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Evelina HF - #2 Dressage Foals,
with dam Resina keur.
"Beautiful is as beautiful does."

*Note to readers: when scores
are so close—as in this case—it
could just be that a foal is being
evaluated during a moment of
awkward development and we
look forward to seeing it again
as it matures.*

2009 KEURING REPORTS - FIRST TOUR

Hillock LLC - Calera, Alabama

Host: Lisa Smith

Bear Bryant (R.I.P.) and the Crimson Tide, Lynyrd Skynyrd and "Sweet Home Alabama", and now included in the "Alabama is known for" lists... a KWPN-NA keuring location!

Southern hospitality rolled out as smoothly as good bourbon on a summer evening while rocking on the porch...but I digress. Our reception at Hillock Farm was superb. Lisa Smith and her reception committee quickly took us in hand with morning coffee, refreshments and a myriad of helpers as we began our day.

Hillock Farm is aptly named. The rolling hills are green and lush plus we had truly aced it with the weather. A deluge two days before our arrival had been pushed eastward by a drier southwest wind - so it was the best of the best Alabama offers.

A small keuring, but huge in enthusiasm and interest, the standard was quickly set with the first entry: a twelve year old mare entered in the Hunter Book. **Perfect Luck** (Just The Best x Bella Seta by Productivity xx x Right Combination xx) owned by D. Fiducia and D. Neuen of Double D Ranch went from star to keur in about five minutes! Quick and with good technique, the gray mare showed that quality will-out regardless of age.

Julie Ballard Haralson, one of the KWPN-NA's sponsors for just about everything, as well as one of North America's top breeders (in several of the USEF 'Top Breeder's Lists annually) usually trailers to Pennock Point in Florida if she herself is not hosting a keuring in the Atlanta area. Hillock provided a highway-respite being just 3 hours away instead of the usual five. Julie loaded her latest youngsters - two Rousseau foals (born just an hour apart) plus her older Rousseau gelding (talk about a déjà vu moment) and arrived to provide wonderful examples of the quality one can attain with careful selection and inspection in one's breeding program.

Elegant in looks and movement were Julie's two first premium youngsters **Ezabella HF** (Rousseau x Tola, keur by Flemmingh x Argus) and her ½ sister, **Evelina HF** (Rousseau x Resina, keur by Flemmingh x Goodtimes).

Ezabella HF was more expressive in her movement but quite light in the legs, whereas Evelina, moving well, had better substance. Both exhibited good technique and suppleness. Ezabella HF wore the Best Young Horse ribbon upon conclusion of the class. The audience enjoyed being included in the final 'vote' on which youngster should be placed where.

Two other young horses deserve mention, since they just bumped against the ceiling of 70 % between second and first premium. The first was the smoothly built (but -at this time- lacking the swing in the movement) Hunter foal **Eye K-Andy** (Popeye-K x Perfect Luck by Just the Best x Productivity) [see the above mare], owned and bred by Double D Ranch.

Dressage foal **Demitasse** (Olivier x Karina, ster by Flemmingh x Lucky Boy xx b) bred/ owned by Rita Mendel of Carousel Farm was lovely but -at this time- just lacked uphill carriage.



Arousseau HF - ster, #1 IBOP and DGB Cup winner 4-Year Olds. 4th Dressage Geldings, 5th Dressage IBOP, 4th DG Bar Cup in "Top Five" Lists

Best Adult Horse went to **Arousseau HF** (Rousseau x Tiger Tops, ster by Wellington x Caritas). Julie Ballard Haralson's gelding's movement (especially his walk and self carriage) earned him his star. Arousseau HF also handily copped the DG Bar cup blanket and top score in the IBOP-Dressage class.

The Dressage mare **Avalon** (Juventus x Joline, keur by Michelangelo x Akteur) is owned by our host Lisa Smith of Hillock LLC. [Joline is the granddam of the approved stallion, Scandic!!] The supple mare earned her star and was second in the DG Bar Cup.

Following an amazing buffet (maybe we can get the pasta salad and gazpacho recipe!) we headed back to the airport....and were...."*..on the road again*" to Willy Nelson's home town of Austin, TX, hoping we can return to this beautiful spot again soon.

(Note: Many of these lovely horses are for sale. See page 22 in the keuring program, or go to page 22 in : <http://www.kwpn-na.org/display/files/program09.pdf>)