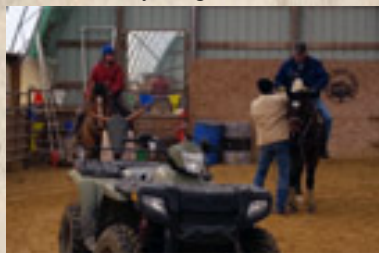


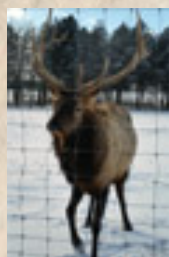
January

Happy New Year - Had a great time enjoying the great company and meeting new people! Thanks to those who helped make this a great day.

Snow outside so were riding inside and practicing our roping skills with a young horse and new rider.

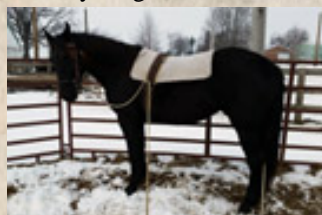
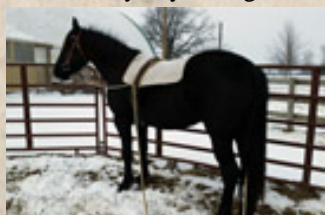


Cripple Creek Ranch and friends take a field trip and visit a local elk farm.



February

Still working horses outside in the snow and making the best of the sunny day. It is great to get these young horses outside



March

Things are warming up and riding is in full swing. Many training horses are in the door and the round pen is in full use. Riders looking to get ready for summer events and clinic dates are underway.

April

This month started off my clinic season with a Colt Starting Clinic. Participants were guided in a soft, gentle method of starting their own colts in 4 sessions, with plenty of homework to do in between each session. Instruction was available in between each session and it really helped prepare the riders and their horses to be out on their own.



We also had Dr. Joe Peabody, DVM owner of the Lake Geneva Veterinary Clinic conducted an Equine First Aid Clinic. Dr. Peabody, DVM has a small and large animal clinic located on 120 just north of Hebron, IL and south of Lake Geneva, WI. Dr. Peabody spoke about first aid practices, how to assess a horses condition, what to look for in a horses general condition and more! It is always fun to listen to him speak.



At the end of the month was our Spring Fling Clinic. This is always a great way to jump start your horse for the riding season. Get them and you tuned up, moving softly together, with more awareness to your riding and produce a more eager horse to tackle the trails or prep for the show season. The clinic started off with ground work, then obstacles and followed by riding and horsemanship exercises.





May

Things were beginning to show some signs of warming up around the ranch with signs of things to bloom! It also brought in our Softness In Motion Clinic. This is the next step after the Spring Fling Clinic where we work on rider awareness and build a better connection to the horse. Timing, rhythm, soft eyes, muscle relaxation, bending, hind end impulsion were just some of the concepts covered in this clinic. Each rider was given individual attention as well as group exercises to work together on.



There was an Introduction to Cattle Clinic and that one is always a crowd favorite. I love watching the expression on both horse and riders faces when they get the concepts and start flowing together as one.

At the end of the month, we had our Basic Roping Clinic. Joe did an awesome job getting everyone started on the right lead and enhancing their roping skills!



June

Barrel and Pole Clinic is always a special treat. I do love these events and am so passionate about having good horsemanship and equitation in the rider to really help the horse move its best. The better the horse moves, the easier it is for them to run, which leads to faster times and less injuries during the horse's career.



"You According to the Horse", is a unique opportunity to learn about yourself and see how you are reflected in the soft eyes of the horse. They are truly the windows of our soul. This clinic was team taught by Cathy Smith and I. We used many of the principles of the horse and combined it with the teachings we learned from the Native American approach of the "Circle of Life". We are looking forward to expanding this program in 2016.

July

The hot new discipline out in the equine world is the Western Dressage field. I love the concept for I have been using dressage exercises for years to work my horses and better my riding. I find it interesting how it has been integrated for years in the western field and it is now finally getting its accolades! YEAH! Western Dressage is for any western or English rider who want to better themselves and their horse. No matter the discipline, you will develop a better horse through western dressage exercises. You do not have to show western dressage to learn about it. For the western riders who want to know – NO, you do not have to wear breeches!

Our saddle fitting clinic was a largely attended! Ryan Liggett of C&L Saddlery and Dr. Peabody, DVM, and I conducted a

saddle fitting clinic where we fit over 30 horses and spoke extensively with the owner/riders on how the saddle should fit, how the bars effect the fit, and how the rider effects the horses movement based upon their seat and leg position. We have been working on creating my new line of saddles which feature a unique tree and correct ground seat to enhance your riding and your horse's comfort.



We continued with our Youth Mondays Camp covering ground work, lunging, proper saddle fitting, horsemanship, equitation and gaming! We had a lot of fun and many of the adults who hung out with the kids learned a great deal too.



August

I had an awesome time competing at the Iron Cowgirl Competition in Somerset, WI. I made it back to the finals, which was quite the feat! The events I competed in were: bareback arena race, barrel racing, breakaway roping, goat tying, pennant race, pole bending, scudda ho, rescue race, one man sort and goat dressing.



Sept

We spent some time roping and getting many of the young horses around here started under saddle. Love being able to work together on the colts! Spent some time work a driving pony for a client. We even had some opportunities to hit the trails and unwind!

Our ranch was featured in the 2015 McHenry County Farm Stroll program. Only 10 facilities were featured and we were the only equine facility that was chosen to participate in this exciting endeavor. We had over 300 visitors to our ranch. They were able to watch various equine demonstrations, pet the goats, visit with the cattle, shop in the tack and gift shop and enjoy the facilities. We had Isagenix products on hand and McHenry County Trail Riding Club was available to chat with everyone.



Oct

We were able to get in more roping!!! The payoff to the roping practice was a first place award at the WRA Finals for the novice roping class. This put me in 3rd place at the yearend totals. Also, this month we hit some barrel races, local horse shows and taking the next steps on the young colts. Beautiful weather, so we rode out and about as much as possible even into the dark nights!



Of course we had our Annual Halloween Party!!! Such great times, lots of laughs, good riding and such wonderful costumes! We had a lot of fun creating our ribbons to hand out. We even had awards for our riders!



Nov

Still riding, but had to start hitting the indoor arena more and more. Temperatures began to drop, but the riding, training and competition continues!

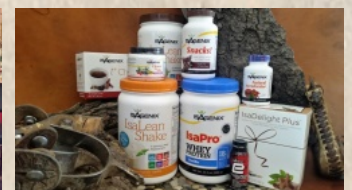


We had a fun show Complete with ribbons and awards and with a variety of classes to challenge all riders.



Thanksgiving rolled in and I made my favorite treat – TURKEY! It's about the only meal I enjoy cooking! We got some time to unwind and sit down and eat some great food together.

We also participated in the Harvard Area Chamber Walk and had a nice display from our Ranch and Saddle Shop! We displayed our halters, tack, leather work, jewelry, clinics, lessons, gifts and Isagenix Products.



Dec

More holidays are here. I am sure everyone is busy getting ready for the holidays that they celebrate. We were still preparing for winter! Moving stuff indoors, putting away decorations, lawn chairs, etc. Insulating and wrapping water troughs are just a few things to accomplish before more snow hits us! I am still excited that the weather is decent and riding is not done with frostbitten fingers and toes!

I attended a variety of veterinary trainings this month – I am always working on enhancing my knowledge with the rehabilitation of horses and animals.

Already planning for the 2016 Clinic and showing season! This reminds me:

If you have a date or month in mind that you want to host a clinic at your barn or with your youth or riding club, give us a call early to reserve the dates!

Our new line of saddle arrived! We spent a great deal of time creating this line and are very excited to share them with you! Call if you have saddle questions.



Jan 2016

Look for an article featuring me discussing how to whoa a horse in the January issue of Horse Illustrated Magazine!