

The Thoroughbred Program

The Thoroughbred program started when Susie Evans donated a mare named Piezo in 1998. Since then the Thoroughbred program has developed and grown into an integral part of the Department of Animal Science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University. Since 1998 a number of people including Sanda Rasmussen, Dick Clark, Maggie Moss, Susie Evans, Larry Hunt and others have donated quality horses to the program. Currently ISU has two Thoroughbred stallions, fourteen mares and their offspring.

The equine program is within the Department of Animal Science. In the department there are currently 800 undergraduate students. Many of these students have horse interests and want to work with horses. Some students come with horse experience while others have never been around a horse but want to work with horses. Students want to work in various aspects of the horse industry. They may pursue careers in nutrition, reproduction, management or even aspire to be veterinarians. Others end up working in the multitude of off-shoots of the horse industry including marketing, insurance, banking, feed and pharmaceutical sales, sales of equine products, etc. At Iowa State University students may be introduced to the Thoroughbred industry and then seek jobs within the industry.



Students interested in equine first take AnS 216 Equine Science, a course oriented towards educating students about the horses, their basic care and the equine industry. After Equine Science students have a variety of options. Courses include AnS 217 Equine Farm Practicum, AnS 306 Equine Selection, AnS 316 Training the Horse, AnS 415 Equine Systems Management, AnS 417 Equine Reproduction and AnS 475 Horse Judging. Horses are used to teach students hands-on skills in



labs as well as about the Thoroughbred breed and the horse racing industry. Thoroughbreds are used to teach how to work around a horse safely, the basic skills of handling, grooming, how to trim a bridle path, mane and tail care, the use of restraints, health care, proper nutritional care of the horse, marketing, how to photograph a horse, conformation and problems that may lead to unsoundness's, selection of Thoroughbreds by understanding pedigrees, black type, etc.



Most importantly the Thoroughbreds are used to teach students what is involved in producing and managing a horse from conception to sale of the horse. Students are taught all aspects of breeding and allowed to gain hands-on experience. Some of the tasks they get involved in include stallion and mare care,

evaluating the reproductive cycle of the mare, caring for the pregnant mare, preparing a mare for foaling, the importance of foal watch and taking care of the newborn foal and the mare, post-foaling care of the foal and mare, halter breaking the foal, and rebreeding the mare. Then every year students are involved in preparing the horse for sale and selling the horse. ISU has had Thoroughbred yearlings and a few mares at the annual Mixed Sale for a number of years now. The Iowa State students understand that ISU is considered the breeder when ISU owns the mare and foal at the time of foaling. Students then watch with enthusiasm as horses they helped produce and raise are raced at Prairie Meadows.

In addition to the use by students, every year hundreds of people visit the horse farm and learn about the breed. Every year multitudes of youth participate in educational programs where the Thoroughbred is used as part of the program. And, every year multitudes of youth visit Prairie Meadows and learn about horse racing.

All funds raised from selling Thoroughbreds and the breeders awards are put back into the horse program. These funds help support the program by partial providing for the hiring of part-time students; purchasing of grain and hay for the horses; aid in paying for the farrier and veterinary work; assist in purchasing teaching supplies; help with upkeep of the horse farm, and the many other expenses required for raising horses.



River Ridge Ranch, Owner
Mike Natale, Trainer
Altoona, Iowa
Purse \$24,500

June 26, 2009
4 1/2 Furlongs :53.53

Israel Ocampo, Jockey
Linda C. (2nd)
Burj (3rd)
\$10.20 \$5.00 \$3.80



SHE'S BETTER LOUD

