions not only regulate the number and type of animals you can own; they dictate management factors such as the amount of space required per animal, both indoors and outdoors. If it is determined that one horse unit requires at least one acre of open space, how many suburban and urban horse farms will close? What if some pet zealot on the local board in your jurisdiction determines that bits are inhumane (google the topic – you'll be amazed at the misinformation out there)... or that a horse cannot be outdoors in the rain/snow/heat/ etc... or that using horses to work cattle is cruel? This is not inconceivable when you consider that many extremists deem using horses in rodeo, racing, carriage work and other pursuits is inhumane.

The USDA funds research into promoting the health and welfare of livestock. Although horses don't garner a lot of this research support, the limited number of studies that are funded help improve our industry and the lives of the horses that we care for. **As livestock, the USDA and federal government can intercede and assist owners when their horse businesses are impacted by natural disasters.** For example, USDA assistance given to Thoroughbred breeders in Kentucky in the aftermath of the devastating and mysterious 2001 mass abortions, known as Mare Reproductive Loss Syndrome, may well have saved many breeders from leaving the industry. USDA also administers and enforces the Horse Protection Act and horse commercial transport regulations.

Raising livestock confers certain tax advantages for both federal and state taxes. In Illinois the cost of essentials such as feed and bedding, fertilizer and seed, is exempt from sales tax if you own production livestock. We all know the costs of keeping horses is substantial – adding 6.25%, or more depending on your location, to all of your costs as well as taxing the sale of the horses themselves could represent the final crushing burden to many horse owners. **If the only Ag commodity on your farm is horses, changing horses to a companion animal will remove your acreage from agricultural use status.** Imagine the added tax burden on 100 acres of prime suburban land taxed as residential property rather than as a farm? Horse farms would disappear from the urban and suburban landscape, to be replaced with the inevitable housing development.

Designating horses as livestock does not require an all-or-nothing decision. One owner can still consider their horse as a highly regarded workmate while their neighbor can see hers as her cherished pet. So long as they both care for their horses humanely and neither dictates to others how their horses can be enjoyed they can peacefully coexist as livestock and pet owner, respectively. Moving the designation of horses from livestock to companion animal will drastically change that, however. It will increase the dictation of terms, conditions and expense of horsekeeping that in the end may well reduce a vibrant industry to one enjoyed only in restricted areas or afforded only by the elite.

Our Life With Horses - Part 2 AC (after children)

by Russ Derango
HCI Board member

Our Life With Horses Part 2 - AC (After Children)

In my first chapter, I discussed my wife, Teri and my life with horses. I told about our backgrounds, and how we met. I told you about our first 8 years of marriage and our passion for horses and our very busy connections with the horse industry. That was all prior to children. But like most things in our life even starting a family was entwined with horses. Teri informed me that we were expecting at a horse show. It was the Arabian National Show in 1986. She was due the following summer. And then, while pregnant, she was involved in a serious auto accident. The car was totaled, and my she was injured (cracked knee, broken wrist, and lots of bruises), but the baby was ok. Our baby was due in June, so I continued working our horses getting ready for the show season.

The 1987 show season got underway. The baby was not due until June, so we had a number of shows to attend first. I was campaigning a young Western Pleasure Horse. Teri's English Horse had the 1st part of the season off. I was still involved with the management of several shows for our club, and so kept busy. Along with the show season, we were getting our house ready for a new arrival. We had a club show at the State Fairgrounds in Springfield the first part of June. I was managing the show and also trying to show. Teri had a doctor appointment just before the show and was told that she was still probably 3 weeks away from giving birth. The show went well. I managed the show, exhibited our horses, and she videoed everything.

Also at the time we had a mare due to foal at home. We had a friend watching the mare. He called and said she was dripping milk. So, as you can imagine, I was in a hurry to get packed up and home to care for the mare. My wife came up and said she wanted to stop in Bloomington on the way home. I told her no, we needed to get home for the mare. She was insistent. Finally she told me I just didn't understand. I said obviously not. She then informed me that her water had broken. Needless to say, it was panic time.

Of course this was before cell phones, so I went to the pay phone to make some calls. First to my mother in law to meet us at the hospital to pick up our dog. Then to a friend to keep an eye on the mare. In the meantime, because my vehicle was packed so full, a friend said she would drive Teri to the hospital. She then proceeded to lock her keys in the trunk. Everything got straightened out and we headed for Bloomington. My mother in law met us and took the dog. About 5 hours later, our daughter was born, all 9 lbs. 13 oz. In the meantime, our mare had foaled and was not accepting the foal. So, I hurried home to care for our other newborn.

Little did we know at the time that our daughter was born with a case of "horse-itis" more intense than either her mother or I have. From before she could take a step, Christy was interested in the horses. Once she began walking, we were really in trouble. She always wanted to be around the horses. By the time she was 3, she would leave with me to go to shows. Often times I was managing the show, and so it would be long days and short nights. She would just sit in my golf cart and never complain. She became well known around the show circuit, and she got where she recognized and could call by name many of the trainers. Of course

she began showing in Lead Line and Stick Horse Classes. We were fortunate and had many good horse friends who allowed her to ride on their horses and even use some National Horses for Lead Line. At that time even Lead Line and Stick Horse were judged classes. One year, at our Region XI Championship Show she was Champion in both divisions.

Christy got where she liked spending as much time in the barn and around the horses as possible. We even had the interest in our living room. There were many nights where she got on her spring horse, and her mom or I would have to call a class. Walk, trot and canter. We knew she was hooked when we even had to start keeping ribbons in the living room to reward her at the end of a class. We had friends who ran a riding stable at this time. They rescued a little white pony that they called Elmer. They decided that Christy needed him and he her. The two became best of friends. She had to ride Elmer every night. They spent lots of time together. They began their show career when Christy was 4. We took them to a little open show. They won about every class they were in. Since it was a charity show, they had lots of trophies donated that were repurposed for horses. So the pair came home with lots of trophies and Christy was hooked for life. At the time we had a three horse gooseneck trailer that had a large rear tack compartment. We were leaving for an Arabian Show, taking 3 horses. Christy was insistent that Elmer went too. I explained that there was nowhere for him to ride. Christy said how about the tack compartment. I told her that Elmer couldn't get in there, the step was too tall. This was when she was 4 years old. I then made a big mistake. I told her if she could get Elmer into the tack compartment, he could go. She said, "OK daddy", jumped up into the trailer and said, "come on Elmie, you can do it." That doggone little pony jumped up right in the trailer with her. So Elmer got to go and it cost me another horse stall at the show.

About that time, we found out we were again expecting. Little did we know then that our son would be born with another type of horse passion. Namely, horsepower under the hood, but that comes later. After our son, Clint was born, I took a long weekend and took Christy with me to the Arabian National Show in Louisville. While we were walking around, there was a press conference going on where they were interviewing Patrick Swayze who had Arabian Horses. After the interview he was posing for pictures. He noticed Christy and asked her if she would like to see his horse. He then picked her up in his arms, posed for some pictures and then placed her on his Arabian Stallion. At the time of course, she didn't know who he was, all she knew was he had a pretty horse. Xmas that year brought an opportunity. We were able to purchase a 3/4 Arabian Pinto named A-Z the Patriot who happened to born on the 4th of July. It was Christy's Xmas

(Continued on page 5)



(Continued from page 4)

present. They became the absolute best of friends. He taught her many things about riding and taking care of these wonderful animals. There were many cold winter evenings that we spent in the barn so she could work Patriot. I don't know if she ever got cold, but I was often frozen by the time I could convince her that she had worked him enough. As their show ring experience grew, Christy soon figured out if she got out of Walk/Trot she would have more classes to show in. So Walk/Trot was short lived. They went on to show in all disciplines. Western Pleasure, Hunter Pleasure, Saddle Seat, Costume, Halter, Showmanship, Horsemanship, and Trail. When she was 9, the pair was asked to present the American Flag at our Regional Championship show, and so another avenue to display her horse was started. Her mother made her a red, white and blue outfit to use. They did such a fantastic job, that they were brought to the attention of our National Show Commission. The pair was asked to present the American Flag during opening ceremonies of the Finals nights at the 1996 Arabian U.S. National Show. The pair did an absolute fantastic job, especially for a 9 yr old girl. They continued to present the flag at many shows until we lost Patriot at the age of 24.

We have been fortunate to own many fine show horses over the years. Christy and her Mom showed our National Show Horse/1/2 Arabian Ivanhoe Toppriority to many wins in the Saddle Seat Division. One of our first horses that we still own is Echo's Promise. He was a National winning Reining Horse when Christy and he became a team. Christy continues to show him at age 27. He carried her to many big wins in Horsemanship, Reining Seat Equitation and Western Pleasure. They began working together when Christy was 12 years old. Once out of the youth division, she began showing him in open Reining. At the 2012 National Show they earned Top Ten honors in Amateur Reining. Thinking he was probably too old to compete in reining, Christy started working him in Trail. At the 2014 National Show at age 26 he received 2 Top Ten in Amateur Trail. One of the highlights of Christy's show career was being selected as the 2005 Arabian Horse Association Youth of the year. Christy went on to college and competed on the University of Illinois Equestrian Teams.

While Christy's show career continued, baby brother also started showing. Although Clint never had the passion for horses that Christy did, he none the less had very successful shows as he was growing up. He showed a number of our horses to many wins. His favorite horse was named Tamar Get Western. George as we called him and Clint made quite a pair. They competed in Western Pleasure, Horsemanship, Trail, Showmanship, and even Ride a Buck, and Egg & Spoon. About this time Clint became extremely interested in cars, especially Ford Mustangs. So Clint and I began splitting time between horse shows and car related events. We even used George along with Clint's Mustang for his Senior Pictures. Clint went on to Lincoln College of Technology to get his degree in Automotive Shop Management and Technology.

Christy graduated from college and shortly after married. Her husband is in the Army and so has moved around the country. Her horses always move with her. She is currently in Texas and continues her horse passion. Clint is an Auto Technician and so horse passion is mainly under the hood. He still wants to show horses, and we are hoping our young gelding will turn into the Western Pleasure Horse Clint and I have been waiting for.

Once again, I would like to say that we feel extremely lucky to have been involved with horses all these years. We hope to continue to be involved in the industry for many years to come. I cannot think of a better way for our family to have grown up together. Many of our vacations were horse oriented. Even on what I would call a regular vacation, we usually found a way to add horses to the trip in some way. Our family always enjoyed our time together and time with our horses. Our kids understood the discipline of having to care for these wonderful animals. Our children knew that if grades were bad, or there were discipline problems, their time with horses or cars would suffer. We became a tight knit family and continue to be so today. Horses helped to contribute to this and continues to keep us together. Vacations are often still spent together at the National Shows. Clint took vacation time to help his sister haul our horses to Texas for some training. We still do things together and to Teri and I that is of utmost importance.

Part 3 of "Our Life With Horses - WC (Without Children Again)" will discuss what has happened since the kids married and/or moved out on their own.

