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# Unbridled Thoughts

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## Winter 2009

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### A MESSAGE FROM JEANNIE

Hello to all of you!! The year 2009 is off to a running start. We are trying to take care of many organizational and administrative duties at the beginning of the calendar year.

We are also trying to organize the many 2009 educational events and programs. In the process we are well underway updating needed materials on the Department of Animal Science web site. Do remember to visit and utilize this wonderful resource that is jammed-packed full of information about the NYS 4-H Horse Program:

<http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/4H/horses/index.html>

Listed there are rulebooks, entry forms, video lending library listing, horse show judges list, NYS 4-H Horse Education Committee information, educational resource lists, educational publications, newsletters, event results, promotion of educational programs, important dates, practice questions for Horse Bowl and Hippology, important links to the equine industry, and much more. **DO** visit and utilize this wonderful web site! Thank You Linda Poppleton, our web master, for all of her hard work posting all of this information for us!!

Look elsewhere in this newsletter for information about the upcoming "Animal Crackers" program and the May "NYS 4-H Horse Program In-service". The Animal Crackers program is intended for the youth audience. While the In-service program is intended for Extension staff and volunteers using the "train the trainer" concept – teen leaders are always welcomed.

April Winslow is working with the Division Chairs of the state Horse Bowl and Communications events. Information on these events is posted to the web site and is also being distributed via the CCE youth list serve.

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*A Message from Jeannie,  
continued from p. 1*

*Unbridled Thoughts* is prepared by the office of Jean T. Griffiths, Extension Horse Specialist in the Department of Animal Science at Cornell University, 125 Morrison Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853.

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A special thank you once again to Betsy Bartz for being willing to be the editor of this NYS 4-H Horse Program Newsletter "Unbridled Thoughts". Betsy has done this job for many years and creates a most professional newsletter!! KUDOS and thank you Betsy!!

With spring just around the corner, remember to call your veterinarian and get your spring health check and inoculations scheduled. Do not forget to call your farrier early this year and plan a 2009 farrier's schedule for your farm. And of course do keep your de-worming schedule up to date. All of these things are important to the health of your equine friend.

Soon the snow will be gone (not too soon I hope as I love to ski!) and the sun will be shining, mud season will be here, and it will be time to brush the dust off of your saddle and saddle up. When this time comes...please make sure to fit your horse up slowly...remember their bodies are just like yours and mine - it takes time to get fit and in shape!! Happy "spring dreams"!!

*Jeannie*

### **The Horseman's Winter Dance**

The horseman's winter dance has begun!  
People driving by think we are having lots  
of fun!  
They see a bucket and a stomping we go.  
They laugh as they see our hands in the air  
when it is twenty below!!

Why do they think that we are dancing with glee?  
As the horses run, jump, snort, and run away free.  
Just as winter gets so very cold...  
The water in our horses' buckets turns to frozen gold.  
We stomp with the left, and then with the right.  
If we are lucky the ice comes out without too big of a fight.  
All good horsemen know that water is more valuable than gold.  
For without it our horses would never get to grow old.



JTG  
2009

**Continued on next page**

**4-H DOES MAKE  
LIFELONG IMPACT!!**

We are always being asked to document the impact of the 4-H Program on youths. Some times it is hard to measure this impact, **but this time it is not**. We are sure you will enjoy this **real life “4-H Horse Program Story”!!**

Matt McAlinn grew up in the 4-H Horse Program in Chemung County. His mother, Diane MacAlinn, was a wonderful 4-H Mom, club leader, county and state-level volunteer for the program. Matt’s little sister, Kate, also grew up in the program.

Tina Cooman grew up the 4-H Horse Program of Chenango County. Her mother was a 4-H Mom and volunteer. Tina grew up under the amazing leadership of Debie Brown-Moon. Debie was a leader to many youths in Chenango County and served on both the county and state-levels in the 4-H Horse Program

There were many siblings, other mothers and volunteers that were impacted by the work of these two outstanding volunteers Diane and Debie. Their hard work and dedication turned into something similar to the **interconnecting rings of an Amish made quilt**. Many of the youths touched by them were involved in club level, county, state and national level activities. Some of these activities included Horse Bowl, Hippology, Horse Judging, Communications, many horse shows, Drill Teams, lots of FUN activities and so much more!!! These families literally **became one big family**.

Diane’s husband, Art, was always there as a volunteer whenever needed and not afraid to hug and encourage the “kids”. Debie’s husband Roy, literally became a “father figure” to many of the youths in Debie’s club.

**Continued on next page**



Friends and relatives gather the night before the wedding.

Front (on the floor) L to R: Kelly Cooman, Kate McAlinn, Danielle Papelino.

2nd row - L to R: Jean Griffiths (Extension Horse Specialist), Amy Papelino, Debie Brown-Moon, Diane McAlinn (mother of the groom).

Back Row - LtoR.: Sharon Papelino, Shelia Cooman (mother of the bride), Tina Cooman (bride), Matt McAlinn (groom).

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### 4-H Impact, continued from p.3

Through their 4-H involvement in all of these activities, Tina Cooman and Matt McAlinn met. They were both very young when they first met. One of them many years later found a picture when Matt and Tina were about 10 or 12 years old, or maybe less. They were standing at ringside waiting to enter their classes at the **NYS Fair 4-H Horse Show**. Oddly enough they did not know each other at the time that particular photo was taken. The first time they remember meeting each other was at a Regional Horse Bowl event. Well...long story short...Matt and Tina were married in the fall of 2008!!

At the celebration the night before the wedding, someone said, "let's get a group picture." As everyone sat down and the picture was taken, someone said, "**Oh my gosh... everyone in this picture was a 4-H youth, 4-H parent, 4-H volunteer, or 4-H staff...how amazing!!**" No one planned it that way, it just happened. The wedding was far from NYS, it was in Virginia. Who would have thought that so many from NY and all involved in the 4-H Horse Program would have been there!! It was a beautiful and wonderful wedding...**and yes 4-H does impact lives in a very positive way!!** Enjoy the photos!!



Former NY 4-Hers wed in Virginia.  
L to R: Ian Lindbeck, Kate (McAlinn) Lindbeck, Tina (Cooman) McAlinn, Matt McAlinn.

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### HEC VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED



**L to R: Debbie Chidsey/Mounted Games; Joe Schwartz/Western; Judy Dennis/Dressage; Rich Miller/Communications; Robin Bartholomew/NYS Fair 4-H Horse Show Superintendent; April Winslow/Horse Judging; Craig Todd/Gymkhana; Ann Janson/Horse Bowl; Roger Parulski/Driving and Mini; Denise Parrotte/Drill and Parade; Debie Brown Moon/Hunt Seat; Dru Malavase/At Large Member.**































