

MY CO-OP AT ASCOT STUD FARM



By: Nicholas Blasioli

General Overview Of The Farm.

Foaling Barn



The Foaling Barn is where we use to store supplies that need to be accessed on a daily basis, such as the feed and other miscellaneous objects. There is also two stalls available to house horses inside.

Main House



The House is where we keep all of our amenities and is one of the oldest buildings on the property.

The Coverall



The Coverall is one of the largest buildings on the premises and houses most of the horses on the farm. It also is used as storage for smaller tools and items.

The Stallion Barn



Believe it or not, the Stallion Barn is actually used to house the four Stallions of the farm.

General Overview Continued

**The Red Barn
(Front)**



We use the front of the Red Barn to store bales of hay and straw. It is crucial that the bales stay inside to prevent moisture from seeping into the core of the bales, mould can grow rapidly on wet hay/straw and could potentially make a horse incredibly sick.

**The “Middle
Dungeon”**



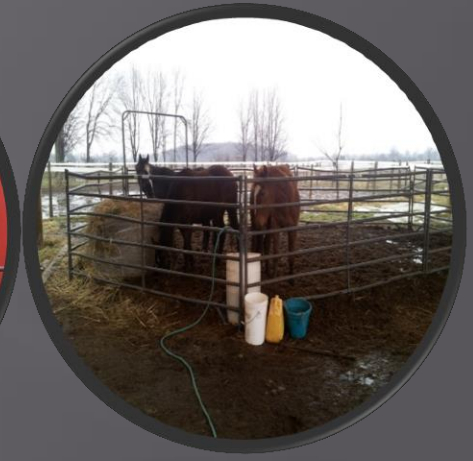
The Middle Dungeon is inside of the Red Barn and is used to house two extra horses. We call it the “Dungeon” because it is secluded from light and visibility, similar to a Dungeon, except without the iron grates and stone walls.

**The Red Barn
(Stalls)**



The Stalls are also a part of the Red Barn. On the opposite side of the Barn there is access to two extra stalls on the left, and an alternate entrance to the “Dungeon” on the right.

The Roundabout



The Roundabout is an enclosed area, capable of housing three horses. The Roundabout is under a massive canopy that protects it from the elements and makes it easier for us to feed/water the horses inside.

Staff

Chris



Mrs. Lynn is in charge of a huge portion of the farm. Prior to working at the farm, she would arrive early in the morning to feed, water and hay the horses all on her own! She pays close attention to the health and wellbeing of the farm and all of its residence.



Along with helping Mrs. Lynn with the daily chores of the farm, Chris is also tasked with taking care of the horses at the race track, organizing races and selling/buying horses at the farm,

Zeus



Despite being a cross between a Bull Mastiff and a Black Labrador, Zeus is actually the biggest baby of a dog that ever lived. Regardless, Zeus is generally good company to have around the farm.

Residents

The Ducks



The Quails And The Rooster



And the Horses, but I'll get to that soon.

My Contribution



At my Co-op, it is my responsibility to...

- Carry out the morning routine.
- Be as helpful as possible and carry out any tasks that need to be done.
- Make sure everything is in order and report any discrepancies to Mrs. Lynn.
- Ensure the wellbeing of the horses.

Daily Routine

The Daily Routine consists of...



Feeding



Watering



Haying

- When we feed, we usually give each horse one scoop of 12% horse feed, the stallions and all pregnant horses get one and a half of 16% feed.
- There isn't much to watering, all we do is top off each of the horses water buckets and dump out any that happened to get... "manure" inside of them.
- Normally we just give all horses one flake of hay from a new bale. Horses that share space, like the ones in the Roundabout get an entire round bale to munch on whenever they please.

Other Task's Cleaning

I guess you can say it's a bit of a CRAPPY job!



Cleaning has got to be my LEAST favourite job. All stalls must be cleaned within a few week intervals. We use two different tools to clean stalls, the rake and the pitchfork. The rake is for scraping smaller piles of manure and the pitchfork is for heaving large, accumulated mounds. We usually move the manure into the wheelbarrow, but the wheel tends to pop out from time to time, when this happens we use Muck tubs. Let's just say it's easier and a lot more sanitary to use the wheelbarrow. When the tub/wheelbarrow is filled, it must be transported out the back of the coverall to be dumped into the manure pile. I also believe the manure pile speaks for itself.

Other Task's

Breaking Ice



When Winter rolls in, watering becomes a much more difficult task, especially for the horses housed outside. When the water freezes, the bucket must continually be smashed onto the floor to break all of the ice on the inside, but sometimes the buckets are too big to carry, when this happens a pick axe must be used. The disadvantage to using a pick axe is that it doesn't clean out all of the ice efficiently, and when ice is still in the bucket when we fill it with water, it'll refreeze with an extra layer to break the next time we water.

The Horses



There are approximately thirty two horses on the property, for the sake of time and convenience, I am only showing six.

Zirana



Pretty - Pretty



Ernie (AKA Sir Licks-a-lot)



Comfit



Quando (Pretty - Pretty's Mom)



Mommy-Bell



Naughty New Yorker



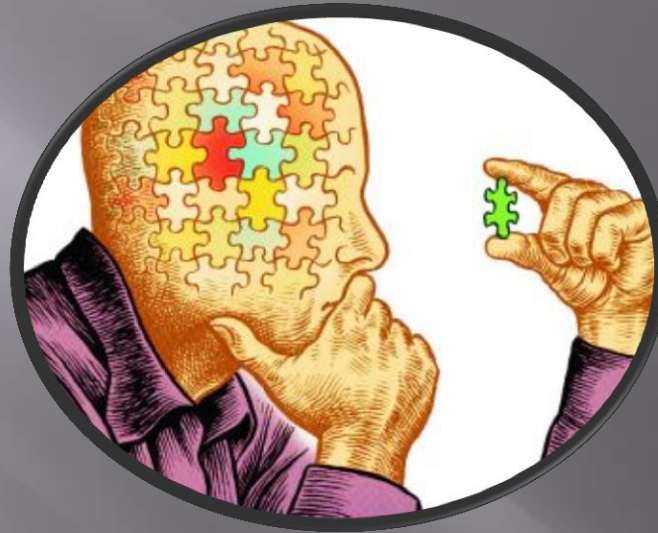
New Yorker is the biggest, fastest and strongest stallion on the property. He has won over one million dollars for his owners in races and is well known for winning under any condition. If the race started slow for him, he'd still come first in the end. He is a remarkable horse and is the prized gem of the farm.

Skills I Have Acquired



- ▣ **Efficiency:** I have learned to be efficient on the farm and to take steps to make jobs easier while being more productive and completing the task at hand in a timely manner.
- ▣ **Time Management:** I now know how to use my time efficiently in the working environment to accomplish more tasks and additional jobs.

Job Prerequisites



- ❑ **Stamina:** If you want to work in a farming environment, stamina is a must, if you don't have the stamina to lift heavy objects and carry them great distances, then this job is not for you.
- ❑ **A Strong Stomach:** You could be the strongest person in the world, but if you can't handle the smell of manure or possibly getting your hands a bit dirty, then your strength isn't going to do much.
- ❑ **Job Efficiency:** In order to get all of the daily tasks done, you must be efficient to complete jobs quickly, you cannot spend an extended amount of time on one task when many more remain!

My Future Plans



I honestly do not know what my plan is after high school! Although I am currently exploring many different options and expanding my horizons to find a definitive future occupation!

And That's All She Wrote!

This semester has truly been quite the experience and has given me a taste of the working environment! I will never forget my Co-op at Ascot Stud Farm and I'll always remember the lessons that I have learned on the farm! Thank you for your time and patience!

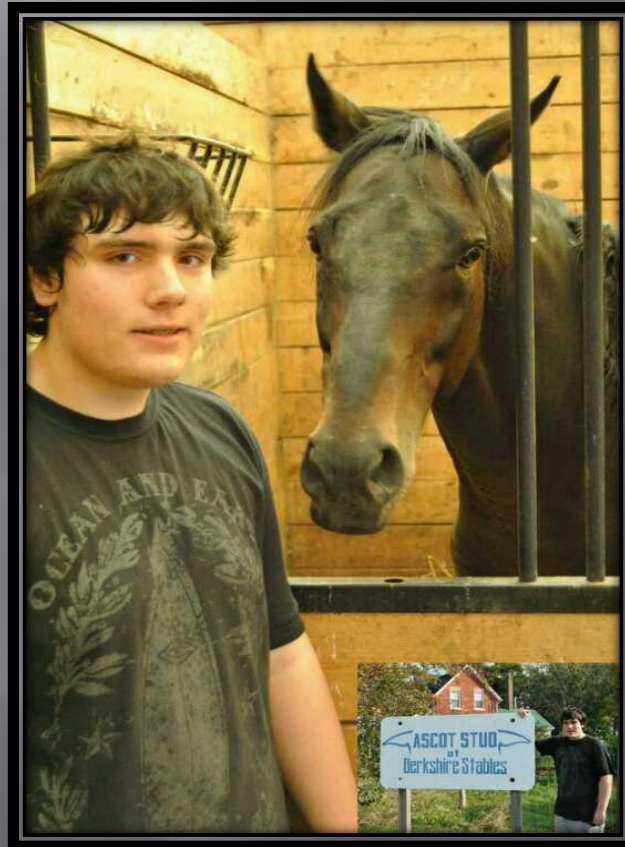


Photo Credit To Mr. Coers.