

“APPALOOSA NIGHT” at the Tennessee State Fair

As a child growing up near Nashville, Tennessee (many years ago) I remember how much fun it was to attend the Tennessee State Fair in early September each year. Even then my favorite things to see were the horses and other livestock exhibits. But, like in a lot of other States, the Equine participation at the Tennessee State Fair has severely declined over the years.

Fortunately there are still people who want to see horses on display at our State Fair. This summer I was contacted by a representative of the State Fair who ask me if I could bring some Appaloosa Horses for a Breed Demonstration one night during the Fair.

A lot of the Appaloosas here at Foggy Valley Farms have been shown at breed and open events and I was sure I could

put together a suitable group of horses to participate. Also, I had a secret weapon in two really great young people - John and Jill Bilbrey who were working for the Livestock/Equine Division at the Fair. John and Jill are horse trainers who have formerly worked for Foggy Valley Farms and are very familiar with all our horses. So, with the help of my husband, Stan and our grandson Cody we carried 7 beautiful, colorful Appaloosas to Nashville on Thursday September 15, 2016. There were 4 geldings, 1 mare and her yearling filly, and 1 yearling stallion - FVF Iron Sabre, the first and only documented 7 generation App to App bred horse in the whole world.

As the “Appaloosa Night” program began all the horses were presented in the arena together, some were ridden in and some led in while the announcer told a brief history of the Appaloosa Horse. All these horses are dual registered with ApHC and ICAA and we explained about the ICAA goal of one day producing an 8 generation Purebred Appaloosa Horse.



Yearling FVF Wind Serenade (F3-2658) was a big hit with all the kids and she loved all the attention.

Then each horse was presented individually with details about their accomplishments and personalities. Iron Sabre was a big hit because people in Tennessee are proud to have this very rare and special horse born right here in our State.

After the program was completed the horses were tied in a holding area and many visitors came by to pet them and make pictures and ask questions. We had a really big crowd and lots of great comments on our wonderful horses. I think all our hard work was worthwhile when little kids got to pet a horse for the first time in their lives. Their smiles were priceless.



FVF Iron Sabre (F7-2656), a yearling stallion, was very calm and enjoyed all the lights and attention.



Some of the horses of Foggy Valley Farm on display.



The ICAA banner was proudly displayed



FVF Thunderbolt (F5-2666), who has only been a gelding since May 1, 2016. He is calm and happy with all the attention.

I think everyone at Foggy Valley Farms, including the horses, had a really good time as we promoted the Appaloosa Horse at this great event. I will have to say that our Appaloosas did us all very proud - no bad issues or incidents, just gentle, loving, beautiful horses. We certainly plan to do this event at the 2017 Tennessee State Fair next year. It is open to all ApHC or ICAA Appaloosas and I would love to have other breeders/owners participate with us. Contact me for more information.

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