

# Paso Finos: Learning To Recognize Truebreds

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ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.)—

All truebred Paso Fino horses have a singular identifying trait — a four-beat, lateral, synchronized

gait, no matter what their speed.

On Wednesday, Rick Shaffer, Paso Fino trainer, educated more than 100 visitors to a special breeding horse clinic in the morning at Ag Progress Days.

Along with his father Dick of R&S Paso Finos in Somerset, Rick Shaffer provided examples of the enormous potential of the breed to horse enthusiasts at the ag show-case event.

According to Dick Shaffer, Paso Finos (a Spanish name which means "prime step") originated from Spain and were brought to North America on Columbus' second voyage. Dick called the Paso Fino the "oldest new breed" and said all true Paso Finos exhibit the same footfall.

Rick Shaffer, who has won several national championships with R&S Paso Finos, according to his mother, Lynn, rode two horses at Ag Progress. One, used for general purposes, was a 15-year-old gelding, Don Roberta Cabal, to demonstrate the various speeds. Another was a stallion used primarily for breeding, a 7-year-old named El Glatador de Plebeyo.

Both horses exhibited the classic identifying characteristic called "brio," Spanish for "spirit" or "fire." They can move quickly with a lot of force.

The trademark behavior is fine, "as long as it's controllable," said Rick, who has trained horses for many years.

The gelding is an old trail horse that can do "just a little bit of everything," said Dick. Don Roberta exhibits brio on a level of 6 or 7 on a scale of 10, according to Rick.

Rick took the gelding through a variety of speeds, demonstrating the four basics: a walk, corto (medium gait), largo (the fastest gait), and the highest gait, fino. "I like to see brio in the breed," he said. "If you don't have that brio, you shouldn't go into the show ring, because you won't place."

"Another strong characteristic of the Paso Fino breed is the ability to go from full speed to stop in a matter of seconds.

"I've never worked with another (breed) that can demonstrate this," Shaffer said.

Shaffer, in full show uniform,

took the stallion through a variety of paces, showing the enormous control he was able to maintain over the horse.

The Shaffers have been breeding horses since 1975. They became involved in breeding the Paso Finos in 1982-1983, investing a lot of time and money into getting the bloodlines they believe are the best in the world.

Rick has helped in training the horses since he began 4-H. He won the Bob Evans award at 12 years of age.

Also at the horse events, a special equine educational program highlighted some of the games that can be set up for 4-H members to play safely. Kathy Brown, of KAMY Stables in Belfont, showed some of the events that could be staged for 4-H members.

The events included games of Simon Says, walk tag, jog tag, dollar (bareback) saddle, egg in spoon, broom polo, and others.

The games help 4-H'ers extend the walk of the horse, listen to orders, improve their riding skills, and help them learn better horsemanship and other riding and demonstration skills.



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## Central Western Dairy Show Held

**BUTLER (Butler Co.)** — The Central Western Regional Dairy Show was held recently at the new dairy cattle barn at the Butler County Fairgrounds.

Following are show results:

### CENTRAL WESTERN REGIONAL DAIRY SHOW RESULTS

#### AYRSHIRE

Spring Jr. Calf: 1. Elaina M. Rader, 2. Bobbi Jo Bauder.  
Winter Int. Calf: 1. Rachel Anne Kline, 2. Sharon L. Rader.  
Fall Sr. Calf: 1. Gregory White, 2. Heather Irene Bauder.  
Spring Jr. Yearling: 1. Alicia B. Schubert.  
Winter Int. Yearling: 1. Elaina M. Rader,

2. Alicia B. Schubert, 3. Ryan Palmer  
Fall Sr. Yearling: 1. Sharon L. Rader.  
Junior Champion: Rachel Kline.  
Reserve Junior Champion: Elaina Rader.  
Dry Cow 2-Yr. & Over: 1. Stephen White, 2. John A. Rader.  
Junior 2-Year-Old: 1. Crystal Bozliniski, 2. John A. Rader, 3. Daniel Braddock.  
Senior 2-Year-Old: 1. Sharon L. Rader, 2. Elaina M. Rader.  
Junior 3-Year-Old: 1. Daniel Braddock.  
Senior 3-Year-Old: 1. John A. Rader.  
Four-Year-Old: 1. John A. Rader, 2. Sharon L. Rader.  
Senior Champion: John A. Rader.  
Reserve Senior Champion: Sharon Rader.  
Grand Champion: John A. Rader.  
Reserve Grand Champion: Sharon Rader.

Best Animal Bred and Owned: John Rader.

#### JERSEY

Spring Jr. Calf: 1. Roberta S. McConnell, 2. Joy Ellen McConnell, 3. Justin C. Spencer.  
Winter Int. Calf: 1. Matthew C. Rassau, 2. John A. Rhea, 3. Roberta S. McConnell.  
Fall Sr. Calf: 1. Crystal Bozliniski, 2. Roberta S. McConnell, 3. Rachel Kenny.  
Summer Yearling: 1. Carrie Mae Wack.  
Spring Jr. Yearling: 1. Crystal Joy Rassau, 2. Elaina M. Rader, 3. Roberta S. McConnell.  
Winter Int. Yearling: 1. Matthew C. Rassau, 2. Nicholas K. Rummell, 3. Joy Ellen McConnell.  
Fall Sr. Yearling: 1. Crystal Joy Rassau.  
Junior Champion: Crystal Jo Rassau.  
Reserve Junior Champion: Matthew C. Rassau.  
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Grand Champion Ayrshire, from left, John Rader and Jessica Whiting, Lawrence/Beaver Dairy Princess.

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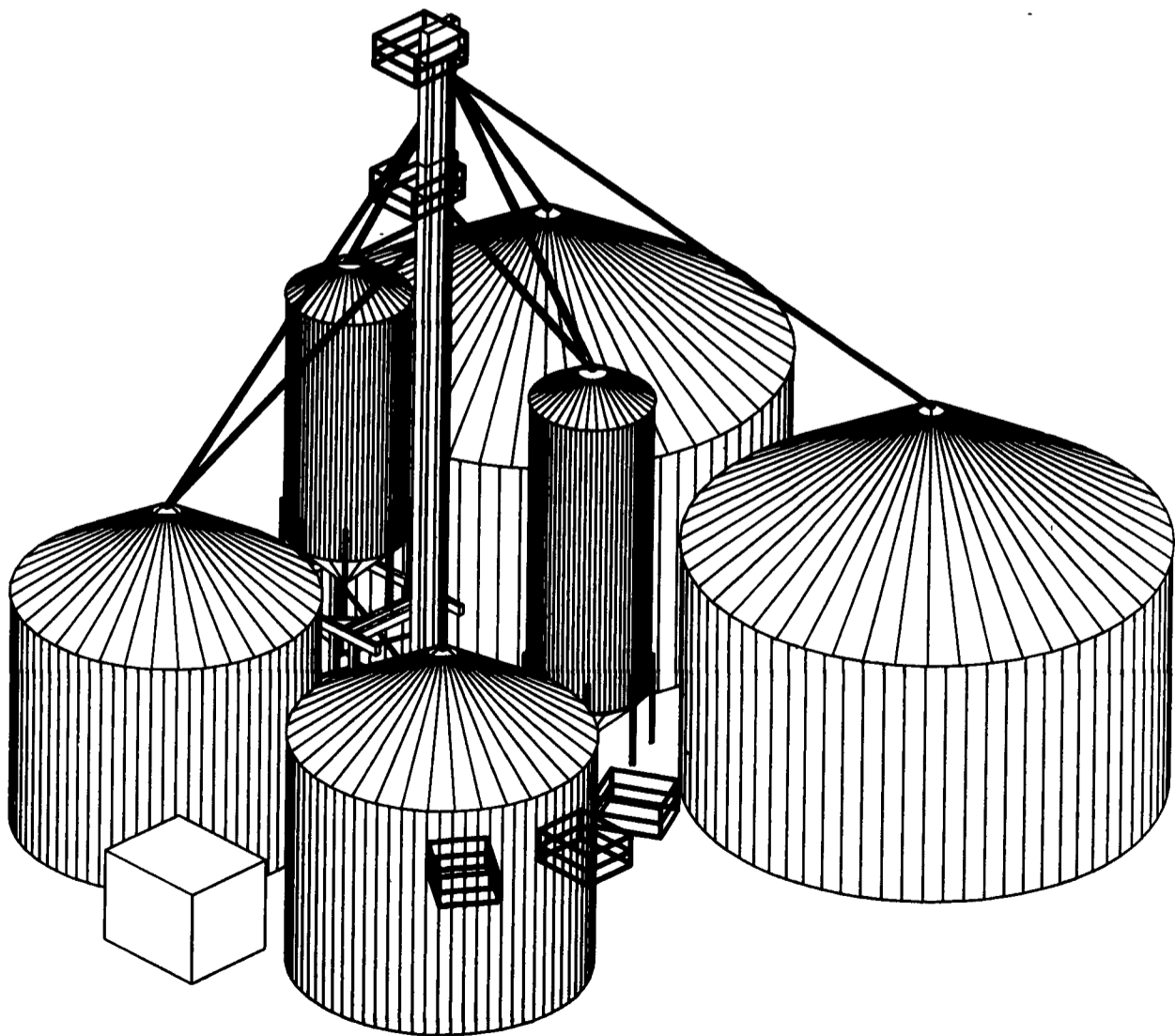
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