Another Look at the Cream and Champagne Genes  
by Donna Miller

Back in 2009, I wrote an article about genetic testing in the Cream News. I have been asked to write an update. First, I’d like to review some basic information and definitions. What a creature looks like is an expression of its genes. All genes come in pairs. Think of the DNA helix we’ve all seen pictures of, with two strands twisting around together. One of those strands is made of the genes from the father (sire), one from the mother (dam). If both genes for a trait are the same, that is called homozygous (homo = same). If they are different, it is called heterozygous (hetero = different). In this article, I will use *italics* when I’m referring to a gene, to separate it from when I’m speaking of a color by the same name.

To check for new information, I checked the websites of Animal Genetics, Inc. ([www.horsetesting.com](http://www.horsetesting.com)), the University of California – Davis Veterinary Genetics Laboratory ([www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/services/horse/php](http://www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/services/horse/php)) and Wikipedia (which was either inaccurate or confusing).

The color of our Cream Draft breed is due to two dilution genes, the *Champagne* gene and the *Cream (Cremello)* gene. These genes modify the basic color gene of our breed, Chestnut (also called sorrel). (A disclaimer here – I am NOT saying that we are a color breed, just that color is one of our breed standards).
From the Driver’s Seat

Looks like winter is leaving us quickly on the East coast. Longer days, flowers blooming and spring foals hitting the ground. Before you know it the annual meeting will be here. Connie Purchase and Kevin Johnson have planned 3 days of activities beginning on August 16.

Have you made your reservations? Refer to the last newsletter for all of the meeting information. Our meeting in 2013 will be held on the West coast. A full proposal will be presented at this year’s meeting for our approval.

Please remember to provide the secretary with your stallion, foaling and breeding reports before the annual meeting.

Sue Engel needs your photos and articles for this newsletter. She prints what you send in. Lots of neat pictures in the last newsletter. Keep up the good work.

Remember, you can help the Association financially by purchasing our merchandise at www.zazzle.com. The Association receives a percentage of each sale.

Hope to see you in Spencer at our meeting.

Frank Tremel
President

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY................

It isn’t very often that a weather statement can be made that applies to the whole country, but WOW, WHAT A WEIRD WINTER! In Vermont, it’s like the month of November never ended. We have no snow, never hooked up the plow, no below zero nights, and never ran a tank heater. It will be curious – and a little scary – to see how all of this plays out this spring and summer.

Here’s an update from the ACDHA Office –

During the power outage from Hurricane Irene, I filled out the 23-page Application for 501c3 Recognition of Exemption and submitted it to the IRS on September 6, 2011. On September 28th, we received a letter saying they had received it, and on October 28th, we received a letter saying that the application would be assigned to an Exempt Organization Specialist. I just checked online and they have just started working on applications that were sent in July, so it looks like we have a while yet before we know. We’ll keep our fingers crossed that they’ll accept it as is, and if not, then we’ll work through whatever “further development” they may need. At least we’re farther ahead with this process than we’ve ever been before.

As of the last annual meeting, the Directors had reached an agreement as to the content of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the ACDHA and Ball State University with one exception. In short, the agreement pertains to using our registry as the critically endangered draft breed in their database, which “will be used to build and refine relational information categories within an overall database schema to preserve genetic and historic genealogical information of each rare and endangered breed of equine”. The one exception is the statement in the MOU where upon termination of the Agreement, we only get back what we submitted. I feel we should have access to whatever results have been discovered at the time of termination and not just what we submitted. We feel that participating in this research is a good opportunity for us; however, we also feel that our interests need to be protected. It’s been awhile since I last discussed this with Ball State so I will re-initiate correspondence with them soon.

Like all of us individually, the Association is still feeling the effects of these extended, less than good, economic times. As you can see from the last two paragraphs, there is quite a bit going on in the Association above and beyond registrations and transfers. I have just sent out the Friendly Reminders to those of you that have not paid your 2011 dues and I urge you all to, please, make every effort to pay these. They are our life support, (the 501c3 Application alone was $400) and we do offer the convenience of paying them with your credit card. Any Association business – dues, registrations, transfers, JEB tests, etc. - can be paid for with your credit card. We accept VISA and MasterCard.

It sounds like Connie Purchase and Kevin Johnson are putting together a wonderful Annual Meeting weekend in August. David and I are looking forward to seeing everyone and all of the horses, as well as, riding our Honda Goldwing motorcycle out there. The best to you all till then.

Nancy
The Chestnut gene is recessive. That means both parents must pass along a Chestnut gene to have a foal that color. If two Chestnuts are bred together, only a Chestnut foal will result, because the parents both only have Chestnut genes.

On the other hand, the Champagne gene is dominant. As long as one of the parents passes along the Champagne gene, the foal’s color will be diluted. There isn’t a visible difference between a horse with two Champagne genes (homozygous), and a horse with one Champagne gene and one non-Champagne gene (heterozygous). The only way to tell if an individual is homozygous or heterozygous is through genetic testing. As well as diluting the base coat color to a lighter color, the Champagne gene is responsible for our breed’s pink skin with motting or freckles and the eye color that changes from blue-gray at birth to amber, green or hazel.

The Cream gene is incompletely dominant. That means that there is a visible difference between horses having one copy of the Cream gene (heterozygous) and those with two copies (homozygous). A Chestnut horse with one copy becomes a palomino, or in our breed, a “dark cream”. A Chestnut horse with two copies is seen as a cremello in other breeds or a “light cream” in ours. The Cream gene does not affect the skin color or eye color of a horse. This seems to indicate that the color of our breed’s cream-colored but dark-skinned and dark-eyed mares is due to their having Cream gene(s) but not Champagne gene(s).

My research also turned up a ‘new’ gene. It is called the Pearl gene. So far, there isn’t any indication that it is found in the American Cream Draft, but then again, none of our horses have been tested for it. I only mention it because it interacts with the Cream gene. It makes a heterozygous Cream look like a homozygous Cream (cremello coloring instead of palomino coloring).

You may wonder why we have so many shades of cream in our breed. Part of the answer lies with the genetic base color of a particular horse. Think of chestnut Suffolk horses – that is a fairly dark color. Now think of a sorrel Belgian – this is a lighter, brighter color. Either of those colors could be the base color of a Cream Draft. Theoretically, lightening either base color up 20 shades would produce different colors, one darker and more tan, the other lighter and more gold.

Horses of the same color can have different genetic make-up. My stallion, Joshua, is a light cream, the same color as my riding horse Bridger. Both have been tested. He is heterozygous for both the Champagne gene and the Cream gene (remember, that means he has one copy of each). Bridger, on the other hand, is homozygous for the Champagne gene but does not have any Cream genes. Their offspring, EmmaLee, also a light cream, is the same genetically as her sire.

I have 4 other mares that I have not tested for financial reasons (at $50 a horse, it adds up!). Two are ¼ Suffolk, ¼ Cream Draft cream-colored tracking mares. In the past, I didn’t test them because they are obviously heterozygous. Since their dams were Suffolks, they didn’t carry either the Champagne or Cream genes. They got their coloring from their sire. But now I wonder if they have the Cream gene and/or the Champagne gene. One is a light cream color with pink skin; the other is a medium cream with dark skin.

The other two mares are medium in color, with pink skin and amber eyes. Both are daughters of Joshua out of different Cream mares. Due to their skin and eye color, I think that they both have the Champagne gene, but I don’t know if they are heterozygous or homozygous. These days, a homozygous mare has more value because all of her foals will be colored. These mares may also carry the Cream gene.

As an association, we need to start thinking how genetic testing fits in. Do we want to start using it in some situations? Which ones? With the economy so bad, it doesn’t seem to be the right time to require more tests. But testing does have value for those of us with horses to sell it might make them more valuable or salable. Another topic for us to discuss is whether or not we want to switch from using light, medium and dark cream as our breed colors to using the standard ones used by equine geneticists such as Dr. D. Phillip Sponenberg in his book Equine Color Genetics (this book is a great reference if you want to learn more about horse colors and how the genes interact).
"State Fair Material"
meet Lively's Allison owned by the Grenier family

left: Taylor Grenier giving instructions to Allie before competition at the Oneida County 4H Show at the Boonville, NY fairgrounds last March.

below: Allie showing off at Western Day and Gymkana Day (who says a draft horse can't do barrels?) This was Allie's first year of being shown under saddle.

right: Taylor and Allie shared the honor of the award. 1st place in showmanship at halter and a blue ribbon! No one recognized Allie's breed so they had a contest in which the 4H students had to guess her breed. No one did, so it was an opportunity for Taylor to educate her fellow 4Hers about the American Cream breed. Taylor was even complimented by one of the judges telling her that Allie was State Fair material.

Way to GO! Taylor and Allie!!
Meet Timex-Starvin Marvin-Monster Hoover owned by Kerrie Beckett

Kerrie writes: Timex has tried to be a very patient teacher in my learning of harnessing and driving..... Boy, does he LOVE to work..... we are expanding his comfort zone each time we venture out....

I jumped on him bareback yesterday in the pasture to see what he would do - he was a bit confused, I could almost hear the wheels in his brain turning - "...what the heck is she doing? Am I supposed to actually do something...? or just stand around with her sitting there...??"

Anyway - he was a dream the last couple of weeks! Every time he is so good... I am so thrilled with him...

Members, you have seen this horse in the newsletter and calendar pages many times before. He was usually pulling some sort of farm equipment in a 4 horse hitch. The only gelding owned by Mike McBride he was always listed as unregistered in the photos since Mike never saw the need to register a dark skinned gelding. However, when he was purchased by Kerrie Beckett this past fall, she wanted to become a full member and decided to register the 9 year old gelding as Timex-Starvin Marvin-Monster Hoover. I think there has been quite an adjustment on both the owner and horse's parts, Kerrie in learning what it is to handle a horse with lines instead of reins and Timex in having more leisure time than he has ever known. He has learned that apples grow on trees and they are very tasty. Kerrie has learned to harness a rather large draft horse. The photos from Kerrie speak for themselves..these two souls are meant to be together and it is comforting for me as an owner to know there might be someone as great as Kerrie to care for and love my horses when I am gone.

A new forecast makes all the difference when your horse is training you to drive.

A truly pleasurable day was had by all!
Editor's Note: I would like to thank all the stallion owners who have elected to participate in our Stallion Showcase. As an owner of 5 mares, we plan to breed two of our girls this year and the research I have been doing for the newsletter has been very helpful in planning the perfect mating for them. I ENCOURAGE others to do the same and take advantage of the members who are able to care for and offer their stallions to those of us who, for various reasons, are unable to keep a stallion of our own. This is a win-win for all who want to help add to our herd numbers and thus find other people who will appreciate this, America's original draft, horse for years to come.

You will not find any prices listed with the stallions who's services are being offered as I believe that to be a private treaty between the owners of the breeding pair. We as owners should be more concerned with the breed confirmation we are trying to preserve and match the stallions to our mares accordingly.

Corson's Swedish Prinz Gustav #676

16 HH, born 2006
Medium Cream, JEB N/N

Sire: Brehm's Swede # 439
Dam: HnJ’s Dick’s Mae Pearl # 417
Live Cover only

Ben & Linda Corson
93 Inner Way
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
(208) 267-2174
corson@wildblue.net
Barney's Incredible Ivan #590

16 HH, 1700 lbs, born 2005
Medium Cream, JEB N/N

Sire: Captain's Barnabus Gold #234
Dam: Frank's New Year's Eve #390 Live Cover only

Bill & Belle Davis
Acampo, CA
wddjr@clearwire.net or belle.davis@clearwire.net

Forevergreen Clayton #701

15.3 HH, born 2006
Medium Cream, JEB N/N

Sire: JD's Dee Jay #283
Dam: Clar Ann Dick's Susie #306
A. I. and Live Cover (minimum of 3 breedings to initiate A. I.)

Contact:
Wendell Lupkes
4862 W 4th Street
Waterloo, IA 50701
(319) 232-4904
wjlupkes@mchsi.com
Joker's Golden Boy #654

16.1 HH, born 2007
Medium Cream, JEB N/N

Sire: Lupkes' C. J.'s Joker #580
Dam: Clar Ann Cream Dream #317
Live Cover only

Mischala Walker
Walker Farms
6668 SR 124
Russellville, AR 72802
(479) 967-5387
paintgall@msn.com

Rose Hill ADBJ463  Lincoln #675

16 HH, born 2007
Medium Cream, JEB N/N

Sire: Ackerman's Danny Boy's Jack Cream #463
Dam: Rose Hill Cream of Wheat Darby #T00004
Live Cover only with Live Foal Guarantee

Contact:
Roy & Cheryl Martin
Dillwyn, VA
(863) 241-1528
Cool Hand Luke (Ostella's Tommy) #491

15.1 HH, born 1998
Medium Cream, JEB N/J
(unrelated to Champion Supreme Cream line)

Sire: Abbotts Constable Tommy (Registered Belgian)
Dam: Ostella's Blondie #352
Available for 2013 Season

Leslie Kohlbus Beavers
Mirabile, MO
(816) 724-9289
thistlehill5@live.com

Ackerman's Million Dollar Max #606

16 HH, born 2004
Medium Cream, JEB N/N, PSSM N/N

Sire: HnJ's Dick's Joe #433
Dam: Ackerman's Allisha #593

Live Cover only

Christine Thompson
Hawks, MI 49743
thompsonscreamdrafs@hotmail.com
Ackerman's Danny Boy's Jack Cream, #463

15.3 HH, born 1998
Medium Cream, JEB N/N

Sire: Hockett's Cap's Danny Boy #265
Dam: Jenny, NR
Live Cover, Field breeding to approved mares

Terrence Precord
Annapolis, MD
Ph # home 410 867-4592, cell 410 279-1015

JD's Will's Pride #366

17.1 HH, born 1997
Light Cream, JEB N/N

Sire: JD's Billy #273
Dam: Hockett's Sara #249
A. I. and Live Cover

George & Donna Miller
Millers’ Cream Draft Horses
Grass Valley, CA 95949
(530) 477-7687
donna@millerscreamdraft.com
Dan Dee's Osiris #651

Sire: JD's Earl of Duke #471  
Dam: HnJ's Dick's Kate #T00111  
Live Cover only  

Daniel Zarske  
Herron, MI  
danielzarske@yahoo.com

16 HH, born 2006  
Medium Cream, JEB N/N

Dan Dee's Colonel (Reg. pending)

Sire: JD's Earl of Duke #471  
Dam: HnJ's Dick's Abby #504  
Live Cover only  

Daniel Zarski  
Herron, MI  
danielzarske@yahoo.com

16.2 HH, born 2008  
Medium Cream, JEB N/N
For sale 7 month old stud colt. He is lt. medium cream, pink skinned, will have hazel eyes (they are green/blue now), white mane & tail. He is Jeb negative. His registration is pending. His sire is our stud, Gus #676 (stallion section of the Newsletter for his bloodline data). His dam is Corson’s Timothy Pollyanna # 552. Polly is a Jumper/ Timmy cross. Her dam is Jumper’s Molly “B” # 327 (a Rebel #295 offspring). Her Sire is Captain’s Timothy Taylor #314. Polly is 16.2 HHs so Joshua could have some height to him. He has been handled and is easy to catch, halter, worm, and lead. He does pretty good for a foal with trimming. He will make a sweet stud. If this colt is what you are looking for, please contact us at; Ben & Linda Corson, 93 Inner Way, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805. 1-208-267-2174 corson@wildblue.net. We are asking $1,500.
ACDHA Stallion For Sale

HnJ's Dick's Perseus #686

15.3 HH, born 2008
Light Cream, JEB N/N

Sire: Clar Ann Dick #243
Dam: HnJ's Julie #300

Sheila Johnson
Three Rivers, MI
(269) 244-8220
kenziejohn@juno.com

Perseus is the last born intact stallion of Clar Ann Dick #243 and a grandson of Champion Supreme Cream #217. He has a very calm demeanor and would be a good stallion for pasture breeding. If you are looking for a stallion to use for this year's breeding season then contact me, Sheila Johnson as described above. If I am unable to sell him this spring I will be forced to geld him.

David Lively and team at the 2011 Horse Progress Days,
Kinzers, PA
2012 American Cream Draft Horse Association Annual Meeting

Our Schedule

• Thursday afternoon, August 16th: Ground handling demonstration

• Thursday evening, August 16th: Welcome Dinner, Scandinavian Style

• Friday, August 17th: meet the horses, and more.

• Friday night, August 17th: Iowa at its Best Banquet

• Saturday morning, August 18th: Annual Meeting

• Saturday afternoon and evening, August 18th: Play in Okoboji

Spencer, Iowa is the location for the 2012 American Cream Draft Horse Association Annual Meeting.

Spencer is an enterprising city where country charm and a modern lifestyle go hand in hand. Unlike much of Iowa, the lovely, rolling farmlands of this northeast corner of the state are dotted with picturesque lakes and wooded shorelines. It is a landscape enhanced by the historic buildings of the downtown area and the town’s personable cultural flair. With a comfortable lifestyle, low crime and abundant recreation areas, Spencer is a great town with a lot going for it. It comes as no surprise that Spencer is listed in The 100 Best Small Art Towns in America. At the center of the local arts scene is Arts On Grand. One of the town’s biggest tourist attractions, Arts On Grand also puts on exhibits, classes, and special events year-round.

Only a 25 minute drive away from Iowa’s Great Lakes region, Spencer couldn’t be better situated for year-round fun. Residents can enjoy beautiful biking and skiing trails, picturesque campgrounds, and terrific bass fishing. Just point your car in practically any direction, and you’ll find a promising lake. The natural beauty of the town’s surroundings combines with the thriving cultural to make the Spencer area a first-rate vacation spot. There are also many municipal resources available. The area features two golf courses, with 18 more within less than an hour’s travel. There are also plenty of city parks providing tennis courts, nature trails and playing fields.

With so much to recommend it, it’s no wonder people are attracted to Spencer. With people come more business, and the economy is flourishing. The agricultural, retail and recreational sectors are booming, and yet the cost of living is below the national average. Spencer seems to have it all. In addition to a healthy lifestyle, residents enjoy excellent health care and a safe environment. For all these reasons, Spencer is one of the most appealing towns in Iowa.

Staying in Spencer

We have a block of rooms reserved at Days Inn, 1011th Street SE, Spencer, IA 51301.

Rate is $80.99 for Sunday thru Thursday nights and $99.99 for Friday or Saturday nights. There is a 10% discount available for AAA, AARP, government or senior citizens.

The hotel has smoking or non-smoking rooms, a pool with hot tub, and offers a continental breakfast.

Reservations may be made by calling 712-580-4077 or by e-mailing daysinmanagem@emunet.net. Tell them you are with the American Cream Draft Horse Association.

Traveling to Spencer

AIRPORTS SERVING THE AREA INCLUDE:

SIOUX FALLS, SD: 103 MILES 2 HRS
SIOUX CITY, IA: 97 MILES 2 HRS
MASON CITY, IA: 103 MILES 2 HRS
OMAHA, NE: 157 MILES 3 HRS
MINNEAPOLIS, MN: 224 MILES 3.5 HRS

All airports serving the area do have multiple car rental agencies available.
Ground Handling Demonstration Thursday afternoon

Sue grew up in A.Z., as a pre-teen and teenager she trained and competed with her own horses in arena events, as well as endurance and competitive riding. As a young adult, Sue worked for a number of Arabian breeding and show barns in the north Scottsdale area. Hired as a groom for champion Arabs, she was soon training a string of green broke show horses for Sterling White. In the early 90’s Sue was working at Turf Paradise Race Track when she took on a second job at Rehoboth. Sue noticed right away how each male was an individual and how they reacted to different techniques and even to the different personalities of the other drivers. Several of the “old timers” drivers at Rehoboth and “Mule Men” such as Tom Bane, Marvin Mills, and Clarence Koch all of whom farmed, built roads, or trained their entire lives, became her mentors. Sue always said “Rehoboth is were she fell in love with mules and knew right away she had to, someday, own and train one for her self.” Sue’s duties included driving teams on wagons and driving 4-up hitches on the Stage coach, as new or replacement teams were bought. Sue worked with them first to condition and train. She also worked with new drivers to modify their “horse sense” to “Mule Sense.” Did I mention Sue quit riding at Turf Paradise? In the spring of 2009, Sue attended Steve Edwards “Spring flowers trail ride,” Queen Valley male ranch. At this point she had new owned and trained her own mule, Vic. Steve noticed Sue had a very natural way of communicating with her mule and asked if she had ever thought of training for others. Sue then spent the next two summers driving Steve’s ranch, and has helped him at his clinic in Minnesota and Arizona. Today, Sue trains horses as well as their handlers. She will work with us as a hands on demonstrator of her training methods. We’ll have enough Creams on hand that you can monitor the or fully participate.

Meet The Horses And More Friday all day ..........  

Friday we will spend the day at the Clay County Fair grounds located in Spencer, IA. We are making plans to have a few dozen Creams on hand. Two nationally known experts will be joining us. This will be a full day of clinics with the pros. Bring your questions, bring your problems. Bring your solutions. Bring your pictures, and if possible, bring your horses. All day will be spent with our 2 and 4 legged Cream family.

...Dr. A.J. Neumann, D.V.M.

Dr. A.J. Neumann, D.V.M. will be joining us. His life has included working with and caring for horses, especially draft. He authors the “Ask the Doc” articles for the Draft Horse Journal Magazine and is well known for his clinic and lectures. He is a respected judge for both confirmation of animals and handling. He’ll be available all day discussing confirmation, breeding, care, and anything pertaining to the draft animal.

......Mr. Robert Mouw

Robert Mouw’s patriotism and love of horses have combined to lead the Sioux County former to a unique way of honoring America’s veterans and others who have served their country. Mouw, who has a small farm near Alton, has been supplying horses to the U.S. Army to use in funeral ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery since 1999. The horses are a mixed breed, said Mouw. "The ones that go to Arlington National Cemetery are basically a half-blood draft. They’re mostly Percheron. These are horses that weigh 1,250 to 1,400 pounds and stand around 16 hands high." Mouw got into the business of selling horses to Arlington through a friend, an Orange City veterinarian. "He had some contacts with the people in Arlington because he went to do some work for them," explained Mouw. "And at that time a lot of their horses were very old and unfit. They said they couldn’t find the right type of horse and I told them I might be able to help them." In February 1999, Mouw and his wife Shirley went to Arlington to see how the horses were used and what type and size the Army needed. That July Mouw delivered his first horses to Arlington. "I’ve been there about once a year ever since," he said. Although there are other individuals who occasionally supply horses for use at Arlington—one in Indiana and one in Texas—Mouw said provides the most of them. When he delivers three next month, more than half of those now at Arlington will have come from his farm. Along with the horses he provides to the Army, Mouw also has draft horses that he uses to farm about 25 acres. He has also hosted numerous Draft Horse Driving Schools, as well as trained other draft horses.

American Cream Draft Horse Association Annual Meeting Saturday morning

We’ll gather in Spencer for our annual meeting Saturday morning. We’ll take care of the business of the association and then have lunch together. When our meeting is adjourned, we can say our goodbyes for another year or we can head north to Okoboji, IA to play. This is a year to get to know our horses and our members. Come to Iowa and ENJOY THE FUN.

Your 2012 hosts,
Connie Purchase
Kevin Johnson
ACDHA Contact Information

**Officers**
Frank Tremel     RoseHillCreams@aol.com
Nancy Lively     Lively123@comcast.net
Wendell Lupkes   wjlupkes@mchsi.com
John Schwartzler  john@jdca.net
Donna Miller     donna@millerscreamdraft.com
Catherine Murphy catmurphy1@comcast.net

**Newsletter Editor**
Sue Engel       sulynnengel@juno.com

**Webmaster**
Dean Ticks       info@torchtheweb.com

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Gabby says:
Members we are our association. It is with all your input that this organization can retain the level of passion our predecessors had when they kept our "Cream Drafts" from becoming just a story to tell others. Now it is our turn to step up and join our fellow members in maintaining "Old Granny's children." Times are tough for marketing draft horses, but by pulling together our breed of choice will thrive. If we focus on producing the "perfect" American Cream Draft, we will have a breed that will be coveted by all who own and admire them and we guarantee there will be American Cream Draft horses for the future generations of horse-lovers.

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Come One Come All
JOIN in the fun and information being shared on our "American Cream Draft Horse Association" FACEBOOK page. Lots of sharing and caring about our American Cream Drafts and always something to learn. Copy and paste the following link to your browser and see what is being said.
http://www.facebook.com/groups/acdha
You will be instructed to join Facebook if you are not already a member or to log in if you are.

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NEW MEMBERS:
Richard and Deborah Osborn
70 Burlington Path Road
Cream Ridge, NJ 08514
609-758-3706
debbyosborn@yahoo.com

Kerrie Beckett
226 Schellinger Road
Poland Spring, ME 04274
207-504-0347
kerrie.beckett@stantec.com

Barbara A. Wright
16914 Packard
Hudson, MI 49247
517-448-2284
lbfotrotter31@yahoo.com

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:
Mark and Carey Steele
1006 State Route 77
Hartville, OH 44632-9218
330-935-2421
steeleswindykoll@gmail.com

Leah Haney and William Denison
55 Dawes Hill Road
Harrison, ME 04040
207-583-9159
classic.countryside@yahoomail.com

CHANGE OF ADDRESSES:
Nancy McBride
18824 S. Fisher Lake Road
Three Rivers, MI 49093
269-273-0006

Suzanne Solieri and Pamela Gandolfo
30 Gwynne Road
Melville, NY 11747

Please submit your photos of dams and foals for our next newsletter. Identify your mare by her registered name and share with us the parentage of your bundle of joy.

Any events you have attended with your horses would be greatly appreciated. Don't forget to include photos!

Deadlines for the next newsletter is **June 15**. Please submit articles and photos to sulynnengel@juno.com. Those of you who don't have internet can use the USPS and mail to: Sue Engel, 54658 Bent Road, Marcellus, MI 49067.

With your help our newsletter can be a helpful tool and informative source of goings on with our membership.

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Reminder---Membership Dues---June 15---Reminder