



Sept. 2006 Vol. 16 Issue 3



American Cream News



First American Cream Draft 6-Up Hitch since the 1940's

In Alfalfa, Oregon, you wouldn't think there would be much excitement. For this little farming community outside Bend, the most excitement they usually see is the small bit of traffic stopping on the side of the road to see, and take pictures of, one of the locals farming with their horses. It's not something you see every day. Dave and Carol Pshigoda, my parents, can usually be seen out there during certain times of the year, working the ground, fertilizing, cutting hay, or raking the hay with their American Cream Draft Horses.

It's on this little ranch that a piece of history has been reborn. It's the first American Cream

Draft Horse 6-up hitch on exhibition since the 1940's. Long hours of many emotions, as well as the hard work and sweat put into raising, training and driving horses, is nothing unknown to the seasoned teamster.

Each of the horses in the hitch was started single. Carol does most of the training, with Dave there to help with a lead rope or an extra hand when needed. He also drives, and helps spot on the ground, making sure that everything looks good, and watching the teams work together. The kids or Dad will sometimes walk along next to the teams just as a precaution and reassurance to the horses that (con't. on page 4)



American Cream News is a benefit of membership in the American Cream Draft Horse Association, published quarterly, as of 2005. American Cream News welcomes articles, pictures, letters, and classified ads dealing with American Creams, other draft horse breeds, and equipment and events dealing with draft horses.

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Inbreeding, Linebreeding and Crossbreeding

This is an article that was found on line. The following sections are discussed:

INBREEDING: Closebreeding and Linebreeding

OUTCROSSING

The term **Inbreeding** in the western hemisphere usually refers to very close breedings – half or whole siblings, father-daughter, or mother-son. However, in this article the term Inbreeding is used to the mating of *any* related animals. Here it denotes both Closebreeding and Linebreeding.

Closebreeding in this article refers to what we normally think of as Inbreeding.

Linebreeding refers to horses who have pedigrees with related animals where individuals appear more than once in a pedigree.

OUTCROSSING

This term is applied to horses within the same breed that do not have related animals in their pedigree close up.

AN OVERVIEW OF INBREEDING

INBREEDING's purpose is to fix certain traits or the influence of certain ancestors upon the progeny. This procedure varies in degree from intense close breeding to mild linebreeding. Although inbreeding can be detrimental to fertility, vigor, and athletic ability within the offspring, it can also result in true-breeding strains of horses (that consistently pass important traits to their offspring). Because most breeds were formed by a process of inbreeding, the breeding of pure-bred horses is, my definition, a form of inbreeding. Some breeds are more inbred than others. (Degree of inbreeding depends on the number of common ancestors, how far back in the pedigree they appear, and how often each common ancestor occurs.)

From a genetic viewpoint, inbreeding results in an increase of the number of homozygous gene pairs in the offspring. Homozygous refers to a condition where two paired chromosomes have the same allele (gene type) at a corresponding point. Because two close relatives tend to have more of the same alleles (by virtue of inheritance) than two unrelated individuals, their mating provides a greater chance for identical alleles to be paired within their offspring. This increase in homozygosity is directly related to the appearance of both desirable and detrimental characteristics that were not necessarily apparent in the sire and dam.

When horses are inbred haphazardly, without culling of inferior stock, many undesirable traits may become predominant in their offspring. For example, the inbred horse's ability to resist disease and his overall performance capacity are often depressed. The growth rate of the inbred foal, and the average mature size within the inbred herd, frequently decreases. Nonselective inbreeding is directly related to a depressed fertility rate, an increase in abortion and stillbirth. Some basic principles of genetics show why these traits are directly related to inbreeding.

When two unrelated horses are mated, the chances of unidentical alleles combining within the resulting embryo are high. On the other hand, mating close relatives increases the pairing of identical alleles (increases homozygosity). The effect of increased homozygosity is a decrease in the number of heterozygous gene pairs and, subsequently, a decline in heterosis (i.e., loss of vigor and fertility). Although the reason for this allelic interaction is not clear, geneticists believe that its presence contributes to the overall quality of an individual. Therefore, as homozygosity increases within the inbred herd, physical quality controlled by over dominant alleles declines.

Many undesirable genes affecting the horse's overall vigor and fertility are recessive. Fortunately, they have no influence in the heterozygous state, since the effect of the recessive allele is completely hidden by the effect of the corresponding dominant allele. Because of the overall effect of inbreeding is an increase in homozygosity, it increases the number of homozygous recessives. Hence, the effects of undesirable recessive genes begin to surface. Inbreeding does not create undesirable trait, it exposes recessive alleles for hidden weaknesses which are present within the sire and dam. Because successful inbreeding demands the culling of inferior breeding stock over many generations (to help eliminate some of the undesirable recessive genes from the herd), it may not be feasible for some breeders. Not only is the time factor impractical for most breeders, the intense culling often necessary may be an economic problem. (Con't. on page 10)

6 - Up Hitch, cont'd from cover

they're doing what is right. The horses are started single, first standing with the harness on them, and soon ground driving. Then they're graduated up to the cart. Our younger horses are first paired up with one of our older, more experienced horses for their first farming lessons. Babe, who's in the lead team, has become one of our best teachers. With the 6-up hitch, all of the horses were born on the ranch, except for Billy, who was purchased through the Waverly auction.



We have Beau on the right and Eve on the left in the wheel team. Beau is 5. He has always

worked in a team with Eve because they have always had similar movement. He farms on the ranch with Eve, and has been doing really well for the hitch. Last year was his first year of showing at the fair, and at the Draft Horse Expo in Grass Valley, CA. He did wonderfully for his first

year. I was so proud to see him out there in the 4-up



hitch. Eve is our oldest and most experienced horse at 9 years old. She is such a sweetheart too. She was paired with Beau because of their similar color and their movement.

Our youngest team, the swing team, was added this year. Billy, right side, is 4, and Star, left side, is only 3. Billy was bought as a baby, and started training last year. He was laid off last year after being started because the show schedule and working with the 4-up, but his training was resumed this year, and he has come a long way. He was started on the ground, went to a cart, and then was paired with Star. He

has done some spring-tooth with Babe, but has-



not done much more farming than that. Star is our youngest member of the hitch. She was started this February, and first driven with Eve in a team. When she was ready to start driving with Billy, he had a hoof abscess and was in a stall for 5 weeks, so she was driven with Eve up until early June. Then she was paired with Billy again, and because they get along so great, it went very well, and they have both learned very quickly. These two are the best of friends. They hang around each other, even when they're not working.

The lead team is our hardest working, flashiest team. They're both heads-up shoulders-in horses. These two would pull you to the moon. Babe is 8, on the left side, and Sonny is 7 and on the right side. Sonny was started single, and then was paired with Justin, his brother. He



was soon paired with Babe because of their similar body type

and pizzazz in the hitch. They became our new lead team in the 4-up, (continued on page 8)

Horse Progress Days

Clare, Michigan

June 30 - July 1, 2006

By Mike McBride

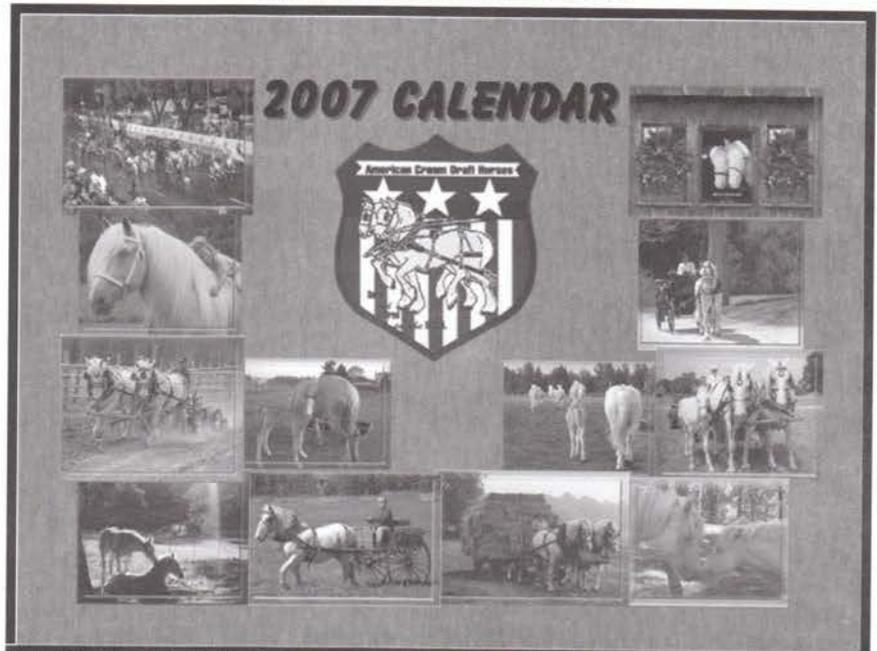
I was there to show the majestic beauty, power and versatility of our American Cream Drafts as I feel they should be presented. My four horses, (mares) HnJ's Dick's Kitt #457, HnJ's Dick's Clar Ann #434, Ray's Golden Girl (Sissy) #575, and Timex (unregistered tracking gelding), are not pampered. They are hard-working drafts and not "Cream Puffs"; a title I have heard others, who have different breeds of drafts, call them. I have been with each one since birth and you could say: "we have all grown together, each of us relying on the other for growth in life." I believe we displayed that ours is a breed of *draft* horse to be reckoned with. . The horses did all I asked and showed all the uninformed critics that they can work as hard as any other draft horse. Along with my four horses and Leonard and Catherine Offutt's two horses, I believe the American Cream Draft Horses were shown to be willing work horses. Draft horse people and others should now have a clear picture of

Look-New for 2007-American Cream Draft Horse Association CALENDARS

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what the breeds' capabilities are. I encourage all Cream owners to demonstrate how the quiet nature of our horses in strange surroundings, in a barn with other stable mates, adjusting to crowds of people, machinery and unexpected distractions while still having the Cream willingness to "getter done" is such a

plus when working with our drafts.

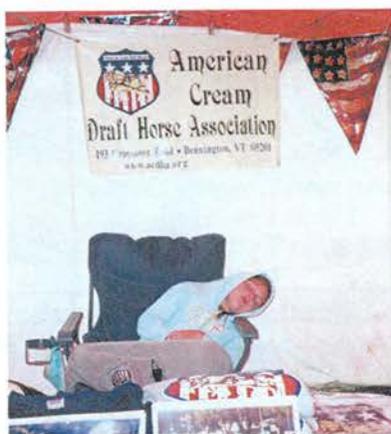
With the accompanying pictures, no one could say it better than my friend and mentor, the late Earl Hammond, as he put his hand on my shoulder, "... ain't they pretty, and they are mine, all mine."



HORSE PROGRESS DAYS

This special two-day event is to display the most complete lineup of horse drawn equipment being manufactured or modified for use with horses, mules or oxen. Hitches from a single horse hitch up to a twelve horse hitch demonstrated equipment at the Amish farm of John Henry Yoder near Clare, Michigan. Our Association reserved booth space, sharing a tent with the Small Farmer's Journal, the Draft Horse Journal, the Shire Horse Association, the Belgian Horse Association, the American Suffolk Horse Association, the Pinto Draft Registry, the American Brabant Association, to name a few. There were special seminars by Steve Bowers from Fort Collins, Colorado, William Smith, D.V.M. from Michigan, Doug (Doc) Hammill, D.V.M. from Montana, David Kline from Fredericksburg, Ohio, and blacksmith demonstrations by the Michigan Horse Shoes Association.

Great fun was had setting up our booth. We arrived before noon the day before HPD would start on the 30th of June. The only booth already set up was Pioneer Equipment from Ohio. Members Linda Johnson and Sheila



Johnson, my great-niece Ashlee Bachinski and I walked through the tent checking paper plates nailed to the ground with the organizations names written in them. We came across our little 10' x 10' plot, soon to be the booth of the American Cream Draft Horse Association. We proceeded to unpack our wares, setting up a table and hanging our sign on the tent wall behind us. Decorations of red, white, and blue were added to the table and wall. We all agreed it looked quite nice and we were ready for the business of educating people about our horses.

The next day when the gates opened at 8:00 A.M. we made sure our merchandise was neatly arranged and brochures were available to anyone

by SUE ENGLE

interested. The rest of the tenants were occupying their respected booths and our display seemed meager, but we didn't let that ruin the enthusiasm and commitment we had brought with us. Observing people filtering through the tent was interesting; there were those who tried to avoid any kind of exchange with us and gave us a quick glance and kept moving; those who paused, read our sign, flipped through the calendar pages then moved on; and those who were genuinely curious about our horses, especially after seeing the six horses brought to HPD, four by Mike McBride and two by Leonard and Catherine Offutt. We commented that out of between 350 and 400 American Cream Drafts we had six representing our breed. That was a better percentage than any other draft breed there. We had several members visit our booth and we look forward to seeing them again at the annual meeting in Shipshewana, Indiana: Diane and Bobbie Ray from Durand, Michigan and Sam Caldwell from Carplake, Michigan. (Continued on page 9)

Don Johnson from Iowa asks "Mike, why can't I drive?"



Take that picture Linda, Mike let me have the lines. Hurry before he changes his mind.



Horse Progress Days 2006

Leonard & Catherine Offutt

Mike McBride



Leonard & Catherine



Breed Presentations
Mike



Round Pen Demonstration



Clare, Michigan

6 - Up Hitch, cont'd from page 5

replacing Barney (our stallion) and Georgia (one of our mares) who were retired in 2002. Babe was worked single, but was first paired with Barney doing farm work. As a 2 ½ year old, she was paired with Eve for the first 4-up of Creams since the 1940's on exhibition and teamed with that lead team of Barney and Georgia, brought John Lyons into the NW Equine Expo. Babe has become so good as a lead horse. She has the distinction of being our point horse in the unicorn, a job that only a most trustworthy horse is given.

It's been a really fun experience for me. I wasn't raised around driving



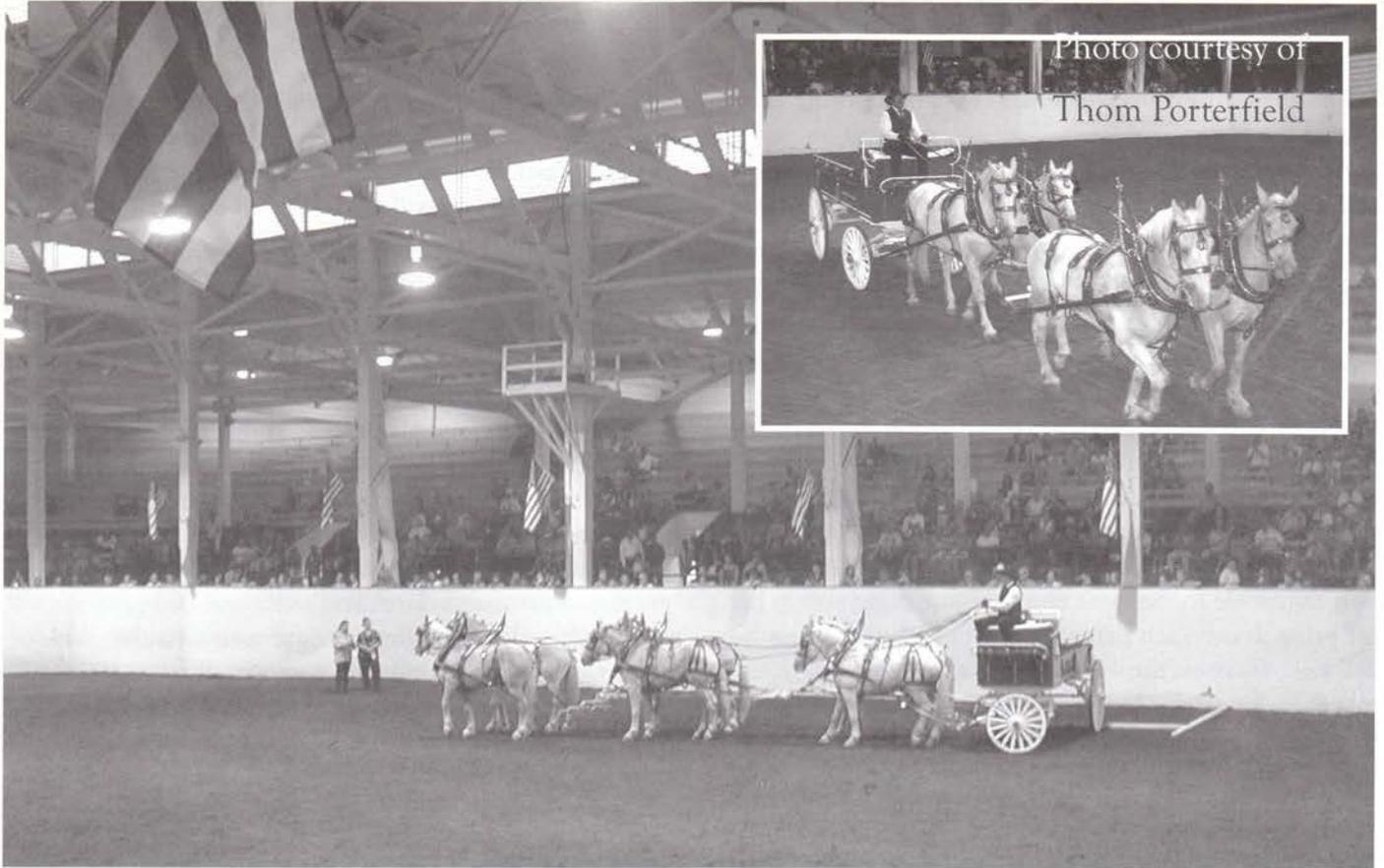
and such, but since I've been around these horses I've developed an interest and love for driving and working with them. My roles have been primarily ground support, as well as head tail-braider at shows, and stall cleaner. Just being around them and watching them though is what I like best. Helping out and support is what I'm there for.

To me, it's all been worth it. The long hours, sweat, tears, smiles, and dedication that has been put in to help preserve and protect this breed has made this a huge accomplishment. Knowing that I have become a part of something so special, and something that has been in the works for over 2 decades fills my heart with pride. I hope that this hitch brings the pride and joy to the people who watch them in shows that it does to me. I can't wait to see what the show season ahead brings!



Scenes from the OREGON STATE FAIR





HPD, cont'd from page 7

All in all I think our presence, of a booth and horses, was a great way to get the word out about our horses and show a large portion of draft horse people some truly "American-born-and-bred Cream Draft Horses" and why we as owners and breeders are so committed in our quest to save such a gentle, beautiful, useful and rare breed as ours.

Many thanks to members Don and Linda Johnson who came to Michigan from Russell, Iowa and Sheila Johnson from Three Rivers, Michigan who helped with the booth, also Mike McBride from Mendon, Michigan and Leonard and Catherine Offutt all the way from Walkersville, Maryland, a 13-hour trip, for showing and working their horses. A very special thanks to my great-niece Ashlee Bachinski, a 9 year old girl with a great passion for horses, who was our gopher, my photographer and informant to all the activities when I was on duty at our booth.



Docking the 6-Up in the Obstacle Class
(top)



6-Up Rail Class
(left)

4-Up Competition Class
(bottom)

Inbreeding, Linebreeding, and Crossbreeding, continued from page 3

Additionally, the traits which tend to surface within the inbred herd (such as depressed growth rate and decreased size) contrast sharply with what many breeders select for. Therefore, the breeder must be objective when the need to cull arises.

Perhaps the greatest advantage of inbreeding is that it increases the prepotency of individuals within a herd and consequently helps to create distinct true-breeding strains or families. This prepotency (the ability of a stallion or broodmare to stamp desirable characteristics upon their offspring with a high degree of predictability) is the result of the parent being homozygous for important desirable traits. When such a parent carries two identical alleles on corresponding points of a chromosome pair, he transmits that allele to the same chromosome point within his offspring. If two such parents are mated, the offspring will always possess the same desirable trait. Therefore, as inbreeding increases homozygosity, it also enhances prepotency. (This is advantageous only if the parents are homozygous for desirable traits.)

As mentioned previously, inbreeding exposes certain weaknesses within the inbred herd. Uncovering these undesirable traits can be an important tool for the overall improvement within a large breeding program. By setting certain selection guidelines, and by carefully eliminating inbred individuals which show inherit weaknesses, the breeder can slowly remove any undesirable recessive genes from their herd. They will find that vigor and fertility are actually improved when inbreeding is accompanied by careful selection.

A successful inbreeding program requires good foundation stock and severe culling over many years. For this reason, inbreeding is usually practiced by experienced breeders who operate large farms for the production of superior prepotent breeding stock. It can also be used to establish breeds, or true-breeding types, with respect to certain characteristics such as color or size.

A breeding system which uses extreme inbreeding, such as mating between siblings or between parents and offspring, is referred to as **CLOSEBREEDING**. The detrimental effects of inbreeding (such as decrease in vigor, fertility, athletic ability and size) are usually exaggerated in a closebreeding system. This is especially true when average breeding stock are used and little culling has been implemented. Closebreeding can produce extremely good, or extremely poor, results. Success and

failure depend on factors such as planning, foundation stock, emphasis on culling, and completeness of pedigree and performance records, etc. Haphazard closebreeding could be very detrimental to the overall quality of the resulting offspring. To avoid disaster, a careful study of the merits and weaknesses of the breeding stock should precede a closebreeding program. Only the most outstanding mares and stallions can be used with any degree of safety in a long term closebreeding program.

Closebreeding is a valuable tool in genetic research, since it quickly exposes hidden gene types that an individual carries. Because of its extreme nature and the chance that it may suddenly cause undesirable effects in the offspring, closebreeding is not often used by horse breeders. Some breeders, who operate large and well organized program, might utilize closebreeding if they progeny test their stallions. (One method of progeny testing a sire is to mate him to a large group of his own daughters. A study of the offspring determines whether he carries undesirable genes hidden in the heterozygous state.) After a stallion proves that he is of superior gene type, the experienced breeder may choose to continue the closebreeding to increase prepotency of future breeding stock.

LINEBREEDING, the most conservative form of inbreeding, is usually associated with slower improvement and limited risk of producing undesirable individuals. It can involve matings between closely or distantly related horses, but it does not emphasize continuous sire-daughter, dam-son, or brother-sister matings. The main purpose of linebreeding is to transmit a large percentage of one outstanding ancestor's genes from generation to generation without causing an increase in the frequency of undesirable traits often associated with inbreeding.

Because linebreeding is not based strictly on mating closely related individuals (with very similar gene types), it does not necessarily cause a rapid increase in homozygous gene pairs. Consequently, it will not expose undesirable recessive genes as extensively as closebreeding. For this reason, linebreeding is generally a safer inbreeding program for most breeders.

Intensive inbreeding (and resulting increased homozygosity) is often directly related to an increase in the expression of many undesirable traits. Therefore, the linebreeder should carefully study pedigrees for each prospective mating and determine if, and how closely, the mare and stallion are related. (Continued on page 11)

Inbreeding, continued from page 10

By following certain guidelines, the breeder can limit inbreeding (and, therefore, homozygosity) within their herd. At the same time, they may increase the influence of a common ancestor upon the entire strain or family.

CROSSBREEDING is the mating of horses from different breeds. Crossbreeding may also be used to produce heterosis, the sudden increase in vigor and fertility caused by a sudden increase in heterozygosity. Because horses from separate breeds usually carry very different genotypes, crossbreeding causes a more extreme form of heterosis. The possibility of each parent contributing identical alleles to their offspring is remote. Heterosis from crossbreeding often appears as a sudden improvement in physical characteristics, such as size, endurance, disease resistance, etc. New breeds are sometimes established by crossing members of two or more breeds and carefully inbreeding the original crossbred offspring. Crossbreeding initiates the desired change, while inbreeding increases the ability of each generation to breed "true to type".

Author Anonymous

EQUUS SURVIVAL TRUST Foot Note -

This article was found on line by the Equus Survival Trust. While we agree with much of the philosophy in this article, it must be remembered that, particularly in an endangered breed, one must exercise inbreeding with a great degree of caution. This is not to say it doesn't have its place. But culling of inferior animals from breeding programs is especially important when dealing with small gene pools.

On the other hand, to increase strength of a rare line, inbreeding would be a valuable tool if the animals involved do not share the same weaknesses or faults. The progeny of such a breeding should then be carefully linebred or even outcrossed before bringing the line back in again if at all.

SUGGESTED READING:

"A Conservation Breeding Handbook"
by Philip Sponenberg & Carolyn Christman



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Equus Survival Trust Summer Updates

Sorry, no update at this time.

www.albc-usa.org for more information.

JOURNALISTIC CALL for PHOTOS and INFORMATION

The Trust is currently working on updating its website. This includes adding an American Cream Draft page with a breed description and links. If anyone has material or links they would like to contribute, we are currently compiling information and pictures.



Artwork courtesy of

Scarlett Tollman-McGath

We are still looking for good working photographs for future articles and brief stories about working Creams to help promote your breed.

ciation literature and farm brochures for the American Cream Drafts at no charge. Please mail your flyers to the Trust by mid-to late October.

FREE TRADE SHOW PROMOTION OPPORTUNITY

On November 9-12, the Equus Survival Trust will have a booth at Equine Affaire in Massachusetts. Over 100,000 people attend this venue every year. We will gladly put out asso-

Please contact : Victoria Tollman, Executive Director of the Equus Survival Trust for additional information on any of the above projects.

www.Equus-Survival-Trust.org
email: EquusSurvivalTrust@yahoo.com

Annual Meeting Information: Rooms were not reserved at the original inn as Sue had requested. Please make your reservations at:

Old Carriage Inn B&B 1-800-435-0888
Rooms are \$61.60/night. Limited time only!

AMERICAN CREAM DRAFT
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Xander McKinley getting his first ride with his dad, Shaun, on Rose Hill Cream of Wheat Belle # 381.