

IRISH RUN FARMS DECEMBER NEWS

December – can you believe it??? Well the wind is blustery and the temperatures are dropping rapidly so I fear Ol’ Man Winter is here. Try to find a moment to stop by the barn and say “hi” to your equine friends – bring an apple or two please...

We have some **new boarders to welcome**. **Ara May Hubbard** is finishing her studies this year in biochemistry and molecular biology at Drake. She has a minor in flute and piano (hmmm...another music/horse connection!). Ara May arrives with three horses in tow. **Leap of Faith** (a.k.a. “Faith” is a beautiful 9 yr. old gray “off the track” thoroughbred who Ara May rescued about a month ago. She seems destined for the hunter ring. **Le Choo Choo** (a.k.a. “Choo Choo”) is a 15 yr. old “off the track” bay thoroughbred mare who five months ago gave birth to the darling chestnut Trakhener filly **Legendenhaft Lagat** (a.k.a. “Legacy” or “Legs”) who is still at her side. Choo Choo “loves to jump” and Legs will tell us her preferences in a few years!

Hannah Kettler and her horses arrived with Ara May. Hannah is 13 years old (future Pony Clubber???) and has been riding for 4 years and owns a bay mare named **Tinkerbell** who she “likes to jump” and a young 1 ½ yr. dark bay mare named **Rumba** who she started at 6 months. Very impressive Hannah!

Katie Armstrong is 12 years old and a friend of Aalyshah Zaragoza (another future Pony Clubber???). Katie’s parents recently surprised her with the adorable gray Welsh/Arab/Paint mare pony named Greta who you may have seen in the back barn. Katie and Greta are still getting to know each other so we will be anxious to see how they are doing in the spring.

Welcome **Ara May**, **Hannah** and **Katie** and your beautiful mares! I was thinking this place was a little too gelding heavy. Take a moment to welcome our newest boarders if you see them in the aisle. Legacy and Rumba will be headed to the remote pasture for a lesson in “how to be a horse” at the end of the month, but we can enjoy them for a while!

Sadly, we say “Happy Trails” to **Caressa Tolbert** and her gelding **Ringo**, who have gone to enjoy the pasture on a friend’s property. Feel free to visit Caressa!

The **arena is still on track for a December 15 completion!** We have been very fortunate with the weather so far, but things can change in a hurry in Iowa this time of year. Keep your fingers crossed that the weather continues to be favorable. The siding should go on this week and the electric should be installed at the end of next week. Hang in there and thanks for your patience during this ordeal.

Just a **few reminders** during the winter months to close the doors and disconnect the hoses from the hydrants when they are not in use. It is difficult to heat a barn – but I try. Anything we can do to save propane is greatly appreciated.

Does anyone have an extra litter box they could donate to the barn cats? They seem to be spending a lot of time in the office (next to the heater) so we could use an extra one in there.

Please **check the temperatures** if you have a lesson scheduled. We will not be offering lessons when the temperature and/or wind chill dips below 20 degrees Fahrenheit- even after the arena is completed. It isn't healthy for the horses to be working in air that cold.

I have attached a **rate sheet for 2010**. There are not many changes, but please take note.

Alison is putting together a **2011 Irish Run Calendar** which will be ready by Christmas. We will be selling them for \$20, so put one on your Christmas list. Alison says her goal is to include “anyone who stepped foot on IRF property this past year.” If you have photos you would like her to include, please email them to her at alison_ventling@hotmail.com.

My wishes for the **happiest of holidays** to you all and thanks for making Irish Run the best barn in Iowa!

Virginia