

Percheron News

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PERCHERON HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

IN THIS ISSUE:-

June 2012

Mondial World Percheron Congress

*"The Two Types of
Percheron"*

"A Visit to Le Perche"

"Percherons of Grand Prainville"

"Gatton Heavy Horse Field Days"

COVER PHOTO: "PROSPER" BY JEAN-LEO DUGAST

ARTWORK & LAYOUT: EDWARD DORMAN



PERCHERON NEWS



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
PERCHERON HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

Edition No.4 Four

Newsletter Date 01 June 2012

PHBAA COMMITTEE

President:

Charles Watson OAM
watchal@bordnet.com.au
Ph: 02 4992 3688

Vice President:

Gary Appleby
gary@rosehillestate.com.au
Ph: 07 5598 4557

Secretary:

Fiona Sheehy
fenris_04@hotmail.com
Ph: 07 3889 1710

Committee Members:

Dr Anna Cameron
verdmont@bigpond.com
Ph: 07 4163 0983

Peter Cahill

kumamotobeef@gmail.com
Ph: 07 54655109

Tom Higgins

dabchicks@bigpond.com
Ph: 08 9758 5590

Karen Foran

wkforan@bigpond.net.au
Ph: 02 6676 2437

Mrs Lindsay Newland

lindsay.newland@bigpond.com
Ph: 08 9767 1353

Mrs Elizabeth Tetlow

etetlow@samford.net

Registrar:

Mrs Elwyn Park
parkre@bordnet.com.au
Ph: 07 4627 6278

Webmaster:

Mrs Margaret Watson
watchal@bordnet.com.au
Ph: 02 4992 3688

CALENDAR DATES

Jondaryan Woolshed



THE AUSTRALIAN WORKING DRAUGHT HORSE EXPO

9th, 10th & 11 June 2012

www.jondaryanwoolshed.com.au



BRISBANE EKKA

9TH TO 18TH AUGUST 2012

SUBMISSIONS

If any of our readers have photos or articles which they would like to appear in the next newsletter, please contact Fiona Sheehy by the 31st August 2012.

Next Issue Deadline
31 August 2012

NEWSLETTER
fenris_04@hotmail.com



According to the stud-book of the breed, the Percheron horse in France are of two particular types : the "trait" and the "diligencier". The trait can be a small-sized draft measuring under 165cm or a large-sized draft measuring 165cm and over. The later being, a muscular type of Percheron with heavy bone. The heavier type draft is commonly used for pulling at a slow pace and, is best suited to working in forests logging timber or in agriculture. The diligencier type was introduced into the French stud book in the middle of the 1990's when American Percheron blood was introduced in France. The diligencier is generally taller and a much lighter type than the trait. This coach horse is mainly used for carriage and pleasure driving, and more recently for riding.

Every year at the local breed shows and at the National breed championships in September, the judges assess horses based on these two categories. Interestingly, some horses can shift from trait to diligencier and back, from one year to the next. The case of Seigneur des Hâtes, one of the leading stallions of the moment, is a good example. He was first approved as a diligencier, the following year as a trait and this year as a diligencier. The decision to declare a horse a trait or a diligencier is based on conformation and gait.

To understand the changes in the Percheron breed in the last 30 years in France, it is necessary to take a look at the period from 1950 to 1970. It was during this time, with the rise of motorized agriculture that almost led to the disappearance of the once

leading farm power, the Percheron horse. The Percheron, as the other French draft-breeds, managed to survive thanks to the only market left, the meat market. In those years, the Percherons spent their time in green pastures and were bred to maximise weight.

In the early 1980's some of the members of French Percheron Society (SHPF) decided that if the Percheron was to be saved, it would be necessary to get promote the breed. "Put your Percherons in harness and go for pleasure driving", was the motto. A few breeders did that. But the fatty Percherons, their head on knees, were hardly able to run. The process of getting a Percheron to perform leisure activities was progressing slowly, when the president of the SHPF took a bold decision and during a trip to the USA,

he had the opportunity to see American Percherons during their hitch shows. In the 50s, the American Percheron was in a terrible situation, with less than 100 registered foals produced per year. By around 1960, the Americans started to organize draft-horse shows in many states which saved the American Percheron. In order to make their hitch-classes more impressive, the Americans developed a taller and lighter Percheron. The idea of the president of the SHPF was then to cross American stallions and French mares in order to get a Percheron "in between", the two types. It has never been the intention of the SHPF to breed Percherons of the American type, as this

type of Percheron is not considered a true Percheron by many French breeders.

In 1992, the first American stallion, Silver Shadows Sheik arrived in France, imported by the SHPF. He was followed in 2002 by Story Creek Knight Cruiser and in 2010 by Hannah Hill Kemo Sabe. Three other American stallions were imported by private owners. Almost all of the so-called diligencier Percherons are Percherons with some degree of American blood. A purebred French Percheron can also be a diligencier or a trait as this is based on the conformation the horse.

In the last 15 years, a lot of new opportunities have arisen

for draft horses in France. More Percherons can be seen logging in the forests, ploughing in vineyards or collecting garbage and, watering flowers in the cities. Currently, the meat-market is in sharp decline with most French meat exported for consumption in Italy or Spain. The of breeding Percheron horses for the consumption is over in most parts of France, even if it is still not possible for all the Percherons to find jobs in cities and countryside and regain that vital role in a new sustainable society. However in a very short period of time, the Percheron has been able to regain a part of his past glory. Hopefully more is to come. **Jean-Léo Dugast**



Broodmares at Davy Gesbert's Farm—Trait Types



Photo: Jean-Léo Dugast

Above: Trait mare - Rieuse des Forges Below: Trait Stallion - Tirun d'Egée



Photo: Jean-Léo Dugast



Trait Stallion - Uribon de Crenon

Photo: Jean-Léo Dugast



Photo: Jean-Léo Dugast

Above: Diligencier Mare - Regina Bella Below: Diligencier Mare - Una des Prés



Photo: Jean-Léo Dugast



Photo: Jean-Léo Dugast

Above: Diligencier Stallion - Rivulus de la Vande Below: Diligencier Stallion - Seigneur des Hates



Photo: Jean-Léo Dugast



Photo: Jean-Léo Dugast

Above & Below: New uses for Percherons in the city and the country



Photo: Jean-Léo Dugast



Prosper working in the vineyard in Burgundy Province

Photo: Jean-Léo Dugast

Jean-Léo Dugast

PHOTO JOURNALIST

<http://percheron-international.blogspot.com>

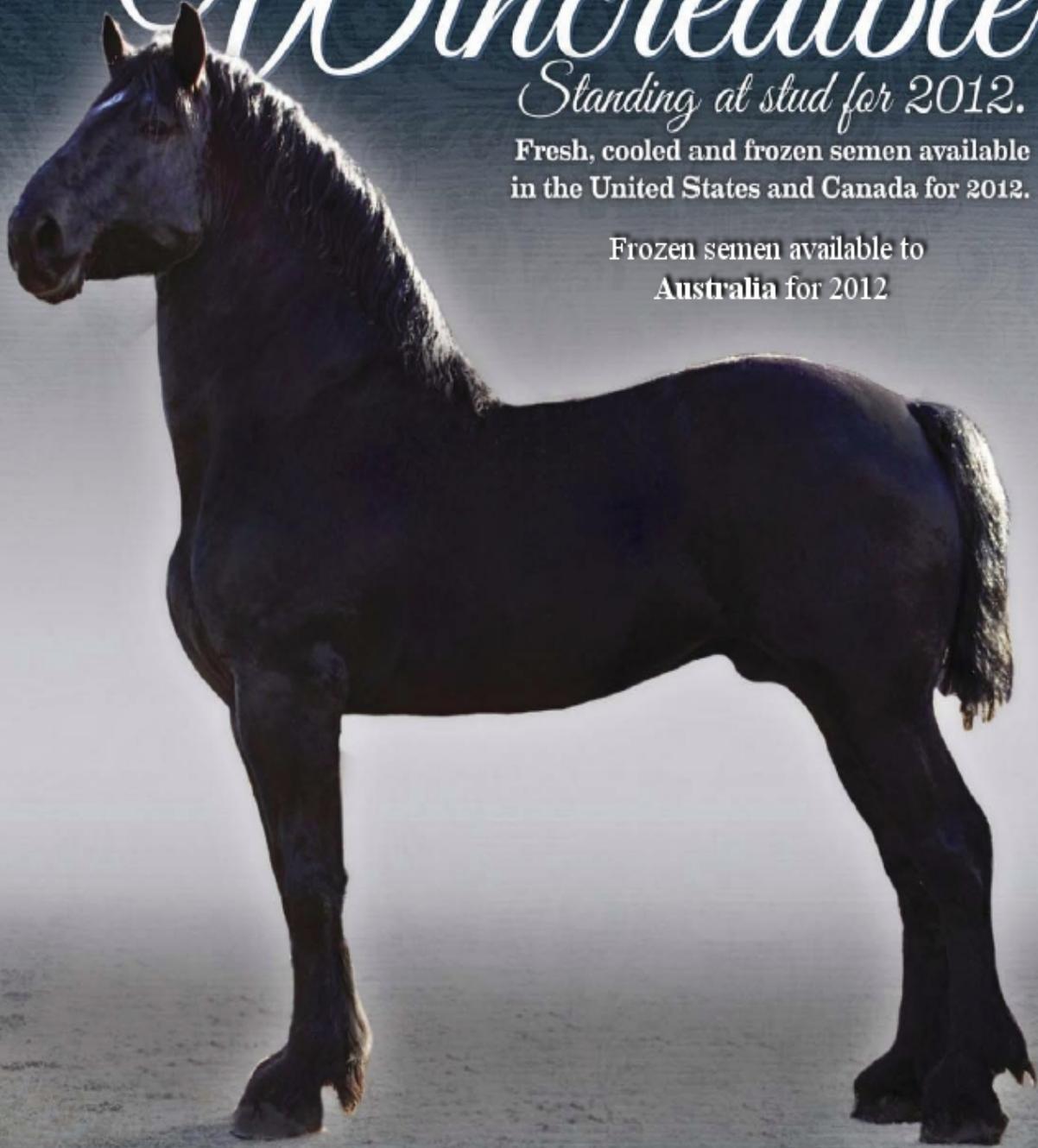
WINDEREMERE'S

Wincredible

Standing at stud for 2012.

Fresh, cooled and frozen semen available
in the United States and Canada for 2012.

Frozen semen available to
Australia for 2012



NORTH POINT FARM

287 Prospect Mountain Road • Litchfield, Connecticut 06759

Phone: 860.567.2474

www.northpointfarm.com



Fresh Horse Designs, Inc.



Receiving over 80 million foreign visitors each year, France wins the prize as the most visited country on the planet. Many come to experience the art, the cuisine and the culture. Some come for romance or inspiration; others for business (France's economy is the 6th largest in the world). Others still to retrace the steps their fathers made on Omaha or Utah Beach in Normandy, during that famous invasion on June 6, 1944. I recently retraced steps made by both my sire and dam in northern France, but it had nothing to do with WW II or those windswept beachheads, and their "invasion" took place 40 years ago, not 67. My parents and I were in search of the former province known as Le Perche, origin of the Percheron horse.

"Former" province, as it was divided during the French Revolution—into modern-day Orne, Eure, Eure-et-Loir and Sarthe. To be honest, I can't keep it all straight. All the name changing is just history, but then history is what brought us to the region. In 1971, my parents organized and led a tour to France, Belgium and England to visit the origins of four of our draft breeds. I, on the other hand, was part of a tour group to attend the 2011 World Percheron Congress, hosted by the Société Hippique Percheronne de France (SHPF) and held at Haras du Pin, the national stud. Which calls for a bit more history ...

Haras Du Pin ("Stud Farm of the Pine") - Of the 59 state (owned and run) stud farms in Europe, 20 are located in France. Their purpose, of course, is to improve and promote French horse breeding, and their means of doing so is by providing the public with access to top sires. Service to the "national stallions" is offered at discounted rates (from as little as €50 up to €165 [\$69 to \$230 U.S.], plus associated veterinary and technical fees). It is usually accomplished via artificial insemination, either on-site or shipped. Stallions may also, in some cases, be leased out to private breeders. The most famous and most spectacular stud, Haras du Pin, is one of only two whose buildings are also listed on the French National Monuments Register (the other, incidentally, is Compiègne). Besides ancient stables, Haras du Pin includes on its more than 2,471 acres an 18th Century château and is, understandably, a source of national pride. Shows, exhibitions and displays are presented there year-round. And, it served as the site of the 2011 World Percheron Congress (the 1989 & 2001 Congresses were held there as well). Haras du Pin's story begins with the establishment of the royal stud farm, Haras d'Exmes, created to both fulfill a desire and to meet the remount needs of the Army. Its best animals were set aside for reproduction. The rest were sent to the Great Stable at Versailles and for the King's use.

The stud farm's history was sordid and involved dispersing the stock and properties during the French Revolution, per order of the constitutive Assembly (January 20, 1790). After a period of uncertainty, the state-run stud institution and the associated stallion farms were reinstated by Imperial Decree on July 4, 1806, and much of the land was bought back two years later.

The Haras d'Exmes then became the Haras du Pin, named after its locality rather than the surrounding woods, and was promoted to the primary establishment of the area. To reinvigorate the stables, Norman mares and English Thoroughbreds, as well as the horses repatriated in January 1814 from Borculo Stud, situated on former Dutch land, commandeered by the Empire and annihilated by the Napoleonic campaigns, were brought in to replace the old or sick horses.

The Haras du Pin reacquired its stature and readily accepted the role it would play in the breeding of French horses for more than a century.

WWI changed everything; the cavalry fell by the wayside as warfare became mechanized and horse racing was temporarily suspended in 1915. In 1921, Le Pin shifted production towards draft horse breeds that had

proven their mettle on the front. The number of Percherons doubled in 20 years, reaching 123 head, while the crossbred population fell by one-third between 1923 and 1933.

More change was soon to follow. When German troops arrived in June 1940, management tried to evacuate the horses to the stud farm in Hennebont, some 240 miles to the southwest. The exodus proved disastrous with the accidental loss of some stallions, so the convoy turned back, only to find Le Pin already occupied by the general staff of the 10th German Army.

Today, the historic, 300-year-old Le Pin Stud Farm is home to over 200 horses including 40 national stallions of ten different breeds—primarily Percheron, Trotteur Français, Selle Français and English Thoroughbreds—made available to area breeders each year. Headquarters of the National Stud Farm Professional Training Center and home to an impressive collection of horse-drawn vehicles, Le Pin draws over 70,000 visitors annually.

Method of Judging - Besides being approved by a vet, stallions must "qualify" in order to be exhibited at the annual French National Breed Championships, which doubled as the World Congress this year. Qualification itself is a two-step process. First, all candidates must be presented at one of three (for stallions) local/regional competitions that usually take place in late July or early August, where they are evaluated by a panel of three judges

The judges evaluate each horse using a special grid divided into five categories: 1) head & neck; 2) topline; 3) limbs; 4) gait & sturdiness, and; 5) overall impression. Within each category, there are lists of qualities and defects that the judges may ad-

dress if they wish. Each category is scored out of ten, for a total of 50 possible points.

To achieve the right to attend the Nationals, a stallion must receive a minimum score, determined by the French Percheron Stud Book Commission ... which begs the question: What is the "Stud Book Commission?"

The Stud Book Commission is made up of seven representatives appointed (not elected) by the governing council of the SHPF (including the president), and two representatives appointed by the Director General of the National Stud, one of whom will be secretary of the Commission. Commission members serve for one year, however, their term is renewed automatically unless they choose to step down. The Commission meets whenever the president deems it necessary or when a majority of Commission members asks for a meeting. Four SHPF members plus one National Stud member constitutes a quorum.

That covers the who. Now for the what. Until recently, a "trait" or draft-type horse needed 27 points and a coach-type horse needed 28 to "qualify" for the Nationals. This year, those minimums were lowered to 26 and 27 respectively. That's the first part. The next step is to bring the horse to the Nationals for presentation before what is oftentimes the exact same judges. The score assigned the horse this time, however, determines whether or not he is "approved" as a breeding stallion and, hence, the only way his offspring can be registered. While this minimum score used to be the same as for the qualifier, it was raised to 28 and 29, respectively, for the Nationals this year.

Mares, too, have a minimum score they have to reach in order to show at the Nationals, how-

ever, there's no approval required for them in reference to registering their offspring. That all falls on the sire. Now, let's get down to the show itself. Geldings, foals and yearlings are not shown (at least not at the Nationals), so the conformation classes pertain only to stallions and mares. All are categorized into one of three types: a) the "Trait Petite Taille" are small-sized drafts, measuring under 165 cm (16.2-1/4 hh); b) the "Trait Grande Taille" are large-sized, measuring 165 cm and over, and; c) the "Diligencier" which refers to "light" horses, but the exact translation is "coach horses".

Interestingly, horses can and are "shifted" from 'Trait' to 'Diligencier' and back again from one year (or one competition) to the next," according to Virginia Kouyoumdjian, of the SHPF, and our translator.

Once the categorization is established, horses are then further sub-divided by age. For the stallions, that means 2-year-olds, 3-year-olds and 4 years and over. For the mares, there were classes for 2-year-olds, 3-year-olds, 4 & 5-year-olds with a foal at their side,

6-year-olds with a foal, mares 7 & 8 with a foal, mares 9 and over with a foal, light mares with foals and yield mares (all mares over the age of three, including yields, are required to be in foal). If you think this equates to a lot of classes, you are on to something.

The methods of showing are also quite different. Unlike in North America, where we tend to relish a lengthy show season and the opportunity to present our animals to different judges, the French breeders do not make a career out of exhibiting their stock. They bring horses in from

the pasture for the National Show, with very little fitting and shoeing done prior, then present them in their traditional manner.

The panel of three judges was stationed under an EZ Up tent and animals were brought before them one at a time. They begin by setting the horse up for a profile inspection. Sometimes the judges came out and walked around the horse; other times, they stayed in their tent. When the three of them were satisfied, they'd instruct the exhibitor to move the horse, whereby he'd walk straight away, then walk back. At that point, the judges would give the go-ahead to trot. For this, they follow a triangular pattern around barriers, returning once again to front and center where the judges would dismiss them and call for the next entry.

After the final entrant was evaluated, the entire class would be called back onto the perimeter of the ring, placed in order of highest to lowest points and the judges would take one last look. As you can imagine, it's very time-consuming. Broodmares are shown with their foals ... loose foals of around five or six months of age. This made for some interesting entertainment, at least for those of us from this side of the pond. Sometimes the foals would run into the handler; sometimes the whip person. And when all of the entrants were brought into the ring for final placing, foals were tearing around in all directions.

Certainly a significant part of the Congress, the conformation classes were but one of many events. There were driving competitions, prestige carriage hitches, obstacle courses, sport driving, races, dressage, vaulting, horse pulls, Roman-riding, drill teams, tilling and logging demonstrations.

Marketing is definitely a big part of this event, and not via an auction. Several stallions shown were sold at the show, including five going to the National Stud, at least one to Japan, one to South Africa, a few others going abroad, and another 15 to 20 were sold to local breeders.

In addition, show officials estimated that 55,000 visitors were at Haras du Pin throughout the three days of the Congress—a staggering number for a heavy horse event, yet a tad easier to swallow when you realize there's no admission, and once you experience the beauty of the area.

Farm Visits - Ecurie Biget, the farm owned by Patrice and Sylvie Biget, of Mesnil-Erreux, served as our introduction to French breeding farms. The Bigets have been breeding Percherons for 25 years and were the first in their country to infuse North American genetics into their breeding program. Their current herd consists of 22 head and Patrice says they target the breeding and show market. They bred both the Grand Champion Diligencier and the "International" Grand Champion Stallions at the Congress. Patrice also served as one of the judges, which he has been doing for many years, in addition to exhibiting their "English-type" team of mares.

Our second stop was to a farm known as Earl Gesbert, owned by Davy and Valerie Gesbert of St. Fulgent des Ormes. This young couple (Davy, 36 and Valerie, 31) has a dozen broodmares, raising around ten foals each spring. They recently lost their herd sire. Davy started about 15 years ago, initially with his parents. Gesberts' stock is 100% small-size French breeding. Davy believes that 25% of American blood is "just the right amount," with his ideal combination being a horse with American genetics

crossed on one of pure French breeding. One of Davy's goals is to resurrect the "old" lighter horses of pure French breeding. He remains adamant about maintaining the old lines.

Not unlike here in the U.S., some of Gesberts' stock sells as riding horses. The majority of their marketing is done via their web site and through past customers.

Our next visit was a horseless one, yet the place oozed with Percheron history. Four generations of the Aveline Family have occupied La Crochetière, all of them breeders of Percheron horses since 1817. You can even find a photo of the place in Alvin Sanders' and Wayne Dinsmore's *A History of the Percheron Horse*, published in 1917. The current resident is Monsieur Guy Aveline, who's pedigree is a veritable who's who of Percheron personalities. His great-uncle, Charles Aveline, was the founder of the French Percheron Society. And Guy's grandfather, Louis Aveline, was sent to the U.S. and Canada during WW I to buy horses for the military. Louis' 1915 stops included the Bar U and Namaka Ranches in Alberta, headed by George Lane, after which Louis stated that the Percherons being produced on these ranches were equal to any produced in France, and added that he did not believe that at the present time, it would be possible to select from any one establishment in France three stallions equal to the three stallions at these ranches in service. Guy, his wife and his sister were gracious and congenial hosts. Although there hasn't been a Percheron on the farm since around 1976 (when the grey stallion Farman was exported to Bill Lucas of High River, Alberta, Canada), it wasn't difficult to look out on the pastures and into the barns and imagine them full of horses.

Elevage du Grand Prainville, the farm owned by Sylvie Martz and Eric Albert, near St. Jean-Pierre-Fixte, was our next stop. The first attraction at this farm was the château built in 1496. Sylvie says their ecological approach to everything led them to the use of Percherons. She had contacted the SHPF in 1995 to learn about the breed. Today she stands a couple of stallions, breeds for the type of horse she wants, logs with horses and also breaks horses. A gelding in their care won the single horse pull at the **W o r l d C o n g r e s s**. Sylvie is an ardent proponent of infusing more North American genetics and appears to be happy with the direction she is taking her breeding program. "I don't know if I am on the right track, but I think I'm on the way," she concluded.

Elevage de Vanoise, owned by Guy Merel, Margon, was our last farm visit and involved the greatest number of stock. Guy has around 20 broodmares, raises 14 to 18 foals annually and owns 30 to 40 head at any one time. By a conscious decision to breed for lighter bone and black coloration, Guy had independently imported the Pleasant View King son, Donamerr's Titan, years ago, which has made a lasting impact on his breeding program. Though Titan is no longer alive, a 4-year-old son was present. Guy had actually sold the horse previously, but was boarding it for the new owner.

Guy's foals were consistently more modern and included a few blacks, which he finds a great demand for from German buyers. The subject of breeding for color was intriguing, in part because we North Americans have pursued blacks, while 90% of the Percherons in France today are grey. The remaining 10% are black-chestnuts and sorrels, however rare, cannot be registered. The overwhelming prolif-

eration of greys is evident in the coloration of the foals. Some that were at the Congress—just five or six months of age—were already white. Black horses are actually frowned upon by some breeders, as they consider grey to be the true French Percheron. Guy Merel is clearly not of that mindset.

In Good Taste - Unlike here in North America, demand for broke teams and/or geldings is quite meager in France. The primary demand is, and has been, for breeding horses. Of course, the supposition that most horses in France are bred for the meat market exists, yet we learned that both the number that go to slaughter, and the number of French that eat it is on the decline. "I think that younger people view the horse as a 'noble' animal rather than one bred for food," speculates Virginia Kouyoumdjian.

With this abatement in the meat market, demand from elsewhere will have to pick up the slack and Virginia believes that may be starting to happen. "Very few people both breed and use their horses," she explains. That may be changing. It also appears to be connected to the type of horse being bred. There are clearly proponents of several types of horses wherever horses exist, including here in North America. Yet, the Percheron remains the most exported French breed of horse.

When asked how French breeders look upon what we in North America do, and what we highlighted at our most recent Congress in Des Moines, she said, "There are people interested in how things happen in America. Two of the people who came along to Iowa last year are young men in their 20s, sons of major breeders, and I think they were really awed by some of the things they saw."

Conclusion - It was a fascinating and enlightening experience to visit the area where the Percheron horse was created. It was also satisfying to tread where my parents had tread for the same purpose. The Le Perche area is as proud of, and devoted and loyal to its heritage with Percheron horses as is Kentucky with its history of Thoroughbreds. And the Percheron breeders that we visited could not have been more pleasant, hospitable and accommodating.

Attending a World Congress so far from home, however, was the apex. I have been involved in past Congresses as an exhibitor, a vendor and as an organizer. I now add spectator to my rap sheet. From all of those contexts, what was most striking to me was the fact that this was truly an international affair, not just in name. Horses were brought from Britain, Ireland, Italy, Belgium and Germany to take part. Delegations from fifteen countries were present and involved, as was evident at the international conference that kicked it off. With Percherons resident on five continents, would I then label it a "worldwide community?" After witnessing the event in France firsthand ... absolutely.

History long ago elevated Le Perche to a place of prominence with breeders and admirers of the Percheron Horse. It not only remains as such today, but it certainly appears to have a future as one as well.

Grateful thanks to Virginia Kouyoumdjian for all of her help with both our tour and this editorial.

Lynn Telleen
Draft Horse Journal
www.drafthorsejournal.com

MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND THE 2014 WORLD PERCHERON CONGRESS!



Lynn Casadeo-Cadwell photos



America is, once again, hosting the greatest of Percheron events. Join other breed enthusiasts from around the globe for an action-packed week in the USA.

Competitions will include plowing and farm team classes, horse pulls, riding and youth classes, barrel racing and feed team races – not to mention enormous conformation classes, a foal futurity and colossal hitch classes.

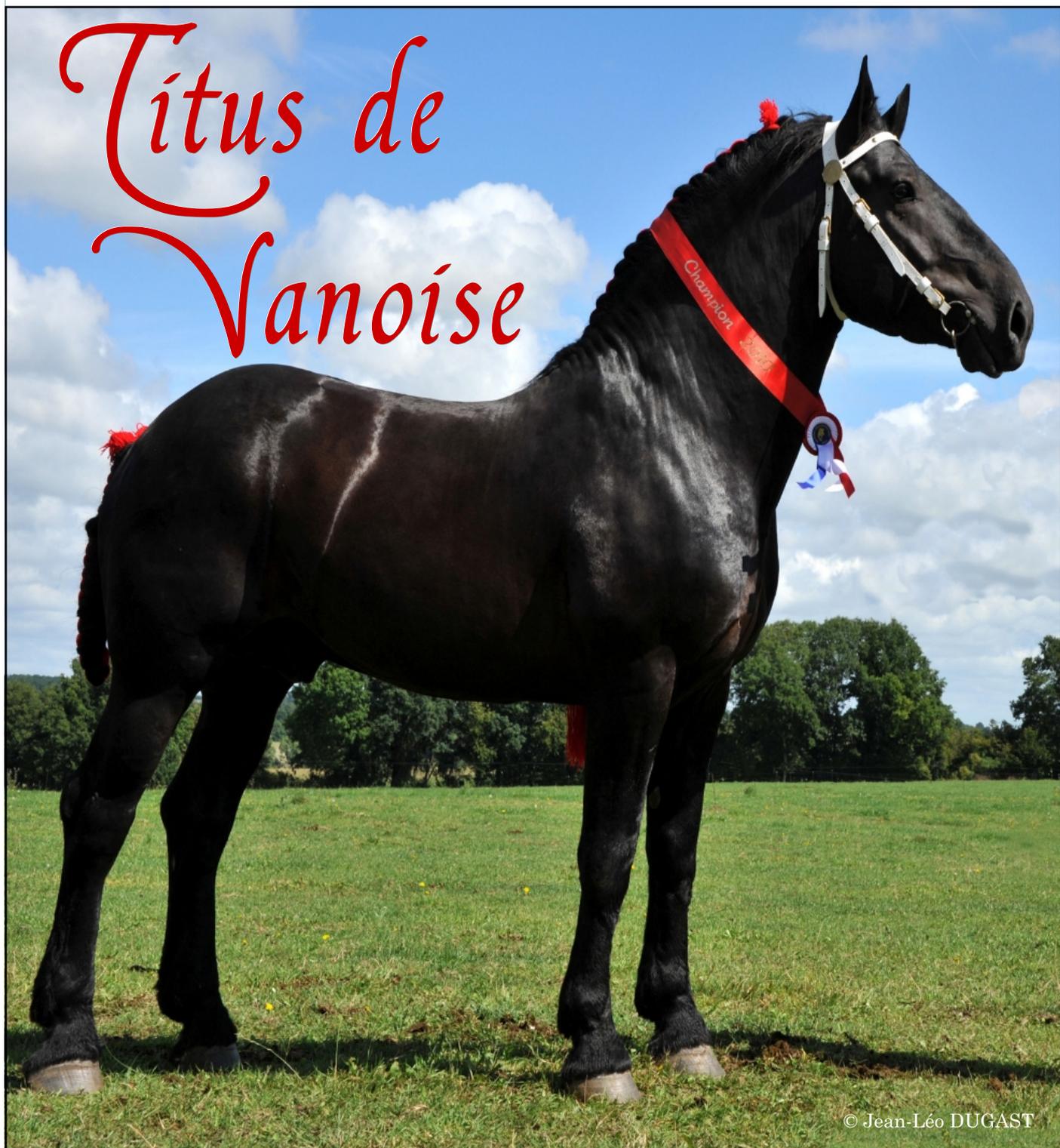
America's Northeast is stunningly beautiful and October will be the peak of its fall colors. Plan your holidays to experience one of America's greatest travel destinations, as well as taking in all that the World Percheron Congress has to offer.



Copeman photo

For more information about the Congress, local accommodations or how to sponsor a class, visit:

www.2014worldpercheroncongress.com



© Jean-Léo DUGAST

The

Societe Hippique Percheronne de France

are proud to present to Australian Breeders,

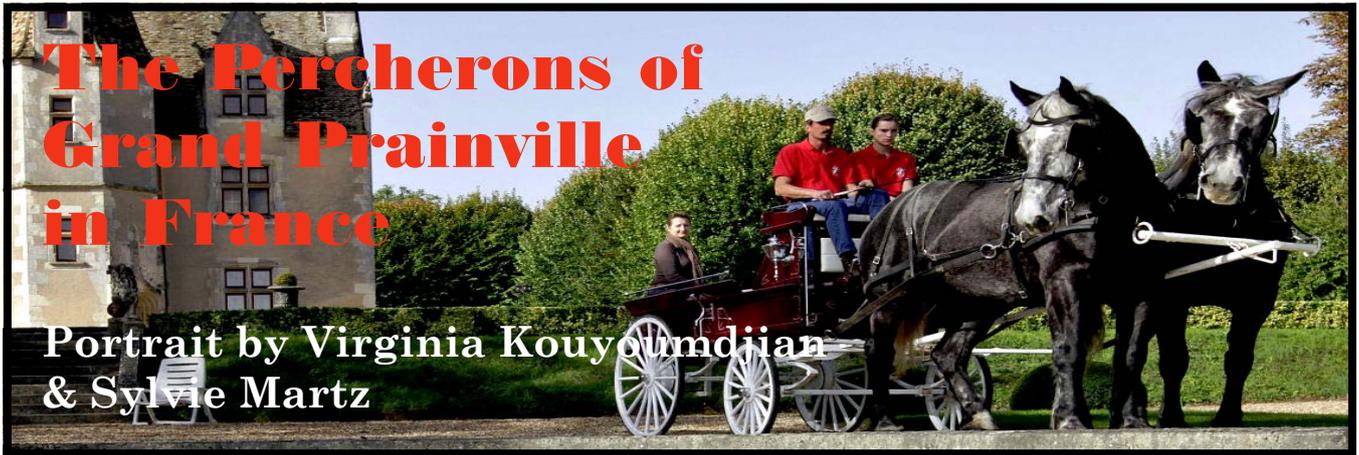
Titus de Vanoise

(Donamerr's Titan x Ixia)

This exquisite black stallion placed 1st in 2010 as a 3 year old and In 2011, he placed 1st at Salon de l'Agriculture in the light horse category.

For more information on Pricing & Import Costs, please contact the Secretary, Fiona Sheehy at fenris_04@hotmail.com





REDISCOVERING THE FULL POTENTIAL OF THE PERCHERON

The Grand Prainville horse farm is located in the Perche, in France, in the heart of the area that is the birthplace of the breed, near the town of Nogent le Rotrou. There are about 20 horses there on an ongoing basis.

In 1995, Sylvie Martz discovered the world of the Percheron and the unfulfilled potential of this breed. Seventeen years later, she and her husband who joined her on the estate in 2001, sell their horses and frozen semen all over France and the world. In order to make a living out of their passion, they have developed all the resources offered by both the Percheron and the estate of Grand Prainville: breeding, stud service, frozen semen sales, breaking and schooling of horses, logging, tourism etc...

Sylvie and her husband Eric made the choice to dedicate their lives to the Percheron horse, both because they are passionate about the breed, and also because they are convinced of the versatility of these horses and their potential, even in today's world.

Working with this breed starts with the awareness that one is the recipient of a legacy, especially when one is located right in the birthplace of the breed. So, it was never possible to let things simply happen. After studying the history of the Percheron horse, and seeing what was happening in France and elsewhere, they both came to the realization that the breeding of the Percheron in France was

heavily oriented towards the meat market and that all the wonderful characteristics of the breed that brought it such fame, were disappearing. This convinced them of the relevance of conducting a real process in breeding from stock that was rigorously selected both for conformation but also for aptitudes.

The goal: To produce once again Percherons built for work, whatever type of work that might be.

It was crucial to go back to a type of horse that matched both the origins of the breed standard and the needs of the modern world, starting with the principle that producing useful Percherons is the best way to conserve and promote the breed.

Because of their approach, Sylvie and Eric are regarded as "aliens" within the French Percheron landscape, but that does not matter to them because the Percheron is global and they wish to look beyond their front door.

After putting together a basic stock made up of rigorously selected horses, they started production along the lines of their goals, and gradually put all their horses to the test in all disciplines, so as to ensure that their chosen path was the right one.

All their horses are ridden, driven and used for traction.

They initially were led by instinct, but their knowledge base was strengthened through various training sessions, eventually allowing them to develop their own methods for schooling, dressage and work. Behaviorist methods are used with the goal of constructing horses who will be true partners in work or leisure.

They rigorously studied equine breeding techniques to learn how best to follow the growth of young horses so as to make them strong and durable. Even though their education starts at birth, young horses are never broken before the age of three so as to respect their physical and mental maturity. All horses are initially worked with natural horsemanship techniques, free at first, then using voice, before the introduction of artificial aids and equipment. Once trust is built, over a month at most, horses are trained and then all they need is building up of experience and reliability which will lead to good reactions whatever the circumstances.

The same goes for reproduction which was studied and followed through carefully so as to develop and use all available techniques. It became clear to them that if they made well thought-out choices based on knowledge of the breed, of genetics, of the sires used, as well as using modern techniques, there was no need to produce large numbers in order to have quality horses available, and that it is possible to tell what the results will be like in terms of conformation

and aptitudes. Over a period of 17 years, more than 100 horses have come through the Grand Prainville estate, staying anything from a few days to a few years. About thirty foals have been born there, some of whom have stayed to renew the breeding stock whilst keeping the selected genetics.

Sylvie and Eric's concern is to open up to the maximum the range of possibilities for their horses.

Breeding makes up the basis of their profession but the Percheron horse is an extraordinary work tool that can be used in multiple facets and, thanks to them, they have

been able to develop multiple activities: visits and carriage drives, weddings with carriages, logging in the woods, breaking and schooling of outside horses.. as well as the breeding services, of course.

2011 and 2012 have opened up new horizons for them as frozen semen from Tom de Prainville and Scipion de Prainville is now available for export.

Australian breeders were the first to have confidence in them. They are very proud of this and thank them. They believe that real reflection is needed to offer quality

genetics that will allow breeders from all over the world to maintain or renew all the wonderful characteristics that they expect from a Percheron. That is certainly what motivates them in their desire to share their experience and their genetic pool.

Info sheets for Tom de Prainville and Scipion de Prainville, the 2 stallions available in frozen semen

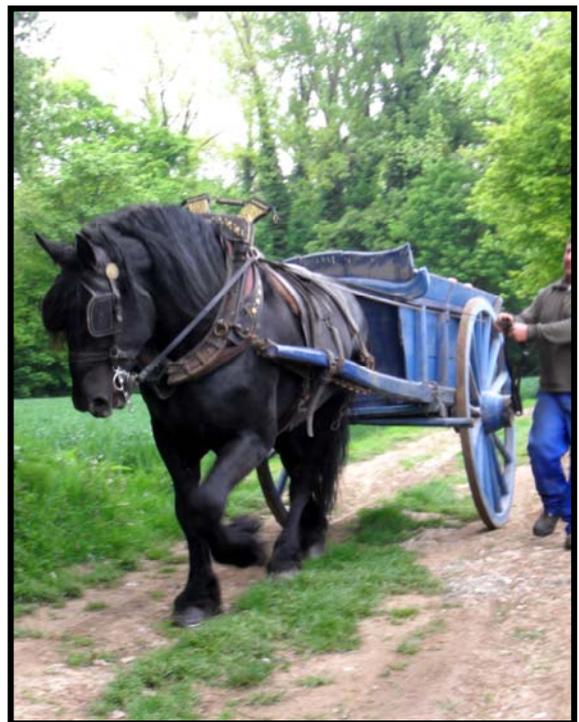
More informations on the website:

www.percherons.wordpress.com or
by mail: sagp@orange.fr



Top Left & Right - Tom de Prainville

Below & Right - Scipion de Prainville





Above - Sylvie's mares, Sissy and Sireine

Page 21— Above: Some of the Australian visitors to Mondial 2011

Below: Pill and Eric working Sissy and Sireine





SATURAY 5 MAY 2012

Best Presented Percheron - 1st Cobigan Stardom, 2nd High Noon Delta Star, 3rd Armley Gerry
4th Kamilaroi Harmony

Gelding under 3 years—No Entries

Gelding over 3 years - 1st Cobigan Stardom, 2nd Rosehill Park Jessie Bell
Champion - Cobigan Stardom Reserve Champion—Rosehill Park Jessie Bell
(Trophies donated by PHBAA)

Appendix Registered Male - 1st Anderlain's Manny

Appendix Registered Female - 1st Kamilaroi Harmony

Champion Anderlain's Manny, Reserve Champion Kamilaroi Harmony
(Trophies donated by E & K Quinn)

Stallion over 3 and under 4 years - 1st Kamilaroi Harrier

Stallion 4 years and over - 1st Armley Gerry

Champion - Armley Gerry, Reserve Champion - Kamilaroi Harrier
(Trophies donated by N. Burgess)

Mare over 3 and under 4 years - No Entries

Broodmare 4 years and over, in foal/foal at foot - No Entries

Dry Mare 4 years and over - 1st High Noon's Delta Star, 2nd Armley Hayley,
3rd Rosehill Park Bonnie Bell,

Champion - High Noon's Delta Star, Reserve Champion - Armley Hayley
(Trophies donated by N. Burgess)

Supreme Champion Percheron Exhibit - High Noon Delta Star

(Trophy donated by High Noon Heavy Horses & \$100 sponsorship PHBAA)

SUNDAY 6 MAY 2012

Colt under 1 year - 1st Rosehill Park Captain Star

Colt over 1 and under 2 years - No Entries

Colt under 2 and under 3 years - No Entries

Junior Champion - Rosehill Park Captain Star

(Trophies donated by G & S Appleby)

Filly under 1 year—No Entries

Filly over 1 and under 2 years - 1st Boonara View Alla, 2nd High Noon's Catalina

Filly over 2 and under 3 years - 1st Kamilaroi Integrity

Junior Champion - Boonara View Alla, Reserve Champion Filly - High Noon's Catalina

(Trophies donated by PHBAA)

Junior Supreme Percheron Exhibit - Boonara View Alla

(Trophy donated by Ballara Farm Percherons & \$100 worth of horse feed from Laidley Town & Country)



Photo: Julie Buttery

Above– Best Presented & Champion Percheron Gelding, Cobigan Stardom shown by Kirsty McKenna
Below - Supreme Percheron Exhibit, High Noon’s Delta Star shown by Wayne Barnett



Photo: Julie Buttery



Photo: Julie Buttery

Above– Champion Percheron Stallion, Armley Gerry shown by Anita Quinn

Below - Junior Supreme Percheron Exhibit, Boonara View Alla shown by Anita Quinn



Teresa McCoombes
Gatton 2012



Photo: Julie Buttery

Above– Turned out to perfection is Lasswade Silver Bow shown by Tenelle ter Rahe

Below - The line up for Heavy Horse under Saddle - Won by Kirsty McKenna and Cobigan Stardom





FOR SALE

PERCHERON COLT \$4500

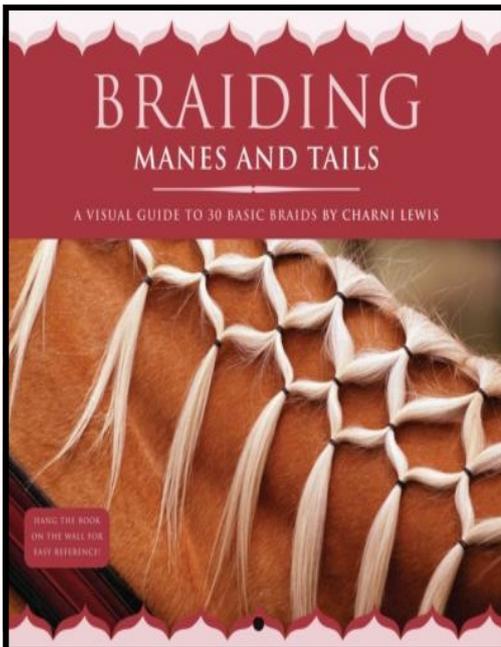
A fantastic front on a beautifully put-together frame, he would be expected to mature 16.2hh plus. Has a lot of wow-factor and is friendly and inquisitive. His sire Commander (by JP Commanders Starship) is a big black softie now living at High Noon Heavy Horses. His dam Cobigan Minette is by Trappeur imp Fr. He is for sale at weaning (May 2012) and will have had his feet trimmed and trained to tie-up, lead and load. He has all the qualities needed for a top-class performance horse himself and a fantastic combination of imported French and American genetics to enhance any breeding program.

Contact Helen 0418774074 or cobigan@bigpond.com

Ph (02) 6562 8521 NSW



THE BOOK NOOK

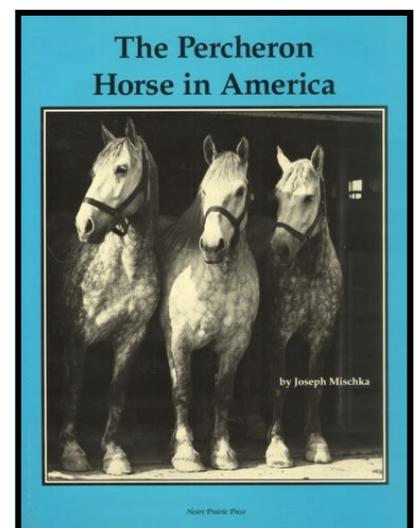


Next to riding, there's nothing horse people love more than to pamper and groom their horses. Particularly satisfying among grooming tasks, braiding manes and tails is a calming, centring routine, enjoyed equally by horse and rider. And, of course, handsome braids are a requirement for showing in many riding disciplines. Horse trainer and instructor Charni Lewis brings the wonderful process of braiding to life in her clearly described, step-by-step guide to 30 beautiful braids. Helping the braider along are full-colour photographs and detailed illustrations showing twists and turns that make each style unique and the hand positions necessary to hold those ropes of equine hair in place. To keep hands free for braiding, the book has a nail hole at the top of each page for easy hanging on a post or barn wall. Lewis begins with detailed advice on choosing and using appropriate tools, preparing the horse, and creating a safe area in which to work. After a chapter on no-nonsense maintenance braids (used primarily to keep the horse neat and clean), she progresses through all the classic braids required for each riding discipline - from a Diamond dressage braid to the Three-rib- bon style favoured for gaited show horses. Finally, Lewis lets loose with braids that are simply fun to do. She encourages readers to experiment with a Scalloped Hunter mane braid or a Four- strand Weave for the tail. They look gorgeous, and when the novelty wears off, there are many more to try! Learn how to do a draft horse's mane roll & forelock. Available at all leading bookstores and EBAY.

The Percheron Horse in America by Joseph Mischka starts with a brief history of the origin of the breed, and the controversy that still surrounds that origin. It then traces the growth of the breed in America, and of the history of the American Percheron Association, from the mid 19th Century to the close of the 20th Century. The many colourful personalities who were involved in this fascinating story come to life again in both the text and in the 100 vintage photographs which depict those days. There was a period of time in our history, within the memory of many still living today, when horsepower came only from horses. It was then that the Percheron breed that was dominant—the breed of choice. It was during those years (1900—1940) that the Percheron Horse provided the power to build and feed America!

The Percheron Horse in America is a thoughtful, intelligent documentation of the importance which the Percheron horse has in the history of America.

Available at all leading bookstores and EBAY.



For Sale / Wanted

Horse wanted for pleasure riding. Gelding over 15hh, 6-10yrs old. Colour/breed not important but would prefer something with a bit of bone. **MUST** be **QUIET** to catch/float/truck/saddle. Excellent home on cattle station guaranteed - will never be sold. Location: Marla.S.A Please email pictures and details. Contact: Gillian Fennell Ph: 08867010071 Email: gillianfennell@activ8.net.au

Percheron Broodmares - 12 year old grey purebred mare 17hh \$3500, 11 year old grey 15/16 mare, 16.2hh \$2500 and weanling purebred colt \$3000 (very quiet & well handled). More details at www.ballarafarm.com.au Contact: Edward Dorman on (07) 4666 2226 Email: info@ballarafarm.com.au

Wanted - Looking for Percheron x gelding over 15.2 for forest rides and jumping. Kind loving experienced home provided. He will have company on our property in SA. Wendy Abraham on 0401 710 419 or Email: wendy.abraham@nec.com.au

Wanted - Quiet Percheron broken to saddle for beginner Contact: Kerri Brennan Phone: 0458000734

PHBAA MERCHANDISE

A fantastic new range of printed T-shirts, Caps and PHBAA Metal Badges and Stickers will be available soon!

Support the PHBAA and buy one today!

Please keep an eye out on the PHBAA website for more details on our new range of merchandise.

www.percheron.com.au



PERCHERON HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.PERCHERON.COM.AU**



The Draft Horse Journal

www.drafthorsejournal.com



If its worth owning and feeding, its worth insuring. Protect your valuable asset.

www.e-quine.com.au



KAMILAROI PERCHERONS

Producing Traditional French Type & Temperament

Mrs Elwyn Park

(07) 4627 6278

www.kamilaroi.com



ISO Microchip Scanners

Approved for use Australia Wide
High Quality ISO FDXB Microchips

Call 1300 922 864

www.ozmicrochips.com.au



Equine Breeding Centre

www.equivetaustralia.com

Specialising in AI - Frozen & Chilled Semen
142 Jimna Springs Road
Southbrook, Queensland, Australia
Tel: (07) 46910322

**GOT A BUSINESS OR TRADE
ADVERTISE HERE FOR FREE**