

Thoughts from Kelly

~ November 2009 Edition ~

Congress is behind us... blankets are on the horses... and the barn is full of screaming yearlings and two-year-olds. It's hard to believe but winter is just around the corner. Another show season is coming to a close and there is more than ever to be done... so much for a little down time!

This time of year I turn my focus to getting yearlings broke to ride and begin weeding out what 2-year-olds may make the cut for futurities next year. Martin's specialty is starting the yearlings. We start together with some ground work and lunging. Once they're ready to be turned loose, Martin concentrates on keeping them quiet and relaxed with short sessions of walking and trotting a couple times a day. Each yearling is handled uniquely, but most stay in the barn for about 30 days of riding, then are turned out to pasture to spend more time being a horse and growing up.

The two-year-olds are my favorite! It's time to focus on finishing their training and determining who is just a horse and who may be our next superstar. It's fun to see how different their personalities can be at this age. Some need quiet easy riding... almost babying them along; and others seem to get bored quickly so I pick up the pace and intensity with them. I suggest you determine what style of riding your horse responds to best. Once you're using a teaching method they respond to better, the process of finishing seems to be quick and effortless. Our motto is: Avoid wrecks at all cost! It takes a lot more time when you have to fix first and train second on horses started poorly than if you're just patient and take it slow to begin with.

We have a couple people to introduce. Joining the San Up Farm team is Rick Henry and Jessy Drysdale. Rick will be helping with all the farm upkeep and horse care. He has a love for animals and the crazy man even thinks he wants to learn about this Reining stuff! Jessie comes to us after graduating from the John Lyons Certified Trainer program. She's a talented hand and will add a huge value to help keep me caught up on riding, exercising and training as our program continues to grow.

Keep the emails coming and throw some advice for topics my way anytime! Don't forget... **SAY YOUR WHOA LOUD!**

~ Kelly D. Sapp