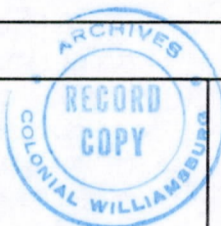


The Colonial Williamsburg Animal News

PAMPHLET FILE

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THE CREAMS ARE IN AN INCREASING WAY

The American Cream ladies have had an eventful fall. In September they strutted their stuff at the Virginia State Fair Draft Horse Show. Washed and gleaming, with tails tied up sporting green and yellow ribbons in true draft horse style, they swept the Grade Mare class. Last year Mary Margaret (C. W. Rich and Creamy) took home the blue ribbon. This year first place went to her stablemate Jane (C. W. Sour Cream), with Mary taking the red ribbon for second place. Of course we were pretty excited to have the Creams win their class for the second year in a row, especially to take first and second place. The girls were shown "in hand." They were led into the ring and were judged on confirmation or their "good looks." The Creams were expertly prepared and shown by Karen Smith and Jennifer Frank. In 1991 we hope they will compete not only in "in hand" classes, but show their versatility in performance classes, perhaps pulling one of our modern training vehicles.

With the future in mind, Mary went right back to work. She is destined not only for an occasional glory in the show ring, but her most important role...pulling a carriage in the historic area. Mary's training had to be placed on hold, as she soon became too large to fit between the shafts of the meadowbrook. Mary and Jane have been bred to an American Cream Stallion, C. W. Cream of the Crop and have now foaled. Mary led off by foaling on Easter Sunday, giving us a lovely filly. Her barn name will be Easter. A couple of days later Jane followed suit with an equally healthy colt. His barn name will be Benjamin or Ben. Both mares and foals are doing well.

Coach and Livestock wishes to thank the security department (especially the night shift), for keeping a close watch on the expectant mothers. Security officers included the stable on their nightly rounds, checking on the condition of the mares. They spotted Mary just after she had foaled, and finding Jane in labor called Richard Nicoll. Richard and Martha Nicoll acted as "midpeople," giving a gentle tug when needed. Karen Smith arrived to dip the umbilical cords in iodine, and make sure the foals were up and nursing well. Although both mares had uncomplicated births, a close watch meant that veterinary assistance could be called if needed. Foaling time means long nights for Richard Nicoll and Karen Smith; Security's help means peace of mind and healthy mares and foals.

NEW MOTHER ALERT

Mares have an instinctive desire to protect their foals. When admiring the babies in the pasture, please look but don't touch. We appreciate your help in saving our new mothers some anxious moments.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Two new horses have joined the staff at Coach and Livestock. The first is Czerkas, a nine-year-old grey gelding. Czerkas is the fifth horse donated by John Seabrook of Salem, New Jersey. Like the other four, Czerkas is a Wielkopolska, or Polish Warmblood. He will be partnered with Devit.

The second new face is an iron grey Percheron gelding named Ladd. This five-year-old gelding was a donation from Fords Colony. Ladd is the same type of horse as Topsy and Prince, and Bill and Bruce, our big black Percherons. Even though Ladd is young, he is doing quite well and is working with one of the Polish horses. His new partner is Kaskadar, better known as Moose. You may already have seen a four-in-hand of greys working around town, and with the arrival of these two new grey horses, there are high hopes of putting together a six for special occasions. Keep watching.

Our first homebred has stepped out into the big wide world. Aaron is the half brother to Moses, one of our American Cream Draft horses. Although Aaron is of American Cream parentage, he does not fit the criterion for Creams and cannot be registered. He will be too small for use in the Historic Area, but our farrier, Stan Rudacil finds him just the thing. Stan reports that his family enjoys Aarons' good temperament and that he will continue Aaron's training.

Coach and Livestock has joined with other departments offering early retirement. Tom, our sidesaddle horse decided to take advantage of the offer, especially as his new home is a huge farm in northern Virginia with lots of grass, company, and lots of goodies. He's doing light work with a family who are delighted with his steady manner and good personality. Tom reports that the plush accommodations are only his due for his 25-plus years of service for Colonial Williamsburg. He did decline the silver bowl in favor of carrots.



MOSES HAS A NEW JOB

American Cream Moses shows the advantage of raising our own horses. He is now three years old and entering a new phase in his training. Last year we laid the groundwork, teaching him to go forward and stop and turn in any direction. He was hitched to a drag made of fence rails to teach him to pull weight. He was soon ready for the training cart working at both the walk and the trot. His next big step is work with the flatbed around town helping to do chores, and in the process learning to maneuver the cart in tight places. Moses has done very well in all of his lessons, calmly accepting each new challenge. When faced with something scary like the horse-eating turkey at the Windmill, a soothing voice will quickly calm him down and he's ready to get back to business. We are very pleased with his quick mind and his ready trust in people. You will see Moses at work this summer in his role as "Cart Horse" gaining experience and learning new lessons.

TUPPING TIME

by Elaine Shirley

Tupping time ended in early February, and the tups were sent to the Windmill to bachelors quarters. The tup is a breeding ram and tupping time, of course, is when the ram is put with the ewes to produce lambs. There are lots of things we do to the sheep before tupping time, such as worming, feet trimming, and flushing. Flushing is to give the adult females a higher than normal level of energy feed a few weeks before the ram is put in the pen. This helps to increase ovulation and thus increase the number of lambs. By following this practice for the last three years, we have had an increased number of twins in '89 and '90, and we are still waiting to see about '91.

The ram had oil colors applied to his chest about every week while he was with the ewes. The oil colors would leave a faint mark on the ewe when the ram services her, so we can determine when the lambs will be born. You may still be able to see faint traces of blue, red, or yellow on a few of the ewes' rears. The colors also help to tell if the ewes and the ram are doing their job. If the entire group of ewes are marked with two or three consecutive colors, it tells the shepherd that the ram is probably sterile because the ewes are continuing to ovulate. On the other hand, if a few ewes are marked two or three times, it tells the shepherd that those ewes probably will not breed.

Most breeds of sheep are seasonal breeders. This means they breed when the day length starts to shorten, from August to January. We'll be looking for lambs five months after the ram was put in with the ewes.

SPRING LAMBS

Lambing season started this year around mid April. We already have two sets of twins and a couple of single lambs, with more on the way. Some of the new lambs are in the pasture in front of the Powell House. They may be moved according to the condition of the grass and weather. If you can't find them, call us at ext. 2491 for their location.

FOLDING

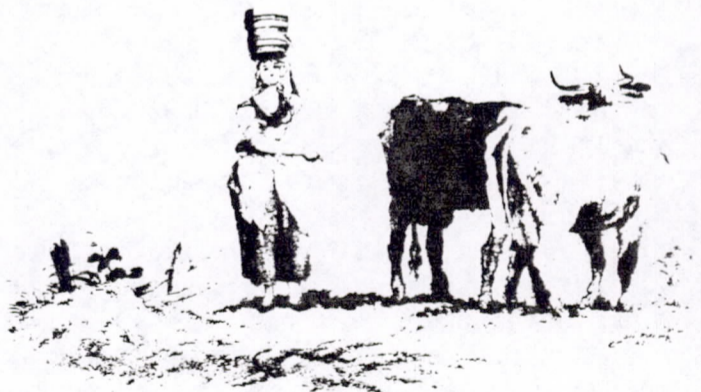
by Elaine Shirley

How do you fold a sheep? Along the dotted line, match point A and point B, or on the crease? To fold a sheep, or more correctly a flock of sheep, you put them in a pen. We have been folding the sheep around town using temporary fencing called hurdles. Hurdles are sections of fence made of wood, that are pushed into the ground to make a sheep pen or a sheep fold. Temporary fencing has always been popular with sheep farmers because they can force the sheep to graze in a small area. Today folding is still popular, but modern sheep farmers use nylon netting with electric wire and metal posts. So when you see the sheep in some new places, remember they are being folded, but not spindled or stapled.



ROLLICKING RED DEVONS

Nora and Hannah are enjoying a vacation at Carter's Grove, but it's soon time to get back to the business of being milk cows. As they are not currently expecting, the first step is a visit to the Bull. After a careful search, a particularly impressive North Carolina Devon bull was chosen as the reigning sire. The ladies leave in April for their dream date. Nora has let it be known that she really would prefer a fun ship cruise to the Islands instead of North Carolina. Sorry dear, the "love boat" is not in the budget. The human staff are planning on early 1992 calves.



QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? Please write to:
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