10th Annual Horse Farms

(continued from Page A1)

irrigation system to keep the footing dust-free.

Although D-Bar-W offers lessons with two riding instructors, not everyone boards their horses for lessons purposes, as some opt to ride around the perimeter of the farm, exploring the creeks, woods, and farmland.

Although many of those who.

younger clients also are attracted to the facility, some exchanging after-school work for lessons.

Full-care boarding includes stalls, once-a-day-turnout, feed, and health care.

Dave harvests 60 acres of hay from the farm for the horses' needs. Another 60 acres are in pasture.



Emily Weber, 7, takes a jump on pony Merrylegs.

His experience around horses has helped him develop a philosophy about their treatment, the "communication" and "work as a team" mentality.

"The difference is the way we communicate to these horses. It's not us against them. The key is to develop a willingness, to bring them along to get them to say yes to everything you want them to do," he said.

His relaxed, patient manner calms the horses and allows them to learn a new mindset. 'Upper level horses break apart because they can't handle the mental stresses," he said.

Dave begins training in a round pen in the "training barn" and teaches the horses how to relax as they go back to foundational training ideas.

These beliefs have led to not only high-level dressage and jumping horses coming to the farm from even international sources, but have also kept Dave busy as an instructor.

"Having patience to work with them is probably the big difference. I'll accomplish as much as the horses will allow me

The new arena provides riders with an opportunity to enjoy their horse year-round.

to accomplish in that period of time."

Fortunately, the new arena lets him stay home and conduct clinics, besides inviting other authorities in the equestrian business in to conduct clinics.

Dave's parents still live on the

farm, and his father helps out with the operation.

The biggest mistake the Webers see is a new owner buying a young horse. "They buy a young one and think they'll learn together," said

(Turn to Page A36)

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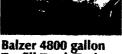
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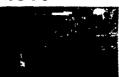


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