2012 American Cream Draft Foals

Lupkes' Clayton's Ranger
owned by:
Wendell Lupkes
Waterloo, Iowa

Q.T. (Cutie)
owned by:
Frank & Paula Tremel
West River, Maryland

Million Dollar Max's Fools Gold
owned by Christine Thompson
Hawks, Michigan

Million Dollar Max's Satin Doll

Joker's Tequila Sunrise

Joker's Sierra Mist

Owned by Angela Bleeker
Cheney, Washington
From the Driver’s Seat

HORSE PROGRESS DAYS 2012 from Clare, Michigan  by Sue Engel

Nancy McBride and I were the delegates to educate the draft horse community attendees at this year event. We had lots of interest in the Creams, many who have seen them at some time and inquiring as to how the breed as a whole was doing. We made a display of a United States map and photos of our horses from across the USA.

People walking though the vendor tent commented when they saw the 50 horses represented on the map and all the locations they could be found. Many were checking the photos for horses near where they lived and curious whether they would have the opportunity to see an American Cream Draft. We would get comments "That isn't far from where we live."

Members Anne and Ken Murray from Boyd, Texas stopped in to chat with us about the qualities we like in our American Cream Draft Horses. Ken was looking to buy a different style hay mower that would work on his Texas grass. It was good to meet them.

Directors from Horse Progress Days came by our booth on Saturday urging us to have members bring horses for the "Parade of Breeds" as well as having them participate in the demonstrations for next year events in Arcola, Illinois. We told them we would spread the word to the Association of their request.

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Hello ACDHA members,

My name is Wendell Lupkes and I am asking you to allow me to serve as a director of the ACDHA.

I live in Waterloo, Iowa with my wife Renee and daughter Maggie. I am a land surveyor by profession, and am a principal in the firm of VJ Engineering, as well as the manager of our Cedar Falls office.

We currently have 5 creams, since the arrival of a colt on April 11th. I became involved with Creams in 1996 when my father purchased Ead's Captain, Hockett's Belle, and an unregistered mare from Arnold Hockett of Estherville, Iowa. Since then we have used our Creams primarily for wagon rides on the family farm, with an occasional bobsled ride. For about the last ten years, we have provided a Cream to the National Cattle Congress for the Hall of Breeds. In the last few years we have also provided a Cream to the Iowa Horse Fair at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. I hope to expand to hauling manure and raking hay this year, and with a daughter and nieces wanting to ride Creams, that will also become part of our Cream's resume soon. We feel our biggest contribution to the breed are the horses we've placed with mostly new members around the country.

The most important issue currently facing the American Cream Draft Horse is declining foaling rates. I checked the last three annual meeting reports and found that in 2008 we reported 20 foals, in 2009 there were only 16 foals reported, and the 2010 number dropped to 9 foals. I think most of you would agree that we will not continue to strengthen this breed if we produce less than ten foals annually.

The primary reason our foaling numbers are down, in my opinion, is that we are not gaining enough new members. Without increasing our membership, the existing breeders have little market for foals, and we are unable to justify raising foals simply for the sake of the breed. We also need to expand the number of our members who breed Creams, primarily to strengthen the genetic diversity of the breed, but also to share the economic burden of raising foals that will need to be sold to new members.

I will bring my enthusiasm for the breed, along with my experience as an ACDHA director and my business experience to advance the American Cream Draft Horse breed if you allow me to serve as director.

Thank you,

Wendell Lupkes

left: Clayton
right: Maggie and Clayton
Belle Davis

My name is Belle Davis and my husband and I own a small ranch at 23700 N. Sowles Road, Acampo, CA 95220 which is 80 miles directly east of San Francisco.

Bill and I have been married for 16 years and I have worked for USDA Farm Service Agency for 33 years. I am a Farm Loan Manager and work with farmers on their financing needs and also help beginning farmers get loans.

Bill and I have 10 Creams at the moment, we are expecting one more by the end of the month. I also have two half Creams from breeding my stallion Ivan to a pair of spotted mares that I owned previously.

Bill and I bought our first Cream seven years ago from George and Donna Miller, MCD Joshua's Bobbi, as a yearling. This mare is now well broke and the horse that I've competed with and shown the last three years. We bought several more Creams over the next couple of years, including our stallion Barney's Incredible Ivan from Carol Phigoda in Bend, OR. My first two broodmare's Rose and Holly I bought from Don Johnson. Prince's April Rose came to us bred and that resulted in our first foal born on our ranch, B & B's Lucky Lad, he has grown into a fine horse and is broke to drive and ride and will compete in his first show this May.

I currently compete and show two of my Creams. Bobbie has competed in Pleasure Shows, Scurries, Combined Driving Events and Horse Driving Trials, she is a great all-round horse and the reason I like this breed. Lucky is following in her footsteps, but being a gelding he is more laid back and Bill enjoys driving him. The two horses exemplify the good things about Creams and also some of the differences. Bobbi is a medium cream, 15.3 hands and approximately 1500# and Lucky is a light cream, 16.2 and probably 1700# and still growing. Both beautiful and talented though different!

One of the issues I see facing the association is keeping this Breed healthy and growing during this rough economic times. The whole horse industry is suffering and the ACDHA is not immune to this and when you are a small association it takes a bigger toll. I think we have to keep marketing the Breed and all the positives about it so that "we" are not forgotten. I think one of the best things that has happened recently is the Facebook group on the social network. I think it has become a good outreach to bring new interest to the breed and into the association.

I think the Association is headed in the right direction, it is just with being small and strapped for funds, everything is low-key and member driven and dependent. I think we are doing a great job with the Newsletter and need to continue highlighting the positive things happening and also highlighting different members and what they are doing with their horses.

I consider myself a lover and a breeder of American Creams. I would love to see the association continue to take an active role in promoting and marketing the breed to the public. I have actively been showing my ACDs the last two years, bringing up the awareness of the breed in the general public. I would continue to do this as a board member for the association. I know we are doing something right because people continue to walk up to me at competitions and recognize my horse as an American Cream Draft, this is a good feeling and I want to make sure it continues into the future.

Thank you for your consideration,

Belle Davis

left: Belle and Bobbi
below: Belle and Lucky
Kevin Johnson

Address
34908 425th Ave LeSueur MN
56058

Personal Bio
Born in 1953, I am a lifelong farmer in Lake Prairie township in southern Minnesota. It is a four generation family farm with my father, my son, and now my grandchildren. In our years of farming we have bred and raised, sheep, hogs, cattle, and horses. I bought my first horse when I was 10 years old, and since that time we have always had horses.

How many Creams do you own? 12

How long have you owned Creams? Since 2004 - 8 years

Where/How did you first come to acquire your Creams
In 1998 I was walking through a Vet clinic, and saw a Cream mare with a Cream foal, and asked the vet if they were American Creams. She replied, "The owner called them Creams," which lead me to Mike Jessen, a Cream breeder in Doliver, Iowa. I then purchased my first Cream in 2004.

What do you do with your Creams?
I stand 2 stallions and breed my mares and outside mares. I also drive them in parades and farm with them.

What do you see as the most important issue facing the association?
The American Cream is an endangered breed. It is imperative that we look beyond our own lifetimes, to maintain a vision for the future of the breed.

What direction would you like to see the association go in?
To continue to be a resource for breeders, and those interested in the American Cream Breed. To address important issues in a timely manner.

What skills could you bring with you as director?
I bring a selfless passion for the survival/success of the American Cream breed. I would also bring the skills of listening, thinking, and decision making.
This was a feature in the New Jersey Horse Council's Fall 2011 Newsletter. The members sharing their horses and stagecoach were Rich and Debbie Osborn mentioned in the article. Thank you Rich and Debbie for showing others one of the many abilities of American Cream Drafts.

From the President:
New Jersey's 2011 pre-Halloween, freakishly early snow served as a reminder to many of us that we need to take advantage of good weather when it presents itself. To that end, I attended the 13th annual Horse Park of New Jersey's Turkey Trot. This event is a major Horse Park fundraiser and they clearly have the process down pat. The trails were well marked and well cleared, the volunteers knew their jobs, were pleasant and helpful, office stuff was organized and tried hard to describe to me (who is more accustomed to what a hunt-pace is...) what a "Pleasure Ride" pace might be. I translated their efforts into "mosey-along." And much to my surprise I rode my horse Jimmy with a friend riding my former horse Nugget to win the Senior Division, Long Course, coming in a scant 0.5 seconds off time.
It was a great day to be out with your horse! I urge you all to have a go next year.

My husband and I also took advantage of another lovely autumn day with friend and fellow NJHC Board member, Rich Osborn. We had a super ride in his Stagecoach! You can find him at Our American Dream Farm.
You'll find more information on that ride inside the newsletter.

Now that December is here, my critters have their "winter boots" on and we are ready for the next set of adventures - Holiday Parades, trail rides in the snow... Let us know what YOU are out and about doing with your horses. Send pix, too!

We look forward to hearing from you,
Shelly Liggett
Pres., NJHC

AN OLD WEST STAGE COACH RIDE

Whilst visiting John & Shelly Liggett (NJ Horse Council President) for a couple of weeks in November, Shelly organized a Stagecoach Ride for us. Now how exciting is that for a Brit? We've all grown up with Western films so this was a chance for me to dust off the cowboy hat and "channel" John Wayne.

The three of us travelled to Cream Ridge, NJ, to 'Our American Dream Farm', home of Debby & Rich Osborn (NJ Horse Council Board Member). Lovely people, they made us very welcome and we watched as they brought out the horses and harnessed them up to the Stagecoach. And what horses they were, a pair of American Cream draft mares. I didn't even know until then that America had its own draft breed. Obviously the name is a clue to their colour but the breed is also known for the most beautiful Amber coloured eyes. The 12 yr old mare, Clar (Hnj's Dick's Clar Ann) was very pale almost white, whilst the younger, 8 yr old Missy (Ray's Golden Girl) was a darker cream more typical of the breed. Once hitched these ladies had a great work ethic and were keen to be off and strut their stuff.

The stagecoach was a replica of an 1831 Concord Coach, a type used on the East Coast apparently and slightly smaller than those used out West. It was surprisingly comfortable rocking from side to side, even more so when we were up top riding 'Shotgun' with Rich, something we each took turns at. I bet it was a challenge though, 150 years ago, when the roads were less well maintained. Probably where the original sick-bag was invented!

It was a lovely Autumn day and perfect for a drive around their farm, which we did a couple of times, the whole experience a lot of fun. Clar and Missy were keen the whole time and clearly loved their work. Afterwards we watched them unharness and shower the horses. These mares are very special animals and if this is the breed type then they are certainly something worth preserving.

I had a wonderful time and all thanks must go to Shelly and John for inviting me along and Debby and Rich for welcoming us. Anyone thinking of having a fun few hours with friends could do no worse than to go along there.

Debby & Rich Osborn are at Our American Dream Farm in Cream Ridge NJ 609-758-3706 www.horsedrawnhayrides.com

Laura Dempsey is a Master Saddler and Qualified Saddle Fitter/Examiner for both astride and side saddles. She is an accomplished maker of Side Saddles using both modern and traditional methods, with her achievement recognized and awarded in competition. Laura hails from the Midland Side Saddle and Saddlery Centre, Pitter Hill Stables, Kinerton, Warwickshire England. She frequently comes to New Jersey to work on side-saddles for Shelly.
It does not really matter if you have an eye for the original farm style draft, the tall and lean hitch style draft or something in between, I believe most horsemen with a discerning eye will embrace America’s own draft breed with the same appreciation the true draft horseman of the Midwest did in the 20’s and 30’s.

The American Cream Draft is finally holding its own in the world of horses. Like many breeds its inception was the vision of a handful of horsemen who knew they had something different, and just like Justin Morgan knew he had something unique with his stallion, Figure, they set out to prove it. It is truly amazing that some 70 years later, with today’s genetic technology that was then unheard of, they were proven right in their assumption of being part of the dawning of a new draft breed.

In the August, 1984, issue of Smithsonian Magazine, Ridgeway Shinn of the then AMBC (American Minor Breeds Conservancy), now the ALBC, (American Livestock Breeds Conservancy), reported finding only 20 some Creams in existence at that time, thus declaring them “virtually extinct.” The registry had not met in years. Horses had not been registered for a long time.

In the beginning, Creams were primarily located in Iowa. The strength of their comeback is evidence of their appeal. Registered Creams are now in over 25 states, farming successfully, competing in hitch and halter classes, and making an impact in the draft horse market with their high demand and the lure of saving a beautiful rare American farming treasure.

It has taken a lot of patience over the last 15 years, but Creams are now listed at many West Coast State Fairs and independent West Coast draft shows with the Oregon State Fair leading the way about 9 years ago. The Creams came and would not go away. The crowds love America’s golden horse. They love the underdogs, as the Cream has sometimes been, amidst the well known and more common draft breeds.

In 1985, when this author first heard about American Creams from a teamster who was helping her rehabilitate a Percheron mare, it was next to impossible to find information on the breed. A burning desire to show the deep gratitude I felt for the passing of the lines to another generation led me to seek out this breed, as they had been Fay Pishion’s favorite breed while farming with his horses in the Midwest decades ago. This search led me to find that a man named C. T. Rierson, of Sioux Falls, Iowa, had purchased a number of the Cream colored draft horses at sales in the late 20’s and early 30’s. They captured his affections so much so that he started tracing their lineage. Every one of them went back to one draft mare affectionately named, “Old Granny.” This mare was purchased at auction by her owner so her ancestry was unknown, but what is known is that she was all draft, sported the pink skin, amber eyes, expressive head and conformation her get, and Creams to come, would be known for.

At that time 5 other Hardin County horsemen worked together doing selective line breeding to establish the breed. The selected foundation stallions were a good farm size at 16H and 2,000 to 2,200 pounds. With this breeds pink skin, that tans on their muzzle and around their eyes to gray, amber eyes, that are white at birth, set off by a rich creamy yellow coat and white mane and tail, the breed became instantly popular commanding high prices in the 30’s and 40’s.
Exacting records were kept on this breed, and the original history explained that with breeding Cream to Cream the desirable cream foal rate was 99 to 100%, while the out breeding of Creams to other drafts to increase the gene pool did not produce as good of results, usually only a 50% Cream foal rate was achieved. With these statistics in mind it was C.T.'s desire to close the registry in the early 50's, This motion was passed at a regular Association meeting, but apparently not followed after his untimely death shortly thereafter.

The 1950's saw the greatest decline in heavy horse use in the history of horse farming. The Great Draft Horse Depression of the late 40's, 50's and early 60's waved its black wand over all breeds causing the near demise of all the heavy horse breeds, while the saddle horse industry grew by leaps and bounds during this time. With the "back to the earth" movement of the late 60's and 70's the romance of working with horses was slowly reborn, helped along by books like "Horse Power," by Frank Lessiter, and farming publications like the "Small Farmer's Journal," first published in 1976, (followed by many training books put out by SFJ for the driving student), and the "Rural Heritage," first published in 1976. These new publications saw their beginnings in educating a generation who lost out on the heavy horse world.

During this time many breeds of heavy horse found themselves in need of serious help. The Suffolk was not only in trouble here in the US with less than 100 horses, but also in their homeland across the Atlantic as well. The Shire was also facing the threat of extinction, and with the help of selective infusion of Clydesdale blood is making a comeback, though it is still listed on the endangered breeds list along with the Creams and the Suffolk Punch.

It has been difficult for some to recognize the American Cream Draft Horse for what it is, a distinctive draft breed, so proven by 10 years of genetic studies at the University of Kentucky. This is mostly due to its beginnings being just before this dark period in draft horse history. The studies have also shown that this breed is not a color breed anymore than a Fresian, Fjord, or a Suffolk is.

The Cream has fought back with the same undaunted spirit that Americans all over are known for. This breed has captured the hearts of people everywhere, and there are just not enough to go around. When this author became a member of the American Cream Draft Horse Association (ACDHA) there were only a handful of members. At shows announcers would read a history stating breed numbers at only 20, then 40, then 60 horses. Now there are close to 300 registered horses, with at least another 200+ in the Amish and farming communities across this land. Many times a year I get e-mails and letters with pictures asking if what they have is a Cream, and 90% of the time it is. The original Secretary of the registry, Karene Bunker-Topp penned the breeds early history in the 40's at the age of 16. At my interview in 1986, she was still holding the treasured records. A point of note in her records and history was that these breeders only saw the pink skin and amber eyed Cream as worthy of the American Cream Draft stamp of approval; As "breeding our American Creams to dark skinned palomino drafts results in a too light, almost albino animal."
During the downfall of the Drafts there were 3 to 4 breeders who continued to breed registered stock, but did not register their animals. Many horses went to sales and out to farms without the owners knowing what they had. We have spent the better part of the last 10 years seeking out these horses.

Most breeders today are dedicated to producing the 15.2H to 17H, 1,600 to 2,000 pound Cream that is short coupled, sporting an expressive head with wide set eyes, small well shaped ears, strong shoulder, wide chest, well rounded hindquarters, all supported by well boned legs. These horses are big barreled, not leggy, achieving an excellent point of draft for all purposes. Their white eyes at birth that change to amber, and their long beautiful manes and tails, a trait that C. T. Rierson loved and fought for as a distinctive part of their uniqueness, make up the package that is the American Cream Draft Horse.

There has always been a bond throughout time between mankind and the horse that transcends common explanation. There has also been that part of us that is fiercely proud of what we produce, or own, especially when that object is set apart and uncommonly unique.

With that in mind, the ACDH is to the draft horse world what the ‘57 Chevy is to the car world: all chrome, beauty, elegant lines and just not enough to go around...yet!!!

For more information, and link addresses of the American Cream Draft Horse Association and members you can go to www.creamacres.com.

*first printed in the Spring 2001 issue of the Small Farmers Journal, Sisters, Oregon*

**Bits ‘n Pieces**

*News is the 2013 meeting will be in California. More about the who, where and when will be presented at the 2012 meeting in Iowa. Those who can’t attend will receive information in your meeting minutes. As more details are unveiled look for the particulars in your newsletter.*

*Did anyone catch the "Creams" in the magazine "Rural Heritage" April/May 2012 edition? The article "North Carolina Horse-Drawn Plowing State Championship" which listed competitors being judged on their plowing abilities with antique walking plow, antique riding plow and modern plow with various horse hitches. Sounds like a nice showing of our breed.*

**MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE. PLEASE DISREGARD IF PAYMENT HAS BEEN MADE.**

- **MEMBERSHIP DUES**
  - Member(s) Name:________________________
  - Member(s) Address:________________________
  - Number of Memberships:____ @25.00 ea. = Total enclosed: ___________
  - Make checks payable to: ACDHA
  - Credit Card Type:________________________
  - Credit Card Number:________________________
  - Expiration Date:________________________
  - Mail to: ACDHA
  - 193 Crossover Road
  - Bennington, VT 05201
Coach & LIVESTOCK

Karen Smith from Colonial Williamsburg writes:

On May 31 through June 3rd, Colonial Williamsburg hosted the American Horse Publishers annual meeting. On the evening of the 31st the Coach & Livestock department hosted the Welcome Reception form 6-8pm at the stable. We had horses in the barn including Caviler our American Cream. A man came up to me and said many years ago he wrote a book and includes a chapter on American Creams. I looked at him and asked if the book was “Horse Power” and the chapter was “The Breed That Never Made It”. He looked at me and said yes. I told Mr. Frank Lessiter that I was working for Anheuser Busch at the time but that book was what got me interested in the creams and also many of the members today. I told Frank that almost 500 creams have been registered since the book came out. And that if he did another book the chapter should be “The Breed That Got a Second Chance” partly due to the chapter he wrote on Creams. I asked him how he heard about creams when he did the book and why he did a chapter on them.

The answer follows in the letter to me-Karen
P.S. The photo is a picture he wanted of us with Caviler that evening.

Karen,
It was a real pleasure to meet you last week at the Williamsburg stables and then get to autograph your copy of Horsepower.
It’s been more than 35 years since I visited the American Cream owners in Iowa.

Since we wanted to do a chapter in the book on each of the draft horse breeds in North America, I somehow found out about the American Cream breed, although I don’t recall exactly how the connection was made.

But with less than a dozen of the horses remaining in North America, I do remember that the folks I talked with in Iowa were very depressed about the future of the breed. And I do remember they really didn’t want to talk about what was going on with the breed and were depressed about the breed’s future. Since I didn’t quote them, I’m pretty sure that I recall that they asked that their names not be used in the book.

So it’s really great that you and other horse folks over the past 35 years have saved the breed and got it back to the point where there are over 500 American Creams today. It’s an amazing story and has to be one of the more successful stories dealing with the potential extinction of numerous breeds of rare livestock and poultry.

If I can be of any more help to you, please let me know.

Many thanks for the interest in the breed and the book.

Frank Lessiter
Editor/Publisher
American Farriers Journal
P.O. Box 624
Brookfield, WI 53008-0624

Karen, Cavalier, and Frank
Did anyone catch the series on the History Channel "Full Metal Jousting"? If you did, the horse that looked like an American Cream Draft was and is named Crispin. Crispin is a dark skinned gelding that was rescued from a Florida auction. He is a regular with the Knights of Valour jousting team from Canada and is known as a real crowd pleaser. More photos of Crispin are available at the website of the Knights of Valour.

www.knightsofvalor.ca/the-troupe/steeds/html

LOOK it is one of our members, Rich Osborn trying out the sport of jousting on HnJ’s Dick’s ClarAnn. Is he game enough for a future edition of "Full Metal Jousting"? What do you think, Rich?
We've been working on the final plans for the Annual Meeting. Come to Spencer planning to:
• participate in hands on demonstrations.
• have lots of time for good conversations with other Cream owners.
• participate in an Ole and Lena lookalike contest, Uff Da!
• eat great food and try something new.
• have FUN!

- Kevin and Connie

2012 American Cream Draft Horse Association Annual Meeting

For many Scandinavians "Uff Da" is an all-purpose expression with a variety of nuances, and covering a variety of situations such as:
• Uff Da - walking downtown and then wondering what you wanted.
• Uff Da - noticing non-Norwegians at a church dinner using lefse for a napkin.
• Uff Da is the same as Charlie Brown's "Good Grief".
• Uff Da - waking yourself up in church with your own snoring.
• Uff Da - trying to pour two buckets of manure into one bucket.
• Uff Da - when your two "steady" girl friends find out about each other.

Our Schedule
• Thursday afternoon, August 16th: Ground handling demonstration
• Thursday evening, August 16th: Welcome Dinner, Scandinavian Style with Ole and Lena lookalike contest. Uff Da!
• 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

STAYING IN SPENCER
We have a block of rooms reserved at Days Inn, 10 11th Street SE, Spencer, IA 51301.
Rate is $80.99 for Sunday thru Thursday nights and $89.99 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 daysinmanager@smunet.net. Tell them you are with the American Cream Draft Horse Association.

OLE’S WIFE, Lena: "There’s trouble with the car, sweetheart. It has water in the carburetor."

Ole: "Water in the carburetor? That’s ridiculous."

Lena: "Ole, I tell you the car has water in the carburetor."

Ole: "You don't even know what a carburetor is. I'll check it out. Where’s the car?"

Lena: "In the lake."

Here’s to better luck traveling then Lena had!

See you soon in Spencer.

for members coming in and wanting to attend either the dinner on Thursday night or Friday night we will not be eating before 6:00 PM, that’s Iowa Time. Uff Da!