

2008 South Central Iowa Draft Horse and Mule Association Fun Show

Once again, the annual South Central Iowa Draft Horse and Mule Association Fun Show was a huge success. This early fall event, held in the quaint little town of New Virginia, IA has been gaining a lot of popularity over the past several years. According to Tony Kellis, President of the SCIDH&MA, the main reason is that "it's just a fun day for all of us to get together." It takes a lot of planning and organization to pull an event like this off but this event has never had "corporate sponsorship." It is done purely on donated time, facilities, equipment, knowledge and experience for the day with the primary goal of promoting the draft horse industry. Although this is an actual show, there are no entry fees and no prizes, even though the classes are judged, and the results are posted. The main prize is just the good feeling of spending the day with other people that love to drive horses, want to try to show for the first time or

want experience in the show ring.

The morning started off with a draft horse clinic that included horse safety, harness basics, and how to hitch a team to a wagon or implement. The interactive clinic sparked several topics of discussion such as where to purchase harness, where to take your horse to be trained, where to purchase a team, who to call if you have issues or questions after you get horses, how to roll a mane for the show ring, etc. There were several expert teamsters present and willing to answer all of the questions and facilitate these discussions with the group.

The afternoon show had 47 exhibitors totaling more than 50 horses in harness. There were skilled teamsters with polished show horses beside new teamsters that have never taken their horses to a draft horse show and were new to the show arena. Luann Miller, Ste Genevieve, MO, drove her team of Belgians to the gate of the

show ring to compete in the Log Pull class. Having never competed in a draft horse show, she asked the ring man, "OK - what do I do?" She did well for her first time in the ring and was happy that she placed 8th out of 9 in the class. Luann said she was interested in coming to this show because of the low stress environment and also because she has become friends with some draft horse people from central Iowa who were also present at the show.

There were several different types of breeds represented throughout the day that included Percheron, Belgian, Brabant, crossbred drafts and mules. The classes are not breed specific - all breeds show together in each class and include mares and geldings. The fun thing about this event is that some, but not all, of the horses are polished and in prime show condition. In fact, some of the horses came "right off of the farm" that morning. Lynn MacVey and

Jim Stuart, New Virginia, IA demonstrating how to use a walking plow. Jim makes it look easier than it is!
PLOW DAYS at LIVING HISTORY FARMS in Des Moines, IA.





2nd in the Ride a Draft class, 1st in Youth Cart and 2nd in the Youth Team class. There were several people in the crowd that mentioned how great it was to see kids involved in the show as the younger generation is the future of the draft horse industry. The last class of the day was the 4-horse hitch won by Mitch Marquardt, Pleasant Hill, IA. Mitch, along with his family and team of helpers have supported this show for the past several years by bringing their Shining Stars hitch in full show harness. This is a highly recommended annual event for anyone who is interested in learning about draft horses, wants to drive a team of horses, wants to try showing their draft horses or just wants to spend the day observing a fun draft horse show and asking questions. You will not be disappointed.

his wife Janine, Algona, IA, made the 2½ hour trip to the show with a Percheron mare and entered his small, newly built wagon in the cart class. Lynn said, "They just don't have events like this anymore so we wanted to come and participate. This is how a lot of draft horse shows used to be." Tim Cross, Chariton, IA placed 1st in the Farm Pull class with a perfect score and was the first person in the history of the show to win that event with a team of mules. Gilbert Hood, Bloomfield, IA, who is a veteran of national plowing competitions, placed 2nd in the Cart Class with his Percheron mare. Gilbert was very pleased at the number

of people that came to participate and that there was a good crowd watching the show. According to Gilbert, "This is how a draft horse event should be and there just aren't that many draft horse events like this around anymore."

There were numerous classes throughout the day but one that stood out was 10 y/o Clara Johnson, Indianola, IA, who came out of the ring with a smile a mile wide and gave the "thumbs-up" as she had just won 1st place in the Ride a Draft class. Clara also placed 1st in the Youth Team class and 2nd in the Youth Cart class. 13 y/o Megan Eddy, New Virginia, IA, was a strong

For information on this event and other central Iowa draft horse events throughout the year you can contact:

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