

Boarder and Trainer



L A N C A S T E R F A R M I N G

SECTION E

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2003

Training Horses

Pressure, Release Means Please, Thank You

MICHELLE KUNJAPPU
Lancaster Farming Staff
ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — "The system builds upon itself."

Brian Egan, horse program assistant, Penn State, explained the method used to train horses at the university during 2002 Ag Progress Days.

"The system is based on pressure-and-release," he said. Physical and spatial pressure

can be used to guide the horses, according to Egan.

The first lesson is to teach a horse to lead, which Egan demonstrated in the Horse Arena at Ag Progress Days last August.

Egan used a 2-year-old Quarter horse for his demonstration. When a horse is accustomed to the halter, he said, the handler should try

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Brian Egan, horse program assistant, Penn State University, explains the pressure-and-release system he uses to train horses. Photo by Michelle Kunjappu

Mini Horses Enhance Vet Tech Program

ALFRED, N.Y.—They say good things come in small packages. Folks in Alfred State College's veterinary technology program know it's true.

The two-year program, which enrolls 100 students, was the recipient of a gift of seven miniature horses, a loan arrangement with a couple from Conesus, N.Y.

Five of these miniature horses arrived at the college farm on Labor Day—Fizz, 7; Angel, 2; Tiara, yearling; and Diamond, 6 months. Two others, Sunny, 7, and Rhapsody, 8, joined the group on Nov. 2. Copper, a 15-year-old gelding,



"Fizz," 7, will help Alfred State College students learn skills that they will transfer to larger horses.

was purchased half by the vet tech program and half by Program Instructor Kathleen Bliss at the end of September. Copper is also part of the on-

campus group, bringing the total number to seven miniature horses.

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High-Tech Help For Horses At Equine Medical Center

MICHELLE KUNJAPPU
Lancaster Farming Staff

LEESBURG, Va. — The threefold mission of service, teaching, and research may be a tall order to fill, but at the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center, the three tiers of the mission seem to dovetail nicely.

Fulfilling the service aspect, between 2,300-2,400 patients come to the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center each year.

Teaching, another part of the mission, is fulfilled with the fourth year veterinary students from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine who come to study at the center each year.

Founded in 1984, the center has served as a training

ground for more than 450 veterinary students.

With the research projects under way at the center, "we approach the area that we know we have the expertise to help solve — we're not trying to be all things to all horses," said director Dr. Fred Fregin.

Ongoing research on colic, the leading cause of death among horses, is an example.

"We first define the problem, then find the best people put together to work on that problem."

Facilities

Marion duPont Scott, seeing the need for an equine hospital in Virginia, made a pledge in 1981 of \$4 million to fund the center's construction.

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During a race at Moven Park in Leesburg, Va., horses take the first jump of a race almost as a unit. The white "wings" or side panels guide the horses to the fence. Read more about steeplechase racing on Page E18. Photo by Michelle Kunjappu



Dr. Nat White and an assistant perform an arthoscopy operation at the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center, Leesburg, Virginia, which treats between 2,300-2,400 patients each year. Photo by Michelle Kunjappu