

DVC to Offer Equine Degree

DOYLESTOWN — What began as a single course in Light Horse Production back in 1971 has developed into a two-year degree program in Equine Science at Delaware Valley College.

Beginning in September, students will be able to earn an Associate's Degree in Equine Science. The Pennsylvania Department of Education granted approval of the program in early January.

Dr. Frederick R. Hofsaess, who taught the College's first-ever equine course, thinks the new degree program will allow students to develop their love for and interest in horses into a rewarding career.

"This program fills a need in this geographical area," said Hofsaess, who manages the College's equine facilities and breeding program. "In the past, students who wanted to become involved with an equine program would have to go to New England or Virginia. Very few schools in this area offer this type of program. We have the expertise and facilities to provide this service to students."

According to Hofsaess, DelVal's new program will emphasize professionalism and training while producing a well-rounded horseperson educated in all aspects of equine science.

Career possibilities, said Hofsaess, include riding instructor, facilities (riding or training) manager, groom, veterinary assistant, foaling manager, and sales of equine-related materials.

"The entire industry is growing," said Hofsaess. "The horse is a recreational animal. As people look for more interesting leisure activities to get involved with interest in horses tends to increase tremendously."

Among the broad areas covered in the two-year degree program will be driving, training, riding, breeding and business management. All courses will be taught with the same philosophy of

practical, hands-on experience which has been proven so successful at Delaware Valley College since 1896.

All of the College's horse production facilities are located on campus. The College maintains a herd of standardbred broodmare, stallions, and young stock for use in stable management courses. The facilities include a 16-box stable, breeding barn with laboratory and washstall, and two run-out sheds.

DelVal is one of only three colleges or universities in the country which maintains a herd of standardbreds, said Hofsaess. The advantage, he explained, is that students are able to be trained in breeding techniques which are not available with other types of horses.

The horsemanship and training courses in the program will be conducted at Wildemere Farm, which is located approximately six miles from campus. This dressage and training facility features a 16-box stable, 20-by-40-meter indoor arena, and large turnout areas.

The horses used in the horsemanship and training courses are selected based on their training, temperament, and suitability to purpose. A number of "green" riding and driving horses are maintained for use in the training courses, as well as advanced horses with successful show records.

The College is an active member of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association, Region V. Hunt Seat (English) and Stock Seat (Western) horse shows are hosted by various colleges and universities each semester.

DelVal's teams have shown considerable success over the years. The College has been represented at Nationals by the Western Team in 1985 and by the English Team in 1986. The current national champion "Intermediate on the Flat" is a Delaware Valley

College student.

The Equine Science program was in the planning stages for three years, said Hofsaess. The program was approved by the College's Animal Husbandry Department, Curriculum Committee, President, and Academic Dean, and the Education Committee of the Board of Trustees before it was reviewed in Harrisburg.

Hofsaess emphasized that students enrolled in the two-year program will be treated the same

as those enrolled in any of the College's four-year programs. Housing, meals, and social activities will be available to everyone on an equal basis.

After completing the two-year program, students will have the option to study and work overseas. Agreements have been reached in the United Kingdom, Germany and Switzerland to allow students to study in those countries for up to one year. Students who elect this option will have their room and board, along with a modest living

expense, provided. Airfare will be refunded by the overseas employer upon successful completion of the program.

For more information about Delaware Valley College's new two-year degree program in Equine Science, contact the Office of Admissions at (215) 345-1500, or toll-free 1-800-DVC-6000 (for Pennsylvania residents) or 1-800-DVC-7000 (for out of state residents). Or write to the Office of Admissions, Delaware Valley College, Doylestown, PA 18901.



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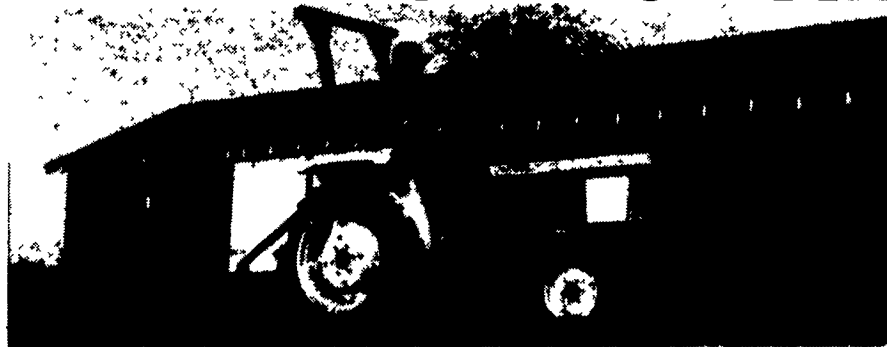
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