



News from the Farm

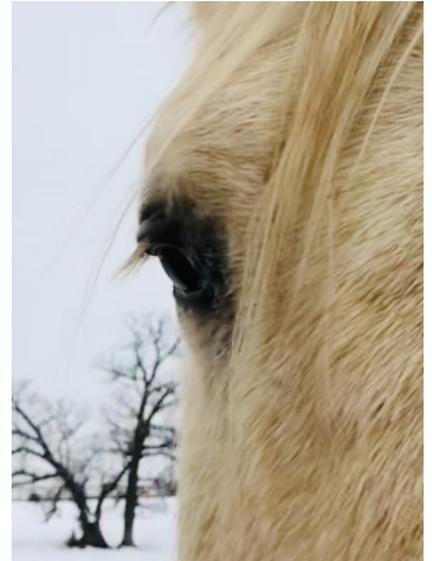
Here we are in February, having survived an incredibly snowy, icy and cold (like, record cold) January. I have an even better idea why February is a short month!

Maddie, the Miracles Farm Manager, has been holding down the fort. She's been keeping the long drive open, making sure everything in the house works, and most importantly, making sure the horses are cared for. She has been assisted with chores and machinery by board members Joe Petta, TJ West, Jerry Mohwinkle and me doing weekday chores while Maddie, Haley Paulson, Becca Wilhelm and Ashley Garetson, along with volunteers have done chores on weekends. Joe and I got the snow blade on the Gravelly just in time. I'd like to say that it was slick as the roads but while I can't really say that, we were as persistent as the cold weather. We got 'er done! It was cold, though.

The horses are doing very well with this year's beautiful winter coats. The fifteen big guys and three minis have plenty of options for staying warm. They huddle together, hang out in their loafing sheds (including the beautiful new one built this past year), and in really inclement weather, Maddie opens the doors to the arena. (Horse fact: Some horses prefer to stay outside so they can keep watch and are more free to move quickly.) Our feline security team, Ace and Todd spend time in the warm basement when they aren't prowling the perimeter or securing the barn and arena. They've made a deal with Maddie and Joe that they'll get the possums and raccoons with the Have-a-Heart-trap since it's harder for them to set up and remove.

The Horse Committee has been somewhat curtailed on training and exercising the horses due to the cold. Diana Harris, chair, trainer Erin Malloy and the rest of us have been waiting for a break in the weather. We know it has to come.

Karla Miller, Board Member, Mini Ambassador Program Lead, Horse Committee, etc.





Thanks to Leash on Life for sponsoring our newsletter. You can visit them on their website at www.leashonlife.net

Shellsburg Legion Riders, Post 166 "Adopts" Cinco

Ken Manley was delighted to share information about our MVECS program with the Shellsburg Legion Riders and accept their donation to help the program in a very special way. They are "adopting" Cinco, who is used exclusively by MVECS (Military Veterans Equine Care Squad). Ken describes Cinco as a horse that is looking for a leader and perfect for bringing out those qualities in participants in the veterans' program. If you, or a veteran you know, is interested in the program, you can find more information on our website, www.miraclescanmoveyou.com. If you are interested in adopting one of our wonderful therapy horses, information is available on the website also under "Adopt a Horse".



Our thanks to FSB for sponsoring our website

Farmers State Bank is our newest website sponsor! As a locally owned community bank, FSB takes pride in giving back to the community in which they live and work. FSB supports a variety of local community enrichment programs, donor-dependent charitable organizations, and numerous informational and educational programs with donations totaling more than \$200,000 each year.

In addition to their financial commitment, FSB employees volunteer more than 5,000 hours of their time each year in numerous ways for many different organization...all with the sole purpose of improving the quality of life in our communities. FSB has offices in Marion, Cedar Rapids, Hiawatha and Alburnett.

Miracles in Motion is pleased to welcome them as a website sponsor!