## **10th Annual Horse Farms**

(Continued from Page A35)

Alexandra. "Beginner riders need seasoned horses," he said.

> **Visit Horse Farms** And Learn About **Horses During The 10th Annual Horse Farms Open House**

Pennsylvania's horse country will be showcased during the upcoming 10th annual Horse Farms Open House.

On April 6 and 7, 22 professional horse farms, most of which are normally off limits to the public, throw open their barn doors and give visitors the chance to learn what goes on behind the scenes. Stables welcome families to learn about foals, take a sample riding lesson, or see horseshoeing demonstration at the various farms. Nationally recognized show barns, breeding stables and local boarding and lesson facilities band together for one weekend only.

The event is free and selfguided, and individuals travel from stable to stable in their own vehicles. The farms will be open to visitors from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. Each year about 10,000 people visit participating farms during the Horse Farms Open

Most of the farms are located in the southeastern quadrant of Pennsylvania. This area is horse country, home to many of America's most prestigious equestrian events and to more than 85,000 horses, from Olympic medalists to family pets.

The Horse Farms Open House is a chance for both active and would-be equestrians to visit a variety of professional horse farms, to learn about various breeds and styles of riding,

about breeding, raising, caring for and training horses and to explore the many opportunities for getting involved with horses close to home. A number of stables will invite visitors to take a sample riding lesson, trail ride, pony ride or hayride, or to come back at a later date to try one of their horses.

In addition to giving horseback riding a try at some stables, visitors to the Open House can visit a petting zoo, watch an Arated horse show, or shop at a tack sale. Demonstrations include horseshoeing, jousting, team penning, a drill team, sheep shearing, logging, round pen training and foal imprinting. Nearly every farm will offer refreshments, and a number will have vendors — or their own tack shops — onsite for visitors who want to do a little shopping. April is the heart of foaling season, and many stables will have young foals — more than 60 are expected in all — to enjoy. Visitors will be able to view horses offered for sale and stallions available for breeding.

The stables include breeds and disciplines that bridge the spectrum of the region's horse industry. Visitors can visit farms specializing in thoroughbreds, quarter horses, paints, Arabians, Appaloosas, drafts, American Saddlebreds, Paso Finos, miniatures, and Kentucky Mountain Horses.

With more than 200,000 horses, Pennsylvania's equine industry is a \$5 billion a year industry, according to former Governor Tom Ridge. Most of that industry is clustered in the southeastern quadrant of the state, where the open house is centered.

Complete information on the

rections, will be on the web at www.pennsylvaniaequestrian-.com.

The Open House is free. For more information phone (717) 898-5874.

> 2002 Horse Farms **Open House Participants**

• Berks County **Mark Smith Training Center** 52 Equestrian Lane Robesonia, PA 19551 (610) 589-2364 Breeding, training, showing, sales; American Paint horses.

• Bucks County **Fairfield Paso Finos** 6020 Lower Mountain Road New Hope, PA 18938 (215) 794-3616 Paso Finos, breeding, training and sales.

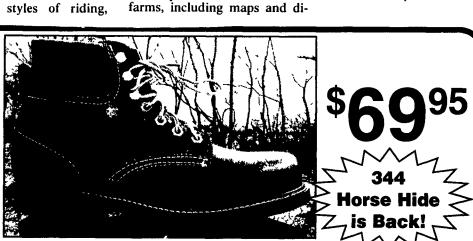
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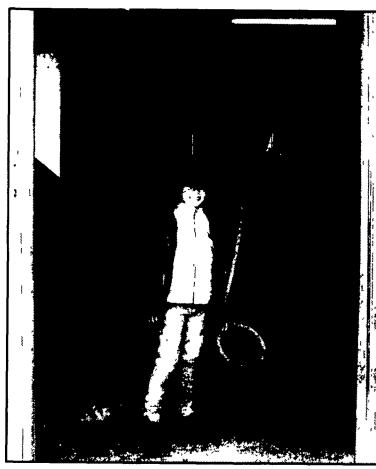
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