

AQHA eBooks

Weaning Foals: Nutrition and Best Practices



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Foal Nutrition

As your foal matures, mother's milk might not be enough to help him achieve optimal growth. Creep feeding can be an option for a developing baby.

Right before a big show or futurity, owners often spend extra money and time trying to get that extra advantage on the competition. But what if the real key is to start feeding to win earlier?

Depending on the situation, creep feeding is a relatively simple practice that could make the difference in a horse's success, whether his future job is as a kid's trail horse or a futurity winner.



Nutritionist Recommended

There's no doubt where the science is. Josie Coverdale, who was an associate professor of animal science at Texas A&M University, said in a 2014 interview that nutritionists agree that creep feeding foals is a good idea.

"All foals should receive some sort of supplemental concentrate prior to weaning, but certain situations require creep feeding," Josie said. "If your

goals include early training or sales preparation of young horses, then creep feed is critical to your success."

Roy Johnson, an equine technology manager for Cargill Animal Nutrition (maker of Nutrena horse feed), advocates creep feeding. He has been involved in the horse business for 40 years and is a developer of horse feeds. He said science is behind the creep-feeding advantage.

"Creep feeding really fits into how we should manage the young horse for optimum sound growth," Roy said.

But first, he explained, it starts with good prenatal nutrition for the dam.

"Really important is getting the broodmare on an improved plane of nutrition, particularly trace minerals and amino acids, at least five months prior to parturition (foaling). During this time, the foal is creating liver

stores of key trace minerals, particularly copper, zinc and manganese. That's important, because mares' milk is notoriously deficient in copper. We are really feeding that broodmare the last several months of pregnancy to get optimum development and mineral storage in the foal."

All Milk Isn't Equal

Once the foal is born, it relies on the mother's milk only for about the first month of life. As early as six to eight weeks after the foal is born, the mare's milk production starts to decline. However, at about 2 weeks of age, foals begin to learn to eat solid food. Early nutrition is critical for any foal, but it's also important to remember that not all mares produce the same amount of milk.

Roy emphasizes this point.

"Very few owners select broodmares based on milk production," he said. "Some mares will produce 3.5 percent of their body weight in milk each day for the first six weeks or so then taper off; some mares will produce considerably less. The goal is to get that foal started on a balanced diet as quickly as possible so we have less reliance on the mare's milk supply because it can be so highly variable."

Donna Davis raises champion halter horses on her small farm in

Uniontown, Alabama. She is the owner and manager, breeding and foaling four to five mares a year herself for the past 30 years. She selectively creep feeds her foals.

She pays attention to how much milk a mare is producing to help her determine if she should creep feed that foal.

"If I have one mare and I know that she doesn't milk as well, then I know that I will creep feed that foal," Donna said. "It just depends on how much the baby actually eats with the mare and how much weight they're putting on."

Steady Growth

The real importance of creep feeding is to keep the foal growing steadily.

"Babies could be gaining up to one and a half to three pounds per day,"

Roy said. "Foals are designed to eat small meals at very regular intervals, so creep feeding allows them to step in (to the creep feeder), take a couple bites and step out. Creep feeding provides free-choice access so the foals can nibble on a regular basis because that's how their digestive systems function most effectively and helps them avoid metabolic disturbances."

He continued, "It's important to have foals growing at a consistent rate so they maintain a good desired body condition. This allows for a smooth transition to weaning and life after weaning. If you look at foals that are creep fed properly and those that aren't, those foals that are creep fed are usually going to be taller, probably better muscled and



probably a little heavier at weaning.”

Cindy Knox raises American Quarter Horses for racing prospects at her Corner K Quarter Horses in Fayetteville, Arkansas. She sells 15 to 25 home-raised yearlings each September and is a big believer in creep feeding.

“If you notice when you wean,” she said, “even if they’ve been eating with their mom, they seem to take two steps back. They get ribby and pot-bellied and look wormy. We’ve noticed that when we creep feed, we don’t see that as much. Their growth doesn’t take a dip.”

Research has proven what Cindy is describing.

“Horses adapted to concentrate prior to weaning are less likely to refuse solid feed and may not experience a ‘slump’ that often occurs post-weaning without creep feed,” Josie explained. It’s more than unsightly, Roy said. Oftentimes what happens is if the colt isn’t creep fed and does take a step back in growth at weaning, horse owners, particularly those who aren’t planning to sell the horse as a yearling, might not be concerned. They rationalize, ‘Oh, he’ll catch up later.’”

This might be true, but the damage could already be done.

“Then in its yearling year, the owner thinks, ‘This foal is not where I want it to be so we’re going to feed

it a lot and press for rapid growth,’ ” Roy said. It’s these changes in the nutritional plane that can precipitate developmental orthopedic disease.

“If the foal was marginal on a key nutrient intake – because it wasn’t being creep fed and the pasture may have been questionable and his mom’s milk production dropped off – then all of a sudden we feed him more, we cause a definite change in the growth rate,” Roy said.

Josie agreed, saying, “The use of a properly balanced creep feed reduces the incidence of DOD problems. While nutrition cannot overcome some of the genetic factors involved in DOD, proper creep feeding during this rapid stage of growth is critical to achieving consistent and balanced growth of tissue. Providing this consistent and balanced nutrition before weaning avoids spurts of compensatory growth later.”

Roy sums it up well.

“What happens in our equine business is if we have slow growth rates and we’re not in a big hurry, we can get along with a little less well-defined diet, but as soon as we press for more rapid growth, we put more pressure on them, feed deficiencies become more apparent.”

Simple Solution

Creep feeding is the most effective

way to encourage a fast, steady growth rate, Roy said. And it’s relatively simple. Beginning around 4 to 6 weeks of age, foals should be offered creep feed.

“Foals introduced to creep feed after 2 months of age may consume excessive amounts of grain and experience growth spurts,” Josie said.

Consumption should be about 1 pound per day per 100 pounds of body weight. For the average Quarter Horse foal, a 1-month-old will weigh about 100 pounds, a 2-month old will weigh about 200 pounds, and so forth. So for this type of foal, consumption is easy to figure, 1 pound per day per month of age of foal. For example, a 2-month-old foal should eat about 2 pounds per day. It should be provided free choice as long as it stays fresh. But, it’s important to monitor intake and body condition score to be careful not to overfeed the foal.

A good rule of thumb on any age of horse, Roy explained, is that good condition can be measured by evaluating the horse’s ribs.

“Ask yourself, ‘Can I see the ribs?’ If not but you can feel the ribs, then that horse is in a good body condition.”

The more detailed body condition scoring system can be used as well, and a BCS 5 is recommended for growing horses.



A creep feeder at Corner K Quarter Horses

The Feeder

Many horse owners are daunted by constructing or buying a creep feeder, but Cindy said it doesn't have to be complicated.

"I didn't realize how easy it was to build a creep feeder," Cindy said. "I thought it had to be something specialized. It's just a little catch pen."

She explained that hers is simply eight posts with boards between the posts. One board is higher so the foals can go in and out, but low enough the mares can't fit under. Inside the pen is a trough in which creep feed is placed every morning. The feeder is checked twice daily and only refilled once the foals have cleaned everything up, to ensure that the feed stays fresh. Cindy uses a

feed designed especially for creep feeding, then when the foals are weaned, she transitions them to a regular feed designed for growth.

"That feeder is their little spot," Cindy explained. "We've had as many as eight babies in there at once, eating and just hanging out."

Not Without Challenges

Creep feeding is not for everybody, though. Bob Lee is farm manager at Koch Farm Quarter Horses, a halter horse facility in Oswego, Illinois, and he said creep feeding didn't work for Koch Farm.

Because of the bitter cold for much of the spring in the area, mares and foals must stay inside. Bob and his team tried special creep

feeders, which are buckets with bars over the top. They are meant to keep the mare's larger muzzle out, while allowing the baby's smaller muzzle in to eat. However, Bob explained, the mares would spend all day stretching their tongues, trying to consume the foals' feed, and the foals did not eat.

"We tried to adjust the bars down so just the baby could still get its nose in there," Bob said. "But the mares have a fairly long tongue, so if I get it small enough that the mare can't fit her tongue in there, it's too small for the baby to get its head in there. It just didn't work for us."

Instead, Koch Farm feeds the mares a mare and foal feed designed to be eaten by both, then monitors the pairs to be sure the mare is allowing the foal to eat.

"We've been lucky, I know, but I've never had any mares that won't let the babies eat with them," Bob said. "I change the mares over to a different feed when the babies are born. That's the same feed I am going to feed the foals after they're weaned, so there are no changes in feed for them to have to adjust to."

For Koch Farm Quarter Horses, the system has worked fine. Bob said the foals do well after weaning and thrive in adulthood.

The Creep Feed Expense

One disadvantage to creep feeding is cost.

“These are expensive rations due to the high-quality ingredients used,” Josie said. “Producers should carefully monitor consumption to discourage waste and monitor the body condition score of foals and mares. If foals are becoming excessively heavy, then the amount of creep feed offered should be reduced but not eliminated.”

That is part of the reason Donna doesn't creep feed all her foals, but decides on an individual basis which foals need it.

“I watch them grow and develop to see if they need supplementing or don't need supplementing,” she said. “Sometimes, if I've got one that tends

to be a little shaky legged, I will not creep feed because I don't want the added weight to make that worse. If I am creep feeding, I don't typically feed the mare exactly what I am feeding the baby, because I think too much protein is as bad as not enough protein. So I might change her feed so the baby's not getting too much.”

Proof in the Pudding

Donna does notice the difference when it comes to weaning time.

“I have a creep-feeding pen the foals can go in, so it teaches the babies to eat on their own. Then when I wean, they're already well on their way as far as body condition and teaching them to be away from the mare. They are more indepen-

dent in that way, I can tell.”

Cindy said she can really see a difference.

“Some of our babies go to a different farm that doesn't creep feed for a couple months while their mama's getting bred,” she said. “You can see the difference there when those foals come back versus the ones that have been here getting creep fed. They'll equal out at 10 months of age or so, but in that early growth period, you can see the difference, and those babies (that weren't creep fed) will take two steps back. Creep feeding is not cheap, but if you think about it, if you're growing and developing a stronger-boned, better-tendoned individual, then it's worth it.”

Roy Johnson earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Minnesota in 1972 and 1984, respectively. While attending school, he trained and showed American Quarter Horses, Arabians and Morgans. For 17 years, he worked as assistant professor in the ag department at the University of Minnesota-Waseca, which included teaching equine science training, management and evaluation courses. He also coached the horse-judging team. In 1993, he began working for Cargill Animal Nutrition as a territory manager. In March 1994, he was promoted to equine technology manager for Cargill where he has developed multiple proprietary equine nutrition models and a proprietary equine ration evaluation system.

Josie Coverdale was an associate professor in the equine science section of the department of animal science at Texas A&M University. She was also a member of the graduate faculty. She received a bachelor's degree in animal science from Texas A&M University, a master's degree in equine nutrition from Iowa State University and a Ph.D. in nutrition from Iowa State University. She served as an assistant professor at the University of Georgia, teaching courses in animal nutrition and equine management before joining Texas A&M University in 2006. Before her death in 2016, Josie taught undergraduate and graduate courses in equine nutrition at Texas A&M, and she directed research in equine nutrition with an interest in forage utilization and hind-gut fermentation. Josie received numerous teaching and research awards, including the Excellence in Teaching Award from Iowa State University. She was recognized as a “faculty member that contributes to career development” at the University of Georgia and earned second place in the nutrition section of the graduate student competition at the Equine Science Society meetings.

Weaning Best Practices

Philosophies vary, but whether you're weaning one foal or 20, it's important to do what's best for the mares and foals.

Raising a foal is filled with fun, heart-warming moments. But every foal must be weaned, and it can be a scary, stressful time for mares, foals and owners.

When to Wean

Research shows that when a foal is about 4 months old, the mare's milk begins to wane and the foal's digestive system transitions to being able to better use concentrates and forages. That's why many choose this time period to wean. Phillip Stewart, farm manager at the American Quarter Horse racing operation Bob Moore Farms, said that's why Bob Moore Farms weans at 4 months.

"At about 4 months, the nutritional value of the mare's milk has diminished quite a bit," Phillip said. "The foals have some teeth, and they're starting to eat solid foods. Their digestive tract is converting at that point from a milk-based digestive



system into a digestive system where they will be able to utilize grains, grass and hay.”

At Gardiner Quarter Horses in Ashland, Kansas, Garth and Amanda Gardiner don't see any reason to rush the weaning process. The Gardiners, who own and operate a premier reined cow horse breeding program, explain that as long as the foals are doing well turned out with their mothers, they wait until around 6 months to wean.

“I wean a little later than most, but I think as long as those babies are doing fine on the mares, they're growing and getting some nutrients from the mother. There's no need to hurry,” Garth said.

Low-Stress Weaning

Also weaning its foals around 4 to 6 months of age is the KT Ranch. Similar to the Gardiners' ranching operation, you'll find a pasture full of mares and foals grazing and romping around on any given day on the KT Ranch near Connell, Washington. Sisters Toni Meacham and Kellie Pierson-Geddes raise about 20 foals a year, along with their parents, Don and Pam Pierson, and husbands Kicker Meacham and Ben Geddes. The way this ranch weans foals is based on the low-stress

weaning method implemented in the ranch's cattle operation.

The KT has a big round pen off the mare and foal pasture. The weaning process starts by getting the foals to come into that round pen every evening for some grain.

“They'll start doing that, and one evening, we'll just slip the grain into the round pen, then shut the gate, and that foal is weaned,” Toni explained.

But getting the foals in the pen doesn't always happen smoothly. If the foals won't come in, Kellie and Toni go out and catch a mare, bring the mare and foal into the pen, then pull the mare out and shut the gate.

Mares and foals are left adjacent to each other for the first week.

Toni said, “Once the foal has acclimated and started eating regularly, we then move the mare over and shut another gate so the mare and foal can see each other, but the foal is not able to nurse through the fence.”

This method, called fence-line weaning, is often practiced by cattlemen. The Gardiners use the same method with their 16-30 foals a year.

“We don't pull the mares completely away at first,” Garth said, “where the foals could get really nervous and fractious about not knowing where their mothers are.”

Instead the foals and mares are

placed in adjacent pens for a couple days, so the foals can't nurse but don't panic. Then, when the mares are removed completely, the foals are comfortable in their environment.

Garth determines when to remove the mares based on how the foals are acclimating, but it usually takes about two days.

Space and Time

Phillip said he used to do a similar “low-stress” weaning with home-raised foals at Bob Moore Farms.

“Originally, when we were a closed herd and we didn't have outside horses,” Phillip said, “we grouped three to four mares and foals in a pasture by the age of the foal, and they stayed together (from the time the foals were born until weaning). Then when we reached the 4-month-old time frame, we would take one mare from the pasture and leave her baby in the pasture with the rest of the group.”

Phillip said this process allowed the foals to stay where they were comfortable with all the same horses they'd known their whole life.

“Then a week later, we might take another mare out, then wait a week and take the last two out at the same time. That was a lot less stressful on the foals, generally, because we didn't change their environment.”



That type of management style was easy when Bob Moore Farms had only its own mares and foals to deal with. But once the farm started standing studs and bringing in outside mares and foals, Phillip said, plus as many as 45 of their own mares and foals to care for, farm employees just didn't have the time or space to continue this method of weaning.

"Because of the number of horses on the farm and time constraints with breeding mares, we couldn't continue that," he said. "Before we became a commercial breeding operation, we had more available pasture space and fewer transient horses."

Now, despite the fact that the ranch has downsized to about 16 foals of its own, Phillip explained, the ranch uses a less time- and space-consuming method, although it's still done with the mares' and foals' best interests in mind.

"We bring the mares and babies into our mare motel and put a couple of the babies that have been together in the pasture together in a big stall. Then we take the mares to the south barn, which is some distance away, so they can't hear each other," Phillip said.

Putting two foals, already familiar with each other, together in the stall helps calm the foals, and being

unable to hear their mom answer when they call seems to help as well, Phillip said.

"The mare motels are very open, and they are able to see other horses around them and usually other babies, but we put two to a stall as companions. They are together as comfort," he said.

Keeping them in pairs or groups works well for the Gardiners, too.

Garth said, "It would be nice if it was a little more like cattle calving season, all done in 30 to 60 days, but our foaling season lasts several months, so we wean in stages. It's nice that way because we've got some older weanlings to turn those babies out with that have already been weaned and will nurture them a little bit."

The colts and fillies are in separate pens, but otherwise, as long as there aren't any who cause problems, all the colts and all the fillies will live together during the weaning process.

Gentling Time

At Bob Moore Farms, "(the foals) have generally had very little handling because we've been busy with other things," Phillips said. "They may have had their feet trimmed or rasped once but they really haven't been halter broken. So during wean-

ing, we mess with them then and start getting them halter broke and just getting them used to being trimmed and petted.”

After 30 days, the now-weaned foals go back to the pasture until fall.

“Then they come up to the main barn in the fall after sales are over where they are stalled individually to get a lot more ground work done. They learn to be on the walker and learn to stand tied. This way, when we bring them back up the next year to get them ready for sales, they are more broke and a lot easier to handle at that point than if we didn’t mess with them until they were yearlings.”

Similarly, at Gardiner Quarter Horses, once the foals are weaned, the Gardiners really start the foals’ education and development.

“If they’re not already halter-broke at that time, we start working with them, getting them broke to lead and feet trimmed.”

Abrupt Weaning

AQHA Professional Horseman Kevin Oliver of Snaffle Bit Quarter Horses in Canyon, Texas, uses the weaning process as a time to get his hands on the foals.

He starts the process by haltering the mare in her pasture, then leading her out, with her foal following.

He leads the mare into a prepared stall in his barn, then leads her back out, while an assistant blocks the foal from exiting the stall. Kevin leads the mare to a big pasture and removes her halter.

She joins the other mares whose babies were weaned that day. The older mares drop their heads, start grazing and don’t look back. Sometimes a first-year dam will run the fence, worried because her baby is missing.



Inside the barn, the foals are anxious in the stalls, calling for their mothers. Kevin lets each foal settle a bit, and then he moves in with a foal-sized halter. The baby is backed into a corner and the halter is put on. It's time for the baby's first lesson in halter starting. That afternoon, Kevin throws as much new activity at the foal as he can handle. That includes being loaded into a trailer a couple of times.

"As long as everything is new to the foal, why not make it part of his new routine?" Kevin asks. "It's also a matter of safety. If the foal gets injured, I need to be able to load him right away."

Kevin's weaning method comes from many years of training and experience.

"I've worked at a place where they weaned gradually," Kevin said. "When I heard about abrupt weaning, I decided to try it. It's one day of trauma as opposed to spreading it out across a longer period of time."

He said part of his success comes from leaving the foal isolated in the stall. The only time anyone handles the foal is when Kevin takes him for his daily walk on a halter.

"I want the time with me to be the bright spot of the foal's day," he said. "He should look forward to it instead of dreading it."



For AQHA Professional Horseman Kevin Oliver, after a foal has settled, she gets her first lesson in halter-starting.



Kevin carries a brush in his pocket to reach a baby's itchy spots and help make sure the time spent outside of the stall with a human is the best part of the baby's day.



Loading in a trailer should be part of the routine, so Kevin introduces it approximately 10 minutes after the foal wears a halter for the first time.

Keeping Them Healthy

Safety and health are critical considerations, especially for those without experience weaning foals. Mares and foals need to be in a safe environment, because they are bound to be upset, although on varying levels. Handlers should be aware that normally calm horses can become dangerous at weaning time, and all weaning should be done with plenty of help on hand. With experienced handlers and good facilities, though, people and foals are rarely injured.

“We very rarely have injuries during the weaning process,” Phillip said. “We never have serious injuries. Occasionally, we might have a ding or a nick here and there, but we really have never had serious injuries.”

It’s critical to monitor the foal’s condition closely and be sure he’s eating and drinking.

“If we notice the foal is not picking up and eating, we try to find some other things to feed,” Toni said. “We may mix in Foal Lac as a sweetener with the grain to get them eating. We usually do not have any problems with them eating if they’ve already been nibbling on the feed (with their dams).”

At Gardiner Quarter Horses,

weaning time is when nutrition is imperative to get the foals looking good to be sold as yearlings.

“If their mothers weren’t producing a lot of milk, you’ve got to push them nutritionally to get them developed as yearlings,” Garth said.

Garth and Amanda keep Bermuda-alfalfa mix hay in front of the weanlings all the time and feed grain twice a day. Plus, the weaned foals are started on a supplement to ensure good hoof, bone and joint structure, and daily dewormer to keep them parasite-free.

The Gardiners also vaccinate at weaning.

“Before foaling, we give all of our mares a seven-way (eastern and western encephalomyelitis, West Nile, tetanus, rabies, rhino, flu) shot, then when we wean, we give the foals the same vaccine so that’s serving as a booster to the immunity they received through their mother’s milk,” Garth said.

One year, strangles swept through the Gardiners’ facility, wreaking havoc, so they had a custom vaccine made based on the strain to vaccinate mares and foals against the disease. So far, Garth said, it has worked well and they’ve been able to keep the weaned foals completely healthy.

What’s Next

Bob Moore Farms markets horses as yearling race prospects and Gardiner Quarter Horses sells its best yearlings at the National Reined Cow Horse Association Snaffle Bit Futurity Sale. Many of the foals Kevin weans will be staying around, but on the KT Ranch, the foals are going to new homes right after weaning, which could add to the stress load.

The goal for nearly every KT Ranch-raised foal is that the foal will be sold before winter hits. What that means is that the foals will be weaned early so the Piersons have time to wean the foal and have him healthy by the time he goes to his new home. Since KT Ranch sells foals across the country, it’s imperative that a foal be eating well and healthy before he undergoes such a trip. And if a foal is crossing state lines, which most of the KT foals do, he must have accompanying health papers, such as proof of a Coggins test and a health certificate. KT Ranch’s aim is to start on the health papers at the time of weaning.

Many of the foals are sold before the weaning process starts.

“What we do is we get a one-third-down deposit, and we allow the buyer to tell us when they want

their foal weaned,” Toni said, “For instance, we have a colt going to Delaware. We’re going to wean him well in advance, so that gives us plenty of time to get him halter-broke, get him on feed and get all the testing done that’s required to haul a horse, especially across state lines.

“Then we work with the buyer. They tell us when they’re going to come out to get the foal, and we have at least a two-week time frame to wean the foals before the buyer can come pick them up. It’s imperative that we have that foal very much weaned and we’ve had a halter on him for at least a week so they can have some control over that foal. We’re making sure that the foal is eating well and is healthy before he is ever picked up.”

Toni and Kellie encourage the new buyers to keep the foal on the same feed or gradually change the foal’s feed to their own and be conscious of problems that a quick change in feed can cause with a relatively fresh-weaned foal.

“That’s one of the most common things we see – people start pushing those foals too fast,” Toni said. “These are babies; they are being taken from their mother, taken from their home and being put in a new

environment. You want to try to keep as many things consistent as you can.”

Ultimately, each operation and

each foal is unique, but these tried-and-true weaning methods are likely to ease a situation that can otherwise be traumatic for all involved.

About the Sources

Bob Moore Farms, LLC

Bob Moore Farms in Norman, Oklahoma, is the breeding legacy of late American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame member Robert W. “Bob” Moore. Originally from Wichita, Kansas, Bob’s involvement in Quarter Horses began as a racing enthusiast in the 1950s; he began his breeding program in the early 1960s. Bob’s intention was to raise his own racehorses to compete at the sport’s highest levels.

His wife, Lynn, and his children, Vicky, Ted and Mark, have continued his Bob Moore Farms legacy. With Frank Merrill as the general manager and Phillip Stewart as the director of equine operations, Bob Moore Farms now offers breeding, sales preparation, boarding, certified appraisal, bloodstock consultation and foaling services.

KT Ranch

Kellie Pierson-Geddes and Toni Meacham spearhead the horse program, but their families and their parents, Don and Pam Pierson, are actively involved in the operation near Connell, Washington. Kellie and Toni are the sixth generation involved in the business. Since 1995, the family has focused on raising quality foundation American Quarter Horses under the KT Ranch name. They are active participants in the AQHA Ranching Heritage Breeder and Young Horse Development programs. Their goal is to produce versatile cow horses. They also raise registered Braford and horned Herefords.

Snaffle Bit Quarter Horses

AQHA Professional Horseman Kevin Oliver of Canyon, Texas, owns and operates Snaffle Bit Quarter Horses. Kevin began working as a day-work cowboy in his youth before becoming a horse trainer for ranches in the Texas Panhandle and later training horses for the show ring. He’s an AQHA Versatility Ranch Horse judge who trains horses for reining, reined cow horse and ranch riding. He also stands stallions, manages broodmares and trains their foals.

Gardiner Quarter Horses

Garth and Amanda Gardiner own and operate Gardiner Quarter Horses near Ashland, Kansas, where Garth’s family has been in the Angus seedstock business since 1885. Garth and Amanda began showing in National Reined Cow Horse Association events in 2006. Since then, they amassed impressive earnings in that association and built an enviable broodmare band focusing on the best genetics in the sport.