

York 4-H'ers adopt 50,000th wild horse

LEWISBERRY — The 50,000 animals adopted through the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) wild horse and burro adoption program is now in the care of the Echoing Hoofbeats 4-H Club in York County.

The club received their wild horse, promptly named "Sir Echo," on Saturday, Sept. 29 during Wild Horse and Burro Days weekend festivities at the Northeast Adoption Center in Lewisberry, near Harrisburg.

G. Curtis Jones, Jr., Director of the Eastern States office of BLM, presented the adoption papers to Sue Whiting, Echoing Hoofbeats 4-H Club Coordinator. Jones stated that the 50,000th adoption was a milestone for the program which started in 1973. The 4-H Club was selected to make the 50,000th adoption because of its members' devotion to wild horses and burros, the work they have voluntarily performed at the Center, and the enthusiasm they have shown in promoting adoption among their peers.

According to Jones, the yearling bay colt adopted by the club was rounded up this summer on public rangelands in Nevada, the State with the largest wild horse herds in the Nation. Of the estimated 49,000

wild horses on the public lands, more than 29,000 are in Nevada.

"Sir Echo is responding well," stated Mrs. Whiting a few days after the adoption. "The girls have been working slowly with him, trying to take the rough edges off. We'll be using him in all the 4-H shows—in grooming, showmanship, and halter classes until he's old enough to ride." Club members are keeping a log book of Sir Echo's training activities to show to potential adopters.

Members of the 4-H Club have adopted five other wild horses, which have been gentled and trained for club activities such as trail riding, parades, drill team, and horse show events. In addition, they "adopted" the Northeast Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Center in August. They use the center as a place to hold meetings and shows and for work-study projects. Under supervision, they help around the center, clean pens, feed the animals, and encourage their peers to adopt animals.

The nationwide Adopt-A-Horse program has placed excess wild horses and burros with individuals in every State except Hawaii. The animals have been tamed and trained for riding, farm work and other everyday uses.

The Northeast Adoption Center, operated by Frank and Doris Goodlander, has been the site of over a thousand wild horse and burro adoptions since it opened in July 1982. The second annual Wild Horse and Burro Days was held to

focus attention on the animals available for adoption and how to train them. According to Goodlander, the activities offer a good showcase for all aspects of the program, from roundup to receiving title to an adopted horse

or burro. Information on how to adopt an excess horse or burro may be obtained from Adopt-A-Horse, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Now is time to take soil test

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — Fall is "prime time" for taking soil samples for testing, according to Calvin Wettstein, Hunterdon, N.J. county agent.

"It's well ahead of planting," he said. "We promote sampling in fall for spring-planted crops, and sampling in summer for fall-planted crops."

Samples will arrive at the laboratory well in advance of needs and results can be worked into the plans for the coming planting season.

Why Test?

"Liming and fertilizing without a soil test is like building a house without a blueprint," he explained. "The test will provide the pH, the measure of soil acidity, the levels of phosphorus, potassium, magnesium and calcium in the soil. We then add our recommendations for liming and fer-

tilizing for the particular crop and the type of soil involved."

Proper Sampling Essential

It goes without saying, you have to start with a good sample, one that's hopefully representative of the field...or lawn, or garden, he said.

Choose a suitable sampling tool. That may be a probe, an auger, or a spade.

If the field has more than one distinct area, you may want to divide it and take a sample for each area. But most generally, you treat one field as one sample area.

Take the soil sample from surface to plow depth, and do this, at random, from a dozen to 15 spots on the field. If you use a spade, save soil from the middle of the slice.

Mix soil well in a clean container. From this take the required

amount for the test...that's about a cupful. Number the sample and keep a record of fields and their numbers.

Fill out the information sheet accurately. It will ask for the crop, whether its existing or to be seeded, last year's crop, and when and what fertilizer and lime had been added.

Ship the samples to the lab and await the results. The Rutgers Soil Test Laboratory takes about two weeks this time of year. In early spring, it could mean a 3 to 4-week wait.

There is a \$5 charge for a Rutgers soil test. We have the pre-paid mailers in the Cooperative Extension office, Hunterdon County Extension Center, Rt. 31, north of Flemington.

And, a pH test will be done if liming is intended. The agent has an excellent pH meter and the test is free. Martha Maletta, Home Horticulturist, runs the pH tests.

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