

NDSU Head Tosser

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

WINTER EDITION

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

This publication will be available on the web at http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/ars/equine_studies/resources/headtosser.htm

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Return of the Head Tosser

We here in the Animal and Range Science Department would like to welcome you all back to the *Head Tosser*. This publication was temporarily out of service, but is making its' return this winter.

From this point on the *Head Tosser* will be a good resource for finding upcoming events in surrounding areas. The calendar will be a source for finding shows, seminars, educational opportunities and a diverse selection of equine activities. It will also include contact information for the coordinator of the activities. If you have an up and coming activity please contact me by e-mail tara.swanson@ndsu.edu or by phone 701-231-8865 and I will make every effort to get it in the next publication.



The *Head Tosser* will also have a new twist. As we all know the equine world is always evolving and we want to make an effort to keep our readers up to date

on new or changing rules and fads in the industry. From here on out in this publication you will find articles on various events offered in the industry. We will discuss the events: giving rules, pointers, and some guidelines to follow for the class. This news-

letter will be a good way for 4-Hers and our younger readers to find out about what are acceptable practices in 4-H and open shows.

If there is a specific event you would like covered or feel there is a lot of uncertainty about please e-mail me and I will work on getting it in an upcoming issue.

The *Head Tosser* will be available on the website listed in the points of interest column to the left. Please pass this website on to fellow horse lovers. If you know of anyone who would like to be added to the list serve please e-mail their name and e-mail address to me at tara.swanson@ndsu.edu.

Introduction to the Equine Studies Major

New and exciting things are happening at NDSU in the Equine Studies area. With enrollment in the program steadily growing and exceptional facilities there was a need for more faculty. This led to the addition of a faculty position this year. The Equine Studies program now consists of three faculty. These three individuals are introduced

on page two of this newsletter. NDSU Equine Studies students are exposed to equitation and horsemanship, nutrition and physiology, equine evaluation, equine management and business practices. Furthermore, students may opt to focus their major around various areas by taking specialized classes in animal and range science, natural resource

management or veterinary technology. So as you can see the program is moving onward and upward. If you have any questions or would just like more information on the program please contact the Department of Animal and Range Sciences 701-231-7641 or by e-mail ndsu.ansci@ndsu.nodak.edu.

Dr. Carrie Hammer and the Judging Team

Dr. Carrie Hammer is an Assistant Professor in the Equine Studies Program at North Dakota State University. She grew up in north central Iowa and attended Iowa State University where she graduated with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Animal Physiology. Dr. Hammer has been overseeing the Equine Studies Program at NDSU since May 2005. She is the primary instructor for the Equine Production and Industry and Equine Nutrition and Physiology courses, and also gives guest lectures on equine topics in a variety of other classes.

About the Judging Team

Dr. Hammer also currently serves as coach of the NDSU Intercollegiate Horse Judging Team. This past year was the first year that NDSU fielded a competitive team, with the team traveling to competitions in Forth Worth, TX, Columbus, OH, and Oklahoma City, OK. At the competitions, team members are required to judge 10-12 classes which may include: halter, western pleasure, western riding, trail, pleasure driving, english equitation, western horsemanship, reining, hunter under saddle, and hunter hack. Contestants also present sets of oral reasons to officials as part of the competition. Please feel free to contact Dr. Hammer at carrie.hammer@ndsu.edu if you have questions about the NDSU horse judging team.



Tate Eck and the NDSU Rodeo Team



Tate Eck is one of two new NDSU Equine Studies Lecturers. Tate is from Kindred, ND and is an alumnus of NDSU in which he received his Agriculture Education degree. Tate will be instructing the Basic Horsemanship, Advanced Horsemanship, Intro to Equine Lab, and the Colts in Training classes. Also included in his duties, Tate will be the NDSU Rodeo Coach/Advisor. Tate and his wife (Shannon) still enjoy competing at rodeos every weekend during the summer.

About NDSU Rodeo

The NDSU Rodeo Team competes at ten rodeos during the school year. NDSU is part of the Great Plains Region which consists of schools located in North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. The NDSU rodeo athletes compete against other competitors in the region vying for a chance to qualify for the College National Finals Rodeo (which is currently in Casper, WY in June). Currently the men's and women's team are ranked seventh and sixth respectively in the region. For more information about the Rodeo Team contact Tate Eck at tate.eck@ndsu.edu.

**Meet the
Faculty
and Their
Teams**

Tara Swanson and the IHSA Equestrian Team

Tara Swanson joins the NDSU Equine Studies program as both a lecturer and coach of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association Equestrian Team (IHSA). Tara originates from Lyons, Nebraska. She received her degree in Animal Science with an Equine Science emphasis from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Tara will be instructing the Introduction to Equine Science, Intermediate Horsemanship and Equitation classes and also will be teaching the Equine Evaluation class. In addition she will be heading the NDSU Loaner Horse Program in coming years.

About the IHSA

As coach of the IHSA Equestrian Team Tara will travel with the team to twenty shows which are located in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nebraska and South Dakota. There are two entities to the IHSA team a Western Team and a Hunt Team. Each discipline will travel to ten shows fighting for the opportunity to call themselves Regional High Point Team. Other than the regular season shows the team also has the opportunity to compete at the Regional, Semi-final, and National levels, which change locations each year. This year they will be in California and Massachusetts. For information about IHSA contact Tara Swanson at tara.swanson@ndsu.edu



Showmanship 101: What You Need to Know

What is showmanship, how is it judged, and some things to do and not do when competing in this class will be covered in this article. Keep in mind there are many other aspects of the class that are not covered in the article, but are important to overall performance in the class.

What is Showmanship?

People have many different ideas on what showmanship means. From a judge's standpoint showmanship is the art of showing your horse. It is a class of precision that evaluates the way the handler and horse communicate and function as one entity.

So what do judges look for in this class? The first thing to consider is, showmanship can be compared to a job interview, in that you have to make a good first impression and then continue on with the class. First impressions are key in showmanship. Each exhibitor has the judges undivided attention for that five to ten seconds when they first enter the ring. This is the time to convince the judge you are the best. So how do you do this, confidence. A contestant must have confidence in their abilities, their horses abilities, and also the preparation for the class.

The next thing to consider is preparation. Judges are looking for those teams, who understand and react to each others subtle cues. This is an acquired skill that takes time and patience to achieve. When I talk about preparation I don't just mean the half hour you spend before the show getting the horse ready. Preparation involves conditioning, practice, and appearance of not only the horse, but also you as the competitor. Always remember showmanship is a class that judges you and your horse as a team.

Procedure

Most showmanship classes follow a similar routine: complete a pattern, inspection by the judge, one final glance, and then class placings are given.

The pattern for a showmanship class, in most cases will involve walking, trotting, pivots, and backing. We are going to break these things down and talk about what a judge looks for in each of them.

The very first thing a judge is looking for in your pattern is something we have already discussed— preparation. Are you ready and waiting at the first cone for the judge when they nod for you to begin. One rule of showmanship- the judge should never have to wait on the exhibitor. No matter what the pattern is the judge will be looking for these things:

- Responsiveness of horse to the exhibitor's requests
- Willingness of the horse to stay with the exhibitor. In all reality the exhibitor should never leave the region of the throatlatch when leading their horse
- Poise, posture, and professionalism of the exhibitor, remember first impressions are key
- Correctness of pattern— be sure you understand the pattern and know the exact movements, the direction, and the gait which occur in the pattern. Most importantly if you have questions ask
- You move around your horse in a fashion that doesn't interfere with their observation— Quadrant System

Dos of Showmanship

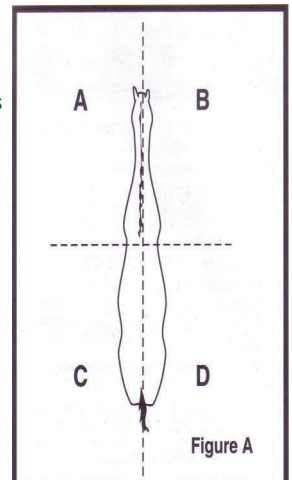
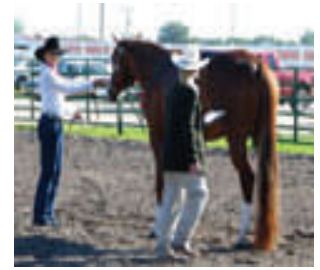
- Make sure you know the pattern
- Make sure your horse is clean, clipped, and prepared
- Have your clothes ironed, tucked in, and be professional
- Position your halter so it fits snugly below the bars of your horse's face
- Be respectful of the judge and other competitors
- Stay attentive and know where the judge is at all times

Don'ts of Showmanship

- Never touch the horse with any part of your body during the time period from when you walk in the arena until you walk out
- Don't switch hands on the lead shank
- Never hold on to the chain, be sure it is adjusted so the exhibitor has control without touching the chain part
- Don't let your horse move their feet out of the set up position

The items listed under things not to do in showmanship are considered to be major faults against the competitor and will affect class standing.

These are only a few of the important things to remember when competing in showmanship. Hopefully these pointers will help you become a successful show person.



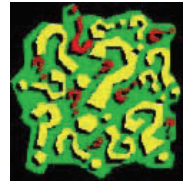
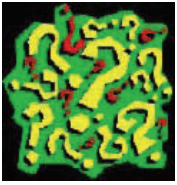
The Quadrant System

A horse is broken up into four separate quads, shown above.

The rule is you as the exhibitor are always in either quad A or B, and you should always be one quad away from the judge and NEVER in the same quad as the judge.

Key Terms

Quad system— the system used to move around the horse when the judge is evaluating it
Set up— when the horse's feet are positioned so they form a square



Fun & Crazy Horse Facts

Did you Know-

- There are over 350 breeds of horses and ponies
- Did you know horses are measured in hands, and one hand equals four inches
- Horses belong to the equus family and equus is a Greek word that means quickness
- When foals are born their legs are almost as long as they will ever be
- The oldest horse known was named Old Billy, he was a cross breed born in 1760 and lived to be 62
- Arabians have one less rib, one less lumbar bone, and one or two fewer tail vertebrae than other horses
- A horse typically sleeps two and a half to three hours a day
- Horses teeth can be used to approximate their age
- The teeth of a horse take up more space in the head than the brain

Loaner Horse Program

With an exponentially growing program we are also in need of an increase in horse numbers. As many of you know the NDSU Equine Program utilizes horses that are loaned to the program from outside sources. Our classes range from ARSC 261 which is a beginning horsemanship class for students who have never been on a horse, or have very little experience all the way to ARSC 461, which is an advanced horsemanship class. We continue to add classes or increase class numbers which is exciting but we must also have the increased horse numbers in order to continue growth and expansion.

How the Program Works

The loaner horse program runs from September to May of each year. A contract is signed between NDSU and the horse owner for this time period. The horses are delivered to the University current on all shots, farrier, and teeth work. The University then takes over care of the animal including vaccination, farrier, and basic veterinary work. We are also responsible for feed and workout schedules. The horses are used for our riding classes and the show team also utilizes the horses for practices twice a week.

In May the horses are vaccinated and returned home for the summer.

What Are We Looking For in a Loaner Horse

- Must know the basics
 - Leads
 - Arching, counterarching
 - Sidepassing
 - Pivots
 - Simple lead changes
 - Giving to the bit
- Accept a variety of riders
- Be safe
- Be willing to learn new things
- Easy to work with & around
- Musts be sound and in good health

Benefits

This program is a win, win situation for both NDSU and the owners. For the owners NDSU takes over responsibility of feed, vaccination, and farrier costs over the school year. The horses are kept in shape in the off season and are ready to perform come optimal show and riding season. For the NDSU students they get exposed to a variety of diverse horses. Furthermore, since



there are no riding classes in the summer and the race track horses are housed at the Equine Center during racing season we don't have to find alternate housing for a horse herd.

Interested

If you have a horse you feel would be a good addition to the loaner horse program, please send a videotape of the horse being rode to: NDSU

c/o Tara Swanson

178 Hultz Hall
 Fargo, ND 58105

Or if you have any questions about the program feel free to e-mail tara.swanson@ndsu.edu



NDSU Equine Studies

NDSU Head Tosser

Animal and Range Science Department

c/o Tara Swanson

Hultz 178

Phone: 701-231-8865

Fax: 701-231-7590

E-mail: tara.swanson@ndsu.edu

Upcoming Events



March

3-4- North Dakota Horse Fest

Minot, ND

Contact Wayne Williams

608-883-2968

9- Winter Show Hippology Contest

Valley City, ND

Contact Dean Aakre

Dean.aakre@ndsu.edu

10- NDSU IHSA Showmanship Clinic

Fargo, ND

Contact Tara Swanson

701-231-8865

17-18- Break Away Roping School

Fargo, ND

Contact Tate Eck

701-231-7726

24-25- NDSU Bull Riding & Fighting School

Fargo, ND

Contact Tate Eck

701-231-7726

24-25- Black Hills Horse Expo

Rapid City, SD

Contact BillyeJo Casteel

605-456-2222

31-April 1- NDSU Goat Tying School

Fargo, ND

Contact Tate Eck

701-231-7726

31- April 1- Iowa Horse Fair

Des Moines, IA

Contact Mary Moorman

515-961-4925

April

14-15- NDSU Horse Fair

Fargo, ND

Contact Liz Pfeifer

701-371-7608

14-15- Rochester Horse Expo

Rochester, MN

Contact Matt Forss

303-748-4651

21- NDSU Horseless Horse Camp

Tentative

Fargo, ND

Contact Tara Swanson

701-231-8865

22- NDSU Fuzzy Wuzzy Horse Show

Tentative

Fargo, ND

Contact Tara Swanson

701-231-8865

26-29- ND Winter Show

Valley City, ND

Contact Jean Fredrich

701-725-4420

27-29- Minnesota Horse Expo

St. Paul, MN

Contact Glen Eaton

952-922-8666