



Press Release

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Contact: See last paragraph

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Gypsy Vanner Horses to Create Equine Excitement at 2010 Empire Farm Days

Seneca Falls, NY – A unique and magical breed of horse will visit the August 10-12, 2010 Empire Farm Days. The Gypsy Vanner Horses of Drumlin Gypsy Ranch in the Finger Lakes region of New York will be on exhibit at the three-day agricultural showcase at the Rodman Lott & Son Farms in Seneca Falls, NY, as part of the popular Equine Center programs.

A series of Empire Farm Days Equine Center Seminars and demonstrations at the Equine Center Round Pen are planned. Trainer Gracie Seely will be presenting two of the daily-different Equine Center demonstrations with live horses. Her morning program will focus on the history of the Gypsy Vanner Horses (also called Gypsy Cobs), their original uses and level one conformation and her afternoon program will present in-depth conformation and judging standards and the modern uses of the horses. Watch www.empirefarmdays.com for dates and details on the Equine Center Round Pen presentations.

Seely will have different horses that have been imported direct from England at the show each day, among them a yearling filly and an “ideal” Gypsy Cob mare.

The origin of the breed is credited to Gypsies in England and Ireland. The “discovery” and naming of the breed as Gypsy Vanner Horses is credited to two Americans: Dennis and Cindy Thompson, who saw the horses while traveling in England. After extensive research in England and Ireland, they founded the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society in 1996.

Dennis writes on the Society’s website at <http://vanners.org>, “As wildly improbable as it seemed, consequent research confirmed that, in fact, one of the most magnificent breeds of horse the world has ever seen was not recognized, did not have a name and was not understood outside the world of Gypsies.”

The horses are named in recognition of the Gypsy’s post-World War II desire to breed the ideal caravan-pulling horse. They selected the best characteristics of such breeds as the Clydesdale, English Shire, Dales Pony and Friesian to create a docile, yet stylish draft-type horse that was easy to keep. Also called the Gypsy Cobb, these horses average 14.3 hands in height and feathered hocks, manes and tails that mesmerize viewers.

The 300-acre Empire Farms Days agricultural extravaganza also includes DairyProfit Seminars, 600-plus representatives of agricultural institutions and organizations, equipment and truck test drives, and BBQ. For more details, contact Empire Farm Days Manager Melanie Wickham at 877-697-7837, mwickham@empirefarmdays.com.

Empire Farm Days is hosted by Rodman Lott & Son Farms, Seneca Falls, NY
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