

Percheron Mare Takes First Supreme Draft Horse Title

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HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)
— A former dairy family that eventually sold its herd of registered and grade Holsteins to buy draft horses now claims ownership to the first supreme champion draft horse in Pennsylvania.

The top horse out of six entrants from three breeds was a six-year-old Percheron mare named Marissa Laet owned by Gerald Allebach, 26, of Spring Mills, Centre County.

Allebach said that getting the title was "wonderful. I love it." He has been showing horses at the Farm Show since he was 10 years old, and this year was the best.

However, he said that among the horse people there was some "mixed feelings about whether they like it (the new title) or not. Needless to say, I like it a lot," Allebach said.

Allebach and his father, Abraham, operate a 450-acre farm that they converted to a horse farm from a dairy farm because, "There's no money in dairy. Now the horses are supporting us. In the beginning, though, the cows bought a lot of horses."

The Allebach's show both Clydesdale and Percheron horses across the United States and in Canada. Marissa Laet recently had

won big in Canada at the Royal Winter Fair as part of a team of registered mares. The Farm Show title means more, Allebach said, because, "It's our home show, the state show."

It almost seemed destined that the Allebach family was destined to take the title; they had three out of the six grand champions. Along with the top Percheron mare, they lay claim to the top Clydesdale stallion and mare.

Although Allebach is a car sales manager in the State College area by vocation, he is also heavily involved with his family business.

"We do a lot of breeding of outside mares. We're also into artificial breeding—no one else is into it—and we also do crossbreeding for hunter-jumpers."

Percheron and Clydesdale horse judge Larry Honsberger, Port Clinton, Ohio, said the winning aspect of Allebach's horse wasn't necessarily her conformation and development. He said all six horses were top horses on a national basis.

"To me, the thing she has is a very good ring presence. She says she's a champion over the other ones," Honsberger said.

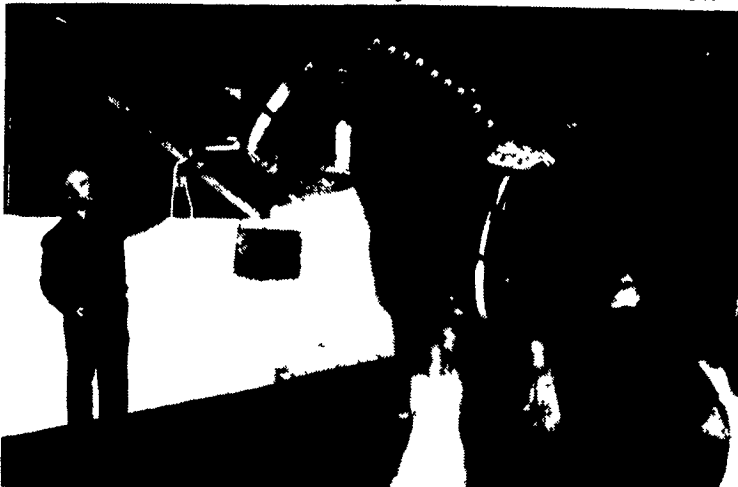
Bill McGrew, Belgian judge, and Honsberger co-judged for the first supreme title. McGrew agreed that "Showmanship has a lot to do



Gerald Allebach with the supreme champion draft horse of the 1990 Farm Show, Marissa Laet. Holding the banner is Draft Horse Association president Luke Bruckhart with draft horse princess Dotty Sue Wagner.



Windsor Hills Daniel, a son of Blackhome Duke out of Windermers Dixie, was named grand champion Percheron stallion. Daniel was exhibited by Michael and Teresa Wian.



Abraham Allebach talks to grand champion Clydesdale stallion, Ambassador Danny Boy.



The grand champion Belgian mare award went to Carolyn Cinderella owned by Arthur E. Reist of Lancaster.

with it."

McGrew said that although the decision was made within 10 minutes. It wasn't all that easy. "The thing is we had six good horses come back. Sometimes it's pretty hard to change breeds, and if you are a breeder you naturally think your breed is best. You have to try to overcome that and go for the best horse."

Winning the champion spot among the Percheron stallions was a yearling named Windsor Hills Daniel owned by Michael and Teresa Wian of Spring Mills in Centre County. Daniel is a February '88 son of Blackhome Duke out of Windermers Dixie. Wian horses also won the Percheron produce of mare and Percheron stallion of any age bred by the exhibitor.

Arthur E. Reist of Lancaster led out a three-year-old Belgian that beat out the competition for the grand champion Belgian mare title. Carolyns Cinderella is a Orndorff's Premier daughter out of Carolyn. Besides Cinderella, the senior champion, Reist showed the reserve junior champion mare.

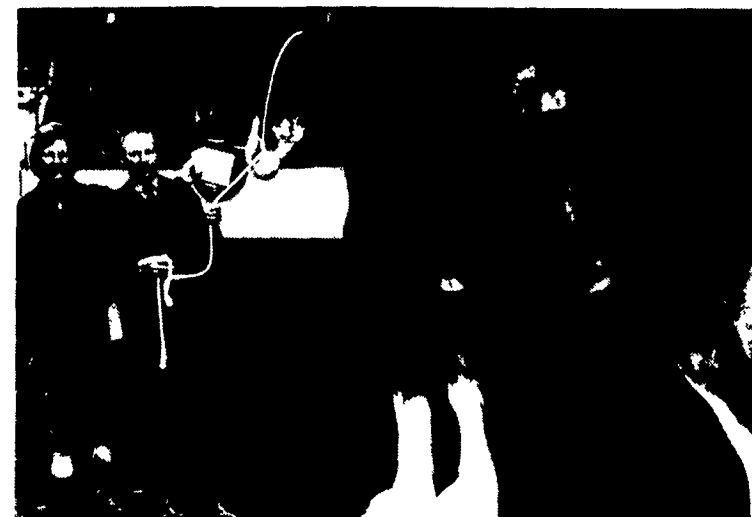
A main contender in the Belgian classes was Orndorff's Belgians of Waynesburg. The grand champion Belgian stallion title went to Congolaise Supreme, a five-time Farm Show winner. Congolaise is an '81 Congolaise son out of Orndorff's Highland Sue. The Orndorff family also showed the reserve grand champion Belgian mare and won classes such as Belgian junior get of sire, Belgian stallion and two mares, and Belgian two mares belonging to one exhibitor.

A partial listing of the winners follows.

- BELGIANS**
5 Years & Older Stallion
Orndorff's Belgians
2 Year To 3 Year Stallion
Steve & Ruth Showalter
1 Year To 2 Year Stallion
1 Elmer D. Lapp, 2. Daniel Lee Witmer.
Stallion Foal
1 Lewis & Gail Biddle, 2. Chris & E. Moore & Family, 3. Vance A. Good
Senior Champion
Orndorff's Belgians
Junior Champion
Elmer D. Lapp
Reserve Junior Champion
Fewis & Gail Biddle
Grand Champion
Orndorff's Belgians
Reserve Grand Champion
Elmer D. Lapp
Stallion, Bred By Exhibitor
1. Orndorff's Belgians, 2. Elmer D. Lapp.
5 Years & Older Mare
1 Orndorff's Belgians, 2. Lewis & Gail Biddle, 3. James Warren.
4-Year-Old Mare
1. Donald Sherwood, 2. Paul H Fenstermaker, 3. J.E. Zinn.



Corbly Orndorff of Waynesburg, Greene County, leads the grand champion Belgian stallion, a five-time Farm Show winner, Congolaise Supreme.



Abraham and Mary Allebach, Spring Mills, are all smiles with the grand champion Clydesdale mare, Royal Crystal.

- 3-Year-Old Mare
1. Arthur E. Reist, 2. Donald Sherwood, 3. Paul H. Fenstermaker.
2-Year-Old Mare
1. Orndorff's Belgians, 2. Lewis & Gail Biddle, 3. Paul I. Yoder.
1-Year-Old Mare
1. Arthur E. Reist, 2. Paul I. Yoder, 3. Elmer D. Lapp.
Mare Foal
1. Nathan Yoder, 2. Orndorff's Belgians, 3. Steve & Ruth Showalter.
Senior Champion
Arthur E. Reist
Reserve Champion
Orndorff's Belgians
Junior Champion
Orndorff's Belgians
Reserve Junior Champion
Arthur E. Reist
Grand Champion
Arthur E. Reist
Reserve Champion
Orndorff's Belgians
Mare, Bred By Exhibitor
1. Arthur E. Reist, 2. Orndorff's Belgians, 3. Orndorff's Belgians.
Junior Get of Sire
1. Orndorff's Belgians, 2. Nathan Yoder, 3. L & L & Mike Landis.
Get of Sire
1. Donald Sherwood, 2. Elmer D. Lapp.
Produce of Mare
1. Donald Sherwood, 2. Nathan Yoder.
Mare and Foal
1. Steve & Ruth Showalter, 2. Gewis & Gail Biddle, 3. Elmer D. Lapp.
Stallion & 2 Mares
1. Orndorff's Belgians, 2. Lewis & Gail Biddle, 3.
- Elmer D. Lapp.
2 Mares Owned by 1 Exhibitor
1. Orndorff's Belgians, 2. Arthur E. Reist, 3. Donald Sherwood.
3-Year-Old Gelding
1. David Kleckner, 2. Robert W. Decker, 3. Robert W. Decker.
Gelding Mated Team
Robert W. Decker
CYLDESDALES
5 Years & Older Stallion
Abraham W. Allebach
Stallion Foal
Monica J. Allebach
Senior Champion
Abraham W. Allebach
Junior Champion
Monica J. Allebach
Grand Champion
Abraham W. Allebach
Reserve Grand Champion
Monica J. Allebach
Stallion, Bred by Exhibitor
Monica J. Allebach
5 Years & Older Mare
Edward H. Johnston
4-Year-Old Mare
Edward H. Johnston
3-Year-Old Mare
Edward H. Johnston
2-Year-Old Mare
Gerald L. & C. Allebach
1-Year-Old Mare
1. Gerald L. & C. Allebach, 2. Debra Rhoad & A Reynolds.

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