

University Farm gains new residents

Truman State recently acquired three new horses for the University Farm. The three mares are intended to be used as teaching aids for the equine studies program. One of the mares is expected to give birth to a foal during spring 2016.

BY BRENDEN HARRISON
Staff Writer

The University Farm is more crowded after acquiring new additions that will help teach students about animal pregnancy.

Every year, the equine science program brings new life into the world in the form of young fillies and foals that will educate current and future students.

Equine science professor Kelly Walter said Truman recently acquired three new mares named Movin' Miss Roxy, Rosa and Josey.

"One [mare] is currently pregnant and will have her foal the first week of May," Walter said. "The other two are not bred, but have donated breedings in order to be bred during the Equine Reproduction Practicum 353 class hopefully in March of 2016 and subsequently bring new foals to Truman in February of 2017."

Donated breedings mean the horse's specific purpose is to be bred for the class, Walter said.

Walter said the pregnant mare, Roxy, is an 8-year-old quarter horse and the other mares are sisters — 8-year-old Rosa and 7-year-old Josey, Walter said. She said after Roxy's pregnancy, each horse will stay at Truman and be used to continue teaching students riding, biology or other animal pregnancies.

Among the many students acquainted with Roxy is senior Rachel Hunn, an equine science major who said she already has begun to pick up on the new horses' distinct personalities.

"Roxy, Rosa and Josey are all so sweet and sometimes a little sassy," Hunn said. "I am excited to see the foal out of Roxy, especially since we already have two fillies, April and Bailey, from the same stallion, Pepto Madero. Roxy is super sweet, and I am sure she will be a great addition to our herd and the reproduction class this spring."

Hunn said two big reasons she chose to attend Truman were because Truman offered an equine studies program and because of the University Farm.

Hunn said Working with the horses teaches her new things about herself.

"The horses teach me patience, humility, the value of hard work and love."

— Senior Rachel Hunn, equine science major

"The horses teach me patience, humility, the value of hard work and love," Hunn said. "Everyone from the yearlings to the oldest horses we have on the farm have taught me something. These animals are so forgiving and they are amazing teachers."

Senior Morgan Poisson, a biology major and equine minor, said she has experience with many of the horses and

thinks they have taught her something more than just academic knowledge.

"Horses are very reflective when it comes to body language and emotion," Poisson said. "If you are scared, that horse has every reason to also be scared. You have to keep your emotions in check. After all, you are leading a 1,000-plus pound animal."

Additionally, Poisson said she thinks adding an equine minor and joining the equestrian team are the best decisions she has made at Truman.

Poisson said she learns more about each horse every time she goes out to the farm.

"If you really want to know how amazing it is, go out to the farm and see the way we interact with these animals," Poisson said. "They are our friends, our partners and they never fail to cheer us up."

For more information about the University Farm and its open hours, contact farm manager Bill Kuntz at brkuntz@truman.edu.

International House explores morality

The International House hosts Conversation and Community 8 p.m. every Monday, where participants talk about a specific topic for the night. During Monday's conversation, the topic was morality. Anyone is welcome to join the conversation, and the topic changes each week. The International House also hosts various events throughout the week ranging from movie nights to game nights to playing sports outside. For more information about events, contact Sujash Purna at sp5638@truman.edu.



Katey Stoetzel/Index

Participants in this week's Conversation and Community discuss what morality means to them. The topic of discussion changes from week to week to provide a variety of conversation starters.

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