

Wheel to Wheel

Newsletter for the HUB

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2017
Club

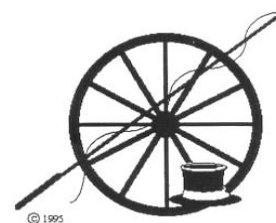
HUB Club Officers:

President Lydia Gray 630-701-5903 LydiaGrayDVM@gmail.com
Vice President Emily Berendt 815-337-3101 eberendt@yahoo.com
Secretary Kelly Chuman kellyannbrock@gmail.com
Treasurer Terri Delke stargeorge@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editors Kris Breyer 847-526-3012 briarpatcheast@aol.com
Tami Carlo evntr2112@gmail.com
Librarian Leslye Sandburg 847-602-7500 leslyesandberg@gmail.com
Webmaster Mary Ann Carter 847-783-0134 maryann-carter@live.com

ADS Representatives:

Midwest Region Rep Katy Rhinehart, Ferguson IA gkm104@heartofiowa.net
katy.rhinehart@lennoxinc.com Phone: H 641-478-3285 C 641-485-7821
Central Region Rep Carol Millhoan cmillhoan@gmail.com

The HUB Club:
Education &
Camaraderie



HUB CLUB



From the Editor As your editor, I ask that you send me photos and anything else that you would like to see in the newsletter. I am more than happy to use anything you want in the newsletter, as it is **YOUR newsletter**. If you want to continue to have an informative newsletter, I need material from the membership. You can send them to me directly at briarpatcheast@aol.com by the 20th of each month. Kris Breyer

From the Webmaster: Please submit items for web page. Include pictures of all our members. Please send names of driver, passengers, horse(s), and description of what you are doing, and where.

Prez letter:



Well folks, the Spring Clinic is not turning out so well. Because we only have 7 lesson spots filled out of a possible 16, it's looking like we are going to lose A LOT of money on this clinic. I've had a smattering of interest in it but am begging for three things from our membership:

1. Sign up for a lesson
2. Sign up to audit
3. Help the Club get the word out about this clinic

This will be at least the second year in a row that we'll be in the red from this event, which sends a clear signal to me (despite what the January annual meeting survey said) that members are not interested in lessons or clinics. So it's doubtful we'll be having any more spring or any other clinics, not when we can't fill with lessons and hardly anyone comes to audit. There is a potluck supper and HUB Club meeting scheduled for the Saturday evening of the clinic, and as long as the officers (me, Emily Berendt, Terri Delke, and Kelly Chuman) come, we'll still have that.

Yours Truly, **Dr. Lydia Gray**



RECOGNIZED CHAPTER

2017 Driving



Apr 21-23 Midwest Horse Fair, Madison, WI- www.midwesthorsefair.com

Apr TBD DDC Old World Wisconsin Drive Eagle, WI

May 20 HOW Driving & Riding Clinic, Middleton, WI

May 24 DDC Blackhawk Ridge Drive, Sauk City, WI- Wayne & Linda Schutte

May 27-28 HUB Club Clinic with Sterling Graburn, contact ydiagraydvm@gmail.com or 630-701-5903. Our next meeting is Saturday, May 27th, at the HUB Club Annual Spring Clinic

June TBD DDC Richard Bong State Recreation Area, Kansasville, WI- Dani Oster

June 1-4 The National Drive's Spring Fling, Lexington, KY- Virginia Goodman
thenationaldrive@gmail.com, 502-370-1848

June 2-4 Prairie State Classic Morgan Horse Show, Roscoe, IL Gail Kelce, gaildkelce@gmail.com,
815-624-7993 Three Open Carriage classes altogether on Friday

June 13-17 Midwest Charity Horse Show, Springfield, IL- Carole Kennedy, ckennedy0317@gmail.com,
217-414-1900

June 18 DDC Governor Dodge State Park Drive, Dodgeville, WI

June 17-18 Columbus Carriage Festival, Columbus, WI- Heather Kuenzi, kecponyclubcenter@gmail.com
920-285-0701

June 23-25 Metamora CDE, Metamora, MI- Darlene Daly, ddaly0037@gmail.com

June 24-25 Skunk River CDE, Ames, IA- Jada Neubauer, jada@midwestdriving.com, 515-450-4820 / 515-233-6014

June TBD DDC Sauk Prairie Recreation Site Drive, Devils Lake State Park- Southern End

June 30-July 2 CAA Carriage Festival, Lexington, KY- John Stallard, john@jsfound.org, 859-231-0971

July 1 **Northern Lights Open Driving Show**, Belvidere, IL. Contact: Kris Hall 815-871-1470

July 1 Notara Farm HDT, Verona, WI

July 13-15 Morgan Masterpiece, Oshkosh, WI- info@morganmasterpiece.com, 608-215-9530

Open to all breed carriage classes

July 15-16 **Heart of America Miniature Horse Show, Boone County Fairgrounds**

Horse Barns #4 & #5 & Indoor Horse Arena, Contact: Jean Estes 815-964-2146

July 15 A Day of Driving at FVSA, Hampshire, IL- Michael & Kelly Chuman

July 16 HUB Club Dirty Harness Day

July 22-23 Hickory Knoll CDE, Fitchburg, WI

Aug 5 Mid States Morgan Show, Hampshire, IL Kris Breyer briarpatcheat@aol.com 847-526-3012

Aug 5-6 Eastern Iowa Carriage Glow, Manchester, IA

Aug 12-13 Wade House Carriage Driving Days, Greenbush, WI- Wade House,
wadehouse@wisconsinhistory.org, 920-526-3271

Aug 12-13 A Day of Driving at FVSA, Hampshire, IL- Michael & Kelly Chuman

Aug 15- 16Iowa State Fair Society Horse Show, Des Moines, IA- Jennifer Cannon, 515-262-3111

Aug TBD DDC Menomonee Park/Lannon Quarry Drive, Lannon, WI

Aug 30- Sep 2 Jubilee Regional Morgan Horse Show, Springfield, IL- Betsy Bishop
www.jubileemorganhorseshow.com, 217-836-5055

Sep 2-3 Jericho Open Horse Show, Jefferson, WI

Sep 5-9 All American Horse Classic, Indianapolis, IN- Steve Kildow, 765-620-5779

Sep 8-10 Villa Louis Carriage Festival, Prairie du Chien, WI. Pleasure driving event ---educational programs, pleasure classes, obstacle classes; vendors, social events .Contact: Mike Rider, 608-326-4436, info@carriageclassic.com"

Sep 16 A Day of Driving at FVSA, Hampshire, IL- Michael & Kelly Chuman

Sep TBD DDC Donald Park Drive Mount Horeb, WI

Sep 22-24 Indiana CDE & CT, Edinburgh, IN

Oct TBD DDC Didier Farm/Radtke Drive, Port Washington, WI

Oct 10-15 National Drive, Lexington, KY- Virginia Goodman, thenationaldrive@gmail.com, 502-370-1848

Oct 21 DDC Horses in the Park, Columbus, WI

October 28 Fitchie Creek FP HUB Club Fall Fun Drive. Fitchie has two bridges to cross; winding path through wooded area; mild rolling hills; grass, limestone and some blacktop paths. Trailer parking on grass just east of the entrance drive. Two shelters, restrooms and access to water. Depending on the condition of the season in late October, the water pump may or may not be operational so suggest that we bring our own water for our horses. Link to the information about Fitchie Creek

<http://kaneforest.com/ForestPreserveView.aspx?ID=20>

Nov TBD Corn Maze Drive, Spring Grove, IL- Richardson's Farm

Dec TBD Victorian Horse Drawn Parade, Sharon, WI

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8lfgl4bvew5hk7/AAA8ifNmtvsMhrLkkoYDLdgqa?dl=0>



This is the link to the Hub Club Library – out on Dropbox. For those unfamiliar, Dropbox is a free computer app. that allows files to be shared on the internet. Anyone clicking on this link will get the excel spreadsheet with the most updated library on it. This link to a dropbox HUB Club folder, contains the library spreadsheet but also a number of ADS forms, event packing lists, scans of the articles that were copied as pages in the library, etc. I don't know if we plan to put the articles onto the website or the packing list or other forms. CDE entry form, cones scoring forms, etc. Anything else anyone things should go into this folder and we can share with members and they can read the heavier articles direct from the link without having to save or download to print. would like to remind everyone that we

now have a mail out and back program.

If you want to check something out from the library you contact [Leslye Sandberg](mailto:leslyesandberg@gmail.com) leslyesandberg@gmail.com and include your mailing address. The item will be mailed to you. We ask that you return the item in a timely manner in the preaddressed envelope that will come with it. You will have to pay the return postage. In upcoming issues I will be showcasing some of the new additions. And again I ask for your suggestions for items to add to the library. Note that any horsey movies or videos you have that you no longer want or need, can be donated to the library as well.

2017 Distance Drives

For additional information and updates, such as exact location, camping info, event times, entry fees, etc., see ride flyer available at www.umecra.com. Negative Coggins required for all events. Please note all driving events are held in conjunction with endurance and competitive trail rides – riders will be on the trail.

No memberships are required to participate and all breeds of equine (including grade animals, mules, etc.) are welcome.

Animals must be **drug-free and at least 48 months of age** to participate. Helmets, whip, spares kit, and a **non-bicycle wheeled vehicle** are required. Singles may have a groom and pairs **must** have a groom.

You may enter one or more days at each ride. For days that have multiple distances listed, you choose which distance to enter.

Event Name	Location	Manager	Manager contact	Friday Event(s)	Saturday Event(s)	Sunday Event(s)
MAY						
MNDRA 1	Hinckley, MN	Theresa Meyer	Thmeyer753@gmail.com		May 6 12 miles	May 7 12 miles
Kettles & Bits	New Prospect WI	Joslyn Seefe	joslynsfiberfarm@aol.com		May 6 6 miles 12 miles	May 7 12 miles
Glacier Trails	Palmyra WI	Romona Radtke	608.222.5200		May 13 12 miles 25 miles	May 14 12 miles
JUNE						
Endure	Chandlerville	Nicole Mauer Storer	n.mauerstorer@huskers.unl.edu		June 3 6 miles 12.5 miles 25 miles	June 4 6 miles 12.5 miles
ApDRA	Palmyra WI	Dawn Haas	jehass@centurytel.net		June 10 16 miles	June 11 16 miles
JULY						
Mosquito Run	Rogers MN	Sharon Hahn	Mosquitofun@usa.com		July 15 15 miles	July 16 10 miles
AHDRA I – My Backyard	Wyanet IL	Lori Windows	kickbuttshaman1@gmail.com		July 22 12.5 miles	July 23 12.5 miles
AUGUST						
Louise Riedel Memorial	Arkdale WI	Elinore Tonsor	helinoretonsor@earthlink.net		Aug 12 12 miles	Aug 13 12 miles 25 miles
Rock River Charity	Utica IL	Tony Troyer	ll4aerc@aol.com		Aug 19 6 miles 15 miles	Aug 20 6 miles 15 miles
SEPTEMBER						
Colorama Class	Greenbush WI	Pam Cotton	hellsbellsfarm@gmail.com		Sept 16 25 miles	Sept 17 25 miles
OCTOBER						
DRAWarama	New Prospect WI	Joslyn Seefe	joslynsfiberfarm@aol.com	Oct 6 12 miles	Oct 7 12 miles	Oct 8 12 miles
Iron Oak	Arkdale WI	Ruth Casserly	casserlytimruth@gmail.com		Oct 14 6 miles 15 miles	Oct 15 6 miles 15 miles
AHDRA III – Big River	Keithsburg IL	Jim Andriako	Cgswimcoach@yahoo.com		Oct 28 12.5 miles	Oct 29 12.5 miles



The HUB Club Presents

Sterling Graburn

May 27 – 28, 2017

Fox Valley Saddle Association, Hampshire, IL

Sterling spent his early childhood competing in combined training, in part as a member of the Radnor Hunt Pony Club, adding combined driving in his teens. He owes his strong dressage foundation to his mother who was always a dressage trainer first and emphasized that dressage is training in the continuum.

A nationally recognized handler of sport horses, his true love is the sport of driving. He began his driving career in 1977, and entered his first combined driving event in 1979. His first international experience was in 1984 as navigator at the World Four-in-Hand Championships in Hungary. In 1993, he was navigator for Larry Poulin at Gladstone, NJ, for the World Pairs Championship. Sterling was also groom/navigator for Dr. Wendy Ying at the 2005 World Pony Championships at Catton Hall, England.

In 2006, Sterling competed as an individual at the World Singles Championships in Italy where he was fourth on the marathon and the highest overall placed American driver. He has thrice won the FEI Top Driver Award, North American Challenge, Single Horse Championship. In 2008 he won the USEF National Combined Driving Single Horse National Championship.

Sterling competes in both Pleasure and Combined Driving, with singles, pairs, tandems, unicorns, and four-in-hands.

--The clinic will be held at the Fox Valley Saddle Association, 44W300 Rohrson Rd., Hampshire, IL, which has an indoor arena, outdoor arena, and outdoor grass field for cones and obstacles, weather permitting.

--Individual lessons will be offered for \$125 each, payable to The HUB Club. Refunds for cancellations will only be given if the slot can be filled.

--Participants may clinic out of their trailer for a daily haul-in fee of \$15 or out of a permanent stall for a daily stall fee of \$25. Bedding is not included and is NOT available for purchase on-site. Everyone is kindly asked to clean up after their horse when they leave whether hauling-in or using a stall.

--Lunch is included for paid clinic participants (and one groom) as well as paid auditors Saturday and Sunday and will be available for purchase by others.

--All drivers, passengers, grooms, and navigators must wear properly fastened protective headgear which meets or exceeds current ASTM/SEI standards for equestrian use.

--A negative Coggins test dated within one year of the event is required. Out-of-state horses must present a Veterinary Health Certificate dated within 30 days of clinic.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Lydia Gray for more information at lydiagraydvm@gmail.com or 630-701-5903



The HUB Club Presents

Sterling Graburn

May 27 – 28, 2017

Fox Valley Saddle Association, Hampshire, IL

DRIVER Name _____ E-mail _____

Address _____ Cell Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

GROOM Name _____ E-mail _____

Address _____ Cell Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

HORSE/PONY/VSE Name _____ ☐ Mare ☐ Gelding ☐ Stallion

Breed _____ Age _____ Height _____ Color _____ ☐ Single ☐ Pair

Level Competing _____ Clinic Goals _____

FEES

Each clinic lesson \$125 X () = _____

Stall fee per horse per day \$25 X () = _____

Haul-in fee per trailer per day \$15 X () = _____

Non-member fee \$25 _____

TOTAL _____

WHAT TO MAIL:

___ REGISTRATION FORM

___ CHECK MADE OUT TO "The HUB Club"

___ COPY OF YOUR HORSE'S CURRENT COGGINS FORM

WHERE TO MAIL:

Terri Delke, 7100 W. Layton Ave., Greenfield, WI 53220

QUESTIONS? Contact Lydia Gray for more information at lydiagraydvm@gmail.com or 630-701-5903.



The HUB Club Presents
Sterling Graburn
May 27 – 28, 2017
Fox Valley Saddle Association, Hampshire, IL

Auditor Name _____ Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

Which day(s) will you be attending? ☐ Saturday \$25 ☐ Sunday \$25

- Lunch is included Saturday and Sunday with your audit fee
- Folding chairs are available; bring your own if that would be more comfortable.
- No dogs please

FEES

Fee per Day Number of Days
\$25 X =

Non-Member (add \$25) _____

Please make check payable to The HUB Club

TOTAL _____

PLEASE MAIL THIS COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK to:

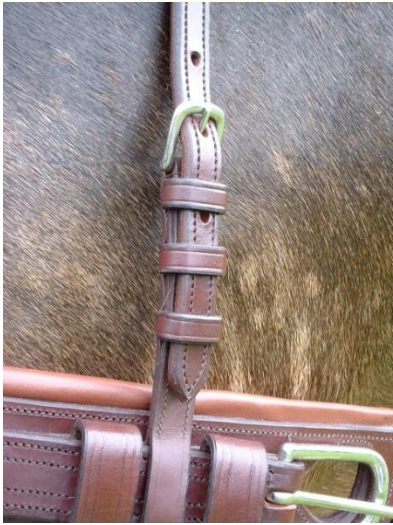
Terri Delke, 7100 W. Layton Ave., Greenfield, WI 53220

QUESTIONS?

Contact Lydia Gray for more information at lydiagraydvm@gmail.com or 630-701-5903.

Leather -vs- Synthetic Harness

February 16, 2017



The debate over leather versus synthetic harness has carried on since the first synthetic harnesses hit the market. In the beginning, there was no question, a leather harness was the way to go. Synthetic harnesses have come a long way in the 30 years, making the decision less cut and dry. I know you'd love an article that would tell you decisively which one is best, but it just isn't that simple.

What Do I Use?

The decision to use leather or synthetic harness is purely a personal one. In my personal tack room, there are harnesses made of both materials. When I was competing regularly I had a very nice synthetic harness for the marathon, and an equally good leather harness for dressage, cones and ring classes. It wasn't a "show harness", but rather, a well-built harness that could be polished up well enough for even the highest level of competition.

When it came to day to day training, it was the leather harness that did most of the work. That's contrary to what most people would expect to read. While both harnesses were well-built harnesses, and fit my horse just fine, I used the leather as my everyday harness. The fact of the matter was, the leather harness simply formed to the contours of my horse better.

As you would imagine, getting that leather harness in show shape was more work before an event than had I chosen to use my marathon harness as the daily driver harness. I'm not a lazy person, but I will take any opportunity to do less work for the same results. I must have had a very strong feeling that the horse worked better in the leather harness to feel the extra work of getting that harness cleaned up was worth it.

That's just my personal experience. I have many friends who swear by their synthetic harnesses and want nothing to do with owning a leather harness ever again. They enjoy that many synthetic harnesses are often lighter than leather harnesses and are easier to clean. They feel less guilty when the harness gets soak, muddy, and well just trashed after a wet weekend.

When you are shopping for a harness, the most important consideration is harness fit. It must fit your horse well to serve your horse well. After that, you have to consider your own needs. What do you think you will use the harness for the most? Recreational driving can be accomplished with either type of harness. Pleasure showing doesn't require a leather harness, but you likely be less self-conscious if have one. Combined driving enthusiasts tend to lean toward synthetic harness.

Leather Harness

If the look and feel of the harness are the most important considerations, then leather is certainly the way to go. A leather harness can get beat up, dragged about, soaked in the rain, and with a little elbow-grease, can come out looking like the belle of the ball. In fact, over time leather harness begins to look better with repeated use, cleaning, and polishing. My old competition harness has been out in every kind of weather and run through muck and mire. It's been on many horses through many years.

Yet when I clean it up for a pleasure show, it's the envy of many.

Maintenance of a leather harness does require a bit more care than a synthetic harness. We'd all love to have the time, energy and fastidiousness to clean our harnesses after every drive, but most of us don't. It is important to clean and condition the harness with some regularity. Annual



maintenance and regular cleanings help preserve the leather's strength and pliability.

Leather left unused and unmaintained for long periods of time can mildew or dry out. This can lead to the leather becoming brittle and break down. Some harnesses seem to be more prone to this problem than others. Certain leather tanning processes reduce the chances of mildew growing on the harness. The good news is, leather is incredibly resilient. I've taken 20-year-old harness early recognizable under crusted mildew and brought them back to life with a little hard work.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, Many people suffer under the delusion that you can't get leather wet. Leather is a far more resilient material than we give it credit for. Most leather harnesses are made from leather that can withstand significant use and abuse. In fact, many drivers use leather harnesses for CDE marathons in which the harness is guaranteed to be doused with water at a cooling station.

Certainly, leather harness will absorb water, especially if you're out driving in the rain for several drives in a row. However, it will also release much of that moisture given that you put in a place that it can dry (rather than leaving it in a box for a week after a trip.) Once dry, the harness can be returned to its former beauty with a little bit of care and maintenance. Sure, it's one more step than you have with a synthetic harness, but it's not a death sentence for the leather harness.

Perhaps the biggest advantage to leather is the fact that it breaks-in to your horse. Over time and use the leather forms to the contours of your horse improving the fit as it ages. Leather also remains pliable through a broad range of temperatures. Handling a leather harness for a sleigh rally in sub-freezing temperatures isn't much different to handling it on a 90-degree day with 80 percent humidity.

Do You Have to Have Leather for a Good Score?

Those who buy leather harnesses often site that they feel that they will get much better scores on presentation at a combined driving event.

While it's true that it's hard to beat the look of a good leather harness, it may not be the difference between a top score and runner-up. If you are going to a highly competitive pleasure driving show, a synthetic harness will not win you any favor from the judge, but there are many other factors in placing a class. Each class has it's emphasis whether that be in rein handling, the horse's way of going, or the presentation. Even in a presentation class, I've seen drivers win with synthetic harness put to a very modest carriage win simply because they had the proper fit, cleanliness, and presentation of the turnout.

In combined driving, most of the presentation scores are given "on the move." In other words, the judge, sitting 20-30 feet from the ring, gives a presentation score while scoring the rest of the dressage test. With the better synthetic harnesses that are available today, it can be pretty hard to see if a harness is leather or synthetic. There is also no prohibition to using synthetic harness in combined driving.

Synthetic Harness

Today's synthetic harnesses are better looking and feeling than they have ever been. The quality of the materials have improved significantly over the past few decades, and there are more options than ever for synthetic harness. They tend to be lighter than leather harnesses, and they are certainly easier to clean (but they still must be cleaned!)



Synthetic Harness is not "Maintenance-Free"

The biggest reason people site for buying synthetic harness is that they don't want to clean their harness. This argument has several problems. Two of the main reasons behind cleaning harness have little to do with the material it's made out of. Cleaning a harness takes away dirt and dander that builds up on the bearing surfaces of the harness that can cause discomfort and rubs on your horse. The second big reason for cleaning harness is that it gives you a chance to handle the whole harness and all of its parts to spot breakdowns before they become a safety issue.

"Ya, but I can just hose my harness off, or dunk it in a tub."

I'm sure that if you asked a 13-year-old to wash your car, and all they did was hose it off, you wouldn't be thrilled with the results. Simply getting a harness wet doesn't remove the dirt, grit, and other contaminants that lead to harness breakdown. You still have to clean a synthetic harness with soap, water, and a sponge or cloth. It is still a little easier job than caring for a leather harness, but this step can't be overlooked.

Of course, synthetic harness will only look as good as it did the day that it was new. That's not all bad since there are harness makers producing some very good looking synthetic harnesses these days. However, its appearance will never develop into something it was not when it was new. As it ages it simply begins to look older as opposed to the more "experienced" patina of an older leather harness.

Unlike leather harness, synthetic harnesses never really breaks-in. Some harnesses soften slightly over time, but the nature of the material is to return to its cast form. The material is also more subject to changes according to the temperature than leather. On cold days, the strapping becomes very stiff and difficult to work with. On hot days, it becomes soft and pliable, in some cases to the point of being flaccid.

Which One Will Last the Longest?

I've seen harness of both types either last for more than 10 years or breakdown within 3 years. Both leather and synthetic harnesses suffer similar breakdowns for similar reasons. Poor quality leather or synthetic material will break down more quickly than the good stuff. Wear and tear on the strapping, buckle holes, and flexures occur at similar rates from one material to the next.

As with all equipment, good care and maintenance is the key to getting the most out of the life of a harness. Give it a good cleaning and inspection once a year, fully disassembling the harness when you do. Follow that up with regular light cleaning throughout the year. Store it on a harness or saddle rack away from the dirt, dust, and debris of the barn aisle. When you carry the harness out to the horse, pick all of the pieces up off the ground, rather than allowing them to drag on the floor.

Quality Materials Make Quality Products

In the early years of synthetic harness, the choice was clear. There wasn't a synthetic option that could even come close to the quality of leather harness. The only advantage that synthetic harness offered was that the price was significantly lower.

Leather is and always has been more broadly available than synthetic strapping. Of course, with that comes wider variety of types and quality of leather. Most harnesses today are made from either cow, or buffalo hides, but the hide is just the beginning. The tanning process probably has the most profound effect on the quality of the leather.

When I was growing up in the sport, most people equated the country of origin with the quality of the leather. American leather was considered the toughest, while English and Italian leather were considered the finest. "Indian" leather (which was leather produced in any number of Asian countries) was widely considered the worst and was to be avoided at all costs. Today, the country of origin isn't a "shoe-in" for determining the quality of leather (pardon the pun.)

Leather tanning is an age-old process that can be replicated in many parts of the world. In essence, it is an "old-world" manufacturing technology. It is also a highly toxic process. The combination of these and other factors have meant that the leather tanning industry has grown in the developing world where labor is cheap, and environmental regulations are less rigorous.

As the tanning industries of the developing world have strengthened, they have improved the quality of their products. Where it was once easy to spot leather from a third-world nation, today the quality is often comparable to first world products. Indeed a significant portion of the items you'll find in your favorite tack store or catalog come from places such as Asia, the Far, and Near East, or South America.

When evaluating leather harness, a touch is worth a thousand words. Poor quality leather will feel greasy, and the dye will rub off easily in your hand. If the leather is floppy, or quite soft, chances are it will not last for long. At the other extreme of pliability, if the harness is so stiff it's difficult to bend, you'd better keep shopping. Often the very stiff harness will show cracking in its finish when you try to bend it. A good quality harness will be a bit stiff when it's new. However, you should be able to bend and manipulate the harness parts even when it has just come off the shelf.



Synthetic no longer holds a significant price advantage over leather from a raw materials perspective. This is primarily driven by the price of oil and other commodities. All synthetic harness is made from PVC and polyurethane. As the prices of the raw materials have risen, so too has the cost of synthetic strap goods.

Much today's synthetic strapping has also evolved to become a higher quality product. Modern formulations include ultra-violet stabilizers that help it resist breakdown from exposure to the sun. There have also been significant improvements in the texture and body of the material so that it looks, and behaves more like leather.

Synthetic strapping is still a new product in comparison to leather, so it is only available from a small, but growing list of manufacturers. As with any product, there are some that are better than others, even within one manufacturer's line. Choosing a good quality synthetic harness must start with choosing a harness maker that builds harnesses from

good materials.

Unfortunately, good synthetic strapping is a little more difficult to discern from bad. Look for a synthetic harness that has straps similar in size and thickness to leather. Very light weight synthetic material becomes brittle and breaks down quite quickly. Lots of us love shiny things, but too shiny can be a sign of cheap materials. If you can shave by your reflection in the harness, pass it by.

When choosing a harness of either type consider these few tips.

Avoid harness with staples. Stapling keepers and other small straps is cost saving measure that many harness makers take to save time. Unfortunately, staples weaken over time and often come out. Worse yet, a staple that is half-out can poke into your horse without you knowing it.

Choose harnesses with smooth bearing surfaces. The breast collar, breaching, and saddle are where your horse has the most contact with your horse. Those surfaces should be smooth to prevent friction while your horse is working in the harness. For some reason, there is a trend toward putting "waffled" surfaces on harnesses. I can't advise you strongly enough to avoid those products. It's sore waiting to happen!

Keep it simple. Lots of people get lots of ideas. Some of them are good, others not so good. Choosing the latest innovation that comes out means that you are actually doing the field testing for the harness maker. That may work out ok, but if it doesn't you and your horse are the ones who will have to pay the price. Harnesses are based on designs that are over a hundred years old, and most of the designs have been working quite well for all those years.

Remember that fit and function trump the form every day. It's more important to have a harness that fits your horse well and performs as it should. The harness maker should be willing to exchange parts and pieces to get the right fit for your horse.

Finally, whichever you decide, be sure to take care of your investment. Store your harness properly when it's not in use. Give your harness an annual inspection and cleaning taking all of the pieces apart as you do. Follow that up with regular cleanings throughout the year.

Choosing leather or synthetic for your next harness won't make or break your driving experience. Choosing a well-made harness of either material will lead to years of fun and comfort for your horse.



Jamaica: Fun, Sun, and a Horseback Run



"Jamaica, a Caribbean island nation, has a lush topography of mountains, rainforests, and reef-lined beaches. Many of its all-inclusive resorts are clustered in Montego Bay, with its British-colonial architecture, and Negril, known for its diving and snorkeling sites. Jamaica is famed as the birthplace of reggae music, and its capital Kingston is home to the Bob Marley Museum, dedicated to the famous singer."

Kingston is also where the world's fastest woman – Elaine Thompson – hails from, while Falmouth is the hometown of Usain Bolt, the world's fastest man. Falmouth just happens to be one of the "ports of call" for a recent Caribbean cruise that my husband and I went

on (our first!), and where I signed up for the shore excursion *Chukka Horseback Ride N' Swim* with this online description and photo:

"Drive along the scenic coastline in an air-conditioned bus to where your adventure begins. Experience an exhilarating horseback ride through two of the island's former sugar plantations, Richmond and Llandoverly. Along the rugged trails your guide explains the area's rich history and culture. Then trot bareback along Chukka Beach's shoreline amid the caress of the Caribbean breeze. Conclude with gift shopping for Jamaican treasures and savoring flavorful foods at Chukka Bar & Grill."



I'm by no means a world-traveler, but when I do visit other states and other countries, I always try to arrange a horseback ride. Having ridden in the ocean once before (off the coast of Scotland), I was excited to try it again in a slightly warmer, sunnier location, the Caribbean. While my husband went snorkeling, and other passengers had dolphin encounters, hiked to a waterfall, and even went bobsledding! I chose to spend my day in Jamaica with horses and I'm glad I did.

Was the trail ride "exhilarating?" No, as I'm sure any rider that's ever signed up for a tourist-y trail ride has experienced firsthand. I did get excited when our guides instructed us to lean forward going uphill and lean forward going downhill, as maybe the "rugged trails" described in the brochure were coming up, but we have steeper inclines in Illinois than we rode in Jamaica. And while there was no trotting, we did change into swimwear, divide up into two groups, don life preservers, and head into deep water for two swim laps around the bay.



Having felt the power of a swimming horse once before and now mounted on a former polo pony with a roached mane to go into the water, I was going to ask the trail guide leader if he could just buckle a stirrup leather around my horse's neck so I'd have something to hold onto. I should have realized there was no cause for concern though, because when we were given fresh mounts for our second ride of the day they were all equipped with bareback pads and straps to hold onto. Even though there was only one other experienced equestrian in our group of 30, I was impressed when only two people fell off in the ocean!

Our guides were amazing, the best I've ever experienced, in my attempt to ride in all 50 states and as many foreign countries as possible. Being Jamaican, they (and therefore we) broke out in song spontaneously and they spoke in their preferred Patois language, coaching us to use "yah man" for any "yes" answers, no kidding.

Lydia Gray





Sales Barn

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FOR SALE: Russet and Brass leather Single Horse reins:

lightly used, \$50

Country Carriages USA, Country cart, small pony/ mini sized. Used for Pleasure Shows & CDEs. Dark walnut stained wood, wool grey Bedford cord seat and black rain seat. Light weight approximately 175 pounds, two passenger cart with the best ride. A sliding, adjustable seat, spares box under the seat, flush hubs, flat rubber tires, chrome hardware, wood dash, whip socket, black leather shaft trim, good condition. New was \$2,600, asking \$1,500.

New mini whip looks like a Holly \$50.00. Cob/small horse sized breaking/ road cart, wooden wheels, not for show but sturdy \$500.00 OBO, very small kid western saddle \$25, small kid English saddle \$100, "Daddle" seat that attaches behind an adult western saddle \$25.

Call Ann McCombs 815-648-4471



**Show
Gig for
Sale**

Built by Todd Frey of Frey Carriage, Columbus, Wisconsin. Gig is about 15 years old, lightly used. I have used it at a few shows and it is very well balanced and smooth riding. It has a beautiful dark green paint finish. It has new shaft covers and includes a full canvas cover. It is in very good condition. **\$3,800** Contact Sandra Nowicki, 262-889-4802 or sannowicki@aol.com

FOR SALE: Angel, white Percheron mare, 20 yrs old, 17 hh. Very sweet, easy going. Has been driven in many parades and 3 weddings. Rides



Western, English and bareback on trail or in arena. Very smooth and will neck rein, jogs and lopes. Takes at least an intermediate rider/driver, as she will test you. Trailers, bathes, clips, ties, etc. UTD on shots, coggins, etc. Comes with western saddle, bridle, work harness with stand and forecart.

Good forever home a must! \$1800 (the carriage and fancy harness are also for sale separately) **Linda Lanzer Richmond, IL 815-546-7995**

FOR SALE: 3 Registered Morgan geldings, all Black. Ages 8, 7, and 5 years old. All three are Broke to Drive, Two are Green Broke to Ride. Asking \$3,000 each. Contact: Don Kalbantner at 815-289-8598.

FOR SALE: Neat oak hunting cart made in Pennsylvania; maroon seats for 4 humans with room for dogs below. Needs a better home than I can provide. Driven with 14 h 2 pony. In need of a little TLC \$3,500 negotiable. Call Nancy Baker 608-329-6711 or nakabak7@gmail.com



Country Carriages Road Cart for sale. Includes custom fabric cover for storage, Cart stand, cart jack, rain seat and rain seat back cover. Used with 15hh horse. 49.5" diameter wheels, 76" shafts. Show ready! Asking \$2000

Contact Cathy Thomas 608/332-8361, cathytho@gmail.com. Located in Verona, WI.

FOR SALE: 5-acre Horse Property, with 4-stall barn, 350 bale loft, 4 fenced paddocks, 2.5 acre equine seeded pasture, lighted sand arena, close to trail system, 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, 16x40 in-ground pool, Barrington schools. **See droneography on YouTube at "21670 N Countryside Lane, Barrington"**. Listed with Lynn Fairfield, ReMax, (847) 373-3311, listing active 1-28-17, Owners Robert & Janet Molzahn (847) 381-7347. **Selling price \$587k.**



For sale:

Pony presentation vehicle that was used in the World Pairs. We are selling our presentation vehicle as we have replaced it with an antique that we can use for our four as well as our pair.

The vehicle is suitable for 13 HH to 14-2 HH ponies. It also has single shafts and thus can be converted to a single. It has both single trees and roller bolts.

Currently it has brass hardware, but we have a full set of stainless as well. Rear wheel stainless disk brakes, two side and one rear light

can be included. We have used this for pleasure shows as well as CDEs. Condition is very good. Many photos are available. **With three lamps, pole, shafts and all hardware \$5900. Without lights \$5450.**

John & Betsy Freiburger frei@chorus.net

For sale:

We bought this vehicle new and used it much less than anticipated—maybe 10 outings. It has a pole and shafts. I'm not sure of the weight but have driven it single with the off horse, a Belgian thoroughbred cross. The brake is in the center of the floor so it can be driven easily from either traditional or traffic position and it rolls quite freely.

It's well sprung and rides quite comfortably over uneven ground as well as roads. Pictures don't show the color well—the frame and gear are all a



beautiful shade of bottle or hunter green and the woodwork is light varnished wood.

Its been used for a wedding supper, an HDT, a couple of Pleasure Driving classes and three club pleasure drives. I am asking \$2,600. Call me at 630-363-4619 with any questions. Grace Frejlach-Grubb

For sale:

The gig is most suitable for a cob size horse/pony, however the horse shown in the picture is a 16.3 field hunter. It's royal blue with gold pinstripes and has natural oak wheels and shafts. The interior is black velvet and as comfortable as any



loveseat. It has been used at Villa Louis, Iron Horse CDE as well as many pleasure drives and the Sharon WI lighted Christmas parade. I'm selling it for \$1800.

Call me at 630-363-4619 with any questions. Grace Frejlach-Grubb

FOR SALE: This buggy was restored by Amish, Ben Yoder. Beautifully restored, in excellent condition, ready to hitch. I had many fun rides for eight years, prior to retiring my horse. Asking \$4,950. We will also accept a reasonable offer. Best regards, Joe [Yoder & Associates, Inc. Woodstock, IL 60098](mailto:craig_yoder@yoderassoc.com) Phone:[815-337-3533](tel:815-337-3533) Fax:[815-337-3535](tel:815-337-3535) craig_yoder@yoderassoc.com joe@yoderassoc.com





ASK WHINNEY

This is an opportunity for all members, but especially novice drivers, to get input and advice from other members. Each month we will be posting an anonymous question raised by a Hub Club member and asking you, the membership to respond from the deep and vast store of your driving knowledge and experience. So let's go!

QUESTION: Is Alfalfa hay good for my horse?

ANSWER: High quality hay can be an excellent source of nutrients for most classes of horses, and in most cases should be the predominate type of feed in a horses diet. When good to high quality hay is offered free choice, some recreational horses will get fat.

A recreational horse is a horse exercised at a low to moderate intensity for less than 5 hours a week. A performance horse is a horse that is worked several hours a day and will be affected by the type and duration of the exercise they perform. A performance horse would be a race horse, a 3 day eventing horse or would have other strenuous activities.

If the horse is being used as recreational then to keep them at their ideal weight it is best to feed them lower - quality hay (Timothy or late maturing alfalfa hay) or you can limit the access to the high quality hay.

Early maturing alfalfa hay is very nutrient rich and is good for the performance horse. The late maturing alfalfa hay is less nutrient rich and is good for the recreational horse.

Next Month's Question: When, Why and How should I feed my horse beet pulp?

Equine Nutrition – Pros And Cons Of Feeding Your Horse Alfalfa

If you ask most horses they will tell you that alfalfa is a wonderful horse feed. Most horses love this leafy, green hay. Experts in horse nutrition recognize alfalfa as a high protein, mineral rich forage but few look at the energetic properties of this hay for horses. Alfalfa has a neutral thermal nature which means it does not create a heating or cooling effect in the body. It has a bitter flavor which helps detoxify the body. Alfalfa dries excess dampness in the body. Excess dampness in the body creates an environment that supports the growth of molds, yeast, and parasites.

Horse Nutrition: Alfalfa hay for horses supports a healthy intestine and removes excess acids from the blood. Alfalfa buffers stomach acid for up to 6 hours after it is consumed which makes it an ideal horse feed for working horses subject to stomach ulcers. Fresh alfalfa hay contains enzymes which help break down proteins, fats and carbohydrates. Older horses with bad teeth can benefit from these enzymes even if they just mouth the hay but don't actually swallow it.

Horse Nutrition: Alfalfa hay for horses is a very rich horse feed containing ample protein, beta carotene, chlorophyll and trace minerals. The roots of the alfalfa plant can reach 100 feet into the ground so it can reach



minerals that are absent in shallow soils. Alfalfa is also rich in vitamin k and bioflavonoids. The high levels of calcium in alfalfa make it a valuable horse feed for mares in late pregnancy and early lactation.

Horse Nutrition: The high levels of protein, calcium, and simple sugars in alfalfa can be a disadvantage if it is not balanced out with less nutritious foods that contain phosphorous. Alfalfa is not a good feed for growing horses as it will allow them to grow too rapidly and bone development can be affected by the imbalance of calcium and phosphorous. Horses who are overweight and not in work can gain additional weight and develop behavior problems relating to excess energy. The high levels of calcium in alfalfa can lead to the formation of enteroliths in the intestines of some horses. Feeding apple cider vinegar will help prevent stone formation if alfalfa is the only hay available.

Horse Nutrition: Pros of alfalfa as a horse feed

Very nutritious

Contains enzymes which aid in assimilation of protein, fats, and carbohydrates

High in calcium, beta carotene, chlorophyll, vitamins and trace minerals

Buffers stomach acid

Detoxifies the blood

Horse Nutrition: Cons of alfalfa as a horse feed

Too nutritious for non-working horses

Excess energy content and mineral imbalance not good for growing horses

Enterolith formation in the intestines of some horses

Overall the pros of alfalfa as a horse feed outweigh the disadvantages but its high nutrient content makes it unsuitable for most non-working horses. Fresh alfalfa hay is the best to use as a horse feed. Good alfalfa hay for horses should be leafy, with minimum stems and bright green in color. Poor quality alfalfa may be used for pellets and any pelleting will destroy much of the whole food value of alfalfa while maintaining the high protein levels. Concentrated high levels of protein can lead to kidney stress. If you choose to feed alfalfa always keep in mind that a little bit goes a long and don't overfeed it.

Written By, [Madelyn Ward, DVM](#). Source: holistichorsekeeping.com. Share this on Facebook if you enjoy learning about Equine Nutrition!

4 Misconceptions About Alfalfa

• By [Heather Smith Thomas](#) Mar 21, 2017



Despite all the science-backed suggestions about feeding alfalfa, it remains a misunderstood forage. The following are a few misconceptions worth clarifying.

Myth: An alfalfa-rich diet causes kidney problems.

“A normal, healthy horse can metabolize and excrete the extra protein in alfalfa just fine, if the horse has adequate water,” says Ray Smith,

PhD, forage extension specialist at the University of Kentucky, in Lexington. Horses with kidney disease shouldn't consume a high-protein diet (such as alfalfa), but the alfalfa itself won't cause kidney disease.

Myth: Alfalfa makes horses hyper.

"I don't think there is any scientific basis for this," says Krishona Martinson, PhD, associate professor and equine extension specialist at the University of Minnesota's Department of Animal Science, in Falcon Heights. "Alfalfa does have more energy compared to grass hay of similar maturity, so perhaps a horse eating a lot of alfalfa in the absence of exercise may have more energy. The biggest issue with alfalfa, however, is weight gain in horses that don't have adequate exercise."

Myth: Alfalfa has high nonstructural carbohydrate (NSC) levels.

"Cool-season grasses like timothy, brome grass, and orchard grass actually have higher nonstructural carbohydrate content and sugars than legumes," says Martinson. "Horses with carbohydrate sensitivity (e.g., obese horses, those with laminitis, equine metabolic syndrome, equine Cushing's disease, or polysaccharide storage myopathy) need their diet carefully monitored for nonstructural carbohydrates and can benefit from including some alfalfa rather than grain or cool-season grasses."

Myth: Alfalfa aggravates respiratory problems in horses with heaves.

Some horses tend to cough more when fed alfalfa, but this is due to irritants such as dust and mold rather than the alfalfa itself. Alfalfa can be dustier than grass hay when moisture conditions at baling are less-than-ideal. Alfalfa leaves also tend to shatter when too dry, creating more dust particles.

"Mold formation is also related to moisture content when baling," says Martinson. "One issue with alfalfa—which tends to have more stem than grass—is that the stem takes longer to dry. Alfalfa might take 12 to 24 hours longer to dry than a grass crop, simply because it has more stems. Moldy grass hay or moldy alfalfa hay both cause airway irritation when mold dust is inhaled."

Take-Home Message

The horse industry is full of misconceptions about alfalfa. Before dismissing this nutrient-rich forage, contact your veterinarian or equine nutritionist to develop a feeding program that's right for your horse.

CAA EVENTS

Learning Weekend Wetzelville, Florida		FEBRUARY 2-5TH
DRIVING WEEKEND APRIL 5-9TH MILLET HALL, JOHNSTON ISLAND, SC		ROYAL WINDSOR HORSE SHOW MAY 8-15TH
June 25-July 2 CAA Carriage Festival Kentucky Horse Park		August 14-16 Summer Fair Use CAA Trip to Sweden

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Painting Your Vehicle

In 1865, J.B. Brewster & Co. charged \$260 for a small coupe to be repainted. The high cost reflected the time spent painting a vehicle correctly.

Tips to make painting easier:

- Wrap your brush in plastic wrap or aluminium foil to keep it ready for work the next day.
- Practice, practice, practice! For each step in the painting process be sure to practice on a spare piece of wood first.
- If the iron work cannot be removed, the adjoining wood should receive two coats of varnish. That way you can wipe off any excess paint from the iron pieces without affecting the grain of the wood.

Membership has its privileges!

Members of CAA Chapters receive \$5.00 off their CAA membership.

Contact the CAA at (859) 231-0971

Wheel to Wheel

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EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Also member of: _____ ADS _____ CAA, _____ USEF, Local club _____

MEMBERSHIP DESIGNATIONS:

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP: 18yrs or older, 1 vote per membership

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: Couple and any underage children (<18), immediate family, 2 votes per membership.

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP: Child under 18yrs of age, no voting privileges. (Must have an adult member as sponsor).

Also, parent/guardian must sign on application for Junior Members to participate at club events.

I accept the benefits, obligations and responsibilities of membership and agree to abide by the HUB Club bylaws

Signature(s): _____ Date _____
_____ Date _____
_____ Date : _____

Parent or Guardian (if under 18 years of age)

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP: \$25.00 (Renewing or New)* \$ _____

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*New memberships received after June 30 will be pro-rated for 6 months

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