



The BEA Hub Winter News Edition



Fire Safety In Horse Barns

Most barn fires are preventable. We hang up "no smoking" sign and figure we've done all we can to protect our horses and barns. Fire prevention begins with an understanding of how fire starts and keeps burning. Just as we need oxygen, so does a fire, and in approximately the same amounts. The air we breathe is twenty-one percent oxygen. If the level of oxygen should fall below sixteen percent, there is not enough oxygen to support life, nor is there enough to support combustion. Our barns, usually designed to provide good ventilation, will permit a continuous supply of oxygen to a fire.

All barns, regardless of size, should have a minimum of two exits, both of which are easily accessible and have no impediments to their immediate use. Never allow doorways or isle to become storage areas, doors should never be blocked. The common rule for the number of exits is: up to 12 horses, 2 exits; 12—24 horses, 3 exits; 24—36 horses, 4 exits and 35—50 horses, 5—6 exits. Ideally, these means of egress should allow you to lead a horse into the isle way and then directly to the outside in a straight line.

Keeping an eye out for possible fire hazards: 1) open flame, strictly enforce no smoking rules 2) Cleanliness is key; get

Rid of cobwebs hanging from rafters, these make an excellent path for flame, clean up all loose hay and straw lying around 3) Bacterial and Chemical actions; the best prevention of spontaneous ignition is to not accept any hay or store any hay that is not 100% cured. Clover and alfalfa hay seem to be particularly prone to incomplete curing and first cutting alfalfa is often subject to problems. Uncured hay provides fuel and heat, when exposed to the proper oxygen you can have a full blown fire on your hands 4) Misuse of electricity; all electrical wiring should be enclosed in conduit, locate
Continued on Page 2.

Inside this issue:

Fire Safety In Barns 1

Presidents Message 1

Breed Spotlight 2

Old Business 2

Upcoming Events 3

Special points of interest:

- Future Activities
- Membership
- Breed Highlight
- Follow the Bedford Equine Association on Facebook

Message From Our President

As we enter a second year of the Bedford Equine Association, I would like to take an opportunity to give thanks and appreciation to each individual who has graciously given of their time and efforts to help establish a solid association. The decision to

start the BEA was only a small first step in creating the platform we are currently involved with. Everyone deserves to be acknowledged for their dedication and hard work.

The New Year brings new opportunities for the BEA to

undertake. As events and schedules for the current year are being planned, please come forward with any ideas for events or educational topics of interest. The leadership has heard from the membership that education is an important

priority and we are receptive to anyone's opinions or suggestions. We will also need members to assist in these endeavors, so when schedules permit please consider volunteering any spare time or area of expertise.

I look forward to an exciting year as an association and hope to see each of you in the near future.

Breed Spotlight—The Mustang

The first Mustangs descended from Iberian horses brought to Mexico and Florida. Most of these horses were of Andalusian, Arabian and Barb ancestry. Some of these horses escaped or were stolen by Native Americans, and rapidly spread throughout western North America.

Starting in the colonial era and continuing with the westward expansion of the 1800's, horses belonging to explorers, traders and settlers that escaped or were purposely released joined the gene

pool of Spanish-descended herds. It was common practice for western ranchers to release their horses to locate forage for themselves in the winter and recapture them, as well as any additional Mustangs, in the spring. Some ranchers also attempted to "improve" wild herds by shooting dominant stallions and replacing them with pedigreed animals.



Mustang Herd

By 1900 N. America had an estimated two million free-roaming horses. Today free-roaming horses are protected under US law, but have disappeared from several states where there were once established herds. The BLM considers 27,000 horses a manageable #, but the feral Mustang population currently exceeds 33,000. More than half of all Mustangs in N. America are in Nevada.

Old Business

'Although the Bedford Christmas Parade was a wash out the BEA bravely entered our float the next day in the Big Island Christmas Parade. This was a good event and was another great way to get our name out to the community. Thank you to all of the great volunteers that helped pull the Christmas parade float together.

The Board held elections in November for the 3 board positions that were up for election. The 3 current incumbents were re-elected for an additional term. Richard Toms will continue in the roll of President. Stormie Shelton will continue in the roll of Vice President and Shelby Cross will continue in the roll of Secretary.

The BEA Christmas gathering was a successful event and we wanted to say a special thank you to each and every one of you that came out and shared in the food and festivities.

Fire Safety Continued

Incoming electric supply away from doorways so a fire occurring at the main panel will not make an exit unusable 5) Lightening rods are your best protection against Mother Nature's electricity 6) Portable appliances; kerosene heaters, electric heaters and infrared heaters are the biggest single cause of barn fires today.

Fire prevention cannot be neglected outside the barn. Destroy weeds

growing close to the barn and keep all pastures mowed to lessen the danger of brush fires.

Gasoline powered vehicles should be stored away from the barn, but if it is necessary to keep them close by they should be parked a minimum of fifteen feet away from any structures housing animals.

Fire suppression; portable fire extinguishers

are a must in every barn and should be the ABC type. The range and time of effectiveness in the use of a fire extinguisher is relatively short but may be your best defense until help arrives. Post written emergency information at each phone containing written directions to your barn should you have to call for help.



Upcoming Events

Southern States Dinner:

On February 16th at 6:00pm Southern States of Bedford will be hosting a dinner for the public. There will be several guest speakers in attendance. The BEA will have a booth set up at the dinner to promote the organization and we will have our T-shirts for sale that night. Dinner will be pizza and salad. Please come out and enjoy a night with your horsey friends!

Hay Auction:

On February 20th the BEA will be hosting a public hay auction. This will be held starting at 10am at the old Taylor

Brother's lumber yard across from Southern States in Bedford. Joe Pillow will be the auctioneer. There will be square and round bales for sale. If you are interested in selling you must have a minimum of 25 square bales and 5 round bales.

BEA T-shirts and Window Decals

Please make sure, if you have not already purchased a t-shirt or a window decal, you stop by the BEA booth at an upcoming event and show your support. Each new joining member of the BEA receives one window decal for free, 2 if it's a family membership.

2010 Membership:

Please remember it's time to renew your BEA membership. Dues for 2010 are due now. You can either mail in your payment or turn it in at the member's meeting!

We have a lot of things in store for the new year and we need your support to make them happen.

BEA Technology Update

Our BEA Facebook page now has 48 members and continues to grow. We continue to post all upcoming events and reminders on Facebook and our member photo album continues to grow. If you have not already joined Facebook please come check us out. We encourage everyone that has news or photos of their equine family to please share with us.

Our web site is finished and is available at www.bedfordequine.org. We are hop-

ing to have this become a great resource for information, sharing thoughts, idea's, asking questions and keeping everyone informed of what's happening with the Association and around the equine community. Our old newsletters will be archived as well as monthly meeting minutes.

Please continue to support these efforts with your suggestions and creative ideas.

BEA Board Officers

President—Richard Toms,
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Vice President— Stormie Shelton,
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Secretary—Shelby Cross,
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“There's nothing better for the inside of a person than the outside of a horse” - Ronald Reagan

A special Congratulations!!

Congratulations to Marshall Cofer of Triple F Farm, a member of the BEA Board on his special award from the VA Draft Horse and Mule Association. Marshall, along with his team of black Percheron's Bill and Barney won the David "Kris" Kriskovich Memorial Trophy.

Marshall not only won the perpetual trophy for same Team and Teamster working a class at both Southwest Draft Horse Show and Old Dominion Show, but also Total High Point Driver for all driving, sled and skidding! Congratulations Marshall Bill and Barney!!

