



Sport Horse Breeding News

Volume 4, Issue 4

"Your Foal Is Our Goal"

October 2008

Ask Your Vet Before:

Several breeders have been extremely shocked (not to mention made poorer) by their veterinarian or insemination technician using two full doses of semen per breeding cycle. This is absolutely unnecessary—a full breeding dose contains sufficient numbers of sperm for an insemination. The *only* time two full doses *might* be beneficial is for a timed insemination protocol. Discuss with your vet or tech *before* breeding the number of doses per cycle he or she will use.

Sport Horse Breeding News

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Artificial Lights for Early Estrus

Mares are seasonal breeders, generally cycling from April through October. They normally come into heat when the lengthening days of spring cause the secretion of melatonin, and stimulate the production of hormones that induce the mare to create a follicle. But, a mare's first cycle of the season is transitional, and may not result in a good follicle to breed on for up to three or four weeks. One of the great innovations in modern horse breeding is the practice of putting mares under artificial lights to initiate early onset of estrus. This easy, effective way of getting mares to cycle earlier in the year, allows breeders up to three extra cycles per breeding season. A combination of natural and ar-

tificial light for 16 hours per day is adequate. This can be provided by a 200 watt light bulb in a 13 by 13-foot stall. If there is enough light for you to read a newspaper in any area of the stall, there is enough light to do the job. If shadow prevents you from reading in any area of the stall, there is not enough light. You can use a camera or electrician's light meter to measure light. Results are better when the light is added at the end of the day, rather than at the beginning. A timer set to turn lights off automatically is convenient. Leaving lights on 24 hours a day is not advantageous.

For an artificial lighting program to be effective, it

must be begun early. In general, this means at least eight to 10 weeks before most mares begin cycling; a minimum of 60 days under lights is required to positively effect cycling. A good start date is December first. The amount of time under lights is critical; you cannot simply go out and grab a mare in early spring, put her under



lights and expect her to cycle a week or two later. Importantly,

once begun, lighting must continue until the mare begins cycling or cycle irregularities may occur.

De Niro and Gribaldi Honored

De Niro (Donnerhall/Akzent II), has been named Hanoverian Stallion of the Year for 2008. In 1996, he placed 2nd overall and won the dressage portion of his performance test with 145.17. He has lived up to this score with many

Grand Prix wins. De Niro sires offspring noted for excellent rideability and movement, with lovely type and expression.

Gribaldi (Kostolany/Ibikus), is the Trakehner Stallion of the Year for 2008. This beautiful, ele-

gant black stallion is successful in international sport. He sires horses of enormous dressage talent and has risen to 9th in the WBFSH dressage sire rankings. His son, Hofrat, was recently proclaimed an Elite stallion.

Around the Stud Farms

Katrinelund

De Noir (De Niro/Matcho AA) and Crelido (Calido/Raimondo), have been awarded Elite status by the Danish Warmblood association of Denmark. De Noir is the youngest stallion to achieve elite status.

St. Louis Equestrian Center

Superior Equine Sires is pleased to announce an exclusive arrangement providing single-dose frozen semen from the USA-bred and based Hanoverian stallion Rapture R (Rotspon/Donnerhall).



Rapture R

Frerienhof Stuecker Hengststation

The champion pony foal at the 2008 German Foal Championship was a filly sired by FS Champion de Luxe (FS Cocky Dundee/Golden Dancer) and out of a mare by FS Don't

Worry (FS Dacapo Doro/Golden Dancer).

Paul Schockemoehle Stud

Chacco Blue (Chambertin/Contendro) was second at the FEI Zangersheide Stallions of the World competition in Lanaken, Belgium, 9/22. Placing second was another Schockemohle stallion, Clinton II.

Landgestuet Celle

A Don Frederico/Rotspon son, Dio Domingo captured high price of 35,000 euros at the July, Verden, Germany auction.

Klosterhof Medingen

The frozen semen of Holsteiner stallion, Clinton I, will be available for the USA in 2009.



FS Champion de Luxe

The Business of Breeding

Current economic hard times have hit horse breeders especially hard. The high cost of land on which to raise and ride horses, escalating feed prices, increased costs of fuel and transportation, and the low value of the dollar abroad have all contributed to a slow down in horse sales. But, as longtime horse breeders already know, the horse business is cyclic; a slump will inevitably be followed by an "up" market. It's getting through the slump that's the hard part. And while the challenges are serious, there are some positive steps that can be taken during a down market. Here are some tips to help breeders weather the current downturn in the horse business:

1) Cull, cull, cull. Getting rid of unprofitable broodmares will free up cash for maintaining the profitable mares in your herd. Mares who do not regu-

larly get in foal, or who produce substandard foals should be eliminated from your program. Unproductive broodmares that are allowed to hang around in good times, can sink your breeding program when horse sales slow up.

- 2) Buy, buy, buy. During a horse market downturn, very good animals are often available at bargain prices.
- 3) Consider leaving some of your mares open. Even though the costs of feed, farrier, and veterinarian will remain, leaving some mares open will save stud fees or semen costs, transportation, added veterinary costs, and the cost of mare and foal inspections and registration. It's an old saying



that, if you don't give a mare a year off from breeding once in a while, she will take one anyway! Now is a good time to give a mare that had a difficult time conceiving or foaling, or one that has had many foals in a row, a well-earned year of rest.

- 4) Make a business plan for your horse breeding program, analyze where you are successful, i.e. making money, and where you are not doing so well, and make the changes necessary to increase your profit margin while waiting for the market to bounce back.
- 5) Breed only to the very best, most proven stallions available. Even in tough times, foals sired by the world's best stallions continue to be in high demand.

Stallion Spotlight ~ Cornet Obolensky

Cornet Obolensky has created lots of buzz since he was declared second vice champion at his 2001 NRW approval, where he led the field with a 9.24 score in jumping and a perfect 10 for free jumping. His highly elastic movements, enormous capacity and superb uphill canter combine with a jumping technique and manner in jumping hard to surpass. Not only is he an extremely talented individual, this 2008 Olympic contender reliably passes these traits to his offspring.



Cornet Obolensky

Cornet Obolensky is sired by Olympian Holsteiner stallion, Clinton, a son of international showjumping icon Corrado I by Cor de la Bryere, and descends from Holsteiner stamm line 8829. Cornet Obolensky is out of a mare by Dutch showjumping phenom, keur stallion Heartbreaker, he sired by the prolific Nimmerdor.

Ludger Beerbaum, who along with Marco Kutcher is one of Cornet Obolensky's riders, has declared him one of the world's best stallions—his former star jumper Ratina Z has been bred to him.

Cornet Obolensky's first foals stood out at the elite Northrhine Westphalian auction, where the head breeding official commented that they were, "beautiful types with handsome faces and well proportioned harmonious conformation . . . with decidedly spirited, uphill trots." In 2004 Cornet Obolensky sired the Grand Champion of the German Foal Championship, a rare feat for a non-German stallion.

At the 2008 German Young Horse Showjumping Championship, both the champion and reserve of the five year old competition were sired by Cornet Obolensky. More than a dozen sons from his first crop have been approved as stallions.

SES Sires with Offspring in the News

Jazz has overtaken Donnerhall (who still ranks second) as the world's number one sire of dressage horses, according to the 2008 WBFSH rankings, with 12,397 points. **Weltmeyer** occupies third place on the WBFSH leading progenitor of dressage horses list with 8,027 points. **Rubinstein** ranks fourth on the WBFSH list of dressage sires with 5,146. WBFSH fifth-ranked dressage sire is **Olympic Ferro**, 4,897 points.

A colt by **Fidertanz/Alabaster** was the champion colt at the 2008 German Foal Championships. A **Sandro Hit** colt was third and a **Sir Donnerhall** colt fourth.

Statesman, an American-bred son of **Stedinger**, finished 3rd in the Bundeschampionat, and was sold at the Vechta auction for a record 400,000 euros.

Sandro Hit son, Starlight, wowed the crowd, and the judges, at Dressage at Devon to become Grand

Champion Stallion with a score of 86.75%. **Wiona/Weltmeyer**, and Diane Creech, were the top-placed pair in the Grand Prix CDI classes at Dressage at Devon, 9/26-28.

Silvermoon son, Succes, under Lars Peterson, won the prestigious Dressage at Devon freestyle with 75.25%.

Trakehner stallion, Iskander, by **Le Rouge**, is the champion of the 2008 Trakehner stallion licensing.

The top-ranked KWPN dressage horse of 2008 is Painted Black, sired by **Gribaldi**.

Selten HW, by **Sandro Hit**, won the 4 year old championship at the Market/USEF National Young Horse Dressage Championships, 9/12-14, in Lexington, KY. Ronaltella S, by **Rotspon**, was 2nd, and

Lucky Girl BC by **Londonderry**, were 2nd in the five year old division. At the same venue, Golden Choice DC, by **Grand Cru**, was reserve champion of the developing horse championship.

Stedinger sired Saaliyah, filly champion of the Warm-Up, Cool-Down show in Elk Grove, CA, 8/1-3.

Dramatic, by **Don Frederico/Weltmeyer**, became the six year old champion at the World Championship for Young Dressage Horses, Verden, Germany, 7/31-8/1. Silver medalist was Polka Hit Nexen, by **Sandro Hit**.

Sandrina, by **Sandro Hit**, won the GAIG/USDF open Intermediare I championship, at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center, 10/12.

Anky van Grunsven, on Salinero son, **Salieri**, is for the third time, Olympic individual gold medalist.



Fidertanz

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"Your Foal Is Our Goal"

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SES SERVICES

2009 Sale Deadlines

Early Bird Sale 1/27/09

Dutch Sale 2/17/09

Belgian Sale 3/13/09

Spring Breeders 4/14/09

Last Chance Sale 5/05/09

Danish Sale pending

French Sale pending

Free Display Ads for all SES clients. Take advantage of free display advertising on the most-visited frozen semen website in the world. Others pay \$20 for a six-month listing.

Front Page Foal Gallery—Please send photos of your premium foals by an SES sire for possible inclusion on the SES home page. As a new feature SES will showcase outstanding foals next photos of their sires.

Link Your Farm—SES clients receive a FREE link to their website.

Send Your Premium Foal Photos—For possible inclusion on the SES home page, next to a photo of the foal's sire. A link to your farm website will also be included.

Organization Notes & News

Hanoverian Verband

The Hanoverian Verband once again topped the world's studbook rankings for dressage horses. The KWPN was second and the Danish Warmblood Society third.

KWPN

For the fifth consecutive year, the KWPN leads the world as the best jumper studbook. The Westfalen studbook was ranked second and the Holsteiner Verband third.

ISH

The Irish Sport Horse Studbook was ranked first in the world for production of event horses, with the Selle Francais studbook second and the Hanoverian Verband third.

NEDA

Superior Equine Sires has donated a dose of frozen semen to benefit the 2008 New England Dressage Association stallion service auction.

Contact: www.neda.org

NASFA

The North American Selle Francais Association, the daughter organization of the French Selle Francais registry, has discontinued business in the USA. See their website at www.sellefrancais.org for information on ways to proceed if you have horses registered with them.

OHBS

The Oldenburg Horse Breeders Society of America has a Weser-Ems pony registry division.

Contact: www.oldenburghorse.com

Recommended Reads & Websites

TheHorse.com is a major source of some of the best, most thorough, cutting edge information on breeding and other horse care topics available on the web. The online counterpart to *The Horse* magazine, which is a spinoff publication of *The Bloodhorse*, this site is deep with science-based information. The American Thoroughbred industry has been the perennial leading edge of equine research in the world, and this site provides access to this information. Written in layperson's terms, but with the scientific documentation to provide keys to further research, this site can't be beaten.

www.thehorse.com

