

The Rocky Beat

MONTHLY NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN HORSE ASSOCIATION

PRESERVING THE LESSER KNOWN LINES

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Immunity Protection
- Examiners Clinic
- Sponsors
- Trail Miles
- Youth Camp
- Versatile Horse
- Election Candidates

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The national horse population has trended down over the past decade, and the total number of offspring produced each year has decreased in most breeds. The Rocky Mountain Horse, with an average of 350 horses registered each year from 2010 to 2017, and 1450 active breeding mares and 450 active breeding stallions reported during that period, remains on The Livestock Conservancy (TLC) Watch List for endangered breeds.

Since 1986, the RMHA has been affiliated with TLC. In 2017, TLC realized the need for discussions about the unique needs of "endangered" equine breeds or registries. With funding from the USA Equestrian Trust and in co-

operation with Texas A&M and Virginia Tech, representatives from approximately 50 equine associations and registries came together with nationally renowned equine geneticists, equine veterinarians and TLC representatives at the first national Endangered Equine Summit. The Endangered Equine Alliance was formed, and concerns about the leading causes of breed population decreases and how best to address and prevent further decline were discussed. Mik Fenn, was appointed as the RMHA's representative at the Summit and serves as the RMHA contact person to the Alliance. For more information about the Endangered Equine Alliance and the Endangered Equine Summit, go to

<https://livestockconservancy.org> and look under the What We Do tab.

One of the concerns addressed at the summit was genetic erosion, the loss of genetic diversity when an animal dies without offspring. Selection by all breeders, in any breed, for the same competitive advantage, a specific color, or any of several singular traits can limit whether a mare or stallion is considered for breeding. Like in-breeding or geographical saturation, the loss of



stallions and mares, especially from little used lines, without offspring can adversely affect the diversity and genetic health of a breed. For an already small breed, like the Rocky Mountain Horse, the combination of these pressures

could push the breed to the edge of extinction. Breeding for a wide variety of uses, colors and other traits will help to maintain the diversity of the breed. Maintaining breeding materials from lesser produced lines can also help to prevent genetic erosion in any breed. To that end, in December 2018, a "Manual of Methods for Preservation of Valuable Equine Genetics in Live Animals and Post-Mortem." was published, by the TLC to provide information on how to collect and preserve specimens to minimize loss and preserve genetic material for future breed con-

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED AD (MAX 50 WORDS) -\$10

FRIENDS OF THE RMHA

Please thank them for their support of the RMHA with your patronage if you have a need.

Click on each name to visit the corresponding website.

[Stoner Ridge Farm](#)

[West Coast RMH Club](#)

[Mike Walker](#)

[Lee Boyd](#)

[Bluegrass Equine Vet](#)

[Michael & Judy Brummer](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEADLINES TO NOTE:

Rocky Beat: Deadline for submitting content or classifieds is always the 1st of each month.

Summer Issue Printed Magazine:

Articles-June 30th
Ads-June 20th
Approx release-Aug 7th

Next RMHA Board Meeting:

Mar 28th, 12 p.m., Winchester, KY

For all **2020 show and event** information go to the [RMHA Show page](#).

American Horse Council Benefits

For RMHA members. If you would like to see the benefits we get just for being members of the RMHA **Go [HERE](#)**

2020 RMHA International Dates:

September 2-5, 2020 @ Kentucky Horse Park

Examiners Clinic: Feb. 13-14, 2020 located in Cool, CA. Offered by Pacific Crest Rocky Mountain Horse Club. See flyer in this issue. For sign-up contact Janet Peters at jpslabs@gmail.com

B.E.S.T.S. DIRECTORY LINK

(Breeders, Equine Services, Trainers and Sales Directory)
Click [HERE](#)

Advertise with the RMHA

-Help to support all of the programs of the RMHA by advertising in the BESTS Directory or becoming a website home page sponsor. Live links to your own website are available from the BESTS Directory and the website home page. Contact the RMHA office (859-644-5244) for more information. Ads must be prepaid.

RMHA Trail Program

If you ride those trails and you aren't a part of this program yet, you should be! What are you waiting for? And if you are, you need to know that the trail year has changed! To find out all you need to know, click [here](#)!

Friends of Sound Horses (FOSH)-

Read [HERE](#) about their news and activities

Judges Clinic: April 4-5, 2020 @ RMHA office in Winchester, KY Contact RMHA office to register

Link to KHBIF Information.
[KHBIF Information](#)

Horse expo participation forms-If you plan to participate in expos in 2020, please find your form [HERE](#). Forms are now being accepted year-round.

RMHA Versatility Program

What do you do with your horse? Perform? Ride Trails? Show? Extreme Cowboy? Obstacles? Mounted shooting? Drill team? More? Then you should really check out our versatility program! Get all the details right [here](#) and start adding up those points!

High points are calculated for the year. Check them out [HERE](#). Great year everyone!

Youth Horse Camp: The RMHA 2020 Youth Camp will be held June 12-14 at Rudy's Ranch, Salt Lick, KY. We will have lots of educational clinics, demos and more. We are planning a youth fun show to close out camp on June 14th at 2:00pm. All youth are welcome, even if you don't participate in camp. Registration packets will be available in April. Watch the youth facebook page and RMHA facebook page for more information on lodging and schedule of activities.

REGIONAL LIAISONS

Do you know what a regional board liaison is? Here is your explanation according to the rules:

From the Rules, Section 3:

5. Board Communication with Affiliated Clubs (Amended January 24, 2015) Annually the president shall appoint a Member at Large of the Board to act as a direct liaison with each Affiliated Club. An officer may act in this capacity if specifically requested. Duties will require biannual reports from regional club liaisons with the second report to include financial status and a list of members.

Here are the currently appointed liaisons:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Central States | Brittany Hopkins |
| 2. Michigan | Kathy House |
| 3. Mid-Atlantic | Tess Smith |
| 4. Pacific Crest | Janet Peters |
| 5. Southern States | Jason Slone |
| 6. Tristate | Jane Gean |
| 7. West Coast | Mindy Smith |

VERSATILITY PROGRAM

If you do a number of different things with your Rocky, this is the program for you.

The versatility program runs from November 1 to October 31 each year. Completed forms must be turned in (postmarked) by November 15th to be tabulated for the year. Youth and Adults may participate and are tallied accordingly. There are forms for the program on the RMHA web site. There are two forms. One is for [Horse of the Year](#). The [Accumulating form](#) is for subsequent years. The program runs year after year. A very detailed description of the program is on the RMHA website at [Versatility Program](#).

Examples of some of the versatile things one might do with their horse are trail riding, trail competitions, showing, 4H programs, team penning, dressage, jumping, carriage driving, drill team or demos and any other activities that are popular in your area of the world. You will need to keep good records as you must turn in documentation with your forms. Documentation can be scores, photos, receipts or any other form depending on the activity.

Good luck, and we look forward to seeing many folks participating in the Versatile Horse Program.

DID YOU KNOW?

Help Prevent an EHV Outbreak by Protecting Your Horse's Immune Function
by Juliet M. Getty, Ph.D.

The recent outbreak of equine herpes virus (EHV) has caused great concern among horse owners throughout the U.S. and Canada. Did you know that your horse is already likely to be infected with this virus? Virtually all horses carry this opportunistic organism and it remains latent until something (usually stress) triggers it and it has an "opportunity" to show symptoms, producing respiratory and even neurological distress. Ever have a cold sore? That's also herpes and it remains dormant in our systems until we get physically or mentally stressed.

Some stress is inevitable

Traveling long distances, strange settings, unfamiliar horses, performance intensity, different smells and noises ... the list is long. Heavy travel seasons are coming up this summer -- July and August are popular horse fair months. And stress suppresses the immune function, making it difficult for your horse to combat illness. Now is the time to get your horse's immune system in tip top shape so he is less, much less, likely to succumb to a stress-related illness such as EHV. The key to prevention is twofold: Reduce stress and boost immunity.

An empty stomach = Stress

One of the most stressful situations for any horse, regardless of the horse's schedule and environment, is an empty stomach. Not being permitted to graze continually on pasture and/or hay goes against a horse's instincts and innate physiology. This is because the horse's stomach, unlike our own, continuously secretes acid, even when empty. Chewing produces saliva, a natural antacid, which neutralizes that acid. Left without anything to chew, and the horse will suffer, both physically and mentally. Furthermore, the motility of the gastrointestinal tract (which is made of muscles) depends of a steady supply of forage flowing through it in order to prevent colic. And finally, exercising on an empty stomach can lead to an ulcer as the acid sloshes around to the unprotected areas of the stomach's lining.

Horses are "trickle feeders," designed to continually and freely roam and graze. But in addition to 24/7 turnout and free choice access to pasture and/or hay, there are many helpful nutrients that can protect your horse, especially while training, traveling, and performing. Vitamins E and C, in particular, as well as vitamin A (beta carotene), magnesium, adequate protein, and Omega 3 fatty acids stabilize the immune system, allowing your horse to be less susceptible toward developing infections.

How much supplementation, you ask?

- Vitamins E and C are potent antioxidants and are best increased to higher levels during intense physical and mental stress. Offer 5 IUs of vitamin E and 5 mg of vitamin C per pound of body weight (10 IUs of vitamin E and 10 mg of vitamin C per kg of body weight). Slowly wean your horse down to lower levels of these vitamins (especially vitamin C) during maintenance periods (unless you have an older horse, who will need extra vitamin C due to reduced production).
- Selenium needs also increase during intense physical activity – the diet should contain 1 to 3 mg per day during maintenance, and up to 5 mg of selenium per day for heavily active horses .
- Hay has little, if any, beta carotene (used to make vitamin A). Most vitamin/mineral supplements and feeds are fortified with this vitamin. Offer 60 to 120 IU/kg body weight for performance; 30 IU/kg bw at maintenance.
- Omega 3 fatty acids are best provided by flaxseed meal – provide 1/2 cup per 400 lbs (180 kg) of body weight. Chia seeds are also high in omega 3s (1/4 cup per 400 lbs of body weight).
- Protein should be 14-16% of the diet, and be of high quality. Offer a variety of sources (grass plus alfalfa, for example) so they can complement each other's amino acid profile.
- Don't forget the magnesium – important for muscle and nerve function. Borderline deficiencies can affect your horse's behavior and stamina. An appropriate dose is 5,000 mg of magnesium per 500 lbs (227 kg) of body weight.

It's amazingly simple

All this may sound complicated, but it's actually just the opposite. It's amazingly simple. Allow your horse to nibble on hay all day and night, and never let him perform without some hay in his digestive tract. Fill in the nutritional gaps that exist in hay with a good vitamin/mineral supplement, offer omega 3s and extra antioxidants during stressful times, and your horse will not only perform better, calmer, and more gracefully, but will come home healthy and ready to learn more.

Helpful supplements

An overall balanced diet, along with stress-reduction measures (including free choice pasture and/or hay) will keep your horse's immune system in top shape. During intense training and activity, additional nutrients are helpful:

- SuPer Antioxidant (Gateway): <http://gettyequinenutrition.biz/products/superantioxidant.htm> This overall antioxidant preparation offers high levels of several key nutrients.
- Nutra Flax (Horsetech): <http://gettyequinenutrition.biz/products/nutraflax.htm> This product contains only flaxseed meal (with a slight amount of calcium to correct for the naturally inverted calcium to phosphorus ratio found in flaxseeds). It is stabilized against rancidity for 6 months when stored in a cool, dry place.
- MMX (Horsetech): <http://gettyequinenutrition.biz/products/mmx.htm> This is a nutritional calming supplement that offers magnesium, as well as B vitamins (and high levels of thiamin), without any herbs (that can have long-term side effects or test during performance).

TRAIL MILEAGE PROGRAM

Last Name	First Name	Miles	Last Name	First Name	Miles
Northcote	Gloria	29,185	Sheglia	Michelle	851
Moon	Dean	19,523	Hopkins	Leslie	801
Untiedt	Susan	13,639	Dunn	Jan	766
Pravda	Cindy	13,579	West	Barbara	730
Plumley	Laura	10,456	Swope	Valerie	627
Wisneski	Patty	9,358	Bullock	Jan	542
Balan	Christina	9,126	Collins	Kelley	469
Monaco	Linda	8,868	Enyart	Janet	455
Peters	Janet	8,285	Tucker	Julia	437
Burke	JD	5,280	Altizer	Diane	432
Kaper	Tara	5,089	Emmert	Angie	353
MacDonald	Heiderose	4,142	Branham	Sandra	338
Ewert	David	4,049	Abram	Karen	292
Crampton	Daniel	4,031	Grimes	Melissa	271
Quatsoe	Carrie	3,486	Bunting	Kathleen	225
Zynda	Alyce	2,925	DeHaan	Pamela	217
Meadows	Sandi	2,895	Enderle	Patricia	207
Nichols	Jennifer	2,852	Holland	Karen	146
Fleming	Angela	2,759	Wickham	Stewart	40
Meadows	Dallas	2,656			
Cade	Jackie	2,547			
Miller	D'Anna	2,081			
Styers	Ellen	2,037			
Garman	Sherry	2,010			
Humphreys	Kerri	1,968			
Tremper	Lee	1,827			
Smith	Tess	1,713			
Smith	Ken	1,618			
Daby	Leahe	1,544			
Pierson	Dolly	1,484			
Killip	Tammy	1,430			
Bynum	Kayla	1,318			
Jolley	Marianne	1,228			
O'Dell	Ashley	1,197			
Pearce	Rhonda	1,141			
Depew	Claudia	1,105			
Lewandowski	Darlene	1,095			
Lutz	Sandra	1,061			
Reeder	Deborah	1,026			
Morgan	Rosemary	1,021			
Griffin	Terri	943			

Trail Miles as of 6-30-19

CALLING ALL ROCKY MOUNTAIN HORSE
BREEDERS/OWNERS/TRAINERS/ENTHUSIASTS

RMHA EXAMINERS CLINIC

The PCRMHC is offering a 2-day
clinic with Tara Stone - Esteemed
RMH Breeder/Trainer & RMHA
Director of Examiners



FEBRUARY 13TH - 14TH, 2020
9 AM - 4 PM
HOLIDAY MARKET MEETING ROOM, COOL
CALIFORNIA

Cost is \$100 and we
need a minimum of
8 participants. For
sign ups - contact
Janet Peters -
jpslabs@gmail.com





**2020 RMHA
YOUTH CAMP**

**COME JOIN US
JUNE 12-14, 2020
Rudy's Ranch
Salt Lick, KY**

**Clinics, Trails,
Demos, Youth
Fun Show,
Food, Fun and more**

PIC•COLLAGE

2020 RMHA ELECTION CANDIDATES

The Candidates for election to RMHA Board positions in the upcoming 2020 election are as follows:

President: Ellen Knapp

Vice President: Chastity Adkins

Secretary: Gina Purdue

Treasurer: Lyngle Lawson

Director of Examiners: Tara Stone

Hearing Panel:

Jan Dunn

Tim Spencer

Stewart Wickham

Member at Large – 3 to be elected:

Judy Brummer

Terri Griffin

Marianne Jolley

Susan Travers

Signatures on a petition to add a candidate for any office may be collected until February 28, 2020. To be valid, a petition must bear signatures of 50 members of the association eligible to vote as of December 31st of the year prior to the election. Signatures in ink or faxed (to the candidate) will be accepted, when verified by the office as to required status of “membership in good standing” of those signing. Petitions must be presented to the RMHA Office by March 1st with all required signatures included. Petitions can be submitted by email, mail or in person.

Nominations for the position of Member at Large may be made by the membership as outlined in Article 2, paragraph 2.11.B of the Bylaws. A letter addressed to the Secretary must be received in the RMHA Office by March 1st with all required signatures included. The letter must list the member to be nominated and bear the signatures of two supporting members. Nominations from the floor can be submitted by email, mail or in person.

CALLING ALL RIDERS

So, you asked, and we added. As part of the 2018 Membership Survey, numerous requests were made to allow Registered Rocky Mountain Horses who were not certified into the Trail Mileage Program. Starting with the 2020 Trail Year (November 1, 2019 to October 31, 2020), the program has changed and riders who have Registered RMHs who are not Certified will be allowed to track and submit their miles.

This new program consists of two subprograms:

- Rider Mileage Program where yearly and lifetime trail miles are tracked by **Riders**, and
- RMHA Trail **Horse** Program where yearly and lifetime trail miles are tracked by **Certified Rocky Mountain Horse(s)**

RIDER MILEAGE PROGRAM

The new rider mileage program is open to all RMHA members with a current rider card and current trail card and there are now 2 divisions – Registered and Certified.

REGISTERED DIVISION

This division is for riders riding one or more RMHA Registered but Un-Certified horses. Yearly and lifetime miles will be tracked by the rider and submitted each year. At the end of the year, the RMHA Trail Committee will verify miles, and yearly awards are given for the Top Five high mileage riders in this Division.

Lifetime miles by single rider on a registered but uncertified horse or horses are tracked and awarded at key milestones - that is, 100, 250, 500, 750, 1000, 2500, 7500, 10,000, 15,000 and 20,000 miles.

Yearly and Lifetime awards will be given at the annual awards banquet.

CERTIFIED DIVISION

The Certified Division is for riders riding a RMHA Certified horse(s). Again, yearly and lifetime miles by rider (riding a certified horse(s)) are tracked by the rider and submitted each year and verified by the RMHA Trail Committee.

As with the Registered Division, yearly awards will be given yearly for the Top Five high mileage riders in this Division.

Lifetime rider awards miles by single rider on a Certified horse or horses are tracked and awarded at key milestone - that is, 100, 250, 500, 750, 1000, 2500, 7500, 10,000, 15,000 and 20,000 miles.

All awards will be given at annual awards banquet.

HORSE MILEAGE PROGRAM

Yearly and lifetime miles by ridden RMHA members on their **Certified** Horse(s) will be tracked for each Certified horse. The current rider will track the miles and submit them each year for verification by the Trail Committee. The rider must be enrolled in the Rider Mileage Program for that year for the miles to be counted. Yearly and lifetime horse awards are described below.

Yearly Certified Horse Awards - Yearly miles per Certified Horse will be tracked and an award given at the annual awards banquet to the Top High Mileage Certified Gelding, Top Mileage Certified Stallion, and the Top Mileage Certified Mare.

Lifetime Certified Horse Awards – Lifetime mileage for Certified horses will be awarded as follows:

2,500 miles	Junior Trail Horse Certificate – (one horse/one or more riders – Certificate goes to current owner and in horse file)
5,000 miles	Tobe Award (one horse/one rider) – Plaque/Story for Magazine Senior Trail Horse Certificate (one horse/one or more riders – Certificate goes to current owner and in horse file)
7,5000 miles	Master Trail Horse Certificate (one horse/one or more rider – Certificate goes to current owner and in horse file) – Plaque/Story for Magazine
10,000	Trophy – (one horse/one of more rider - Trophy goes to current owner)

CALLING ALL RIDERS

HOW DO YOU PARTICIPATE

All RMHA members in good standing are eligible to participate in this program. This program requires an annual Rider's Card, and enrollment in the Trail Program. The Rider Card and Trail Program forms are available via the website or the RMHA Office. No mileage awards will be awarded without completion of these forms and associated fees. All horses participating in the RMHA Trail Certified Horse Awards Program MUST be Certified upon date of the yearly enrollment in the program.

The trail year for both programs runs from November 1 to October 31. The rider must be enrolled in the Rider Mileage Program for that year for the miles to be counted. Late submissions will still get credit for miles ridden but will not be eligible for any **end-of-year** awards.

The Trail Committee is currently working on the associated awards and a developing a sponsorship program to help fund and promote our programs. The program fees cover the costs of the awards only. If you are interested in being a sponsor – let us know!

So, fill out the forms and jump in the saddle. Looking forward to seeing all of you and your beautiful Rockies out on the trail.



As a first time participant with a young green horse self starting under saddle, this was a great incentive program to keep me on track. Working full time makes it difficult to get out on the trails. At the end of August, following a 3 month horsemanship challenge done with NATRC Region 4 members. I was able to get my 4 year old out on trail by ourselves successfully without issues or explosions. Fancy I Am, aka Callie, has been a stellar horse for me as a first time RMH owner. Thank you for having this program and I'm excited for the owners of non-certified RMHs that they'll be able to participate in the program going forward!

Chrissy Knight



Chrissy Knight and Callie
September 2019
NATRC R4 ride at Six O Ranch
Cleburne, TX

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.RMHORSE.COM



The Rocky Mountain Horse Association is a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

One horse for all occasions

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E-mail for submitting items to Publications:
rmha.magazine@gmail.com
Website: www.rmhorse.com
Facebook: [Rocky Mountain Horse Assn](https://www.facebook.com/RockyMountainHorseAssn)

Mission:

The purpose of the Rocky Mountain Horse Association is to aid and encourage the preservation, promotion, breeding and development of the Rocky Mountain Horse throughout the United States and Internationally.

P R E S E R V I N G T H E L E S S E R K N O W N L I N E S

ervation. The Equine Genetics Preservation Manual can be downloaded for free from the TLC's website on the Endangered Equine Alliance page. The future of helping breeds to survive may be possible and more cost effective due to major strides in the technology of reproduction and the ability to securely "bank" semen or somatic cell materials. Recent approval to have additional specimens preserved within the repository of the National Animal Germplasm Program (NAGP) at the USDA's Agricultural Research Service is a step in that direction. This program has already helped to "add back" previously "lost" genetics into other species. Stories about how the NAGP has contributed can be found by going to the USDA's website at <https://www.ars.usda.gov/> and searching for NAGP.



By Judy Brummer