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Ade Lente with her 'just rewards' for her efforts in the DG Bar Cup class. Photo Carole MacDonald.



Eros SSF showing 'air-time' for his first premium. Photo Tami Johnson: Equine Photography.

2009 KEURING REPORTS - SECOND TOUR.

Apple Lane Farm – Lancaster, MA

Host: Dayna Gant

Jury: Bart Henstra, Dr. Deborah P. Harrison, Faith Fessenden.

Positioned on a side-hill with the drive to the arenas winding through old growth apple trees, Dayna Gant's aptly named facility was ready for our visit. Dayna (aka 'the dynamo') sets a great example to those who wish to rally any troops who are interested in horses and education. Local schools, riding clubs, supporters and friends filled the 'hay bale' seating area leaving many still standing for our expansive ring-side education throughout the day.

IBOP & DG Bar Cup - Dressage

The first classes began under saddle in the outdoor arena. Chilly temperatures significantly challenged several horses and their riders. Patience was in order by the jury, slowly moving around the order of go in an attempt to find the right moments of 'calm in the storm' for the entrants. Some found success, others, unfortunately, will have to come another day.

The IBOP test of the Reg. A mare **Ade Lente** (Freestyle out of T. Lente keur by Cabochon x Farrington) bred by Alicia Winter of Winter Farm Warmbloods and owned by Leah Jamieson of Laurelwood Farm, rewarded the jury's patience as she settled down to work. The bay mare showed some stiffness initially but her movement and balance got better and better throughout the test. Earning solid scores on her gaits, suppleness and self-carriage her work ethic was exemplary earning an 8.0. Her scores for the DG Bar Cup held just as steady to win that as well.

Foals/Weanlings - Dressage

There are several long-time breeders in this northeastern region of the country who have concentrated on building good mare bases. The quality of the mares was manifest in the entire first premium group.

First place was the bay filly **Elita ENF** (Rousseau out of Zsa Zsa ster by Jazz x Lancet) bred and owned by Jessica Eagles. Elegant, leggy, uphill, with a beautiful top-line and neck she moved with good trot technique and showed an easy, correct canter. With 7.8 for conformation and a 7.8 for movement this youngster took the Best Young Horse-Dressage award - and - fifth place in the Top Fives.

In second place was Scot and Carol Tolman's Shooting Star Farm product, the chestnut colt **Eros SSF** (UB 40 out of Oleander ster by Havidoff x G. Ramiro Z). Well-developed and leggy with a lovely front, this youngster showed beautiful foreleg technique and scope throughout his movement.

Right behind him was **Emora MG** (Farrington out of Tamora keur by Flemming x Ahorn) bred and owned by Kathleen Hickerson of Majestic Gaits Farm. Well developed throughout her body and with a good neck shape and position, this filly showed good trot technique. Her somewhat straight hind leg supported her movement satisfactorily in both trot and canter.



Emora MG brings home another first premium for Majestic Gaits Farm. Photo Carole MacDonald.



Eloma MG adds to the orange ribbons with her stablemates. Photo Carole MacDonald.



Eeyanette RGS showing some of her 'wow-factor' which took her to second place in the Top Fives for Jumper foals. Photo: Schrubb Family

The fourth place created a tie with the tip of the hat going to the Reg A foal **Eloma MG** (Schroeder out of Miloma Elite by Goodtimes x Dreamstreet), another Kathy Hickerson entry. The bay filly showed normal development with a slightly heavy neck but her trot mechanics and suppleness served her well.

The other half of the tie was **Everest** (UB-40 out of Proformi keur by Don Primaire x Notaris) bred and owned by Pineland Farms, Inc. Leggy and showing good development this bay colt showed suppleness and good leg technique. The few conformation remarks were tied in under the knee and a little deep in his under-neck connection to his chest.

The final colt within the first premium group was **Evander** (Rampal out of Sam Sam ster by Contango x Freiherr) bred by Pineland Farms and owned by Carissa Lizotte. Exhibiting normal development with a few notes on leg construction, the movement of this colt was supple, with good technique.

Note: every one of the first premium foals in the dressage group was out of 'predicated' mares. A round of applause to the breeders who have ratcheted up their standards by selecting stallions to compliment their 'wonder girls'!

Foals/Weanlings - Jumper

Six jumper foals were presented with four earning first premiums.

In the first position was **Eeyanette RGS** (Veron out of Larinette keur by Acord II x Ahorn) bred and owned by Dr. and Mrs. Terry Schrubb of Page Brook Farms. Wow! From the first look this bay filly showed an overall elegance via balanced development and build, that was further underscored when she moved. Showing good trot technique, the filly easily moved into a light-footed, uphill and balanced canter of the highest quality. All of these superlatives translated into an 8.0 conformation and 8.0 movement, earning her the Best Young Horse-Jumper...and...second place in the Top Fives...

A tie for second was decided in favor of **Evitta MG** (Navarone out of O'Bert-E-De keur by Glenridge x Zuidhorn) bred by Kathy Hickerson of Majestic Gaits Farm. (I can see a MG bumper sticker reading 'Top Quality - Two Ways'). This bay filly showed normal development with solid technique. Her canter could have shown a little more power from behind.

Earning the same score was **Ensign On Deck RGS** (Wittinger out of Eloway by Galoubet x Penaction) owned and bred by Dr. and Mrs. Terry Schrubb. This stable-mate of the number one filly is a chestnut colt with a satisfactory build but notes were made on the weaker back and shorter legs. In movement the canter showed solid scope and balance, bringing in the higher of the two scores.

Foals/Weanlings: Hunter

A single entry here was well worth it with **Ellington HMF** (Flemmingh out of Valentine For II by Le Feu x Blue Ensign xx) earning a first premium. Bred and owned by Eugene Fletcher of Hidden Meadow Farm the bay colt was elegant and leggy but a few points came off for the neck shape. Nevertheless, his supple movement in good rhythm added points to easily bring him the orange ribbon - and first place in the Top Fives for Hunter Foals.

Yearlings-Dressage

Two entries here ended with only one receiving a first premium. Wearing the orange ribbon at the end of the class was **DaVinci SSF** (UB-40 out of Oleander ster by Havidoff x G. Ramiro Z). Out of the same dam as the second place foal, this dark bay colt was also bred by Scot and Carol Tolman of Shooting Star Farm. Elegant, leggy and well-built his movement was slightly stiff and wishes were for more power in the trot. Third place in the Top-Fives also was his!

Linear Scoring: Dressage Geldings

The Register A gelding **Ampersand** (Donatelli out of Tudaula ster by Krack C x Balzflug) bred by Jennifer Tousignant and owned by Carolyn Todd of Pinemeadow Farm earned the marks needed for conformation and movement for a first premium. Notes were made on his neck needing more 'uphill' position but his top line was smoothly connected.

Linear Scoring: Dressage Mares

Bunny SSF (Johnson out of Kirona by Volckmar out of Wirona keur pref by Rechter) bred by Scot and Carol Tolman of Shooting Star Farm was the sole first premium and star mare out of four entries in this class. Elegant with good bone, this chestnut mare showed suppleness and technique in the trot. In the canter the quality was satisfactory but notes on needing more engagement and remarks on the angles of her hind legs kept her from becoming eligible for keur. [Note: Wirona, third place in the North Brabant Province mare show, was imported by one of the founding members of the KWPN-NA. Her sire Rechter was a Grand Prix dressage horse of French influence & Volckmar was one of the original DG Bar Stallions]

Following the classes we all relaxed, visited with owners and breeders, and bade farewell to our large spectator contingent. Dayna and her cadre of excellent helpers made the day effortless and provided an opportunity for us to add several of this region's horses in the top of the tours...

Waving, and grabbing apples out of the windows as we wound down the drive, the jury was off again to Boston and the airport to wing northward.

(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>.