

## Belgain Youth Programs to Benefit from the Sale of Donated Horse

Without the excitement and determination of young people who grow into dependable, engaged adults, no worthy endeavor will continue to exist.

It is with this in mind that a dedicated group of Belgain breeders from around the USA have been working hard to find ways to encourage those of the younger years to follow their interests in Belgian Draft Horses. The headquarters of the breed, located in Wabash, IN has been working with this group to establish programs which encourage young people to learn how to handle and care for this kind of horse. Belgians are used for many things. Most people are accustomed to seeing great teams of these strong, dependable animals faithfully helping Amish farmers till their land. According to Dale Stoltzfus, secretary of the Penna Draft Horse Sale to be held January 16 and 17 2007 at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, there are many other disciplines represented in the breed as well. These include a very active showing circuit where the horses are judged for their overall confirmation and then driven under harness to compete for driving prizes. Then there are the pulling competitions where the horses try to out-pull each other as teams to see which team can pull the heaviest load the farthest distance. And there are the pleasure and parade drivers who use their horses only to enhance their lives and the lives of others. Also, in recent years more and more of these magnificent animals are being used to ride english and western. Many of the shows now include riding competitions.

With all the possibilities of various disciplines connected to the Belgian Horse, interest from young people is high.

According to Stoltzfus, a Belgian breeder by the name of Pearl Riemer has entered a yearling stallion in the sale, the proceeds of which will be donated to the Youth programs of the North American Belgian Association. John Mctigh, manager of Ms. Riemer's Belgain program says "this colt is no slouch!" In other words, this offer of a donation comes from the heart of the Riemer breeding program. The sale committee and the folks at Riemer Belgains hope to raise a nice amount of money to benefit the youth programs of their association. The name of the donated horse is Riemer's JP. He will be sold on Wednesday January 17 along with a number of other Belgian and Percheron Stallions. Anyone needing more information can call Dale Stoltzfus at 717-940-4412 or visit the web site at [www.thepadraftsale.com](http://www.thepadraftsale.com).

An interesting article about Pearl Riemer, her life and her Belgian program can be found in the summer issue of The Draft Horse Journal, a quarterly publication from Waverly IA. The magazine can be found on the web at [www.drafthorsejournal.com](http://www.drafthorsejournal.com) or 319-352-4046.