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## 2007 Review—ISU Horse Teaching Farm, Ames, Iowa

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## 2007 Review – ISU Horse Teaching Farm Ames, Iowa

### A.S. Leaflet R2370

Angela Chandler, superintendent

#### History

The need for a horse barn was established in 1868 by the Iowa State College trustees but construction did not begin until 1870. In 1900, the barn was razed and a new barn built which would serve as the Horse Barn. In 1923, construction began on two new barns and the Horse Farm was moved to what is now the corner of Pammel and Stange Roads. The center wing was constructed in 1926 completing a U-shape design with the two barns. A third barn was built in 1927 and used as a horse barn until 1957 when it was remodeled for use in basic ruminant nutrition research. This barn was reassigned to the Horse Farm in the 1990's though it still bears the name of Ruminant Nutrition Lab.

#### Mission

To provide the highest quality active learning environment that promotes life-long learning in both career and life skills for students dedicated to horses while serving the equine community through extension and outreach activities.

#### Facilities

Two barns and a central archway create a u-shape structure with a courtyard that has been fenced in to serve as a turnout paddock. The west wing consists of six large box stalls, 15 tie stalls, feed room, and student apartment. While it has been designated as the stallion barn, the tie stalls are used by students for various classes. The central archway contains an enclosed lab and equipment and bedding storage area. The lab houses a high-speed equine treadmill used for research and teaching and a set of stocks used for treatment and grooming.

The east wing is made up of 7 large box stalls, 4 over-sized stalls that open out to paddocks, a feed room and a student apartment. This barn has been named as the mare barn but is generally a multi-purpose barn.

The third barn has been redesigned as the breeding barn. Due to the remodeling by the Ruminant Nutrition Group the barn is now climate controlled and houses two large foaling stalls, three box stalls, a breeding area with stocks, a teasing wall and collection phantom, a semen processing lab, a classroom and an office. Beginning in the fall of 2005, renovation began on the three barns. The windows were replaced in all 3 barns and all wooden doors were replaced. All additional exterior wood was repaired and painted.

There are a total of 12 paddocks on the actual Horse Farm. Three of these paddocks are designated for stallion turnout, four of them are attached to the over-sized stalls of the mare barn providing shelter and the others are multi-use paddocks with the two larger paddocks containing shelters.

An arena and two round pens are used for classes and additional turnout.

#### Farm Area and Land Use

There are two small pastures on the north side of the railroad tracks. Both pastures have shelters and automatic waterers were added in 2005 to allow use of the pastures throughout the winter months. A 15-acre pasture on the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> Street and Haber Road has heated water and is used year round to house broodmares and research geldings. Three pastures totaling 20 acres at the old dairy farm site on Mortensen Road are used for grazing. Water must be hauled out due to lack of running water preventing use of the pastures during the winter.

#### Classes

ANS 101 Lab – farm visit that covers facilities, breed types and general uses of horses.

ANS 216 Equine Science – basic equine science designed to increase the student's knowledge of horses and the horse industry.

ANS 217 Horse Management Marketing Enterprise – intensified management of equine enterprises through facility management, web development for advertising and marketing and research of commercial facilities.

ANS 316 Training the Horse – course that discusses the principles of horse behavior and training with each student assigned a horse to train through biting, longeing, saddling and riding.

ANS 332 – Lab Methods in Reproduction – farm visit that includes setting up an a.v., collecting a stallion, processing and analyzing semen and inseminating a mare.

ANS 336 – Livestock Behavior – farm visit that covers basic equine behavior demonstrations.

ANS 415 Equine Systems Management – teaches management techniques including current topics of concern in the horse industry, nutritional and breeding management, business management, advertising and marketing.

ANS 417 Horse Management Breeding Enterprise – hands on experience in facility management, breeding management and student supervision.

#### Horse Teaching Herd

Approximately 50 head of horses either owned by the university or leased for teaching purposes are housed on the farm. The Horse Farm currently stands 2 Thoroughbred

stallions, 2 Paint stallions and 1 Quarter Horse stallion with 3 of those stallions being owned by the university. The broodmare band is comprised of approximately equal numbers of Thoroughbreds, Quarter horses and Paint mares. Between 12-16 foals are produced every year and are used for teaching purposes and then sold to the general public. Four canulated geldings are maintained for teaching and research needs.

#### **Extension**

At the beginning of the breeding season, a breeding management clinic open to the public is held in February that teaches mare and stallion physiology, hormone treatments, foaling problems, stallion collection and semen processing, and artificial insemination.

#### **Outreach Activities**

4-H Round Up

Numerous farm tours for area schools

Horse Barn Open House

#### **Other Activities**

Block and Bridle's Little North America

Veishea pony rides

specific breed and discipline needs to improve the quality of the herd.

Over the last few years, the university has received donations of several quality Quarter Horses, Paints and Thoroughbreds allowing the farm to expand its Paint and Thoroughbred breeding programs. Iowa State University's breeding program currently produces quality Quarter Horses and Paints for western pleasure, hunter under saddle and long line and quality Thoroughbreds for racing. Due to financial constraints, the farm is unable to show or race any offspring and must sell them all as young stock to private individuals for showing and racing. However, Iowa State receives recognition as the breeder.

In 2007, Iowa State had its first racing money earner, who went on to become Iowa State's first race winner. That was followed quickly by Iowa State's first stakes race winner. At the 2007 Iowa Thoroughbred Owner's and Breeder's Association Fall Mixed Sale, Iowa State had the second highest selling horse of the sale.



Bravo Cyclone, ridden by Alex Birzer, ran the 6 furlongs in a stakes-record time of 1 minute 10.99 seconds.



Bravo Cyclone pulled a 13-1 upset in the \$88,889 Iowa Stallion Futurity for thoroughbreds.

#### **Donations**

Almost all breeding stock are donated to the university by individuals in the industry. Horses are accepted for donation based on each horse's usefulness to the farm's