

Who and What

According to a note in Feed Management, **Mexico has moved up to fifth place in the worldwide list of feed manufacturers** and now produces more feed than Canada or Japan. Figures include feed for the poultry, swine, beef, dairy, and other markets.

Researchers at the University of Oregon may have found another clue to the cause of **mare reproductive loss syndrome** (MRLS), the disastrous pattern of abortions and foal deaths that hit Kentucky and some other states in 2001. **Vesiviruses**, which are types of caliciviruses, have been found in mares with a history of abortions, and it is possible there is some link between vesiviruses and MRLS. Scientists have stopped short of naming calicivirus infection as a direct cause of the massive losses seen in the MRLS outbreak in Kentucky.

Gross receipts at the 2006 **Keeneland September yearling sale** reached a total that set a **new world record**. The figure was set with four days of sales still to be held. Cumulative average sale price and median price also showed increases over figures for the 2005 sale.

Equine **sarcoids** are skin tumors that are difficult to treat effectively. An article in Thoroughbred Times reports good results from the use of **Xxterra, a product made from zinc chloride and the juice of the bloodroot** (a wildflower in the poppy family). Combined with injections of an immunostimulant, two applications of Xxterra created inflammation that caused tumors and surrounding skin to slough off before healing into a small hairless spot. Xxterra is produced by Larson Labs (800-962-4554). *Kentucky Equine Research has not done studies on sarcoids or Xxterra; makes no claims, pro or con, regarding Xxterra; and advises veterinary consultation for the treatment of skin tumors in horses.*

Many advertisements have appeared for **noni juice**, which is purported to boost the immune system, produce a shiny hair coat, relieve stress, and improve performance. Native to Australia, the noni plant produces a green fruit that is also known as Indian mulberry. **Studies in mice have shown noni juice to have anti-tumor and anti-fungal properties, and it may have the effect of lowering blood pressure.** Other studies have turned up evidence that noni juice may be linked to high levels of plasma potassium as well as liver damage.

Based on September figures, projections by The Jockey Club showed the total number of **live Thoroughbred foals born in 2006 to be around 37,300**. Stallions siring the most foals were Lion Heart (187), Giant's Causeway (178), Chapel Royal (175), Fusaichi Pegasus (171), and Medaglia d'Oro (156).

Tongue ties are frequently used on racing horses in an **attempt to keep the airway open and prevent dorsal displacement of the soft palate**. However, a study in England showed that **tongue ties actu-**

ally led to displacement in some horses that remained normal without a tongue tie. Some studies using exercising horses and anesthetized horses found **no difference in airway configuration either with or without a tie**. There is some question as to whether the configuration of tissues caused by a tongue tie is the same as that caused by a horse's active contraction of muscles that pull the tongue down and away from the airway.

A three-year-old horse from Waynesville, Missouri tested positive for **rabies** after it was present at the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in August. While **horses can be protected against rabies by vaccination**, the disease is fatal in unprotected horses that contract the disease.

At its fall meet, **Keeneland** Race Course debuted both its new **Polytrack racing surface** and the first use of the wireless Trakus **video race technology** in the United States. Trakus uses sensor chips carried in each horse's saddlecloth to determine speed in miles per hour. Video displays show races in various formats such as from overhead, from the rail, and on a split screen. Animated displays use colored and numbered tiles to represent the **progress of each horse** throughout the race.

Texas A&M University is offering an on-line course leading to a **certificate in horse production and management**. The course is introductory to intermediate in content level, and **requires a general knowledge of and experience in riding and caring for horses**. For information on the course content and how to register, go to capso.tamu.edu/all-programs/horse or call 979-845-6346.

Wins and Wows

Jockey Russell Baze has taken the lead as **Thoroughbred racing's winningest jockey**. After winning 400 or more times in 11 of the last 14 years, Baze exceeded Laffit Pincay's previous record of 9,530 races with a victory in the fourth race at Bay Meadows Race Course on December 1. Bill Shoemaker holds third place on the win list with 8,833 first-place finishes.

Carol Rose has been chosen to receive the **John W. Galbreath Award for Outstanding Entrepreneurship in the Equine Industry**. Presented by the University of Louisville, the award recognizes business activities that lead a segment of the horse industry in a positive new direction. Rose, who lives in Greenville, Texas, breeds and shows Western performance horses.

The Morris Animal Foundation has selected **Deborah Tatum** as director of its new **equine health initiative**. Tatum will be in charge of raising funds to advance equine health and welfare. A major focus of the program will be the development of new diagnostic tools and treatments for inherited diseases in the horse.

Dr. Alexander J. Alexander V, whose family owned Woodburn Farm in Kentucky for over 200 years, died last fall at the age of 65. Woodburn Farm produced five Kentucky Derby winners, four Preakness winners, and ten Belmont winners. The leading Thoroughbred sire Lexington stood at Woodburn from 1861 to 1874. Alexander, a physician, earned a PhD in molecular genetics of the horse.