

# Hagemeyer Farms



*by Kimberly French*

It is one of the largest breeding operations in the Buckeye State, possesses state-of-the-art technology, a devoted staff spanning four generations of familial dedication and one of the hottest studs in North American Standardbred racing, but Scott Hagemeyer insists there is one factor he considers to be the key to Hagemeyer Farms success.

"What we strive for is personal attention," said the farm's general manager and third generation of his clan. "What I mean by that, is when someone calls the farm they call me directly on my cell phone. I might not be able to answer their call right

away, but I will return it and respond to any question they might have about their mare, about our stallions, about our facilities. It is truly all about our clients. We

have always felt each person deserves special attention and it's not just about our clients, but we apply the same principal to our horses.

"Each of horses is viewed as an individual, because like us, each one is," Hagemeyer said. "We try to take their personalities into account and each horse is treated accordingly. This is how we operate our farm and I feel that is the ingredient for us to continue our success in the future."

Like many breeding operations in Ohio over the last decade, Hagemeyer Farms, located in Clarksville a mere 35 miles north of Cincinnati and

70 miles south of Columbus right off I-71, came into being when Scott's grandfather Maynard and his grandmother Stella purchased the farm in conjunction with Maynard's father in 1948. Unfortunately, Maynard's father passed away the following year and the couple engaged in various enterprises to keep the facility afloat, including raising chickens, but became enamored of the Standardbred breeding business when Miss Windale, a mare he traded other horses, just happened to drop several very nice progeny.

Maynard became involved in the sport as a

trainer and driver, constructed a half mile training track and delved deeper into the breeding business with his first Standardbred stud, Billy Jo Byrd.

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jumped right in as well as the farm manager and eventually was the race secretary for the OCRA fair stakes for more than two and a half decades.

Following in their parents' footsteps, Mel, Fred, Della and Ted, all were actively involved in the Standardbred industry in various capacities throughout their lives. In fact, Mel just retired as the general manager of Lebanon Raceway last winter after 45 years of service and remains on the Warren County Fairboard as its Standardbred representative.

It was only natural then, Scott entered the Standardbred business as well. It could be said it was in



his blood or even to share his genetic makeup. As mentioned previously, he remains at the helm, and his 22-year-old daughter Lindsay is continuing the family tradition, as she is attending the University of Cincinnati with the intention of going on to Ohio State to become a veterinarian after graduation. She plays an integral role in the farm's day-to-day operations.

"It certainly has always been about family for us," Scott said. "Actually Maynard and Stella are still around today at 95 and 92. My grandfather tries to keep me on my toes and checks into what I'm doing, but for the most part he trusts me. My daughter is also a great help to me and takes on a lot of responsibility around here. Of course, my father, Mel, was involved with Lebanon Raceway until he decided to retire when they switched over to Miami Valley. He just felt he didn't really want to start over somewhere new, but he is still at the track all the time."

Currently, Hagemeyer Farms stands six stallions and is home to roughly 170 mares. At the time of this article, the farm brought 23 new babies in this year and expects about the same amount in the weeks to come.

"It's the most head of horses I have ever had and it is really keeping us busy," Scott explained. "We went from about 55 up to this level and very excited about what the future has to offer with the Ohio slots program. Like many other farms, we were struggling for a bit and have never turned away other breeds of horses. We still stand a Quarter Horse stallion, but the slots have definitely improved our circumstances."

Based on his personal approach, as well as his expertise and knowledge of his chosen profession,

Hagemeyer, cares for each mare and foal as if they were his own. With the latest in technology and at least three highly qualified veterinarians within 15 minutes that come immediately upon request, he still collects and inseminates the mares himself. He also oversees every detail of shipping semen and making sure each mare is in the peak of health whether she is pregnant or not.

"We pride ourselves in a 90 percent conception rate," Scott said. "At some junctions it has been nearly 98 percent. I'm sure some of our clients have

gotten a little frustrated with me after a mare has foaled a healthy baby and feel she can be bred right back. Of course they are right, but we like to wait for a short window of time to screen our mares to make sure they are in the best condition they can be. We ultrasound them to screen them for conditions such as an enlarged uterus and how follicle operation. We want them to have a safe, fruitful pregnancy without any complications and take the time and expense to insure that."

Another essential component to Hagemeyer Farms' success is directly related to the family's concept of personalized service. They want every client to achieve the most bang

for their buck. This means they are more than willing to rebreed a mare free of any additional charges if she doesn't take on the first several inseminations and they clearly break down all the fees on their bills so clients realize exactly where their money is going.

"I will not nickel and dime my clients to death," Scott said. "I don't feel that is a good business practice and I would not want it done to me. These people are spending large amounts of money and I



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want them to feel comfortable with how we are performing. I want them to keep coming back and I think this model has been helpful for us to attain this goal."

Obviously Hagemeyer is excited about the potential the slots revenue has already generated the industry within his home state and in others such as New York, Pennsylvania and Indiana, but he is also thrilled the prospects his six stallion roster has generated. The farm currently stands 2002 Dan Patch 2-year-old pacing colt of the year, Allamerican Native, for its first year and he stood in Pennsylvania and Ontario. The stallion is the sire of the undefeated National Debt and interest in him this season has been high.

This is also the first year the farm has managed the regally bred World of Rocknroll, who is by top sire RocknRoll Hanover out of the champion Worldly Beauty. That mare is a full sister to Worldly Treasure, the dam of 2012 Horse of the Year Captaintreacherous. This stallion stood his prior two seasons in Indiana and his first crop will be on the track this year.

A three-quarter brother to the last trotting Triple Crown victor, Windsong's Legacy, Rompaway Wally is also standing his first year at Hagemeyer Farms after a very limited number of matings in Michigan. He, however, has produced Rompaway Galaxy, who was Ohio's 2013 2-Year-Old Trotting Colt of the Year.

In addition to these three fellows, Hagemeyer Farms also stands Home Stretch, who is out of the Speedy Crown mare Dreamland's Crown, a sister to Lady Lexington, the victress of the filly World Trotting Derby and Running Sea, the winner of the Kentucky Futurity. His first foals are being arriving this year.

There is also Look Sharp, who was pensioned this year, but was a long-time money maker for the

facility and is the sire of Ohio's fastest pacing filly of 2013, Paydaze On The Way, as well as Canyon Wind. This son of Cambest and the Artsplace mare Lola, earned just shy of \$700,000 and from only 24 starters is responsible for the 2012 Michigan 3-Year-Old Pacing Filly of the Year, Tropical Breeze, and has 5 sub 1:55 performers.

"Obviously we are thrilled to have Allamerican Native, especially with how well his offspring have been doing this year," Scott said. "But we feel exactly the same way about World of RocknRoll. He is as beautiful as a horse as you would like to see with a fantastic pedigree. His paddock is by the road and he likes to race against the cars that go by so he keeps himself still fit. Then there is Home Stretch. We think he is going to be an excellent producer and is also a very handsome horse.

"This has been a great year for us breeding wise," he continued. "We have shipped semen to Pennsylvania, Indiana, New York, Michigan, Wisconsin, Kentucky and Florida. Believe it or not we even sent semen to Washington, although I am not exactly sure what they are going to do with it.

We are looking forward to

managing these stallions careers and think they will be very successful in Ohio and hopefully nationally."

At a time when the state is experiencing an economic boon to the Standardbred industry, Hagemeyer Farms does not plan to change their program. Their method has always been about personalization and Scott intends to remain on that course. It is what has brought his family success in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

"Of course we are willing to try new things and maybe look into developing a little more racing stock, rather than just breeding, but as I said before, it really is all about personalization," he said. "That is what got us here, kept us here and will propel us in the coming years. It is what we do and what we stake our reputation upon."



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