

# AMERICAN CREAM NEWS

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## Annual Cream Meeting Hosts Dr. Phil Sponenberg

by Carol Pshigoda, Vice President

Is the American Cream Draft Horse just a color breed? According to Dr. Phil Sponenberg, our speaker at our 1997 annual meeting, the color is a champagne variant, and "I stress variant." Phil gave those present a very informative talk, and was impressed, maybe infected, with our enthusiasm for our horses.

The stud book is going to be a great tool for us, Phil believes, and shows some interesting influences in our breed. Those of you not present need to go over the info sheets on influences.

To be useful, a breed must have a predictable generic package. This predictability is what separates a purebred from a crossbred animal. So as we look at breeding programs the key point we must reach is type, type, type. Type is important in all breeds. Regardless of color we should be able to take five horses of the same color, and on conformation alone be able to identify the breed. Although I must admit I personally have had a hard time distinguishing between my friends' black Clydes and his Black Shires.

A key point brought out by the stud book is that 32% of the background, the highest contributor to the gene pool, is undocumented. Phil feels this group most likely is

made up of Midwest heavy and medium draft animals, and has had the most influence on our breed.

So, to get back to the original question. Are we just a color breed? Blood typing has confirmed the American Cream Draft Horse as a unique breed among drafts, color aside. It is definitely more than a color variant offspring of some other established breed.

It is up to us as breeders to establish the directing philosophy of our breed. Type needs to be defined. Nice heads, refined ears, short coupled, well muscled, large bodied, full shoulders and well muscled hindquarters, with a height of 15'2" to 16'2", although I see we have raised the height to 17'. I feel we should not exclude our taller horses,

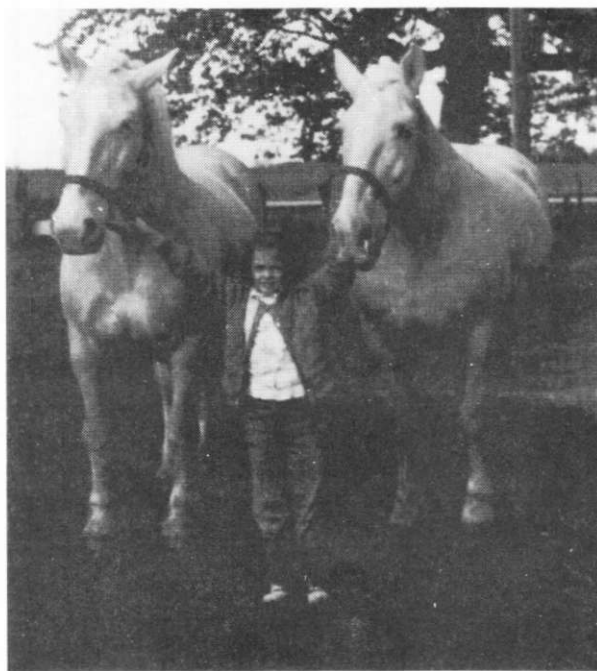
but maybe not breed up to the hitch horses that all the other draft breeds have done. Maybe we should stay the true farm draft breed. Many people are drawn to Creams due to their beautiful color and style. It would be nice to not get our breed lost in the "hitch horse" driven breeding of the other drafts.

Open vs. closed, the registry question was addressed. Phil's consensus was that keeping the registry open for now would allow us to not lose those Creams that could be a genetic asset to us, but as yet are not registered. The key, I believe, is in being careful in what we register. We don't need to register everything that looks Cream that comes down the pike. Again, we come back to TYPE. We need to be very care-ful, that while

we are establishing credibility for this breed, we do not rush out and register anything, and therefore lose what we have gained just to get our numbers up. We may have horses come into the association from the outside, but they must have only draft horse background and be of the type we are looking for.

In closing, Phil could not stress TYPE enough. *TYPE, TYPE, TYPE!!!* We must define and re-define and then refine again. Then, as conscientious breeders, breed the horses that are most likely to define and throw TYPE. This way we can make the American Cream Draft Horse prosper while saving a valuable part of our American farm heritage. What a wonderful adventure to be a part of.

*Thank you very much, Phil. Your talk was educational, inspiring, and very useful.*



Elizabeth Ziebell sent this photograph of two Cream mares, #49 and #50, taken in 1950 when the breed was recognized by the state of Iowa. Topsy (L) and Queen (R) are only 15.2 hands and are the type of which Dr. Phil Sponenberg spoke in his lecture. These mares are out of Knox breeding.

## New Merchandise Available



Official Logo

Royal blue with three white stars above red and white stripes in a shield shape. Harnessed team of Creams with the words "Born and Bred in the U.S.A." Black words on white American Cream Draft Horses. Designed by Brenda and Dan Williams and approved at the 1995 meeting.

(Listed price plus postage to mail will be billed in the package.)



- 3"x3" Decal to be Mounted on Glass Windshield ..... \$4.00
  - Bumper Stickers ..... \$3.00
  - Car Shades ..... \$11.50
  - Magnetic Decals 9"x12" ..... \$10.50
  - All Sizes of Youth Tees ..... \$10.00
  - Adult Sizes Tees through XL ..... \$11.00
  - Adult Size Tees XXL ..... \$12.00
  - Adult Size Tees XXXL ..... \$13.00
- Prices are for white tees with the colored logo.

New cream and brown baseball cap style with the screen print team outline ..... \$5.00

Oatmeal colored tees with screen print "American Cream Draft Horse Association" on hand are priced at cost until sold:

- 3 Adult, medium ..... \$7.00
- 3 Adult, XL ..... \$7.00
- 2 Adult, XXL ..... \$8.00
- 5 Children's Large ..... \$6.00

Old style cream and brown baseball style cap with screen print words (six left) ..... \$3.50

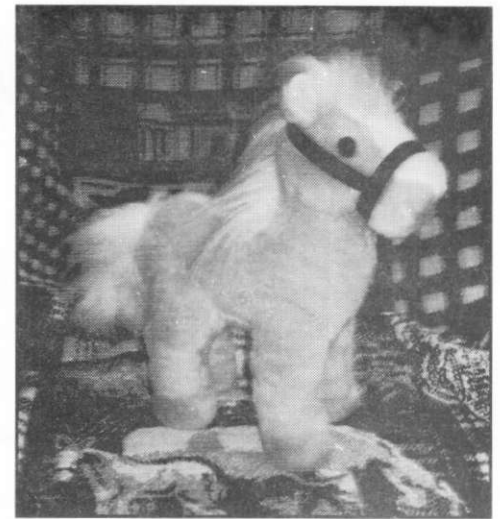
## Directors Approve Bulk Purchase of a New Williamsburg Product.

American Cream Draft Horse likeness is 11" tall to top of head. Buck is made of synthetic fibers, and can be surface washed with cold water and mild soap, air dried and gently brushed to restore plush. "Buck" is a soft cream-colored horse with poseable legs; great fun to play with. Available in October 1997.

Retail price plus postage \$18.95

We encourage you to order one of these, and when an opportunity arises for you to sell them to nonmembers order a quantity which you will be able to retail reasonably soon. We want to be able to realize a profit on this product which the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation is making available to us at a discount. This will enable us to supply brochures for educational purposes.

All merchandise is available from the secretary, The American Cream Draft Horse Association, 2065 Noble Avenue, Charles City, Iowa 50616-9108.



"Buck"

### Classified

**Free to good home:** Stallion, 17.3 H, light cream, pink skin, amber eyes, 10 yrs. old, Reg. #231. We are searching for new stallion for blood lines, so C. W. Cream of the Crop needs to find a new home. Please call for details (757) 220-7790 (Va.), ask for Karen or Richard.

**For Sale:** Two stud colts. One is a yearling, the other a weanling. Both medium cream, white mane and tail, pink skin. Please call or write Bill Cronin, Rte 3, Box 77, Lake City, MN, 55041, or (507) 753-2336.

**For Sale:** Mare in foal due March 27, 16.3 H, 2 yrs. old, 1,710 lbs, medium cream, white mane and tail, pink skin. Please call Don and Linda Johnson (515) 535-4517. Reg. #304.

**For Sale:** Mare, 10 yrs., light cream, dark skin, Reg. #269. Stallion, 2 yrs., medium cream, pink skin, Reg. # 328. Please call B.J. and Kevin Schmeltzer at 503-848-9514 or write to 22460 S.W. Riggs Road, Aloha, OR 97007.

### Bits 'n Pieces

We have a total of 101 members in 28 states. At present we have 62 full voting members and 39 associate members. Listed below are the numbers of each and where they are located.

FULL		ASSOCIATE	
IOWA	11	IOWA	6
WISC.	6	VIRGINIA	4
MICHIGAN	4	CALIF.	4
OREGON	4	MINN.	3
VIRGINIA	3	PENN.	3
MINN.	3	ILLINOIS	2
MISS.	3	NEW YORK	2
CALIF.	3	NO. CAROL.	2
MARYLAND	3	OHIO	2
ILLINOIS	2	KENTUCKY	1
TENNESSEE	2	MARYLAND	1
PENN.	1	ALABAMA	1
KANSAS	1	NEBRASKA	1
ARIZONA	1	MONTANA	1
MISSOURI	1	MICHIGAN	1
IDAHO	1	CONN.	1
NEW HAMP.	1	NEW JER.	1
CONN.	1	MASS.	1
		COLO.	1
		MAINE	1

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