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## ***New Management Breathes New Life into Clarke County Fairgrounds Arena***

You may have noticed there was a different look and feel to the Clarke County Fair Ruritan Horse Show this past August. Yes, we still had our classic hunter under saddle and over fences classes, but this year, we added a lot of diversity to our show. For example, people were riding in saddles with horns, horses were showing that don't just walk, trot, and canter, and lots of preschoolers were being lead around the arena on beautiful equines of all shapes and sizes. This is what horse showing (and really the world) is all about; appreciating what is unique about each individual and respecting what they bring to the table.

We also offered for the first time this year a Silver Stirrups division for our riders over 40 years of age. In the Silver Stirrups division, you can ride as you are; English, Western, or Gaited, show clothes or casual clothes. It was a huge hit and was one of our largest divisions of the day.

You can expect to see a lot more of this coming from the Clarke County Fairgrounds under new arena managers Megan Magaha and Corey Kirk. Both ladies have extensive horse backgrounds ranging from showing horses over fences to penning and roping cattle. We are excited for the coming year as we add more shows and divisions that are inclusive for everyone in our diverse and beautiful horse community. Along with the Ruritan events, the beautiful all-weather footing arena and the horse barn are available for rent throughout the year. Contact Megan or Corey for pricing and availability. To stay up to date on all of our events, keep an eye on the Horse Times and the Clarke County Ruritan Horse Show Grounds Facebook page.

Megan Magaha is one of the new co-managers for the Clarke County Ruritan Horse Arena. Megan grew up in Waterford, Virginia at Hedgeland Stables riding both English and Western. She competed on a national level in the United States Team penning Association from 1994 - 2005, winning numerous buckles and saddles on her amazing Quarter horse Markco! During that time Megan moved with her family to Clarke County in 2003 where she graduated from Clarke County High School in 2005. Since graduating she helped run her family farm; she has hosted many shows from Jumpers to Barrel Racing in their indoor arena at Rockin' M Acres. When she wasn't hosting shows at her farm she would travel to other farms to help manage shows in the area for the Virginia Horse Show Association. Megan then became a licensed Massage Therapist for horses through Equisage. Megan has been very involved in the Clarke community and 4H programs over the past 20 years. She now enjoys showing with her daughter in barrel racing and also enjoys watching her daughter show livestock at the Clarke County Fair!

Corey Kirk is also a new co-manager for the Clarke County Ruritan Horse Arena. Corey grew up showing English and Western in the Niagara County, New York 4-H Horse Program. After graduating from high school, Corey attended Alfred University where she rode on both the English and Western Teams at the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association horse shows. During her college years, Corey completed internships around the country at World Class Western Pleasure barns and at a top-notch Quarter Horse breeding facility in Kentucky. After graduating from Alfred University, Corey was hired to be the Riding Program Director for Summer's Here Day Camp at Foxcroft in Middleburg, Virginia. After falling in love with the area, Corey decided to make Clarke County her home. Since then, she has held many different horse related roles from working as a groom at an A-circuit Hunter Barn to an equine veterinary assistant. Today, Corey owns and operates CK Performance Horses in Berryville, Virginia teaching both English and Western riding to her students. Corey also competes up and down the East Coast in Team Roping on her American Paint Horse mare, Oreo.

