

WELCOME TO Q.B. ARABIAN RANCH'S ANNUAL SEMINAR

The format for this year's seminar will be the theme "18 Months of Preparation." This of course pertains to the Arabian mare from her selection to the foaling process and neonatal management. Dr. J. Warren Evans and his Associate Dr. Webb from Texas A & M University will be presenting the breeding seminar, which will include several audience participation sessions. We are fortunate to have these two experts in equine reproduction for our seminar, and Linda and I know you will enjoy their presentations and learn some valuable information regarding the reproductive physiology of the Arabian mare.

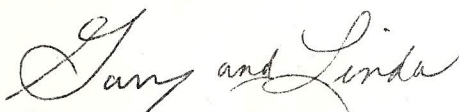
During the weekend we will also be presenting a number of our Spanish bred Arabians in a unique fashion. The pedigrees for the horses presented are in your notebook, please keep these handy during the presentation, as this will help you understand our breeding philosophy and some of the results of specific breeding selections. The Q.B. Arabians will be presented by dam lines, so that you can better relate to the consistency and quality which we have achieved through various forms of linebreeding and outcrossing.

There will also be a silent auction of selected Arabians. Bid cards have been included in your seminar notebook. The prices on a number of the sale horses have been reduced significantly, hopefully this will be appreciated as this sale will provide an opportunity to purchase some of the highest quality Spanish bred Arabians at prices substantially below future market value!

If you feel this type of seminar is a valuable educational tool, we ask that you encourage other breeders to attend in future years. Linda and I want to provide extra-ordinary educational opportunities, and it is our intention to continue to provide seminars involving experts in various equine fields such as: Spanish Arabians, Arabian horse industry, veterinary medicine, training, and judging the Arabian horse.

Please let us know if you enjoyed this weekend's topic, as well as the idea of an annual seminar.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary and Linda". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed names.

Gary and Linda Rickson

THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SPANISH ARABIAN

BY DR. GARY E. ERICKSON

In the breeding business, the individual horse contains the genetic material that will determine the extent of his contribution to the breed. Breeding in the Spanish Tradition is essentially a program that has developed through the application of established breeding principles accompanied by intelligent selective procedures.

The breeder must be aware that the extent of his success in breeding is directly related to the quality of the genes present in his foundation stock, and therefore it is essential that we understand the historical significance of the Spanish Arabian.

Superior bloodstock represents centuries upon centuries of searching, study, sacrifice and dedication. What you will learn and see this weekend just didn't happen in the last decade. Selected through the centuries by hard work, scanty food and harsh climate, the Arabian horse was the deciding factor in the Moslem wars of conquest. The exceptional quality of the Arabian breed was therefore well respected in Spain prior to the founding of the Royal Study in 1820.

The Spanish stud book is one of the oldest and most complete in the world; having its first entries in the year 1847. Strict rules were necessary due to the Moslem invasion of Spain and the potential confusion between the Barb horse, the Andalusian horse, and the purebred Arabian.

The stud book is in the hands of the Ministry of War, as the horses were considered a war machine, and the state controlled all war related activities.

The Spanish government was constantly looking for Arabians of extreme quality and a commission was formed giving authority to various equine experts to seek out exceptional Arabian horses around the world. By the 1920's the Yeguada Militar's Arabian bloodstock was equivalent to the best in the world.

There is no one origin of Arabian horses that can be credited for the evolution of the Spanish Arabians. These Arabians are the result of the selection of the best European and desert strains available at the turn of the century. However, the pedigrees of the present day Spanish Arabians are descendants of Arabs who originated from the following areas:

- 1) Desert bred
- 2) Polish bred
- 3) Egyptian bred
- 4) English bred

Several horses of significance in Spanish history are:

POLISH IMPORTS

VAN DYCK (Vasco de Gama X Hela) - was bought in Bialocerkiew. He became a living legend in Spain and Poland. In fact, in the booklets edited by Ammex, the official agency for import and export of Polish livestock, Van Dyck is listed first even preceding Ibrahim, Skowronek's sire. However, fate was not kind to Van Dyck and from his 140 sons, not one of his grandsons carried on his name. In the pedigrees of Spanish Arabians today Van Dyck can only be found in the female lines.

