

Who and What

- **The Thoroughbred industry is estimated to have a \$1 billion impact on Florida's economy**, according to information released by the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' and Owners' Association. About 27,000 jobs result directly from the industry, and combined salaries add up to over \$340 million annually. Taxes on property, pari-mutuel betting, and industry-related sales amount to over \$90 million in revenue.
- Nationwide **hay acreage is up about 2% from last year's total**, according to figures released by the USDA, but overall yields may be somewhat lower because of cool spring weather and dry summer conditions in many growing areas. **Hay is second only to corn in the number of acres harvested** in the United States. Prices for alfalfa and other hay are expected to stay high as winter approaches.
- **An instructional video titled "Showmanship at Halter, A Guide to One of AQHA's Most Popular Classes"** has been produced to help youth and amateurs develop skill in showmanship classes. The video covers grooming, equipment, and scoring as well as how to turn, halt, back, and set up the horse. **Orders can be placed** by phone at 888-209-8322 or online at www.quarterhorseoutfitters.com. Members of AQHA get a 10% discount off the \$19.95 cost.
- The number of acres devoted to growing **genetically modified crops** continues to increase, according to the USDA. About 34% of all corn, 71% of cotton, and 75% of soybeans are GM varieties. The total acreage represents a jump of 13% from last year.
- DON FQ, a **new test for vomitoxin in wheat, barley, corn, and oats**, has been approved by the USDA. Designed by Vicam, the test uses solid phase column chromatography to isolate the toxin at levels as low as 0.5 parts per million in under 30 minutes. For more information, contact Jennifer Smith at Vicam at 617-926-7045.
- **Canada's harvest of grains and oilseeds is predicted to drop by about 9 million metric tons this year** due to persistent drought in large areas of Saskatchewan and Alberta. The reduced yields are expected in wheat, flax, barley, and canola. **Corn and soybean harvests will be closer to normal** because these crops are produced chiefly in eastern Canada where rainfall has been sufficient for continuous growth.
- Constantin Rebeiz, a professor of plant physiology at the University of Illinois, says that the knowledge exists to begin work **on increasing photosynthetic efficiency in plants**. Genetic modification of the ratio of antennae chlorophyll, which gathers light, and reaction center chlorophyll,

which converts the solar energy to chemical energy for food production, could theoretically **boost production by up to 10%** from a given acreage.

- Besides better crop yields, **benefits of growing genetically modified grains** include **less use of pesticide**. This limits chemical **runoff into soil and water** and decreases development of **insect resistance** to pesticides. Farmers save the cost of pesticides, equipment to apply the chemicals, and fuel to run the spraying equipment. Humans, farm animals, and beneficial insects are not impacted by pesticide spray or residues or the emissions from farm machine exhaust. Non-pest insects are expected to return to croplands, encouraging the **return of birds and other wildlife**. The use of biotech crops is also expected to increase no-till acreage, leading to **preservation of soil nutrients**, a reduction in soil erosion, and better groundwater quality.
- A study conducted at the University of Utrecht in The Netherlands showed that **skin wounds heal faster in ponies than in horses**. Sutured leg wounds in horses burst open more often than similar wounds in ponies, an indication that ponies had better blood flow in the limbs. Healing of wounds involving rupture of the extensor tendons was similar in horses and ponies.

Wins and Wows

- At this year's Calgary Stampede, the largest regular-season rodeo in Canada, **saddle bronc rider Cody Wright took top honors** with over \$15,000 in prizes. **The bareback bronc champion was Scott Montague**, whose win at Calgary also moved him to the top of the world leader list. **Jill Besplug won the barrel racing competition**.
- Dressage rider **Susan Dutta** rode her mare West Side Lady to the **2002 USET Intermediaire I championship**. Dutta achieved a three-day score of 69.905 at the Gladstone, New Jersey event.
- With a win on With Anticipation in the Grade I Sword Dancer Handicap at Saratoga this fall, **Pat Day replaced Chris McCarron atop the list of lifetime earnings by mounts ridden**. Horses guided by Day have career earnings of \$264,580,968. The 48-year-old jockey has been riding for almost 30 years.
- **The National Reining Horse Association** has announced that **Custom Pistol** is its **leading all-time money winner** with a total of more than \$187,000. The four-year-old stallion was named champion or reserve champion at the All American Quarter Horse Congress Futurity, NRHA Futurity, National Reining Breeders Classic, and NRHA Derby.
- **Lynn Gilbert** rode her 14-year-old Arabian gelding G.M. Chagall to victory in the **Old Dominion 100-Mile Endurance Ride** this year. The Virginia pair also won the high vet score competition and the best conditioned horse award.
- The inaugural **National Reining Horse Association European Championship Show** was entered by riders representing six countries. Italian rider **Stefano Massignan rode Mega Powered to the individual win**, and Italy also placed first in the team competition. Teams from Germany and France finished in second and third place.