



SUNFLOWER FARMS

SUNFLOWER SEEDS

February 1, 2010

It's February! This month, don't forget to wish the ones you love a happy Valentine's Day! Also, throw out some beads on Mardi Gras, yell at the TV on Super Bowl Sunday, send our speed skaters some gold-medal wishes for the start of the 2010 Olympics, and don't forget to hug your favorite sword swallower on February 28th - International Sword Swallowers Day!

We have a few new equine faces this month, and one happy new horse-owner! Molly Speiser has brought in a new horse named Worthy, who is starting a dapple-grey club with Contessa in C barn while Rocky enjoys some time off. Ears is back for the summer, and just as cute as ever. Finally, if you see Barb Harmon tell her congratulations on her new horse - she recently bought Spirit!

Keep your eyes open for new clinic signs around the barns; we may be hosting a clinic with an Olympic dressage rider on March 19th and 20th!

Show dates are now posted online. We have four dressage shows and three hunter/jumper shows scheduled for 2010. We'll be hosting our first ever NIHJA show on April 16-18, and our two remaining hunter/jumper shows on July 25th and September 19th are part of a four-show series that we are doing with Brighton Farms over on Edwards Rd. Our four one-day IDCTA shows will be on June 13, July 11, August 8, and September 12.

The sand in Arena 2 has been completely replaced, and we have added more magnesium chloride to keep down watering frequency. Please remember that we are dragging that arena between 12:40 and 1:00 every day but Monday. The tractor has to come in through the garage door, which may be an unpleasant surprise to your horse if you are riding at the time. Please plan your rides accordingly!

Everybody has probably experienced high gas and heat bills at home since the weather dropped. Those same increases hit us, but unfortunately on a much, much larger scale. Please help us keep costs down by turning off the heat when you leave an arena, keeping doors shut, and turning off unused lights in the barns.



Some people think horses are dumb. Ability and intelligence are in all horses, regardless of breed. Their so-called stupidity stems from our poor communication. The better I draw the picture, the better the communication. If I'm drawing a horse in pencil, I've communicated something. If I add crayon to my drawing, you can then tell that the horse I've drawn is a Palomino. Does that mean you've gotten smarter? No. It means that I've become a better communicator.

-John Lyons