

February 1, 2026

# HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

## Stoner Ridge Farm News

Charlie DeAtley charlied8282@gmail.com 859.749.8982 www.stonerridgefarm.com

### 3 Day Gaited Horse Clinic with Charlie DeAtley

March 26th-28th, 2026

Clinic focus will be  
gait, leg pressure,  
collection and rein  
management

Call/Text Charlie @  
859-749-8982 to reserve your  
spot.  
Limited Availability!

3 Day Clinic - \$600  
Auditors - \$75/Day  
\$100 non-  
refundable deposit  
required

Day 3 will be at Big  
Creek Livestock in  
Paris to attend a  
private cattle working  
clinic.

Stoner Ridge Farm 2469 Clintonville Rd Paris Ky

### Winter Down on the Farm

Christmas and the New Year were a blur with celebrations and family time but then we settled back down into our routine at the barn. Shelby transferred from Southern States to SRF as part of her co-op program from the high school. Ruby has been working as a co-op student in the afternoons. Olivia is working full time. Mary Kelley comes some days after work at Claiborne and then she feeds in the evenings on weekends. Of course that's the plan. Sadly, Mother



Nature had other plans for us last week. We had plenty of advance warning of record breaking snow. We weren't supposed to get ice but that wasn't how it turned out. The snow started (con't on p. 2) -



**Silver's Diamond Dealer**  
2 time International Western Pleasure  
International 3 - 4 YO Stallion  
Conformation Winner



**Rocky Creek Farm's Maverick**  
RMHA International 3 YO Trail  
Pleasure Champion  
RMHA International 3 YO Reserve  
Show Pleasure Champion  
**Owned by: Bobby &  
Julie Tucker**  
(Future Breeding TBD)



**Black Market Diamond**  
Gray, no red or silver gene  
RMHA International Country  
Trail Pleasure Grand Champion,  
Western Grand Champion,  
Sam Tuttle Memorial Winner  
Rea Swan Award Winner  
Registered RMHA & KMSHA



**Bookings Available Now**  
**Owned by:**  
**Steve & Susan Heuslein**  
**Standing in Paris, KY**



**SRF's Silver Sundown**  
Sam Tuttle &  
Multiple Rea Swan Award  
Winner  
Multiple Western Pleasure  
Grand Championship wins  
Registered

**PBF's Simon Barjonah**  
RMHA International Show  
Pleasure Winner  
High Point Stallion  
Show Pleasure Champion



## Winter Down on the Farm

Continued from page 1

and about 3 or 4 inches fell. Then the temperature warmed up and we got freezing rain on top of the snow. We were blessed that the rain stopped in the late afternoon and turned back to flurries. The snow and ice have made travel very difficult. The temperatures at night have been near zero and will continue to be until the first of the week. The State of Emergency in Kentucky continues - now due to cold. Many stores (even Walmart) closed as well as restaurants and churches. Bourbon County Schools are closed until February 2nd. Through all this, we haven't lost electricity. We continue to hope (and pray) that our water doesn't freeze. Charlie has done an awesome job managing. He and Ruby were able to make it to the



farm even though the roads have been very slick. Olivia wasn't able to get out for a few days and Shelby has an injury to her knee. The horses have all been good. Charlie picked up some extra high quality hay. He picked up feed on his way to the barn. Winchester Feed usually delivers but

with the road conditions, they are having a hard time getting to everyone. We pray for the southern US. They have had damage due to ice. Thousands are without power. Hopefully, this bad stretch will pass soon.

I received a sweet phone call before the snow storm from Kirsten Santos - she used to be Shadow's owner. He was given to Ruby, if you remember, due to her declining health and her move to Brazil to retire with her husband. After Rogerio's untimely passing, she moved back to the U.S. to be with family in Utah. It was so good to hear her voice and know that she has settled in an apartment where there are conveniences and people she knows. I was able to share with her that Shadow has a great life here. He has become Bob's lesson horse for six year old Everley, as well as teenagers Madison, and Maddie. Barbara Hopper even comes to ride him on occasion. Ruby was able to have some great photos taken with him for her senior portraits. He also competed in the KHBIF Trail Obstacle program this year and last. We are glad, especially, that Kirstin is near family and is doing well.

We learned this week that Julie and Gary Brown have decided to move to Colorado to be near their family. I bet a big draw is that sweet grand daughter, Ava. We have had Julie on our mind recently. She lost her mother back in the summer then lost her brother and her dad recently. The move won't take place until later in the year. Julie hopes to show some. We will continue to pray for them their as plans come together.

Ruby has been busy, at least before the snow. She has continued to work out, run track, meet with her FFA par-



liamentary procedure group, and participate in archery. Charlie has been coaching the middle school Archery Team. They won their Fleming County meet! Woo Hoo. Erin has been busy too. She has spent lots of time working with her yarn lately. She was supposed to go to South Carolina for a yarn retreat last week, but she had to cancel due to the storm that was heading our way. I have been helping get articles ready for the magazine. We should have over 80 pages this time. Thanks so much for everyone's support.

The RMHA Awards Banquet will be February 21st at the Hilton DoubleTree in Lexington - same place as last year. The portal is open to order tickets (\$30 with a meal, \$5 without and children under 12 are free). We will have a great time of fellowship together celebrating your horse(s) accomplishments!



## Important Dates

**Feb. 14** Valentine's Day

**Feb. 21** RMHA Membership Meeting 6:00 p.m. and Banquet at 7:00 p.m.

**May 2 - 3** Peruvian Horse Sunshine Show and all Gaited Breeds Show, World Equestrian

Center, Ocala, FL

**June 6** Get Your Pink On RMHA Horse Show

**Sept. 2 - 5** RMHA International Grand Championship Horse Show (the show will be held this year before Labor Day) Covered Arena, Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY

**More shows will be announced as they are scheduled. Be sure to check [rmhorse.com](http://rmhorse.com). We will also participate in Virtual Trail Obstacle Competitions this summer.**

## Prayers Please

As we pray let us give thanks for the Lord's blessings and always ask for his guidance and direction as we move forward in this new year.

Please remember Julie Brown and her family. In the last newsletter, we asked for prayers for the loss of her brother. Now her father has passed away. We are thankful for the love of family. In addition, Julie and Gary will be moving to CO later in the year. May the process move along smoothly for them.

Whisper a prayer for Shelby Davis, who works for Charlie. She twisted her knee tearing her meniscus last week. She will be having surgery on the 17th and will be laid up for awhile.

We'll all be praying for those who are working due to the storm damage: State Transportation Department, Linemen, Plumbers, Electricians, and just regular folks shoveling snow and working on water lines. We pray everyone can find shelter and a hot meal to sustain them.

I had a very minor accident last week. I bumped my finger against the floor while picking something up and ruptured a tendon in a finger affecting a joint on my right hand. It isn't painful which is the good news. Unfortunately, I have to keep it wrapped and straight for 6 - 12 weeks. It is very cumbersome! I have seen a PA but will see the ortho next week. Prayers it will eventually work like it is supposed to.

Nancy Copland texted yesterday to let us know that Little Ann, a mare she used to own, had passed away. Little Ann was shown on the UMH show circuit. Sadly, many of the greats are gone. We will look back with fond memories of Little Ann and the others no longer with







#### ATTENTION RMHA MEMBERS

The RMHA Board approved the following Nominees for the 2026 RMHA Board of Elections during the January 17, 2026 board meeting.

#### PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT (TEAM TICKET)

MARK SMITH  
JENNIFER FLANNERY - HALL

HEARING PANEL  
ANDREA CRAWFORD  
SANDRA LOCKLEAR  
JONATHAN RAMEY  
GORILL STRAND

#### DIRECTOR OF EXAMINERS

LINDA CLARKE  
RANDY INMAN

#### MEMBER AT LARGE (3 SEATS)

MICHAEL BRUMMER  
ANDREW BYRD  
TRAVIS ROBINSON  
MARY KELLEY TUCKER  
KISHA WILLIAMS

HAPPY  
Valentine's  
Day



hilton.com  
DoubleTree Suites Lexington, Hotels Near Lexington KY

#### BANQUET and MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On Saturday, February 21, 2026 is the 2025 RMHA High Point/Miles Awards Banquet and Membership Meeting at the DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel Lexington 2601 Richmond Road, Lexington, Kentucky.

The Membership meeting will be held at 6:00 PM, ET and the Banquet will start at 7:00 PM, ET.

Below is the link to register and purchase your tickets for the banquet by February 9.  
<https://www.rmhorse.com/2025-awards-banquet-reservations/>

Hotel reservations can be made at the following link:

[www.hilton.com/en/hotels/lexrrdt-doubletree-suites-lexington/](http://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/lexrrdt-doubletree-suites-lexington/)

The group code is 91X

On the website select the date, after selecting dates click the "Check Rooms & Rates" button, it will take you to the next page. Click on "Special Rate" when the box opens up enter "91X in the Group Code box" then click on update. The group page will appear and you can continue making the reservation. You can also reserve the room by calling the reservation line at 1-800-319-7298.

Please note: These links are not live on the newsletter. Go to the Rocky Mountain Facebook page to book.

#### Silent Auction Fundraiser For Youth, Trail, and Versatility

Please bring donation items to the  
RMHA Banquet  
Thank You for your support



#### Silent Auction Baskets

To support the RMHA Youth, Trail, and Versatility programs, SRF will be getting three baskets together for the Silent Auction that will be held during the awards banquet on February 21st. If



you want to contribute, you can drop something off at the barn or you can send \$ and I'll pick something up for you. Valentine's Day will have passed but everyone has a sweet tooth now and then.

Thanks so much!!

#### RMHA Election Information

The RMHA election will be held in May of 2026. You must have been a member six months in order to vote. Members may choose whether to receive a paper ballot or an emailed ballot by going to the portal and making their selection. You may also call the office. The number of positions for each office:

1 Director of Examiners

1 Hearing Panel

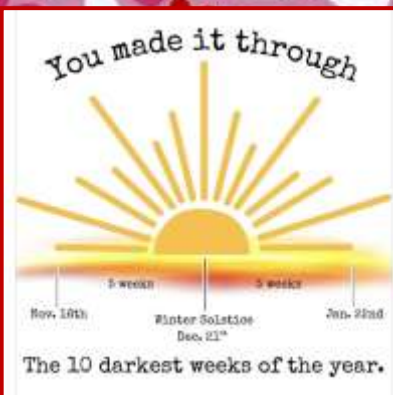
3 Members at Large

1 team for President/Vice President

(Only team is Mark Smith & Jennifer Flannery-Hall)

We appreciate everyone  
who is willing to run. Please note: Mary  
Kelley Tucker is throwing her hat into the  
ring this year!!

Thank you for voting!!!!





## College Football Playoff National Championship



I'm not normally a huge football fan but I have been following quarterback, Fernando Mendoza. He is Gloria Mendoza's cousin and a remarkable young man. His faith and determination should be a lesson for us all.

From a Facebook post by Suneet Agarwal you can learn more about Indiana's quarterback, Fernando Mendoza:

"130 schools said no but he led the losingest program in college football history to its first national championship anyway. A 2-star recruit who got rejected for a walk-on spot at his hometown school became the first Cuban-American to win the Heisman Trophy.

Fernando Mendoza was 17 years old. . . He'd driven to 18 football camps across the country that summer with his dad. Introduced himself to every coach who would listen. Sent his highlights to over 100 programs. Not a single school offered him a scholarship. Florida International was 20 minutes from his house. They didn't want him. Florida Atlantic was down the road. They passed. His only option was Yale. An Ivy League education. No scholarship. No path to the NFL. Everyone told him to be grateful. . . He didn't listen. Here's what Mendoza knew that everyone missed: The worst case wasn't failing at the highest level. The worst case was never getting the chance to try. So he waited. Then in January 2022, two weeks before signing day, his phone rang. University of California, Berkeley's offensive coordinator had heard

about a lanky kid in Miami with a live arm. Another quarterback had just decommitted. They needed a body. . . Cal's coaching staff would not build around him. He shocked everyone by entering the transfer portal. He chose Indiana – the losingest program in college football history. . . He didn't care. Coach Cignetti told him, 'I'm going to turn you into the best Fernando Mendoza possible'. That was enough.

Mendoza wasn't just chasing football. His mother, Eliza, has multiple sclerosis. She's been fighting it for 18 years but hid the diagnosis from her sons because she didn't



want them to worry. Now she is in a wheel chair. 'My mother is my why' he says. 'To see her overcome the struggle with the optimism

she has. She has been a great role model.' He started raising money for MS research and created the 'Mendoza Burrito' at a Berkeley restaurant. Then he created the 'Mendoza Brothers Burger' in Bloomington, IN. Over \$155,000 has been raised. All the while leading the most improbable team in college football history. Indiana went 16 - 0. They beat six top 10 teams and won their first Big Ten title since 1945. Mendoza threw for 3,349 yards and 41 touchdowns. He won the Heisman Trophy in a landslide - the first Indiana player ever. . . 'For the love and sacrifice of my parents and grandparents, I love you. From all my heart, thank you' (first spoken in Spanish then in English). But Mendoza wasn't done. In Miami Gardens where he grew up, Mendoza led Indiana to its first national championship - 27 to 21 over Miami. On fourth-and-4 with nine minutes left, up by 3 but needing to put the game away, the coach called a quarterback draw. Mendoza took the snap. Got hit at the line. Spun off two defenders. Dove into the end zone. The kid 134 schools rejected scored the dagger touchdown on a fourth-down quarterback sneak. He put the game out of reach. The losingest program in history became the best team in America. 16-0. The first perfect sea-

son since Yale in 1894. All because a 17 year-old kid refused to believe that being overlooked meant being done. He turned 134 rejections into the greatest underdog story in college football history. He turned the program everyone laughed at into national champions. He proved that the scouts, the rankings, and the recruiting services don't get the final word. You do. What opportunity are you pursuing because nobody's given you permission? What dream are you abandoning because the 'experts' said you weren't qualified? What version of your future are you settling for because the door you wanted didn't open? Mendoza couldn't get FIU to return his calls. He couldn't get a single FBS offer until two weeks before signing day. He showed up to college as a third-stringer. Got sacked 41 times behind a broken offensive line. He transferred to a program with over 700 losses and got called crazy. He led them to a perfect season anyway because he understood something most people don't. The ranking doesn't determine your ceiling. Your work does. Being overlooked isn't a verdict. It's just the starting point for a better story. The people who say no don't get to write your ending. Stop waiting for the gatekeepers to open the door. Start thinking like Fernando Mendoza. Bet on yourself when nobody else will. Outwork the doubt. Keep showing up until they can't ignore you anymore. Never let anyone convince you that where you start is where you finish. Sometimes the biggest wins come from the paths everyone said were dead ends. Because when they all say no, all you need is one shot and the guts to take it. Don't quit."

Fernando Mendoza is an inspiration. He is a devout Catholic who openly integrates his faith into his football

career. He frequently prays, attends mass, coordinates team Bible studies, and credits God for his success. He often meditates instead of listening to music before games and gives glory to God for his family, and for his success.



