

IRISH RUN FARMS

JULY NEWS

A friendly “hello” from Irish Run! This must be the *duck days* of summer! Hot, humid and **wet**. No matter, any day with your horse is a good day, so come down to the barn and enjoy the Iowa rainforest on horseback.

Please welcome **Caressa Tolbert** and her gelding **Ringo**. Caressa is the beautiful, young strawberry blonde you might have noticed around the barn, and Ringo is the 12 yr. old Appendix now living in the back lot. All of this wet weather has resulted in some flooding and we have had visitors from next door. You may notice some familiar looking faces from Hunter’s Glen. Please welcome Barb Schmidt and Tonya Daniels who are visiting for a short time. Nice to have you join us!

Irish Run is having a very successful **show season**. We had several champions and oodles of “primary colors at the Stillwater Show in June. Congrats to **Christy** and **Caribou**, **Kelsey** and **Casey**, and **Ann** and **Lacey**, and **Rae** and **Flash**. **Kennen** and **Sky** were stars at the Mason City “A” show, bringing home the championship in the rusty stirrup division. **Josh**, **Mia**, **Aalyshah** and **Regan** all rode successfully as well. Congrats to all of our competitors! The next show is July 17-18 at Valley Park Stables – just up the road! It is sponsored by The Moingona Hunt and Rae is the show manager. We are sure to have a large IRF contingency so come support your fellow riders or volunteer to work! If you are interested in seeing some horse trials, Catalpa Corners (near Iowa City) will be hosting a sanctioned event July 31-Aug. 1. The Valley Park “B” show is coming up too; Aug.4-8. This is a great opportunity to compete on a higher level and see some great riding. Please let Rae know if you want to participate.

There are a lot of **projects** going on at Irish Run. I’m sure you all have noticed the **new concrete** in the back barn. Doesn’t it look great! We also have three new stalls and I now have an attic, courtesy of two angels from my church, Ron and Greg. Please introduce yourself if you see them and say “thank you!” They have repaired countless things at the barn. This week you will see an electrician wandering about updating electric in the front barn and adding wiring to the back barn. Josh and Mia have been working diligently to help me clean and organize the facility.

With all of the efforts to improve the barn, I am on a mission to eliminate clutter. We have some **big** projects yet to come, and hopefully some more storage room. However, at the moment, space is at a premium. If you have excess personal belongings at the barn, (i.e. more than one tack trunk, an extra saddle) would you be kind enough to take them home? I want to clear the aisles both for safety and appearance. Bags of hay cubes, treats and boxes should be stored elsewhere. If you need help finding a place please see me.

It has come to my attention that we need an **Irish Run Lost and Found**. Look for a container in the office labeled “*Lost and Found*” and deposit any homeless items in it.

August 1 is the **peak of the insect season in Iowa**. I will be deworming all of the horses on the property on Monday, August 2. The charge will be \$10 per horse. You are welcome to do your own horse if you prefer, but please let me know asap and schedule a time to do it. We will be using ivermectin. It is **important that all of the horses are dewormed at the same time**. Otherwise, please add \$10 to your August board check.

Some **thoughts about horse care in wet weather:**

All of the rain and humidity creates a breeding ground for fungal problems. **Scratches and rain rot** are prominent this year. Try giving your horse an **iodine bath** – there are plenty of small bottles of iodine in the wash stall. Feel free to use them.

The humidity creates moldy tack in record speed. Clean your tack regularly.

Horses get soft soles on in their hooves when they stand on moist turf for extended periods of time. Be on the alert for thrush and any lameness issues.

We have a bumper crop of mosquitos this year! They are uncomfortable for human and horse alike! Try using a fly sheet, fly mask, and fly spray if your horse is uncomfortable or covered with bite marks.

Just a few reminders about **safety:**

Always wear a **helmet** and **proper footwear**.

Do not leave your horse unattended at any time!

Don't walk through standing water of unknown depth.

No jumping without IRF staff present.

Please be courteous to your fellow riders; try to be aware of position in the ring, don't "ride up" behind them or cut them off, alert people and horses of your presence with your voice.

If a horse is being treated medically by a vet or owner, don't try to walk your horse past them in the cross ties. It really doesn't take very long to walk out the other door.

Finally, a few **IRF policies** to keep in mind:

24 hour notification of lesson cancellations or you will be charged.

Board not paid by the **5th of the month** will incur a **\$25 late fee**.

Please put your personal belongings and lesson supplies away after each use.

Thank you to all for making Irish Run such a wonderful place to be. You are making my dream a reality and I am very appreciative!

Virginia