



# Across the Fence

THE MARE CENTER'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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## Spotlight on Stewardship Symposium a Success



Left: Dr. John Galbraith of Virginia Tech leads a workshop on soil health. Right: Participants enjoy a water quality workshop given by John Jeffries of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The health of our horses and the health of our land are inextricably tied, and despite a downward trend in the overall number of farms in the Old Dominion, the number of horse farms is greater now than it was two decades ago. As the costs of feed, land, and infrastructure rise, horse owners need innovative, cost-effective solutions to maximize the well-being of their horses and preserve their land. To address these needs, the MARE Center and the National Sporting Library & Museum partnered to present the Spotlight on Stewardship: Equine Land Management Symposium on June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

The symposium—held on-site at both the MARE Center and National Sporting—combined cutting-edge science with hands-on learning experiences and the inimitable richness of Middleburg’s equestrian culture.

“Sharing the latest science-based information to improve equine and environmental health is at the heart of the MARE Center’s mission and we are excited to serve as an educational resource for our community through events like the symposium. The MARE Center and the National Sporting Library were a natural fit for this new partnership,” said Dr. Bridgett McIntosh, Equine Extension Specialist at the MARE Center, who spearheaded the event.

The symposium covered a host of topics centered on equine and environmental health. Fittingly, all lecturers were MARE Center alumni. Dr. Carey Williams of Rutgers University opened the event at National Sporting with a lecture addressing the basics of equine pasture management, from grass physiology to the basics of equine nutrition. A talk regarding best management practices for small acreage horse farms followed, present-

*Continued on pg. 2* ➔

**Spotlight on Stewardship, cont'd**

ed by Dr. Amy Burk of the University of Maryland. Dr. Burk discussed grazing and land management strategies that maximize pasture productivity while minimizing negative environmental impacts. Participants then enjoyed a tour of the National Sporting Library's collections, guided by John Connolly, the library's George L. Ohrstrom, Jr. Librarian.

"I was excited to learn that the library's collections are used all the time to inform modern equine research and give us a perspective on the horse industry through the ages. It's a dynamic and completely singular resource all horse enthusiasts should explore," said Shayan Ghajar, Equine Extension Program Coordinator at the MARE Center and an organizer for the event.

After a lunch from Upper Crust sponsored by Farm Credit of the Virginias, participants took a hay ride to the MARE Center for hands-on workshops. Mild weather favored the day, and participants learned about soil health, water quality, grazing management, and pasture plant identification in hands-on workshops led by agriculture and natural resources professionals from Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Spending a summer afternoon in a pasture is thirsty work, so in true wined-and-equined Hunt Country fashion, many participants and speakers embraced the evening cool with a group tasting at Boxwood Winery across the street from the MARE Center. Participants who worked up an appetite ended the day at National Sporting's Open Late: Virginia Tech Alumni Night, treated to barbecue and the sounds of the Piedmont Symphony Orchestra as the day faded.



Dr. Tania Cubitt of Performance Horse Nutrition giving a talk about the basics of evaluating a horse's dietary needs.



Jim Hilleary, Loudoun County Extension agent, leading a workshop on grazing and pasture management at the MARE Center.

Dr. Kathleen Crandell of Kentucky Equine Research, a John H. Daniels Fellow at National Sporting, began the second day with a fascinating look at historical perspectives of pasture management and equine nutrition practices. Excerpts from books in the Sporting Library & Museum's collections highlighted many practices that have changed little over the centuries, and still more that have changed a great deal.

Pennsylvania State University's Dr. Burt Staniar gave a lecture discussing nutritional management for breeding farms, with special attention to how pasture quality influences foal growth and health. Fittingly, the final lecture, presented by Performance Horse Nutrition's Dr. Tania Cubitt, addressed nutritional needs beyond the pasture. Dr. Cubitt provided participants with the basics of evaluating their horse's diet and nutritional requirements and concluded with the latest trends in equine nutrition research, including the use of low starch ration balancers for forages. Platinum sponsor BUCKEYE Nutrition generously provided complimentary bags of their balancer product, "Gro 'n Win" to all participants.

The weather refused to cooperate for the afternoon's workshops, as weather is wont to do in all things event or farm-related. A tremendous deluge began soon after participants arrived at the MARE Center for the second round of hands-on workshops. The hayride, sponsored by Thomas & Talbot Real Estate, had an awning that kept the worst of the rain off of attendees, earning its new sobriquet, "the Ark." Though conditions were uncomfortable for outdoors learning, the torrential downpour provided an excellent setting for the workshops, which centered on erosion control, manure storage, and facilities management for high-use areas on small acreages.



Carrie Swanson, Albemarle County Extension agent, leading a workshop on manure management and composting at the MARE Center's Best Management Practices Model Farm.

The symposium concluded with a tour of the National Sporting Library & Museum's galleries, led by Executive Director Melanie Mathewes. Most of the symposium's attendees were already members of National Sporting, but many of the remainder signed up on the spot, captivated by the breadth and beauty of the Museum's collection.

"At the National Sporting Library and Museum, we understand the importance of merging equestrian culture with scientific innovation. This symposium with the MARE Center is one great example," said Melanie Mathewes, Executive Director of National Sporting. "There is an increasing amount of change occurring within the equestrian landscape. These changes only add to the importance of our mission, which is to preserve, promote and share the culture of field sports, angling and equestrian pursuits."

A planned trip to Twilight Polo at Great Meadow that evening had to be rescheduled due to the rain, but that did nothing to dampen participants' spirits: "I would deem every speaker, topic, and all materials absolutely first rate!" one participant concluded. "It was fabulous! Presenters were great, loads of information that I can put to practical use straight away," said another. Due to the overwhelmingly positive feedback, the MARE Center and the National Sporting Library & Museum are confident the Spotlight on Stewardship symposium will become an annual event. 🐾

## Alumnus Profile: Dr. Burt Staniar

As one of the top equine research facilities in the country, the MARE Center is known for its contributions to our scientific understanding of equine nutrition, physiology, reproduction, and pasture ecology. However, the MARE Center has another enduring and ongoing legacy: the individuals it shapes through internships, graduate research, and faculty and staff roles. To highlight this equally enduring and rich contribution of the MARE Center, we will highlight one MARE Center alumnus or alumna every newsletter, examining what they learned here, the ways their time at the MARE Center shaped them, and how this influence continues to shine in their work today. This installment features Dr. Burt Staniar of Pennsylvania State University.



Dr. Staniar is an Associate Professor in the Department of Animal Science at the Pennsylvania State University, and a distinguished alumnus of the MARE Center. Starting at the MARE Center in the summer of 1997 as a Master's student, he proceeded to complete his PhD, continue on as a post-doctoral associate, and became MARE Center faculty. After a decade at the MARE Center, Dr. Staniar departed in 2007 to join PSU as faculty. Few veterans of the Center have contributed to the program in so many roles for such a long time.

During his years at the MARE Center, Dr. Staniar specialized in research on the nutrition of brood mares and growing foals on pasture, focusing particularly on how different nutritional factors influence the development of skeletal abnormalities such as osteochondrosis. He led cutting-edge studies into the roles of diets high in non-structural carbohydrates versus fats as energy sources for growing foals, discovering that foals on diets high in non-structural carbohydrates had higher concentrations of insulin-like growth factor one (IGF-1). High IGF-1 levels can lead to an overly-rapid development of cartilage in foals' joints, potentially contributing to osteochondrosis.

Dr. Staniar's current research centers on gastrointestinal health with a focus on feeding and management practices related to systemic inflammation. While he focuses on the horse as a target and a model, Dr. Staniar is interested in the impact of gastrointestinal acidosis in all livestock species. Dr. Staniar also continues to study equine growth and development, an interest that grew out of his aforementioned graduate work at the MARE Center. More specifically he has characterized and investigated how the diet and environment that broodmares and foals are kept influences their patterns of growth. He has been a member of the Equine Science Society since 1998 and has served on the society's board of directors since 2009.

A member of the faculty at Penn State since 2007, Dr. Staniar teaches or helps to teach between 5 to 7 courses, ranging from freshmen seminar to Advanced Horse Production and Management. He is also advisor for the Penn State Equine Research Team, an undergraduate student organization that aims to provide students more opportunities to learn about and experience equine research. Dr. Staniar has been awarded the Penn State College of Agriculture's Community of Teaching Excellence Award and the American Society of Animal Science's Northeast Young Scientist-Educator Award. In addition to his teaching and research responsibilities, Dr. Staniar also values service in his field. In his home department, he chairs the Steering Committee for the Animal Science Undergraduate Curriculum and the Animal Science Departmental Advisory Committee. He is co-chair of the College of Agricultural Sciences Faculty Development Committee. Dr. Staniar has served on the Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference's Equine Committee since 2004.

"The MARE Center is a unique facility in the heart of a strong horse community that has the opportunity to positively influence horses, horse owners, as well as students interested in equine science (both graduate and undergraduate), and there really isn't another place like it. I'm very grateful for the time I spent at the MARE Center."

Recently, Dr. Staniar returned to visit the MARE Center as a speaker at our Spotlight on Stewardship: Equine Land Management symposium. We hope to have many more collaborations with him in the future! 🐾

# Meet the Herd: Innkeeper

Thoroughbred racing enthusiasts all know the name Secretariat, and millions more people know of the indefatigable Virginia racehorse thanks to the 2010 Disney film. Few know, however, that only one ungelded son of the big red machine remains in the United States, and possibly the world: Innkeeper, a 27 year-old stallion living happily at the MARE Center.

Despite the difficulty of following in the hoof-steps of his sire, Innkeeper is an extremely accomplished stallion in his own right. Innkeeper was foaled in 1988 and sold for over \$1 million as a yearling at Keeneland. Raced only once, he beat future Kentucky Derby winner Strike the Gold before being retired to stud. For the next several years, Innkeeper foaled some future racehorses of middling success, changed owners, and ended up a show horse in Connecticut before Ursula Ferrier came across him in his 8th year.



Ferrier, instantly captivated by the stallion, bought him and took him to Hill Top Farm in Maryland. Soon, Innkeeper found himself competing in dressage, eventing, and hunters successfully. Innkeeper trained with Olympic eventer Bruce Davidson (who also competed several of Innkeeper's get) and competed with Olympic eventer Stephen Bradley.

His versatility in competition is matched by his versatility as a sporthorse sire. One of the few Thoroughbred stallions approved for breeding in sporthorse registries, Innkeeper is known for adding refinement to heavier warmblood mares while maintaining correctness in conformation. His offspring have had marked success in eventing, hunters, dressage, and even as stock horses.

With such an accomplished life behind him, Innkeeper is retired at age 27 at the MARE Center, living out his days in comfort with many horses and sheep for neighbors. Already a gentle, well-mannered stallion (though not without a mien of playful mischief), he continues to be a stupendous teacher to new generations of students. Innkeeper's frozen semen is available at the MARE Center. Below is a small sampling of his distinguished get. 🐾



**Inside Man - 2003 Thoroughbred Gelding**  
**Out of Good Queen Liz (Sir Raleigh/Ginger Fizz/Level Lea)**  
**Bred by Dodon Farm, MD, Owned by Lydia Wainwright, MD**

Showing with an adult amateur in the 3'3" hunters and Level 2 Jumpers. Medal winner. 2009 Reserve Champion .95m Jumpers, Gold Coast Series VII. 2012 Reserve Champion Adult Amateur Jumpers, Gold Coast Series IV.



**Innches - 2005 Thoroughbred Mare**  
**Out of Destiny's Girl (Three Torsions/Pro Counsul/Jerry Crow)**  
**Bred and owned by Joan E. Reifman, OH**

Race winner, earned \$15,763. Second, Yearling Fillies, Dressage at Devon 2006.



**Innverness - 2006 Oldenburg Chestnut Stallion**  
**Out of Parlez (Parabol/Consul/Werther)**  
**Owned by Ursula Ferrier, MD, Bred by Hilltop Farm, Inc., MD**

Approved stallion with ISR/Oldenburg NA, earning 9's for character and temperament, and 8.41 for jumping ability. 2011 Champion Stallion at Dressage at Lexington. 2011 Champion, Stallions 4 & over at Dressage at Devon. Currently competing in eventing.

# 2015 MARE Center Foals



The MARE Center is happy to present the newest and cutest additions to our herd. Three foals were born to the MARE Center this year. Two of the foalings were carried out by MARE Center interns (with guidance from staff and a veterinarian), and couldn't have gone more smoothly. **All three foals will be offered for sale as weanlings in fall 2015 (call or email for details).**

## *Artemis VT*

Artemis is a chestnut Oldenburg filly by Arrian out of Balencia VT (Baladin d'Oc/Flox/Demon Dissipe II). Arrian is a Hanoverian stallion by Al Capone, a noteworthy Celle stallion and member of the Quadrille. His sire, Argentan, produced excellent dressage and show jumping horses, including a World Cup winner, Aramis, and German Jumping Horse Champion, Alcazar. Balencia VT is a homebred mare and is by Baladin d'Oc. Baladin d'Oc was bred by Olympic gold medalist Bernard Chevalier, and completed his stallion testing at Adelheidsdorf in 1993 scoring an overall 91.90, a dressage index of 109.44, and a jumping index of 74.79, including 9's for walk and trot; 8's for character, temperament, willingness and ability to work. He was licensed by the Hanoverian Verband in 1994 and recorded with AHS in 2008. Baladin d'Oc was also licensed with the North American Selle Francais Association and ISR/Oldenburg N.A. Artemis is named after the Greek goddess of the hunt. She is extremely intelligent, curious, and loves people. She has taken to looking after our youngest foal Sawyer.





## *Rollison VT*

Rollison is a bay Thoroughbred Hanoverian cross colt by Rienzi, out of Glossy Ibis (Dance With Ravens/AP Indy/Seattle Slew). Rienzi was highest placed Hanoverian with a score of 108.75 in his 100 day test in 1998, and is known for passing his quick mind and strong hind end to his produce.

Rollison's dam Glossy Ibis is an off the track Thoroughbred mare and is a granddaughter of top thoroughbred racing sire A.P. Indy. Rollison is named after long-time MARE Center

Administrative & Office Specialist Rita Rollison in honor of her hard work and dedication to the MARE Center. Rollison loves people and showing off. He is a super athletic and intelligent foal who learns very quickly. Many of the MARE Center staff and interns have commented on his sure-footedness—he was galloping all over his paddock with nary a stumble just a week after being foaled.

## *Sawyer VT*

Sawyer is a chestnut Dutch Warmblood colt by Staccato, out of Consuela (Contucci/Caprimond/Karon). Staccato is a Dutch Warmblood approved by ISR/Oldenburg N.A. as well as RPSI. He is a very successful Grand Prix horse, Champion at Dressage at Devon, and a World Cup Qualifier. Staccato was also 2004 Champion Stallion at Devon and 2004 Cosequin/ USDF Breeders' Champion East Coast Finals. Consuela, Sawyer's dam is by Contucci. Contucci is a leading sire of USDF/Cosequin Breeders Championship and Dressage at Devon winners. Contucci



is by the Trakehner Caprimond, who became a leading dressage sire, well-known for producing foals of excellent quality and type, after a successful career at Grand Prix. Caprimond is also the sire of 2002 Trakehner Stallion of the Year Hohenstein. Sawyer was born in June and is our last foal of the season. Sawyer demonstrates three balanced gaits and has an inquisitive disposition.

# Meet our Summer Interns

The MARE Center's summer intern program is drawing to a close all too quickly this year—we were very fortunate to end up with five future equine scientists, all of whom have contributed a great deal and learned so much at the MARE Center. Whether it was presiding over foaling, conducting pasture species composition surveys, or taking blood samples for pilot studies, they did their work with poise, pride and excellence. Please join us in thanking them for their great work here, and take some time to get to “meet” them through their brief biographies. We look forward to watching their progress in the equine world!



## Ashton Daniel

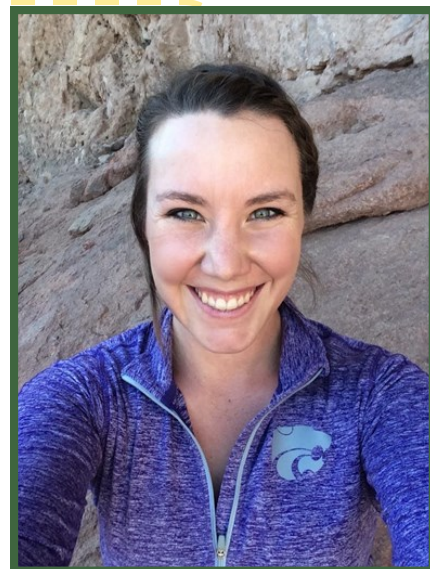
Ashton Daniel is a current student at the University of Tennessee where she studies animal science. Ashton recently started riding and enjoys riding both English and western disciplines. She wishes to attend graduate school in the future to pursue her passion of muscle biology research. As a summer intern at the MARE Center she coordinated a research study involving insulin resistant horses.

Fun Fact: In high school Ashton enjoyed competing in gymnastics and competitive cheerleading.

## Katie DeLano

Katie DeLano finished her undergraduate work at Kansas State University with a BS in Ag Business and a minor in animal science. She begins her Master's at Virginia Tech with Dr. Bridgett McIntosh this fall. Katie is a hunter/jumper rider who began riding at the age of eight; her family currently has five horses. As a summer intern at the MARE Center, she assisted with a research study involving insulin resistance in horses. Katie looks forward to working with Dr. McIntosh and pursuing a career within the horse industry.

Fun fact: Katie was a collegiate rider on the NCAA Division I women's equestrian team at Kansas State.







## Maggie Hines

Maggie Hines currently attends the University of Maryland where she is studying Animal Science. She has been riding since she was 8 years old and is currently an event rider. This summer at the MARE Center she is helping University of Maryland's PhD student Aubrey Lowery with her turfgrass study, where we are currently in the establishment phase for looking at different species of turf grass for palatability for EMS horses. Ms. Hines is looking to attend graduate school and eventually obtain a PhD in equine nutrition.

Fun Fact: Maggie has played the trumpet in band since she was 8 years old.

## Lindsey Taylor

Lindsey Taylor currently attends the University of Georgia where she studies animal science with an emphasis on equines. Lindsey is a hunter/jumper rider who began riding at the age of eleven but also enjoys riding western. She is extremely passionate about the Thoroughbred Racing Industry and wishes to pursue a career within the industry. As a summer intern here at the MARE Center she has been shadowing Jim and Katie Fitzgerald for more hands-on experience with the thoroughbred racing industry. She is also in the process of working on a nutrition survey regarding thoroughbred race horses.

Fun Fact: Lindsey was a collegiate cross country and track and field athlete. Her favorite events are the high jump and the 1600 meter.



## Angela Virostek



Angela Virostek is a junior Animal and Poultry Science major at Virginia Tech and one of our current interns at the MARE Center, having started in January. At the MARE Center, Angela is currently completing a research project that will create a model farm in order to demonstrate best practice management and the effects of rotational grazing versus continuous grazing on the botanical composition of the field. She is studying equine nutrition with the intention to complete veterinary school and become an equine reproduction veterinarian.

Fun fact: Angela grew up around horses locally in the Northern Virginia area and has trained in hunt seat equitation.

# Turfgrass Cultivar Research

The MARE Center is partnering with the University of Maryland in an innovative study evaluating different turfgrass varieties for use on horse farms. High-traffic areas on horse farms are extremely susceptible to overgrazing and heavy hoof traffic, leading to erosion and soil loss, water quality issues, and a lack of available forage. Compounding the issue, many horses prone to equine metabolic syndrome (EMS) require non-vegetative “safe areas” where pasture nutrition will not precipitate laminitic episodes. To address both of these needs, farm managers need grasses that can stand up to heavy traffic and grazing pressure without providing a surplus of the non-structural carbohydrates that can lead to a case of laminitis.

University of Maryland PhD student Aubrey Lowrey and her advisors Dr. Amy Burk and Dr. Tom Turner, working with Dr. Bridgett McIntosh of the MARE Center, designed a study evaluating the traffic tolerance, palatability, and nutritional characteristics of six warm-season turfgrass cultivars and eight cool-season turfgrass cultivars at two sites: the UMD Paint Branch Turfgrass Research Facility, and the MARE Center. This summer, the MARE Center and UMD designed the study area, prepared a clean seed bed, and planted the six warm season cultivars. Aubrey, summer MARE Center intern Maggie Hines, and Equine Extension Program Coordinator Shayan Ghajar tended the seedlings, monitored their growth, and controlled weeds through a combination of mowing and selective herbicides.

In late August and into early Fall, eight cool season turfgrass cultivars will also be planted. Existing fescue pasture will be sprayed with glyphosate to create a weed-free seed bed, the ground will be tilled, and the cultivars seeded. Both warm and cool season cultivars should be ready to graze next year after the seedlings have had sufficient time to establish roots and spread over their designated plots.



Visitors to the MARE Center learning about the turfgrass research study.

From a nutritional standpoint, the various cultivars will be evaluated for their potential use as a forage source for horses prone to EMS. Low levels of non-structural carbohydrates—the sugars that instigate hindgut acidosis and lead to laminitic episodes—indicate grasses that will be safer than traditional equine pastures in the region for horses with EMS.

“This project will provide a great opportunity to learn about managing a horse population with specific nutritional needs so we are able to develop a grazing system that is supportive of the health of EMS equines as well as maintaining our responsibility for environmental stewardship” said Lowrey.

All horse owners agree that our horses deserve safe grass, and our neighbors deserve clean water. This project can help us provide a roadmap for equine land managers to achieve both. 🐾

**All horse owners agree that our horses deserve safe grass, and our neighbors deserve clean water. This project can help us provide a roadmap to achieve both.**

## MARE Center Students and Faculty Recognized at 2015 Equine Science Society Symposium

The 2015 Equine Science Society Symposium hosted by the University of Florida took place on May 26 - 29, 2015 in sunny St. Pete Beach, Florida. Students, faculty and alumni of the MARE Center presented original research on equine nutrition, reproductive physiology and exercise physiology.

Among the highlights of the 2015 symposium, Dr. Robert Jacobs (PhD, 2015) was awarded third place in the Graduate Student Competition in the Reproductive Physiology Section with his paper “Effect of dietary omega-3 supplementation on equine endometrial and embryonic gene expression.” MARE Center Summer 2015 intern Lindsey Taylor (University of Georgia) was awarded 2nd place with her competition paper “The effects of interval versus continuous conditioning on physiological and kinematic parameters of equine fitness.” Summer interns Ashton Daniel (University of Tennessee) and Angela Virostek (Virginia Tech) also competed with their papers “The effects of rotational grazing on water soluble carbohydrates and energy content of horse pasture,” and “The effects of rotational grazing on forage biomass yield and botanical composition of horse pastures,” respectively. Siga Lapinskas also presented an undergraduate competition paper from a collaborative study with Colorado State University “Seasonal effects on pasture and a group of mares with equine metabolic syndrome.”



Dr. McIntosh and intern Lindsey Taylor holding their awards at the 2015 ESS Symposium.

The MARE Center’s Dr. Bridgett McIntosh was awarded the 2015 Equine Science Society Outstanding Young Professional Award. This award recognizes an individual under the age of 40 with less than 10 years of service in academia or industry, who has made meritorious contributions to equine science, in teaching, research, public service or industry. 🐾



L to R: Dr. Kylie Duberstein, Lindsey Taylor, Angela Virostek, Dr. Bridgett McIntosh, Ashton Daniel, & Dr. Robert Jacobs.



MARE Center alumni having a reunion at the meeting.

# 56th Annual Hunt Country Stable Tour

The MARE Center was happy to join the Hunt Country Stable Tour once more on May 23 and 24 as a host farm. Stable Tour organizers with the Upperville Trinity Episcopal Church estimated between 2,000 and 3,000 attendees this year. At the MARE Center, our team of interns and staff ensured a warm welcome and variety of sights and activities for visitors. Visitors had several favorite tour stations: the first MARE Center foal of 2015 was born the week prior to the tour, and galloped around his pasture to the delight of young and old alike; a bottle lamb petting area in the main barn was an adorable form of stress relief on a hot day; and Innkeeper, Secretariat's last surviving ungelded son, allowed visitors to witness a living link to American racing history's greatest champion (and Innkeeper is a splendid stallion in his own right). Program Coordinator Shayan Ghajar and Farm Manager Jacob Grove led haywagon tours of the MARE Center, discussing various research projects, farm history, and the ecological background of the farm. The event was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the MARE Center's research and Extension work, and to meet new potential clients and old friends alike. Proceeds from the Hunt Country Stable Tour support Trinity Episcopal Church and their many local, national, and international charities and non-profit programs. We look forward to the next tour in 2016! 🐎



Program Coordinator Shayan Ghajar leads an afternoon haywagon tour of the farm's facilities and research projects.

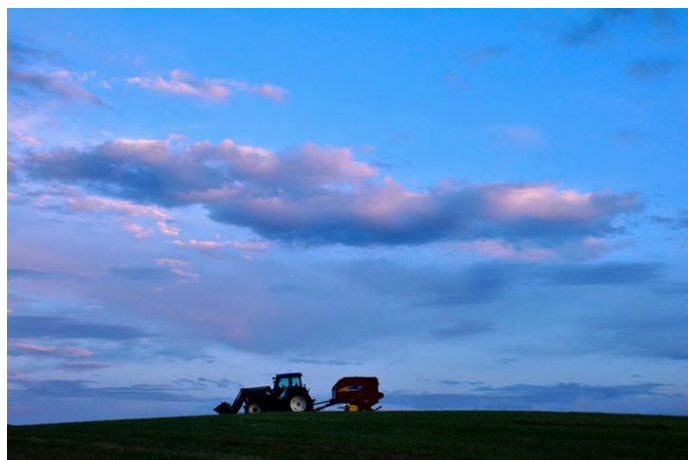


Summer intern Lindsey Taylor introduces visitors to Innkeeper.

# Photos from the Farm



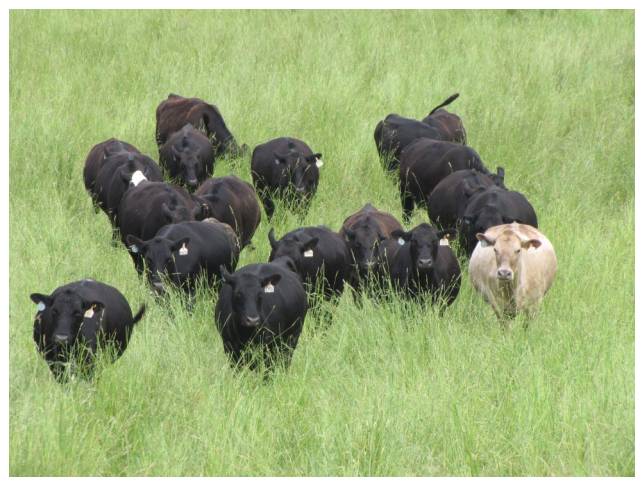
One of dozens of fox kits born at the Center this year. This kit was born in late spring/early summer. Photo by Angela Virostek.



The tractor rests after a long day of baling hay. Photo by Lee Ann Cafferata.



Glossy Ibis and week-old foal Rollison enjoying the early summer sun during the Hunt Country Stable Tour. Photo by Angela Virostek.



A herd of Virginia Tech research cattle coming to water during a study on fescue toxicity at the MARE Center. Photo by Shayan Ghajar.



First cutting hay at twilight facing Bull Run Mountain. Photo by Lee Ann Cafferata.



Wild wineberry and blackberry picked on the farm on Independence Day. Photo by Shayan Ghajar.

# 162<sup>nd</sup> Upperville Colt & Horse Show

The MARE Center was pleased to be part of the 162nd Upperville Colt & Horse Show as volunteers on June 1-7, 2015. Students, faculty and staff from volunteered throughout the duration of the show and assisted with all aspects of the horse show from awards presentations to hospitality. This opportunity allowed students to experience one of the most prestigious and oldest horse shows in the U.S., and interact with leading hunter and jumper trainers, riders and horses from the pony ring to the jumper classic featuring Olympic caliber competition. We made many new friends and it was a great opportunity to represent the MARE Center. One of the memories we'll never forget is watching American Pharoah win the Triple Crown on the megatron at the horse show during the prestigious Hunter Derby—what a fantastic place to witness equine history being made! Our special thanks to organizers Jeanne Blackwell of MadCap Farm, also a member of the UCHS Board, and Danielle Kazmier Bradley, member of the MARE Center Advisory Council, for facilitating this experience at one of Virginia's finest traditions! 🐾



Part of the MARE Center team volunteering at Upperville. L to R: Interns Margaret Hines & Ashton Daniel, Equine Specialist Dr. Bridgett McIntosh, and interns Angela Virostek and Lindsey Taylor.



Watching American Pharoah win the Triple Crown on the megatron at Upperville Colt & Horse Show. What a fantastic venue to see history made!



Virginia Agricultural  
Experiment Station

## The MARE Center

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## The MARE Center

Situated in the heart of Virginia's horse country, the Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension (MARE) Center is one of Virginia Tech's 11 agricultural research and extension centers. Philanthropist Paul Mellon donated the 420-acre farm to Virginia Tech in 1949 to foster research that improved pasture and animal health while enhancing the land. The Center was used primarily for beef cattle research for 40 years, but was rededicated to equine research and teaching in 1992. Today, the MARE Center continues to play a critical role in the discovery, outreach, and education missions of Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Through collaboration with academic and industry partners around the world, the Center advances the health and well-being of the horse through its innovative research efforts and exceptional educational programming.