

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

THE WORLD PERCHERON CONGRESS IS COMING TO IOWA!

BIG Horses at a BIG Show

By Dianna Marquardt, Shining Stars Percherons



If you want to see powerful, exciting, big horses that are at the top level of the Percheron breed, you need to mark your calendars for October 25-31, 2010! Come to the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines, IA, and see a level of competition that is rarely offered in the Midwest.

As an exhibitor from the Central Iowa area, the Shining Stars Percherons are thrilled to have Des Moines host an event with the prestige of the World Percheron Congress. We have competed with hitches across the United States for the last five years, and we look forward to having the top competitors in the Percheron breed join us to compete at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. This will be a show like most Iowans have never seen before.

Many people love to watch the hitches come into the Iowa State Fair to compete each year, and they will definitely *not* want to miss the excitement when hitches from both the east and west coast, as well as from Canada, compete in both halter classes and the variety of hitching classes. As an Iowan I look forward to the opportunity to show the exhibitors what excitement the crowd will generate as Iowa is known for their support and enthusiasm for the heavy horses. Crowds assemble by the hundreds hours before the horses hitch each year at the Iowa State Fair to show their appreciation for the hard work and dedication the hitches put forth when getting these animals ready for competition.

It is a great honor for Iowa to be chosen as the site for this level of competition. And we can't overlook the convenience of having the show in our own backyard! In 2006, for instance, the Congress was held in Virginia. We Iowans traveled 26 hours to attend. And in 2008 it was held in Canada.

The 2010 venue will give Iowa an opportunity to showcase the fine equine facility that the State Fairgrounds has become. Additionally, with over 600 head of horses expected to travel here, the potential for big dollars to be dumped into our local businesses and surrounding areas is very tangible.

The World Percheron Congress will be an event that should draw horse enthusiasts to our home state to see a level of competition that is rarely offered in the Midwest. We as exhibitors look forward to showcasing our breed and invite the spectators to revel in the thought of owning and exhibiting one of these great animals. It is truly one of the most rewarding tasks we have been involved with. Stop by and visit our stalls if you have any questions or if you just need your picture taken with one of the big boys we will have at Shining Stars. We remember our beginnings in the hitch world and how overwhelming it seemed. We hope this show will spark interest in the spectators watching to ask the exhibitors what it takes to own one of these great animals. You will love the outcome.

SPRING, 2010



ABOVE:
Rising Star Stables, at the National Western Stock Show,
in Denver, Colorado.
Howard Schatzberg Photography