



American Cream News

E-Letter



Volume 22 No 3 FALL 2012



A gathering of Creams at the 2012 ACDHA annual meeting in Spencer, Iowa
members pictured from Left to Right: Wendell Lupkes, Donna Miller, Connie Purchase, Dennis Purchase and Kevin Johnson

Spencer, Iowa 2012

by Donna Miller

Well, I've just returned from the best ACDHA meeting I have ever attended. Granted, I didn't make it to Shipshewana, Indiana in 2006 or Bennington, Vermont in 2008, but this was a great meeting. Our hosts Connie & Dennis Purchase & Kevin Johnson kept us busy (and well fed!) all 3 days.

The only drawback to this meeting was the distance from a major airport. After shopping for airfares, I chose to fly into Omaha, Nebraska on Wednesday night. I had also booked a motel room online in nearby Carter Lake. I didn't want to be roaming a strange city late at night in a rental car, trying to find a room

(I did that last year in Pennsylvania – not fun).

Everything went well –flights were on time, my luggage was not lost, the rental agency upgraded my car from a Kia Rio to a Chevy Malibu with a sunroof, the motel was easy to find & my room was waiting for me. A good start to the trip!

After I got settled in my room, I was in for a real treat. I had left a week of 100+ degree weather in California and it hadn't rained in 3 months. A thunderstorm hit Omaha at about 11pm, complete with pouring rain and hail. I turned out the lights and opened the curtains, enjoying the show for about 45 minutes. Since the Midwest was in the middle of a drought, I'm sure the locals appreciated it too.

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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 and equipment and events dealing with draft horses. Our new format will be available to members one issue before it is posted on our association website.

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FROM THE DRIVERS SEAT

It is with sadness that I report the passing of long time member and officer Don Johnson. He and his wife Linda supported this organization in many ways, hosted a number of annual meetings and were very faithful with their attendance at meetings. Our sympathy is also extended to Linda and Don's Family.

The Annual Meeting was very interesting with 2 full days of demonstrations and talks and some very good food prepared by the Families of Connie Purchase and Kevin Johnson. Connie and Kevin deserve a big THANK YOU for making this such an enjoyable event. It is always good to meet with the membership and put faces to names. All of the Associations secretaries -- past and present were present. Betsy Ziebell and Karene Topp made the drive together. Betsy volunteered to do the annual meeting mailing and Karene gave a very nice talk on the early days of the Association. This was the first meeting that I have attended where the Cream horses (23) outnumbered the members present. This meeting afforded me an opportunity to see part of this Country that I would have probably never visited. It was unusual to be in rush hour in downtown Spencer and be one of 3 cars waiting at the light! Weather was unusually cool, jackets were in order after dark. Next years meeting will be held in Sacramento, California.

Congratulations to newly elected Board member Belle Davis of California and returning Board member Wendell Lupkes, Iowa.

2013 Nominating Committee Members are David Lively, Vermont, chairman, Sandy Schwartzler, California, and Kevin Johnson, Minnesota. They will present a slate of 3 to fill the 2 positions. So if you want to serve as a director contact one of these members.

One of the discussions at the meeting centered on our records. All of us know of unregistered Creams. In order for us to know the health of our breed we need to have current stats. To help update our records, the Board of Directors is offering a grace period for registrations and transfers. The cost of these will be reduced by 1/2. The paper work must be post marked by February 28, 2013 to take advantage of this reduction. If you have un-registered animals please take advantage of this offer so we can up date our records. Remember the Secretary also needs to be notified of deceased animals.

Frank Tremel
President



The next morning, I started on my 3 hour drive to Spencer, Iowa. The countryside was pretty, but the effects of the drought were obvious. Most of the corn fields were stunted, with many of the lower leaves brown. Some of the fields had been cut already. I guess the farmers were cutting their loses and making silage. The towns were picturesque, typical small-town America. At 10am I stopped to ask for directions at a Dairy Queen (it's never too early for a milkshake). I also stopped at an Iowa Welcome Center... It seemed to be in the middle of nowhere, next to a county museum. The lady was helpful and she gave me a map of Iowa and some brochures for things to do near Spencer.

I made it to Spencer about lunchtime. It was too early to check into our motel, but the clerk gave me the packet for the meeting and directions to the Clay County fairgrounds. Luckily, Spencer isn't that big and it is easy to find your way around. After a bite to eat, I went to the fairgrounds and found Kevin & Connie. Between the two of them, they had brought 22 Creams! They were getting their horses settled in the barn and washing horses. After greetings and introductions to family and friends helping, I got to look the horses over. It was just amazing to see so many Creams in one place! They had several bloodlines represented. It was fun to see relatives of my stallion (he is from Don & Linda Johnson's herd), and several of my mares.



A ground-handling demonstration was scheduled for the afternoon, so I wandered over to the indoor arena to watch. Connie had a young mare in training with Sue White and had asked her to do the demonstration. She was accompanied by her son, who made rope halters as well as assisted. Kevin supplied a little-handled colt for the demo in a round pen. She used a soft lariat-type rope to teach the horse to give to pressure. The colt was nervous since he was in a new place, separated from his herd. After a bit, he did start paying attention and responding appropriately. It's always good to see other people's methods. I know I am constantly learning new techniques and gaining greater understanding



into horse behavior. Kevin also had brought a just-weaned colt. She worked with him next. When the demo wrapped up, I headed back to the motel to check in.

During the afternoon, Wendell Lupkes showed up with the 23rd Cream, a nice looking young stallion.

Nancy & David Lively had just arrived at the motel when I got back there. They had ridden to Spencer from Vermont on their motorcycle along a northern route through Canada. We had an hour or so before meeting for dinner back at the fairgrounds. After being on the motorcycle for so long, they gladly accepted the offer of a ride to dinner.



The Thursday Welcome Dinner was hosted by Kevin Johnson & family. It was a Scandinavian menu, complete with pickled herring and lutefisk. Like many non-Scandinavians, I had never had either. I was brave & had a bite of each. My opinion is that I'd eat them if I was starving. Lucky for me, they also served Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes and peas with Key Lime pie for dessert. Us out-of-towners weren't any fun – none of us had dressed up for the Ole and Lena look-a-like contest. Instead, we were treated to two stand-up comics doing Swedish humor. It was hysterical! Connie had videoed the afternoon demo, but this would have been worth



recording too. I wish I could remember more of the jokes. My favorite was, "I got a little dog for my wife". Response: "It sounds like a good trade".

Friday morning, we headed back to the fairgrounds after breakfast at the motel (complete with biscuits and gravy!). We were greeted by

the whinnies of the 23 horses in the barn. A.J. "Doc" Neumann (of Draft Horse Journal fame) and Bob Mouw were there to do a mock halter show for us. Connie, Kevin and some draftees (pun intended) would bring the horses into the arena – weanlings, young mares, young geldings, older mares, older geldings, and the



two stallions. Then Doc & Bob would talk about their conformation, pointing out the good and the not so good points. Doc started out talking about a horse's head and how after evaluating it, you'd have a pretty good idea if you'd want to buy that horse or not. He also told stories of how old-time horse traders would check a horse's eyesight and hearing by lighting a pipe (with a match) and whistling. It was interesting hearing about the origin of sayings like "knothead" and "pig eyes", both bad traits.

We had a special guest – Ronald Johnson, Don Johnson's brother. He had kept Connie updated on Don's status in the hospital. Our thoughts and prayers were with the Johnson family. Ron had spent a lot of time with Don's horses, but managed to never get any himself, although Don had tried to get him involved.





The audience was invited to come into the arena and put their hands on the horses. We got to feel ringbone (avoid it in breeding stock – it is hereditary), look at the set of hocks (vertical – good, sickle hocks, not), feel the groove between the leg bone and the hock (good), and look at shoulder angles. One thing that I learned is that it is desirable for drafts to be narrow behind and toed out slightly – this allows them to get their hind feet under them further, avoiding their large barrels.

We didn't lack sustenance during the day: muffins, cookies, candy and drinks were available all day. And at lunch time, we had barbecued pork sandwiches at another building on the fairgrounds. We ate sitting next to the largest model train display I have ever seen. There must have been 10-12 complete sets, each with its own village or landscape scene. It was quite impressive! It must be incredible when everything is running.



At the end of the day, we had two special classes. These were the stallions in one & 4 mares in the other. Both Doc and Bob were impressed with Wendell's stallion, though they

both preferred the feet on Kevin's (I believe all the Creams were barefoot, so they got to see how well the feet held up without shoeing). The mare class consisted of two of Don & Linda's mares that Connie is caring for and two of Connie's mares that are descended from them (a great-grandmother, grandmother, mother and daughter). Connie's question was, "Am I improving the breed?" The answer was "yes", they did see improvement with each generation. (Whew! I'm sure she was holding her breath for that one!)

We had a short break before dinner. Nancy went back with me & David stayed with our President Frank Tremel (we later heard that they went to a local watering hole with Doc & Bob). (Frank should write an article about that conversation!)

Connie's family provided Friday's dinner. She wanted it to represent Iowa, so we had pork chops, steak, potatoes and corn on the cob. For dessert, a niece had baked and decorated a bunch of cupcakes. Even though I was stuffed, a couple had to go back to the motel with me.... (Chocolate with crumbled Oreos in the frosting – umm!) Connie also wanted to recreate a picture that Iowa is famous for – American Gothic by Grant Wood. You know the one – the farmer holding the pitchfork with his wife beside him, looking sour, with the farmhouse in the background. She had costumes for us to wear and a pitchfork to hold (clean, not dirty). Although a few people tried to slip out, I think we got everyone. I can't wait to see the results! About dark, we waddled back to the motel.



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AMERICAN CREAM GOTHIC



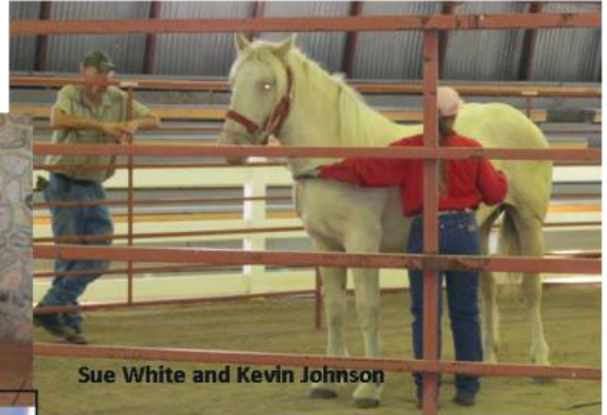


When in Iowa.....The ACDHA members had a bit of fun recreating an Iowa classic. The American Gothic took on a Cream approach, becoming the "AMERICAN CREAM



SOME OF OUR FAVORITES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING...

by Connie Purchase



Sue White and Kevin Johnson

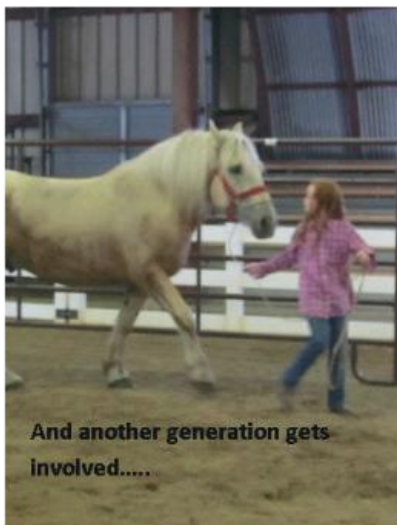
Ronald Johnson with his brother Don's mare Rebecca.



Betsy Ziebell and Connie Purchase with Sandy. This mare is of ClarAnn breeding from Betsy and her late husband. Sandy was then sold to Don Johnson who used her as his main mare for many years. She was then sold to Connie where she is continuing to be used for breeding.



THE LUTEFISK COOKING CREW! Thank you Johnson Family!



And another generation gets involved.....



From right to left we have 4 generations of mares. Dr. A J Neumann has been working with all breeds of draft horses for over 60 years and he said this was the first time he had been presented with 4 generations. Starting on the right is Sandy, owned by Connie Purchase, next to Sandy is her daughter Rebecca owned by Don Johnson, next to Rebecca is her daughter Robbin owned by Connie and on the far left is Robbin's daughter Edy, also owned by Connie.



What were we thinking? After 2 loads of horses left the event we decided to put the remaining horses together for a group picture. We still had 14 of the 23 horses that attended. Wendell Lupkes is on the far left with his stallion Clayton. Kevin Johnson is on the far right with his stallion Brandon. The left line includes horses owned by Connie and Dennis Purchase as well as the horses owned by Don and Linda Johnson. The right line are horses belonging to Kevin Johnson. Donna Miller is helping with the lineup.



Back row left to right: Kevin Johnson, Dennis Purchase, Nancy Lively, Frank Tremel, David Lively, Connie Purchase.

Middle row left to right: Donna Miller, Renee Lupkes, Sue Engel, Wendell Lupkes, Nancy McBride.

Front row left to right: Betsy Ziebell, Karene Topp, Maggie Lupkes.

Missing from the photo, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dolan.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Iowa meeting. We had a great time planning the event, and we loved everyone's participation. From Sven and Ole entertaining us after a meal of Lutefisk to lots of hands on time with horses to just good conversation with great people, we couldn't have imagined a better time. Thank you for coming and participating.

-Kevin and Connie





Nothing controversial was on the agenda, so it went by fairly smoothly. Item #16 on the agenda was a discussion of Polysaccharide Storage Myopathy (PSSM). This is a form of "Tying Up" that a genetic test has been developed for. It is fairly common in the draft breeds. At least one Cream breeder has had a horse test positive for it. It is not fatal like JEB, and horses can be carriers without having symptoms. (More information is available at www.cvm.umn.edu/umec/lab/PSSM/home.html). We broke for lunch at the buffet downstairs, concluded our business and settled up our silent auction purchases. It was announced that Wendell Lupkes had been re-elected director and Belle Davis had been elected also. We watched a CD about Creams that Karene brought. It was neat seeing the old pictures and listening to her being interviewed. All too soon, we were breaking up and going our separate ways. Some had planes to catch, critters to feed, and our secretary & her husband had to get back on their motorcycle and ride to Vermont.

Since Frank & I didn't have to fly out until Sunday, we headed back to the fairgrounds to help load up horses. Kevin's family had taken some home Friday night, but were back to load up the rest. It is a 3 hour drive each way – that is dedication! We helped Connie take two loads to her house. The horses were certainly ready to go back out to pasture! We arranged to go to dinner with Connie and Dennis – after taking care of us, we wanted to thank them for all of their hard work.

The 2013 meeting will be held in Sacramento, California in conjunction with Gold Rush Days (Labor Day weekend). Exact dates will be announced in the next newsletter. We'll have to work hard to do as good a job as our 2012 hosts! I hope you will plan on coming-



Donna Miller
MILLERS' CREAM DRAFT
Grass Valley, California



3 ACDHA Secretaries:

L to R:

Betsy Ziebell, the 2nd,
Nancy Lively, current,
and Karene Bunker
Topp, the 1st

*Thank
You
Ladies*



A Rare Opportunity for a Rare Breed.

by Wendell Lupkes

We all know that the American Cream Draft Horse is a rare breed, managing to avoid extinction for over a hundred years, and maybe a few know of Doc Neumann and Bob Mouw from around Orange City, Iowa, whose combined knowledge and experience with draft horses is unmatched, but for these forces to come together for the benefit of the American Cream Draft Horse Association members attending the 2012 meeting in Spencer, Iowa was truly a once in a lifetime experience.

I had the pleasure of attending a clinic put on by Bob Mouw and Doc Neumann during a snowstorm in 2006, so I already knew we were in for a treat. The Clay County fairgrounds in Spencer is home to one of the largest and best-attended county fairs in Iowa. Connie Purchase and Kevin Johnson had envisioned having a large enough gathering of horses to break out into various classes of mares, geldings, and stallions. They made it happen with eight horses from Connie (including two of Don Johnson's that she is caring for), fourteen from Kevin, and one that I brought along for good measure.

We started out on Friday morning with three mature mares in the ring. Doc started out talking about a number of tips that old-time horse buyers might rely upon when first evaluating a horse, such as having the horse in the barn with the light shining in, rather than out

in the full sun. That gives a better reference as to the horse's visual perception. Also, he talked about how they might whistle to make sure the horse's hearing was ok.

Then Doc and Bob asked all the members that wanted to participate to join him in the ring and they discussed conformation, and more importantly, conformation faults. The various horses were reviewed for correct set of the hocks, the roundness of the croup, and the slope of the shoulder which determines the correct angle of draft. Following the static exam, the mares were walked around the ring while all attendees could observe them from various angles. Bob and Doc explained how a horse may be a "short stepper" and would have a hard time keeping up. The proper stride (at a walk) would have the rear hoof land nearly in the print of the front hoof. That's something I don't remember consciously looking at before. There were several points that were quite subtle, one regarding bone-to-tendon relation below the hock that I never could tell for sure by feel what the correct condition was. I guess I won't quit my day job just yet!

As the day progressed, we brought in geldings, yearling colts, young mares, and eventually stallions. With each group the same conformation traits could be observed, and after several groups of horses with differing bloodlines, one could begin to recognize conformation traits that may have previously gone unnoticed. The grand finale of the conformation clinic was when four generations of American Cream mares were brought into the ring for Doc Neumann to review and offer his opinion of whether the breed was improving. Later Doc said that in all his years of judging, he never had the opportunity to look at four generations at the same time.



Thursday Afternoon Training Tips with Sue White



Thursday Evening Lutefisk Meal Courtesy of the Kevin Johnson Family



.Kevin's Father-the Lutefisk cook

What is Lutefisk? Literally translated, Lutefisk means lye fish. It comes from the early process of soaking the cod in a lye solution made of birch ashes. Then the fish is either boiled or baked and served immediately with melted butter or cream sauce.



Kevin "Uff-Da" Johnson



"Sven & Ole" our evening's entertainment



Karene



Betsy



Dennis



Connie

Sue



Sue



Nancy



"The Cooks"

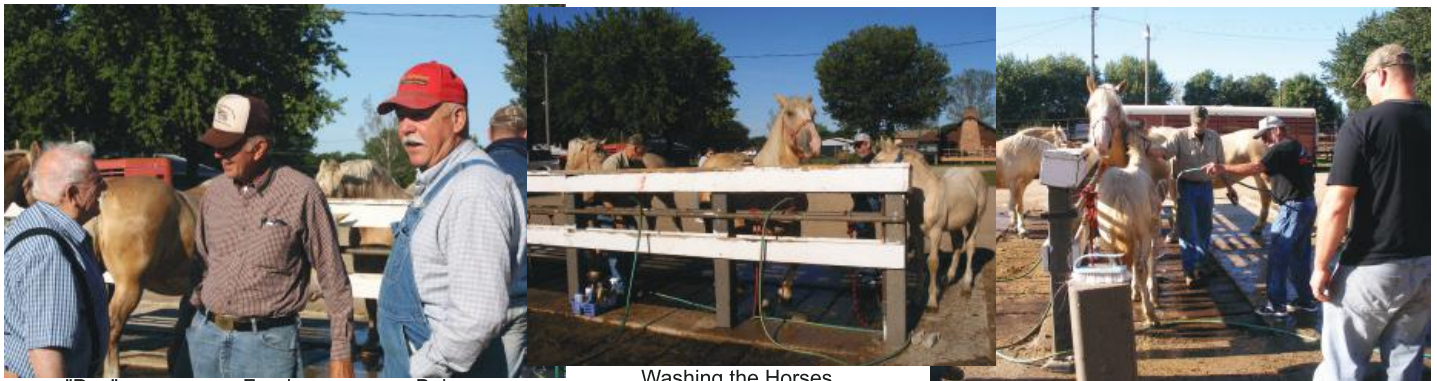


Donna



Frank

Friday with A.J. "Doc" Neumann and Bob Mouw



"Doc"

Frank

Bob

Washing the Horses

Mom protect me from the water snake

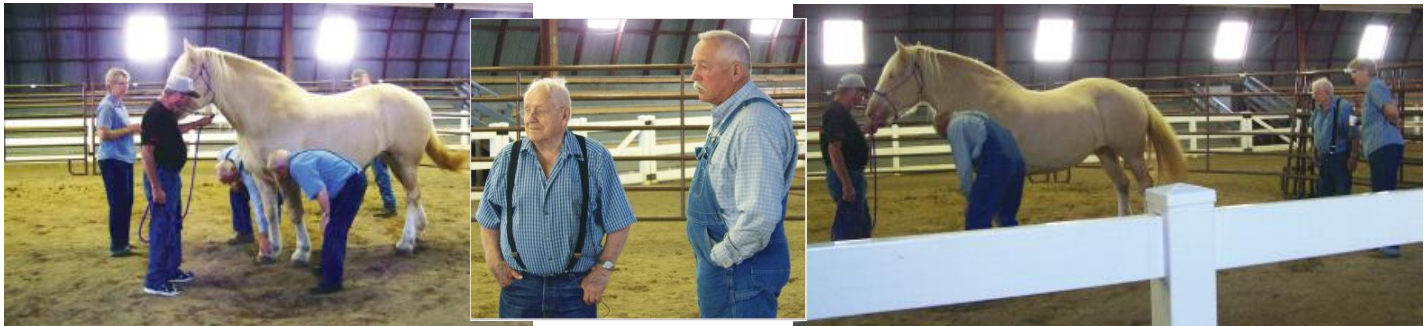


Checking for pig eyes

Checking the hocks



Long or short stride



Checking for ringbone

"Doc" and Bob

More checking



A very good day was had by all!

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DONALD C JOHNSON MEMORIALS

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48293 Hy-Vee RD
Chariton, IA 50049



Editors Note: A heartfelt thank you is extended by this editor for all the photos submitted by David Lively, Wendell (Renee) Lupkes, Nancy McBride, Donna Miller and any other members I have neglected to name. Also this edition is a great reminiscence of such an eventful gathering thanks to all who contributed their words as well. With your input our newsletter shares all the meeting happenings we experienced and the true love we all share "The American Cream Draft Horse."



ATTENTION MEMBERS:

We have lost one of our members and a true advocate for preserving our American Cream Draft Horses **Donald C. Johnson** from Russell, Iowa passed from this earth Sunday, September 16, 2012 after complications from a double lung transplant. We will be commemerating Don's Life and his involvement in the American Cream Draft Horse Association in the next issue which will be

"A Tribute to Donald C. Johnson"

This is the time for all who knew Don and any who have horses from his breeding program who would like to help put this special tribute together by sending in your stories, thoughts, photos, etc. so we can share how grateful we were to have Don Johnson as a member and friend. So, send in anything you would like to share to me, Sue Engel either by snail mail @ Sue Engel, 54658 Bent Rd., Marcellus, MI 49067 or by e-mail: sulynnengel@juno.com or sulynnengel@yahoo.com. The deadline for getting your information to me will be December 15, 2012. I look forward to making this an issue his family and our association will treasure for a long time to come.