

The Latest Draft

Voice of the New Jersey Draft Horse and Mule Association



NJDHMA Field Day

The NJDHMA field day is fast approaching. This year's event will be held at Ort's Farm Saturday November 4th from 11 AM to 4 PM. The Field day is the only annual fund raiser for the NJDHMA. If you are interested in bringing your horses or helping out, please contact our Secretary, Heidi Ort. This years schedule includes giant pony rides, wagon rides, log maneuvering, a parade of breeds and harnessing, plowing, riding and grooming demonstrations. Check inside this issue for more details and directions

Allentown horse parade a success

The horse parade scheduled for July 15, 2006 in Allentown, NJ was rescheduled and held on Saturday September 16, 2006. The council made the decision to reschedule the parade due to the excessive temperatures forecast for July 15th. The horse parade was in celebration of Allentown, New Jersey's 300th anniversary and to recognize what horses contribute to our community. Allentown set a proclamation that day to make the second Saturday of September the day of the horse.

Approximately 120 Horses were present. Everything from minis to drafts. The parade was led by 3 mounted police horses; one being a Belgian ridden by a State Trooper. The parade ended with NJDHMA Trustee Gene Berliner driving one of Kevin McMinn's teams pulling the "clean-up" wagon. Gene was awarded the people's choice award. Congratulations Gene!

Mission of the NJDHMA

The New Jersey Draft Horse and Mule Association is organized for the education and promotion of draft horses and mules and the draft horse and mule industry in the state of New Jersey.

Inside this issue:

Mark Your Calendars	2
More Field Day	2
Editors Note	2
Classifieds	3
Election Info	3
Breed Profile	4
Pictures	6

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Mark Your Calendars

September 30 to October 6, 2006—Keystone International Livestock Exhibition
Farm Show Complex & Expo Center in Harrisburg, Pa.
Web-site: <http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/kile/>

October 16, 2007—Officer and Trustee nominations close.

October 17, 2006 7:30PM—NJDHMA General Meeting
Sunset Inn, Clinton, NJ

November 4, 2006—NJDHMA Field Day
Ort's Farm. Rain date—November 5, 2006

December 5, 2006—NJDHMA Election ballots due
Ballots must be post marked by December 5th.

December 19, 2006 7:30PM—NJDHMA General Meeting

More Field Day...

Information Table:

Dave Stover will be manning the information table at Field Day. If you are interested in promoting your breed or your farm, please bring literature or business cards for him to hand out.

Location:

Ort's Farm is located on Bartley Road near the intersection of Route 513 in Long Valley, NJ.

From south take 287 N. to exit 22b (206 N) take 206 N into the town of Chester, Chester Diner is on your right, make a left onto 513 S., towards Long Valley, you will travel approximately 3 miles on 513 S., then you will see signs for Ort Farms, make right onto Bartley Rd., Ort Farms is on both sides of the road parking is on left in field unless other wise specified.

From the west take 78 E. to 287 N. follow directions above

Editor's Note

This is my first attempt at The Latest Draft. I would like hear everyone's comments good or bad. I especially would like feedback on the new format.

I would also like to invite everyone to submit articles for publication in our newsletter. Anything related to what we do with our horses. Some ideas might include: Selecting / buying a

harness or tack, selecting / buying a cart or wagon, caring for it all, safety checks before hitting the road, rules of the road, anything really. Also basic topics to advanced topics. Another suggestion for material might be farm / breeder profiles. Any thoughts? I've taken the liberty of putting a breed profile for the Suffolk Punch in this edition.

Classifieds

Horses for Sale:

Percheron—*Lykens Valley Sonny's Starlight* - Star is a Pretty and Feminine yearling filly. Registered with the Percheron Horse Association of America. She currently stands 16.00 hh and will mature to 17.2 +/- hands. She is sweet and affectionate, well-handled, well-conformed. She'll make a lovely and elegant riding (dressage, foxhunter) or driving horse. Up to Date on all vaccinations, Coggins, farrier, etc. Price Reduced to: \$2,000.00 For more information on this wonderful filly, please call or email Lisa Post. Photos are posted on our Website. **732-786-9015** e-mail: **Chestnutridge.1@Juno.com** web-site: **www.Chestnutridgedressage.com**

Clyde/tb gelding. Bay, four whites, blaze. Very Cute, 16.1 hh. Has fox hunted, jumps in perfect form. Will make great hunter prospect. Price reduced, serious inquiries only. Call Win at **973-615-6745**.

Need a great riding horse? Try a Clydesdale! Great for trails, jumping, dressage, fox hunting...etc. Their temperaments can't be beat! We have all ages and colors to choose from. Once you ride a draft you'll never go back! For a test ride call Heidi at **908-391-4073**

2006 Officer and Trustee Elections

The NJDHMA is currently accepting nominations for the upcoming Officer and Trustee elections. If you are interested in being an Officer or Trustee or wish to nominate someone, you must contact the Secretary, Heidi Ort, no later than October 16, 2006. Please remember if you are nominated and wish to be an Officer or Trustee your dues must be paid. Nominees whose dues are not paid will not be permitted to have their names on the ballot. Also, all nominees will be contacted by Heidi Ort and must be available to accept their nomination before their name will

appear on the ballot. Election ballots will be mailed in November. Also, Please remember ballots will need to be post marked by the return date specified.

Current nominees are:

President: Tony Vecchiolla

Brian Crocket

Vice-President: Kevin McMinn

Secretary/Treasurer: Heidi Ort

Trustees (5 positions): Win Lake, Dave Stover, Gene Berliner, Phillip Yohe, Sharon Vecchiolla, and Mary Tolmie.

Newsletter Info

At the August meeting of the NJDHMA it was decided The Latest Draft will be published bi-monthly. The Next issue will be published in November. The deadline for articles and classified ads will be November 5, 2006.

Breed Profile: Suffolk Punch

History of the Suffolk Punch:

Today's best-known breeds of draft horses are said to date back to the great war horses of Medieval times. But while these great titans clashed in mortal combat, the quiet farmers of eastern England went about developing their own breed of heavy horse, the Suffolk Punch. This one breed is today the least known to Americans, and yet perhaps has more qualities appealing to the American breeder and draft horse employer than any of the better-known breeds of draft horses.

The homeland of the Suffolk horses is Norfolk and Suffolk counties. It is bordered on the north, east and south by the North Sea and on the west by the Fens. Isolated from their neighbors, the farmers of Suffolk independently developed breeds of livestock to fit their special way of life. To plow the heavy clay soil they needed an agricultural horse with power, but also stamina, health, longevity, and docility. So these fine husbandmen produced the Suffolk horse and bred him for the attributes that fulfilled their needs.

The Suffolk farmer used his horses to till and harvest his own land, so seldom did he have horses to sell. This not only kept the Suffolk relatively unknown but also pure, remaining unchanged and true to his original purpose: to be a strong and faithful worker for his master. Of all the draft breeds, the Suffolk is one of the oldest in existence with records dating back to 1880. Crisp's Horse of Ufford, the foundation stallion of the breed was foaled in 1768.

The Suffolk in North America was hard hit by the headlong mechanization of the post World War II period. Although it had made great strides in popularity during the 30's, it still did not have the numerical base necessary to withstand the onslaught of the 50's.

For a few years the American Suffolk Horse Association ceased to function. Then in the early 60's as the draft horse market began its recovery, the few widely scattered breeders who had kept faith with their Suffolks reorganized, holding their first meeting in 15 years in May of 1961.

The early 70's some outstanding horses were imported from England. While interest in the draft horse in general was expanding, the demand for Suffolks also began to increase. The early 80's saw an encouraging increase in the number of Suffolks registered and once again there have been some excellent horses imported from England.

Breed Conformation:

Suffolks are large, symmetrical and uniform in color and type. Their frames are supported by clean, dense bone. Due to their extreme draftiness, the legs of the Suffolk appear short and are strongly muscled in forearms and gaskins. They are

placed well under the horse and are free of long hair. Their excellent feet are round, of fair size and wear extremely well, shod or unshod.

Suffolks possess intelligent heads with active ears, powerful and arching necks that are clean cut at the throat. The shoulders are inclined to be upright, suitable for power rather than action. The back is short and strong, the ribs springing high from the backbone. The quarters are long and smooth to the root of the tail, which springs higher up than in other breeds. The hipbones are wide apart but smoothly covered, the croup usually level.

Depth and thickness from the withers to the leg are essential and a Suffolk should be as deep in the flank as over the heart.

Characteristically the whole appearance of the Suffolk is a pleasant, roundly modeled whole that pertains, like the singleness of color, to no other breed.

The average height of a Suffolk horse is 16.1 hands, but many stallions may stand up to 17 hands and more.

A Typical Suffolk Disposition:

The Suffolk is a horse of splendid disposition and easy temperament. He exhibits a ready willingness to work, great endurance, and the quality known as "Heart", the inner determination to push on. The Suffolk farmer referred to this quality when he said he valued the Suffolk as "a puller of dead weight and indeed a good drawer."

The Suffolk Color:

Their color is chestnut, ranging in shade from light golden to dark liver. White markings occur, but in general are not as prominent as in other breeds, most of them being confined to a star or snip and white ankles or fetlocks. No other color is tolerated or is admissible to registry in the Stud Book. The beauty of the Suffolk is best summed up in the words of the writer, Marguerite Henry, when she said:

"His color is bright chestnut--like a tongue of fire against black field furrows, against green corn blades, against yellow wheat, against blue horizons. Never is he any other color."

Information provided by the American Suffolk Horse Association.
<http://www.suffolkpunch.com>



Kevin McMinn with his team Frank and Fritz at the Monmouth County 4-H fair's obstacle course competition on July 28th.



Gene Berliner plowing in the novice class at the 23rd annual Plowing Match held at Howell Farm on September 9th.



Mary Tolmie with her team Lori and Sheila at the Allentown Horse Parade on September 16th.



Win Lake and Heidi Ort with their team Duke and Stanley at the Allentown Horse Parade on September 16th.

**NJDHMA
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