

IRISH RUN FARMS AUGUST NEWS

“August showers bring September flowers....” That doesn’t sound quite right but as I gaze out my window I wonder if I should be building an ark instead of a new indoor arena! Fortunately the horses are all happily munching hay and don’t seem to mind Mother Nature’s soothing raindrops. It seems they have been coping with the elements for millennia. Here is the news from Irish Run...

A hearty **welcome to Mary Wickman** and her thoroughbred gelding **Tucker**. Mary is a very capable rider, a lovely person and by the way, an assistant district attorney in Des Moines. Tucker is the beautiful, sweet-tempered, 16 + hand bay gelding now residing next to Ellie. We are thrilled to have them join our happy barn family. Welcome Mary and Tucker!

Sadly, we say *arrivederci* to **Heather and Sam**, who have moved to Middle River Ranch in Patterson where Sam will have a little more room to stretch his long legs. We wish them the best and hope they will still visit on occasion.

There is a lot of **show news** to report. Irish Run riders made a big splash at the **Moingona “D” show** held at Valley Park Stables. In fact there were so many ribbons and champions that I don’t think I can remember them all! **Karen and Ellie** were stars and reserve champions. She was joined by a large group from IRF: **Sara and Grace, Ann and Mia with Lacey, Kelsey and Klaudia with Casey, Josh and Aalyshah with Will, Mila and Ducky, Anya with Jess, Christy and Caribou, Latta with Skippy, Sara** and yours truly with **Pride**. Lots of “primary colors” were had by all! It was a big weekend and we are all very grateful to Rae and Alison for their expert instruction and for the miraculous organization skills of Rae as the show manager. Thank you ladies!!!

There are several upcoming shows to report. The **Stillwater Stables “D” Show** will be **Aug. 21-22**, the **Prairie Moon “D” Show** (held at Valley Park) will be **Sept. 4-5**. Upcoming “A” circuit shows include **Mason City** the week of **Sept. 15-19**, and the **Madison County Fall Challenge** at Maffitt Lake Equestrian Center **Sept. 29 – Oct. 3**. Please let Rae know if you would like to participate!

You may have noticed a few **barn projects** currently in progress at Irish Run (Okay, well maybe a dozen or so). It has been an ambitious summer for me, but things are really starting to take shape at IRF. If you haven’t poked your head into the **back barn** lately you may be in for a shocker. Actually, give me another few days and it will be complete save for a few new stall grills – I still need to learn to weld! The back barn now has new concrete, 3 new stalls, new electric service, new feeders and buckets, freshly painted doors, new saddle and bridle racks, cross ties, white boards and a tack cleaning station (hint, hint schooling tack users). Soon to

come: a vending machine for drinks and the “Calason Lounge” for relaxing. Now I need to start on the front barn!

You may have noticed some **new fence** posts in and beside the paddocks. This week you will see some new faces that look like they are related to me. My entire family is coming to Irish Run to work! Yes, there is an important occasion this week (that is slipping my mind at present- must be old age ☺) and they have volunteered to work. So...you will see all of the old fencing replaced and hopefully some other improvements to the barn, including a drainage ditch in the south paddocks – yippee!

You may also have noticed edging around the garden beds, an attic in the back barn for storage, reinforcements in the shavings shed, a new mailbox at the entry and a general cleaning of the premises. I have been a busy beaver with the help of Pony Clubbers Josh and Mia and my Iowa “dads” Ron and Greg. Rumor has it we may be seeing some improvements to the indoor arena soon – more about that later...

It has definitely been a tough year for horse’s feet. With all of the rain and wet ground, we are seeing soft soles, short hoof walls and a record number of hoof abscesses. Be sure to be attentive to your horse’s feet and let me know if you see a potential problem. Better to be preventive!

I am issuing an ALL POINTS BULLETIN for the **Whisker Cutting Culprit**. Someone has been trimming the whiskers on all of our furry friends at the barn. Perhaps they don’t realize that cats and dogs need their whiskers to sense their surroundings and they should never be cut! Please help us stop the Whisker Cutting Culprit!

It has been a wonderful summer at the barn and I am feeling a great sense of accomplishment. Thank you to everyone for your help and kindness. To quote my father, “Irish Run isn’t just a stable – it’s a community!”

Hope to see you all soon,

Virginia