

# Hot Shots

## REINED COW HORSE IN THE MARITIMES

By Ashley Crocker



Judy Thomas on  
DD Colonel Monty.

BRIAN MOLCHER

One of the most daring and exciting cow horse events has finally made its way to the Maritime provinces! On May 25, 2008, Creek View Farm in Northport hosted the first reined cow horse show in Nova Scotia. Prior to this year, team penning was the only cow horse event offered in the Maritimes. Creek View Farm, owned and operated by Bruce Trenholm and Judy Thomas, have been holding team penning shows since 2001. In efforts to create new interest and bring together horse people with reining or cow horse backgrounds, Creek View Farm expanded into reined cow horse and ranch sorting.

Although cow horse is new and proves to be an extremely demanding event in all aspects, 23 horses and riders arrived to participate in the first show. Most of the entries were team penners. However, the courage and potential that was displayed by all members was impressive. Competitors demonstrated cow sense and control by working cows down the fence and riding with finesse in the reining pattern.

Spectators had the opportunity to see a variety of cow-bred horses work cows down the fence. Present By Chic, a son of Smart Chic Olena, was shown by Dianne Melanson of Amherst, Nova Scotia. Vaughn and Dianne Melanson purchased the horse in Texas almost two years ago. "The caliber of horses in the Maritime

Provinces is growing each year," says Vaughn. "Combined with good training, I think the presence of cow-bred horses will help cow horse events develop here."

Dianne finished second in the Limited Cow Horse class, behind Joey Sampson-Lewis on Smokin Spanish Tango. "Although I have focused on reining for almost 20 years, I participated in team penning for three or four of those years," says Sampson-Lewis. "It was really exciting to have the opportunity to put my experiences in both reining and team penning together to train for this event. I like that we can take the maneuvers we perform in reining, and give them a purpose by working a cow."

How did this event start in the Maritimes? "We've had a few cow horse clinics over the past few years, but the event itself never really took hold. Going out west and watching the Canadian Supreme was an eye-opener," says Mike Porter of Amherst, Nova Scotia. "We realized it was something we wanted to push, to bring to the Maritimes and we're really hoping the event interests enough people to keep it going." Porter rode two horses at Creek View Farm's reined cow horse event: Skiddy Glo Lena and Smart Lena Peppy. Smart Lena Peppy, bought at Agribition in Saskatchewan, placed first in the Open Reined Cow Horse Class.

## WINTER ON ITS WAY

By Jenn Council



With grey (and sometimes blustery skies ahead), it's time to start preparing your horse for winter comfort.

With winter rapidly approaching, it is time to prepare the barn for all the little things that Old Man Winter brings. Here are a few helpful reminders on how to keep your horse comfortable through the colder months:

- Ensure ample shelter is available to all horses.
- Check your water heaters and de-icers to make sure they are all working. It's very important to keep water thawed and warm enough that horses will drink it, in order to prevent dehydration.
- Do a quick run through on your horse blankets. Ensure they are clean, undamaged and they still fit properly.
- If you had dangerous ice patches and snow drifts last year, be prepared to prevent them this year. Put up snow fencing or windbreaks to stop drifts and level areas where melted snow could pool and refreeze.
- Remember to cool your horse down after a winter ride before returning him to pasture, paddock or stall.
- Prepare to increase your food supply. Your horses may need extra food to digest in order to stay warm. Horses on pasture will no longer have as much grass to forage so you will need to supplement them.
- Always keep your barn well circulated. Although it may be cold outside, ventilation is very important to keep everyone healthy and to avoid respiratory problems.
- Keep your tack, blankets, grooming supplies and horses clean and dry, as this will help to prevent skin irritations which are more likely to pop up in colder and wetter months.

Thoroughly inspect your horse and groom it whenever possible. Those heavy winter coats have the ability to hide skin infections and injuries.