Good afternoon and thanks for joining us; I'm Judy Simpson. This coming weekend marks one of Vermont’s most popular events. It has been heralded by the chamber of commerce and draws thousands of people from the state and region and everything equine is entering its ninth year and back with us this afternoon is one of its founders and organizers Betsy Greene from UVM Extension. Thanks a lot for being back, Betsy.

Betsy.: Great to be here.

Judy.: One of the keys to Everything Equine is the combination of educational aspects and also the trade show. How does that work together?

Betsy.: The whole event is based on a lot of different partners bringing different strengths to this event. One plus one equals seven because we have Champlain Valley Expo that provides the venue, the manpower, the skill to create the event. We have all the equine sponsors and businesses that come to the consumer trade show and then we also have UVM Extension and I provide the organization of the equine educational aspect and each different thing draws people and they work with the other as well and attend the big picture.

Judy.: So the sponsorship goes beyond the money aspect?

Betsy.: Yes, and if you’ve been to Everything Equine then you know the arena. What you don’t see is all the mats underneath and for instance Guys Farm and Yard has been with us from the beginning has been the one providing the mats and at times the fences and things like that so that we can have an arena inside a concrete floor. Whether its sponsors whether its hosting headliners or things like that all of these people bring different pieces and even donating some things for the drawings so we can get the feedback from the folks.

Judy.: Also, Horsemen's Yankee Pedlar has a new aspect to its sponsorship as well?

Betsy.: Yes they've been sponsors for many years but the cool thing is this year they did our program and not only did they do a great job on it, that you can actually find it online now. That's something before was only available when you walked in the door you could read stuff after and check your schedule and things like that but now you can actually go online and get that link on the expo.org. Read the whole
program read the articles check out the schedules see what's going to be there ahead of time we still have a week.

Judy.: There's a lot of information. I've been checking out some of the programming and you can look at things ahead of time and take the time to read them so I've plotted my days on both days. Maybe you can tell us some of the things that we are going to be seeing; some things that are popular from last year?

Betsy.: Of course. We have some pictures from last year and of course that’s from Horsin’ Around, we always like the show also it was the educational part but also of course David Davis. This is from the Horsin’ Around variety show we also showed folks how to do tricks. Of course it's always entertaining I don't know if you've mastered those tricks with your horse? How about that one?

Judy.: No, not even close.

Betsy.: And then of course drill teams are always popular as well that's the UVM Drill Team coming and a couple little movements there and of course are very popular Pond Hill with 16 horses. That's not much room beyond where they are. And one of the key things there is we have 4-H represented with Mary Fay and Wendy Sorrell. Of course Mary Fay is on the committee. There with some folks their kind of important in the state our Governor and our Secretary of Agriculture. 4-H has been a part since the beginning as well. One of the things that Mary Fay is in charge of is the kids' corner. You can see it in the background that drooping hanging thing, that's a horse digestive system.

Judy.: Ok, I wasn't sure.

Betsy.: It's actually a reproduction of one but it gives the perspective for the folks so it's educational and fun and that's been a key part as well. Some other things this was the Purina booth where they had set up a table for the horses and our Governor decided that it looked so good he was going to try it.

Judy.: So he ate a little grain did he?

Betsy.: He did, and of course I'm sure that might have been his first time. I don't know how much he enjoyed it.

Judy.: The feedback is very important to you as far as what folks think about and take home from this experience. What do you hear from people who go to Everything Equine?

Betsy.: We hear all kinds of things of course sometimes it's we want this we want this we want this person and of course we try to do the best we can. A lot of times it is disciplines but the things that are really valuable for me from the UVM Extension standpoint is what are folks providing feedback saying because of this seminar whether this year or another I will change or I did change. I made changes that improved safety improve businesses’ bottom line. All these types of things that help us and even in their riding because of course if you make better practice in your riding, learn some skills to better handle work around or on your horse. Then you're going to be safer. That's a plus too, because of decreasing accidents and things like that.

Judy.: The unusual thing is you can get all this information in one place.
Betsy.: Oh yeah we have so many different topics and the cool part is that in this situation whether it's beginning or advanced or whether you're interested in the training or the technology or anything with the lawyers the business side of running things we have something for everyone.

Judy.: Everything Equine starts Saturday. What can folks expect this year?

Betsy.: We have something that we have not been able to do before because this event always falls on the weekend where there's a little tiny event in Kentucky I don't know if you've heard of it the Rolex event? It's huge, OK so we have a lot of vendors in Vermont but we couldn't get the folks to do the event in headlining on this great weekend but this year we have a lot of Vermonters doing it and we have headliners Sue Berrill she's a high level eventing horse trainer rider et cetera, and she will be doing stadium and cross country so this is a first having it at Everything Equine all three aspects of the eventing. Another first is using an outside venue. We have what they call at Champlain valley Expo “Blueberry Hill.” That will be part of the cross country area. That of course it's not going to be a course but it's going to be several cross country fences and her talking through some of the pony club riders and having them do course work and things like that. The cool part is that we will start with younger or less experienced riders. People who have to be capable of jumping whereas like here is how you jump but then we'll start and end the session each of the sessions with some more advanced riders. If you're just beginning you have something to look at but you don't feel like Oh I already know that because we'll have advanced stuff at the end of the cross country stadium.

Judy.: And your headliners too?

Betsy.: Sue of course is the first one and then Andrea Waldo from Triple Combination Farm will be doing the dressage phase. That covers all three on Saturday. We're looking at a picture of Heidi Potter who's been with us several years and she's talking about light feel there having people ride and steer each other. Then she worked with folks some of the UVM Drill Team girls rode in her demonstration last time. She will actually be doing some stuff this year. Interesting segue, she's doing horse maturity. You think about dog agility my little check rest so I don't think they're going to be running through too just but she starting that so if you're not a rider or if you are a rider you can participate in this. So she will be introducing that this year. Back to Andrea she's doing the dressage phase she's at Triple Combination Farm. She does what is called stress-less riding and she's developed that. She's going to be I'm sure incorporating that into the show also have some riders from pony club and maybe others. Her demo will go through the different moves that the different tests. That will be Saturday as well she also Sunday will have a cross country for the season I can remember what we call it that someone like you and I getting started so if you're not my teenage they'll be fun for folks to come and check it out. Their shares during cross country you can tell she's not one that's weak of heart.

Judy.: No definitely.

Betsy.: And this is our headliner Sue Berrill, isn't that great choose a big and of course that she can jump over house.

Judy.: That's a great jump.

Betsy.: She came up for one of the meetings and said it's so funny 'cause we walked around Blueberry Hill and she’s a typical eventer she just kind of okay let's check out see what we have all right we can make this work. Some of the other folks and different disciplines are like well that has to be just like this that has to be that. She's like point me at it, I will ride it.
Judy.: Put a dish over there and I'll be fine.

Betsy.: Exactly. She looked and said OK we'd have to take this path because we want safe footing and such but so that's fun. Then of course Sunday we had a nice pleasant surprise Denny Emerson will be joining us and of course Sue was once a student so he's coming up and he of course is a personality on his own. He commands attention both on Facebook if you've been following his Tamarack Farms site he's educating the world on pedigrees and such pretty still actively eventing and he's not teenage years.

Judy.: Wow that's incredible.

Betsy.: So he's coming in. He's actually training the trainers. Trainers training the trainers. So Sunday afternoon we’ll actually have Denny instructing Andrea and Sue and Tara Valade from another farm in Vermont on stadium jumping. My guess is based on some of the stories around here he may drag them out to the cross country area who knows?

Judy.: Oh no kidding?

Betsy.: Danny does what he wants.

Judy.: We should mention this is really a unique opportunity for people to go outside and watch these events.

Betsy.: Oh absolutely we will be parked elsewhere because where folks usually park will be a traffic area for horses and people for the cross country stadium. The stadium jumping will be in the big outdoor arena by the barns, so you get a little exercise as well.

Judy.: That's great. What else is on tap for the weekend? I know there's going to be a lot of discussion about the effects of Irene on horse farms across Vermont which is something that UVM was very involved with.

Betsy.: Yes one of several presentations some will be on the effects as in showing what happened what was done and things like that some of them Dr. Dan Hudson and I will be doing some stuff on what to watch out for because you still may have some hay that was put up post Irene with silt issues and things and how to tell. Things like that what to do with as far as pastures. We'll also have things from the business aspect of it and how folks were affected and what they did it and could do and what they still can do to try to improve their situation if they're still having affects from it. We also have things like business on checking to see if you're doing a profit. Bob Parsons will be doing a presentation on that. We will have the Everything Equine extreme trail challenge on Sunday morning but Saturday morning Joe Sprano from up in Alburgh will be getting started so if you want to try your hand at that you can come see and get introduced to that we have all kinds of stuff going on.

Judy.: We should mention that there's an interesting article in the brochure and also wire at Everything Equine if there's an interesting study that your students did. About the equine business in Vermont which I think a lot of people might be interested in knowing a little bit more about.

Betsy.: Yes there's an article there already from their work and they'll actually be presenting some of that stuff as well in one of the talks. We also have breed row I can't forget breed row because that's been a
popular thing in the last couple years where we have horses or folks can get to see them and check them out.

Judy.: And see different breeds that they might not see every day or have seen before.

Betsy.: Yes absolutely and we'll have Melody Blittersdorf with her Arabian and she's gone to the world equestrian games with endurance so we'll have some pretty high faluten’ horses there.

Judy.: It’s pretty action-packed too, as far as something going on almost all day Saturday and Sunday so it's really to your benefit if you're interested in going to take a look ahead of time at the schedule and plan your day out.

Betsy.: At least find out where you're going; to find out that Oh gosh their stuff on both days I thought I was just going to this but I’d better adjust my schedule and come both days.

Judy.: For admission there’s one admission by if you go to the Horsin’ Around show on Saturday night that's an additional ticket.

Betsy.: That is a separate ticket because it also benefits horse industry businesses.

Judy.: That's a look at a lot of activities this weekend for Everything Equine. I can't believe it's been nine years.

Betsy.: I know I know it's crazy.

Judy.: It's all happening this Saturday and Sunday April 28 and 29th at the Champlain Valley Expo in Essex Junction. You can get the full schedule by going to cvexpo.org or by calling (802) 878-5545 that's 878-5545 it's going to be a busy weekend.

Betsy.: Oh yes it always is for me.

Judy.: Thanks for joining us Betsy.

Betsy.: Yes it's great to be here.

Judy.: That's our program for today, we will see you again next time on Across the Fence.

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