

Little guy does big things

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spare acreage there, he put in a few horses for the family to ride. Equine interest whetted, Mills then acquired a couple of brood mares and began dabbling in the breeding business.

"We bought our first racehorse before we even ever attended a race, because a friend suggested it might be a good business," recalls the quiet-spoken, full-time horse breeder. That was in 1965. It was about a year until the Mills family had their first win, when their entry Gun Talk came in first in a race at Timonium.

In 1971, on the recommendation of his veterinarian, Mills claimed the four-year-old Captain, My Captain at a Pimlico "claiming race." Claiming races are one method of marketing young race horses, in which owners list a selling price on their entry. After the race, an interested buyer can "claim" the horse by paying the pre-stated price.

Captain, My Captain is Kentucky-bred, a son of Turn-To, out of a daughter of Double Jay. Most of Turn-To's offspring have proven to be good runners and breeders, and Captain was no exception.

The handsome, now-15-year-old sire, has proved to be a powerful

transmitter of desirable characteristics, siring youngsters that both run and breed for long periods of time.

About 60 of his offspring, or about 86 percent, have raced, which Mills estimates probably puts Captain in the top fifth of the better racing sires.

His services continue to be steady demand by other thoroughbred breeders, and Captain recently saw his second heaviest season of use, servicing about 35 mares. Service fee is \$500, which in Mills' opinion makes the well-proven stud one of the best values around.

Breeding season for the thoroughbreds runs from the beginning of March through June. Ideally, though, foals should be born soon after Jan. 1, since any animal born after that date is considered a yearling the following January. As two-year-olds, all race in the same age bracket, regardless of January or June birthdates.

Foals are weaned from three to six months of age, and go on the 14 percent protein feed custom mixed for Mills by Spangler and Sprengle of York. Mills has switched from straight alfalfa hay, which he feels may be a bit rich for the equine

system, to a forage of good-quality, mixed hay. Once mares foal, they are fed timothy hay.

Breeding back is on the nine-day return heat period after foaling, with about 25 to 30 percent of the mares settling back at the first service. Another 50 percent generally settle with the second heat in 20 days.

During the breeding season, more than one hundred mares are sometimes running in the 100-acre of pasture, split into several sections. About 50 head are in residence at Willow Tree Farms.

Mills' top priority in his breeding program is to continually upgrade his breeding stock, primarily using his own animals with practically no outside buying.

Captain's daughters are being crossed into a different blood line, using their farm's new stallion Con Man. All foals must be registered with the Jockey Club, out of New York, by Aug. 30 of the year they were born.

Education for the yearlings begins with Willow Tree Farm's resident trainer, Joe Whitehead, who also is in charge of exercising the youngsters around the 3/8 mile track on the farm each morning. The year's foal crop, usually about 15, begins their "classes" in September and continue in training through mid-November

when they're turned out for the winter.

In March, their training begins again, until they're taken into residence at Penn National Race Track, Grantville in late spring for "further education." That includes introduction to such track amenities as the starting gate, plus learning to race with competitors.

Proven racers will go in stakes races, such as the Keystone at Penn National. One daughter of Captain, a seven-year-old named Count On Captain, is in her fifth year of racing and has earned \$120,000. Last year, she took a second at the Keystone.

The entire Mills family is involved in the Thoroughbred business. Son Dennis trains the farm's 15 racing horses kept at the Grantville track on a regular basis. His wife Gwen also lends a hand. Daughter Kay is in charge of the bookkeeping, and Paul's wife, Pearl, assists at the track, is in charge of the brood mare barn and puts in extra hours during the foaling season.

"I just like to stay here and do the work at home," confesses Mills, who points with pride to the rolling green pastures that he keeps trimmed as neatly as a suburban lawn.

Mills' affability and accomplishments have earned him

the respect of fellow equine breeders, who recently elected him vice president of the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association.

One of that group's prime goals is to have state legislators revamp the sale tax law to exempt their costs from the six percent levy. Horse breeders have battled for several years against the ruling that they're not considered agriculture and must continue to pay the sales tax on such major items as feed, tack, hay, and straw. Breeders are optimistic they will be effective in having the law changed, which would add incentive to keep race horse breeding farms in Pennsylvania and to bring in others.

Probably the biggest incentive for Pennsylvania breeding and foaling is the Pennsylvania Breeding Fund, which Mills has topped in winnings for the past five years. Pennsylvania races pay a premium to state-born animals, with the breeder getting 20 percent of the purse, and the stallion owner and present owner of the competing animal each claiming ten percent.


"Every little guy has a chance in the Thoroughbred business," is Mills' evaluation of the industry.

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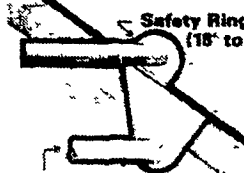
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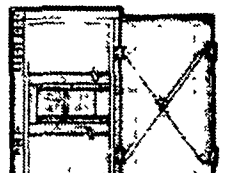
8
Corrugated Perforated Floors are available in 20 gauge, 18 gauge, 16 gauge and 14 gauge galvanized steel. Corrugated flooring is also furnished in cut lengths to cover ducts or tunnels for flush floor aeration systems.



9
Peak Collar Assembly and Cap has a 40 diameter opening standard on all GSI bins allowing greater air flow reducing the need for additional openings in the roof. 24 spreader ring comes as standard equipment.



10
Safety Ring comes standard with all GSI bins 18' 48" Safety Ring Bracket ties Safety Ring to each roof panel forming a strong integral roof system. Bridging Ring comes standard with GSI bins 42' and 48' completing roof supporting system.



11
2 Ring Bin Door is galvanized with corrugated jamba for sure fit to the bin sidewalls. Outer door is one piece galvanized for long life. Inner door with pressure action door latches independently opens into three sections.



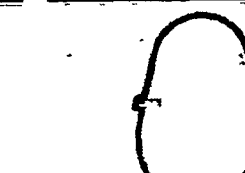
12
Bin Door Step is an optional all weather slip resistant step. Unique perforated step means maximum traction in all weather situations. Makes for easy access to bin door.



13
Hold Down Bracket with optional J Bolt and Hairpin secures bin to the concrete foundation forming a sturdy base. J Bolt adjustment for easier bin erection. Corrugated Hold Down fits tight to bin pre-punched to fit at seam of sidewall sheets.



14
GSI Access Equipment consists of Ladders, Cages and Bin Eave Platforms. All are galvanized requiring no field drilling or cutting. Cages provide safe access to bin Platform which has slip resistant floor and galvanized handrails.



15
Oblong Manway is another added feature of GSI bins. The extra large oblong manway provides an opening for easy access. Top hinges completely out of way when open. Rounded edges provide safe entrance and exit through manway.



16
Roof Vent provides a large unobstructed opening to increase air movement through grain and eliminate excessive condensation deposits on the inside of the roof. Eliminates climbing on roof in bad weather conditions to open peak ring cap. Includes bird screen.



2
Flush Floor Aeration Systems are available for grain conditioning when a raised floor system is not desirable. Selected pieces can be combined to form T, U and L shaped aeration layouts. All pieces bolt together and use a perforated corrugated sheet for covers.



3
Formed Flashing fits bin wall without field cutting. It can be used with all types of floor systems offered by GSI. It provides a smooth surface with less seams for more efficient operation of bin sweeps and cleaning devices.



4
"Grand Stand™" Floor Supports for Cor Lok and Channel Lok floors. Fewer pieces and absence of rails makes installation easier. Snap-in Hooks hold support securely to the floor preventing shifting when bin is empty and fan is on. Now with added opening for better under floor air flow.



5
"Mono Rail™" Floor Support is used to support corrugated floors and Channel Lok floors. Complete floor system available in various heights. Pieces snap together for fast and easy assembly. Spacing angles automatically set at 20' and 10' with no measuring needed.



1
Fan Transitions are available with pre-cut faceplates for all sizes of GSI fans when specified with an order. Ease of assembly and attachment to bin makes the transition a necessary item in the GSI air delivery system.

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