

KeSa Quarter Horses Prove Their Ability On The AQHA Show Circuit

by Tony Bruguere

Just 10 miles east of Fort Collins, Colorado, is one of the best Performance Quarter Horse breeding operations in the West.

There are a number of qualities that successful horse breeding operations should have to some degree, and KeSa Quarter Horses has them all.

To be successful in the quarter horse breeding arena, an operation has to be large enough that it has a substantial pool of mares and stallions and their bloodlines and genetics to draw upon, and include good solid foundation bred bloodlines in their horses. Sam Shoultz of KeSa Quarter Horses currently has eight stallions and seventy brood mares.

“I have a threefold program. I line-breed Blue Valentine. I line-breed the Driftwoods and I blend the bloodlines back and forth. There is some strong genetic strength in the background of both of these horses that ties them together.” said Shoultz.

The foal crop of a breeder has to be consistent from year-to-year, if the breeding operation is going to be successful. A breeder cannot go off chasing the latest fad or color. Shoultz states that the standard at KeSa “will always be production with a purpose as opposed to just making a baby horse”.

Perhaps the most important quality of a successful breeding operation is that they should have proven horses. It is one thing to say you have the best horses, but until you can put them into the tough Open Class of the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) Shows against the best horses in the world you have not really proven your statement.

Although AQHA performance roping events look very much like rodeo timed events, the difference is that horse and rider are not competing against the clock.

Rather the rider is tasked with showing off the horse and its abilities. It is not about the clock, it is about the horse. The rider is “showing” what the horse can do in a roping event, and needs to give the horse time to “show” its ability to the judges.

“Performance roping horses are not judged by time, but how quiet they are in the box, how well does the horse score the animal, how well they work the rope, and if they work off of their haunches. The run is scored on the performance of the horse rather than the clock. It’s how well trained and responsive the horses are that counts” said Shoultz.

Having an AQHA World Champion is a product of teamwork between the carefully researched breeding program at KeSa and their professional trainers. A horse possesses genetic characteristics like his mindset, musculature, and ability for fluid movement. As the breeder, Sam Shoultz has to refine this genetic pre-disposition through intelligent and selective breeding. The job of the professional trainer is to bring these characteristics to the surface and perfect them, where they can be seen by the judges.

There is not enough room here for the entire list of World and Circuit championships, ROMs, Superiors, and AQHA points that KeSa stallions and their progeny have accumulated, but here are some of the highlights.

KeSa reference stallion, MR Junewood, a 1996 Buckskin by Wayward Ike and out of Junewood Miss, currently has 192 AQHA points, qualified for four World Shows, and has a ROM and a Superior in Heading and Heeling. MR Junewood is the sire of MR Fritz Wood, Junewoods Gerrie who has two American Buckskin Registry Association (ABRA) World Championships, and many other horses that have been on the AQHA Show circuit, won money, and have AQHA points.

Blue Fox Hancock is a 2001 Blue Roan reference stallion with multiple AQHA All Around, High Point, and Reserve Championships in Heading, Heeling, and Calf Roping. Blue Fox Hancock has been an AQHA World Show Qualifier in eleven classes. Blue Fox Hancock is by Leo Hancock Hayes and out of Fox Coup, and was the AQHA 2009 All-Around High Point Reserve World Champion. He currently has 722 Open Performance points.

MR Fritz Wood is a 2008 buckskin stallion. His sire is MR Junewood and his dam is Fritz Lovelady. MR Fritz Wood is the 2014 Overall High Point Horse of the Year and currently has over 700 AQHA points in four events. MR Fritz Wood was the 2013 AQHA World Champion. Like other KeSa horses MR Fritz Wood has won multiple year end High Point awards, Circuit Championships, and AQHA World Show Championships. If you look specifically the AQHA World Show, MR Fritzwood has three World Championships, a Reserve World Champion, and a Third Place.”

The Driftwood and Hancock lines are very popular, but Shoultz believes that his blending of the two lines has strengthened the genetics of the original lines. “I think by blending the attributes of the Blue Valentines and the Driftwoods they are enhanced in both directions. The Driftwoods smooth out the Blue Valentines a little bit and add a little more action. The Driftwoods gain a little more bone, substance, and durability.” said Shoultz.

There is no doubt that Sam Shoultz has proven the quality of his stallions and their get on the Open AQHA Performance Circuit which sets KeSa Quarter Horses apart from many breeding operations

“The biggest thing that makes me a little bit different is the fact that I spend the time and the money, and the effort to get these horses out and get them proven. The only way you can prove that your horse has the abilities that you say they do, is to put them out in the very toughest competition that you can find.” said Shoultz.

KeSa started out selling outstanding working cow horses and they still do. Besides selling horses that go to ranches and rodeos, they also sell stallions to people that want to start or augment their own breeding program.

“We happen to have bloodlines that produce a lot of color, but in my mind we are not defined by color, we are defined by the product, by the performance of our horses. If someone wants an athletic, dependable, sturdy, good minded horse that is also a roan, they can come to us and there is a good probability that we will have one.” said Shoultz.

“The main goal of what we do is to consistently improve our program utilizing foundation horses. We are maintaining a seed stock of animals that can infuse these foundation horse bloodlines and characteristics back into today’s program. We strive to produce a performance horse that can think on its own and has the ability and quick-footedness to perform the event that we bred for and we choose to believe the only way you can say your horses can do it is to go out and prove they can do it. We are looking forward to the next foal crop, so we can do it all over again.” said Shoultz.

If you would like more information on KeSa Quarter Horses, you can visit their web page at www.kesaquarterhorses.com or call Sam Shoultz at 970-215-9433.

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