

## IRISH RUN Farms JANUARY NEWS

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!** Brrrr... it is cold! Old Man Winter has come in like a lion, but we are all safe and snug at the barn. The horses don't mind the cold, but it is pretty hard on the humans! Hopefully the weather will warm up a bit so we can all work on our riding technique! Not much to report on the show scene, but we are planning a **clinic in late February** and our **Irish Run St. Paddy's Day Fun Show** will be **March 20**. Mark your calendars! If you want to go to any of the St. Louis Shows this winter or the Tulsa Classis (April 28 – May 2) with me, please let Rae know.

The **INHJA banquet is Jan. 23** at the Sheraton here in Des Moines and the **“D” series banquet is Feb. 6** at the Holiday Inn (tickets are available at Tanglewood). Congrats to all of our INHJA and “D” Series riders! If you haven't renewed your memberships for USEF, INHJA and USHJA now is the time to do so!

The **Irish Run Pony Club Riding Center** is official – spread the word! We will meet the first Saturday of the month unless there is a scheduling conflict. Our January meeting will be next Saturday **Jan 9 at 4 p.m.** Our guest speaker will be **Dr. Roy Kipper**. If you want to help with Pony Club please join us – we can always use adult volunteers.

Watch the website for **Irish Run Apparel**. I have been working to arrange for you to buy items directly through our website.

A few reminders about the barn in cold weather...

The furnace is on, so **please close the doors when you come and go** – it is difficult (and expensive) to heat the outdoors!

**Keep the office door closed at all times.**

**If you use a hose please remove it from the hydrant or wash stall spigot, drain the water and put it in the furnace room.** One of our hydrants cracked after a hose was left on – so let's keep the others intact!

Dress in layers when you come to ride – and lots of them!

Be careful exercising your horse when it is below 15 degrees Fahrenheit – a strenuous ride in frigid temperatures can be hard on a horse's lungs. The arena is usually 10 – 20 degrees warmer than the temperature outside, but please be careful. Also make sure your horse is dry and cooled down before you blanket and/or turn them out.

Finally, for all of you who are music lovers, **I will be singing my faculty recital at Simpson College on Friday Jan. 15 at 8 p.m.** in the Great Hall. It is free and you are all invited!

That's all for now...stay warm and I hope to see you soon!

Virginia