



Mare "Lisa," a lead horse of the Allebach's 6-horse hitch, watches over her young son with the help of Abraham.

## Windermere Farm

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The family has also purchased and successfully shown numerous all-American horses.

At the World Percheron Congress in Kansas City in 1995, the Allebachs took home 13 first place honors, a record.

The farm's founding sire, Black Home Duke, was the premiere sire of North America for 10 years.

At the World Percheron Congress in Lexington, Kentucky, in October 2002, Windermere Farms came away as world champions.

The family also checked in with among the top ten breeders in the nation in numbers of Percherons registered in 2002.

Evidently, the high-headed, eye-catching horses of Windermere Farm are quality animals.

**A Dairy Background**  
Actually, horses have been part of the Allebachs' lives since Gerald was young, however standardbreds and a variety of other breeds found their homes on the dairy farm long before Percherons became the focus.

In 1962 Abraham moved to Centre County from Montgomery County to begin a dairy farm. He also bred standardbred horses, along with having a wide variety of horses on the farm — "you name it, we had it," said Gerald Allebach.

When Allebach was seven years old, Abraham purchased the family's first pair of Percherons, a pair of black mares.

The mares piqued an interest in the Allebach family.

"We went to draft horses because they fit our lifestyle, values, and family farm picture better than going off to the racetrack," he said.

"When I was a little kid, I thought we were doing this to make better horses," said Allebach, who quickly points out that the

family is very focused on improving the breed.

However, "to my dad, it was about teaching us kids to reach our full potential. (Gerald has an older brother and younger sister).

"It's a very special way to grow up. We're raising our children the same way."

Allebach is joined by his wife, Melissa, who also helps on the farm, along with their sons Jared, 13; Jesse, 11; and Abraham, 3.

The family began to acquire more animals and breed and show their horses. In 1987 Abraham sold the cows and began to fill the farm's 400 acres with draft horses.

Gerald spent 12 years in the car dealership business but has returned to help with the Percheron farm in addition to managing a nearby Haflinger operation.

### Breeding Program

"God is the architect but we try to make good crosses and good breeding decisions," said Allebach.

An artist at heart, Abraham often drew horses, which Allebach attributes to being "a huge part of our success, because he had in his mind's eye what we wanted," said Allebach.

Allebach believes that Abraham was one of the first, if not the first, to ship semen for Percherons.

For his years of service in improving the Percheron breed,

mares mid February through June. Ideally the foals would be born early in the year so they are strong and ready for the winter, besides being larger more filled out in the show ring than their younger counterparts.

Foaling begins in January and runs through the end of June, since "we have older mares who are great producers" that may have a little trouble breeding back earlier but the Allebachs "give them time and allow them to foal later," he said. "Most of them have produced many generations."

"We geld a lot of young stud colts because we don't want to let a stallion breed a mare that's not as good or better than his own sire," he said.

A stallion should have a near-perfect mother, good conformation, a good attitude, and trainability. The Allebachs also look

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A 3-day-old King Cong son learns to caper in the grass in his first visit outside of the barn.

Abraham Allebach will be inducted into the Percheron Hall of Fame in Fredericktown, Ohio in October.

In 1984 Abraham had picked out a young Percheron colt, Black Home Duke, from Ontario that would propel the farms breeding program to a new level, according to Allebach.

The stallion "took our breeding program from good to great," he said.

Last year, Black Home Duke's son King Cong took over. His reasonable \$750 breeding fee, or \$500 for two or more mares, is to allow the stallion to breed a large number of mares "and do a better job for the whole breed," said Allebach.


Another part of the team effort, Melissa has helped to move the operation forward, according to Allebach. She persuaded him to get an ultrasound to use on the farm's mares, he said.

The Allebachs begin breeding

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