

HORSE & FIELD SPORTS

Local horsemen featured in innovative new equestrian video series



Photo courtesy of Bob Claymier

TEACHING WHAT HE KNOWS: Hume horseman Bob Claymier, shown here with one of his Arabian broodmares and a newborn foal, is featured on a new instructional DVD series about horse breeding, foaling and training.

Claymier narrates breeding, foaling guide for Whispering Way

By BETSY PARKER
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Hume horseman Bob Claymier is featured in the new "Complete Guide to Horse Breeding, Foaling and Foal Training" DVD release by the Virginia Natural Horsemanship Training Center in Blacksburg.

The three-DVD set, part of the Whispering Way Foundation Training Series, presents a comprehensive guide to selection, preparation, breeding, pregnancy, foaling, handling and early training.

Claymier breeds and raises horses at his Desert Rose Ranch; he discusses and demonstrates a wide variety of topics in the presentation. Disc one covers mare and stallion selection, exams, breeding, ultrasound and early pregnancy. Disc two covers late stage pregnancy, foaling and imprinting. Disc three covers foal care, vet and farrier visits, halter training and weaning.

Rappahannock County veterinarian Dr. Tom Massie of Rose Hill Veterinary Clinic and Fauquier-based farrier Bill Davis are featured in the series, along with Claymier and many of the Arabian and crossbred horses at his farm.

"As a professional horse breeder and natural horsemanship trainer, I have received many requests over the years from horse owners needing information about the correct way to approach the whole breeding, early foal handling and foal training process," explained Claymier. "The steps...seem complex and somewhat mysterious to people. To help fill the information gap, I collected actual video footage here at my own [facility] for well over a year and a half, detailing every step of this process, and the result is this unique DVD set."

Claymier, 67, is a native of eastern Oregon. He grew up riding in the high desert of that region before heading east to college. He graduated magna cum laude from the University of Miami, earning a degree in engineering and then pursued a masters at nearby George Washington University and the Army War College. He worked in government service from 1963 until about 10 years ago when he created Desert Rose Ranch near Hume.

"I become a student of all of my endeavors and horse breeding has been no exception," said Claymier. "While there are bits and pieces available in different forms, there's nothing as comprehensive on the market from a layman's standpoint that addresses the needs of the inexperienced or first-time horse breeder. My real purpose is adding to the body of knowledge on the subject, and to assist owners be more responsible breeders as I have often seen mares that should not reproduce being bred to stallions that should have been gelded."

He operates on the KISS principle: Keep it simple, stupid. "No fancy bells or whistles, no large staff that the owner directs from afar — just down-home practical advice and occurrences covering the subject as completely as I could make it."

The DVDs run just over four hours. The cost is \$99.95, and the set can be ordered online at www.naturalhorsetraining.com or by calling (540) 953-3360. Reach Claymier directly through his Web site: www.desert-rose-arabians.com.