

Who and What

- What's the **most popular breed** of horse in the United States? Figures from breed registries show that **Paints and Quarter Horses** lead the list (not all owners register their horses, however). The National **Reining Horse** Association has shown the largest percentage of increase in membership in the last decade, while the American Driving Society and National **Cutting Horse** Association have also had major increases. Significantly **fewer people** belong to the Pro **Rodeo** Cowboys Association and the U.S. Trotting Association than was the case ten years ago.

- The University of Edinburgh conducted a study relating **Thoroughbred stud fees to future success on the racetrack**. After collecting information on lifetime earnings of offspring, stud fees, and performance of horses in a stallion's four-generation pedigree, the researchers found **some evidence of a genetic basis for speed**, although training, jockey, and choice of races also played large roles in the success of a particular horse. However, there was **no clear link between stud fee and racing success of offspring**. The researchers concluded that, for each extra dollar spent on stud fees, the lifetime earnings of offspring increased only \$0.02.

- A survey by the **Michigan** Horse Council showed there are **155,000 horses and mules** in the state, **up from 133,000** ten years ago. The value of equine-related assets, including barns and equipment, is nearly \$8 billion.

- **West Nile virus** has been found in every **Canadian** province except British Columbia, Labrador, and Newfoundland, according to Horse Care magazine.

- In a two-week period of promotion, 67,000 advance tickets to the **2010 World Equestrian Games** were sold. **Dressage and jumping** were the most popular disciplines, with 22,000 and 20,000 reservations respectively. The Games are expected to draw up to 600,000 spectators. **Volunteers who want to work at the Games** can register or update their information by going to www.feigames2010.org and clicking on "Get Involved."

- Joe Camp's new book **The Soul of a Horse** advocates natural horse management including lots of turnout, access to forage, and sympathetic training methods. Somewhat more controversial is the suggestion that virtually all horses, including performance horses, should be kept without shoes. Camp's book will appeal particularly to those who are fairly new to the world of horse ownership. The volume is published by Harmony Books and is available at bookstores this summer.

- **Ontario's equine population** numbers almost **380,000**, an increase of 28 percent in the last decade.

- **How much hay should you feed** during cold weather? A starting guideline is about 1.5 to 2% of the horse's body weight per day, adding 10% of that total for every 10 degrees the temperature falls below freezing. **Fermentation of fiber in the horse's hindgut generates heat** essential to keeping horses warm in winter

weather. For chubby horses, consider feeding a larger quantity of a lower-quality hay rather than simply decreasing the amount of carb-rich hay offered.

- **Fatal injuries to horses declined** during the first race meet on Tapeta, an **artificial track surface**, at Golden Gate Fields in California. A rate of 2.5 fatalities per 1000 starts on the artificial surface was lower than statistics from the dirt track, where 3.9 horses died per 1000 starts from January through June of 2007.
- The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has donated \$77,000 to ten **rescue groups and humane organizations**. Recipients include the Red Bluff Joint Union High School District in California, which is developing an equine rehabilitation program in its Future Farmers of America program; Ripley's Horse Aid Foundation in Washington for its emergency hay bank; and Horse Haven in Tennessee, which will use the funds to purchase a new tractor.

Wins and Wows

- **Winning Colors**, one of only three fillies to win the Kentucky Derby, was euthanized at 23 years old earlier this year because of complications from colic. Winning Colors started in 19 races and had eight wins, three places, and one show for total earnings of over \$1.5 million. The horse was named Champion 3-Year-Old Filly in 1988 and was elected to the Racing Hall of Fame in 2000. She produced ten foals after retiring from the track.
- Retired jockey **Jose Santos** was one of four athletes honored at the Sports Legends award ceremony of the Paralysis Project of America. The awards recognize athletes who have been challenged by spinal injuries. Santos retired from racing in 2007 after a fall in which he broke his back, sternum, and several other bones. His record includes 4083 victories and \$188 million in purse earnings.
- The George Woolf Memorial Jockey Award for 2008 has been given to **Richard Migliore**. Since his first winning ride in 1980, Migliore has built a record of well over 4000 victories. His richest race was a ride on Student Council in the Pacific Classic Stakes, a victory marked by a purse of \$1,120,000.
- The International Horseshoeing Hall of Fame inducted **David Birdsall**, a farrier with 40 years of experience shoeing show horses; **Michael DeLeonardo**, who served as president of the Farrier Industry Association and the Western States Farriers' Association; **Chris Gregory**, who is a rodeo rider, farrier, clinician, and shoeing contest judge; and **Dave Farley**, who shoes A-circuit hunters and jumpers and also works at the Kentucky Horse Park.
- Recently honored by induction into the International Equine Veterinarians Hall of Fame are **Kent Carter**, veterinarian and educator at Texas A&M University, and **Jay Merriam**, lecturer and past president of the AAEP Committee on Welfare of the Horse.
- The American Warmblood Breeders Society's Breeder of the Year award was given to **Sarah and Gerd Reuter**, owners of European Performance Horses in Virginia. The breeding operation also won the award, which is based on foal scoring indexes, in 2004 and 2006.
- The Spanish Riding School, home to the famed Lipizzan stallions, has its first female director. **Elisabeth Gurtler** is heading the school, the oldest classical dressage institution in the world. Her duties will include marketing and external representation of the 430-year old academy which is headquartered in Vienna, Austria.