Pennsylvania Horse Farms Open Doors To Visitors

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Seventeen professional stables in eastern Pennsylvania will open their doors to the public for two days, Saturday and Sunday, March 28 and 29, during the sixth annual Pennsylvania Horse Farms Open House.

The event, which is free, is a chance for would-be equestrians to visit some of Pennsylvania's most beautiful horse farms, to learn about breeds of horses, styles of riding, and breeding, raising, caring for and training horses, and to explore the many opportunities for becoming involved with horses right in their own backyards. The tour, produced by Pennsylvania Equestrian, is free and self-guided, and individuals travel from stable to stable at their own pace in their own cars. Hours are 10 to 4 on Saturday, noon to 4 on Sunday.

With more than 174,000 horses, Pennsylvania ranks fourth in the US — far ahead of Kentucky — in generation of income from the horse industry. Pennsylvanians spend nearly two-thirds of a billion dollars annually on their horses, and most of that is spent in the southeastern quadrant of the state, where the Open House is centered.

The stables participating in the Open House include breeds, disciplines, and activities that bridged the spectrum of Pennsylvania's horse industry. Nationally-known show stables, breeding farms, a riding club and horse show grounds, a clinic devoted to equine veterinary care, and family-run boarding operations are among the stables welcoming visitors for tours, demonstrations, education and fun. The one thing all have in common is that they offer services to the equestrian public.

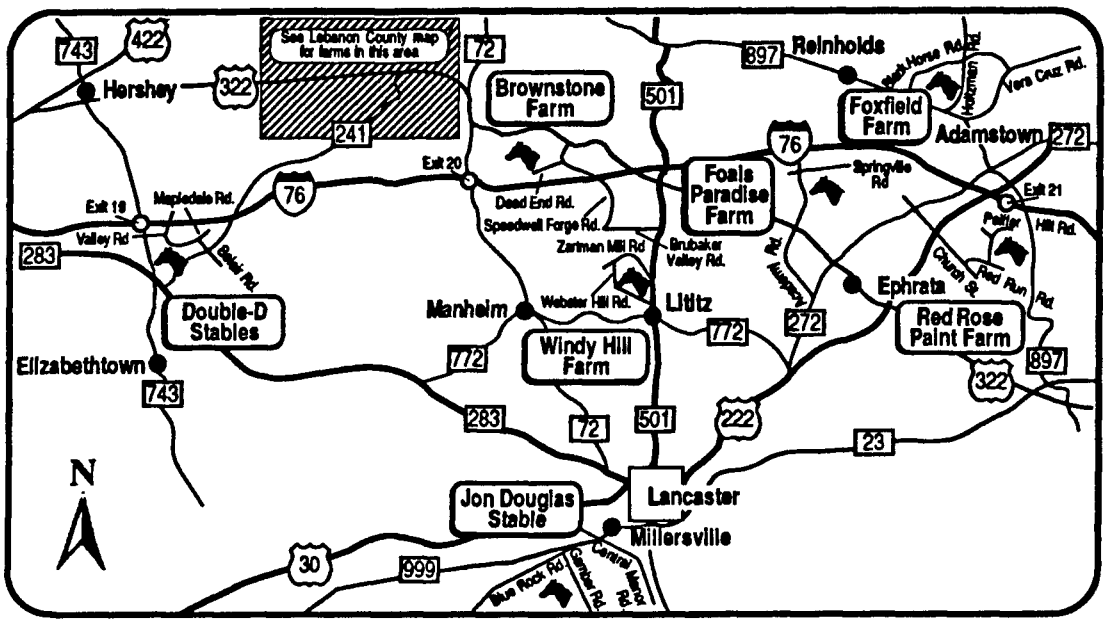
Nearly anything that can be done with a horse will be demonstrated during the open house. Reining, dressage, cutting, hunt seat and saddle seat equitation, jumping, western pleasure, showmanship, yoga on horseback, and driving demonstrations are among those scheduled by participating farms. In addition, horse shoeing, braiding, equine massage and chiropractic, nutrition, and foal imprinting will be demonstrated, and tack shops, equine artists and jewelers and other vendors will have displays. A musical quadrille composed of both able-boddied and handicapped riders will perform at one stable, another will have a foxhunting exhibit featuring the hounds, Master of Foxhounds and members of the 128-year-old Kimberton Hunt. At some stables visitors can take a pony ride or carriage ride, at others visitors who reserve in advance can try a short introductory riding lesson. One stable will have games for children, another a petting zoo. The majority of stables will have horses for sale and many will have young foals for visitors to meet.

Breeds of horses represented range from the common — thoroughbred, quarter horse, Paint, Palomino, American Saddlebred, Arabian, and warmblood, to the exotic — Thoroughdales, a new registry of thoroughbred/Clydesdale crosses used mainly for jumping; Lusitanos, a breed native to Portugal bred for bull-fighting; and Gaited Mountain Horses, sturdy, easy riding mounts native to the Appalachian foothills of North Carolina and Kentucky.

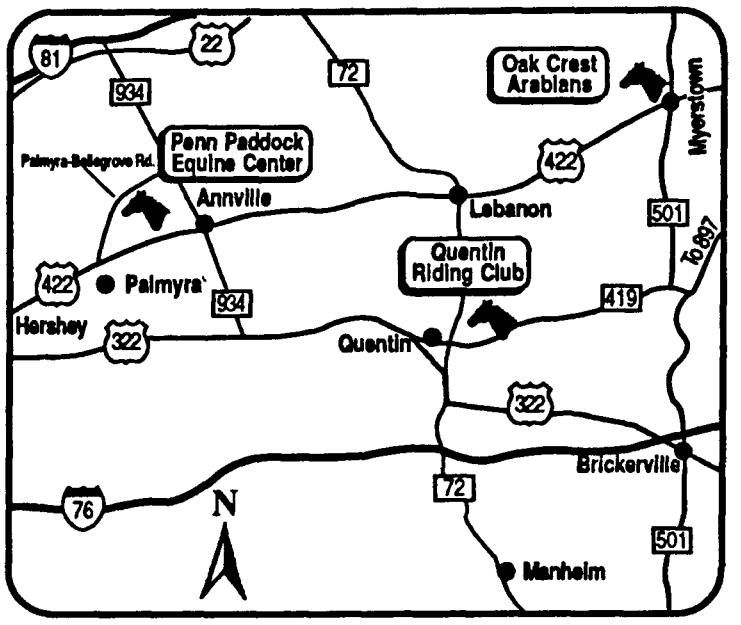
Many stables offer refreshments. Some are provided by the local 4-H or youth group raising money for attending horse shows. One stable has its own coffee shop, another will feature a cappuccino bar.

Sic of the stables are in Lancaster County, three each are in Lebanon and Bucks counties, two in Berks County, and one each is in Dauphin, Montgomery, and Perry counties.

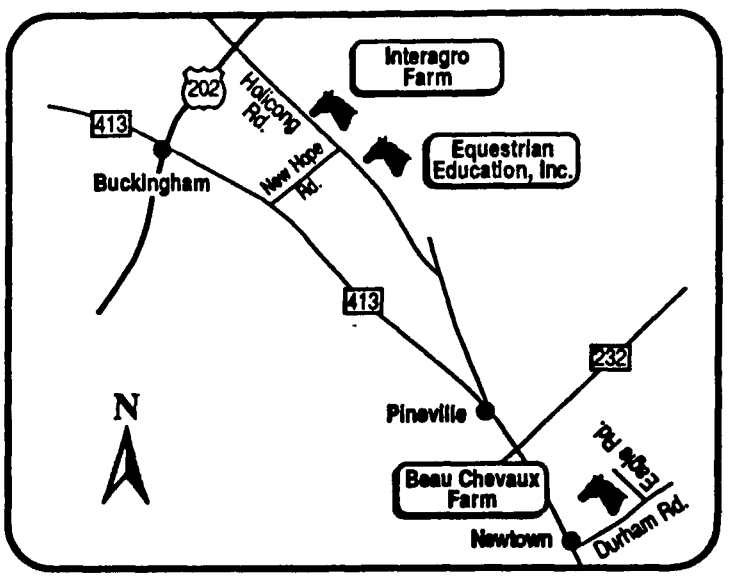
Complete information and maps are published with this article. Prospective visitors can write Pennsylvania Equestrian at P.O. Box 8412, Lancaster, PA 17604, phone (717) 898-5874, fax (717) 898-1458 or e-mail PAEquest@aol.com.



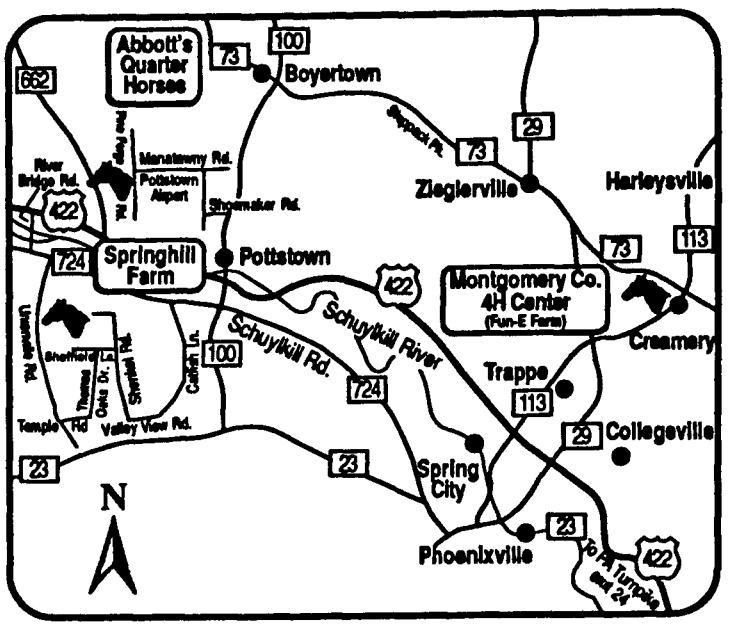
Lancaster County Map



Lebanon County Map



Bucks County Map



Berks County Map

Pennsylvania Horse Farms Open House, 1998 Participating Stables

Lancaster County

Jon Douglas Stable at Manor View Farm, 2124 Gamber Road, Washington Boro, PA 17582 (717) 871-0424 Training, lessons, American Saddlebred and Morgan horses

Brownstone Farm 290 Dead End Road, Lititz, PA 17543 (717) 626-4162 Boarding, hunt and stock seat lessons, quarter horses

Foal's Paradise Farm, 531 Springville Rd., Ephrata, PA 17522 (717) 733-0181 Breeding Dutch Warmbloods, boarding and training for dressage horses

Windy Hill Farm, 737 Webster Hill Road, Lititz, PA 17543 (717) 627-1210 Breeding and sales of Palomino quarter horses, English and western lessons, boarding and training

Red Rose Paint Farm, 1132 Pieffer Hill Road, Stevens, PA 17578 (717) 336-4146 Lessons, breeding, sales of registered Paint horses

Foxfield Farm, 230 Holzman Road, Reinholds, PA 17569 (717) 484-2250 Hunter/jumper, eventing, dressage, thoroughbreds, warmbloods

Lebanon County

Penn Paddock Equine Center, 360 Palmyra-Bellegrove Rd., Annville, PA 17003 (717) 838-6689 Equine veterinary hospital and surgical facility

Oak Crest Arabians, 901 North College St., (Route 501), Myerstown, PA 17067 (717) 866-5558 Breeding and sales of registered Arabian horses

Quentin Riding Club, Routes 72 and 419, Quentin, PA (717) 273-7811 Showgrounds is home to sixteen major horse shows each year, also a private club with boarding facilities for members

Bucks County

Beau Chevaux Farm, 90 Eagle Road, Newtown, PA 18940 (215) 860-8533 Boarding, training, English and western lessons

Equestrian Education, Inc 1185 Holicong Road, Pineville, PA 18946 (215) 598-8693 English lessons, training for eventing and dressage, thoroughbreds, boarding

Interagro Farm, 1353 Holicong Road, New Hope, PA 18938 (215) 794-9076 Brazilian breeder of Lusitano horses

Berks County

Abbott's Quarter Horses, 193 Pine Forge Rd., Boyertown, PA 19572 (610) 326-2842 Quarter horse breeding and sales

Springhill Farm, 973 Shenkel Road, Pottstown, PA 19465 (610) 326-8077 Boarding, training, dressage, hunt seat and eventing lessons, foxhunting

Montgomery County

Fun-E Farm, Inc., at Montgomery County 4-H Center, Route 113, Creamery, PA (610) 584-1356

Perry County

Windy Ridge Acres, RR 5 Box 595, Newport, PA 17074 (717) 444-2555 Trail riding, training, boarding, hunt seat and western lessons, sales, breeding Thoroughdale horses

Dauphin County

Double-D Stables, 1265 Mapledale Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022 (717) 367-2053 Breeding and sales of registered Paint horses, foal imprinting

ARMPPA Sets Two Meetings

The American Raw Milk Producers Pricing Association has announced two informational meetings for the third week in March, both to start at 12 noon.

On Monday, March 16, a meeting will be held at the Springville Fire Hall, Springville. Springville is located approximately halfway between Tunkhannock and Montrose on Route 29. In case of snow, the meeting will be held Thursday, March 19.

On Wednesday, March 18, a meeting will be held at the Wyalusing Fire Hall, Wyalusing. Wyalusing Fire Hall is located off Route 6 on the street next to the Dandy Mini Mart. In case of snow the meeting will be Friday, March 20.

Officials will explain the association and answer any questions. For more information contact ARMPPA at 1-888-276-7720.