



OVER HERD

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Remodeling the old Barn

By Joanie Benson



The old barn had all the rotten wood removed and was ready for repair.

Erecting the new 6" by 6" supports around the two sides of the barn was not easy. The expensive supports were among the few things that had to be purchased.



West or road side of the barn.



The front of the barn was salvaged plywood. The west or roadside of the barn was siding from an old house in Salisbury the fire department was going to burn down.



The west side of the barn repaired.



The north side or pond side roof was rotting and the outside was covered with old rusty tin roofing. The salvaged siding was used on the north side of the barn also. Shutters, with clear plastic sheets were added to provide light and air circulation during hot weather. The road side of the barn also had shutters that could be closed in the winter and during inclement weather. The shutters were an experiment to test them for a future barn

The old house in Salisbury proved to be a treasure trove of good useable items. I salvaged all the windows, kitchen cabinets, doors, most of the siding, wood, the front door, wood flooring and two old tubs on legs. These were the first of the water tubs that we like to use for the horses. We now have 10 of the old tubs.



Stalls were constructed out of any wood and pallets that could be salvaged. Some wood and hinges were purchased at lumber yards "going out of business."

I had a Sherman Williams representatives come and look at the outside of the barn that needed paint, to tell me what I needed to purchase and paint the outside. Now ever, the paint didn't last six months, and I received a full refund for the costs of primer and paint.

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The Rowan County Two Starved Horses



December 14, 2023, the saga of the two starved horses in Rowan County started for HPS trying to save the horses. We were also concerned about the three skinny, small-breed bulls on the property. Their backbone stood up about an inch.

Here is the part I didn't share previous in the newsletter since it is a federal offense to even possess fighting cocks. There were ducks in the pen that are often used by people to train the fighting cocks. I reported this to Animal Control in December. Nothing was done! I reported it to the Sheriff's Department, but nothing was done. Since it was a Federal law, I searched for who to call, and the FBI came up. So, I reached out towards the end of December.

About the middle of January, the FBI called the Sheriff's Department and turned the case over to them. A deputy came to the sanctuary and took my statement, and I provided pictures of the horses and bulls.

The deputy told me he had made an appointment with the owner, to meet at the property. Surprise! The deputy DID NOT find any fighting cocks in cages on the property.

What happened to this starved horse? What about the other one.

Later that day, the deputy returned and gave me a summons for trespassing on the property. (You have to laugh at this point in the story.) I never saw the sign and returned to the property to look for it after the owner said he was going to charge me.

I did find a "No Trespassing" sign on an electric pole on the neighbor's property. Checking the Internet, it was apparent that the sign was about 100 feet from the property line in question.

The little darker-colored starved paint horse is no longer on the property that is about two miles outside of Rockwell. One of the sheriff's department deputies told me the owner had given the horse to an equine rescue. The other little paint is still on the property.

Rowan County Animal Shelter has closed the case and says there is no cause to charge the person. The owner was told he had to clean up his property, which looked like a city dump, or he would be charged.

Unanswered questions: Did the owner give the horse to a rescue, or is it dead? If so, which rescue? Did the deputy's appointment cause the fighting cocks to disappear, or was it someone who tipped off the owner?

Residents in North Carolina: Once again, we have reason to hang our heads in shame. North Carolina is one of the top five states in the country for the sale of fighting cocks. The last time I checked, we rated 42nd or 43rd for the WORST ANIMAL ABUSE LAWS IN THE COUNTRY!

According to government regulation, as a 501(c)3, we are not allowed to do anything to try to change or influence laws or elect candidates. BUT YOU CAN!



What are you doing February 15th at 9:00 am. I am going to be at the Salisbury Courthouse at Courtroom 3. I am charged with a SECOND DEGREE TRESPASS.

14-159-.13.....Second degree trespass is Class 3 misdemeanor

... the maximum fine that may be imposed is two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for a Class 3 misdemeanor

This is the first time for me to be on the other side of the gavel.

North Carolina animal laws can be changed, but it takes people working together with direction and a good plan in place. I am willing to help in ways that will not put HPS's 501(c)3 in jeopardy.

It is not the politicians that bring about positive change, it's the people.

Continued from page #1

There were toxic trees in the south area next to the house. We had a heavy rain so I took the old truck and a log chain to the field. I wrapped the chain around the bottom of the tree, and hooked the chain to the truck, and backed up to the tree, and then hit gas. The tree would poop right out of the ground. I was making good headway when the neighbor, Perry, next door came over. He said, "Hey, what are you doing?" I replied, "What's it look like? I'm weeding!" Perry about fell down laughing. He walked off still laughing. Shortly he returned with a bulldozer and said, "Let me show you how it's done!" Perry and I became fast friends, and he always seem to show up with the right piece of equipment to help. Now, Perry's son, Chris is our hay supplier and helps with other things.



Perry is missed!

Baby, its (Way too) Cold Outside

By Christina Smith

In mid-January, most of the country dealt with part of the polar vortex weather system in one way or another. Here in the foothills of North Carolina, we dealt with rain and temperatures in the lower teens at night and highs in the thirties during the day. We couldn't get so lucky as to see any snowfall around here! I was talking with Joanie the other day, and she said that North Carolina has two seasons, hot and mud, which couldn't be more accurate! Rowan County has not seen any snow since the winter of '22. It's a shame because the horses love running and playing in the snow, and we humans enjoy watching them do so. But winter has just begun, and I hope we will see some snowfall before spring.

With the coldest months of the winter yet to arrive, it would be a good idea to go over some of the things we do around here to keep things moving smoothly and our horses nice and toasty. To deal with the below-freezing temperatures, we have electric water heaters in each water trough to keep ice from forming. We shut the well breaker off each evening and drain all remaining water from the pipes to keep them from freezing. We also unhook and drain all water hoses so they do not freeze overnight. If it is cold, rainy, or windy, two garage doors on each barn are closed to block the wind and create cozy shelters for the horses to get out of the weather.

We do our best to allow the horses to keep themselves warm naturally. First things first, proper nutrition is vital. We have noticed when a new, malnourished rescue arrives in the colder months, they have a much harder time keeping themselves warm. Horses rely on consistently eating hay to keep themselves warm during the winter. The horses' coats get checked to ensure they are not stuck together or lying flat against their bodies. If they are, we make them as fluffy as possible to allow them to stay warm. Have you ever noticed a horse's hair standing on end when it's cold? Humans call it "goosebumps," but the proper term is piloerection (pai-low-uh-rek-shn), and it's a natural reaction in mammals that they use to keep ourselves warm. Tiny muscles at the base of the horse's fur contract, causing it to stand up and creating an insulated layer of air to stay warm.

Occasionally, we still have horses who have difficulty staying warm and begin to shiver. Usually, it's due to their bright idea of standing out in the rain at night or napping in the mud instead of the warm, dry barns. In this case, we stall and blanket them long enough to stop the shivering. Leaving a blanket on a horse for an extended period can be harmful. Winter blankets are made to hold the horses' natural body heat in. If they become too warm under the blanket, they can begin to sweat, which will cause an adverse reaction, and they will become colder.

Many of the tips I mentioned above regarding how we keep our rescue horses warm here at the sanctuary when it's cold outside also goes for most other livestock. I hope everyone is staying warm and keeping the winter blues at bay. We may be freezing now, but I imagine we will be complaining about how hot it is outside in four months! I cannot wait until it warms up. But until then, remember these helpful tips; if all else fails, bring your horses in the house! Hahaha

Possible Hurricane Coming!

Many years ago, I received a phone call at 10:30 pm about a pony on display at the carnival in Cabarrus County. The carnival had already left when I went to Cabarrus County the following day.

Months passed, and I couldn't stop thinking about the little pony the people had described. I received a phone call in December from a horse trader. He was bragging about a deal he made selling a miniature horse to a guy at a carnival last summer.

"What happened to the pony he had?"

"I have her. Do you want her?"

"I will be right over to pick her up."

My friend and I put her in the back of a small station wagon. She was only 28" tall. Angel had been deliberately starved to make her small when she was a foal. Even her ears had been trimmed to make them smaller. She had rickets from the starvation.

Several years later, there was the possibility of a hurricane. All the fields were open, so the big horses could go where they needed to.

But poor little Angel couldn't move fast enough to stay safe. So I brought her into the house for the night. I covered the utility room floor with plastic and alfalfa. (She would only eat the leaves.) I put an old wooden ladder across the doorway. I put on the TV and settled in for the evening. Angel rested her head on the ladder, and I realized she was watching TV.

I had made some popcorn and had green grapes. I sat on the floor next to the ladder, and Angel would stick out her tongue sideways for another grape or popcorn, never taking her eyes off the TV.

It was late, about 11:00 pm, and it was way past bed time. Angel had this deep winnie, and cried and cried when I turned off the TV. Who said you can't bring your equine into the house?



Angel would go under the electric fences and go any where she wanted.

The small black spot in the field is Angel's cat. The kitty always slept with Angel.

Angel use to write a column for the newsletter with the help of Roberta McCardle .

Angel lived to be 51 years old.
She is sorely missed by folks who knew her!



Angel made friends with all the new horses and you can see why. Comanche loved Angel.



In honor of Vicki Troutman for Christmas.

By Mary Tucker

In memory of the great Snickers. By Roberta

In memory of Nugget. By Missy Anderson

In memory of "Queen." a horse at HPS that I will never forget. By Dottie Rebhan

Thank you for all HPS volunteers. Love is the Greatest Gift



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News From the Herd

Chiropractic Adjustments: There are a number of horses that need chiropractic adjustments.

Gallant: Needs to go to either NC State or Davie Large Animal hospital for evaluation of a growth on his hock. We are hoping it can be removed.

Geese: There is a huge flock of geese that have descended on the new grass coming up. Geese are grazers and love the new tender grass. Does anyone have any ideas how to discharge them from our field?

EPM Treatment: We made some adjustments to the treatment of the horses and my impatience is showing. My favorite prayer: “God grant me PATIENCE RIGHT NOW!”