Fall/Winter 2026

Horse Times MAGAZINE

FREE

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Including:

When the Gates Change Hands:
Preserving the Legacy of Equine Farms
— THE REBIRTH OF NYDRIE STUD —

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Prize Lists • Hunts & Clubs
Hunter/Jumper • Western Shows
Fall & Winter Show Calendar
Breed All About It • Horses In History
With News, Updates & Stories
PLUS – PONY TIMES FOR KIDS



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Horse Times MAGAZINE
www.HorseTimesMagazine.com
Serving Northern Virginia • The Shenandoah Valley
A Touch of West Virginia • A Hint of Maryland

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Publishers
Bryan Fleming & Georgia Andrews
Stories & Editor
Shannon Ott
540.550.7476
Shannon@HorseTimesMagazine.com
Art Director & Social Media
Bryan Fleming
540.662.8374
Bryan@HorseTimesMagazine.com
Advertising
Georgia Andrews
540.409.6710
Georgia@HorseTimesMagazine.com

Subscriptions
www.horsetimesmagazine.com/subscription

HorseTimesInfo@yahoo.com
Find us on Twitter, Instagram &
Facebook@HorseTimesMagazine
Horse Times Magazine, P.O. Box 527 • Winchester, VA 22604

On the Cover

Molly White Bono at Orange County Hounds Fall Hunting Opening Meet. Photo by Joanne Maisano

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svern.org
PO Box 527, Winchester, VA. 22604
valleyhorses2018@gmail.com
540-550-7476

OCTOBER 10th

JUDGE: Christopher Webb

DeVaux Farms

BERRYVILLE SHOW SERIES

Must Attend 4 Of The 6 Shows To Qualify For Year End Awards

Schooling 7:30am Show 8:00am
Grounds/Office Fee: $20
Classes: $20
VHSA Equitation Classes $25
Jackpot Classes $20
Non-Showing Fee: $25
Show Manager: Megan Magaha
540-931-4560
mmagaha2316@gmail.com

VHSA, BHSA, & TIP Sanctioned

1. Schooling Hunter Course A – 2'6 or 3' *BHSA*
2. Schooling Hunter Course B – 2'6 or 3' *BHSA*
3. Schooling Hunter Under Saddle **BHSA**
4. Children/Adult Hunter Course A 2'6 or 3' *VHSA & BHSA*
5. Children/Adult Hunter Course B 2'6 or 3' *VHSA & BHSA*
6. Children/Adult Hunter Under Saddle *VHSA & BHSA*
7. Children/Adult Equitation 2'6 or 3' *VHSA & BHSA*
8. Thoroughbred Hunter Course A 2'6" or 3' *VHSA & BHSA*
9. Thoroughbred Hunter Course B 2'6" or 3' *VHSA & BHSA*
10. Thoroughbred Hunter Under Saddle *VHSA & BHSA*
11. Green Horse Hunter Course A 2'6" *VHSA & BHSA*
12. Green Horse Hunter Course B 2'6" *VHSA & BHSA*
13. Green Hunter Under Saddle *VHSA & BHSA*
14. Limit Rider Hunter Course A 2' *BHSA*
15. Limit Rider Hunter Course B 2' *BHSA*
16. Limit Rider Hunter Under Saddle *BHSA*
17. Child/Adult Horse Pleasure W / Trot *VHSA & BHSA*
18. Child/Adult Horse Pleasure Walk / GAYP *VHSA & BHSA*
19. Child/Adult Horse Pleasure Walk / Trot / Canter *VHSA & BHSA*

Schooling Break not before 11 am

20. Lead Line - 100% Rider Equitation
21. Lead Line - 100% Mount Suitability
22. Lead Line - 50% Equitation / 50% Suitability *BHSA (only 25)*
23. Pre-Short Stirrup Equitation - Walk *BHSA*
24. Pre-Short Stirrup Equitation - Walk/Trot *BHSA*
25. Pre-Short Stirrup Equitation - W/T/Jump Position *BHSA*
26. Short Stirrup Equitation Walk, Trot *BHSA*
27. Short Stirrup Equitation Walk, Trot, Canter *BHSA*
28. Short Stirrup Equitation Course A 18" *BHSA*
29. Short Stirrup Hunter Course A - 18" *VHSA*
30. Short Stirrup Hunter Course B - 18" *VHSA*
32. Long Stirrup Equitation Course A – 18" *BHSA*
33. Long Stirrup Equitation Course B – 18" *BHSA*
34. Long Stirrup Equitation Under Saddle *BHSA*
35. Student Equitation Course A - 2' *BHSA*
36. Student Equitation Course B - 2' *BHSA*
37. Student Equitation Under Saddle *BHSA*
38. Jr/Adult Amateur Equitation on the Flat *VHSA & BHSA*

(Children may ride ponies, Class may be split 14 & under, 15-17, or Adult)

39. Pony Pleasure Walk / Trot *VHSA & BHSA*
40. Pony Pleasure Walk / GAYP *VHSA & BHSA*
41. Pony Pleasure Walk / Trot/Canter *VHSA & BHSA*

15 min Schooling break to follow Pleasure classes

42. Low Hunter 2' Course A *BHSA*
43. Low Hunter 2' Course B *BHSA*
44. Low Hunter Under Saddle *BHSA*
45. Pony / Green Pony Hunter Course A - Sm 2'; M 2'3"; Lg 2'6" *V & B*
46. Pony / Green Pony Hunter Course B - Sm 2'; M 2'3"; Lg 2'6" *V & B*
47. Pony / Green Pony Hunter Under Saddle *VHSA & BHSA*
48. Pony Equitation - Sm 2'; M 2'3"; Lg 2'6 *VHSA & BHSA*

Will split Green and Pony Hunter with 3 in each class

Division will be held on the Grass at the conclusion of the sand ring

49. On the Grass Course A - 2' to 2'6
50. On the Grass Course B - 2' to 2'6
51. On the Grass Under Saddle



DEVAUX FARM
691 BARBOUR LANE
BERRYVILLE VA 22611

Trainer Awards: Top 3 Trainers
End Year Awards to High Point and Reserve: Division Winners
Six Ribbons Per Class
Champion & Reserve Each Division
Berryville Show Series Points 10, 6, 4, 2, 1, ½
VHSA Associate & BHSA are scored according to their rules
Negative Coggins Test within one year required

Governor Spanberger Declares State of Emergency to Support Virginia Farmers

State of Emergency Allows for Increased Hay Deliveries in Response to Shortages Created by Ongoing Drought



RICHMOND, VA — Governor Abigail Spanberger today declared a State of Emergency to support Virginia farmers and producers in response to the statewide hay shortage caused by ongoing drought conditions.

Governor Spanberger's Executive Order 21 allows hay to be transported quickly and efficiently to farms across the Commonwealth by granting over-width exemption waivers to carriers transporting essential agricultural supplies of hay in any part of Virginia — accelerating feed delivery to farms and livestock producers. These waivers will help make sure farms can maintain operations and protect livestock health as persistent drought conditions have caused a statewide hay shortfall of 500,000 tons — or approximately 1 billion pounds. The declaration also provides access to emergency funding, activates price gouging protections, and authorizes additional measures if necessary.

"The drought has placed real pressure on livestock producers across Virginia," said Governor Abigail Spanberger. "Today, I am declaring a State of Emergency to make sure we can address the significant hay shortage facing the Commonwealth and keep farmers on solid footing heading into the winter. This waiver will help us move critical hay resources more quickly so farms can prepare for the months ahead, feed livestock, and sustain their operations."

Governor Spanberger continued, "While we have seen improvement in drought conditions in some areas of the Commonwealth in recent weeks, the impacts of this prolonged dry period are still being felt by producers across Virginia. My Administration will continue working with farmers, agricultural partners, and local communities to make sure they have the resources they need to weather these conditions and protect our agricultural economy."

Persistent drought conditions have caused a 35 percent loss in hay yields statewide, with yield losses in some cases reaching 70 percent, according to the Virginia Cooperative Extension. Additionally, from the beginning of the grazing season through June 2026, farmers had to prematurely feed hay for at least 30 of those 90 days due to poor pasture conditions and inadequate forage resulting from drought. Many local farms are in need of assistance to ensure adequate hay supplies going into winter to ensure livestock health. Supplemental deliveries of hay must be moved into affected areas in preparation for the winter feeding season to prevent further losses. While this temporary emergency allowance will allow for over-width loads, gross and axle weight limits remain strictly in effect.

The Virginia Emergency Support Team and Drought Monitoring Task Force continue to actively monitor statewide drought conditions, and coordinate with affected localities and stakeholders. The State of Emergency allows state agencies to streamline support, implement emergency plans, and issue temporary regulatory waivers needed to expedite relief.

"Extreme drought conditions across the Commonwealth have left cattle producers without the forage stocks needed to support many of our herds this winter," said Virginia Cattlemen's Association Executive Director Brandon Reeves. "Virginia Cattlemen's Association appreciates the decisive and strategic response of Governor Spanberger's team to help alleviate the hay shortage Virginia cattle producers face."

"We are grateful for the Governor's attention to this critical matter that is causing significant economic harm to Virginia's farmers," said Virginia Farm Bureau President Scott Sink. "This waiver will be instrumental in helping producers transport as much hay as possible in a timely manner to address the ongoing shortages due to severe drought conditions."

"The compounding impacts on Virginia farmers from drought, multiple disaster events, sustained high input costs, and market pressures are extremely concerning for Virginia agriculture," said Dan Goerlich, Associate Director with Virginia Cooperative Extension and Stephanie Cornnell, Extension Advisory Council Chair, in a joint statement. "Farmers are very resilient and innovative, and this transportation waiver will shorten the timeline for hay deliveries and also save significant trucking costs for producers purchasing supplemental hay as part of their overall drought management strategy. These partnerships are making a real difference for farmers across the Commonwealth. Together, we're helping keep Virginia agriculture moving forward one load at a time."

The Executive Order becomes effective on September 16, 2026, and remains in force for 45 days unless amended or rescinded. The over-width waiver will go into effect on October 1, 2026 and will remain in force for 30 days. The 15-day period between the start of the Executive Order and the beginning of the over-width waiver will allow farmers time to source hay and transportation in order to maximize their use of the state-issued emergency waiver, which federal regulations limit to 30 days.

For updates on hay resources and waiver-related information, please visit the **Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services webpage for Disaster Recovery Resources for Virginia Farmers.**

For updates on drought conditions and voluntary water conservation guidance, please visit the **Department of Environmental Quality's Drought Monitoring** webpage.


BEVERLY HUNTER/JUMPER
SHOW SERIES
Fall
VHSA/BHSA Recognized
SEPTEMBER 12, 2026
OCTOBER 10 2026
NOVEMBER 21, 2026
CIRCUIT FINALS : PENDING, BEVERLY CIRCUIT POINTS ONLY, NOT VHSA/BHSA RECOGNIZED
PRESENTED BY:
SALAMANDER
COLLECTION
FALL CLASSIC
USEF
BEVERLY
CIRCUIT FINALS
SHOW
FINALS
2026
CIRCUIT
SHOW
FALL
2026
CIRCUIT

Application Period Opens for AFID Infrastructure Grant Program

Grant applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Oct. 30, 2026

Richmond, Va. –

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is currently accepting applications for the fall round of the **Governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development (AFID) Infrastructure Grant program**. These reimbursable grants are intended to strengthen Virginia's agricultural economy, support small business growth, expand market access for local producers, and build long-term economic resilience in rural communities.

The priority project areas for **AFID Infrastructure Grants** include new and existing food hubs, farmers' markets, commercial kitchens, and other value-added facilities such as those used for processing and packaging meats, dairy products, produce, or other Virginia-grown products. Projects should directly support local food production and forestry while also demonstrating a broad community benefit. Localities are encouraged to work with small farmers, food producers, local food systems advocates, and others interested in building their community's local food and farming infrastructure.

Applications must be made by a political subdivision of the Commonwealth, such as a county, city, town, industrial and economic development authority, or planning district commission. Grant applications must be submitted by **5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026**. The maximum award per grant is **$50,000**. This competitive grant requires an equal cash match from the locality, with reduced match available for economically distressed localities.

Created in 2021, this grant program has two funding rounds in each fiscal year. The first round is an open application period in the fall, with a target award announcement date of December 31. The second round is an open application period in the spring, with a target award announcement date of June 30.

Please visit the **AFID Infrastructure Grant** webpage for more information and to view a recorded webinar. Applicants should direct grant program questions to ***Joyce Blankenship at 804-786-1906 or at joyce.blankenship@vdacs.virginia.gov***.

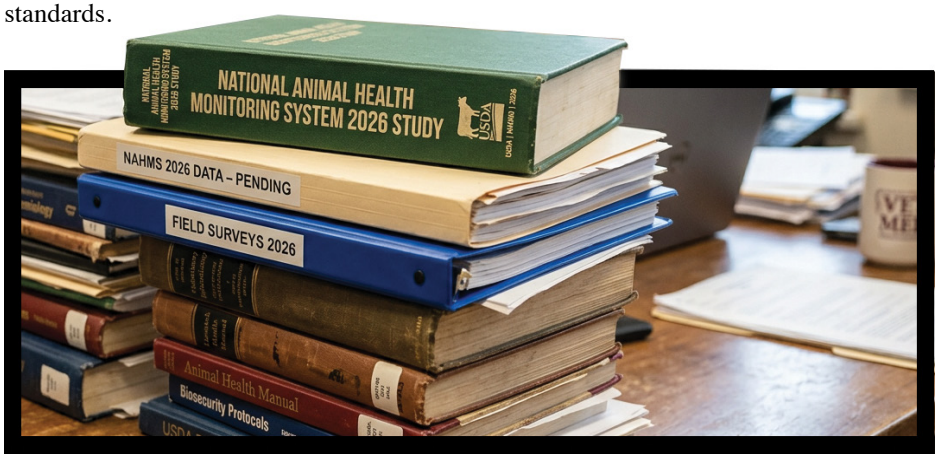
USDA To Launch National Animal Health Monitoring System Study of the Equine Industry in 2026

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct a national study of health and management practices on U.S. equine operations starting in August 2026. Stakeholder input helped shape the study to ensure it meets the industry's most important information needs.

The study will include randomly selected equine operations in all 50 States. Results will provide important information about equine care, health management and disease occurrence, use of veterinary services, and issues affecting "at-risk" equines or those that are in vocational transition.

Selected operations will receive a questionnaire in the mail in July and are encouraged to participate in the study. Participants may choose from four response options: completing the paper questionnaire, using the online survey, or taking part in a telephone or in-person interview with a **NASS** enumerator. Study findings will be published on the **APHIS** website at **National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS)** and will offer valuable information for equine owners, industry, and other stakeholders.

NASS and **APHIS** are legally required to keep respondent identities and farm information confidential. Data will be used for statistical purposes only. **APHIS** will publish the study results in aggregate form in accordance with the highest statistical standards.



Previous **NAHMS** Equine Study results, including our most recent 2015 study, are available on the **APHIS** website.

Equine owners interested in their eligibility for the 2026 study can visit the **NASS Respondent Portal at *www.agcounts.usda.gov***

Questions about this or other **NAHMS** studies may be sent to ***nahms@usda.gov***

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Attack of the Pigweed: A Farm's Guide to the Weed From Hell
When a Weed Goes to War...The More You Know

Bryan Fleming

Pigweed — Scientifically Known as Amaranth

For the past 5 years since we took over this farm. Every year a new weed raises from the ground. This year it was **Amaranth** I spoke to a few people about the plant and they were actually clueless about what it was, so I thought I would let you all know about it—especially if you have it showing up in your yard or pastures.

Before I investigated this plant, I shredded two zero-turn mower belts at $150 each. I also demolished two spools of weed-whacker line. The roots of this plant are like turnips, some half an inch or more thick. It can grow anywhere from 3 to 10 feet tall, has some seriously nasty spines, and a single plant can produce tens of thousands to potentially hundreds of thousands of seeds. Cut it at the wrong time and ***YOU ARE SCREWED***!

From roughly August through October, these plants can be producing and spreading seeds, so **DO NOT JUST GO OUT THERE AND CUT THEM DOWN NOW!** Once those tiny seeds hit the soil, you may have created next year's problem—and possibly the problem for several years after that. Some pigweed seeds can remain viable in the soil for years, which is one reason these plants can seem to magically reappear after you thought you had finally won the battle.

I tried shoveling them out and using a weed puller, which worked to some extent. They are nearly impossible to pull on a dry day because those roots are no joke. If you are going to try pulling them, a little moisture in the soil can make the job considerably easier. The important thing is to get the plant out before it has matured enough to produce seed.

If you're going to mow them, I'd recommend using equipment that doesn't have a belt-driven deck if possible. My EGO mower has actually been doing surprisingly well with them.

I'm thinking about taking the skid steer to these areas during the winter and seeing what I can do to get them under control. My goal is not necessarily to win the entire war in one afternoon. At this point, I'm happy with simply preventing the plants from producing another generation of little green monsters.

Now here is where pigweed gets interesting.

"Pigweed" isn't actually one specific plant. It is a common name used for several species in the Amaranthus family. Some are serious agricultural weeds, while other types of amaranth are intentionally grown as ornamental plants, leafy vegetables, or grain crops. In fact, amaranth has been cultivated as a food crop for thousands of years.

And why is it called pigweed?

One explanation is surprisingly appropriate. Some amaranths commonly grew in areas where pigs had been rooting around in the soil. Pigs disturbed the ground and brought buried seeds closer to the surface, and the fast-growing weeds would take advantage of that freshly disturbed soil.

In other words, the pigs basically helped plant the pigweed.

The plant also has a much more impressive history than its reputation as the bane of my mower.

Amaranth was an important food crop for ancient cultures in the Americas, including the Aztecs. The tiny seeds can be eaten as a grain even though amaranth isn't technically a true cereal grain. Today, grain amaranth is still used in foods ranging from flour and breakfast cereals to a Mexican treat called alegría, made by popping the tiny seeds and mixing them with sugar or honey.

So, technically, the same plant family that is costing me mower belts has also been feeding people for thousands of years.

There is another reason I'm taking this plant seriously around our farm: we have goats and sheep, too. I was originally told that pigweed could be particularly bad for goats, so I started looking into it. What I found was a little more complicated, but definitely worth paying attention to.





FINDING YOUR PERFECT MATCH

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Schooling Shows
Show Team



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Some pigweed species can accumulate nitrates, and certain species contain other compounds that can be harmful to livestock. Sheep are considered particularly susceptible, and goats are notorious for eating a much wider variety of plants than horses or cattle. In other words, I don't want to find out the hard way which animals on my farm think pigweed is a salad bar.

The risk can also increase when plants are stressed by drought, frost, or certain growing conditions. That means a plant that animals have ignored all summer isn't necessarily something I'd suddenly consider safe because it has turned into fall forage. If you have large patches of pigweed where sheep, goats, horses, or other livestock can reach it, identification is important. And if an animal is actually consuming significant quantities, I'd rather make a call to the veterinarian than assume the plant is harmless.



I've even seen the horses start to nibble on it, but then they get that slobbery, foamy mouth like they do after eating clover. I wouldn't assume that reaction means the plant is safe, however. If you have large amounts of unidentified pigweed in a pasture, especially if animals are actively eating it, it's worth getting the plant positively identified before letting them continue to consume it.

I'm still learning about this stuff, so if you've got pigweed on your property, don't assume it's harmless just because you've seen it before. I'm doing some digging for the next issue of the magazine and will have more information on identification, control, and why some species have become such a pain in the ass.

For now, my advice is simple: learn what you have, don't let it go to seed, don't mow mature plants when they're loaded with seed, and don't underestimate a plant that can destroy a $150 mower belt.

The More You Know

Blue Ridge Center For Therapeutic Horsemanship



Blue Ridge Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship (BRCTH) an established, non-profit organization is seeking to lease a suitable facility, preferable in Clarke County, Southern Frederick County or Northern Warren County.

Requirements:

- Barn/Aisle with 4 to 5 stalls, wide aisles and space to cross-tie at least 2 horses.
- Large tack room, wash stall & storage area.
- 2 to 3 large paddocks, preferably with run-in sheds, and 1 to 2 small paddocks. Dry lot a plus!
- Large, well-fenced outdoor arena with good footing. Indoor arena a plus.
- Parking for 10 vehicles. Access to trails a plus.
- If a shared facility, we will need a separate stabling area and the ability to coordinate when & where we provide services.

Interested parties please contact Marjorie Youngs, Exec Director at 540-533-2777 or at brcthinc@hotmail.com

cont. on page 11

HUNTER DATES

June 28	Kim Gilbertson/ Christopher Webb	
July 19	Laura Batts/ Robin Wood	
Aug. 2	Davera Ackenbom/ Jane Nordstrom	
Aug. 30	Christopher Webb/ Katie Petronelli	
Sept. 13	Robin Wood / Jane Nordstrom	
Oct. 4	Katie Petronelli/ Christopher Webb	
Oct. 18	DeDe Shumate/ Kim Gilbertson	
	Halloween show, End of year awards	

START TIME: 8am
Schooling 7-8am

WARM-UPS: $20 CA

CLASS FEES:
$65 Division, $25 Office
$25/$30 Per Round
$25 Non-Showing,
$50 Medal

PHOTOGRAPHER:
Hannah Jones Photography

Snack Bar Available

Ribbons for 1st-6th Places

LARGE OUTDOOR RING

1. LOW HUNTER B	Over 8 Fences: 2'
2. LOW HUNTER B	Over 8 Fences: 2'
3. LOW HUNTER B	Walk/Trot/Canter
4. LIMIT HUNTER B	Over 8 Fences: 2' or 2'3"
5. LIMIT HUNTER B	Over 8 Fences: 2' or 2'3"
6. LIMIT HUNTER B	Walk/Trot/Canter
7. HORSE PLEASURE V/TIP/B	Walk/Trot
8. HORSE PLEASURE V/ TIP/B	Go As You Please (Trot/Canter)
9. HORSE PLEASURE V/TIP/B	Walk/Trot/Canter
10. JUNIOR/ ADULT AM . EQUITATION ON THE FLAT V/B	
11. VHSA ADULT EQ ON FLAT MEDAL	
12. SCHOOLING HUNTER B	Over 8 Fences: 2'6
13. SCHOOLING HUNTER B	Over 8 Fences: 2'6
14. SCHOOLING HUNTER B	Walk/Trot/Canter
15. TB HUNTER V/TIP/B	Over 8 Fences: 2'6
16. TB HUNTER V/TIP/B	Over 8 Fences: 2'6
17. TB HUNTER V/TIP/B	Walk/Trot/Canter
18. GREEN HUNTER HORS E V/B	Over Fences: 2' 6"
19. GREEN HUNTER HORSE V/B	Over Fences: 2' 6"
20. GREEN HUNTER HORSE V/B	Walk/Trot/Canter
21. CHILD / AA HUNTER V/B	Over Fences: 2' 6" or 3'
22. CHILD / AA HUNTER V/B	Over Fences: 2' 6" or 3'
23. CHILD/ AA HUNTER V/B	Walk/Trot/Canter
24. CHILD / AA EQ. V/B	Over Fences: 2'6" or 3'
25. WORKING HUNTER V/B	Over Fences: 3"
26. WORKING HUNTER V/B	Over Fences: 3'
27. WORKING HUNTER V/B	Walk/Trot/Canter
28. VHSA EMO CHILDREN'S MEDAL	Over Fences: 3'
29. VHSA EMO ADULT AMATEUR MEDAL	Over Fences: 3"

*** 20 minute schooling break, not before 1pm

30. PONY PLEASURE V/B	Walk/Trot
31. PONY PLEASURE V/B	Go As You Please
32. PONY PLEASURE V/B	Walk/Trot/Canter
33. VHSA PONY EQ ON FLAT MEDAL	
34. GREEN PONY HUNTER V/ B	Over Fences 2', 2'3", 2'6"
35. GREEN PONY HUNTER V/B	Over Fences 2', 2'3", 2'6"
36. GREEN PONY HUNTER V/B	Under Saddle
37. PONY HUNTER V/B	Over Fences 2', 2'3", 2'6"
38. PONY HUNTER V/B	Over Fences 2', 2'3", 2'6""
39. PONY HUNTER V/ B	Under Saddle
40. PONY EQUITATION V/B	2', 2'3" ,2'6"
41. VHSA PONY MEDAL	

SMALL OUTDOOR RING

Schooling 7-9am • Start time 9am

42. LEADLINE	100% Rider Equitation
43. LEADLINE B	50% pony suitability / 50% equitation
44. LEADLINE	100% pony suitability & manners
45. PATTERN RIDE	Walk/halt thru cone weave & pole maze
46. PRE-SHORT STIRRUP EQ B	Walk
47. PRE-SHORT STIRRUP EQ B	Walk/Trot
48. PRE-SHORT STIRRUP EQ B	Walk/Trot/Sit-Trot/Jump Position at Walk

INDOOR RING

Schooling 7-10am • Start time 10am, typically finishes Noon-1pm

49. NOVICE EQ.	Walk/Trot
50. NOVICE EQ.	Individual canter
51. NOVICE EQ.	Over 2 fences 12" (Trot or Canter)
52. SHORT STIRRUP EQ. B	Over 4 Fences: 18" (Trot or Canter)
53. SHORT STIRRUP EQ B	Over 4 Fences: 18" (Trot or Canter)
54. SHORT STIRRUP EQ. B	Walk/Trot
55. SHORT STIRRUP HUNTER V/B	Over 4 Fences: 18"
56. SHORT STIRRUP HUNTER V/B	Over 4 Fences: 18"
57. SHORT STIRRUP HUNTER VB	Under Saddle (Walk/Trot/Canter)
58. LONG STIRRUP HUNTER B	Over 4 Fences: 18"
59. LONG STIRRUP HUNTER B	Over 4 Fences: 18"
60. LONG STIRRUP HUNTER B	Under Saddle (Walk/Trot/Canter)
61. STUDENT EQUITATION B	Over 4 Fences: 2' (Trot or Canter)
62. STUDENT EQUITATION B	Over 4 Fences: 2' (Trot or Canter)
63. STUDENT EQUITATION B	Under Saddle (Walk/Trot/Canter)

JUMPER DATES



June 14	Jane Nordstrom
July 15 (4 pm)	Robin Wood
July 29 (4 pm)	Robin Wood
Aug. 12 (4 pm)	Robin Wood
Oct. 11	Jane Nordstrom
Halloween show, End of year awards	
Nov. 29	Jane Nordstrom
Ugly Sweater show, NOT VHSA/BHSA	

$35 per round • $30 office fee
(Red Gate students add fee to use schoolhorse)
Blue ribbons for clear rounds! (no refusals, no knockdowns)
Ribbons for 1st-6th Division Champions & Reserve
End of year awards will be presented for top 6 TIP jumpers at 2', 2'6", 3', 3'3" with 3 or more shows!

ALL SHOWS VHSA, BHSA, AND TIP

LARGE OUTDOOR RING

Start time: 8 am

GROUND RAILS	Clear Round
GROUND RAILS	Optimum Time
GROUND RAILS	Fastest Clear/Table II. 1
CROSSRAILS	Clear Round
CROSSRAILS	Optimum Time
CROSSRAILS	Fastest Clear /Table II. 1
18" Verticals	Clear Round
18" Verticals	Optimum Time
18" Verticals	Power & Speed / Table II.2C
PRE-NOVICE Puddle Jumper 2' with Oxers Clear Round	
PRE-NOVICE Puddle Jumper 2' with Oxers VBT Optimum Time	
PRE-NOVICE Puddle Jumper 2' with Oxers VBT Power & Speed / Table II.2C	
NOVICE Horse 2'3" w/combo Clear Round	
NOVICE Horse 2'3" w/combo VBT Optimum Time	
NOVICE Horse 2'3" w/combo VBT Power & Speed / Table II.2C	
NOVICE Ch/AA 2'3' w/combo Clear Round	
NOVICE Ch/AA 2'3" w/combo VBT Optimum Time	
NOVICE Ch/AA 2'3" w/combo VBT Power & Speed / Table II.2C	
LOW 2'6"	Clear Round
LOW 2'6" VB	Optimum Time
LOW 2'6" VB	Power & Speed / Table II.2C
Thoroughbred 2'6"	Clear Round
Thoroughbred 2'6"	VBT Optimum Time
Thoroughbred 2'6"	VBT Power & Speed / Table II.2C
Ch/AA 2'6"	Clear Round
Ch/AA 2'6" VB	Optimum Time
Ch/AA 2'6" VB	Power & Speed / Table II.2C
SCHOOLING 3'	Clear Round
SCHOOLING 3' VBT	Optimum Time
SCHOOLING 3' VBT	Power & Speed / Table II.2C
MODIFIED 3'6"	Clear Round
MODIFIED 3'6' VBT	Optimum Time
MODIFIED 3'6" VBT	Power & Speed / Table II.2C

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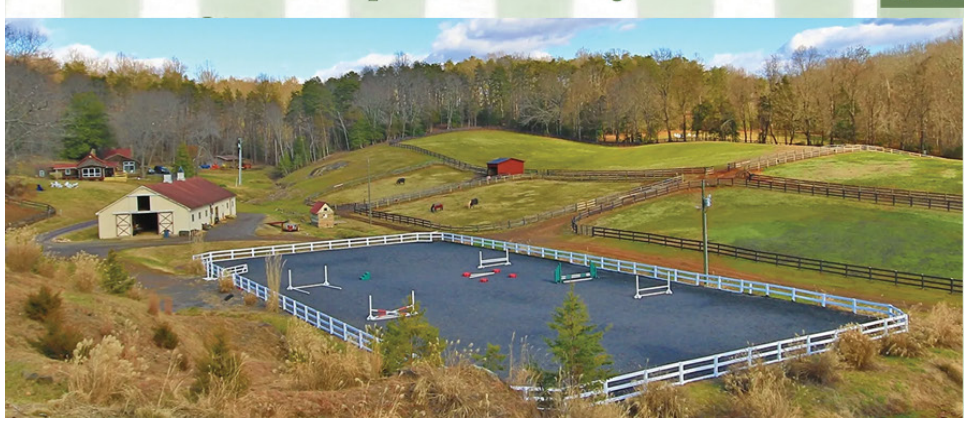


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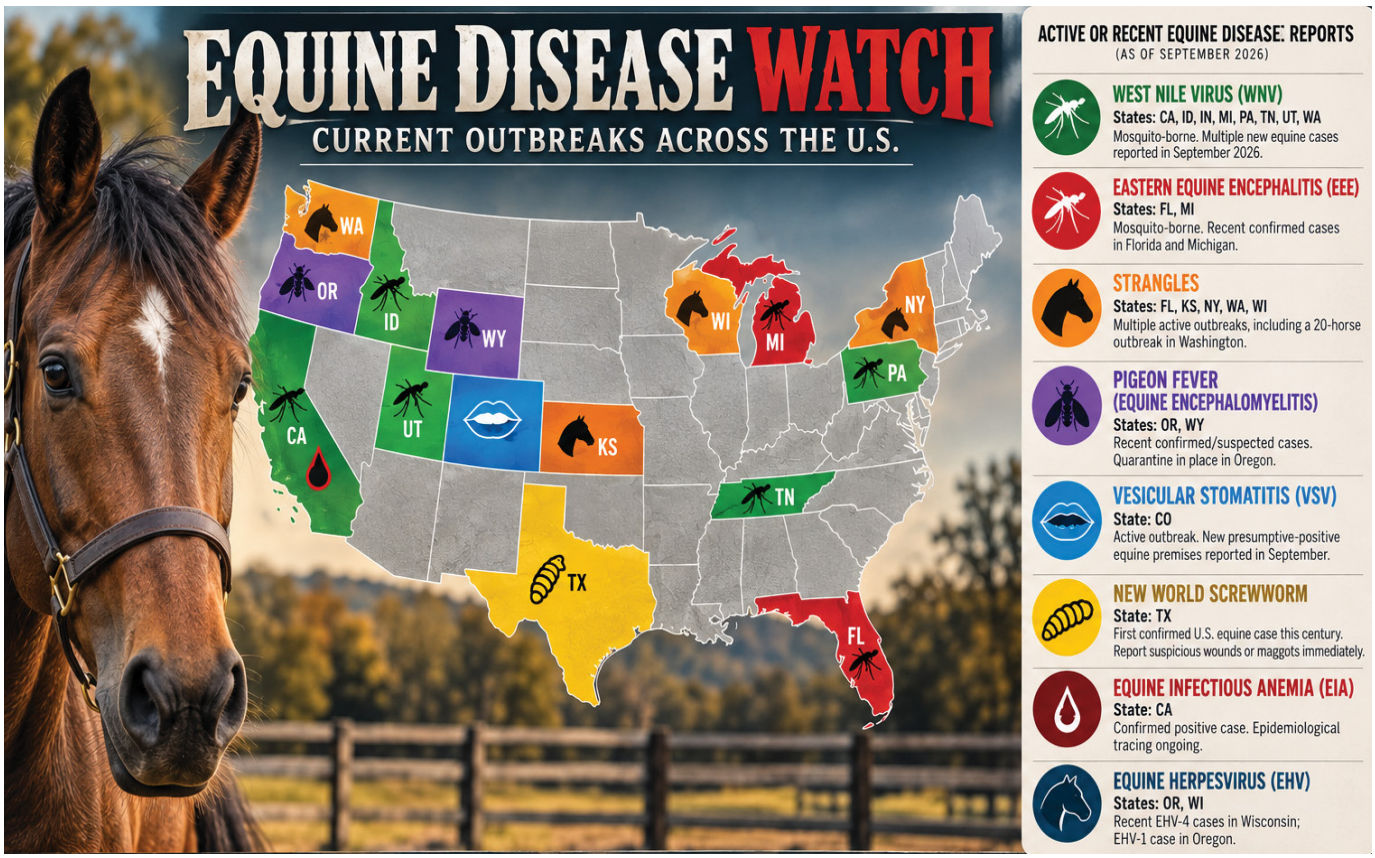
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cont. on page 15


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12. Silver Stirrups Horsemanship On The Rail
13. Junior Western Pleasure - Walk, Trot
14. Junior Western Pleasure - Walk, Jog, Lope
15. Junior Western Pleasure Horsemanship
16. Open Western Pleasure - Walk, Jog
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50. Open Card Warm-up
1. Schooling Hunter OF (2'6")
2. Schooling Hunter OF (2'6")
3. Schooling Hunter US
4. VHSA Working/Green Hunter OF (2'6", 2'9" to 3')
5. VHSA Working/Green Hunter OF (2'6", 2'9" to 3')
6. VHSA Working/Green Hunter US
7. VHSA Children's/ AA Eq (2'6", 2'9" to 3')
8. VHSA Children's/ AA OF (2'6", 2'9" to 3')
9. VHSA Children's/ AA OF (2'6", 2'9" to 3')
10. VHSA Children's/ AA US
11. VHSA Jr/Adult Eq on the flat

Schooling break -not before 10:30am

12. Low Hunter OF (2')
13. Low Hunter OF (2')
14. Low Hunter US
15. VHSA Horse Pleasure WT
16. VHSA Horse Pleasure GAYP
17. VHSA Horse Pleasure WTC
18. VHSA Pony Pleasure WT
19. VHSA Pony Pleasure GAYP
20. VHSA Pony Pleasure, WTC
21. VHSA Pony Eq (S 2', M 2'3", L 2'6")
22. VHSA Pony Hunter OF (S 2', M 2'3", L 2'6")
23. VHSA Pony Hunter OF (S 2', M 2'3", L 2'6")
24. VHSA Pony Hunter US
25. Lead Line rider
26. Lead Line pony
27. Lead Line rider/pony
28. Pre-Short Stirrup W
29. Pre-Short Stirrup WT
30. Pre-Short Stirrup WT/Test

Schooling break -not before 2:00pm

31. Long Stirrup Eq. WT
32. Long Stirrup Eq. WTC
33. Long Stirrup Eq. OF (18")
34. Short Stirrup Eq. WT
35. Short Stirrup Eq. WTC
36. Short Stirrup Eq. OF (18")
37. VHSA Short Stirrup Hunter OF (18")
38. VHSA Short Stirrup Hunter OF (18")
39. VHSA Short Stirrup Hunter US

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WHEN WINTER COMES Preparing a Herd for the Worst

Bryan Fleming



A hard winter isn't one problem. It's many different problems standing in the same pasture. For someone with one or two horses, preparing for winter can seem fairly simple. Check the blankets, put some hay in the barn, make sure the water isn't frozen and wait for spring. But what happens when you have 10 horses? Twenty? Fifty? And what happens when those 50 animals aren't all the same?

Imagine a herd that includes miniature horses, miniature donkeys, thoroughbreds, paso finos and several other breeds and types. Add seniors, hard keepers, easy keepers, rescues with unknown histories and animals with individual medical needs Suddenly, "getting ready for winter" becomes a full-scale operation. A difficult winter isn't just about cold temperatures. Snow, ice, mud, frozen water, power outages, blocked roads, hay shortages and limited access to veterinary or farm services can turn ordinary chores into serious challenges.

The best time to solve those problems is before the first major storm arrives.

1. Know Your Herd

The first step isn't buying hay or blankets. It's knowing exactly who you have. Every horse should be evaluated individually. Age, breed, body condition, coat, health history and ability to maintain weight can all affect how an animal handles cold weather.

A Thoroughbred with a fine coat may have very different needs from a heavily coated pony. A senior horse may require additional attention, while a miniature horse may have different nutritional considerations from a 1,200-pound horse.

And don't forget the donkeys. The goal isn't to create a separate winter program for every horse. It's to identify the animals that may need additional attention before they need it.

2. Secure the Hay



When temperatures drop, maintaining body temperature requires energy. Good-quality forage is one of the most important tools a horse owner has during cold weather. For a large herd, calculate approximately how much hay is consumed every day and determine how much will be required throughout the winter.

Then add an emergency reserve. Why? Because the worst time to discover you're short on hay is when the roads are covered in ice and your supplier can't get through. With 20 or 50 horses, "I'll get another load next week" isn't always a plan.

3. Make Water Your #1 Priority

Horses still need plenty of water during cold weather, even when they're surrounded by snow and ice. Frozen troughs, frozen pipes, failed heaters and power outages can quickly become herd-wide problems. Don't rely on a single water source.

Have a backup plan that includes whatever your operation requires—additional tanks, buckets, heaters, hoses, generators or a way to manually deliver water.

Then ask yourself the uncomfortable question: "If our primary water system fails tonight, how do we water every animal tomorrow morning?" If you don't have an answer, that's a problem to solve now.

cont. on page 21


Before You Put
This Issue Down...
Remember.... There will always be....
Another fence to mend.
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Another muddy boot by the door.
Another horse that needs us.
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cont. from page 19

4. Prepare the Farm, Not Just the Horses

Winter preparation begins with the property. Inspect barns, run-ins, roofs, doors, fencing, gates and drainage. Repair weak boards and posts. Clear dangerous debris. Check that gates can still be opened when surrounded by snow or frozen mud.

And don't forget the areas where horses congregate. Waterers, feeders, gates and shelter entrances can become dangerous mud pits before they freeze solid.

Improving drainage and footing in these areas before winter can save an enormous amount of work later.

5. Plan for Shelter and Individual Protection

Having shelter available doesn't necessarily mean every horse is protected. Make sure the herd has enough usable shelter without creating dangerous overcrowding. Then evaluate individual horses.

Some animals may grow heavy winter coats and handle cold extremely well. Others—particularly thin-coated, elderly, underweight or hard-keeping horses—may need additional protection. Blankets should fit properly, stay dry and be checked regularly. And keep a few extras available. A blanket that is soaking wet or ripped during a storm isn't much help.

6. Protect the Hooves and the Body

Winter footing can be brutal. Mud can become ice. Snow can hide holes. Frozen ground can become uneven and hard. Keep up with regular farrier care and pay particular attention to high-traffic areas.

At the same time, monitor body condition throughout the winter. Don't wait until a horse is visibly losing weight to realize its nutritional needs have changed.

The horse that looked perfect in October may need additional attention by January.

7. Prepare for the Emergency You Don't Expect

Winter emergencies rarely happen at convenient times. A horse gets injured during an ice storm. A water pump fails at midnight. A tree comes down across the driveway. The electricity disappears for two days.

Have an emergency plan that includes:

Veterinary contacts
First-aid supplies
Isolation space
Backup lighting
Generator and fuel
Emergency tools
Extra feed and bedding
A way to communicate when normal systems fail
And test your equipment.

A generator that hasn't been started since last winter isn't an emergency plan.

cont. on page 23



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All photos SDH Photo

CDCTA thanks everyone who supported our competitions, clinics and schooling shows in 2026!

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2027

Annual Silent Auction & Awards Banquet

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FOR MORE INFO CONTACT

EVENTING: Mila Jelenic, cdctaeventingvp@gmail.com

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cont. from page 21

8. Plan for When People Can't Get There

This becomes especially important with a large herd. What happens if the person who normally feeds the horses gets sick? What happens if an employee can't reach the farm? What happens if the roads are closed?

Have backup people who know the animals, feeding schedules, water systems and emergency procedures. For a 50-horse operation, you don't just need help. You need people who know what to do.



9. Have Enough Supplies to Be Cut Off

Think beyond tomorrow. A serious storm can stop deliveries and make roads inaccessible for days. Build an emergency reserve of the essentials: Hay, Feed, Bedding, Medications, Salt and Minerals, Fuel, Batteries, First-aid supplies. Whatever else you need and use.

Then think about how long you could operate without outside help. Seventy-two hours is a good emergency benchmark.

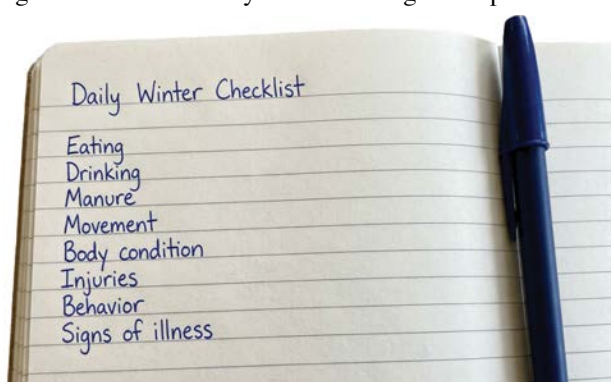
For a large herd, being prepared for a week or two provides a much greater margin of safety. The goal isn't predicting exactly how long a storm will last. It's making sure the farm can continue functioning while you wait for normal services to return.

10. Make a Daily Winter Checklist

Perhaps the most important preparation is the simplest: Know what you're looking for.

When you're caring for 50 animals, it's easy to assume that everything is fine because everyone is standing in the pasture.

Large herds benefit from written observations. When you have dozens of animals, memory isn't always enough. A small change noticed today can prevent a much larger problem next week.



Winter Doesn't Care What Breed You Own

A hard winter doesn't care whether the animal is a Thoroughbred, Paso Fino, miniature horse, donkey, draft cross or a horse whose breed you can't quite identify. Cold is cold. Ice is ice.

But every animal responds to it differently. That's why preparing a large herd isn't simply about buying more hay or putting up more shelter. It's about understanding the animals, understanding the property and preparing for the things that can go wrong.

For one or two horses, winter preparation might take an afternoon. For 20, 30, 40 or 50 animals, it can take weeks. Because you're not simply preparing for winter. You're preparing to keep an entire herd safe when winter decides to make things difficult.

And when that first major storm finally arrives, the best feeling isn't watching the snow fall.

It's looking across the farm and knowing:

We're ready!



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For additional information
Anne Williams at
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November 21
Junior Day at BRH

February 27, 2027
BRH Hunt Ball



LCEA Loudoun County Equine Alliance

The Board Of Directors Of The Loudoun County Equine Alliance Is Seeking Applications For New Board Members

Anyone active in any aspect of Loudoun County's equine industry may apply!

Founded in 2012, the Loudoun County Equine Alliance's mission is to advance the interests of all equine disciplines and the entire equestrian related industry.

Since its inception, LCEA has:

- Played a critical role in producing an economic impact study of the horse industry in Loudoun
- Advocated for horse-friendly zoning amendments.
- Produced the highly-successful annual Equine Expo.
- Hosted a Technical Large Animal Rescue training program.
- Raised funds for Loudoun County Animal Services to purchase rescue equipment.
- Been instrumental in obtaining equestrian trails at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve and Oatlands
- Supported preservation of unpaved roads for equestrian use.
- Worked with the Virginia Horse Industry Board (VHIB) to secure Loudoun's place in the state's equine industry
- And much more!

Why would you want to join our board?

Your knowledge of any horse activity, whether competing in hunter/jumper shows, trail riding, dressage, polo, retailing, or one of many other ways you participate is valuable.

Make your voice heard as we engage with elected officials on issues like zoning, taxation, equestrian parks, and more.

Help produce events such as the Equine Expo, business roundtables, and educational seminars. Come up with ideas for NEW events and activities.

And most importantly, help shape the future of the organization. This is a great time to play a leadership role in the direction of this active and effective local organization!

Board membership requires attendance at monthly virtual meetings, and participation in producing LCEA-sponsored events.



How to apply:

Email a letter of intent describing what makes you a uniquely qualified candidate, attach a brief resume that highlights your equestrian background, and list other boards on which you previously or currently serve (if any).
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Managing the Long Stride: Caring for a Horse with Arthritis

Georgia Andrews

There is a moment every owner dreads: the horse that used to gallop to the gate now stands in the back of the stall, stiff-legged, eyes half-closed, rocking weight off a fetlock. The diagnosis — osteoarthritis — feels like a sentence. But it doesn't have to be. Arthritis is the most common cause of lameness in older horses, yet with a thoughtful, multi-pronged approach to care, many arthritic horses continue to work, hack, and live comfortably for years. Modern equine medicine offers more tools than ever, and the owner's daily routines matter just as much as any injection a veterinarian can give.

Understanding the Disease

Arthritis — specifically osteoarthritis, often called degenerative joint disease — is the progressive deterioration of joint cartilage, the smooth, shock-absorbing tissue that covers the ends of bones. As cartilage wears away, bone rubs against bone, inflammation sets in, and the joint becomes painful and stiff. The most commonly affected joints are the hocks, knees, fetlocks, and coffin joints.

It can be primary — the wear and tear of age and years of work — or secondary, following an injury, infection, or conformational fault that placed abnormal stress on a joint. A horse that fractured a fetlock at five is a candidate for arthritis at nine; a hunter that has jumped for a decade may develop hock arthritis in its late teens. Genetics, shoeing, footing, and workload all play a role. Understanding the cause helps the veterinary team target treatment, but the fundamentals of daily care are the same regardless.

Reading the Signs

Arthritis announces itself gradually. The classic presentation is a horse that is stiff after standing, "warming out" of it after a few minutes of movement — the opposite of a horse with a muscle strain, which is often worse as it moves.

Look for:
Stiffness, especially when first pulled from the stall or after a cold night
Shortened stride, dragging toes, or "pottery" movement
Reluctance to go downhill, pick up a lead, or collect
Bucking or refusing when asked to work — often mistaken for "naughty" behavior
Swollen, warm, painful or "boggy" joints (windgalls on the hocks are a classic sign)
Subtle behavior changes: a friendly horse becoming grumpy under saddle, or a stoic horse suddenly flinching at grooming over a joint

None of these signs is definitive alone, and stoic horses hide pain masterfully. When you suspect arthritis, the veterinarian begins with a lameness exam — trotting on straight lines and circles, flexion tests that stress individual joints, and sometimes nerve blocks to pinpoint the source. Imaging confirms the diagnosis: x-rays reveal narrowed joint spaces, bone spurs, and remodeling, while ultrasound can evaluate soft-tissue structures around the joint. In some cases, joint fluid analysis rules out infection, which is a different and urgent emergency.

The Veterinary Arsenal

No single treatment cures arthritis, but combinations can manage it well. The veterinarian will build a plan around the horse's age, job, and the joints affected.

Anti-inflammatory medications remain the backbone. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) reduce pain and joint inflammation. Phenylbutazone ("bute") and flunixin meglumine ("Banamine") are the traditional mainstays, while newer options like firocoxib (Equioxx) are easier on the stomach and increasingly popular for long-term use. NSAIDs are not without risk — kidney and stomach damage are real concerns with prolonged daily dosing, so they should be used at the lowest effective dose and ideally under veterinary supervision, with periodic blood work.

Joint injections deliver medication directly where it hurts. Corticosteroid injections (such as triamcinolone) are powerful anti-inflammatories used for moderate to severe flare-ups — typically limited to two or three per joint per year. Hyaluronic acid injections add lubrication directly to the joint. Biologic therapies have expanded the toolkit dramatically: IRAP (interleukin-1 receptor antagonist protein) and PRP (platelet-rich plasma), made from the horse's own blood, modulate inflammation and support healing, and stem cell therapy is used for more advanced cases. These come with higher costs but often impressive results.

Systemic joint protectants — often called "PSGAGs" and "HA series" — support cartilage health. Polysulfated glycosaminoglycan (Adequan) is given by injection, typically in a course of shots; hyaluronan (Legend) is given intravenously. Many practitioners use these as maintenance therapy once or twice a year, or when the horse's workload changes.

The Owner's Job: Daily Management

Medications buy time, but daily management buys years. This is where the owner's influence is greatest.
Weight is medicine. Obesity is the most underrated aggravator of arthritis. Every extra pound compounds joint stress, and studies consistently link body condition to lameness severity. An arthritic horse should be at the lean end of the ideal body condition range — ribcage easily felt but not visible. That may mean soaking hay to reduce sugar, replacing grain with a ration balancer, and using a slow feeder to stretch grazing time.

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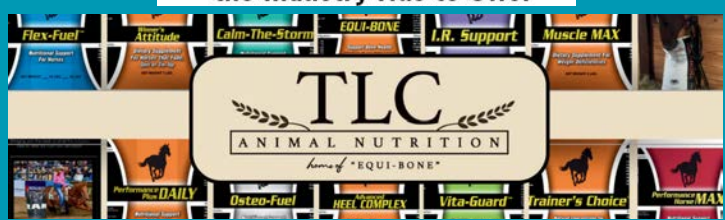


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The farrier is a co-therapist. Corrective shoeing dramatically improves many arthritic horses. Hock arthritis often responds to slight heel elevation; coffin and navicular problems often benefit from egg-bar shoes, wedge pads, or rocker-toed shoes that ease breakover. Therapeutic pads absorb shock. A farrier who understands arthritis, working in partnership with the veterinarian, is worth their weight in gold — schedule trims on a tight, consistent schedule, never letting feet get long.

Exercise: the paradox. Rest is not the answer for most arthritic horses; controlled movement keeps joints lubricated and muscles supporting them. The rules are: warm up slowly, work consistently rather than in explosive bursts, avoid hard surfaces and deep mud, and never push through sudden resistance. Turnout with a compatible pasturemate is often ideal — gentle self-selected movement throughout the day is the best joint therapy there is. Many arthritic horses do wonderfully in light, consistent work: trail riding, longe work at a walk, or hacking on soft footing. The key is regularity — a horse that is exercised gently every day is far more comfortable than one exercised hard on weekends and idle all week.

Comfort is an art. The barn environment should be engineered for comfort. Deep, non-slip bedding in a stall with rubber mats spares joints during lying down and rising — many arthritic horses struggle to get up on slippery concrete. Doorways should be wide and thresholds level. Heated or insulated water sources prevent dehydration in winter, when arthritic horses drink less. In cold, damp weather, joint fluid thickens and stiffness worsens dramatically; a waterproof blanket, a warm stall, and a longer warm-up choreography make a real difference, and some owners swear by magnetic or thermal leg wraps on the worst days.

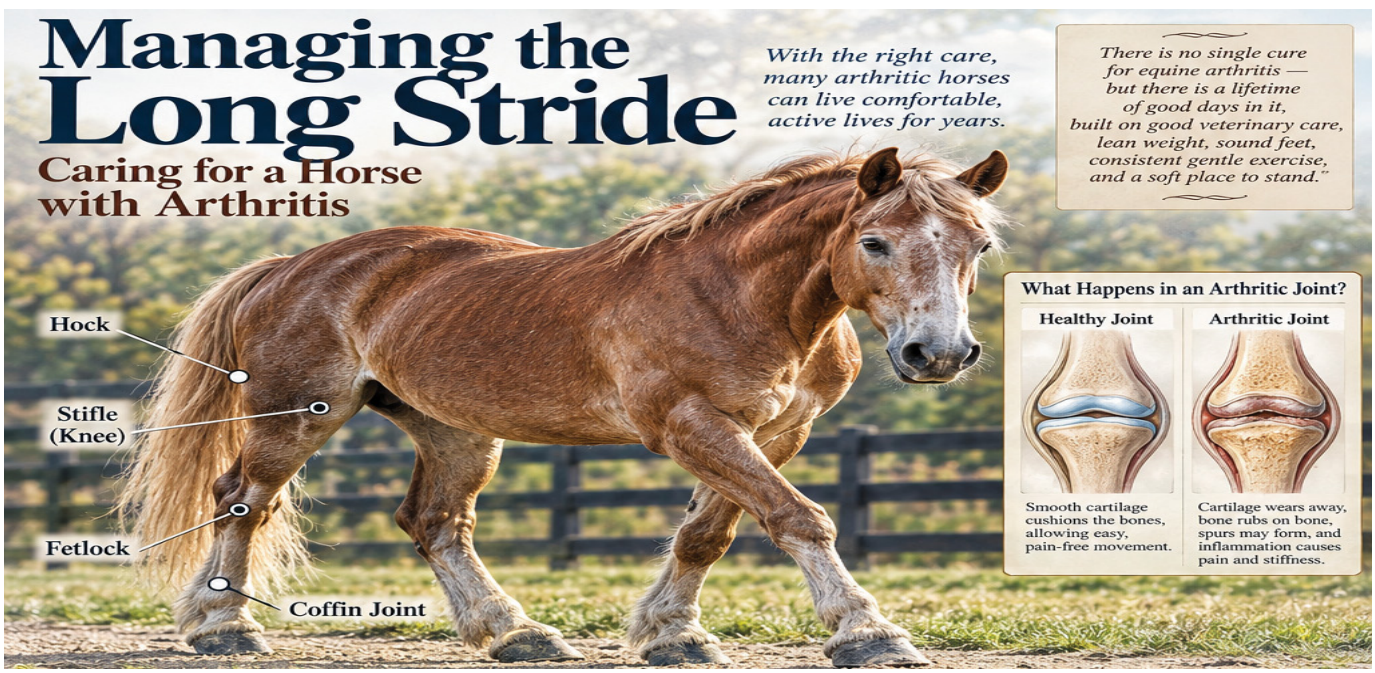
Nutrition and supplements — with healthy skepticism. The supplement aisle is crowded with promises. Glucosamine, chondroitin sulfate, MSM, and hyaluronic acid all have supporting research, though efficacy varies by product quality and dose. Omega-3 fatty acids (found in flaxseed and fish oil) have genuine anti-inflammatory properties. Devil's claw shows promise as a mild natural analgesic. The wise approach: ask your veterinarian for a recommendation, buy from reputable manufacturers with published research, give any supplement at least sixty to ninety days before judging it, and don't expect supplements to replace real medical treatment. Devil's claw in particular should not be combined with NSAIDs without veterinary advice.

Physical therapy and bodywork. Therapeutic modalities help maintain comfort: cold therapy (ice boots) after work to reduce inflammation, heat therapy to ease chronic stiffness, therapeutic ultrasound and laser therapy to deep tissues, and PEMF (pulsed electromagnetic field) devices that some owners use religiously. Skilled equine massage and stretching release tension that arthritic horses accumulate compensating for pain. Acupuncture has a solid following in equine practice for pain management, and chiropractic care can help when arthritis has created secondary misalignments — just ensure any practitioner is licensed and working with your veterinarian.

Quality of Life: The Hard Conversation

Arthritis is progressive, and at some point the question becomes whether the horse is living or merely existing. Owners should track good days against bad: is the horse eating readily, lying down and rising easily, socializing, bright-eyed? Pain that no longer responds to medication, weight loss, a horse standing with head hanging in a corner, or dangerous behavior born of pain are signals that the kindest decision may be retirement from life, not just from work. Euthanasia is heartbreaking — but doing it a day too early, on the horse's terms, in a familiar field with a good friend, is a final act of stewardship.

There is no magic cure for equine arthritis — but there is a lifetime of good days in it, built on good veterinary care, lean weight, sound feet, consistent gentle exercise, and a soft place to stand. The horse that limps to the gate today may, with the right care, be trotting out to meet you for years to come.



Tractor Rally - Oct 12th - Farmers Unite to Oppose Stealing Land for Transmission Lines



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Join us to say NO to the transmission lines that benefit the data centers at our expense!

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To join or ask questions:
Call/text Laura: 240-506-6191

Rally Location: Data Center Alley Ashburn, VA

www.saynotovalleylink.org Email: saynotovalleylink@yahoo.com

Tractor Rally Info - Monday October 12th

The Event

Monday October 12th @ 7am-ish
(we need to make the morning national news and yes it will be dark until about 7:15am)

Escorted parade to data center alley ~ 4 to 5 mile drive from the rally lot.

Return to rally lot and wrap up late morning.
Mechanic and medic on site.

Food truck and restrooms on site.

Who can participate?

Anyone!
1st priority - we need tractors making up the majority of the rally, preferably driven by women (if available).
2nd - farm equipment/ trucks / possibly ATVs/ UTVs/ side by sides.
3rd - volunteers without tractors welcome to join the rally and help decorate tractors/ equipment with signs to deliver our message.

Location/ Transport

Ashburn, VA vacant lot off Rte 7 - details later

Tractor/ farm equipment drop off Saturday & Sunday 10/10 & 10/11 in lot with 24/7 security guards.
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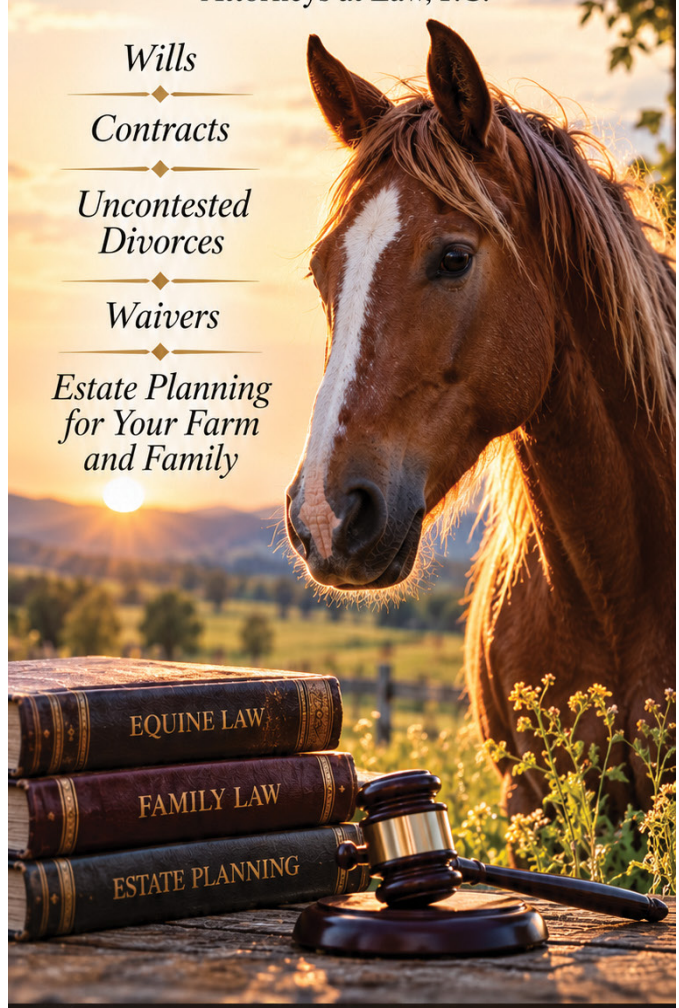
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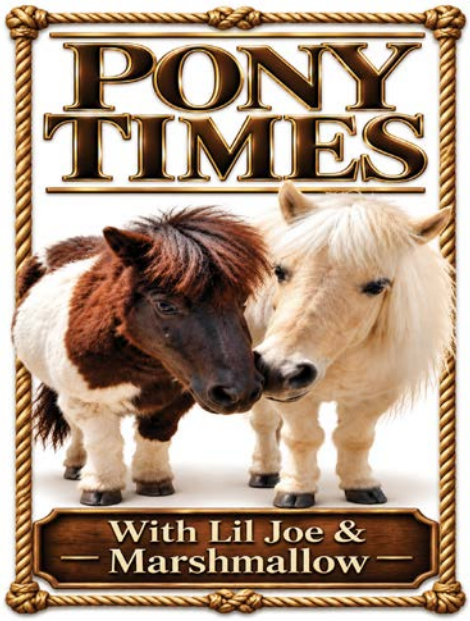
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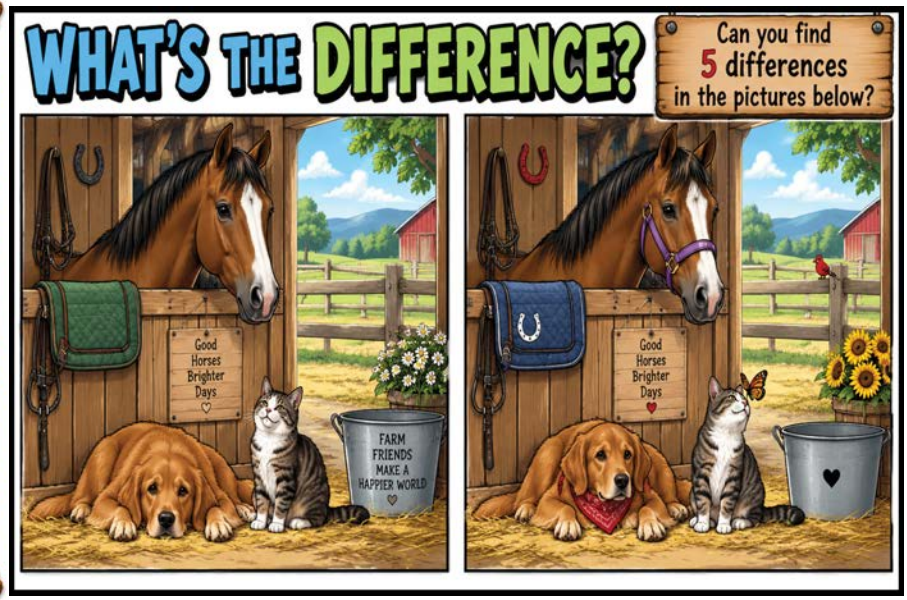
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PONY TIMES
With Lil Joe & Marshmallow


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FARM FRIENDS MAKE A HAPPIER WORLD
Good Horses Brighter Days


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- ☐ Percheron
- ☐ Icelandic
- ☐ Tennessee Walker
- ☐ Trakehner
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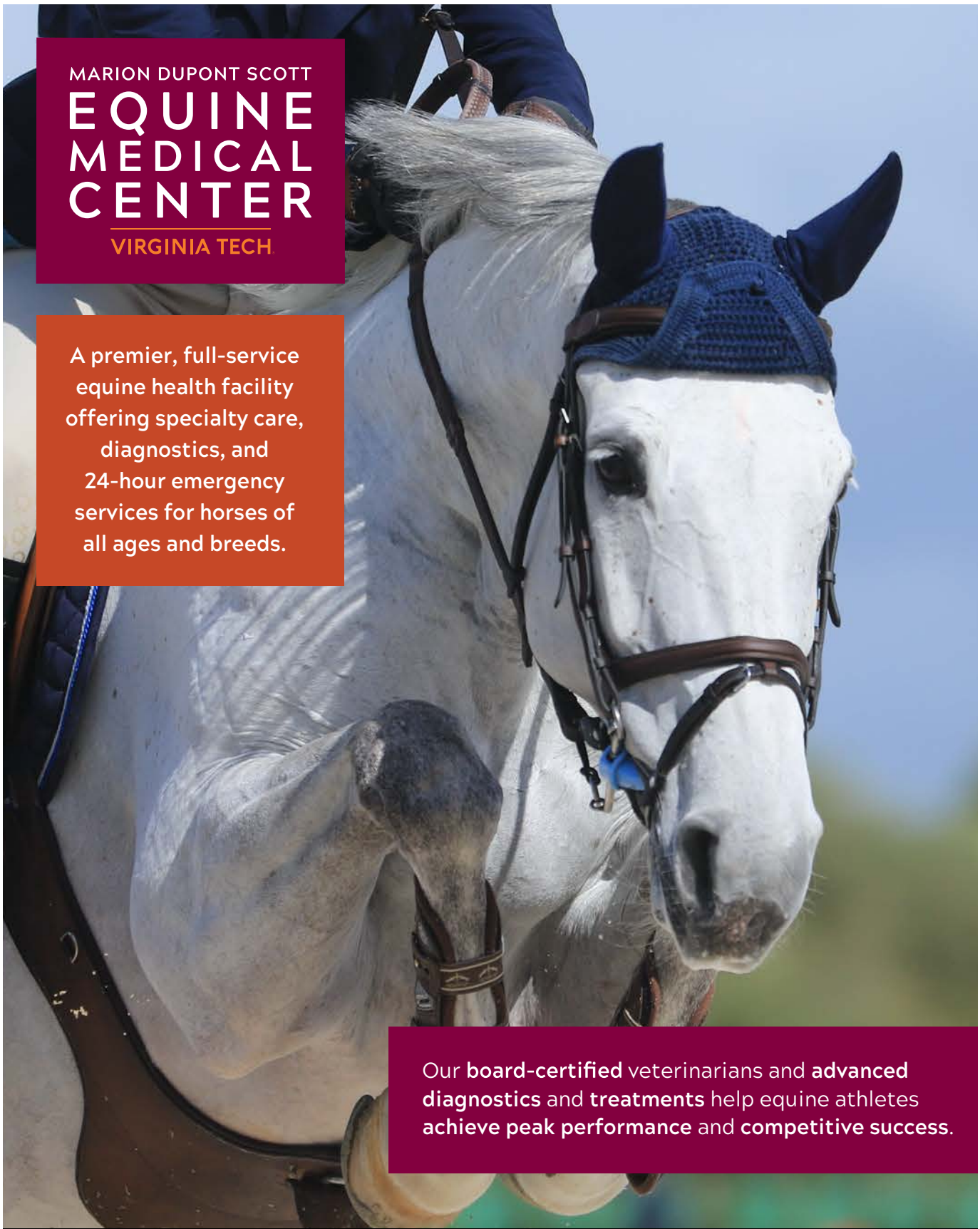
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Lou's Starr Sets All-Time Track Pacing Mark at Shenandoah Downs, Authoring His Second Track Record in Five Days



Just two weeks into the annual fall standardbred race meet at Shenandoah Downs, history was made when 4-year-old pacer Lou's Starr recorded the fastest mile ever in the 110-year history of harness racing in Woodstock, Virginia! The 4-year-old son of Sweet Lou crossed the wire in a sizzling 1:51 1/5 on September 26, three-fifths of a second faster than the previous mark which he set last year.

Lou's Starr's headline grabbing mile has an added twist as well. His win at Shenandoah was the second track record he authored --- that week! On September 21, he erased a mark at Rosecroft Raceway (Oxon Hill, MD.) that was set by Hall of Fame pacer Jenna's Beach Boy thirty years ago. Lou's Starr covered the mile there in 1:49.0, which was two-fifths of a second faster Jenna's previous pacing mark as a 4-year-old.



Trainer Scott Warnick (Saluda, VA) spoke about that surreal five-day period. "It was incredible," he said. "He's a very special kind of horse. I can't ask for any better. He makes a bad trainer look good. When he was two, I envisioned a really nice three-year-old pacer from the work we put into him and what we paid for him. He's done it all himself. It's been a ride. He's taken us places I never thought I'd be. It's been fun."

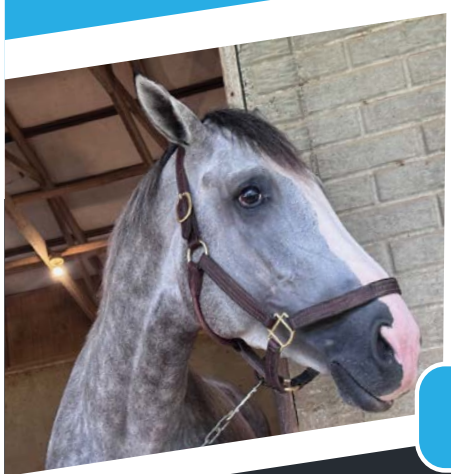
Besides Warnick, Lou's Starr's connections include owner Dan Chansky (Richmond, VA) and driver Corey Braden.

Shenandoah Downs continues its fall racing season thru November 1 with cards every Saturday and Sunday at 1:05 PM. The track is conveniently located at Exit 283 off I-81 halfway between Harrisonburg and Winchester. Admission and parking are free.

More details are at ***shenandoahdowns.com***.











2026 SCHEDULE

VIRGINIA HORSE RACING

SHENANDOAH DOWNS HARNESS RACING

FALL RACE MEET

September 19 - November 1
in Woodstock, VA

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SATURDAY OCTOBER 10
Virginia Fall Races
in Middleburg

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STEEPLECHASE RACING LATE FALL

SATURDAY OCTOBER 24
International Gold Cup
in The Plains

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7
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The Flemish Horse:
The Gentle Giant of the Low Countries

Georgia Andrews



The Flemish horse is one of the oldest and most influential heavy horse breeds in the world — the ancestor of the great draft breeds of Europe and America, and still the standard by which sheer horsepower is measured. Known today as the Belgian Draft, the Brabant, or by its Flemish name **Belgisch trekpaard**, this massive, good-natured animal has pulled wagons, plows, cannons, and knights through nearly a thousand years of European history, and it remains one of the most beloved working breeds on earth.

A Warhorse's Lineage

The Flemish horse traces its ancestry to the "great horse" of the medieval battlefield. In the Middle Ages, the marshy lowlands of Flanders and Brabant produced horses that were large, strong, and steady enough to carry fully armored knights — a load that could easily exceed 250 kilograms. This was the age of the destrier, the warhorse, and Flanders was famous for breeding the best. Chroniclers of the era praised the "Flanders horse" above all others, and Flemish breeders exported horses across Europe, where they were prized by kings, nobles, and mercenary cavalry alike.

It was this medieval stock, crossed and refined over centuries, that eventually produced the modern Flemish draft horse. When armor became obsolete and knights retired from the battlefield, the Flemish horse found a new career: agriculture.



The same strength and calmness that had served it in war made it ideal for pulling plows through heavy clay soil, hauling timber, and drawing barges along the canals of the Low Countries.

The Making of a Breed

The horse we recognize today as the Flemish — or Belgian — draft is largely a product of the nineteenth century, when breeders in the provinces of Brabant and East Flanders began standardizing the type. In 1886, Belgian breeders founded the studbook for the **Cheval de Trait Belge**, making the Belgian one of the first heavy horse breeds in Europe to be formally organized and recorded. The demand was enormous: at the breed's peak around 1910, more than 200,000 Belgian draft horses were registered, and the export trade to America was booming. The American Belgian Draft Horse Corporation was founded in 1887 to receive and register them.

What breeders selected for was mass. The classic Flemish horse stands 15.3 to 17 hands high and weighs between 1,800 and 2,200 pounds — with stallions sometimes topping 2,500. Its conformation is built for power: a short, thick, muscular neck, a broad chest, deep barrel, strong, short legs with heavy bone, and immense hindquarters that supply the thrust for

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cont. from page 42



the pull. The typical color is light chestnut with a flaxen mane and tail, but roans, bays, and blacks are also common. Compared to other drafts like the Clydesdale or the Shire, the Belgian carries little feathering on its legs — an asset in the mud of European barnyards.

A Gentler Divide

Around the turn of the twentieth century, the breed split into two directions. American importers, who prized speed, stature, and a showier look, bred their Belgians taller and lighter — the "American Belgian," which today is the most numerous draft breed in the United States. The Europeans, meanwhile, preserved the older, heavier, more massive type, known as the Brabant, which remains closer to the original Flemish model. Both descend from the same Flemish stock, and both were exported around the globe, contributing their blood to draft breeds from the Ardennes to the Percheron.

The Flemish horse also made history as the biggest of all time. The most famous Belgian ever recorded, Brooklyn Supreme, a stallion born in Iowa in 1928, stood 19.2 hands and weighed about 3,200 pounds — among the largest horses in documented history. At the other end of the scale, the breed earned a quieter fame for its legendary temperament: Belgian drafts are famously docile, patient, and easy to handle, earning them the nickname "gentle giants."

Hard Times and Revival

Mechanization struck the draft horse hard. By the 1950s, tractors and trucks had nearly eliminated working horses across the industrialized world, and Belgium was no exception. The registered population of Belgian draft horses in their homeland fell to just a few thousand, and by the 1960s the Old Type Brabant was nearly extinct — a casualty of exactly the agricultural efficiency the breed had made possible. World War II had taken a further toll, as occupying armies requisitioned horses wholesale.

The rescue came from an unexpected direction: America. Because American breeders had continued to register and breed Belgians in large numbers — keeping the blood of the original Flemish imports alive — the breed survived on the other side of the Atlantic. In the 1980s and 1990s, Belgian and American breeders began re-importing European bloodlines, and European breeders turned back to America for stock to rebuild their depleted herds. Belgium's own population recovered from the brink, and today the Belgian is one of the most popular draft breeds worldwide.

The Gentle Giant Today

Modern Flemish horses have found a new career beyond the plow. They remain unmatched in pulling competitions, where they drag weighted sleds in tests of raw strength that would break lesser breeds. They work in logging and small-scale agriculture, drive carriages, appear in parades and historical reenactments, and — thanks to their steady dispositions — serve as dependable mounts and companions for riders of all ages. The breed's reputation for calm makes it a favorite for beginners, and its strength makes it the anchor of many a draft-horse team.

In Belgium, the **Belgisch trekpaa**rd is a point of national pride. Festivals celebrate the breed, breeders maintain the old bloodlines with fierce dedication, and the Flemish horse has been officially recognized as a cultural treasure of Flanders. From the armored battlefield of the Middle Ages to the pulling ring of the twenty-first century, the Flemish horse has carried the working world on its broad back — a gentle giant whose influence spans the entire history of the draft horse.



HORSES IN HISTORY

The Ponies of the Deep:
A History of Pit Ponies

Georgia Andrews



Few images capture the industrial age more poignantly than the pit pony — a small, sturdy horse living out its working life in near-darkness beneath the earth. For more than two centuries, ponies hauled coal, ore, and workers through mine tunnels, and in doing so they helped fuel the Industrial Revolution that remade the modern world. Their story is one of brutal work, remarkable endurance, and a surprising measure of care — and in Britain especially, where the tradition lasted longest, it ended with a quiet dignity that still resonates today.

Why Ponies? Why Underground?

Coal mining on an industrial scale began in Britain in the eighteenth century, and the deeper the mines went, the harder the problem of hauling coal to the surface became. Before rail systems and locomotives were reliable, the practical solution was horsepower — literally. Full-size horses were too large for narrow, low-ceilinged tunnels, so miners bred small, robust ponies. Shetlands, Welsh mountain ponies, Fell and Dales ponies, and Newfoundlands were crossed and selected for short stature, small hooves, thick bone, broad chests, and an unflappable temperament. The ideal pit pony stood under 14 hands — small enough to work a tunnel barely five feet high, strong enough to pull trains of laden coal tubs weighing up to a ton.

At the peak of British coal mining, the numbers are staggering: in 1913, the year output peaked, roughly 70,000 ponies worked in Britain's mines — one for roughly every eleven miners. Worldwide, the numbers ran far higher, with ponies and mules at work in mines across Europe, America, South Africa, and Asia.

A Life Below

A pit pony's day began early and ended late. Many ponies spent years underground without ever seeing daylight; in some mines they were stabled right at the pit bottom, and it is recorded that some ponies worked more than a decade below ground. Their handlers, known variously as drivers, pony lads, or putters — often boys as young as twelve — led them on rope haulage runs or, in "hand-got" workings, harnessed them to chains to pull coal through galleries barely wide enough for a man to turn around.

The work was hard, but it would be a mistake to imagine the ponies were cruelly treated as a matter of course. A good pony was an expensive and valuable asset — worth, in today's terms, thousands of pounds — and a skilled handler prized one. Ponies learned their routes and worked with extraordinary intelligence: drivers reported that their ponies would stop at the right junctions without a word, kick the stable door shut behind them, and refuse to enter a gallery where roof supports were leaning or a fall was imminent. Stories abound of ponies detecting gas, warning miners of roof collapse, and leading the way out in an emergency. One celebrated pit pony, a gelding named Tommy, worked for decades and is credited with saving many lives in the Trimdon Grange disaster of 1882 by refusing to proceed when danger loomed, earning a medal and nationwide fame.

Harsh reality cut through the romance, however. The Mines and Collieries Act of 1842 had banned women and girls from underground work, but the use of boys and ponies continued largely unregulated for decades. Working conditions ranged from the tolerable to the dreadful: some stables were clean, dry, and whitewashed, while in others ponies stood in dripping darkness in fetlock-deep water. Injuries were common — broken legs and pulled muscles from slips and falls were the worst; some ponies were blinded by gassing in accidents or by dust and poor ventilation. When a pony was injured beyond work, the decision to destroy it was often made underground.

The Drivers' Law

Crucially, though, the pit pony's treatment often depended on the character of its driver. Mine owners and inspectors alike recognized that a pony worked best when it was well fed, well rested, and spoken to kindly, and man management

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underground was as much about horse management as about men. Drivers developed proprietary relationships with "their" ponies; many gave them names, saved them bits of their own food, and refused point-blank to work a pony that was ailing or lame. In collieries across England and Wales, the unwritten code among working miners was that a man who mistreated a pony faced the contempt — and sometimes worse — of his mates.

By the late nineteenth century, the system became more humane by regulation. The Coal Mines Regulation Act of 1887 required the registration and inspection of all ponies underground, set standards for stable ventilation and cleanliness, and provided for their veterinary care. The Act of 1911 went further, guaranteeing ponies regular holidays at the surface (!)... no — the Acts guaranteed fixed working hours, regular feeding times, and annual veterinary inspection. Ponies were given holidays of several weeks at the surface each year as a matter of course in many pits, where they grazed, rolled in grass, and were fattened for the work ahead.

The Great Record

The most remarkable fact about pit ponies may be their record of longevity and service. It was common for a pony to work thirty years underground — a life expectancy that compared well with working horses on the surface, precisely because the underground world was so controlled: no weather, no flies, no traffic, constant temperature, and a roof that protected them from sun, wind, and frost. When the last ponies left the mines in the 1990s, the oldest had been below ground since the 1960s.

The End of an Era

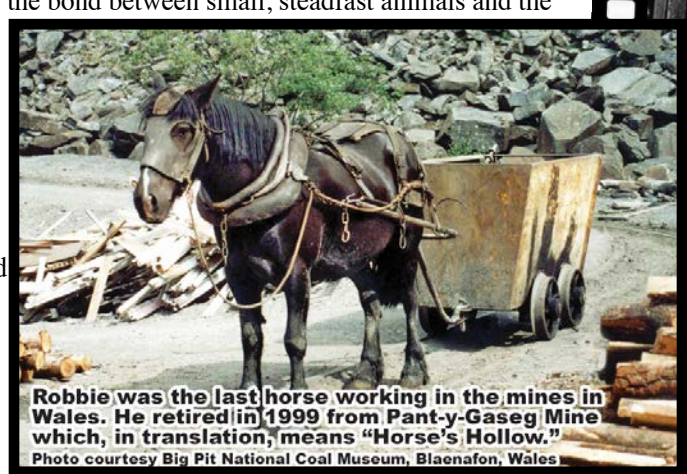
Mechanization ended the pit pony's era. The spread of electric and diesel locomotives, and later conveyor belt haulage, gradually replaced pony power through the mid-twentieth century. By 1984, only 55 ponies remained in British mines, and in 1994, the last five pit ponies — working the deep tunnels of Ellington Colliery in Northumberland — came up for the final time. Coal mining itself soon followed; Ellington's closure in 2005 ended deep mining in Britain.

Their retirement was gentle. Retired pit ponies were rehomed through welfare schemes to sanctuaries and private owners, where the horses that had spent decades in the dark adapted, often surprisingly quickly, to sunshine, grass, and freedom. Because so many were Shetlands and Welsh ponies, they found new careers as children's ponies, companion animals, and show ponies — a fitting second life for creatures whose first had been so extraordinary.

A Quiet Monument

The pit pony left a mark on the culture of the coalfields that endures. Museums preserve the harness, lamps, and stables; statues and memorial plaques honor the ponies in mining towns from South Wales to County Durham; and the descendants of the old working breeds are recognized precisely for the qualities that made their ancestors perfect underground. The ponies' final years even rewrote the legal record: when a new generation of children learned that pit ponies had worked the mines, it was not in horror but in awe of the bond between small, steadfast animals and the miners who trusted them with their lives.

In the end, the pit pony stands as a strange emblem of the Industrial Revolution: a creature of gentle flesh working alongside millions in the mechanical dark, valued, named, loved, and worked hard by turns. More than a century after the era's peak, the memory of the ponies of the deep remains one of the most human stories that industry ever told.



Robbie was the last horse working in the mines in Wales. He retired in 1999 from Pant-y-Gaseg Mine which, in translation, means "Horse's Hollow."
Photo courtesy Big Pit National Coal Museum, Blaenafon, Wales

When the Gates Change Hands: Preserving the Legacy of Nydrie Stud
The Rebirth of a Historic Virginia Horse Farm
Bryan Fleming



There are horse farms that are beautiful. There are horse farms that are historic. And then there are places where you can almost feel the horses that came before you. **Nydrie Stud** is one of those places.

Located approximately 20 minutes south of Charlottesville, among the historic farms of Esmont, **Nydrie** stretches across roughly 585 acres of rolling Virginia countryside. Fields and pastures blend into hardwood forests, while a massive brick stable dating to the late 1890s remains a powerful reminder of the property's equestrian past.

Today, **Nydrie Stud** is entering a new chapter. But its rebirth is not about erasing what came before. It is about restoring a historic horse farm, respecting the people and horses who shaped its legacy, and creating a future worthy of the land.

A FARM BUILT FOR HORSES

Nydrie's history began in the 1890s when **Harry Douglas Forsyth**, a New Orleans sugar baron and financier, purchased what was then known as **Tom Coles Farm**. He renamed the property **Nydrie** and began developing an estate modeled after a Scottish baronial property on **Loch Nydrie**. A 50-room manor was constructed and completed around 1898, with hundreds of local workers reportedly involved in the project.

The stable complex was equally ambitious. Historical descriptions identify the brick horse facilities as among the largest and most elaborate in Virginia.

The mansion eventually fell into disrepair and was demolished in the 1970s. The stable, however, survived. Its brick walls, architectural details, and surrounding acreage continue to connect the present-day farm to the generations of horses and horsemen who came before.

Nydrie was not simply built as a country residence. It was built around horses.



ENTER THE VAN CLIEFS

In the 1920s, the **Van Clief family** purchased **Nydrie** as part of a larger collection of farms in the Esmont area. Their years at the property became an important chapter in its equestrian history.

The farm was associated with hunting, horses, and Thoroughbred breeding. It also became part of the surrounding community, providing employment and creating connections with families throughout the region. The property's Thoroughbred history includes associations with some of racing's most influential names.

Jet Pilot, winner of the 1947 **Kentucky Derby**, is connected to **Nydrie**'s breeding history. **Nydrie** was also associated with **Natalma**, who became the dam of **Northern Dancer. Northern Dancer** won the 1964 **Kentucky Derby** and **Preakness Stakes** before becoming one of the most influential sires in Thoroughbred breeding.

These connections illustrate the reach of a Virginia horse farm whose influence extended well beyond its own fields and stables. **Nydrie**'s legacy was not limited to the horses that lived there. It was also reflected in the bloodlines, people, and traditions that moved outward from the property.

WHEN THE HORSES LEFT

The **Van Clief family** retained ownership of **Nydrie** until 2008. Eventually, the Thoroughbred operation wound down, and the property entered a quieter and more uncertain period. For nearly 15 years, the farm received little of the regular maintenance and management required by a property of its size. Overgrowth spread. Buildings deteriorated. Dirt, dust, and debris accumulated. The once-active property became a place where the passage of time could be seen in nearly every corner. The history remained, but the future was uncertain.

That changed when **Phoebe Weseley and David King** took on **Nydrie** in 2022, beginning the enormous task of restoring the property and returning it to use as a working horse farm. Their goal was not simply to repair an old property. It was to bring **Nydrie** back to life.



THE WOMAN BEHIND THE RESTORATION

Phoebe Weseley is no stranger to the horse world.

A knowledgeable horsewoman and successful amateur rider, she won the 2010 **Washington International Horse Show** Adult Hunter Finals with her mount, **Just Ask Me**.

Throughout her riding career, she has earned champion and reserve champion honors in Adult Hunters and High Adult Jumpers at competitions ranging from Vermont to Florida. Her experience includes the **Vermont Summer Festival, HITS Saugerties, HITS Culpeper, HITS Ocala, the Winter Equestrian Festival, Tampa Tournament of Champions, Gulf Coast Winter Classics, the Biltmore Horse Show, and the Kentucky National Horse Show**, among others.



Weseley grew up in Manhattan, attended the **Brearley School** and **Barnard College**, and graduated from **Rice University** in Houston. Before managing her own farm, she worked as a writer and editor. She has now managed her own farm for more than 20 years.

In recent years, she has focused on bringing along young horses and ponies, helping them progress toward national titles. Her riding experience and years of farm management gave her an understanding of what **Nydrie** could become.

But even with that background, the scale of the restoration would prove greater than expected.

SEEING THE POTENTIAL BENEATH THE NEGLECT

Before purchasing **Nydrie**, **Phoebe and David** knew very little about the property. They had been looking at horse properties when **Phoebe** discovered **Nydrie** in an online listing. They understood Virginia's importance to the horse industry and began visiting towns, farms, and shows throughout Central Virginia.

Eventually, they contacted **Alex Webel of Hall and Hall**, the broker who helped guide them through the purchase. And the rest, as they say, is history.

When **Phoebe** first saw **Nydrie**, the property was in poor condition. Yet beneath the overgrown ivy, neglected grounds, and deteriorating buildings, she saw what she described as ***"good bones."*** **David** needed more convincing.

The work required patience, expertise, and a willingness to look beyond the immediate condition of the property. Removing years of overgrowth and cleaning the buildings revealed glimpses of the beauty hidden beneath the neglect. But the restoration was much more than a simple clean up.

"The scope of the restoration was much greater than we expected," they explained.



After years without proper maintenance, the property had accumulated layers of dirt, dust, debris, and unwanted visitors. Buildings needed attention, the grounds required extensive work, and the entire farm had to be evaluated with both its history and future use in mind.

David recently spent time cleaning years of trash from the main road alone, removing hundreds of pounds of discarded material. Among the debris were eight-track tapes and cans of National Bohemian beer—some of which still required a can opener. Even the smallest discoveries offered reminders of the people and years that had passed through Nydrie.

BRINGING THE FARM BACK TO LIFE

From the beginning, **Phoebe and David** understood that **Nydrie**'s future depended on returning it to a working horse farm. The goal was to preserve the property's history while developing an up-to-date Hunter/Jumper training facility. That required a careful balance between restoration and modernization.

The historic brick stable remains central to **Nydrie**'s identity. At the same time, the farm must meet the practical needs of today's horses, riders, trainers, and visitors. Some elements require preservation. Others must be repaired, improved, or adapted to provide a safe and functional environment. The restoration has involved work from floors to ceilings, from buildings to fields, and from visible structures to the infrastructure required to operate a modern equestrian facility.

Phoebe and David also credit the **Van Clief family**, particularly **DG** and **Court**, for their support and guidance during the process. Their objective is not to recreate the past exactly as it was. It is to honor the past while giving **Nydrie** a productive future.

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RESPECTING THE PEOPLE WHO CAME BEFORE

Historic properties carry more than architectural significance. They also hold the memories of the people who lived there, worked there, visited, and helped shape the land over generations.

Phoebe and David describe the **Van Cliefs**, as supportive of the restoration. They expressed appreciation for those who came before them and pleasure in seeing **Nydrie** return to full activity, with horses once again moving through its fields and facilities. That perspective is important.

The current owners are not attempting to claim the entire story of **Nydrie**. Instead, they see themselves as part of a much longer history. The property has passed through many hands, and each generation has contributed something to its identity.
The responsibility now is to continue that story with care.

A LEGACY THAT REACHES BEYOND THE PROPERTY

One of the biggest surprises for **Phoebe and David** has been the impact **Nydrie** continues to have on the surrounding community. They regularly encounter people who have a connection to the farm. Someone's father may have worked there. A relative may have visited the property. Another person may remember stories passed down through their family.
The connections are often unexpected.

A historic farm can appear private from the outside, but its history frequently extends well beyond its property lines. The people who worked there, the horses that passed through its barns, and the families who visited all become part of its collective memory.



Nydrie's restoration has brought many of those memories back to the surface. One example is the fountain located in the courtyard, which has become known locally as the ***"Fertility Fountain."*** According to local folklore, women would take bottles of water from the fountain to give to women hoping to become mothers.

Whether viewed as tradition, superstition, or simply a charming piece of farm lore, the story adds another layer to the personal connections people have with **Nydrie**.
It is also a reminder that the history of a place is not always found in official records. Sometimes, it survives through stories shared from one person to another.

SAFETY AND CONSERVATION

Restoring **Nydrie** involved far more than improving its appearance. Safety is a major priority. Hundreds of fence-post holes were filled in, and the property now has modern technologies and practices appropriate for a contemporary horse facility. Improvements to airflow and other facility systems are intended to create a safer, healthier, and more comfortable environment for horses and people.

Conservation is another important part of the restoration. **Phoebe and David** have also made land stewardship a priority, including the removal of miles of old barbed wire, the cleanup of trash dumps, and efforts to address invasive plant species.

The restoration includes plans to replant indigenous flora and improve the natural environment. A permanent conservation easement is complete, another piece of the property's long-term conservation plans.

These projects may not always be as visible as a restored building or freshly maintained pasture, but they are essential to the long-term health of **Nydrie**. Preserving the farm means protecting more than its structures. It means caring for the land itself.



WHAT MUST BE PRESERVED?

When asked what must remain at the heart of **Nydrie, Phoebe** and **David** were clear: the property must once again function as a working horse farm. That mission does not mean ignoring the past. Instead, it requires understanding what made **Nydrie** important and finding ways to carry those qualities forward.

The historic buildings, the landscape, the equestrian traditions, and the connections to the surrounding community all contribute to the farm's identity. But a working farm must also remain useful. Horses need safe facilities. Riders need functional training spaces. The land requires ongoing care. Buildings need maintenance. Conservation demands long-term commitment. The challenge is to preserve **Nydrie**'s character while ensuring that the property continues to serve a meaningful purpose. The farm cannot simply be protected from change. It must be cared for through change.

ONE OF MANY IN A LONG LINE

There is a natural tendency to describe the current owners of a historic property as its caretakers. **Phoebe and David** see themselves somewhat differently. They describe themselves as one of many in a long line of people connected to **Nydrie**. Their responsibility is to continue that line, respect those who came before them, and leave something meaningful for those who will follow.

That perspective changes the idea of ownership. A property such as **Nydrie** may legally change hands, but its history cannot belong entirely to any one person. Each generation adds something, repairs something, changes something, and ultimately passes the property forward. The work being done today is part of that larger continuum.

The hope is that future owners will feel the same responsibility: to care for the land, respect its history, and continue giving the farm a reason to remain active.

LOOKING FIVE OR TEN YEARS AHEAD

When asked what success would look like five or ten years from now, **Phoebe and David** described a vibrant working horse farm that they and the surrounding community could be proud of. That vision includes horses, riders, training, conservation, and continued restoration. It also includes community.

Nydrie has already begun welcoming people back through its gates, and its renewed activity is helping reconnect the property with the broader Central Virginia horse community. The future will require continued work. But the direction is clear.

Nydrie Stud is not being restored simply to recreate a photograph from the past. It is being restored so that the property can continue to function, grow, and make history of its own.

IF THE GATES COULD TALK



Every historic horse farm carries stories that cannot be fully captured in a timeline or a list of notable horses. There are the stories of the people who worked in the barns, the riders who crossed the fields, the families who visited, and the horses whose names became part of the property's legacy.

There are also the quieter stories: the discarded objects found during cleanup, the memories shared by neighbors, and the traditions that survive long after their origins have been forgotten.

When asked what **Nydrie**'s gates might say if they could speak, **Phoebe and David** offered a response that captures the spirit of the restoration:

"These are hallowed ground and we are so thankful you have brought them back to life!!"

It is a fitting sentiment for a property with such a long and complicated history. **Nydrie Stud** has seen prosperity, decline,neglect, and renewal. Its buildings have endured. Its land has remained. Its connection to horses has continued through generations.

Now, the gates are open again. The farm is not being preserved in amber. It is being used. Horses are returning to its fields and facilities. Riders are once again creating memories on the property. The surrounding community is reconnecting with a place that has meant something to many people over the years.

Perhaps that is the most meaningful way to preserve history—not by keeping a place untouched, but by giving it another reason to make history.

At **Nydrie Stud**, the gates have changed hands. And they have opened. There is still a great deal of history waiting on the other side.



To find more information on Nydrie and River Run Farm, visit their website ***www.rrfhorseheaven.com.***

Also follow thier accounts on **Facebook** & **Instagram**

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When the Sky Goes Green:
Protecting Horses from Lightning Strikes
Georgia Andrews



Unfortunately, on September 3, 2026 one of the horses previously rescued and adopted out by the Shenandoah Valley Equine Rescue Network was struck by lightning. She and her companion were both killed.
This got us thinking; how can we protect our horses from lightning?

Horses are the most lightning-vulnerable large livestock species in the United States, and the statistics are sobering: lightning kills more horses than any other weather-related cause, and it strikes horses more often than cattle, sheep, or people. Being tall, being large, and grazing in open terrain all work against them. When an electrical charge of up to 300 million volts descends from a storm cloud, a horse standing in a pasture is effectively a lightning rod with legs.

Yet most of these deaths are preventable. With sound facility design, disciplined storm protocols, and a plan for the worst-case scenario, owners can dramatically reduce the risk. Here is what science, veterinary medicine, and decades of farm experience say about keeping horses safe when thunder rolls.

A Perfect Target

Understanding why horses are so vulnerable begins with what lightning seeks: the shortest, most conductive path to ground. A horse is a broad, tall, grounded conductor, and the animals' own behavior makes matters worse. In an approaching storm, horses herd together and, fatally, often seek shelter under the tallest object in the pasture — a lone oak tree. That tree is exactly where a discharge will land, and the horse beneath it becomes part of the path. Electricity doesn't always go through the animal directly; it can jump from a struck tree to nearby horses, or travel through the ground and up through the horse's hooves.

Ground-level conduction is why one horse can be killed while a hundred yards away another is unharmed: the charge spreads through wet soil, seeking the path of least resistance, which may pass directly through a horse's body. Anything metallic raises the odds further. Horses standing against metal fences, tied with metal chains, or drinking at metal troughs during a storm are particularly exposed.

Design the Farm to Deflect the Strike

The single most effective measure is a professionally installed lightning protection system — not a single rod, but a complete network of air terminals (rods), heavy-gauge down conductors, and deep grounding rods that capture a strike and dissipate it harmlessly into the earth. Barns, run-in sheds, hay storage, and even large trees near paddocks benefit from such systems. A roof rod does nothing if the down conductor is undersized or poorly grounded; the entire system must be installed and tested by a certified lightning protection contractor.

Fencing deserves the same attention. Wire fences — particularly steel wire on steel posts — can carry lightning hundreds of yards across a farm, and a horse touching a charged fence line during a strike is electrocuted instantly. This is the cause of many multi-horse pasture deaths where no trees are involved. Options include using wooden posts, running wire on insulators, installing air terminals and grounding rods at intervals along fence lines, or, simplest and safest, keeping horses off wire-fenced pastures during storms entirely.

Pasture management is equally practical. Tall, isolated trees are the greatest single hazard in any turnout. Remove them, or at minimum fence them off so no horse can stand beneath them. Low ground, valleys, and depressions carry the same risk in reverse: lightning current concentrates in wet low spots, so horses in low-lying fields are at greater risk of ground-path strikes. Where possible, turn out on higher ground.

The Storm Protocol

Weather is the earliest warning system. During thunderstorm season, owners should check forecasts daily and know what conditions are developing. When a storm is imminent:

Bring horses in. If you have a protected barn or sturdy run-in shed with a functioning lightning protection system, stalling is the safest option. Confining horses to a pen around an unprotected building, or locking them in a metal-clad barn with no grounding, can be worse than leaving them out.

Take off the hardware. Remove halters with metal hardware or chains, and never lead a horse during a storm with a metal shank. Leather or breakaway halters minimize conduction risk.

Stay out of the storm yourself. Never be the tallest, most conductive object in a paddock. If a storm arrives while you are with the horses, get into a closed vehicle or building; avoid metal gates, fences, and wet ropes. Stick to rubber-soled boots away from metal, and remember that wet nylon and cotton lead just as well as steel.

Postpone riding. Do not ride or exercise horses during electrical activity; the horse rises into the air as a lightning rod and you become part of the circuit. If caught out on a ride, dismount, move to low ground away from isolated trees and metal fences, and crouch with your feet together.

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After the Strike

Even with perfect preparation, strikes happen. Signs of a struck horse include sudden collapse, cardiac or respiratory arrest, burns — often small, singed entry and exit points on the legs, chest, and muzzle — muscle spasms, temporary paralysis, and disorientation. The scene may be chaotic: several horses down in a field with no apparent marks.

First, do not approach in immediate danger; ensure the storm has passed and no fence lines are still energized. Then call a veterinarian immediately — every struck horse needs evaluation, even one that appears unharmed, because arrhythmias, internal burns, and neurological damage can surface hours or days later. Sudden cardiac death is the most common outcome, but horses that survive the initial strike frequently recover fully with prompt veterinary care, which is one more reason to have an emergency action plan posted by the barn phone, along with the veterinarian's number and directions to the farm.

A horse cannot read a forecast or reason about tree placement — that responsibility rests entirely with the owner. By installing a proper grounding system, eliminating the tall-tree hazard, retreating from wire fencing during storms, and committing to a disciplined "storm protocol" for turnout and handling, the owner turns a farm from a target into a sanctuary. Horses pay us back with a lifetime of trust; keeping them safe through the storm is the least we can return.





Shenandoah County Horse Seizure Highlights Growing Challenges for Equine Welfare

Georgia Andrews



Shenandoah County once again seized 86 equines in Mount Jackson. By any measure, the large-scale horse seizure in Shenandoah County, Virginia, stands as one of the most significant equine welfare cases in the Commonwealth in recent years. The rescue operation, conducted near Mount Jackson in April of this year, resulted in the removal of nearly 100 horses from a property where authorities determined the animals were living in inadequate conditions and suffering from severe neglect. This case underscores the growing challenges faced by animal welfare agencies and equine rescue organizations.

The investigation began after the Shenandoah County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Division received complaints regarding the condition of horses on a local farm. When deputies and veterinarians arrived on the scene, they encountered a troubling situation. Many of the horses were visibly underweight, with prominent ribs and hip bones. Officials reported that the animals had little body fat and appeared to have been deprived of adequate nutrition for an extended period.

Because of the sheer number of animals involved, the response required an extraordinary level of coordination. Three veterinary teams were assembled to examine the herd and assess each horse's condition.

(In addition to the horses, the County seized over 60 cows). Law enforcement personnel worked alongside rescue organizations to document evidence and organize the safe removal of the animals from the property.

The operation quickly became a major logistical undertaking. Transporting nearly 100 horses requires specialized trailers, experienced handlers, temporary housing, veterinary evaluations, and substantial financial resources. Several Virginia-based equine rescue organizations stepped forward to assist, including the Shenandoah Valley Equine Rescue Network (SVERN).

SVERN alone accepted 19 horses, the largest intake in the organization's history. Rescue personnel



described many of the animals as being in poor physical condition and in need of immediate medical attention.



Some horses required hoof care, parasite treatment, and carefully managed feeding programs designed to restore weight safely. Rehabilitation of severely malnourished horses is a delicate process that can take months and must be monitored closely to avoid potentially fatal complications. Rescue volunteers are required to feed the most critical of horses around the clock.

The financial impact of such a seizure is enormous. Rescue groups suddenly found themselves responsible for feeding, housing, and treating over a dozen horses in addition to the horses already in their care.

For many rescuers, the case was both heartbreaking and frustrating. Equine neglect cases are particularly challenging because horses require significant land, feed, and management. When owners become overwhelmed by economic hardship, illness, or poor planning, conditions can deteriorate rapidly. In large-herd situations, the decline may go unnoticed until animals reach a critical state.



The Shenandoah County seizure also highlighted the broader pressures facing equine rescues throughout Virginia. Many organizations were already operating at or near capacity before the horses arrived. Yet despite limited resources, rescue groups collaborate to ensure every horse had a safe place to go.

Their response demonstrated the strength of Virginia's equine welfare network and the dedication of the volunteers who support it.

The road to recovery for the seized horses is expected to be long. While some animals responded quickly to improved nutrition and care, others required extensive rehabilitation. Rescue organizations are focused on restoring body condition, addressing medical issues, and evaluating each horse's temperament and training. Ultimately, many of the horses are expected to become available for adoption once they regain their health and the legal process has concluded.

Cases such as the Shenandoah County seizure serve as an important reminder of the responsibilities associated with horse ownership. Horses depend entirely on their caretakers for food, water, shelter, and medical care. When those basic needs are not met, the consequences can be devastating.

The horses remain in the custody of the Commonwealth for now. The case was heard by The Honorable Amy Tisinger, General District Court Judge on June 5th, 2026 and she upheld the seizure. That ruling has been appealed to the Circuit Court but has not yet been set for a hearing. The horses will likely remain in the care of the rescues pending any appeal. All rescues are under enormous stress. This magazine is published by and for the benefit of the Shenandoah Valley Equine Rescue Network. If you would like to support their efforts to rescue and rehabilitate these horses please contact them through SVERN.org.




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EQUINE RESCUES & NONPROFITS • AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS
BEGINNING & SMALL FARMERS

USDA NRCS
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

Conservation Cost-Share to Improve Your Land

Helps agricultural producers, horse owners and land managers implement conservation practices on working lands.

- Pasture and soil health improvements
- Fencing and water systems
- Manure and runoff management
- Livestock-related conservation practices
- Wildlife habitat and pollinator support
- Farm infrastructure for environmental stewardship

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE • COST-SHARE

USDA NRCS
CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP)

Payments for Ongoing Conservation

Supports producers who are already implementing conservation and want to maintain and improve their efforts.

- Builds on existing conservation practices
- Supports long-term sustainability
- Improves soil, water, air, and habitat on active agricultural operations
- Flexible options for a variety of farm and equine systems

BUILD • MAINTAIN • ADVANCE

USDA NRCS
AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE (AMA)

Assistance for Water Management and Conservation

Helps eligible producers address water management challenges through conservation practices.

- Irrigation efficiency and water conservation
- Erosion control and water quality improvements
- Development of water management plans
- Helps build drought resilience
- Supports long-term agricultural productivity

WATER • CONSERVATION • RESILIENCE

USDA NRCS
AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP) & REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RCPP)

Protecting Agricultural Land for the Future

Helps landowners, agricultural producers, and eligible organizations protect working farms, ranches, and environmentally sensitive lands.

- Conservation easements (land protection)
- Partnership-based projects (RCPP)
- Protection of agricultural land use
- Supports wildlife habitat and natural resources
- Keeps farms and open spaces for future generations

LAND • LEGACY • GENERATIONS

USDA FSA
DISASTER & RISK PROGRAMS

Support When Challenges Happen

Provides potential assistance for eligible livestock, feed, and agricultural losses due to natural disasters, weather events, and other qualifying situations.

- Programs vary by year and situation
- May include livestock, grazing, and forage-related assistance
- Eligibility requirements apply
- Contact your local FSA office for current program availability

PREPARE • RECOVER • STAY STRONG

STATE & REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
VIRGINIA • MARYLAND WEST VIRGINIA • PENNSYLVANIA

Additional Funding, Grants & Support

Each state offers unique programs through agriculture departments, conservation districts, and equine-focused initiatives.

- State agriculture departments and grant programs
- Conservation districts and local initiatives
- State equine boards (education, promotion, research, industry support)
- SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education)
- Additional opportunities for nonprofits, rescues, and community-based projects

LOCAL • STATE • REGIONAL • COMMUNITY



1 IDENTIFY YOUR PROJECT
Conservation, infrastructure, land protection, or other farm or equine needs.

2 CONTACT YOUR LOCAL USDA SERVICE CENTER OR CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Get guidance on programs and available opportunities.

3 CONFIRM ELIGIBILITY
Each program has specific requirements.

4 ASK ABOUT CURRENT RANKING DATES
Funding cycles and application timelines vary by state and program.



Funding, eligibility, payment rates, and ranking deadlines vary by state and program.
Apply through the official agency or local USDA Service Center. Verify current requirements before applying.
Primary starting points: USDA NRCS • USDA FSA • State agriculture agencies • Local conservation districts.

Horse Times Magazine CALENDAR

This calendar is a free listing for events in Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia & Pennsylvania. It includes only the date, event, city or location. For more information, visit the website listed. Visit our website: HorseTimesMagazine.com/find-an-event

Red Indicates Prizelist is in the front of this magazine.

Virginia Horse Shows Association, Inc.

vhsa.com

October 3	Fox Pointe Farm	H/E	Quinton, VA
October 3	Topline Horse Center	H/E/J/M	Yorktown, VA
October 3	Hanover Heritage Equestrian Center	H/E/M	Hanover, VA
October 3	Horse Shows of Central VA @ Deep Run	H/E/J/M	Manakin-Sabot, VA
October3	Keswick Hunt Club Horse Show	H/E	Keswick, VA
October 3	Newmarket Horse Show @ Rose Mount	H/J	Spotsylvania, VA
October 3	Level Green	H/E/M	Powhatan, VA
October 3	Crafty Fox Farm Fall Horse Show	H/E	Virginia Beach, VA
October 4	Red Gate Farm	H/E/M	Bluemont, VA
October 4	CVSJA @ Deep Run Hunt Club	J	Manakin-Sabot, VA
October 4	Newmarket Horse Show @ Rose Mount	H/J	Spotsylvania, VA
October 10	Whitestone Farm	H/E	Fredericksburg, VA
October 10	Beverly Equestrian Show Circuit	H/E/J	The Plains, VA
October 10	Areion Equestrian	H/E/J	Gloucester, VA
October 10	Stonehouse Stables & CP Horse Show	H/E/M	Manakin-Sabot, VA
October 10	Four Oaks Farm	H/E	Palmyra, VA
October 10	Berryville Show Series @ Devaux Farm	H/E	Berryville, VA
October 10	Luna Blu Show Series	H/E/J	Chesapeake, VA
October 10	Turner Farm Events	H/E	Great Falls, VA
October 10	Whippoorwill Farm	H/E/J	Shacklefords, VA
October 10-11	Fox Run Horse Show	H/J/M	Lexington, VA
October 11	EKG Stables @ Hill Valley Farm	H/E/M	Spotsylvania, VA
October 11	Lake of the Woods	H/E	Locust Grove, VA
October 11	Southern Heritage Farm	H/E	Midland, VA
October 11	Red Gate Farm	J	Bluemont, VA
October 11	Brookhill Farm	H/E/M	Charlottesville, VA
October 17	Silver Lining Farm @ Deep Run	H/E/M	Manakin-Sabot, VA
October 17	Four Horseshoes Youth Foundation Benefit Show @ Oakland Heights Farm	H/E	Gordonsville, VA
October 17	Whippoorwill Farm (Rescheduled)	H/E/J	Shacklefords, VA
October 17	Bridlewood Farm	H/E	Chesapeake, VA
October 18	Hazelwild Farm	H/E	Fredericksburg, VA
October 18	Hunter Lane Stables	H/E/M	Chesterfield, VA
October 18	Red Gate Farm	H/E/M	Bluemont, VA
October 18	CVSJA @ Deep Run Hunt Club	J	Manakin-Sabot, VA
October 24	Randolph-Macon	H/E/M	Ashland, VA
October 24	Woodpecker Farm	H/E	Woodford, VA
October 24	Farmington Hunt Club Fall Horse Show	H/E	Charlottesville, VA
October 25	BHSA Hunter/Jumper Classic	H//E/J	Fredericksburg, VA
November 5-8	Associate Championship Horse Show	H/E	Lexington, VA

vhsa.com

Virginia Horse Shows Association, Inc.
Regular (rated)

October 3-4	Beverly Fall Classic "B"	H/J/M	The Plains, VA
October 7-11	Tryon Fall 4 "AA"	H/J	Mill Spring, NC
October 14-18	Tryon Fall 5 "AA"	H/J	Mill Spring, NC
October 15-18	WIHS Regional Horse "C"	H/J/M	Upperville, VA
October 18	USHJA Zone 3 Champ "C"	H/J	Upperville, VA
October 21-25	Tryon Fall 6 "AA"	J	Mill Spring, NC
November 4-8	Jump for the Children Benefit I @ Tryon (Heritage Show) "AA"	H/J	Mill Spring, NC

Virginia Horse Center Foundation™
Lexington, VA
vahorsecenter.org



October 1–4	Virginia Dressage Association D
October 8–10	Friesian Grand National Championship
October 8-11	North American Suffolk Horse Assoc Meeting
October 10–11	Fox Run Hunter Jumper Show
October 16-18	JM Equine Barrel Race
October 17	Goose Creek Hunter Jumber Show
October 17-18	United Dressage & Jumping Club
October 17	Blue Mountain YEDA Show & Clinic
October 21-25	Southwest Va Hunter Jumper Association Show
October 29-Nov 1	Virginia Horse Center Eventing
November 5-8	Virginia Horse Show Association
November 20-21	Southern Extreme Bull Riding Association
November 20-22	AQHA VA Harvest Festival
December 10-13	The Barracks Hunter Jumper Show

Central Virginia Show Jumping Association
Deep Run Hunt Club • Manakin-Sabot, VA
www.cvsja.com

October 4
Final Qualifier

October 18
Mini Prix

DEEP RUN HORSE SHOW

October 3	CVHS
October 4	CVSJA
October 10	Tara Best CHSA
October 17	Silver Lining CHSA
October 18	CVSJA

All CVSJA and CHSA shows are also VHSA Associate shows
www.deeprunhorseshow.com

Maryland Horse Show Association
Rated & Regional Show Calendar



Rated

October 15 - 18	WIHS Regional Horse Show & USHJA Zone 3 Championship	Upperville, VA

Regional Show

October 3	Morningside Stables H/J Show	Laurel, MD
October 15-18	WIHS Regional Horse Show & USHJA Zone 3 Championships	Upperville, VA
October 17	Morningside Stables H/J Show	Laurel, MD
October 24	Making Stride Show	Church Hill, MD
October 30	MHSA Regional Championship	Upper Marlboro, MD

Maryland International Horse Trials
Loch Moy Farm • Adamstown, MD

The Maryland Horse Trials at Loch Moy Farm
20th ANNIVERSARY
Home of the Maryland International CCI4*

October 4	Maryland Horse Trials III + Area II Championship
Oct 10-11	Dover Saddlery MDHT Highland Series Horse Trials
October 23	LMF Bred To Event Qualifier
Oct 24-25	LMF Bred To Event Championships
October 25	Pick Your Time/Test Dressage + Blue Ribbon Rounds
October 31	Dover Saddlery MDHT Highland Series Horse Trials
December 5	Donation xderby

Maryland Open Horse Show
Highland, Maryland
mohssinfo.com
Oct 4 • Oct 25

M.O.H.S.S.
MARYLAND OPEN HORSE SHOW SERIES

Thurmont Riding Club
Thurmont, MD
thurmontridingclub.com

TRC
THURMONT RIDING CLUB
ESTABLISHED 1951 INCORPORATED 1966

October 16
Spooky Fun Jumper Show
October 25
All Hallows Eve Show

Maryland Steeplechase Association

FALL RACE MEETS
Sunday, October 18
Cattail Chase Races
marylandsteeplechaseassociation.com

HENRY ARENA
EST. 2007
Martinsburg, WV

Oct 17
Tri-State Barrel Series
Oct 18
NBHA WV05
Henry Arena • Martinsburg, WV

FREE LISTING
EVERY CALENDAR
Just Send Us
Your Show Info
and PRIZELIST

Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex
Chatham, VA
theodac.com

October 16-18
VA High School Rodeo

MOUNTAIN VIEW POLO

Charles Town, WV
mountainviewpolo.com

October 3
USPA Eastern Circuit Women's Arena Challenge

November 1
Club Fall Arena Tournament and Awards

Virginia Cowboy Association

October 3
4th Annual Chase FD
Chase City, VA

October 23-25
2026 Finals
Doswell, VA

PHSA
Pennsylvania Horse Shows Association

Rated, Regional & Breeding Show Calendar
pennhsa.org

October 3	**Trails End Farm@Wyndor**	**Elverson**
October 10-11	**Brass RIng Oktoberfest**	**Devon**
October 10	**North Star**	**Cochranville**
October 17	**KCS October**	**Elverson**
October 17	**Bridge Acres**	**Lancaster**
October 24	**North Star II**	**Elverson**
October 24	**Brass Ring Reinbow's End Farm**	**Malvern**
October 29	**Partridge Run Mid Atl Autumn Classic @ Swan Lake Stables**	**Littlestown**
November 7	**Trails End Farm @ Wyndsor Farm**	**Elverson**
November 21	**Trails End Farm @ Trails End Farm**	**Newmanstown**
December 5	**Trails End Farm @ Wyndsor Farm**	**Elverson**
Decermber 12	**Brass Ring December @ Wyndsor**	**Elverson**

Western Pennsylvania Professional Horsemen's Association

wpapha.org

October 3-4	**Lake Erie College Hunter Spect** **Lake Erie College**
Oct 9-11	**NEST VI** **Brave Horse**
Oct 17-18	**OPHA** **Chagrin Valley Farms**

PWHA

Prince William Horse Association **pwha.net**
Four Winds Farm • 13550 Vint Hill Road, Nokesville VA

Hunter	**October 18**	**Kimberlea Gilbertson**
Jumper	**October 11**	**TBA**
English	**November 18**	**Kimberlea Gilbertson**

SWVHJA

Southwest Virginia Hunter/Jumper Association

swvhja.org

October 3	Sweet Briar College 100th Annual Show	Sweet Briar, VA
October 4	Star City Horse Show IV	Salem, VA
October 10-11	Fox Run Horse Show II	Lexington, VA
October 17-18	VT Winter Blues	Blacksburg, VA
October 22-25	SWVHJA 38th Annual Show & Medal Finals	Lexington, VA

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Western Dressage Association of America

WDAA

United States Dressage Federation

October 16	WDAVA Fall Festival	Wakefield, VA
October 17	Simple Changes Shcooling	Revere, PA

Maryland Dressage Association

Maryland Dressage
Bel Air, MD
www.mdadressage.org

October 18, 2026 (Sunday)

VADA Northeast Schooling Show Schedule at Edgehill, Aylett, VA

NEVADA
Northeast Virginia Dressage Association

October 18
November 1

October 1-4	GAIG/USDF Reg 1 Championships and VADA Fall Competition, Lexington VA
October 7	Beaux Reves Schooling Show • Hamilton,VA
September 26	Misty Run Schooling Show • Culpeper, VA
October 31	SVDA CHAMPIONSHIP• Suffolk, VA
November 15	Crescent Bay PC SVDA Sanctioned Show • Chesapeake, VA

VIRGINIA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

DRESSAGE



Other Dressage Shows

Oct 11
Gray Horse • Powatan, VA

Oct 24
MDS Dressage @ Southern Heritage
Midland, VA

Oct 25
Oakdale Equestrian • Powatan, VA

Oct 25
By Chance Schooling Show
By Chance Farm, VA

Nov 1
Red Gate Farm
Dressage Schooling Show
Bluemont, VA

Nov 4
Beaux Rêves Schooling Show
Hamilton, VA

Nov 7-8
PVDA Fall Dressage
Prince George, MD

Nov 8
Keystone Acres • Chesterfield,VA

Nov 9
Red Gate Farm • Bluemont, VA

Nov 15
By Chance Schooling Show
By Chance Farm, VA

Nov 21-22
WMEC Holiday Spectacular
Virginia Beach, VA

Other Important Shows & Events

Oct 7–11	Morven Park International & Fall Horse Trials	Leesburg, VA	Eventing
Oct 7	ADA/NOVA Dressage Schooling Show	Hamilton, VA	Dressage
Oct 8–18	Pennsylvania National Horse Show	Harrisburg, PA	Hunter/Jumper
Oct 10	Virginia Fall Races	Middleburg, VA	Steeplechase
Oct. 10	Cowgirl Barrel Racers	Tappahannock, VA	Barrel racing
Oct. 10	Fuse Equestrian Combined Training Series	Nokesville, VA	Combined Train
Oct 10–18	Pennsylvania National Horse Show	Harrisburg, PA	Major Show
Oct 11	Rappahannock Hunt Fall Hunter Pace	Reva, VA	Hunter Pace
Oct. 11	Cowgirl Barrel Racers	Goode, VA	Barrel racing
Oct. 11	Mulberry Farms Barrel Racing – Show #5	Nokesville, VA	Barrel Racing
Oct 13	Free Jumping Session – The Frame Sporthorses	Hamilton, VA	Clinic/Training
Oct. 13	Waredaca Expert Jump Day – Allison Springer	Laytonsville, MD	Clinic
Oct 14	BRE Cavalletti Clinic	Hamilton, VA	Clinic
Oct 15–18	Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill	Elkton, MD	Eventing
Oct 16	Fort Valley Endurance Ride	Fort Valley, VA	Endurance/Trail
Oct 17	Thoroughbred ReStart Clinic – Sue Lyman	The Plains, VA	Clinic/Seminar
Oct. 17	Cowgirl Barrel Racers	Moneta, VA	Barrel racing
Oct 18	DCHA Games	Pittsville, MD	

Other Important Shows & Events

Oct 18	BREA Combined Tests & Horse Trials	Greenhill Equestrian Park, VA	Eventing
Oct 18	MDCTA Fall Starter Horse Trials	Cockeysville, MD	Eventing
Oct. 18	Hoof-N-Woof 4-H Club Gymkhana	Free Union, VA	Gymkhana
Oct 19–25	Washington International Horse Show	Upper Marlboro, MD	Hunter/Jumper
Oct 21–25	Virginia Horse Center Fall Classic	Lexington, VA	Multi-discipline
Oct 24	International Gold Cup	Great Meadow, VA	Steeplechase
Oct. 24	Extreme Bulls & Barrels Bash	Blackstone, VA	Bull/barrel
Oct. 25	Broken Spoke Stables Annual Fall Free Style	Oakland, MD	West/Freestyle
Oct 28	Virginia Polo Fall Invitational	Charlottesville, VA	Polo
Oct 30	Speed Games & Jumpers	Bel Air, MD	Jumper
Oct 30–Nov 1	VQHA Jack O'Lantern Classic	Doswell, VA	Quarter Horse
Oct 31	CDCTA Dressage Schooling Show	Great Meadow, VA	Dressage
Oct 31	Silver Eagle Stable Halloween Jumper Show	Nokesville, VA	Jumper
Oct 31	Fredericksburg Hunter Pace	Lake of the Woods, VA	Hunter Pace
Oct 31	SVERN Just 4 Fun Halloween Show	Clear Brook, VA	Hunter 4 Fun
Nov 1	Farmington Hunt Club Fall Hunter Pace	Charlottesville, VA	Hunter Pace
Nov 1	Roseland Polo Season Finale	Crozet, VA	Polo
Nov. 3	Waredaca Expert Jump Day – Stephen Bradley	Laytonsville, MD	Clinic
Nov 4	BRE Cavalletti Clinic	Hamilton, VA	Clinic
Nov 6–8	Riding Far Immersion – Session 3	Charles Town, WV	Clinic
Nov 7–8	VADA/NOVA Schooling Show & Schooling Championship	Morven Park	Dressage
Nov 7	ECSHA Double Barrel Showdown	Meadow Event Park	Western/Ranch
Nov. 7	Waredaca Nunn Finer Unrecognized Horse Trials	Laytonsville, MD	Eventing
Nov 8	VA Eventing – Keystone Acres	Chesterfield, VA	Eventing
Nov. 13–15	Keystone Barrel Classic	Bloomsburg, PA	Barrel racing
Nov. 14	First Frontier Divisional Circuit Finals	Bloomsburg, PA	Barrel racing
Nov 14–15	Virginia Field Hunter Championships	Morven Park	Field Hunter
Nov. 15	Full Moon Farm Fall Horse Trials	Finksburg, MD	Eventing
Nov 18	BRE Cavalletti Clinic	Hamilton, VA	Clinic
Nov 20–22	AQHA Virginia Harvest Festival Virginia Horse Center	Quarter Horse	
Nov 21	Beverly Circuit Finals	The Plains, VA	Hunter/Jumper
Nov 21	Great Meadow Polo	The Plains, VA	Arena Polo
Nov 21–22	WMEC Holiday Spectacular Dressage Show	Virginia Beach, VA	Dressage
Nov 21	VA Eventing – Calais Horse Trials	Powhatan, VA	Eventing
Nov 21	MHSA Year-End Awards Banquet	Laurel, MD	Industry/Social
Nov. 21	Bullride Mania Finals	Harrisburg, PA	Bull/barrel
Nov. 22	Full Moon Farm IEA Show #2	Finksburg, MD	Hunter/Jumper
Nov 22	Calais Horse Trials & Combined Test	Powhatan, VA	Eventing
Nov 28	Great Meadow Polo Season Finale	The Plains, VA	Polo
Dec 2	Dressage Schooling Show	Hamilton, VA	Dressage
Dec. 6	Full Moon Farm NCAEL Show #1	Finksburg, MD	Hunter/Jumper
Dec 8	Free Jumping Session – The Frame Sporthorses	Hamilton, VA	Training
Dec. 10–13	Wild Card Classic Barrel Race	Chatham, VA	Barrel Racing
Dec 13	Autumn Grove Stables Show	Berlin, MD	Hunter/Jumper
Dec. 13	Full Moon Farm JEL Show #1	Finksburg, MD	Hunter/Jumper
Dec. 13	Country Hill Farm Schooling Show	Westminster, MD	Hunter/Jumper
Dec 20	Meadowbrook Holiday Show	Chevy Chase, MD	Hunter/Jumper
Dec 20–21	McDonogh December Horse Show	Owings Mills, MD	Hunter/Jumper

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16TH

6pm-8pm

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The Shenandoah Valley Equine Rescue Network • PO Box 527, Winchester, VA • svern.org

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2026 Shadow 3 Horse Slant with Drop Feed Windows



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