

Hey Neighbor



For The Love Of Horses

By Frank J. Buchman

Young Westmoreland Horsewoman Works Her Way To Multiple FFA Awards

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winner for her Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program in equine science placement and was honored at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind.

This spring, Hood was named the Kansas FFA Association's Star in Agricultural Placement during the state FFA convention in Manhattan, defeating FFA members in all other divisions including cattle, swine, dairy, crops, horticulture, forestry, etc.

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velop skills within a specific part of the industry," added Kane. Hood's program topped all of the other areas of agriculture in Kansas FFA this year.

To win the national award is phenomenal, but to come back and receive the Star recognition is most unusual. "We have had less than a handful of students who have won a national proficiency award and also been named a Star in their respective division," Kane qualified.

"I really couldn't have done any of this without my parents, Kevin and Kathy Hood, my younger sister, Katelyn, and my Rock Creek FFA advisor, David Holliday. They've been very instrumental in my activities," Kally acknowledged.

"I am really impressed with the FFA and the diversity of programs offered. It is a cool opportunity for young people," Kevin recognized.

"Being a horse trainer's daughter, I began riding before I was born when my mother who was seven months pregnant with me won an American Paint Horse Association (APHA) national championship in open jumping," Kally relat-

ed. "Since then, I have traveled all over God's country showing American Paint Horses."

For her work and learning at the training facility, Kally exchanges labor in order to be able to show horses. "I enjoy all aspect of the business from the broodmares and stallions, to the world champion halter horses, and all of the steps in between," she verified.

Working with her family is an advantage. "The four of us work closely together," Kally stated. "We each have something different to contribute in order to keep our horse business moving smoothly."

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ons and even more reserve world champions.

"My abilities to specialize in different areas have led me to enjoy the wonderful opportunities associated with growing up on a horse farm," she declared.

Exact records are maintained by the Hoods on the number of hours Kally works for, the stable, and how she is reimbursed with use of horses, facilities and equipment. "My work is split up into various areas, but at some time or another I've done about everything there is to do in a training operation," Kally confirmed.

"My responsibilities started out as just working with my own horse and taking care of him. I then began starting colts for my dad and training the halter horses," she continued.

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In addition, Kally is involved with the farm's reproduction work, collecting stallions for cooled and frozen semen, embryo transfer, artificial insemination, and monitoring mares for heat and during foaling.

Of all her skills, Kally's knowledge of horse hoof care and shoeing is perhaps most appreciated by her parents and even other trainers. "I've always had an interest in shoeing, so I started watching the farriers and asking them questions when

they would come to shoe our horses," she remembered.

"Bob Avery of Olsburg is the one who really got her started. Kally was just 10 years old, and he had her rasp a foot and drive nails in a shoe. All of the farriers have been so patient, offering her advice and letting her help them," Kevin Hood pointed out.

Now, Kally helps trim the feet on young horses and broodmares at the stable and is even called upon to shoe horses. "I don't shoe our show horses on a regular basis, but sometimes a horse will throw a shoe or needs one reset, and Dad has me do it," she admitted.

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Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson.

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An addition to her national honors, Kally applied and was accepted for an FFA overseas trip to Costa Rica, which she participated in during June. It looked like the once-in-a-lifetime op-

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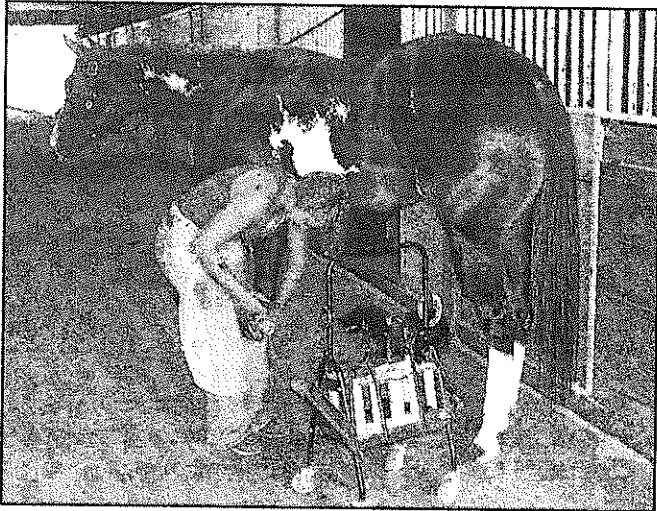
In that competition, Kally placed third in two-year-old amateur mares, with Imprinted Reward, and third in amateur aged stallions, with Intimidating.

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certain of her career plans at this time. "My sister, Katelyn, wants to be a fulltime trainer, so I will probably have a profession away from the farm, but I'll always be involved in working with and showing horses," she assured.

Of all the exciting times Kally has had, she said there are some down sides, other than the hard work. "The most relevant disadvantage I have had to overcome is the pressure put on me. As a horse trainer's daughter, you are expected to be highly competitive. The reality is that even the horse trainer's daughter can have an off day or a rough situation to get through," she concluded.



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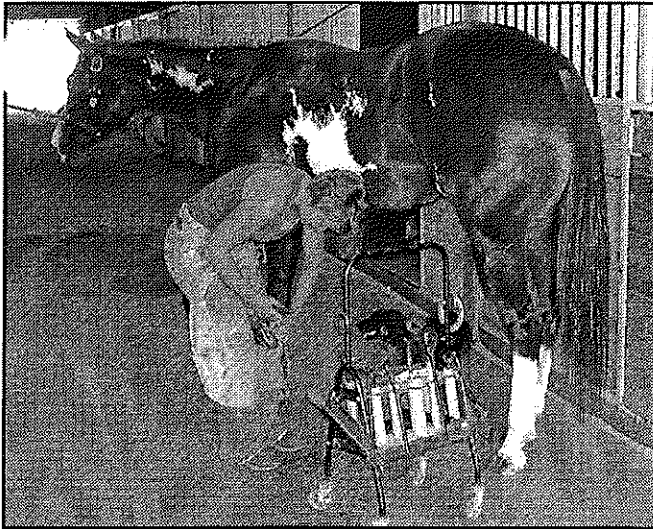
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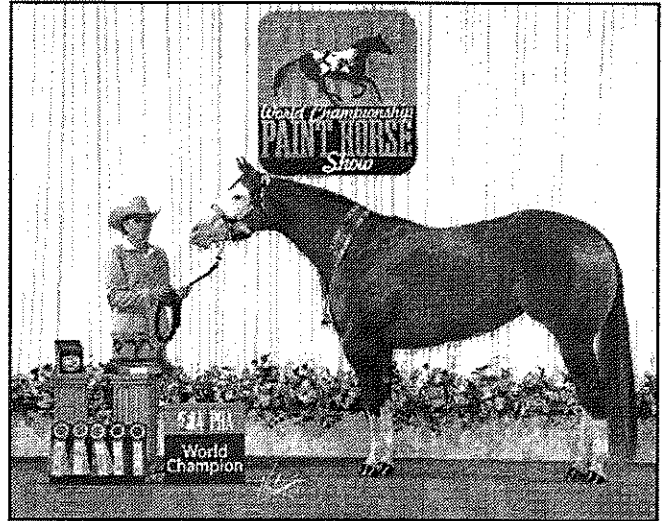
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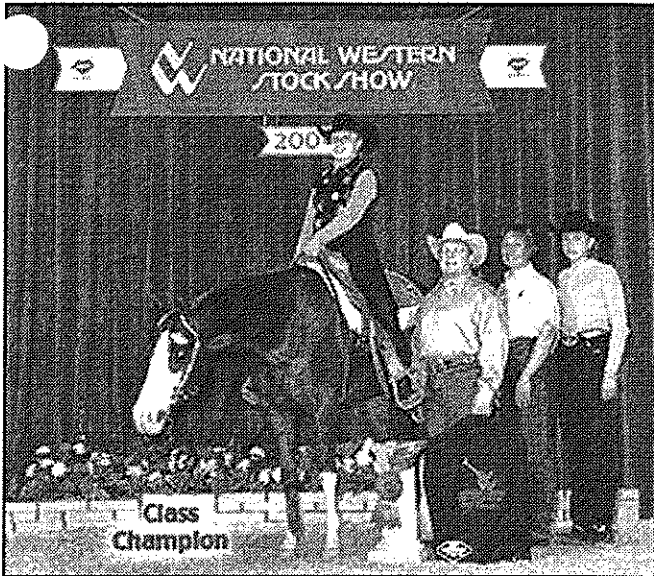
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