



SUNFLOWER FARMS

SUNFLOWER SEEDS

April 1, 2008

Although it certainly seems like we deserve a peaceful, flower-filled spring after that bear of a winter, apparently Ma Nature isn't about to let us off the hook. The pastures have gone right from icy to soggy, although fortunately they're not completely flooded like many barns in the area. For the safety of the horses and the health of the pastures, we are rotating the horses through the 16 limestone paddocks until the mud clears up. We'll take advantage of this wet weather to reseed some of the grass paddocks, as they have taken a beating this spring and last fall, and some of them will be closed off this month as we wait for the grass to get established. We will also be scrubbing out and refilling the water troughs now that it's consistently above freezing.

Also, PLEASE, PLEASE do not ride in the outdoor arenas yet! The sand looks dry but the base is waterlogged, as water levels everywhere in the area are extremely high. The concussion from the horses' feet will cause lasting damage to the base when the arenas are this wet. Thank you!

We don't have any new horses to welcome this month, but we do have a familiar face back among us! Gregorio will be back on a part-time basis this month, starting out with grooming as he gets his strength back. Welcome back, Gregorio!

Please remember that there is no turn-out in any of the riding arenas. Feel free to put your horse in the limestone paddocks for some supervised turnout after everybody is in for the day.

Also, the guys who drag our arenas in the morning have been spending much more time than they should, because they have to continually stop to pick up manure left from the day before. If your horse poops while you are riding, it needs to get cleaned up when you're done. This practice keeps

the footing from packing and makes the dust that our horses inevitably breathe as we ride as clean as possible.

On Thursday, April 3rd, Sunflower is hosting a Horse Health Workshop with Gabriele Sutton, president of KAM Animal Services. It goes from 6 pm to 8 pm, and there is a \$15 fee.

On Saturday, April 5th, we have a Nutrena feed seminar starting at 10 am. It will include guest speakers, clinicians, and an at-liberty performance. Free lunch is included! Please see the flyers posted around the barns for more details.

On April 26th and 27th, Sunflower Farms will be hosting our first IDCTA clinic of 2008 with Patty Becker. If you are interested in riding in the clinic, please contact the office or Pam Harting. As always, auditors are welcome free of charge.

May 3rd and 4th Sunflower Farms will host a clinic with Carole Grant. Carole represented the United States in the 1982 World Equestrian Games and in the 1983 Pan-Am games, where she brought home two gold medals. She does have one space still available. Please see the flyers posted around the barns for more information, or contact Erin Cartwright at (847) 334-1391.

Finally, there will be changes to some existing service fees implemented this month. Board has not been affected and there are no new charges added. If you are interested, please stop by the office for an updated schedule of prices.



God forbid that I should go to any Heaven in which there are no horses.

~R.B. Cunningham Graham, letter to Theodore Roosevelt, 1917