

Who and What

- **Avocados**, with their high protein and fat content, have made the news as a possible health supplement for horses. Specifically, research has shown that a combination of avocado and soybean extracts may help **relieve signs of osteoarthritis**. However, owners who may want to add avocados to their horses' feed tubs need to be aware that **not all avocados are created equal**. Some strains contain toxic substances, especially the leaves of the Guatemalan varieties. Consumption of the **toxins** may cause mastitis and heart failure in horses.

- In many families, children ride the horses while parents provide transportation and pay the bills. If this description fits your family, you might enjoy a new book on the market. Horse-show father Bob Goddard has written *Horse Crazy!*, a small volume sub-titled "A tongue-in-cheek **guide for parents of horse-addicted girls**." Included are a number of observations on the world of horses as well as tips like how to do a pre-purchase inspection on a trailer. The book is available from Dog Town Press, 3275 Blackmer Road, Ravenna, MI 49451.

- **The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo** is held for more than two weeks in March, but for many horsemen, the celebration starts much earlier. **A tradition of riding to the rodeo** has grown up in various cities in Texas, and today more than **4000 riders join one of a dozen trail rides** that make their way toward Houston in late February. One of the oldest, the Salt Grass ride, was established in 1952 and wends its way 85 miles from Cat Spring, Texas. The longest ride brings participants 386 miles from Hidalgo, Texas.

- **The Morris Animal Foundation** has pledged \$500,000 toward 11 **new and ongoing equine studies in 2008**. Research projects will focus on foal diseases, laminitis, pain management, and osteoarthritis, among others. The nonprofit foundation supports a total of around 120 **health studies to benefit a range of animal species**.

- The Equine Mega Market Study found that **70% of horse owners keep their horses on their own property, while another 20 % board their horses at local stables**. About 7% keep horses on the property of a friend or neighbor, according to the study. The survey was based on answers given by more than 1000 horse owners.

- The European harvest of **genetically modified corn in seven EU member states** rose 77% in 2007 over that of 2006. France, Czech Republic, Spain, and Germany were among the nations where harvests were reported. The GM corn has been approved for **animal consumption** but not for human food products.

- A summer-season taste test for **horseflies** used traps baited with urine from horses, cows, pigs, or sheep. **Cow urine** was the favorite attractant in June and August, but more flies preferred horse urine in July. Over the entire study period, traps baited with **horse urine attracted 36 times more horseflies** than unbaited traps used for a control. Conclusion: having stall waste hauled away frequently during the summer may reduce the number of horseflies on a premise.

- England's **Grand National Steeplechase** will be held April 5 at Aintree. Horses will run for a prize of \$1,645,119. **The four-mile race over 30 fences** is considered one of the toughest of its type in the world.
- A note in Horse Illustrated offers the following statistics: the **world population of horses is about 58,000,000**, of which 9,500,000 live in the United States.

Wins and Wows

- The American Feed Industry Association presented its top honor, the **Federation of Animal Science Societies "New Frontiers in Animal Nutrition" Award**, to Dr. Gary Cromwell of the University of Kentucky. Cromwell was honored for his decades of nutrition research that benefitted a number of species.
- Jenson Diplomat Tina, a Shire filly living in Tennessee, is the **world's tallest horse** at 20 hands. She weighs close to 1800 pounds, lives in a custom-built stall, and wears a halter made just for her. Tina, a four-year-old, is still growing.
- The latest winner of the **Bill Shoemaker Award** is Garrett Gomez. The jockey has ridden horses that have earned more than \$7 million to put him thirteenth on the all-time winnings list. Gomez rode winners of two Breeders Cup races in 2007, piloting another horse to a third-place finish. Presented to the outstanding Breeders Cup jockey, the award is voted on by the international media members who cover the event.
- The Society for Theriogenology and the American College of Theriogenologists have chosen Dr. Irwin Liu of the University of California, Davis to receive the **Bartlett Award** for outstanding contributions in the field of animal reproduction. One of Liu's achievements several decades ago was deriving the term "theriogenology" to describe the branch of veterinary medicine concerned with reproduction.
- For his work related to describing the genetic basis for HERDA, a skin imperfection affecting Quarter Horses, UC-Davis graduate student Robert Tryon was selected to receive the **James M. Wilson Award**.
- Jocelyn Wiese of Keene, New Hampshire won the **United States Pony Clubs Heritage Award** at the conclusion of Dressage at Devon. The award is based on the highest score earned by a current or former Pony Club member at the show. Wiese rode her horse Lamborghini to a score of 69.259%.
- Chosen on the basis of his overall contributions to Thoroughbred racing, Carl Nafzger was honored with the 2007 **Warner L. Jones Jr. Horseman of the Year Award**. The award is given by the Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners Inc. Nafzger trained Street Sense, winner of the 2007 Kentucky Derby as well as champion two-year-old male in 2006.
- At Canada's annual **Sovereign Awards** ceremony, Sealy Hill was named Horse of the Year for 2007. The Point Given filly also earned honors as champion turf female and champion three-year-old. Other honorees were Financingavailable (champion sprinter and champion older female) and True Metropolitan (champion older male). Adena Springs was named outstanding breeder, while Mark Casse earned the title of outstanding trainer.



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