

# Berks Horse Expo draws crowd of 2500

BY LAUREL SCHAEFFER  
Staff Correspondent

**READING** — Equine enthusiasts converged on the Berks Penn State Campus, Student Learning Center, here recently to attend the 1980 Berks County Horse Exposition.

This popular day-long event offered something for everybody. Featured throughout the day were seminars given by various experts on topics ranging from Equine insurance to pasture management. Movies and slide presentations were also shown continuously about different breeds or educational topics, such as safety, saddle selections or health hints.

Approximately 40 exhibitors, commercial and clubs were also on hand, offering tips and displaying their wares.

Jane Wylie, Chester County Horse Leader, spoke on competitive trail riding. Wylie told her audience that the average back yard horse "can do it," but the horse must be fit, sound, and well shod. Wylie was speaking of a trail ride in which competitors cover five miles in about 45 minutes.

Small horses usually do better, which is why Arabian make good long distance competitors, Wylie explained. These horses are snorter, having less ribs than most breeds. Heavily muscled horses normally won't do well.

Pasterns should be set at a 45-degree angle on these horses, the audience was told. Hocks are also important in selecting a good trail competitor. They should not be placed too narrow or too wide apart, Wylie continued.

The horse should be exercised six days a week. They should be ridden over all types of terrain. She also challenged her audience to learn to trot a horse downhill.

Other subjects discussed during the day included the revival of carriage driving for pleasure, horse health care - worming, vaccinations, and teeth; Blue Marsh Lake - present and future; and the law and your horse.

The expo offered a horse bowl for youth in which 14 teams competed and an art contest as well. Winning the "People's Choice Award" for the art contest was Kelly Finnegan, Lansdale, a student of Kutztown State College. Elaine Schelgel, Mohnton, was awarded the Berks County Equine Council Letterhead Award for her art work.

Climaxing the entire day of horse bowl competition was the winning team Antietam Hoofbeats. Members of this team included Steve Imes, Fleetwood; Kerry Schwoyer, Fleetwood; Lori James, Leesport; and Lois Tomoseski, Reading.

Second place was Berks Blue. Team members were Betsy Heist, Sinking Spring; JoLyn Wagner,

Reading; Jill Todd, Sinking Spring; and Jane Osborne, Leesport. Third place went to Berks White, which consisted of Bonnie Troutman, Sinking Spring; Pierre Chadwick, Reading; Babs Neidhardt, Denver; and Jean Koller, Shillington.

Placing fourth were the Spurs and Burrs. Team members were Gretchen

and Kendra Vanderford, Martha Willard, and Bonnie Hottle, all of Bucks County.

Clyde Myers, Berks County Extension Agent said that approximately 2500 people attended the expo this year, making it the largest turnout for this event in its four year history.



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