

Stable Sheet



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MUSINGS ON MORGAN HISTORY AND WHAT NEXT...

As part of a national effort to promote the Morgan Horse, Miner Institute and Heart's Delight Farm joined Day of The Morgan on October 28 with an open barn, refreshments, crafts, history and of course, horses. More than 100 people came to visit that day, many who had little experience with horses at all or had never been to Miner. It is always so much fun to watch people learn about horses; when we surround ourselves with like-minded people who already love horses just like we do, we forget sometimes how many people just don't know!

facts and gained a little more insight into the horse industry as a whole by putting them all on one sheet of paper. A whole breed of horse (plus some foundation to some others) was founded by one stallion, "Figure", later named the Justin Morgan Horse after his owner. Figure was born in 1789 and bred all comers of mares stamping his get with his type, hardiness, and heart until his death in 1821. In the 1820s in the United States, 72% of the population lived on or worked on a farm, meaning that almost three-quarters of the country's residents knew how to be around horses and appreciated them! The first documentation of Morgan horses'

While I was researching some details to create a Morgan Horse timeline, I learned a few new

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minermatters.com



support and we still need more to continue to improve this legislation to benefit equestrians. The insurance policy alone is worth the membership; the sooner you join or renew, the sooner you'll get the coverage.

2018 is a golden anniversary for the NYSHC; please help us celebrate 50 years of working for equine interests in the state. See membership form on page 3. We will also have one available for download at <http://whminer.org/equine/>.

2017 was a year of Great Things for the equine industry in New York, not the least of which was the passing of the limited liability provisions in the agri-tourism bill! This is no time to rest on any laurels; the NYSHC did this with lot of sup-

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pedigrees came with D.C. Linsley's book in 1857 and subsequently Volume 1 of the American Morgan Horse Register in 1894; the breed was still growing like mad, including the formation of the US Morgan Horse Farm in 1907 to perpetuate the breed through the USDA. Two years after the formation of this farm, Henry Ford rolled the first Model-T car off the assembly lines in 1909; the beginning of the end of needing horses for day-to-day transportation. However, it was the incorporation of anti-freeze in 1926 that made cars be useful year-round combined with the economy of the Great Depression that saw the numbers of horses in the US really take a nosedive. In the 1920s about 30% of the US population lived or worked in agriculture – less than half of what it had been 100 years prior.

Record low new horse registrations and memberships in the Morgan Horse Club (later named the American Morgan Horse Association) in 1933 spelled the death of the breed if something didn't happen soon... Horse showing as an American pastime had a relatively new history, mostly centered around wealthy cities for its residents. Rural fairs, though continued to bind communities and showing horses (vs. just races or pulls) came to be part of that fabric. In 1939, the first National Morgan Horse Show was held in Woodstock, VT at what is now known as the Green Mountain Horse Association (GMHA). Other breeds were faring similar to Morgans; the horse show as recreation likely became one of the major saviors of what we all know as the horse industry. For Morgan Horses at least, the popularity of the book, *Justin Morgan Had a Horse* by Marguerite Henry, in 1945 certainly bolstered the breed in the imaginations of many a young reader.

There's a whole lot more history in between 1945 and today, but suffice it to say that for many reasons, the equine industry is under pressure and in competition with many,



Images from the Oct. 28, 2017 Day of the Morgan event at Miner Institute.



many other forces vying for people's time and disposable income. Using very recent American Horse Council data, we know that there are approximately 2 million horse owners in the US, and about 7.1 million people associated with horses as industry employees, lesson students, therapeutic riders, and more. While that sounds like a huge number itself, that only represents 2.1% of the population as being associated with horses and .6% (that's point 6; less than 1%!) owning horses.

If you enjoy your horse, shows, reasonably priced feed and care, open space to ride on and so forth, it is up to you, me and all of us to continue to bring more people in contact with horses to preserve the way of life that we all know and love. There are many ways to share our love of horses with people outside our own circle. I've just signed

Miner Institute up to be a point of contact through the American Horse Council's Time to Ride program; it is a free listing, I encourage any stables or suppliers to join up as well; I was thrilled to see that our own Adirondack Tack in Plattsburgh, NY was listed already!

In the spirit of New Year's Resolutions, I'd like to propose an easy one! Think about how in 2018 you can be an advocate for the equine industry – bring a friend to the barn with you; give a gift of a feel-good movie or beautiful picture book or story about horses to a non-horse friend. Above all, be kind to other breeds and disciplines – there's certainly room for all of us and we're all better for boosting each other up.

— Karen Lassell
lassell@whminer



Website: nyshc.org

New York State Horse Council, Inc.

2018 Membership Form

Calendar year January 1st thru December 31st, 2018

Please check one:

☐ New ☐ Renew ID# _____

I wish to receive the NYSHC Quarterly Newsletter:

☐ E-Mail ☐ Postal Mail

Individual / Family / Lifetime Membership / Youth Membership: <http://nyshc.org/post.php?pid=14> Please print clearly

Family Membership: "Family Member" includes you, your resident spouse and your children up to age 18 residing at the address provided.

Name of Primary Adult First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Name of Secondary Adult First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Name of Children & Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-Mail: (write n/a if none) _____

County: _____ Home Phone1: (____) _____ - _____ Cell #: (____) _____ - _____

Or Business / Club / Farm / Organization Membership: http://nyshc.org/directory_category.php Please print clearly

Business Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Website or Facebook: _____

E-Mail: (write n/a if none) _____

County: _____ Business Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Cell #: (____) _____ - _____

Category: _____

NYSHC Services Directory by Category: Horse & Rider Services - Adoption / Boarding / Breeders / Camps / Carriage / Clinics / Clinicians / Dentistry / Education / Farrier / Horsemanship / Humane Welfares / Lessons / Rescue / Showing / Training / Transportation / Therapeutic / Veterinarian. **Organizations & Clubs** - Driving / Horse Organization / Horse Club / Social / Trail / Youth (4H, Pony Club, College teams, etc.). **Trail Services** - Lodging / Camping. **Business Services** - Insurance / Legal / Marketing / Promotional / Publications. **Sales & Products** - Barns/Buildings / Feed/Supplements / Tack / Trailer/Truck / Shop & Apparel.

NYSHC New York State/Other or Chapter/County you wish to join or be affiliated: <http://nyshc.org/post.php?pid=17>

☐ General New York State/Other (No Chapter Affiliation)
☐ Cattaraugus/Chautauqua Counties (Western Region)
☐ Orange County (Mid-Hudson Region)
☐ Putnam County (Mid-Hudson Region)

☐ Sullivan County (Mid-Hudson Region)
☐ Ulster County (Mid-Hudson Region)
☐ Westchester County (Mid-Hudson Region)
☐ Western Erie/Niagara Counties (Western Region)

Membership Type:

☐ Individual with Insurance (one adult 18+) \$55.00
☐ Family with Insurance (two adults with children up to age 18) \$75.00
☐ Lifetime with Insurance 1st year (one adult 18+) \$500.00
☐ Lifetime with insurance with subsequent year renewal (one adult 18+) \$20.00
☐ Individual without Insurance (one adult 18+) \$35.00
☐ Family without Insurance (two adults with children up to age 18) \$55.00
☐ Youth without Insurance (Not associated w/Family Membership. One child up to age 18) \$10.00
 Youth Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Parent Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____
☐ Business / Club / Farm / Organization without Insurance \$75.00
 Includes your Website or Facebook link listed on our WWW.NYSHC.ORG Website; Business Directory by Category & Name, NYSHC Trails Guide and in the NYSHC Quarterly Newsletter

- Only Individual, Family or Lifetime 1st and w/subsequent yr. renewal includes \$1,000,000 Equisure Excess Personal Liability Insurance.
- All Memberships include one vote at the NYSHC Annual General Meeting and the NYSHC Quarterly Newsletter.

Age Group: ☐ 0-18 ☐ 19-51 ☐ 51+ **How many horses do you own?**

Method of Payment:

☐ Check #: _____ ☐ Papal / CC: _____ ☐ Other: _____

Please make check payable to **NYSHC** (write 2018 Membership in comments). Mail completed Membership Form along with Check to: Paula Pratt, NYSHC Membership Chair, 3555 Stetson Road, Bloomfield, NY 14469. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me (585) 657-4550 or e-mail at membership@nyshc.org. Thank you.

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Check Date: ____/____/____ Date Rec'd: ____/____/____ PayPal / CC Rec'd: ____/____/____ Other Rec'd: ____/____/____ Initials: _____

Comments: _____

Inquiries for NYSHC Insurance, please contact Missy Whittington (716) 440-3478 or Missy.Whittington@nyshc.org. Inquiries for NYSHC Quarterly Newsletter, please contact Mary Szarek (716) 837-3761 or info@wnyhorse.info.

2018 NYSHC MEMBERSHIP FORM.Docx - 11/1/2017pmp

ARE YOU READY?

Preparedness for unforeseen emergencies on your farm



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Clinton County

Thursday, Jan. 18, 2018
1 - 3:30 pm

The Joseph C. Burke Education and Research
Center at Miner Institute
586 Ridge Rd. Chazy, NY
FREE and open to the public!



Program features:

- Kelly Donoghue from Clinton County Emergency Management Services will offer tips for how to be prepared; what have been the difference makers on properties where emergencies were well handled; and how to train staff for emergency preparedness.
- Northern Insuring representative Tiffany Garcia will offer an overview and understanding of insurance coverage: how it works and what you need.
- Yankee Farm Credit consultant Joanna Lidback will offer expertise on estate planning so that your farm business is ready for whatever the future brings.

Did you Know?

January 2018 marks *20 years since the infamous Ice Storm of 1998!!!!* If you lived through it, you undoubtedly have not forgotten it.

The Ice Storm caused an estimated \$3 billion worth of damage; millions of people lost power — some for several weeks or more; millions of acres of damaged trees; impassable roads and dozens of storm-related deaths.

For more information, please contact Rachel Dutil at Miner Institute: dutil@whminer.com or 518-846-7121, ext. 115 or Sara Bull at Cornell Cooperative Extension: slk95@cornell.edu or 518-561-7450.

LEAVING BOTULISM IN THE DUST

Vaccinating your horses against botulism is one that can be easily brushed aside. The illness is said to be rare and most individuals are confident that their hay has been baled and stored properly. However, are you confident enough in your hay and environment to risk losing a horse to a disease that is almost always fatal?

In the past here at Miner, we have chosen to opt out of the botulism vaccine and we have been safe so far. Exceptional hay and minimal confirmed cases of botulism (it hasn't been prevalent in the Northeast in the past) locally have bolstered our decision to leave this vaccine off the roster in years past. This year however, we are choosing to vaccinate as there has been an increase in confirmed cases of botulism in the area. This may go hand in hand with the subpar hay season we were given this summer. When we are unable to control our forage quality, at the same time these bacteria are becoming more common, other precautions need to be enforced. Therefore, we feel that it is better to be safe than sorry and invest in a preventative for this deadly disease.

During the winter months when we're feeding free choice hay due to cold or to give more holiday time with family, it is easy to feed round bales to simplify feeding time. However, if these round bales were baled slightly wet, this moist area where there is a lack of oxygen is where the *Clostridium botulinum* bacteria can thrive. The other way is if an animal carcass became rolled in the bale, the tight nature of the bale

"seals" in the rotting critter which gives off these clostridium bacteria too. These yucky spots in the bale aren't always visible to the naked eye and may not just be eaten around by the horse. If you're feeding any sort of fermented or ensiled product to horses, you really can't afford NOT to vaccinate, as these are ideal conditions for the botulism toxin to develop. It takes *LESS* of the toxin to kill a horse than it takes to kill other animals; horses are especially sensitive! Consequently, it is important to remember that if you see your horse acting lethargic, unwilling to move, and off feed, do NOT assume colic when feeding round bales. The key to survival of this deadly disease depends on how quickly supportive treatment begins, which relies on a proper diagnosis.

So, although we are adding one more vaccine to our yearly routine, this may be a no brainer. The initial vaccination is a 3-shot intra-muscular series, each one month apart. We just did the first shot on all the horses; it is safe for stallions, weanlings, and pregnant broodmares. At least for round one of the shots none of our horses showed any reaction or ill-effects from the vaccine. We'll only need an annual booster for vaccinated horses in the future. After years of playing the odds and feeling pretty confident that we were safe without vaccination, no system is perfect. As "good" hay years seem to get harder to come by all the time, hopefully this will be one less thing to worry about.

— Lindsey Bjorgan, *Equine Intern*

WINTER BARN FIRE: QUICK PREVENTION CHECKLIST

- Check appliances — buckets, tank heaters, space heaters, heat tapes: check the wire for any cracks, splits, or chew marks. Ideally these things will be plugged directly into a GFI outlet. Minimize extension cord use; consider upgrading the barn wiring and panel box to accommodate increased electrical demand. Electrical fires are the leading cause of winter barn fires.
- Make sure any bucket or tank heaters' wires aren't accessible to horse teeth and don't let them run dry!
- Have up-to-date, fully-charged fire extinguishers. Know how to use them!
- Dust, hay chaff, and cobwebs should be kept to a minimum. Take out the trash; don't let feed bags and twine pile up.
- Keep aisles clear and all exits from the stalls and barn free and able to open readily. Remove snow and ice for the quickest and safest escape if needed.

SPEAKING OF NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Eating better, exercising more, quitting smoking; all good ideas to improve your health in the New Year. How about maintaining the brain you've got? With the ever increasing focus on contact sports and the awareness of traumatic brain injury (TBI), an article published in the *Journal of Neurosurgery: Neurological Focus* in 2016 sought to identify the sources of those injuries. The sport that caused the largest piece of the TBI pie was not a contact sport at all, but horseback riding; 45%.

While I personally choose sometimes to not wear a helmet on occasion, such as showing in a carriage pleasure driving, saddleseat, or Western Pleasure class, I do wear it all of the rest of the time. Is that perfect protection for my brain? No, but it is better than none.

It doesn't have to be all or none, but sometimes is better than never and a good start. Helmets are so much more comfortable than a generation ago that comfort can't be a good reason not to wear one. Decent protection doesn't have to be expensive either- a certified helmet for equestrian sports can be as inexpensive as \$25.

Modern, lightweight helmet construction is such that they aren't much good 4-5 years past the manufacture date, even if they've never been worn. Extremes of



Karen on HD Philadelphia at the Clinton County Fair a couple of years ago — helmet on and safety stirrups too!

temperature, such as rolling around in the back seat of your truck in the cold and the blistering heat of the sun aren't so great for durability too. Once you've taken a spill in the helmet, it should be replaced even if you can't see the cracks in the hard outer shell. Many helmet companies offer discounts on a replacement helmet if you do fall off and need a new one.

Once you've got a good helmet, make

sure it fits right. It should be snug enough on your scalp that if you grasp the helmet to move it around, you'll wiggle your scalp with it. The front of the helmet should sit only a couple of fingers width above your eyebrow so as to really protect your forehead. The chinstrap needs to be tight enough to not be able to lift the helmet very far off your head, it shouldn't dangle with free-air space between your chin and the strap. Once the helmet is on, shake your head "yes" and "no"; the helmet shouldn't move. Different brands have slightly different shapes, so try a few on; the key is finding one that's comfortable enough that you'll be willing to use! Your local tack store will have a good selection as well as someone to help you get the best fit.

It is easy to find reasons not to wear a helmet. Vanity (I'll admit, I occasionally succumb to this one), inconvenience, too hot, too cold, itchy, bad hair, never needed/wore one before, blah blah blah. I suggest looking around at your friends, family, horses, and pets. Do you want to put them through the pain of your recovery, or worse, your death? If the Jolly Old Elf didn't leave you a new helmet under the tree, consider getting yourself one for the 2018 riding season.

— Karen Lassell
lassell@whminer.com

If you are a Miner alumni, we would love to hear from you!
Please reach out via facebook or twitter or email Rachel at dutil@whminer.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

EquiDay at Miner Institute: Saturday, March 10

Annual educational seminar will feature speakers on a variety of horse topics from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm.

FREE and open to the public. Meeting will be held in the auditorium of the Joseph C. Burke Education and Research Center at Miner Institute, 586 Ridge Road in Chazy. Lunch will be available for purchase.

UVM Reproduction Workshop: March 23-24

A combination of lectures, demonstrations, and wet labs by veterinarians, University of Vermont and Miner Institute faculty. Contact the UVM Morgan Horse Farm for more information: (802)388-2011 or uvm.morgans@uvm.edu

Horse Speak Retreat for Equine Professionals at Miner Institute: April 7-8

An intensive weekend clinic with author Sharon Wilsie of Wilsie Way Horsemanship. Contact Sharon for details as they become available: wilsiewayhorsemanship@gmail.com or www.horsespeakthebook.com

MINER FAMILY EXPANDS WITH NEW HORSE OWNERS

2017 saw a big jump in the Heart's Delight Morgan horse family! We're thrilled that these folks have found their next (and sometimes first!) Morgan Horse.

Congratulations to:

- Nancy Lindquist of Elizabethtown, NY worked with the big, handsome gelding HD Irondale "Ferrous" long enough to know that he'll be her next trail horse and foxhunting partner as they learn together.
- Kristin Anderson of Keene, NH is just in love with her girl HD Harmony. Kristen worked with Harmony as an intern at Miner and just couldn't get that redhead out of her mind! In just a few short months, Kristen's got 3yo Harmony going beautifully under saddle.
- Sam Dobbins finished her internship at Miner to start her new job in Colora, MD, but a little piece of her heart was left behind. Not for long though, because HD Bliss was delivered in November to be the only Morgan on a warmblood breeding farm and is showing everyone there how much fun it can be!
- Gillian McCarthy of Royersford, PA grew up riding on a Morgan farm and has been riding with a dressage trainer for several years. Her requirements? Great temperament, pony, sport potential, nice bloodlines- 3 year old HD Victory? Check, check, check, and check!
- Faylene Davis and her longtime Morgan learned so much over the years that when she lost him earlier this year, she knew she wanted another Morgan to continue her journey. HD Brandy Brook "Mae" has fit the bill and has settled in beautifully in her new home in Westport, NY.



**Learn more about the Heart's Delight Morgan Horses
and view our sales list**

<http://whminer.org/equine/sales-list.php>



photo by Christopher Crosby Morris

The William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute
1034 Miner Farm Road
P.O. Box 90
Chazy, NY 12921

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FEATURED MINER MORGAN: HD FREEDOM



photo by Christopher Crosby Morris

HD Freedom (Privilege x UVM Loyalty) Bay colt, born May 3, 2017 arrived uneventfully, but quickly turned into the subject matter for recent past intern Sam Dobbin's article about meconium impaction. Five days of struggle was well worth the effort; this young colt has grown into a regal soon-to-be yearling. Miner was the grateful recipient of a the gift of entry to compete in the NY Morgan Stallion Sweepstakes in September and "Nugget" did not disappoint. Retirement from the UVM MHF didn't mean retirement from showing at all; Steve Davis expertly handled him for us for the class to a respectable 10th/16. We're excited for this young boy's future!

Learn more about the Miner Morgans at www.whminer.org/equine.html