



Whickers, Whinnies, Nickers and Neighs

Vol. 1 Issue 5 *The Fresh Start Horse Rescue News* Jan-Feb. 2007

Whickers to go bimonthly

This newsletter went on unintended hiatus after Christmas. Amid holiday chaos, birthdays and other writing deadlines I finally came to the realization that trying to churn one of these out every month just isn't realistic. So, barring sudden inspiration or need, we're going bimonthly.



Kid

We have a newcomer to the rescue, a very special Quarter Horse named Kid. He's 22 years old, and we were told his companion had starved along with some cattle and that if we didn't take Kid his fate would be undesirable. We put him in with Diamond (a pregnant Quarter Horse) and they get along great.

NAIS panel discussion held

If you own livestock and haven't heard of the National Animal Identification System you might be living under a rug.

NAIS is the USDA's plan to allow the government to track all movements and mingling of livestock, ostensibly for the purpose

of preventing and tracking disease. If you own horses, cattle, goats, poultry, sheep, swine, alpacas, llamas, bison, deer, elk or anything else the program decides to add, the system will apply to you.

Under the plan, ID numbers will be assigned to your premises and to your animals which will have to be tagged at an estimated cost to you, the farmer, of \$2 to \$35 per head. Big commercial producers will be able to use one ID for thousands of animals, while the small farmer/rancher will have to have a different number for every animal. If you own one horse you must comply, same as a big cattle corporation.

Changes of ownership, trips to the fair, trail rides, horse shows, parades, riding on public roads and myriad other events must be reported within 24 hours. This program is not really about our food supply. The fact that horses fall under its canopy makes that obvious.

The kicker is that although the program is "currently voluntary at the federal level," in the state of Colorado 4-H kids may not exhibit their animals at the state fair unless their parents register their premises. Thus already children are being used to force compliance.

Concerned citizens packed the Calvin Denton Room at Empire Electric Thursday evening, Feb. 8, for a panel discussion about NAIS. The panel included representatives from the Livestock Auction, veterinarians, livestock producers and a small farmer in a lively and open question-and-answer format.

John Grady, Colorado Department of Agriculture veterinarian, explained the purpose of the NAIS, which he said is to use available technology to the best effect in following the movement of livestock and stopping the spread of disease. It's a shift from owner tracking to premises tracking. "Cattle have wheels," he said. "Disease travels at 55 mph."

Two major concerns expressed by the audience and some other panel members were the devastating cost to the small farmer/rancher in

fees and ID devices-chips, tags, etc., and the efficiency of the technology, which several agreed, is not ready. Audience members suggested that less than 100 percent tag readability makes the program worthless because missed animals could theoretically be diseased ones.

Horses will not receive ear tags. They will receive injected micro-chips. The alternatives for the horse owner are either to pay the vet to install them or to buy the expensive device and do it themselves, which will require expertise.



Cassie, a BLM mustang

Who will pay to ID these animals?

The federal government already spends \$50 million per year on NAIS. It is supplying the states with funding to implement the program, though the stakeholders will foot most of the bill. What will the total cost be?

Judd Sukla of the Cortez Livestock Auction summed it up. "No one can say what the cost will be."

The overall feeling of the panel and the audience seemed to be that there are better and less intrusive alternatives for tracking disease, such as brand laws, already in place.

For more information on NAIS, visit www.NoNais.org. The NAIS User Guide is also available online. For action and outreach at the local level, contact Montelores Free Farmers at monteloresfree@yahoo.com.

The most important thing to do, according to Zea Beaver, local farmer and editor of *The*

Valley Voice, is to write/call/visit state elected officials because it is the individual states that will implement (or not) the program.

Winter safety tip

If you are riding on a county road in winter, and the road is snowpack or partly melting, and the fields to either side of you are white and dotted with cows, it's wise to wear bright colors, especially if you're riding gray horses. It is easy for a driver not to notice you until it's too late to slow down without sliding.

Beware of drunk drivers

Watch out, drunks are everywhere. It's not just behind the wheel that vigilance is needed.

On Sunday, Jan. 28, 2007, a nine-year-old girl on horseback was almost killed by a drunk driver on Montezuma County Road 23. She was riding northbound on the shoulder with her father on another horse when a pickup truck barreled toward them at a high rate of speed. The truck drifted across the road from the opposite lane and showed no sign of slowing down. The child's father steered his horse off onto the grass shoulder, but the child could not react fast enough. Her horse leaped into the grass just in time, saving itself and her from serious injury or death. The truck whizzed on past without slowing down.

Shortly thereafter, the riders had turned onto County Road U when the truck sped around the corner behind them. It careened along the road and bore down upon the riders for the second time in ten minutes. The driver tossed a beer can out the window.

As the truck approached, the riders steered their horses off into the shoulder again. The driver attempted a clumsy skidding stop, and hit one of their dogs. He got out of his truck this time to see if he had killed or injured anyone, and was so drunk he had to hang onto his truck to keep from falling. When he saw the child's father calling the sheriff, he got back in his truck and fled, nudging the father's horse with his truck before speeding away.

The child's father, on horseback, followed the driver down the road to see where he was going. He turned in to a driveway, drove up to a house, got out of the truck and fell flat on his face.

He was not arrested. Though he came within inches of hitting the horseback rider, the deputy said he could do nothing because the man had locked himself in the house and would not answer the door.

The driver was Bryce Williford. The riders were Erin Ryan and her dad, Daniel Ryan. The hero was Kid. The dog was not hurt.

Since that day, a warrant has been issued for Williford's arrest on the charge of reckless driving. He was driving on a suspended license and without insurance, according to the Montezuma County Sheriff's department.

The moral of this story is that you can go out on the county road half a mile from home and be in as much danger as if you were on the highway.

Rescue News

It looks like permanent homes might be on the horizon for a few of our favorite horses. Adopters will sign a statement of commitment to provide appropriate care, food, shelter and respect for their horse, and will receive a Certificate of Adoption. In December we welcomed two new BLM mustangs to our mustang herd: Cassie, a tall, leggy red roan who

is almost halter-broke and trailers well; and Pinto, who's, well, a pinto. They were adopted in Cortez from the BLM roundup in 2005. These two adoptable girls are still wild--but certainly not scared. Scout, a gentle BLM mustang who came to us in November with a severe case of founder, has had another trim and is doing better.

Beat the winter blahs, sponsor a horse!

For a small monthly fee, you can partner up with a horse of your choosing for as long as you like if the horse is unadoptable, and if up for adoption, until the horse is adopted. For far less than the cost of buying a horse property and rearranging your life, you will help support/rescue a horse and have as much of a hands-on relationship with it as you want.

Volunteers, Donors, Thank you!

Through donating time, feed, finances and moral support you have helped keep us alive!

Richard Selah Dale & Peggy Wilson
Frederick Schaak Kevin Dawson

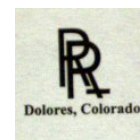
Dec. word Search solution

<i>Mane, dock</i>	Q N B K C O L T E F M T P T
<i>Withers</i>	T B I S F O R E L O C K K O
<i>Bars of jaw</i>	G U A B H A S C P L D C A O
<i>pastern</i>	A Q N R C K T F A T O Z R H
<i>forelock</i>	E O T T R P K P H E C H I N
<i>hoof, chin</i>	N C O G S E A C O I K E E N
<i>hock, poll</i>	A M G S A E L L O R V L S R
<i>shoulder</i>	M O H O E I H H F H O F T E
<i>coronet</i>	T E N O R O C C A P N I O T
<i>fetlock</i>	B A R S O F J A W C A T L S
<i>frog, barrel</i>	M A V R E D L U O H S S S A
<i>stifle, chestnut</i>	W I T H E R S O W Y L L O P

Whickers, Whinnies, Nickers and Neighs is a bimonthly publication of Fresh Start Horse Rescue. All articles/photos are copyright Amanda Turek Ryan and/or FSHR unless otherwise specified.



back



breast

Prices Reduced! T-shirts available for a \$20 donation. Shirts are natural with black or brown printing. Sizes S, M, L

We also have hoof picks, coat and hat-hooks, and a variety of other items handmade from horseshoes by Dale Wilson.

Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

T-shirt @ \$20 ea.....\$ _____

Size _____ Qty _____ Color _____

CD @ \$15 ea.....\$ _____

Tape @ \$10 ea.....\$ _____

Total order.....\$ _____

Make check payable to Fresh Start Horse Rescue, 17390 CR 23, Dolores CO 81323. Allow up to six weeks for delivery.

Horsie of the Month(s):



Sundance... *a pint-sized auction rescue, very gentle, halter broke. Cuddly as a stuffed animal.*

Fresh Start Horse Rescue incorporated as a Colorado nonprofit on September 19, 2006. We are located on 40 acres of pasture and piñon-juniper forest near Dolores, CO. We're filing to

become a 501(c)(3). **Our mission** is to provide a fresh start for horses (all breeds) that are abused, neglected, unwanted or potentially slaughter-bound, by rescue, care/rehab, and placement in loving homes where they will have a future; or, if unadoptable, by providing them with a permanent home ourselves. FSHR will not accept any horse on the premises without a prior brand inspection. FSHR reserves the right to refuse to adopt out to anyone for any reason.

Horses make the best pets! Schedule a time to come see Sundance or any others available for adoption or sponsorship by calling Daniel Ryan at 970-394-4120 or 970-882-7522. For more information about Fresh Start, our horses, adoption and sponsorship, visit our Web site, www.happyryan.com/freshstart, or contact us directly. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our equine friends.

FRESH START HORSE RESCUE
17390 CR 23
DOLORES, CO 81323

