

Sugar Hill Spotlight

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Tidbits

PLEASE read!

Purina Feed Recall

Land O'Lakes Purina Feed LLC recently announced a recall of certain horse feed products. These products were manufactured at three East Coast facilities, one in North Carolina, Pennsylvania and New York. The products may contain an ingredient with an unacceptably high level of aflatoxin. Aflatoxin is metabolized by the liver and feed tested above FDA action levels. The company updated its web site on May 8th with a new statement to horse owners. You can view this information at <http://www.purina mills.com/includes/PMWebstepestv3.pdf>. As of the update, there have been no confirmed cases of aflatoxin related issues. If you have any concerns or questions about your animal's health it is advised to contact your local veterinarian.

Bits of Information

6/7 Brooke's Birthday

6/11 Betsy's Birthday

*Horses attending SummerFest:

PC, Zippity, Quest, Mico, Aires and Jillian

*Horses attending International:

Style, Mico and PC

I realize that most of you were looking here for results from the Buckeye Show. Though Grace and Davis were originally scheduled to attend, more thought was put into our plan and it was decided not to put these youngsters through the stresses involved. We put great value on their future performance potential in the show ring to take undue chances now. We are however on schedule to exhibit 6 horses at the Summer Festival in Syracuse June 20-22. And please don't forget that Bobby and Style will also be showing with Mico & PC at the International Show in Syracuse June 25-28. Details will be available from Nicole once the entries are submitted.

We have had reports from Lisa Mann in Massachusetts, that Bel has attended two shows to date. At the first she did her job all the while trying not to miss anything happening around the arena. Nothing new there, right?! By the second show she was acting like a horse show veteran taking her little

walk trotters around handily! That's our Bel.

There are a couple familiar grey gelding faces in our stalls again. Mico has returned from Pennsylvania a little worse for wear. He was injured in the work ring while in Syracuse at the Empire Show. After a full lameness exam it was determined that he was not able to perform for Rob at Chestnuthill Arabians as was everyone's hope and intention. He is undergoing intensive daily icing therapy during his recuperation. Aires Fire arrived from Illinois available for purchase. He is being marketed on the Arabian Horse Association's website as an accomplished hunter horse while undergoing Tim's evaluation. His adoring fans have been flocking to visit him and bringing lots of treats!

Nicole and Tammie have much more exciting news for you than I do this month so don't miss anything. Read on...

Mare Update

Spring has been a busy season at Sugar Hill! Miss Barbary gave birth to a healthy colt, 'Maxx.' The delivery went without complications and they're both doing wonderful. It is such a joy to watch the two new foals running in the pasture together. We are very excited to have two healthy, handsome foals to add to the Sugar Hill family. They are already wearing halters and being taught to lead.

We are eagerly awaiting the birth of our third foal. Misschievoos, a daughter to our very own Miss B, is bred to Afire Bey V and she is due to foal June 1st. Her pregnancy has gone on with no complications. She's now showing signs that foaling will be soon. 'Missy' is the third foal out of Miss B's six foals. She is a 13 yr old Bay mare by Brass. She is now a 1/2 sister to our little 'Maxx.' She is a striking mare with a very sweet disposition. This will be her second foal. The first being Misschief VVF, a Bay gelding who was born 2002. SHF is leasing Missy and will sadly be sending her home when her foal is weaned. She will be bred back to Afire Bey V. We are hoping for another healthy foal, maybe this one will be a filly?!

We are now in full swing of breeding season. We are hoping to breed five mares to foal next year, Four to Afire Bey V and one to Baske Afire.

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Lesson Students

It's June and we are excited about the nice weather soon to come. I know many of my students are eager to ride in the outdoor arena because they enjoy the views. Some have asked if they can take a trail ride, instead of ride in the ring. Everyone loves to enjoy the horses in a natural outdoor environment. As you know, there is a progression to riding ability that varies with each individual. The beginners start in the round pen, usually on a lunge line, and they work primarily on perfecting a balanced seat. Next they advance off the lunge line which allows the student to guide the horse alone, initially in the round pen which is a more confined area and safer. When both the student and I feel more confident, the student is allowed to ride in the indoor arena. This is where the student will master the walk, trot, and canter.

Once the three gaits are mastered, the more advanced student who is able to manage the horse in the larger space earns the privilege and moves to the outdoor arena. Remember, one never knows when a deer may jump out of the woods! Knowing how to handle this type of situation, as it happens, is crucial.

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Mare Update Cont...

Ultra sounding and tracking their cycles for artificial inseminations has already begun. This is a very exciting time of year for us, with the birth of our new foals and the breeding of our mares. We will keep you updated on all of our achievements. Come and see the new foals!

Lesson Students Cont...

Horses are fright and flight animals by nature, so we must always be prepared for their reactions to all possible influences, especially when riding anywhere outside.

I have had a few of my intermediate level students, those who are just learning the stages of collection, and/or their parents ask what is involved in showing. I believe each rider is an individual, and has personal goals. Some may just want to have fun on a horse, and enjoy the horses company once a week in a lesson. Others may want to own horses someday in order to trail ride. Still there are others that might get the urge to compete at a horse show. I would like every one of my students to think about their goals. Parents, please discuss this with your children. We will work together to formulate both short and long term goals to work toward based on the direction each student selects. If you are interested in knowing more about what is involved in showing with Sugar Hill, please let me know. We can sit down together to discuss these specifics. I can arrange to have Betsy and Tim available to meet with us to share details and information with you too.

During the month of June Sugar Hill will be participating in two shows at the NYS fairgrounds in Syracuse. I would like to personally invite everyone who is interested to attend. It is a wonderful family activity and a great learning opportunity. You might discover a new appreciation of horses as there are many classes and disciplines to watch and learn from. Something you see might inspire you or your child. I will let you know when I plan to go to watch. Perhaps you might like to go along. I would be happy to sit with you and explain what is happening in the arena in front of you.

We have a whole summer ahead of us, so let's think about our goals and enjoy our time with the horses!

~ Nicole

Charley, Felicity, Maxx and Miss B

