

# Stable Sheet



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## WIDER PERSPECTIVES ON AGRICULTURE & HORSES INCLUDES SOCIAL LICENSE TO OPERATE

What in blazes does that mean? When you're out in the barn on a rainy spring evening listening to your horse munch on hay (one of my favorite sounds!) and simply enjoying their company, it may seem that the rest of the world doesn't matter much. While I encourage you to live in the moment and relish time spent with your horse, it is important to realize that simply caring for your own horse may not always be enough to keep our passion available to us and others.

elements of a horse's natural life more into our daily routine and care while we train and enjoy horses.

The onus is not simply that we strive to better care for our horses' physical and mental well-being, but that we, collectively as an industry, hold all equestrians accountable for their actions. Social License to Operate (SLO) relies on the public's perception and trust that what WE are doing is in the best interest of the horse. Everyone who breeds, trains, competes, manages and owns horses must view all things we do with horses through the lens of how the horse feels, physically and mentally. Public acceptance of our love and use of horses cannot be assumed; it must continually evolve as we learn more. Creating transparency of what happens throughout the lives of horses can maintain public trust that we, as horse owners, are their biggest and best advocates.

Horses have been part of human history since ancient times, but as we learn more, we must continue to do better. Scientific research is broadening our understanding of what horses need to maintain the best life we can provide. For example, Dr. Susan McDonnell gave a talk for EquiDay in 2023 on reading pain signals in horses and how these are much more complex than simply if they're limping or not. Mary Ann Simonds will talk this year about her new book, *A Horse By Nature*, about how we can bring

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# 2023 SUMMER IN REVIEW

## **New Members of the Herd**

We welcomed two new members to the Miner Morgan herd in 2023! In mid-May, Spring's National Velvet "Velvet" gave birth to a beautiful filly who is by Sampson Pond Brook "Sammy." Sammy stayed here at Miner during the summer of 2022. He is a handsome, sweet bay stallion and his newest daughter certainly takes after him in those regards. After several weeks of debate the filly was named HD Elmira "Ellie." Ellie is a bay with a white star and one white sock on her back right leg. She is exceptionally friendly to everyone she meets!

Our second foal arrived on June 8. After days checking HD Villanova "Nova" for signs of impending birth, the excitement grew and grew. A mare is close to foaling when her udder begins to produce milk when squeezed, milk veins are present underneath her belly, and she has very soft jelly-like hindquarters.

At the end of the workday on June 7, Equine Manager Karen Lassell told all the students and interns that she was pretty sure we'd have a baby that night. We divided shifts of foal watch amongst the students and interns and everyone was eager to greet the new foal. Nova was quite restless, getting up and laying down, pacing in her stall, and pooping every few minutes. Right before midnight her water broke and everyone rushed to the barn.

Shortly after our arrival, Nova managed to cast herself in against the foaling stall wall not once but twice. Both times we were able to safely roll her back over. The foal's front legs and head began to peek out and the first thing we could clearly see was a large white blaze. Nova continued to lay down and get back up and Karen decided to offer some help to the exhausted mare. Nora and I went in and Karen coached us to each grab a little leg and pull as Nova pushed. A perfect baby horse slid out into the world! The next several minutes were

spent completely enthralled watching as Nova and her new foal nickered back and forth introducing themselves and getting to know each other. We had a chestnut colt with a white blaze. In 2022, Nova birthed a full sibling – also a chestnut colt (HD Venice "Tony") with a white blaze by Canon. The 2023 colt has been named HD Varick "Ricky." He fought hard to learn how to stand and nurse, not taking a break before he conquered both. We now realize this was quite indicative of his willful and intelligent personality. Nova was provided some oxytocin to help her to expel the placenta. She passed her placenta intact and we were able to see and learn the anatomy of it.

Students and interns were able to learn and get more experience working with foals. Ellie allowed us to easily put on a halter and quickly understood the idea of giving to pressure on either side which is good preparation for learning how to lead with a rope. Karen demonstrated to students and interns how to introduce a young foal to the concept of leading. The process is slow and requires a lot of patience. The main goal is to establish how to give to pressure from the handler. The handler applies a light, consistent pressure and once the foal makes a small movement in the direction of the pressure they are rewarded with the pressure being released. Though she occasionally got frustrated in her first introduction to leading, Ellie was an overall good student and began to understand what was being asked of her.

## **Community Outreach:**

### **Farm Days for Fifth Graders**

For more than 40 years, Miner Institute has invited fifth grade students from around Clinton County to learn about agriculture. Over the course of three days in June, we hosted hundreds of fifth graders at the Institute. Students rotate through eight stations that teach some facet of agriculture and our historical exhibit provides a glimpse of William Miner's

Heart's Delight Farm from a century ago. Interns from the summer experience programs are instructors at the stations. The equine program hosts two stations; horse care and horse behavior.

At the horse care station presenters aim to engage students while going over basic care topics such as types of brushes used for grooming, what we feed horses, and daily care like cleaning a stall. Students are eager to meet and interact with a live horse, so we allow them each to brush or pet a horse. A horse that is ok with a group of kids watching them and that is able to stand still for the 25 minute presentation is needed. We used HVK Noble Guardian "Gordie," Honoree "Ree," and HD Saranac "Sara;" they all seemed to enjoy the long grooming sessions and extra attention!

The horse behavior station teaches students about the nature of horses and also about some of the training we do here at Miner. Karen gives students a presentation on how horses act in the wild and how it relates to humans working with domestic horses. Summer interns then work with the fifth graders to name all the equipment on the horses while the horse is exercised. They talk about the different disciplines and what are good attributes or skills for horses to have in the different careers. Fifth graders make suggestions for what they think the horses in the ring would be good at based on the horse's movement and temperament. For this station, we need horses who are ok with large crowds and can still focus on work and their trainer. We used HD Phoenix "Emma," HD Hamilton "Alex," and HD Philadelphia "Pixie." All three of them were well behaved and dependable during the three-day event.

It takes the whole Institute working together to make Farm Days for Fifth Graders happen!

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### HD Saranac's 30th Birthday

In June we hosted our first Alumni Weekend where we invited alumni from all of Miner Institute's programs to return and visit the facility and faculty and staff. We hosted an evening social, a BBQ and tours of the barns and heritage exhibit. With a big group of current summer experience in equine management interns and alumni, we thought it was the perfect time to celebrate HD Saranac "Sara's" 30th birthday!



HD Saranac celebrating her birthday with Equine Manager Karen Lassell and summer interns from 2023 and previous years.

Sara was born May 14, 1993. Since Sara has made a mark on countless students in her three decades, it seemed fitting to let some of those alumni celebrate with her! For as good as she was a Morgan Hunter Pleasure Horse, she was even better as a Carriage Horse. Many an intern showed her driving or in a versatility class, including a barrel race! Her career is a perfect example of the versatility of the Morgan breed.

Today, Sara is still as dependable as ever and serves as a fantastic teacher for summer students learning to drive. As they learn how to tack up with the harness, hitch to

the cart, and drive through the fields Sara is calm, patient, and kind. She is often deemed a babysitter! After her driving lessons she is always rewarded with a peppermint which she savors for as long as she possibly can. This scene never fails to make whoever is watching smile. Sara is beloved by all who know her and had lots of friends among the alumni excited to reunite and celebrate her 30th birthday!

— Jen Ward, Equine Intern

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How can we do this? First, we must honestly evaluate ourselves and if we are continuously seeking ways to improve our horses' welfare. Secondly, be open to questions and use evidence-based information to support our choices for horses. Finally, we need to make it clear that unacceptable behaviors related to equestrianism will not be tolerated.

SLO is simply terminology and a way to describe what those of us who love horses have always tried to do. Share what you love about horses outside your circle of "horse people"; there's room for more of us in the arena!

— Karen Lassell  
Equine Manager  
lassell@whminer.com



## New York State Horse Council

There are plenty of good reasons to join and support the New York State Horse Council — the \$1M supplemental liability insurance is worth the price of admission alone, but having ears alert to key issues and a strong voice to advocate is so very important. For anyone who has

ever needed their veterinarian to sedate their horse for treatment of injury or illness, the Combating Illicit Xylazine Act that is being reviewed by Congress could have an impact on ambulatory veterinary practice and by default, your horses' care. NYSHC supports the national bill, but also is advocating on a state level to be sure that xylazine remains easily accessible to vets caring for our herds. You can help by contacting your national and state government representatives, but also by supporting the NYSHC through continued membership.

Visit [www.nyshc.org](http://www.nyshc.org) for more information.

# EQUIDAY 2024

EquiDay at Miner Institute has evolved from a single Saturday to a series of educational opportunities in the month of March. As always, the events are FREE and open to the public with no pre-registration required, but feel free to let us know if you'll be attending via email: [lassell@whminer.com](mailto:lassell@whminer.com), phone: 518-846-7121 x120 or through social media. Light refreshments will be served at the in-person events which will be held at the Joseph C. Burke Education and Research Center auditorium at 586 Ridge Rd. in Chazy.

**PART ONE: Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 6:00PM** will kick off our series with Palmer Veterinary Clinic associate, Dr. Victoria Vendetta, speaking on Senior Horse Care. As a life-long equestrian herself, she brings strong management and veterinary knowledge to this subject. Horses are living longer, healthier lives due to advances in the industry; Dr. Victoria will highlight many key points that can keep our "experienced" equines happy and useful well into the golden years. We will open the doors at 5:30PM for refreshments and close the program at 7:15PM.

**PART TWO: Saturday, March 16, 2024 from 9:30AM-12:30PM.** The first speaker, Stephanie Lockhart-Hayes will introduce the up-and-coming discipline of Working Equitation (W.E.). We will learn what W.E. is, how it can benefit any horse or improve your riding for whatever your specialty is, and how you can get started. Stephanie's background in Natural Horsemanship, dressage, and interest in the Spanish Barb Horse breed come together perfectly in Working Equitation. Based in Johnson, VT, Stephanie has been traveling all over the East Coast to teach clinics. Whether you're just wondering what it is, or looking to advance your horse's skills, she will have ideas for you to bring home. Our second speaker will be Dr. Alyson Waring-Scott of Excelsior Equine Bodywork to discuss something we will all encounter at some point in our time with horses – a sore back. A teacher by nature and lover of performance horses, veterinarian Dr. Waring-Scott will share her extensive experience and knowledge of many body work modalities, such as chiropractic care, acupuncture, massage and basic health management to holistically address how to identify a sore back, treatments and ways to prevent it. Excelsior Equine is based out of Central Square, NY and she will travel much of NY state to help horses and their people.

**PART THREE:** Mary Ann Simonds, equine behaviorist, life-coach, clinician and author of the new book, *A Horse By Nature*, will present via ZOOM from her home base in Wellington, Florida on **Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 6:00PM** Eastern Standard Time. She's synthesized a lifetime of studying horse behavior and culture and working with the humans that have horses into an easy to digest book with the subtitle, "Managing Emotional and Mental Stress in Horses for Improved Welfare". Mary Ann will pick a few aspects of note from the book to discuss that evening and we should have time for questions. Check [www.whminer.org](http://www.whminer.org), watch the social media page or email Karen ([lassell@whminer.com](mailto:lassell@whminer.com)) for the ZOOM link.



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photo by Christopher Crosby Morris

Also be sure to follow us on Facebook!  
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# HEART'S DELIGHT SPRING PREMIER OPEN HORSE SHOW

May 25-26, 2024

Clinton County Fairgrounds Plattsburgh, NY



The 4th Annual Heart's Delight Spring Premier is on target to be another great horse show May 25-26, 2024 at the Clinton County Fairgrounds in Plattsburgh, NY. We all know horses are great, but let's share that love with a wider audience! We've invited Jeff Wilson, Western Dressage Trainer and performer, to bring his Morgan stallions to put on an entertaining show on Saturday afternoon and then chat with the audience about training and how he's come to such good partnerships with his horses.

Plan to enjoy a complimentary tasty treat from Tammy's Lunch Box while you take it all in.

Spectators are welcome and admission to the show is FREE!

We are especially grateful for the support of some local businesses in bringing Jeff Wilson to the HDSP and would welcome other contributions to be added to our sponsor list!



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Food will be available for purchase both days of the show from Tammy's Lunch Box.



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Adirondack Tack will be open for your horse show needs as well as equine-themed items for everyone to enjoy.

# DAY AT SARATOGA

On a beautiful fall day, the yearlong equine interns and I had the opportunity to visit the Saratoga racecourse and get a behind the scenes introduction to the Thoroughbred racing industry. This day was put on by a great new non-profit program called Amplify Horse Racing, whose mission is to ‘amplify’ education and careers within the Thoroughbred Industry. This program defines the thoroughbred industry as an all-encompassing term that refers to breeding, raising, training, racing, retirement, and responsible aftercare of the Thoroughbred breed. These experience tours are offered throughout the summertime, while the races are going at Saratoga. Geared towards youth and young adults from the ages of 13-25 who may be interested in a career in the industry. Similar events are also offered in Lexington, Kentucky.

Throughout the day, we saw many aspects of the industry, ranging from exercise riders in the morning on the backstretch, to the TV production that occurs during the races, and a taste of everything in between. My favorite look into the inner workings was our visit to the ‘silks room.’ This room is where all the ‘silks’ or shirts that might be worn by a jockey racing at the track are kept.



There were hundreds of different shirts and matching helmet covers that are all color coordinated and organized. Each owner has a different color and

pattern on the shirts that make them distinguishable to their organization. The employees in this room are responsible for packaging up all of the silks needed each day for all of the races, and cross referencing with the program and the owners’ colors. After the races, they launder all the gear and prepare for the next day. This was just one example of behind the scenes jobs that we were able to experience which I had never even thought of until I saw it firsthand!

I’m very thankful we were able to attend this tour and see all the possible career paths within the Thoroughbred industry. Being from New England, I had never had the opportunity to see any of this firsthand, but I had always had an interest. This program allowed me to not only to visit the Saratoga racecourse for the first time, but also to see the wide variety of career options there are within the industry.

If you are interested about attending this type of tour, more information can be found at <https://www.amplifyhorseracing.org/>.

— Caroline Fernald  
*Summer Experience in Equine Management 2023 Intern*

# MINER “SET ME UP FOR SUCCESS”

Charlotte Cilio stumbled upon Miner Institute through a google search after graduating from The University of Delaware where she studied animal and food science and minored in equine science and psychology. She was looking for a job in the equine industry. She applied for the yearlong internship and was accepted. She was at Miner from fall 2018 to 2019.

Cilio grew up just outside Philadelphia in Mt Airy, PA. She recalls that around age 5 she started begging her parents for riding lessons.

Cilio credits her internship at Miner for paving the way in her career. “Miner’s equine internship really set me up for success. I don’t think I would have had my employment opportunities if I hadn’t interned at Miner,” Cilio said. After wrapping up her internship in 2019, Cilio moved to Oregon to work at a warmblood breeding facility where she was immersed in all aspects of foaling, breeding, and young horse handling. Currently, she is back in her home state of Pennsylvania working as a Clinician Care Technician (CCT) at UPenn’s New Bolton Center.

Cilio’s role at the New Bolton Center is like a veterinarian technician. “My day consists of providing the daily care and husbandry of our patients, aiding clinicians in standing surgeries, handling animals for different exam (including lameness



and neurologic exams), helping to care for NICU foals, and handling animals that come in through our emergency services,” she said. “Every day is different and there is always something new to learn.”

Cilio credits the horse handling skills she honed at Miner as being a “foundational strength” that she uses daily in her current job. “Being able to work calmly with a nervous horse while keeping the horse, myself, students, and clinicians safe is crucial and my main concern,” she said. “Beyond the horse handling and management skills I gained at Miner, I grew greatly in other ways – learning how to network and put myself out there, following areas of interest in the equine industry, as well as sharing knowledge with students and teaching in different settings.”

Cilio recalls that her favorite Miner Morgan was HD Jefferson, “Tommy.” Her favorite memory was working with Tommy. “He had just started under saddle and we had been preparing for our first canter. When the moment came, he happy jumped into the canter as if he was an old school horse, calmly cantering around the ring like it was no big deal,” Cilio remembered.

Cilio’s advice to students heading to Miner for the first time is to say yes to the opportunities that are presented. “I was so nervous about moving away from family and friends but pushed myself to say yes to things I normally would’ve been reluctant to try. The Miner community is so amazing and welcoming, and having their support meant all the difference!”

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## EQUINE REPRODUCTION WORKSHOP

We are excited to announce the 36th annual Equine Reproduction Workshop, which will take place on April 5th and 6th, 2024 at the UVM Morgan Horse Farm. Join us to learn about the art and science of equine reproduction through two days of lectures and hands-on demonstrations. Each day will include lectures hosted at the UVM Extension-Middlebury office, followed by practical hands-on sessions with the UVM Morgans at the historic UVM Morgan Horse Farm in Weybridge, Vermont. All levels of experience are welcome, this is a great opportunity for anyone interested in breeding horses.

If you have questions or to register, please email: [uvmorgan@uvm.edu](mailto:uvmorgan@uvm.edu) or call 802-388-2011.

The William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute  
1034 Miner Farm Road  
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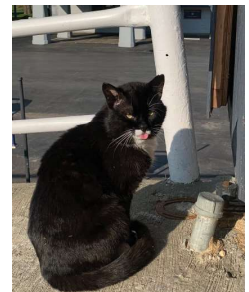
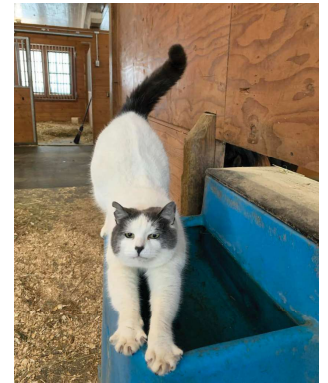


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## Lets Hear it for the cats!

The Barn Cat is a key staff member of any farm and the crew at Miner's Horse Barn is no exception. Over the years we've had a group of great pest-controllers, official greeters, and general emotional support. Some will say to look at how a barn treats its cats and you'll have a good idea of how the rest of the animals are cared for!



**Learn more about the Miner Morgans at [www.whminer.org/equine.html](http://www.whminer.org/equine.html)**