

Kohler Stables legacy continues to live on

Expansive main facility located in LaGrange, KY



The Kohler legacy began in the early 1970s when Herbert V. Kohler, Jr. became interested in the Morgan breed and started searching for a stallion to purchase. A young stallion named Vigilmarch caught his eye at the Val's Dispersal Sale and thus were the modest beginnings of the present day Kohler Stables.

The expansive main facility of Kohler Stables is located outside LaGrange, KY, however the operation began on a much smaller scale in Kohler, WI. With Vigilmarch, Kohler began a small program breeding mares primarily during his lunch hour. In 1977 Thomas Caisse was promoted to manager/trainer. Armed with a breeding plan, the Kohler/Caisse team began selecting the highest-quality mare the farm could acquire.

Within a relatively short time, they began to see results and over the years the HVK prefix has become a major presence in the Morgan industry. In 1985, Kohler and Caisse began looking for a second stallion to add to the breeding program. Their search eventually led them to Kentucky and the purchase of a weanling colt, Noble Flaire. Caisse began showing the colt as a yearling in 1986. In 1991, the year he retired from the show ring, Noble Flaire was named WC not once, but twice: WC Stallion and WC Park Harness for an unprecedented third time. The previous two park harness titles were in 1988 and 1989 and throughout his show career he captured numerous other World and National championships in the Park Harness and In Hand divisions.

Noble Flaire's impact on the Morgan Horse industry has continued well beyond his retirement from the show ring. His WC offspring include such famous names as HVK Bell Flaire, HVK Vibrance, HVK Courageous Flaire and Nostradamus.

These first-generation Noble Flaire sons are continuing his legacy by producing their own World and National champion progeny and, for the first time in Morgan history, three generations of stallions (the father, Noble Flaire; the son, HVK Bell Flaire, and the grandson, Mizrahi) were named as three of the 2003 Top Ten Producing Morgan Stallions in the World.

With Noble Flaire as the benchmark of Kohler's current breeding program, the Kohler/Caisse team continues to work with the same creativity, determination and energy that first earned Kohler Stables its place in Morgan history. And, horse show fans will continue to see the Kohler influence in the show rings around the country for years to come.

*Top: Stallion Barn, Kohler Stables, LaGrange, KY
Below: Many-time World Champion Noble Flaire*

