

Who and What

- Three separate studies have found **supplementation with omega-3 fatty acids** to be of benefit to **breeding stallions**. Percentage of morphologically normal sperm in fresh semen, percentage of motile sperm in cooled and frozen/thawed semen, and level of daily sperm output were all improved in supplemented stallions.
- **Pigeon fever** was reported with greater frequency in **Oregon** during the fall of 2008. This bacterial disease causes abscesses in the chest muscles, along the abdomen, or in the groin region. Also called dryland distemper, pigeon fever is not spread by pigeons and is named for the **swollen chest** seen in affected horses.
- Research in South Africa suggests that a **foal's gender may be influenced by the mare's body condition** at the time of breeding. Mares gaining weight at conception had male offspring in 80% of studied cases, while only 3% of mares bred while losing weight gave birth to males. The mechanism responsible for this phenomenon is not yet understood.
- After several years as one of the world's leading commercial sires, Thoroughbred stallion **Storm Cat** has begun a new career in **Quarter Horse breeding**. In spite of reduced fertility that forced Storm Cat's retirement from live Thoroughbred breeding, a technique for isolating high-quality sperm is being used to allow **artificial insemination** of Quarter Horse mares. One of the first mares to be impregnated is Your First Moon, a First Down Dash daughter.
- **A white colt and a palomino filly** were both consigned to the January sale of Thoroughbreds at Keeneland, and the colt became the sale topper after a bid of \$60,000. Both **colors are rare in Thoroughbreds**, with the filly Splash of Vanilla listed as one of only 31 palominos registered from 34,350 foals in the 2007 crop.
- Don't know **how much your horse weighs?** Here's a formula from Equus that may give you a rough idea. Using a standard tape measure, determine the horse's girth circumference. Measure the length from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttocks. Square the girth measurement, multiply the product by the length, divide that number by 330, and you should have an approximate weight. This formula may not be at all accurate for ponies or Miniature horses, and at best the **number will be approximate** for weight. Contact your veterinarian for assistance in determining weight if medication or supplement amounts require an extremely accurate body weight.
- When the early registration period ended in late January, **nominations to the Triple Crown races for Thoroughbreds** were down more than 10% from a year ago. The total of 401 three-year-olds nominated represented 9.3% of the eligible foal crop of 41,115 live foals of 2006.
- **Equine research projects** to be funded by the **Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation** this year include studies of non-fatal racing injury incidence, botulism diagnosis techniques, prevention and treatment of equine herpes-1 infection, and use of stem cells for various therapeutic techniques. The foundation has allocated over \$16.3 million to fund almost **250 projects** at 36 universities since 1983.

- A move is underway to bring the **skeleton of Lexington**, the nation's leading stallion for 16 years in the mid-1800s, from storage at the Smithsonian Institution to a display case at the **Kentucky Horse Park**. Among horses sired by Lexington was Cincinnati, favorite horse of General Ulysses S. Grant. Aristides, winner of the first Kentucky Derby, was a grandson.

Wins and Wows

- At the 2009 **Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event** in Lexington, fifty top riders from around the world competed in dressage, cross-country jumping, and stadium jumping. When the scores were posted at the conclusion of the event, the champion was **Lucinda Fredericks** of Australia riding Headley Britannia. Reserve champion honors went to German rider **Bettina Hoy** on Ringwood Cockatoo. Three riders sponsored by **KER and its Team Members** placed in the top twenty spots. **Bruce "Buck" Davidson, Jr.** rode My Boy Bobby to a third-place finish, the best result by an American rider. Buck's second mount, Ballynoe Castle RM, finished in fifteenth place. **Phillip Dutton** finished seventh with Connaught and twelfth with Woodburn. **Bruce Davidson, Sr.** piloted Cruise Lion and Jam to finish in positions 19 and 32. KER and **Pennfield Feeds** sponsor Dutton; Bruce Davidson is sponsored by **Pennfield Feeds**; and Buck Davidson is sponsored by **Flint River Mills**.
- The **California Thoroughbred Breeders Association** has named new inductees into its **Hall of Fame**. Honorees were Cecilia de Mille Harper, the first female president of the CTBA; Kjelle Qvale, owner of several champion horses; and veterinarian Dr. Jack Robbins who provided care for John Henry and Majestic Prince. Horses selected for induction were Gummo, Iron Reward, and Melair.
- **The 2009 Eclipse Awards** recognized Curlin as Horse of the Year and also Older Male; Midshipman as 2-Year-Old Male; Stardom Bound as 2-Year-Old Filly; Big Brown as 3-Year-Old Male; Proud Spell as 3-Year-Old Filly; Zenyatta as Older Female; Indian Blessing as Female Sprinter; Benny the Bull as Male Sprinter; and Forever Together as Female Turf Horse. **KER Team Members** provide feed to six of these outstanding horses.
- **The Irish Thoroughbred Breeders' Association Hall of Fame** has inducted Sadler's Wells. The stallion was the leading sire in England and Ireland for 13 consecutive years, getting more than 200 stakes winners. Also honored for their significant lifetime contributions to the industry were the Aga Khan, John Magnier, and Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum.
- **Pepper's Pride**, the mare that set a North American record of **19 wins in 19 starts**, has been retired from the track to enter a breeding program. Pepper's Pride finished her racing career with 14 stakes wins and earnings of \$1,066,085.
- **Jamaica**, a combined driving horse owned by Chester Weber, has been selected as **Horse of the Year by the United States Equestrian Federation**. The Dutch Warmblood was destined for slaughter when he was purchased by FEI official Mark Wentein, but the energetic horse didn't work out as a carriage horse for tourist rides. He was sold to Weber, under whose guidance he became a lead horse in Weber's silver-medal-winning four-in-hand at the latest World Championships in The Netherlands. **KER Team Member Pennfield Feeds** supplies products to Jamaica.



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