

## Who and What

- **The horse industry is experiencing strong growth in the United Kingdom.** The number of horses and ponies has **doubled in the last 15 years** to about 970,000. Nearly 2.4 million people participate in horse sports. The industry provides employment for 65,000 people, with almost one-third of these engaged in feed manufacture and other aspects of supply and retail sales. **The estimated impact of the industry is about 2.5 billion pounds**, the equivalent of almost 4 billion American dollars.
- Three years after an injunction prevented the **growing of genetically modified (GM) soybeans in Brazil**, the ban was lifted by a decision of Judge Selene Maria de Almeida. There is speculation that Brazilian farmers already grow GM soybeans from smuggled seeds, thus boosting harvests. The Vatican has also recently endorsed GM foods. Ending a long period of neutrality on the subject, the Vatican Council for Justice and Peace stated that the use of GM foods could help end worldwide malnutrition and hunger.
- Several horses got sick and three horses died in Florida after ingesting **blister beetles in alfalfa hay** shipped into the state from Oklahoma. Blister beetles contain cantharadin, a potent toxin that burns the horse's mouth and digestive tract. **Shock, colic, and heart failure** are common with blister beetle poisoning. The insects are about an inch long, may be gray or black-striped, and are most often found in hay grown in western and midwestern states.
- Dr. Gene Wood, a professor at Clemson University and an expert on recreational trails, will work with the American Horse Council to write a **manual on the construction and maintenance of horse trails in rural areas**. Financial support for the project will come from the Federal Highway Administration and the U.S. Forest Service.
- Foss North America has developed a new device for **rapid analysis of grains, forages, and feed products**. After an operator fills a sample cup and puts it in the instrument, the product is scanned by near infrared spectroscopy and a readout gives values for **moisture, protein, fat, starch, fiber, total digestible nutrients, and relative feed value** in as little as 15 seconds. Call 952-974-9892 for more information on the device.
- **A product to eliminate rats and mice** has received EPA approval. The product, Gladiator, contains a neurotoxin and is effective against Norway rats and other rodents that have developed a resistance to anticoagulants. Rodents cause equipment damage, increase the risk of fire from chewed electrical wires, contaminate tons of stored grain, and act as carriers for more than 200 diseases of poultry and livestock. Call 678-441-0030 or check [www.agrisel.com](http://www.agrisel.com) for more information or to order the product.

# Wins and Wows

- **The show jumping team** of Lauren Hough, Beezie Madden, Margie Engle, and Chris Kappler won a **gold medal at the Pan American Games** in the Dominican Republic this fall. The win qualifies the team for the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. **The silver and bronze medals were claimed by teams from Mexico and Brazil.** In dressage, U.S. riders Kristina Harrison-Naness, Pierre St. Jacques, Carol Lavell, and Jan Ebeling also took home a **gold medal in the team dressage competition.** Leslie Reid of Canada won gold medals in both the individual freestyle and intermediaire I divisions. **The Canadian team won the silver medal, while Mexico's team won the bronze.**
- By winning the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event in April, the Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials in May, and the Burghley Masterfoods Horse Trials in September, **British rider Pippa Funnell became the first rider to claim the Rolex Grand Slam of Eventing.** The award consists of \$250,000 and a Rolex watch.
- A new **Quarter Horse world record for 350 yards** was set at Ruidoso Downs when the three-year-old filly AB What A Runner covered the distance in 0:17.057.
- The U.S. Eventing Association has chosen four riders and two horses for induction into its **Eventing Hall of Fame.** Torrance Watkins, J. Michael Plumb, Richard Collins, and Jim Wofford will be honored along with Bally Cor and Plain Sailing at the USAE convention. Among many other accolades, the riders are responsible for **ten Olympic medals.**
- At the USAEquestrian/American **Vaulting Association National Championships,** Pamela Geisler finished in first place for the women's individual title. Megan Benjamin and Katie Richie were awarded second and third place.
- In **showjumping** classes at the I Love New York Horse Show, **McLain Ward** and his horse Peter won the Speed Challenge. **Margie Engle** rode the top two finishers, Julius and Nobility, in the Nicola's Restaurants Open Jump-off.
- Ron Ralls won the **World's Greatest Horseman** competition sponsored by the National Reined Cow Horse Association. The title includes a prize of \$30,000. Ralls finished four points ahead of runner-up Todd Bergen.
- **John Long has accepted the position of chief executive officer for the United States Equestrian Federation.** He comes to the job from a post as chief operating officer for Churchill Downs. At USEF, Long will coordinate and oversee all details of national and international competition in dressage, vaulting, reining, eventing, jumping, endurance, and driving.
- Thoroughbred trainer **Bobby Frankel set a record for single-season earnings** when Golden Rahy came home first at Santa Anita last month. With an earnings total of \$17,854,877, Frankel passed the previous high set by D. Wayne Lukas in 1988.
- With a victorious ride on Halfbridled in October, jockey **Julie Krone became the first female rider to win a Breeders' Cup** World Thoroughbred Championship race. Krone is 40 years old and has been riding since the age of 3.