

## New Feature Added To February Draft Horse Sale

**HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)** — The committee in charge of planning the annual Pennsylvania Draft Horse Sale here at the State Farm Show Complex has announced plans to include Haflinger ponies in the year 2000 sale.

The Haflinger breed originated in Europe toward the end of the last century. The area of Eastern Europe known as the Tyrol was the first home of the breed.

The forward progress of breed development was interrupted by the two world wars. The result of World War I was the redistribution of land between Switzerland and Italy. Before the war, Austria had established, itself as the recognized source of breeding stallions and Switzerland as the best source of brood mares.

After the war, the region of Switzerland that was home to the broodmares became part of the country of Italy. Progress in breed development was slowed until the two countries once again realized their interdependence and began to cooperate in matters of state.

Both world wars interrupted breed progress by conscripting all horses for the army. When the American Army took over Europe after World War II all horses were requisitioned and many were slaughtered to provide sustenance for a hungry populace.

Recognizing the value of the Haflinger breed however, 30 of the best stallions were saved for breeding and sent to the high pastures. Soon after, the herdsman sent to care for them was found tied up and all the horses gone never to be found.

Haflingers were originally bred to work in the high pasture fields of Switzerland and Austria which accounts for their smaller size and smaller surer feet. Haflinger ponies are very like Belgian breed found in North America today in

many ways except overall size. The most popular color of the two breeds is red sorrel with white mane and tail and a full blaze. Both are for the most part very docile and pleasant to work with and both have a very loyal following. Other breeds of draft horses at the sale will be Percheron and possibly Clydesdale, Shire, and Suffolk.

Horse breeding is a very big industry in our world today. The number of horses living in our day significantly outnumber those living when horses were in their heyday, before the advent of the combustible engine. All of the draft breeds have experienced significant growth in registrations every year for the past number of years. Thousands of horse lovers have

discovered the pleasure of working with draft horses. Shows, old-time farm days, plowing contests, pulling competitions, and the annual Horse Progress Days supported by the manufacturers of new horse drawn farm machinery all enjoy strong support and growth in interest and attendance.

The annual Pa. Draft Horse Sale will be conducted Feb. 16 at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. Horses will be accepted beginning at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15. The sale will begin at 8 a.m. on Wednesday with tack and draft horse-related items. The draft horses will sell at 10 a.m. When the drafters have all been sold, more tack will be sold, and at 6 p.m. the Haflingers will be sold.



The committee in charge of planning the annual Pennsylvania Draft Horse Sale at the State Farm Show Complex has announced plans to include Haflinger ponies in the year 2000 sale. The annual Pa. Draft Horse Sale will be conducted on Feb. 16 at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. Al Reist accompanies Clydesdales and Belgians.

## New Vegetable Crops Breeder Begins Work At Cornell

**GENEVA, N.Y.** — Dr. Phillip D. Griffiths has joined Cornell University's department of Horticultural Sciences at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station.

The newly appointed assistant professor will establish a vegetable breeding program to address the needs of the New York State crucifer industry. He will be working to breed new, high quality varieties of cauliflower, broccoli, and cabbage that are disease- and pest-resistant.

"Phillip's experience in disease resistance breeding is a much needed component of the Station's vegetable breeding program," said department chair, Hugh Price.

Griffiths' background is in genetics and molecular biology coupled with a working knowledge of conventional plant breeding. His experience working with

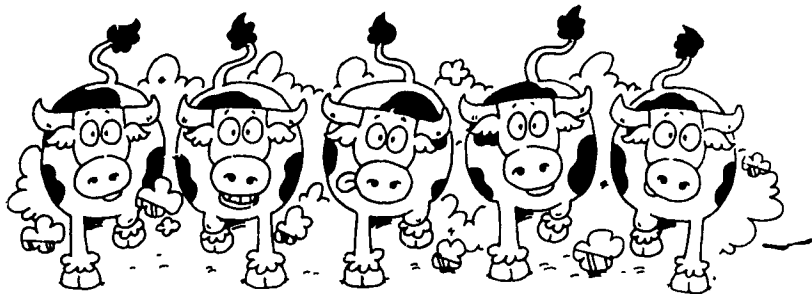
the Florida tomato industry is considered a tremendous asset as he develops his own program working with cruciferous crops.

Griffiths looks forward to the challenge of adapting his breeding methods to new vegetable crops and to implementing modern molecular techniques in a traditional breeding program. He expects to help the New York State vegetable industry in numerous ways, including the development of varieties that are resistant to black rot. He will be a solid contributor to the New York State crucifer industry.

Griffiths, who is from Southeast Wales, received his bachelor's degree in genetics in 1990 from the Department of Genetics, Queen's Medical Center, University of Nottingham, U.K. His undergraduate research was on the linkage of the alcohol dehydro-

genase enzymes to sexual selection in seaweed flies. He received his master of science in plant breeding in 1993 from the Department of Agronomy, University of Wales and the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research/Welsh Plant Breeding Station. His master's research focused on environmental and genotypic effects on endopolyploidy in the epider-

mal tissues of *Lolium perenne* and *L. multiflorum*. He received his doctorate in horticultural sciences in 1998 from the University of Florida at Gainesville, where his research centered on the introgression of tomato mottle virus (ToMoV) resistance genes from wild accessions of *Lycopersicon chilense*.



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