



PERCHERON

Nuus - News

Herewith the first newsletter for 2010.

Uit die Redakteur se pen

Die 2009/2010 teel seisoen is amper verby en ek hoop dat alle merries wat gedek kon word, reeds in vul is. Die vraag na kwaliteit Percherons is hoog en daarom moet dit elke lid en teler se mikpunt wees om die beste diere te teel wat hy/sy moontlik kan.

In hierdie nuusbrief vertel Prof Bruce Joubert meer oor sy werksaamhede by die Somgxada stoet. Die gebruik van die trekperd as werksperd in die huidige landbou ekonomie word nie na waarde geskat nie. Daar is egter 'n stadige terugkeer na die gebruik van hierdie diere as werksperde.

Die Percheron het weer skoonskip gemaak in die "Draught" klas by die 2010 Horse of the Year. (Die vraag om die Percheron weer by skoue te vertoon word meer en meer.)

Christine Watt deel 'n pragtige woordskepping met ons wat in 'n onlangse perde tydskrif gepubliseer is. Soos altyd is daar nuus van die telers af. Ten laaste herinner ek u aan die Algemene Jaarvergadering op 29 Mei 2010 te Wellington.



Hoop om u daar te sien.

Percheron Groete,
Jan Engelbrecht



Edition 1 /2010

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2. Skou uitslae

Die 2010 Horse of the Year se Trekperdklas was 'n groot sukses. Die klas was die 12de Februarie op die GHS gronde aangebied. Die beoordelaar was Mr Gregory Goss. Mr Fanie Rootman was baanbeampte. Inskrywings het bestaan uit Percherons, Clydesdales en Shires. 'n Positiewe punt is dat Shire-eienaars hul perde by Stamboek laat aanteken. Meer Shire eienaars wil aan die Trekklassie deelneem, 'n teken dat die Trekperd klas se gewildheid groei. Dankie aan die beoordelaar, baan-beampte, en elke lid wat hul Percherons en perde geskou het.

Dankie aan die toeskouers wat kom kyk het.

In-hand:

Jongperd onder 3

6de- Waterford Turbo

Reun Perde

Kampioen
Summerwind Diesel &
5de interras kampioen-
skap

4de Waterford Turbo

Merries

Kampioen-
Trek-Lekker
Lora & Reserve
Groot Kampioen
Trekperd

Hingste:

Kampioen- Sympa de
Bellevue & Groot Kam-
pioen Trekperd



Summerwind Diesel



Waterford Turbo



Summerwind Diesel



Trek-Lekker Lora



Sympa de Bellevue

Ry-klasse:

Skou-ryklas: Reserve
kampioen- Summerwind
Diesel, gery deur John
Smith

3. Office & Admin Kantoor sake

Die Algemene Jaarvergadering vind plaas op die **Alkmaar Wyn Landgoed, Bloulei weg, Wellington op 29 Mei 2010 om 12.00.**

GPS Koördinate:

S 33°39'633''

E 019°01'919''

Na die vergadering sal ons almal saam gesellig verkeer en saam eet. Wend asb. 'n spesiale poging aan om teenwoordig te wees. Indien u enige punte vir bespreking wil voorlê moet u dit asb. so spoedig moontlik aan die seketaresse deurgee. Nie later as 30 April 2010 nie.



4. Percheron Society Website

The Percheron Horsebreeders Society's website has been upgraded. Please have a look at some new photos.

The domain name is now permanent, go to **www.percheronsa.co.za**

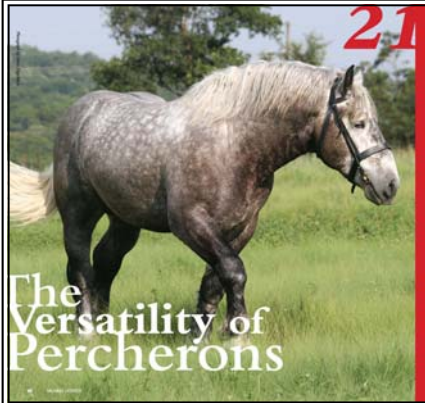


We are creating a "Gallery" menu. Please send us some of your Percheron pictures.
jengelbrecht@vodamail.co.za



5. The Versatility of Percherons

Read the full article in the February copy of TALKING HORSES



The Heavy Draft Horses are top of the list and the world they represent is of vital importance to us. They are our last link to a world that depended on horse power and not machines to feed people. Their survival is more important to our collective consciousness than we realise. When we loose them we are in danger of loosing our humanity and becoming machines like the ones we use. All of the heavy draft breeds are rare, and endangered. Many of the breeds are listed as critical and yet we make far more fuss over the wild Rhino than we do over these magnificent giant horses who

have served man kind selflessly for centuries. For their labour we have repaid them with the abattoir and massacred them wholesale after the tractor and trucks came out; a slaughter on a larger scale than the American Bison. The heavy draft horses definitely have a place in our world today. All over the world people are beginning to realise this and there is a massive resurgence of interest in all the heavy draft horse breeds; not just because of a nostalgia trip, but because practically they are wonderful animals. They are used for everything from general hacking to working your small farm.

Heavy Draft Horses have a reputation for having fabulous temperaments and the ones I know best are the ones we breed; the Percherons. When you get on a Percheron's back for the first time they smile, provided of course they have not been beaten and bullied into submission. They are the gentlest of giants and have huge consciences. They are the most rewarding of horses to work with because they are so willing and give so much.

The Percherons are amongst the prettiest of the heavy draft horse breeds; the French having introduced Arab blood into them to make their heads more delicate. Carriage driving is getting big around the world and the Percherons are brilliant for this. There is nothing more showy than a pair of massive, snowy, one ton Percherons pulling a carriage. They collect well and are surprisingly nimble for all their size.

Picture a village where time has stood still. The heavy draft horses are still pulling the beer carts and delivering the morning milk. Where, the local green grocer and the furniture store, have a couple of giants to pull their removal vans and delivery carts. And out in the fields, on the small farms, the horses are being used. Imagine if there were no motor cars in the streets of this village, only buggies and all manner of horses pulling them. What a delightful green village it would be. Just imagine how you would feel visiting this village. You would be transported back to a time when humans were kinder to the earth and the rhythm of life was slower and richer. For this, all the heavy draft horses in the world are worth our absolute reverence.

Christine Watt– TALKING HORSES MAGAZINE

6. Teler Fokus

Genootskapslede word hier aan die groter Percheron gemeenskap bekendgestel.

After a few years of misfortune the Somgxada Percheron



Somgxada Percherons

Stud is at last back on its feet and we are pleased to announce the arrival of a filly in 2008 and a colt and a filly in 2009. In 2006 we purchased a stallion from Peter Dommert at Underberg which we had high hopes of breeding some nice foals from. Fortune was not in our favour however and in 2007 we had five foals born prematurely which all died at birth or shortly thereafter. Our Veterinarian suggested that it might be 'Equine Herpes Virus' as there had been cases in the area, so we sent two of the foals to Onderstepoort for autopsy and had all the mares as well as the stallion tested. All the results came back negative. Despite this we gave the whole herd a complete set of inoculations for Equine Herpes Virus. The 2008 breeding programme proved similar to 2007 and we lost two more foal born premature. But one mare, Somikazi did produce a healthy full term foal. Again we suspected Equine Herpes Virus but an autopsy and further tests again proved negative. We were very puzzled, but there was one consideration which came into the debate and that was that Somikazi had

that year developed a severe ring worm which necessitated us keeping her away from the other horse, including the stallion Maloti



The two new foals 'Shaka' left 'Vuyakazi' right

three months prior to foaling. This set us to wondering whether Maloti might be the problem, as he had been observed on occasion that year trying to mount the mares when they were at an advanced stage of their pregnancy and we had learned that it is not uncommon for pregnant mares to give off scent which encourages the stallion to mount them with possible abortion or premature birthing results. In 2009 we took all the mares away from Maloti three months before they were due to foal. The result was two healthy foals, Shaka a colt and Vuyakazi a filly born to Sally and Tombi respectively. Somikazi again aborted her foal and we suspect that this was because she had been inadvertently mated much earlier the previous year and as a result was much further advanced than we thought and may have been mounted by Maloti before we put them apart. She aborted two weeks after we separated them. We are hoping that we have found the problem and our modus



Herd Stallion 'Maloti'

operandi next year will be to separate the horses at least three months before foaling is anticipated.

During the last two years we have lost three adult percherons two were euthanized due to old age (Teeth completely worn down) and one died of colic. The present Somgxada Stud is listed in the diagram below, the four mature horses are all registered and the three youngsters are eligible for registration once the inspectors from the Percheron Horse Society had had a chance to inspect them.

Herd make-up

- Maloti (S) sire: Tom Sawyer dam: Silver
- Sally (M) sire: Rex dam: Nancy
- Tombi (M) sire: Rex dam: Nancy
- Somikazi (M) sire: Magnum dam: Sally
- Thembakazi (M) sire: Maloti dam: Somikazi
- Shaka (C) sire: Maloti dam: Sally
- Vuyakazi (F) sire: Maloti dam: Tombi

A brief summary of our training programme is included in the diagram below. This programme has been started on all the three youngsters and it is hoped that the final introduction to harness and training at two and a half years of age will be a mere formality.

Training

- Halter training starts shortly after foaling
- Regular handling thereafter
- Training for work starts at 2,5 years
- Light work starts at 2.75 years
- Work starts at 3 years
- Heavy work only once they are fit
- Pregnant mares light work but rested 2 months prior to foaling

A brief summary of the farm work that the adult horse do is outlined in the diagram below. All the adult horses are trained including the stallion and all are used for work. At the present time two mares are lactating and are not being used while the stallion is used for odd jobs where possible. Somokazi is to be reunited with Maloti in the very near future.

Farm Work by Percherons

- Transport: 1,5 ton wagon + 2 horses
- Ploughing: 1 furrow plough + 2 horses
- Harrowing: 2 piece harrow + 2 horses
- Cultivating: 1x3 tine cultivator + 1 horse
- Potato Ridging: 1 ridger + 2 horses
- Potato lifting: Potato lifter + 2 horses
- Mowing: Cutter bar mower + 2 horses

The horses are grazed on the research farm, they are fed supplementary oat hay from the middle of July until late October when there is a short supply of grazing and when they are required for heavy work. Veterinary care is necessary and the horses are checked every day of the week including the weekends.

They are groomed before and after work and have their feet inspected daily and picked, filed and oiled as required. They are inoculated for horse sickness and tetanus each year and are dipped once every two weeks in summer and once a month in winter.



Horses in Wagon



Horses in 2-piece Harrow



Horses Ridging Potatoes

Horses Weeding Cabbages



Mowing with Horses

Conclusion

We find that these horse perform well, have adapted to our climate and willing in all forms of work to which they are put. We can only say they are a pleasure to work with.

It has been said that the 'Afrikaaner Ox' is the 'Mercedes Benz' of the draught animal world and if that be the case then the 'Percheron Horse' is without doubt the 'Rolls Royce' amongst draught animals.

Article by: Prof Bruce Joubert,
Manager: Animal Traction Centre

9. News from our Members

Trek-Lekker Stoet

Arthur en Amanda Cockroft het op 23 Januarie 2010 'n Trek-Lekker (Percheron) en Arabier veiling gehou. Die veiling het op Arthur se plaas Uitkyk plaasgevind en was 'n groot sukses. 4 Percherons is aangebied waarvan 2 hingste en 2 Reun perde. Die rekord prys van R50 000.00. is vir die 4 jaar oue hings, Jacob betaal, Mnr Henk Nel van Vrede is die trotse eienaar. Twee ander perde Tom en Vonk is teen R30 000. 00 elk, ook aan Mr Nel verkoop. Trek Lekker Ben Is verkoop vir R15500.00



Mnr Nel en Jacob



Vonk

Tom



Ben

Mafura Stoet

Mafura stoet het 4 Percherons aangekoop. Gemini Monty en Gemini Maurice is twee 2 jaar oue hingsies. Die 9 jaar oue merrie, Isabella is aangekoop en sal eersdaags ge-KI word. Oom Gerrie wil Klaas en Lietha geluk wens met die aankoop van Almarada Lettie.



Gemini Monty



Isabella

Summerwind Stoet

Die goeie nuus is dat Sympa de Bellevue se eerste vullens oppad is. Horse of the Year was 'n groot sukses vir dié stoet. Sympa het die toeskouers gaande gehad. Trek-Lekker Lora en Summerwind Diesel het beide puik presteer.



Sympa



Diesel

11. Contact details

Thank you for reading the Percheron News, and Congratulations to all the members whom contributed to this edition. For any information required, comments or news please forward it to the secretary or editor.

Next edition: **June/July 2010**

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