



Breeding Percherons has been a part of the Allebach family's life for years. Pictured are three generations of Allebachs: from left, Abraham Allebach at the halter of the farm's top stallion, King Cong, along with his son Gerald and Gerald's son Abraham, 3. The stallion was premier sire of North America in 2002 and has many champion and reserve, including national champion, titles. *Photo by Michelle Kunjappu* 

## Windermere Farm's Percherons Combine Power, Beauty, Style

### MICHELLE KUNJAPPU Lancaster Farming Staff

SPRING MILLS (Centre Co.) — Abraham and Gerald Allebach must have a natural talent, or done their homework, or put in out-of-class time, as they studied draft horses.

From unlikely careers in dairy farming and selling cars, the Allebachs, along with their wives, Mary and Melissa, and families have built a veritable Percheron empire — 70 to 100 top horses of the breed — on their combined 400-acre farm in Spring Mills.

Let the numbers speak for themselves: since the family began exhibiting their Percherons on a consistent basis in 1972, Windermere Farms has 15 individual animals that have won allAmerican titles at least once, totaling 23 titles from the farm's own horses.

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## **Center Gets Equine Athletes Back On Track**

#### MICHELLE KUNJAPPU Lancaster Farming Staff

KENNETT SQUARE (Chester Co.) — Almost all athletes cope with injuries.

With an equine athlete, however, diagnosing and treating a full-grown, mind-of-their-own horse that can't tell the doctor where it hurts may prove to be a challenge.

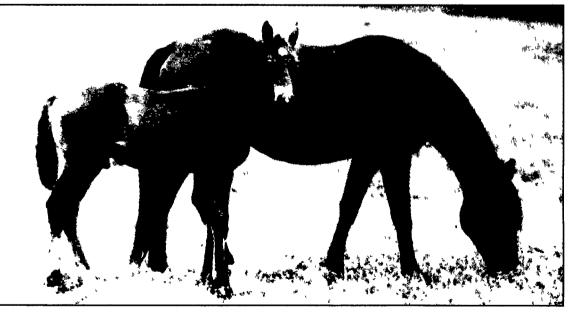
Fortunately New Bolton Center's Scott Equine Sports Medicine Building, which began operating summer 2002, is equipped with veterinarians familiar with injuries and the technology to diagnose and track their patient's problem.

The new facility includes two exam rooms and two holding stalls for ultrasonographic and cardiac evaluation of patients and a padded stall for treatment

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This is this Thoroughbred's third ultrasound. Dr. Olga Seco is ultra sounding the horse to determine whether or not it can go back into training. She will compare the pictures from this ultrasound with images from previous ultrasounds. *Photo by Michelle Kunjappu* 





Arabian "Dad's Lady Grace" helped to teach Kathleen Anthony life lessons, which she recently compiled in her book, "Lessons In Grace." Read more about her writing experinece on page E9. *Photo by Michelle Kunjappu*  There are several issues for the mare owner to consider when evaluating which stallion is suitable, and what will produce that "perfect" foal. *Photo by Rebecca Splan, Virginia Tech* 

# **Breeding For The Perfect Foal** *What Are The Odds?*

Dr. Rebecca K. Splan Department of Animal And Poultry Sciences Virginia Polytechnic Institute And State University

BLACKSBURG, Va. — As they enter the new breeding sea-

son, mare owners are forced to make an important decision: Which stallion should they breed to their mare?

Thousands of potential stallion choices bombard them daily, from homemade ads posted on tack room walls to those slick productions seen in the pages of glossy magazines.

How does the mare owner decide which stallion is suitable for

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