



OVER HERD

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2006 - 2007 were Great Years By Joanie Benson

The Horse Protection Society worked hard to raise funds and support the horses. Many will remember the Yard Sales we held until 2006, which helped raise \$8,000 to \$10,000 a year and introduced people to HPS. Volunteers would come several times a week to clean and price items starting in February to have the sale on the first weekend in May. People were wonderful about donating items and then would come to shop.

There was a collective sigh of relief when the decision was made: "No More YARD SALES." It was a moment that marked the end of an era and the beginning of a new chapter. The anticipation for the new barn was palpable, and all felt the weight of our previous efforts. We were eager to see our vision come to life.

Years of preparation and dedication have led us to this moment. We were finally ready to raise the last funds needed to build the first barn. HPS had audits done by our CPA for several years, and we had a savings account set aside to help build the barn. Our commitment was unwavering, and our readiness was evident. We were determined to see this through, no matter the challenges.

After checking our various barn-building companies, Mid-State Metals was far above other companies! HPS received some grants and our savings, but we needed more, and it was up to our contributors to make the project come to fruition.

Since the property is not flat, it took 52 loads of fill dirt. Some people didn't believe the barn could be built and finished. However, the funds from the fundraisers at the Speedway Club, which Joyce and Teddy Hixson sponsored, proved them wrong. It was a testament to the power of collective action, and it made a huge difference in our journey.

By summer, the framework and roof were finished. Cozart Lumber in Rockwell gave HPS an excellent discount for all the yellow pine we needed to finish the stalls. A company that made stone and marble countertops donated particle board for the walls of the rooms.



The first phase of the barn construction involved several steps. We had to put in the poles, set the roof trusses, and build the end gables. Then, the interior posts had to be set, followed by the underground plumbing and electrical work. After that, we focused on the concrete work and the side ditches completed in the first phase. This detailed process gives you a better understanding of the time and effort that went into this project.

Continued to Page 2



Barn One

We were tired of looking at the compacted dirt pile and wanted to see a building going up. The framework was completed during the summer of 2006. A \$40,000 grant helped to finish the first barn. We are immensely grateful to all our contributors who added to the grant funds to make this possible. Your support has been instrumental in our progress, and we were able to continue this journey together. We couldn't have done it without you.

The first 14 horses were moved into Barn One, and they loved it so much they wouldn't leave even to eat hay for three days. The 14 horses would keep the other horses from entering their new barn. The most vulnerable horses typically have their stalls in Barn One. They hang out there, and it is easier to keep an eye on them. If there is an issue with any of the horses, it is easier to spot the problem.

Barn Two was started shortly after Barn One was completed. It has 26 stalls, and the floors in both barns are covered with rubber mats glued together. HPS received additional grant funding, and we had enough to build our first covered hay feeder. It will hold eight round bales. I acted as the contractor on all our projects and saved HPS enough funds to complete the three projects. John at Mid-State Metal and his crew were the best to work with. The buildings are as square today as the day they were built.



Barn one—South Side



Feed room cabinets donated & installed by Joyce & Teddy Hixson

The Mane Event at the Speedway Club each year helped and was great fun. The last one was in 2008 because the economy of North Carolina had bygone tanking even in 2007.

One of the most important rules for a nonprofit is not to go into debt. If you can't pay for it, don't buy it.



Barn Two



South Side of Barn Two

Continued to Page three

Continued from Page 2

The two large stables, each have four garage doors, two in the front and two in the rear. All of the shutters open and allow a breeze through the barns in hot weather and closed in the cold months which promotes passive solar.

The covered hay feeder saved hay and a great deal of wasted hay. A few years later, we built a second covered hay feeder.



To make things more interesting, we had another severe drought and hay shortage in 2007. In the past, HPS has purchased hay from upper New York State, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Central North Carolina at great expense to feed the horses during drought conditions.

The hay shown in the picture came from the Mid West.

I warned the officers of a coming possible financial crash in 2007 and suggested we plan for the issues that were coming.

IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION
WE EXPRESS OUR THANKS TO THE
CONSTRUCTION SUPPORTERS.

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ERIKA & PAUL TORRENCE
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Continued from page 3

The bottom half of page three shows the signs in Barn One that list most of the contributors who helped to build the two Barns and the Covered Hay Feeder. Other donors whose funds were listed as "Use as needed" may have also gone towards the new barns. The foundations have asked HPS not to list their names in publications. Many people listed are still devoted to the horses. Look what you have accomplished!

After eighteen years, we had to have a small amount of repair done on the barns. The folks who help at the rescue are thankful for all of the donors who made the barns possible for the horses and the ease of care.

Farmers Day, China Grove, July 20th

Many kids enjoyed Farmer's Day by getting their picture taken with one of the rescued horses.



In loving memory of my daughter, Janet Fields, owner of Beauregard.
By Argen Aycock

In honor of Aunt Baba who loved horses.. By Barbara Grigos

"In Memory of Angel," August 19, 2002. By Roberta

In Memory of Robin Williams, a dear friend and colleague. By Kate Goldberger,
Paul Colon, Bran Hinkle, Kevin Harris & Nikki Davidson

Argen R. Aycock
Lynn & Paul Baldwin
Bank of America Charitable
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Kathy & Tony Bell
Carol & William Bellinghausen
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«**First**» «**Last**»
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You can help support our efforts to save horses by providing your email address to us at: horseprotection@windstream.net
 This will save money in printing & postage.
 THANK YOU!



Three of our wonderful young people are off to new adventures in their lives. Ruby (left) and Grace (right) are heading off to college.

Jayden will be joining the Air Force.

We have watched these teenagers grow up and they will be missed.

We wish for them to enjoy the next phase of their lives.

