

GRUNDEN RANCH MORGANS

Curtis, NE

HORSE RELATED



Left to right:
Harlan, Tammy
& Hance
Grunden,
Lane, Megan
& Dawson
Welch



RG Stuart's
Monarch



Hidden Y's
Special Flaire

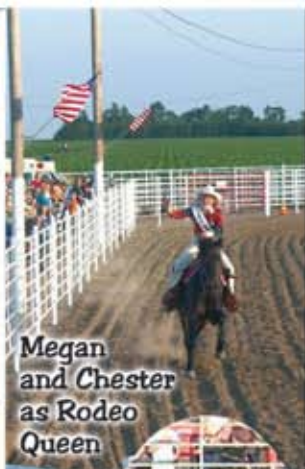
Nestled in the hills among the cedar trees in southwest Nebraska, you will find mares and foals peacefully grazing. This is the home of the band of horses of Grunden Ranch Morgans. These horses have roamed the hills since 1969 when the first Morgan set hoof on our place. We are the third generation of Grundens to live here on the ranch which was started in 1935.

Let me take this opportunity to introduce ourselves. We are the Harlan Grunden family. I have been involved with the Morgans since dad purchased the first one and have never considered leaving these horses. At age 12, I was showing stallions at class "A" rated shows. The foundation cornerstone horse of our breeding program was our Homozygous Black stallion Rimlo Black Prince. He was the horse that I showed and was a remarkable horse. There are several of his daughters in our herd. We concentrate on the Flyhawk bloodlines through different lines, including the Funquest Farms lineage of Topeka, Kansas that had disbanded many years ago. We have one of the largest herds of pure Funquest horses in existence today. My wife Tammy and I have 2 children

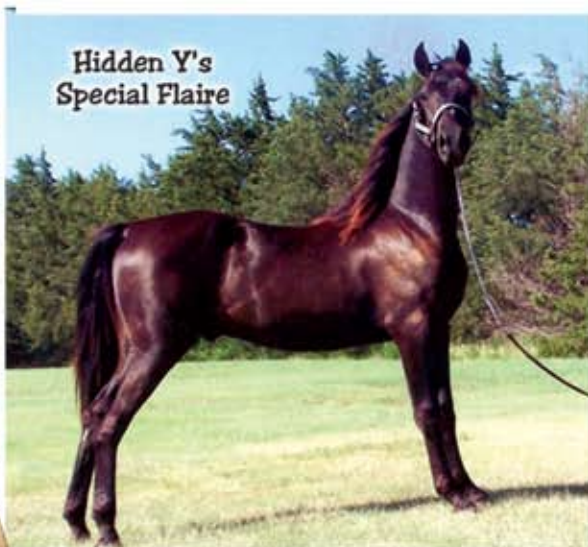




Kates Beauty with Hance at whip



Megan and Chester as Rodeo Queen



Hidden Y's Special Flaire



and we are all active in showing and raising the horses.

We also have a cow-calf operation. When we wean the calves in the fall the majority of them are sold. We keep our own replacement heifers and some of the younger calves to grow some more before we market them in February. We also put up grass hay to feed the livestock. This year's drought is one of the worst on record so there is a lot of scrambling to find feed and try new alternatives to subsidize what we do have.



Megan and Chester jumping



Our eldest child is Megan who is 26. She works as a radiology technician at a nearby hospital. Megan and her husband, Dawson and our only grandchild Lane live on the Welch Family farm. They are the third generation to live there. They raise irrigated corn, soybeans,

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Hance and Bodee working cow class

HORSE RELATED, Grunden Ranch Morgans,

alfalfa, dry land wheat and have a cow-calf operation. We are so lucky they live only 15 miles away.

We welcome our son, Hance, who is 21, back to the ranch to help continue on the family operation of raising cattle and quality Morgan Horses. When he can slip away, he owns his own semi which he hauls hay and grain. He graduated from college with a degree in welding, which comes in very handy. Both of our children made their first show ring appearance at 16 months in lead line classes. They both continued their show career from 4-H to Class "A" Morgan shows, to Nationals.

My wife Tammy is the manager of the coop convenience store in Curtis. She has held this position since we got married in 1982. When she gets home she starts her second job of working with the horses, helping me feed livestock, household duties, and babysitting the grandson (spoiling him). She has shown the horses right along with the rest of us and has won many titles such as High Point Horse, Champion Western and English Pleasure and Halter classes.

In 2004, we acquired the GRM prefix. With our children becoming involved, we wanted to have our own identity. There are 119 horses that carry this prefix. Prior to this we had raised numerous horses and shared the RG prefix with my dad Harvey. There are several mares in the pedigrees that we raised that carry the RG prefix. Since 2000 we have sold horses to 27 states and a bred mare to the Netherlands.

We currently are standing 4 stallions with 3 more waiting to add their genetics to the breeding program. We study pedigrees and various traits to try to breed the proper type of horse that we strive for here at the ranch. Our senior stallion RG Stuarts Monarch is a 16 hand bay and is half Funquest. Monarch is a sleek stallion who has done very well for himself, by produc-

ing foals as well as in the show ring. His recent career highlights include, the 2011 Morgan Grand National Show where he won the Carriage Obstacle Cones class and placed in every class that he was entered in. He has produced 63 registered foals so far. For those of you who were at Ashland, OH. Buckeye sale in 2012, he was there in the Stallion Presentation hitched as a team with his son, Black Lark. Lark is owned by Wilmer Slabaugh of Munfordville, KY. This powerful team had previously been hitched together twice before and was very impressive.

Another stallion here at GRM is Hidden Y'S Special Flaire. He is homozygous black and stands 15.2 ½ hands. There are 17 foals sired by him and 15 are black. In 2013 he should sire 8 more foals. These foals carry their head high with phenomenal movement, but are still old style Morgan.

RG Rimlo Prince Valiant is another homozygous black stallion here. He stands 15 hands of the old style type, but not coarse like some old style can be. Prince Valiant has sired 26 foals and is closely bred like our foundation stallion, Rimlo Black Prince.

This spring we purchased RG Cafallero's Legacy. He is a brown stallion that we raised and sold as a weanling. Legacy is half Funquest and one that we wanted to keep track of. His dam is a daughter of Rimlo Black Prince and we are excited to have him back home. He has not sired any foals so we are looking forward to this spring. He should sire 5 foals in 2013. We have frozen semen on all of our stallions, so we can use the genetics long after these guys are gone. Our entire herd carries the strong influence of Flyhawk. He was a horse that made quite an impact years ago to the Morgan world. Flyhawk had a ground covering trot that is still passed on to his offspring today. A half brother to Legacy is RG Regency Chester. This gelding is owned by



Megan and is shown by both kids. Chester has been shown in Oklahoma City at the Morgan Grand National Show. He has won several World and National titles in Trail, and placed high in Versatile Morgan classes there also.

There are 95 head of registered Morgans roaming around here as of last count. We would love to show them to you if you are ever out this way. This entire band of horses is on our website at www.grundenranchmorgans.com. It gives everyone a chance to see our horses without traveling half-way across the United States.

As we get older, we find ourselves enjoying the wildlife that God has bestowed upon us. There are mule and whitetail deer, elk, quail, pheasants, prairie chickens and an occasional bobcat. Some cougars are here but we are not thrilled to see them. The Thanksgiving turkey should not be too hard to get as we have had 100+ here this summer, even in the barn.

It is such an honor to be asked to be the Feature Horse Farm in The Connection. We have made many friends with the Amish over the years and cherish the friendships that have developed.

Harlan Grunden

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