

SUMMER 2011

Equine Science Center UPDATE

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**RUTGERS
EQUINE
SCIENCE
CENTER
Celebrating**
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**10
Years**

RUTGERS
New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

You Can Be a Hero, Too!

The Equine Science Center recently announced "Horse Hero," a new initiative offering sponsorships for the horses in its research herd. The goal of the "Horse Hero" program is to raise funds to purchase grain, hay, bedding, and veterinary care for the herd, which is comprised of 23 mares. Each horse has a profile containing vital information such as age, sire and dam names, tattoo number, and original home, as well as information about their role and involvement in teaching and research at the Equine Science Center. Horse Hero profiles are available from the Center's homepage: esc.rutgers.edu.

"We consider the horses in the research herd 'Heroes' because they serve as participants in the need-based scientific research initiatives which positively benefit the greater equine community," said Karyn Malinowski, Director, Equine Science Center. "They contribute to knowledge of horse health by assisting equine scientists and students to advance the well-being and performance of all horses and the equine industry."

Sponsorship levels are perfect for individuals, families, organizations and companies, as well as groups of friends. Become a "Super Hero" by donating \$2,000, a "Champion" for \$1,000, and a

"Hero" for a \$500 sponsorship. Simply complete the sponsorship form, available on each Horse Hero's individual profile page, and mail it with the donation to the Equine Science Center.

As a thank you for donations, sponsors receive: pictures of their Horse Hero, correspondence and updates from students working with their horse, exclusive open house invitations, the sponsor's name listed on the Equine Science Center website, and acknowledgement of the sponsorship in the Center's printed newsletter.

"Most of the mares in our research herd are former racehorses. The Equine Science Center provides a rewarding second career for these horses, one in which they can give back to the entire equine industry and teach eager students about the sciences of horses," added Malinowski.

By sponsoring a Horse Hero, You Can Be a Hero, Too! For additional information about the Horse Hero sponsorship, please email Carey Williams at cwilliams@aesop.rutgers.edu or call 732-932-5529.



From The Clubhouse

Karyn Malinowski, Ph.D., Director



"For the Love of Horses" is the theme of our new Center development piece which is reflected in everything we do at the Equine Science Center as we carry out our mission of *"Better Horse Care through Research and Education"* to ensure the well-being of horses and the New Jersey equine industry. The Center also produced this

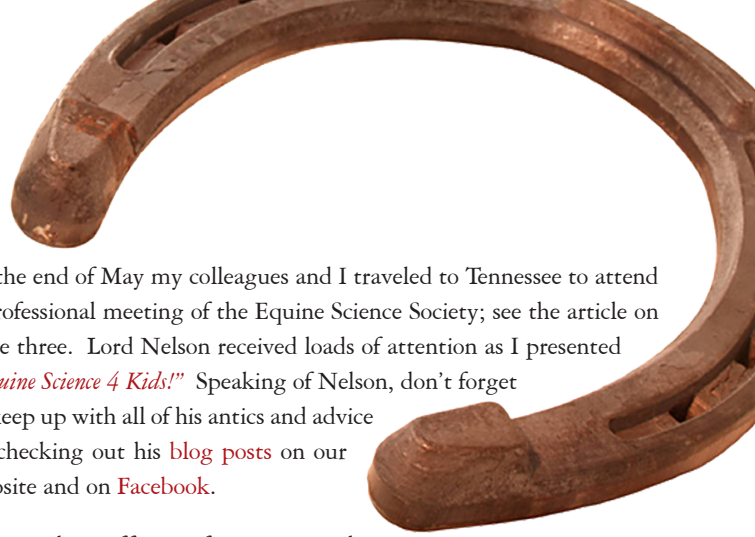
spring a new "ten/ten" tri-fold which outlines our Top Ten Initiative and the Top Ten Ways we benefit you and your horses! We continue to celebrate our tenth anniversary and have attended many equine-related events this spring to carry our message. Examples of our travels include my visit to the headquarters of the Standardbred Retirement Foundation where I joined Secretary of Agriculture Doug Fisher in celebrating the "Month of the Horse" in June. In May, we reached out to new groups of friends by having Center representatives at: the Jersey Fresh, three-day event; the Rutgers Alumni Weekend, with an equine treadmill demonstration on campus; and in Manhattan, at the apartment of Mitzi Perdue, who along with Hartley DuPont hosted my luncheon lecture entitled "Do You Age Like a Horse?"

Ag Field Day at Rutgers Day on April 30 was a smashing success! The Lord Nelson tattoos and beanie babies were a big hit, and I must have placed hundreds of stickers saying "I LIKE the Equine Science Center on Facebook" on people's shirt pockets. The Young Horse Teaching and Research Program Horse Show went off without a hitch and at the auction on Sunday some of the horses went to homes with their respective student handlers.

At the end of May my colleagues and I traveled to Tennessee to attend a professional meeting of the Equine Science Society; see the article on page three. Lord Nelson received loads of attention as I presented *"Equine Science 4 Kids!"* Speaking of Nelson, don't forget to keep up with all of his antics and advice by checking out his [blog posts](#) on our website and on [Facebook](#).

The tireless efforts of many people involved in assuring the continued sustainability of horse racing in New Jersey resulted in the privatization of the two race tracks formerly owned by the state of New Jersey. The Center was an active partner in the deliberations and provided the scientifically-based data which outlined the socio-economic impact of racing to the Garden State. Best wishes to Jeff Gural and Morris Bailey as they "take over the reins" at the Meadowlands Racetrack and Monmouth Park, respectively. Speaking of racing, the Center has an active role during Hambletonian Week, August 4-9. I will be giving remarks at the opening session of the World Trotting Conference, the first time it has been held in the United States in 16 years, on Thursday, August 4. In honor of the Center's 10th anniversary, the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey is hosting a benefit gala at the New Meadowlands Stadium on Thursday evening. Sarah Ralston is presenting at the annual Hambletonian Continuing Education Veterinary Conference on Friday, and the Center will have a table in Paddock Park on Saturday at the Meadowlands Racetrack. Look to our website or your fall newsletter for details of the events.

Remember, you are always welcome to stop in and say "hi" to those of us here at the Center when you are in the New Brunswick area. In the meantime, enjoy the summer. Happy trails! Karyn



Partners



New Jersey Farm Bureau's primary purpose is to represent the overall interests and improve the financial well-being of farmers and our \$800 million industry. NJFB

activities are supported through voluntary membership and annual dues. Members have access to:

- Staff assistance on farming issues and regulatory problems.
- Educational workshops on topical issues such as farm labor, wildlife damage, and zoning.
- Weekly updates on legislation news and regulations affecting all aspects of farming.

It pays to be a NJ Farm Bureau member! For a full list of membership levels and benefits, or to sign up, visit www.njfb.org.

Established in 1961, the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey [SBOANJ] has a membership comprised of horse breeders, drivers, trainers, owners, and backstretch personnel, and its mission is to support and promote the standardbred industry in New Jersey. The Board of Directors authorizes stallion, mare and foal registrations, negotiates with track management, actively oversees and administers a benefits program, and advances legislation favorable to the horse racing industry. For more information, please visit www.sboanj.com.



Mustang Auction

The annual Rutgers Day horse show was a “wild” success. Students enrolled in the Young Horse Teaching and Research Program at the Rutgers University School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS) worked diligently since September 2010 to prepare their young mustangs for the competition, which was held at the red barn on April 30. On the day of the show, the two and three-year-old mustangs demonstrated their obedience in front of an audience of Rutgers Day patrons. During the classes, student handlers asked the mustangs to perform basic tasks such as leading at a walk and trot, turning on the forehand and the haunches, and standing “square”. Several of the horses that had more advanced training pleased the crowd by demonstrating ground driving skills and even bowing on command. The show served as an excellent opportunity for potential buyers to see the mustangs in action prior to the auction, which was held the following day.

A crowd of roughly 100 people, comprised of parents, students, admirers, and alumni, arrived to view (and some to bid) on the mustangs. After a preview of the mustangs in a clinic with trainer Jose Romero Bosch, as well as a special showing of RU ShyAnne and her foal SkyLark, the auction commenced. Only four individuals had registered to bid and each party expressed interest in a different horse, therefore an official auction was not required. Nevertheless, Dr. Ralston was pleased with the outcome of the event, “The goal this year was to promote the mustangs, which I think we have done quite successfully. Hundreds of people now recognize that mustangs can be groomed and trained like any other horse to be gorgeous, athletic candidates for just about any equine discipline that accepts all breeds as competitors.”

Equine Science Society

May 31 through June 3, Drs. Malinowski, McKeever, Ralston, Westendorf and Williams attended the Equine Science Society meeting hosted by Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, TN. The conference included sessions related to developing research on nutrition, exercise physiology, production and management, as well as the latest in novel teaching and extension programs throughout the US and internationally. Equine science professionals from more than eleven countries attended this year’s symposium. Rutgers faculty and alumni were well represented with six abstracts published in the Conference Proceedings which corresponded to six oral presentations in the Exercise Physiology, Production and Management, and Teaching and Extension sections of the meeting. In addition, Michael Westendorf and Carey Williams hosted an evening workshop, *Current Research: Equine Environmental Impact*, which held a panel discussion with faculty from around the country doing the latest work on the environmental impact of horse farms. “It was great to see that Rutgers is at the forefront of this important research. Farmers are faced with increasing regulations and in order to help educate horse owners in New Jersey, it is imperative that the Equine Science Center not only conduct environmental research, but also know what other research is being done around the country,” said Williams.

Rutgers faculty,
alumni, and
students at ESS

Left to Right:
Don Thompson,
Kenneth McKeever,
Mary Beth Gordon,
Ryan Avenatti,
Karyn Malinowski,
Nicole Fiorellino,
Carey Williams,
Emily Lamprecht,
and Sarah Ralston.



NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) is an agency which oversees programs that serve virtually all New Jersey citizens. One of the Department’s major

priorities is to promote, protect and serve the Garden State’s diverse agriculture and agribusiness industries. In addition to the programs we offer to support production agriculture, NJDA also manages programs that feed schoolchildren, distribute surplus federal foods to soup kitchens and pantries that serve our needy citizens, conserve precious soil and water resources, protect farmland from development and preserve it for future agricultural use, expand export markets for fresh and processed agricultural products, and promote our commercial fishing industry, and administer the complete program of agriculture, food and natural resource education, which includes the State FFA Association. For more information about NJDA, please visit www.nj.gov/agriculture/index.shtml

Center Open House
Harness Horse Youth Foundation Camp
Thursday, July 28, 2011
G.H. Cook Campus
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
New Brunswick, NJ
732-932-9419

Equine Science Center at the Hambletonian
“Join us at the track!”
Saturday, August 6, 2011
Meadowlands Racetrack
East Rutherford, NJ
732-932-9419

Equine Science Update
Thursday, December 8, 2011
Cook Campus Center
G.H. Cook Campus
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
New Brunswick, NJ
732-932-9419

Upcoming Events

esc.rutgers.edu

Equine Science Center

Better Horse Care Through
Research and Education



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Rutgers Equine Science Center's Open House

On Tuesday, July 12, the Equine Science Center hosted an Open House in conjunction with the Career Summer Institute (CSI) at the Equine Exercise Physiology Laboratory on College Farm Road on the George H. Cook Campus in New Brunswick from 11:00 pm to 1:00 pm. The CSI is a weeklong residential program of the Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations, designed to develop career assessment and exploration through various interactive workshops for high school students from throughout the state of New Jersey.



Career Summer Institute and Open House guests

Karyn Malinowski spoke with a group of approximately 100 students about the diverse and nontraditional career opportunities available in the equine industry, and the importance of developing leadership skills.

Graduate students Ryan Avenatti and Danielle Smarsh, and undergraduate students Melissa Koger and Cindy Gadek demonstrated a graded exercise test on the equine treadmill and reviewed standard scientific laboratory equipment and procedures. CSI students and Open House attendees were fascinated by witnessing Snowdrift gallop at approximately 28 miles per hour on the treadmill.