

Doulassville Corner House Farm joins 100 Day Horse Challenge

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DOUGLASSVILLE —One local farm is asking how well do you know you “ neigh” -bors?

This year, Corner House Farm is inviting residents from far and wide to stop by and meet a horse during its Open Barn days.

The farm is competing nationally in a 100 Day Horse Challenge run by The American Horse Council for a chance to win \$10,000.

Owned by Scotland native Louise Jordan-Beam, Corner House Farm covers 25 acres of land located at 95 Morlatton Road. It offers a bucolic setting tucked between routes 422 and 662.

“ The Open Barn days are really about letting people come and meet the horses,” Jordan-Beam said.

The challenge is for 100 people to be introduced to horses by visiting the farm during the 100 days of the challenge and visiting with a horse for a minimum of three minutes.

The challenge offers a firsthand experience of farm life. The horse enthusiast would love to attract local residents as well as those from far away to the farm to meet the animals. The farm is home to six horses who are all available to provide riders with a range of skill levels a positive experience. Each horse on the farm has its own quirks and personalities. Corner House is a sanctuary for the horses who call the farm home.

“ Many people have never seen a farm animal,” Jordan-Beam said. “ Housing developments surround the farm, but there are no students from any of these developments.”

Now a British Horse Society registered assistant instructor, Jordan-Beam was introduced to horses at a young age, riding since she was just 4 years old. Jordan-Beam has worked with students ages 3 to 67 and “ welcomes anyone in between.” The stabled horses provide opportunities for people of all ages and skill levels to feel comfortable riding. Students with disabilities are encouraged to participate and often feel emboldened after riding on horseback.

“ If you’ re doing something wrong, the horse will tell you by his or her actions,” the owner said. Learning to work with animals symbiotically can be a useful skill.

The farm owner said she noticed when the economy took a downfall and the recession hit, many people got rid of their horses as a way to cut costs and save expenses. Interacting with horses, animals and the outdoor environment can induce many positive health effects.

The 100 Day Horse Challenge encourages the public to get back to horses and invites anyone to visit the farm and meet the animals for a minimum of three minutes.

“ For many people, [riding a horse] is an item to check off their bucket list,” said Jordan-Beam.

Over a course of four scheduled Open Barn days, Jordan-Beam hopes to have the minimum of 100 people come through the farm. The farm visit bestows an experience to reconnect with nature, animals and the world around us.

Corner House Farm is quite accustomed to competition. They won an online, worldwide interdressage competition the last five years in a row, and once again took the title for Riding School of the Year for 2013-14. The farm competes in dressage and jumping against schools from South Africa, Japan, Canada and all over Europe.

Angel Gordon, 12, of Stowe, followed her cousin’ s path in riding horses and has been coming to Corner House for the past seven years.

“ I fell in love with riding Blackie,” she said. “ After you get to know them, [you find] they all have their own personality.”

When Gordon is not riding, she spends time as a volunteer on the farm. The young rider appreciates the hands-on experience working with the animals.

“ I take them to show, and they either do wonderful or fight against you,” she said. But for Gordon, that is what riding is all about and learning to communicate with the animals is a valued skill.

Since her time at Corner House, she has won the Junior Points League Interdressage and Points competition out of more than 160 riders worldwide.

For Gordon, spending time with the horses helps people learn to be “ kind, gentle.”

“ It helps them growing up and makes them responsible,” Gordon said about what children can learn from riding lessons.

Stop by Corner House Farm during any of their Open Barn days for a chance to meet the six horses and chickens who reside on the farm. As of their last count, the farm needs just 63 more people to visit the horses for the farm to meet the challenge.

Corner House Farm Open Barn days will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. July 19, Aug. 9 and Sept. 6.

Visit them online at cornerhousefarm.info for additional information on the Open Barn days or riding lessons.

URL: <http://www.pottsmmerc.com/lifestyle/20140709/douglassville-corner-house-farm-joins-100-day-horse-challenge>

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