

IRISH RUN FARMS
February 2016 News

Happy Ground Hogs Day from Irish Run! The newscasters have declared that spring will come early (as a blizzard passes through Iowa ☺). Let's hope they are right! Anyone else ready for a casual park ride???

Please welcome our **newest boarder Ariel Peters and her beautiful Norwegian Fjord mare Annie**. Ariel is a recent graduate of ISU and has just moved to Des Moines for her new job. She and Annie partnered up about a year ago for dressage and some eventing. You can meet Annie in the back barn (she is the only Fjord; a gorgeous palomino girl!) **Laurie Cleveland now has another new horse at the barn; Charlie** or Charlie II as Daniela and I like to say). Charlie is actually her daughter Shea's horse, but we think Shea may share with her siblings and dad. He is a 10 year old chestnut thoroughbred gelding who started off racing but found his stride in jumping and dressage. Charlie is the handsome boy in the back barn with Annie. **Welcome Ariel and Annie, Shea and Charlie - we are thrilled to you at IRF!**

The February Irish Run Pony Club Riding Center meeting will be on Saturday, February 13 at 4 p.m. at the barn. We will meet in either the studio or the Calason lounge and talk about record books. They are *very* important for ratings; especially at the upper levels. You can look up more info on the Pony Club website.

I am about to embark on a **renovation project in the studio**. The floor joists on the south side have collapsed and it needs to be repaired ASAP. So....we are going to add more garage space and update the kitchen and bath as well. Pardon our mess as the contractor brings in equipment and supplies. Most of it should be confined to the studio, but you may see some cars, trucks and workers that you don't know. **Work is scheduled to begin this Thursday, February 4.**

Is your horse having hoof problems? You aren't alone! According to farrier Ryan Moore, the extremely wet fall we had prevented the usual hardening of the sole in many horses. Winter came on quickly and the hard ground against the soft sole has resulted in some sore feet. If you are having some foot issues, please talk to your farrier and Daniela about ways that we can help.

We have now started our 4th daily feeding in the evenings. Hopefully this will make horses and owners alike more comfortable. If you think your horse is gaining too much weight, please let Daniela know.

We will be collecting fecal samples this week. We will be testing of the horses new to Irish Run and horses who tested as "high shedders" last time fecals were done. Daniela will be collecting samples and taking them to be tested. You may remember that many de-wormers are losing their effectiveness due to overuse so we want to avoid treating horses who do not have

parasites. We normally de-worm twice a year unless a horse is a “high shedder” and needs to be treated more frequently. Parasites can cause weight loss among other problems. If you think your horse needs to be tested or have any other questions about fecal samples, please see Daniela.

You are all invited to my concert with *Music and More on Grand*, next Sunday February 7 at 3 pm at the United Methodist Church in Valley Junction, 720 Grand Ave. Free admission!

Thank you all for being part of the Irish Run family. It is a pleasure to have you at the barn to share our love of horses. I hope to see you all soon!

Virginia