

Breeding show horses goal for the Vestys

Harmonie, Majesteit & Kwadraatteas stand at Kentucky farm for 2004 season.



*Pictured above are two top show horse stallions at Vesty Show Horse, LaGrange, KY.
Top: ASB stallion Night Of Roses (Carey's Night Of Love x Symbol Song)
Bottom: DHH stallion Kwadraatteas*

Over the past decade, Clarke and Karen Vesty of LaGrange, KY have been diligently working toward their goal of becoming show horse breeders. And although they have naturally had to reduce their show-ring presence, the show horses resulting from their own breeding program as well as bloodstock chosen from other breeders continue to dominate and are increasingly bringing recognition to their efforts.

In addition to being breeders, the Vestys help other breeders acquire fine horses capable of consistently producing top show horses with pedigrees and characteristics enabling them to become valued breeding stock for the future. Regardless where trainers and exhibitors chose to register and show their horses, the creation of these horses always begins with a breeder having access to blood which will produce them.

By applying an old-fashioned yet back-to-the-future approach to show-horse breeding, Clarke and Karen are using blood and horses which consistently reproduce show-horse qualities. In addition to raising horses eligible for breed registry classes, they plan to play a major role in the newly-developing show-horse venues provided by the Renai and NSHR Show Horse Alliance.

Both of these recently-established venues offer breeders the opportunity to again chose and use blood from many different breed sources in the quest to produce their ideal and offer additional organized showing opportunities to support their results. Although both organizations have slightly different eligibility requirements, both have consistent and clearly-defined goals for their breeders to strive for. And both provide exciting, rewarding and fun competitions for their owners and trainers.

In addition to all the existing Open show classes available for the progeny of show-type horses, the NSHR and Renai registries are adding many additional competition opportunities while also developing specific venues dedicated to breeders' efforts. All new programs have been designed as a result of recognizing the importance of breeders, as well as the necessity to provide an increasing number of participating outlets for horse owners.

In 2003, the Renai Registry initiated a Fine Harness Futurity for Three-Year-Old Crossbred Horses, which has already raised \$84,000 in prize money for this class alone. The NSHR is currently planning a similar Three-Year-Old Performance Futurity; another new program in addition to many other fine NSHR breeder-supporting opportunities.

The Vestys welcome all inquiries and visitors can expect to view many fine youngsters with show-horse potential, and at the same time be able to inspect the wide breed origin variety of carefully selected bloodstock being used to produce them. Vesty Show Horse, 5501 Tobacco Road, LaGrange, KY 40031. (502) 222-7307. E-mail: VestyNSH@aol.com.

