

# Devon Horse Show Features 10 Days Of Diverse Competition

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Lancaster Farming Staff

DEVON (Chester Co.) — Ten days of competition between top riders and their elite horses, 235 classes, and more than \$316,000 of prize money is nothing new to the Devon Horse Show and Country Fair, May 22-31.

The event, which benefits the Bryn Mawr Hospital (it has donated more than \$10.4 million to the hospital over the past eight decades) was first conducted in 1896.

That one-day show included 29 classes and a first-prize offering of \$10. By 2003 the show drew the entries of 2,500 horses, however only those animals that qualified could compete.

Conducted in the town of Devon, the event would not be complete without the fair adjacent to the Dixon Oval. The fair features rides, prizes, and food,



High-stepping Hackney ponies also competed during the event.

plus boutiques that offer clothing or home decorations to fair-goers.

The open jumper division of the show, with classes almost every evening of the event, attracts leading riders from throughout the U.S.A. Junior jumpers also compete, along with

amateur owner jumpers. New this year to the jumper division was the pony jumper classes.

The carriage pleasure driving, ladies' side saddle, local hunters, and coaching competitions were

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The event also included a ladies' side saddle over fences class.

## Quarter Horse Auction Goes 'Live'

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Sale.

Ben Nolt, Grantville, donated his auctioneering services for the event at the Ag Arena at University Park, which show-

cased Penn State's equine science and breeding programs. The horses were bred, raised, and trained at the university horse farm. The sale catalog is available on the web at <http://www.das.psu.edu/wcsm/IndexDB.cfm?pid=152>. The auction was accompanied by a day full of demonstrations and exhibits.

This year's quarter horse auction was a watermark of sorts, notes Nancy Diehl, assistant professor of equine science. "For many years, the annual sale of Penn State's 2-year-old quarter horses was carried out by interested buyers submitting letters of offer," she said. "But this year, the sale was conducted as a live auction that was the culmination of a day meant to promote the entire equine science program."

Students taking the spring semester equine and livestock merchandising class, who learned about merchandising livestock through guest speakers and class discussions, got hands-on experience preparing for and participating in the sale.

"Students were involved in promotion, advertising, preparation of the horses, maintenance on the facilities and handling many of the sale-day responsibilities, including presenting the horses to potential buyers," said Diehl.

"Students in the horse handling and training class lined up, lunged, and rode the auctioned horses during the

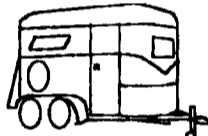
morning, offering a unique opportunity for potential buyers to observe the temperament, athletic ability, and training of the horses being offered."

Though the sale horses were

highlighted, equine staff and students also provided tours of the Penn State Horse Farm and made available for inspection the sires, dams, and siblings of

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