



YOUR NEIGH-BORHOOD HULLABALOO

Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

July 2021

The End of PMU?

PMU stands for "Pregnant Mare Urine" and the history behind this now-controversial practice is nothing short of fascinating.

Early collaboration between the Canadian pharmaceutical company, Ayerst, McKenna & Harrison, Ltd., and Dr. J.B. Collip, Ph.D., a pioneer in endocrinology research at McGill University, Montreal, led to the 1930 discovery of Emmenin, the first orally active (water-soluble) estrogen. Before this conjugated human estrogens product, the only estrogen therapy available was human steroids, which had to be administered by injection.

Emmenin was made by extracting the conjugated estrogens obtained from the late pregnancy urine of Canadian women. Within a short time after the introduction of Emmenin, it became clear there was a need for a lower cost, more potent estrogen than Emmenin. Consequently, researchers began looking for potential mammalian sources.

Researchers in Germany studied the urine of all mammals in the Berlin zoo and reported that the urine of pregnant

equines (zebras and horses) included significant quantities of potent, water-soluble, conjugated estrogens.

In 1939, Ayerst made a breakthrough in the process of extracting estrogens from mares' urine. Through this complex process a very active and stable urine concentrate was obtained. Since the potential supply of pregnant mares' urine PMU far exceeded the available supply of urine from humans, and its potency was at least two and a half times that of human urine, Ayerst scientists enthusiastically set to work on the development of a product from this source. After two years of work, Premarin was ready to be marketed in Canada in 1941. The following year it was approved for use in the United States. In 1943, the American Home Products Corporation (AHPC) purchased Ayerst, McKenna & Harrison, Ltd., later shortening the name to Ayerst Laboratories and subsequently merging it with Philadelphia-based Wyeth Laboratories in 1987. Wyeth was acquired by Pfizer in 2009.

Initially, the company contracted farmers in rural Quebec, near their manufacturing plant in Montreal. As Premarin use increased, additional ranchers were sought in Ontario,

upstate New York and Vermont. However, in the late 1960s as it became more acceptable to openly discuss menopause and its associated problems, Premarin usage increased significantly. The company foresaw that it wouldn't be able to contract with enough farmers to meet the growing demand. It was logical to look to the Canadian prairies where horse and pasture land were plentiful. In the mid-60s, a decision was made to build a new processing plant in Brandon, Manitoba and consequently, equine ranching flourished in the Midwestern provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan, and the state of North Dakota.

Between 2003 and 2005, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals undertook a network resizing due to a combination of factors including a reduction in demand for the products as a result of data from the Women's Health Initiative (WHI), improvements in manufacturing and inventory management, and a shift to lower-doses. Consequently, the scope of the collection network was reduced, with ranches concentrated in Manitoba and Saskatchewan provinces in Canada and a small number of ranches in North Dakota.

While other estrogen products are
Continued on page 11

Smidget:

The 21-inch star-studded steed

Many horses over the years have claimed to be the smallest, but none boasted the diminutive size of Smidget. Born on April 13, 1979, in Jackson, Michigan, she gained fame for celebrity appearances and a starring role as the unicorn in the television series Faerie Tale Theatre (1982). Unfortunately, she would pass away in 1990, having lived a rich life and winning over the hearts of many.

To honor Smidget’s incredible life and legacy, Ripley’s recently acquired this fantastic miniature creature for display.

How small was Smidget? She weighed just 75 pounds and stood 21 inches tall. Owned by Ron Boerger of Durham, California, who searched for two years before finding her. She proved smaller than her 28.5-inch father and 32-inch tall mom. Through breeding, she represented a true miniature horse, rather than a deformed animal, and Boerger also noted her unusual intelligence.

To give you an idea of how small Smidget was, Boerger often displayed her with a fake saddle holding a Cabbage Patch doll. The Cabbage Patch doll proved perfectly proportioned to the tiny dynamo. What’s more, photos of her standing next to toddlers look just about right. There are also historical photos of her next to a variety of different-sized objects and people to emphasize her size. They include Smidget next to a silver dollar, a normal-sized horse, a duck, and all seven-foot-one-inches of basketball phenom Wilt Chamberlain.



Because of Smidget’s small size, she had to eat a special diet designed to accommodate her equally tiny digestive tract. While she enjoyed munching on tender grass, hay proved much too big for her body. Boerger described it as the equivalent of feeding her “tree limbs.” Instead, he preferred to give her two handfuls of alfalfa pellets per day. This staple was supplemented with vitamins, minerals, and oats.

She also received special accommodations when it came to travel. She often journeyed around in a 32-foot-long limo that included a whirlpool bathtub for relaxation after performances. It was a pinto-colored limo complete with a horn that whinnied. Smidget was registered with the American Miniature breed, and researchers at the University of California, Davis, studied her. What’s more, Boerger put out a \$250 award to anyone in possession of a horse more petite than Smidget. There were no takers.



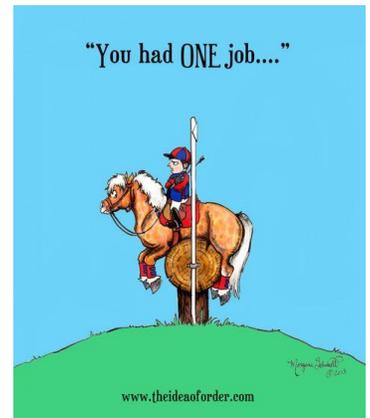
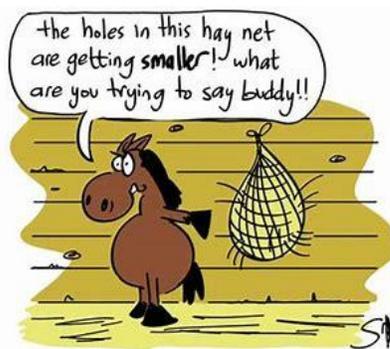
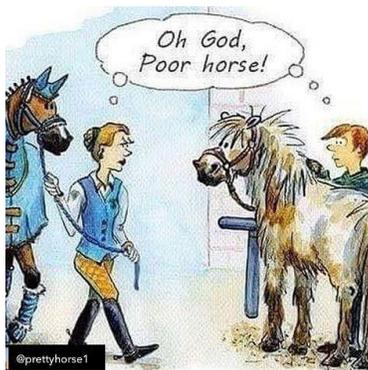
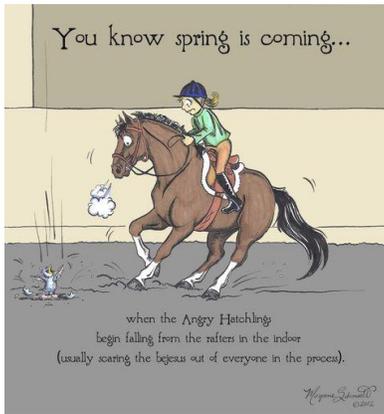
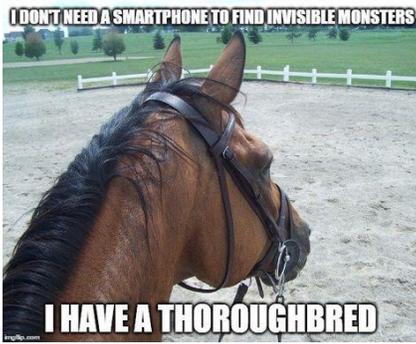
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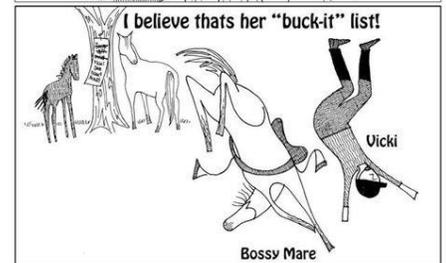
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New Items for July





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“A good rider can hear his horse speak to him. A great rider can hear him whisper.”

-author unknown



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HORSES

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

- BAREBACK
- EQUINE
- FARM
- FEED
- FOAL
- FODDER
- GAIT
- GALLOP
- GROOM
- HALTER
- HARNESS
- HOOF
- MANE
- MARE
- NECK
- NEIGH
- NOSE
- PACER
- PASTURE
- RACE
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- ROPES
- SADDLE

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The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY.
Find and circle each word.



Nutrition Corner

The Benefits of Peppermint

Peppermint is one of the main herbs for digestion and contains between 0.5% and 1.5% of volatile oil, found in all parts of the plant. The oil content is highest just before flowering. The quantity of oil in the plant can vary depending on the variety of mint, the soil it is grown in and the climate. The oil consists of about 50% menthol.

The reason peppermint is such a valuable herb for the digestive system is because of this oil. It has a carminative action, helping to relax sphincters and the smooth muscles of the digestive system, assist in the expulsion of intestinal gas, tone mucous membrane surfaces and increase peristalsis.

Peppermint contains a bitter quality that increases bile secretion and helps stimulate the appetite as well as tannins, which can help with horses who suffer from loose droppings or bouts of diarrhea.

For the respiratory system, antibacterial peppermint oil can be used to help loosen residual mucus/catarrh, relieve and reduce the frequency of a troublesome cough, or help combat lung infections.

The menthol content of the plant is antiseptic and when used in high concentrations can act as a disinfectant. The oil has been shown to offer very significant antimicrobial and antifungal effects against over 25 bacterial and 20 fungal species.

Externally, peppermint oil can be added to topical lotions or blended with a carrier oil (such as almond oil) and applied directly on the skin or mucus membrane. The oil can act as an insect repellent and is often used to reduce the sensitivity of skin receptors, helping to reduce pain, itching, sweet itch or sensitivity to temperature.

WILDWOOD FARM AND TRIPLE CROWN FEEDS.

Our partnership with Triple Crown began in 2014 through a promotion with the USEF encouraging farm members to compare their current feeding programs with Triple Crown products. We have found the TC products to be superior over other products primarily because of the EquiMix technology and the research support of a leading edge team including independent representatives of Equine Universities, Medical clinics and top level riders and trainers

MEET DUSTY

Dusty's registered name is S C Moondance and he is a gorgeous champagne Tennessee Walker Gelding that joined our PNWRA horse-herd in 2020.

Dusty was born in Perkasio, Pennsylvania on October 25, 2000 on a breeding farm specializing in palomino and champagne-colored gaited horses. He was kept a breeding stallion until he was 9 yrs old, and was purchased by a doctor who lived in Gig Harbor in 2010 when he was 10.

Dusty enjoyed his new home and was taken on trail rides into the rugged high mountains for many years until the doctor was transferred and Dusty was left behind. He spent the next 4 years hanging out in a pasture and not being utilized - a forgotten gem! In May of 2020 Wildwood Farm was asked by a client to find a kind, gentle riding horse for a 65 yr old man who wanted to get back into riding, and a post on a Facebook message board led us to drive to Tenino to take a look at Dusty.

The moment we saw him we knew he was quite special, very stoic but gentle and kind. Humans had forgotten about him for a few years, but we knew we could change that for him. Our client loved him, too, and he was purchased on the spot. He was delivered to us a few days later.



Unfortunately, his owner got very ill a few weeks later and could no longer afford to keep Dusty, so we took him in and he joined our lesson and trail riding program.

Dusty is a rock-solid trail horse and will tote anyone around with confidence and calm – from beginners to experienced riders. His personality is still a very gentle soul, but he also smiles now with his eyes and loves the companionship of his fellow school horses. We feel so fortunate to have found Dusty and to give him his last, forever home.

INTERVIEW WITH SIMON BAKER, ACTOR, AVID HORSEMAN AND SPOKESPERSON FOR LONGINES.

You enjoy surfing AND riding horses – how do they compare?

You can go surfing and the relationship is with the ocean and your board and your own body and your own awareness — it happens in sort of moments. But with another living, breathing creature that isn't a human being, to have a physical connection and understanding between each other, you sit on a horse and the horse feels your energy, who you are, and where you're at — and that's pretty cool.

One of your favorite events every year is the Prix de Diane, a prestigious race for fillies with a million-euro prize. Why is this one of your must-see events?

Well, Longines is a long-time sponsor and that has something to do with it! But seriously, These jockeys today, they don't train on those horses...they are so in tune with horses that they get on that horse and their relationship develops so quickly and then they have to run a race which is just death-defying, it's one of the most dangerous sports there is, on a horse that they haven't spent that much time with, but it's an instant...it's a contract between a horse and a rider and they've got to figure out and then the starting gate opens and hew, it's finished. In like two minutes. It's pretty exciting!

How did your own experience riding horses start?

Most of my leisure riding has been associated with preparing for a film where you're riding a horse. It takes weeks and weeks of riding a horse or horses before filming, so that you develop a relationship.

You were able to ride a lot last year, do you miss that?

I regret that I cannot fit it into my schedule now, with travel between Sydney and Los Angeles constantly. It had been a few years since I'd been riding as much so it was fantastic, and I said to my wife, I wish we had a lifestyle that would allow me to have a horse because I love that, I love that relationship but you need to spend the time and invest the time and energy for it to be special.

The Longines Jumping Nations Cup Final in Barcelona was the first jumping competition you attended, what did you think?

It was incredible. It is really hard to articulate, I have jumped horses myself – just for films – and I understand, with an animal as big as a horse, rhythmically, how precise and in sync the rider and the horse have to be. You reduce the steps, so that the horse shortens its steps before the jump, goes from the left to the right foot, all this is incredibly detailed, and so many hours of practice and training and then you (both) just believe and feel...it is like golf, you practice hitting the ball, you think, you think, but then when you actually do it you just let go and just feel. That's what these sport people have to do, these riders have to do during these events, with their horse. Just believe and feel. That's incredible. That's so powerful.

You have been married to your wife for a long time, what are the keys to a successful marriage?

Adventure. It is more kind of a mindset. Because adventure is often the way you face challenges. Because any relationship is not without many, many challenges. You never get to a place where you say, oh this is good, now it's easy, because soon as you are there, it is like termites you know, soon as you look at the foundations, things start to collapse again. So it's never taking those moments for granted. And I think that the truth that having kids feeds just so much more into your relationship. It takes the focus and the attention from just the two of you towards now a united goal which is just raising these kids. There are no keys. I think you do it because you want to do it. A lot of friends around my age are divorced, and sometimes their relationship is better once they are separated. But I don't want to be held as a sort of yardstick at all as the successful married guy, as there is always pressure on a relationship. Because of that kind of pressure, every relationship is challenging and difficult, and no one is everything to another person. Understanding that and accepting is one thing, but also knowing that it can all fall apart the next week. You are together because you want to be together, now. We will see what it's like tomorrow.

Can you say that you live the life you dreamt of?

No, because I never dreamt any of this...I am living so outside of that. Every day I live in a situation which is almost surreal. When I was growing up, I didn't have a dream this big. So I'm improvising. And I really just try to enjoy each of those moments. My general approach is just to simplify everything back to just the basis of connection, whatever those connections are. Because as a person I can feel comfortable and safe in that. When I look at you, you look, I talk, you talk, you communicate, and there is an honest communication backwards and forwards, that's simple, and as a human being, I can understand and relate to that, because that is just in me, innately. And I think that's in all of us, innately. So that's how I work. In a way, I work back to that point, all the time

So what do you dream of? What do you really want to do in the future?

It is less about what I want to do, it is more about how I am going to feel when I am doing it. You can do great things, but not enjoy what it is that you are doing, because of some other anxiety related to it. Then in hindsight you look back and you say to yourself, well what I did there was really great, but I was so tense and so anxious and uptight about it, that I didn't enjoy what it was. So actually I want to do a thing which I enjoy and indeed feel the relaxing process of doing it. So it is more about adjusting my philosophical approach to the thing(s) that I am doing. Just let go of the guilt "I should rather be doing this or that", and enjoy what you are doing there. Be more in the moment and just accepting that moment. Do not let outside pressure come in.

Are you afraid of time passing?

Getting old you mean? Yes, there are things I could do when I was younger. Now I say to myself, I should have done more of that...at the time! They are mainly related to physical things because that's getting a bit harder when you get older. It is not too bad yet, you know...but I feels some pains in different places, indicating that I did a bit too much in some instances. It is less about time going by, it is more about the things you want to do.

C.Y. O'Connor Horse and Rider

North Coogee, Australia

This drowning bronze monument marks the spot where one of Australia's great engineers died by suicide.



CHARLES YELVERTON O'CONNOR WAS AN Irish-born engineer who found his greatest achievements in Australia, before tragically taking his own life. O'Connor's life has been commemorated in monuments across Australia, but his death is remembered by a bronze horse and rider who peek out of the waves off the coast of the beach where he died.

O'Connor became Engineer-in-Chief of Western Australia in 1891, and it was in this position that he would create his most well-known works. During his time in the job, O'Connor was responsible for the rails, roads, and harbors in Western Australia. While there, he created the Fremantle Harbor in 1903, which before his tenure had been seen as a fool's errand, and also the world's longest water main, the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme, also completed in 1903, which continues to push water to remote western parts of the country. Both of these, his best known projects, as well as some smaller ones, continue to operate as central parts of the area's infrastructure, proving O'Connor's enduring prowess.

Unfortunately, months before the completion of his greatest achievements in 1902, O'Connor took his own life by shooting himself while he rode his horse into the sea. He left a note that expressed his disappointment over how his projects were received, but for whatever reason, the man was dead.

The beach on which O'Connor shot himself was eventually named after him, but off into the water lies the most haunting monument. Built in 1999, the statue known as "C.Y. O'Connor Horse and Rider." was created by local sculptor Tony Jones. Crafted out of bronze, the statue depicts an abstract figure of O'Connor on the back of his horse. The piece was installed about 65 feet out into the water off the coast of the beach that still bears O'Connor's name.

From the shore, the two heads of the sculpture peek out of the waves like a forever-drowning sentinel, both tragic and everlasting.

The Most AMAZING Horse Hair Creations



Lady Godiva and Peeping Tom Clock

Coventry, England

Every hour on the hour a naked heroine and her leering foil appear from this giant cuckoo clock.



THE CITY OF COVENTRY HAS long embraced the legend of Lady Godiva and her nude protest ride through the city streets, but one of the stranger tributes to the famous figure is the Lady Godiva and Peeping Tom Clock that springs Godiva into action every hour while her creeping counterpart looks on.

The large public clock, which is built into a brick facade above the appropriately named, Lady Godiva News stand, replays the legend in miniature each hour on the hour. The story of Lady Godiva tells of an 11th century earl's wife (Godiva) who stood up to unfair taxation by riding naked through the city on horseback. A later addition to the story added the character of Peeping Tom, a cartoonish horndog who couldn't keep from gawking at Godiva, eventually being killed or blinded for his lechery. While Godiva seems to have been a real figure, the likelihood of her naked ride having actually taken place is slim.

All the same, the city has a handful of tributes to the story including statues and the clock. Each hour, the doors of the clock, usually adorned with black eagles, open up and a mechanical Godiva comes forward. As she reaches the center point of her little parade, another door opens above her and a leery mechanical man can be seen peering down at Godiva.

The clock is a bit strange for seemingly accentuating the more lurid aspects of the story, but it is that strangeness that also makes it a unique bit of local color that is both funny and unexpected.

The End of PMU? *contd from page 1*

available, none have duplicated Premarin. The manufacturing process of Premarin is one of the most sophisticated in the pharmaceutical industry. No other company has been willing to devote the time, effort, and money necessary to produce an identical, high-quality product.

The scientific evidence is clear; all estrogens are not the same. Physicians report that some women do better on one than another. However, it is important to point out that Premarin is the most widely studied estrogen replacement product in the world. More than 3,000 scientific studies of estrogen have used Premarin...studies that have helped health care providers to better understand the benefits and risks of estrogen replacement therapy.

The PMU-industry came into focus in the early 2000s after decades of running under the radar. In the late 1990s it is estimated that over 430 PMU ranches were in existence and over 80,000 mares were being utilized to create Premarin. When the demand began to fall off these mares and foals found that they were being sent to slaughter houses across North America, and although many horse rescue agencies cropped up to help save these horses, tens of thousands of horses met their demise. Animal activists brought these mares plight to the front line and the industry was suddenly under a microscope regarding not only how the horses were treated, but if it was even a humane practice. The last PMU ranch was closed in North Dakota in 2004 and the majority of the ones in Canada were shut down as well. However, that is not the end of the story.

In 1988 a non-profit association called North American Equine Ranching Information Council (NAERIC) was formed, consisting of equine ranchers engaged in PMU horse production and management of pregnant mares. NAERIC serves its members, the horse industry and general public as an agribusiness resource by providing the latest information and research on ranch management, equine care, breeding practices and innovative marketing programs. NAERIC's mission is to support and promote the partnership between agriculture and women's health care. NAERIC is headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky.

In North America today there are approximately 1300 broodmares involved in Equine Ranching, all located up in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Canada. Most equine ranchers are fourth generation horse breeders who own their own horses. They are involved in the care and handling of horses for a variety of purposes other than PMU production. Quarter Horses are the most common registered breed found on equine ranches. They outnumber the next most common breeds, registered draft Percheron and Belgian horses, by a 2 to 1 margin. A variety of other less dominant breeds are also involved in the industry including Paints and Appaloosas.

The industry has taken the allegations made against them very seriously, according to NAERIC. "We have endeavored to identify the best veterinary minds and organizations available, in order to objectively and fairly review the industry and its management practices. We have invited the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP), the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), and the International League for the Protection of Horses (ILPH) to access the industry, and provide input and guidance for the future health and welfare of the horses under our stewardship. Equine ranchers are dedicated to utilizing the most advanced animal husbandry techniques, ensuring that their horses receive high-quality care and attention. The industry operates under a science-based management practice approach and is eager to identify management changes, which will further identify a "best practices" approach to caring for their horses. We have not adopted arbitrary, prescriptive standards. Practices not driven by sound science will cause disruption to the management of horses with little, if any, practical improvement for the industry. Equine ranching has more checks and balances to ensure animal care and welfare than any other livestock industry, making it one of the most regulated and closely inspected equine-related activities in the world. It is important to note that virtually every knowledgeable equine professional who has been involved with the industry has recognized the outstanding care given to these horses."

Although this is good news for the handful of mares currently being used for PMU extraction here in North America, this was not always the case. In the past the mares were subject to very poor conditions, standing for 6 months of every year with tubes hooked up to their urethra, babies being taken away from them prematurely and kept in a constant, pregnant condition. There were reports that the mares were withheld water to help keep the urine more concentrated therefore more potent, that infections from the equipment were common and that many mares aborted due to the lack of nutrition and inability to move and exercise. NAERIC published a paper in 2014 regarding the care and oversight of the horses – a good effort, perhaps a little too late but the right direction all the same. At least for the horses in North America. Pfizer is now contracting with PMU farms overseas in countries like China, Poland and Kazakhstan for the production of the drug Duavee® which contains Premarin. It is estimated that close to 90,000 mares are held on PMU farms in these countries to produce the urine needed to meet the global demand.

Back on North American soil NAERIC is trying to promote PMU foals and create demand for their purchase and/or adoption. NAERIC's marketing objectives for its horses are to create "top of the mind awareness" and to be the "brand of choice" among horsemen of any discipline. To that end, NAERIC has implemented the following programs:

Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

2326 Happy Valley Rd
Oak Harbor WA 98277

- **The NAERIC Advantage®** is a value added program for horses bred on NAERIC member ranches and registered with NAERIC. More than 56,000 horses are registered with NAERIC and are eligible to earn NAERIC Advantage® rewards. NAERIC horse owners, have received over \$3,700,000.00 in payouts since the incentive program was begun in 1998. Click here for complete NAERIC Advantage information.
- **4-H Young Horse Development Project.** Participating equine ranchers offer 4-H members a selection of weanlings to inspect, judge, select, purchase, raise and train. Participating 4-H members obtain hands-on experience, assume the responsibilities associated with horse ownership and develop skills required for setting and achieving goals.
- **NAERIC Draft Horse Classic Sale and Futurity.** Breeders of quality draft horses are members of the NAERIC Draft Horse Classic committee and participate in this unique program. This program entitles breeders to consign and sell two registered or non-registered yearlings at auction each spring. The horses sold through the sale return after training to compete for a significant purse at the futurity designed to demonstrate their quality, conformation and performance.
- **NAERIC Barrels of Cash Sale and Futurity.** NAERIC launched NAERIC Barrels of Cash Sale and Futurity in 2008 to reward and recognize the quality, versatility, athletic ability and disposition of NAERIC registered horses. Only foals sold through the NAERIC Barrels of Cash Sale will be eligible to return and compete as five-year-olds in the NAERIC Barrels of Cash Futurity. Consignors will pay \$250.00 to the Futurity purse for each weanling sold. All Sale weanlings will be NAERIC registered and eligible for rewards through the NAERIC Advantage.

You can learn more about the PMU ranches, horses and industry at www.NAERIC.org

