Ag Day is an annual tradition at CSU where the university celebrates its agricultural roots. This year the College of Ag expanded Ag Day into an entire Ag Week dedicated to promoting better agricultural awareness and education. The week’s activities included various Ag organizations setting up educational booths on the plaza, a picnic on the Monfort Quad to celebrate CSU’s Aggie heritage, a career fair, and an AgInnovation summit discussing the future of Colorado agriculture.

The actual Ag Day took place on Saturday, Sept. 22, and the Equine Science Stewards along with Stewards of Animal Science set up a booth at the Ag Day barbecue before the football game versus Illinois State. The Stewards at the booth talked with people about CSU’s Animal Sciences department in addition to the Equine Sciences program. Participation was fantastic, and a large amount of prospective students stopped by to chat with Stewards about majors, clubs, and activities in the College of Agriculture. Ag Day is a wonderful day for all students and alumni to come together to celebrate Colorado’s agricultural community and to get back to our Aggie roots.
Equine competition is a diverse realm with countless events in which people participate. One such event is jousting. Jousting consists of several different events such as mounted games, light armor, and heavy armor. The games consist of horse and rider going through an obstacle course that is judged by a point system and time. The light armor events are where two riders charge towards one another and attempt to hit the other person’s targets with their lances. Heavy armor events are like the light armor events but instead of simply trying to hit the other person’s target, the goal is to knock the other rider from their horse. Each of these events are full of high speeds and lots of adrenaline which makes jousting a very exciting event.

As a fundraiser for the CSU Equine Science Stewards, the Stewards worked the jousting events at the Longs Peak Scottish Irish Highland Festival, hosted in Estes Park, Colorado. The festival has a history of more than three decades of celebration of Scottish and Irish heritage. The festival is jam-packed with traditional dress, food, activities and games. Some of the popular highlights from the festival
weekend are the parade through downtown Estes Park, the brass military bands, the precision drill teams, and one can’t forget the jousting events! The Equine Science Stewards were responsible for setting up the obstacle course for the games event as well as aiding competitors in the light armor event. The Stewards could be seen placing new stickers on competitor’s shields and handing up large lances to the riders before they went charging down the list in the attempt to hit the other rider’s shield.

Not only did the Stewards work hard, they also played hard too. During down time, the Stewards explored the various vendors that were set up at the festival and tried traditional foods such as meat pies and haggis.

An additional event the festival offered was Dirt Boarding, which was nearly as exciting as the jousting and was quite comical as well. Dirt boarding consists of a person strapped to a tricked-out skateboard being pulled along behind a rider on a horse around a dirt track. The event was open to any festival attendee who wanted to try out this extreme Scottish sport. Several exhibitors in this event seemed to be greatly at ease on the speeding boards, while others had a much harder time even staying standing on the boards, let alone moving on one. After several rounds of helping the Dirt Boarding event run smoothly, some of the Stewards decided to join in on the fun. Several of them picked up the activity with little problems at all, while others made a good time of struggling around the track.

All in all, the Longs Peak Scottish Irish Highlands Festival was a huge success for the CSU Equine Science stewards. Each Steward put in several long days filled with lots of work, but there was plenty of fun to be had by all as well. The CSU Equine Science Stewards look forward to turning their efforts at the Longs Peak Scottish Irish Highlands Festival into a yearly commitment filled with hard works and good times.
Jumping in Germany
by Ericka Gross

Here at CSU, we are told over and over that networking is important in making lifelong relationships in the industry. But those connections don’t have to be confined to the walls of our classrooms, the state, or even the country. The equine industry is universal—and we can thank the adaptability of the horse for that. When I heard of the opportunity to travel to Germany and Austria with other students and learn about their equine industry, I knew I had to go.

Last spring, Equine Sciences instructor Tiare Santistevan, myself and 14 other students embarked on a journey across the globe, boots and helmets in tow. Our first few days were spent traveling around northern Germany visiting the Oldenburg Association, Hof Kasselmann, the Hannovarian Association, and museums. On the fourth day we were there, as we had lunch, we were lucky enough to watch the world’s best 3-day eventers train while sitting next to an Olympic gold medalist.

My favorite part of the trip was our riding lessons. We stayed in dorms that were on the property and owned by the State Stud. The horses we rode were absolutely amazing in both our dressage and jumping lessons. Everyone passed their oral and riding exams, so now we are all certified to compete in Germany.

Overall, I had an amazing time. I learned so much about european warmbloods, the German horse industry, and the culture of both Germany and Austria. After I graduate this spring, I plan on going back and working as an exercise rider and groom for one of the barns we visited. I just need to work on my German!
Fall Packing and Outfitting Trip

by Kayla Lent

Within the Equine Sciences Program, we have many applied equine courses that provide hands on experience in various aspects of the equine industry. One of these classes is ANEQ 349: Packing and Outfitting, which is run by avid packer and phenomenal horseman, Chuck Peterson. In this class, we learn how to deal with issues we may encounter on the trail as well as how to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our animals. Although packing may look simple, there are lots of details to be considered to ensure a fun and safe trip. We learned about pack saddles and how to tie up panniers with various knots, ranging from the box hitch to a double diamond. We were also taught how to set up highlines, electric fences, and diverse knots for tying up horses.

The last weekend in September, I had the amazing opportunity to go on a pack trip in the Rawah Wilderness in the Roosevelt National Forest with my ANEQ349 class. One big factor to consider when going out into nature is to leave no trace, or better yet, leave the forest better than how you found it. We practiced this throughout the weekend by cleaning up any trash we found, using tree-savers with our highlines, and organizing grazing where the horses would not strip any particular area of land. While we were there, we also helped Jim Brink, from A.J. Brink Outfitters, maintain his camp and trails by hauling hay, setting up a wall tent, and starting the building of a bridge to make a trail usable. Overall, this trip helped me make amazing friendships and learn invaluable skills that I will use throughout my equine career. I would highly recommend this class to anyone seeking to become a better horseman and have an experience of a lifetime.
OCTOBER 2018  
EQUINE CONNECTION

Time to Ride: The Equine Experience

by Cassi Nichols

On Nov. 3, the Equine Event and Sales Management class will once again be hosting The Equine Experience in the Adams-Atkinson arena. This event invites the general public, specifically elementary school-aged children, to learn more about horses through interactive displays and hands-on activities. The public will have access to a variety of educational booths and activities featuring equine anatomy, tack and equipment, grooming, first aid, and more. The event will also offer short riding lessons to girl scouts attending in hopes of earning their horseback riding badges.

Many of the families participating in The Equine Experience will have an extremely limited background with horses. One of the main goals of the event is to introduce children and their families to both the basics of horses as well as the opportunities open to those involved in the equine industry. Through this exposure, there is hope of instilling inspiration within these children to one day become part of the industry.

While the event itself offers a fantastic opportunity for members of the public lacking in equine knowledge to gain experience, it also provides a unique opportunity for the students in the Equine Program. Under the leadership of professor Tiare Santistevan, the students in ANEQ 358 are currently collaborating on ideas to provide the most beneficial experience for the event’s participants. In designing The Equine Experience, students are exposed to the process of obtaining event sponsors, designing a marketing campaign, and constructing the schedule of events that will occur throughout the day. Throughout the entire planning process, the importance of leadership, teamwork, and communication is emphasized to the students.

The Equine Experience is another example of unique opportunities the CSU Equine Science Program offers to its students. We look forward to another successful year of The Equine Experience and all the joy it brings to families throughout our community.
Debut of the Rocky Mountain Belles Drill Team
by Asia Arellano

In March of 2018, CSU's first ever equestrian drill team was created. The founding members were friends who met in CSU Mountain Riders Horse Club. Currently the “Rocky Mountain Belles” have nine riding members and three non-riding members. While a horse is necessary to participate in riding practices and perform at shows, non-riding members can take an active role in music and wardrobe selection as well as come up with practice drills and help create our performance routine. The Belles drill team strives to promote quality horsemanship and equestrian entertainment by performing at local horse shows, rodeos and other similar events. Our main goal is to promote the excellent program that is CSU Equine Sciences. You can watch and show support of the CSU Rocky Mountain Belle's first performance at Oasis Equestrian Center on Oct. 20, 2018!

For more information on the team, contact: rockymountainbelles@gmail.com
Facebook: The CSU Rocky Mountain Belles

Fall Gather Welcomes Back College of Ag Alumni
by Lucia Ruppert

Fall Gather kicked off another amazing year at the Equine Center this September. The purpose of Fall Gather is to invite back alumni from the College of Ag, welcome them back to their alma mater, and “catch up”. The event had an incredible turn out this year with many generations of CSU College of Ag alumni attending! The Equine Science Stewards, Stewards of Animal Science, Ag Ambassadors, and Rodeo Club attended, mingled with alumni, and even raised funds by auctioning off a cowhide to support the Stewards of Animal Sciences! It was an amazing sight to see so many successful alumni come back and show support and passion for the program that got them started on their amazing journeys. As a student myself, I love the opportunity to interact with these incredible people and learn from them, share our passions, and make extremely valuable connections. I hope I can come back after graduating and do the same for the next round of students. All in all, I would like to say that we have pretty incredible alumni who go on to change the world!
The Right Horse Initiative Partners with CSU

by Hannah Davis

This semester as a group study project, CSU is partnering with the Right Horse Initiative and working in collaboration with the Dumb Friends League Harmony Equine Center and Certified Horsemanship Association, with the goal of transitioning horses for placement in equine assisted therapy, beginner horsemanship programs and other placement opportunities. This class is very hands on and allows for students of all equine backgrounds to participate in the rehabilitation of these animals. The group of horses we have this semester come from many different backgrounds and all have varying skill levels which allow for students to be paired with a horse that best fits their skill level. Over the course of the semester students will work on identifying negative behaviors, understanding movement and suitability to purpose, and getting the horses adjusted to consistent work and exercise on the ground, in the round pen and in the arena under saddle. By the end of the semester most of these horses will be ready to transition into their new lives and continue to grow and learn as they do so. This unique learning opportunity is a great way for students to get their hands on horses as well as grow in their abilities as riders. Personally I have found that my passions lie with rescue and retraining of horses through my short time participating in this class and I look forward to what the rest of the semester will bring.

Summer Internship with Julie Goodnight

by Morgan Offutt

This summer I had the pleasure of interning with Julie Goodnight Horsemanship in Salida, CO as a media and marketing intern. I absolutely loved working with Julie and her team and gained hands-on experience writing, editing video, managing social media, designing email blasts, and I even participated in a week of film production. In addition to the work I did through my assigned tasks, I also got to improve upon my horsemanship by learning from Julie herself, exercising her horses, and attending a clinic with her. I learned the importance of social media marketing, web design, and customer service by assisting Julie’s team with various projects throughout the summer. I walk away from the internship with four published press releases, 2 months-worth of published social media content, and an original YouTube series I helped edit and promote. After this internship, I feel prepared for a career in media, marketing, or communications within the equine industry and I have gained life-long friends and mentors in Julie and her team.
Promising Prospects: 2019 Legends of Ranching Consignments

by Megan Corgan

Each year the Legends of Ranching Program receives an incredible group of young horses, and the 2018-2019 group has already proved to be among the best groups yet. With many returning consignors and a few new ones added this year, this group of young horses has lots of talent, athletic ability, and try. One of my favorite parts of the fall semester is watching the young horses develop and learn so fast. At this point in the horse training class, students have been working on haltering, controlling the movement of their feet, getting them balanced, teaching them to tie, and preparing them to be trimmed by the farrier by handling their feet.

While many of our consignors have returned, we have also added a few new ones into the mix this year. Iron Springs Ranch had an aged horse in the 2018 sale, Cee Hickory Mr who sold for $6,200, and this year, consigned a young horse to be a part of the horse training class– Cat Cross Doc, a 2016 bay mare. Flying T Ranch sold an aged horse in the 2018 sale, Driftwood Fam Fresh for $8000, and we are lucky enough to have a 2017 blue roan mare, Tuxedo Sharp Foxy, from Flying T in our program this year. Finally, T4 Cattle Company is the newest consignor to be added this year, consigning a 2017 bay mare, Montoya Mina.

A few of the young horses to look out for over the next two semesters are Buck Boons Baldy from Pete Becker Ranch, SuchAGourmetBlackbird from Hardy Performance Horses, Letters High Stakes from Saunders Ranch and So Shiny Playgun Gal from Van Newkirk Quarter Horses. Buck Boons Baldy, a well-built 2016 sorrel gelding is becoming one of my personal favorites because once he gets going and working, he is an incredible mover and can be very eager to please. One of Hardy Performance Horses young horses, SuchAGourmetBlackbird is actually a full sister to Gourmet Image, a young horse sold in the 2018 sale and is coming along really well so far. These are just a few of the promising prospects we have in our pens, but overall, all the young horses are coming along really well. All the young horses arrived at the Equine Center earlier than last year, which is really helpful in moving all the horses forward towards first saddling in just a few short weeks.

A full list of this year’s young horse consignments will be available on the CSU Equine Sciences website soon. Be sure to preview these amazing prospects at the Wagonhound Student Competition on April 13, 2019, and take one home at the Legends of Ranching Performance Horse sale on April 20, 2019!
Students Travel to Purina Research Facility

by Valerie Lindstrom

Over the summer, myself and nine other lucky CSU Equine Science students got the opportunity to travel to St. Louis, Missouri to visit Grant’s Farm, the Budweiser Clydesdale training facility, and the Purina Research Facility. Dr. Denniston organized and led the day-long trip to both facilities.

We began our day by touring Grant’s Farm where we got to interact with some of the young Clydesdales who were in training to become part of the hitch. Many of the Clydesdales were bred from the Warm Springs Ranch, which is the breeding farm for the Budweiser Clydesdales, but a few were bought from private breeders and trained in the same way. After our brief photo shoot with some of the more photogenic Clydesdales, we learned about the history of the program, maintenance of the 35+ horses on the farm, and Purina’s contributions to the nutrition of those horses.

After visiting the farm, we drove to the Purina Research Facility just down the road. Here, we had the opportunity to tour many of the research labs where ongoing nutrition research happens on livestock animals, exotic animals, and companion animals. The massive research facility was magnificent. It was fully equipped with state-of-the-art equipment, large facilities for research herds, and unique research opportunities such as one of the only fistulated horse herds. We also had the opportunity to sit down for lunch with professionals at Purina for a panel discussion. DVMs, PhDs, and experts in the nutrition field were all there to answer our questions and have a causal conversation about nutrition research. Being able to sit down with influential industry professionals is a unique experience to our program here at CSU which is dedicated to providing networking and real-world experience. That is one of my favorite things about this program! It was truly an amazing experience in which I gained valuable knowledge and insight, and I highly recommend the trip to anyone interested in attending next year.
Just Horsin’ Around at the CSU Equine Center
by Bracy Groshko

In my time at CSU, I have been blessed with some amazing opportunities for involvement in the Equine Sciences program. One opportunity that has really changed my college experience and provided me with so many other opportunities is my job at the CSU Equine Teaching and Research Center. I am currently the Assistant Manager on the Barn Crew at the Equine Center where I work under Wayne Miller.

Through my job, I have been able to gain real life work experience. I have learned how to operate heavy equipment and how to drag arenas for events, and I have gained hands-on horse management and event management experiences. I have hands-on experience with CSU program horses and the young horses that go through the Legends of Ranching program. As a member of the barn crew I am able to watch these colts progress throughout the year with their students and help with the execution of the Legends of Ranching Sale, an opportunity that those outside of the class don’t often get. Along with being involved with the various academic programs through our department, I also have the opportunity to interact with the CSU equine related clubs such as Rodeo, Versatility Ranch Horse, Polo, English Riding Club, and the Mountain Riders club.

As well as working with CSU clubs and programs I have received the chance to work with some pretty amazing outside events ranging from ranch sorting to dressage shows. Not to mention, I was a part of planning and setting up a proposal at the Equine Center for one of our very own Stewards, Cassi Nichols. I am so thankful for all of the amazing connections I have made and the amazing lessons I have learned through my position and cannot wait to continue learning and growing.
ESS Fall Word Search

G G N I N I A R T T L O C B H B G U V L
N U B Q X I H C E T B H R P K R H A H Z
I R C P T E D S G J G O T C S Z W K O Z
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Send us a Snapchat of your finished word search! @EquineStewards

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