Good afternoon and thanks for joining us I'm Judy Simpson. Today on the program we're going to learn about the success of one of Vermont’s top events of the spring as it enters its eighth season. Everything equine has attracted tens of thousands of people. The horse lovers weekend event offers exhibits demonstrations as well as seminars and workshops that benefit every level of horse rider or owner. One of the founders of everything equine is also a regular contributor to across the fence. I want to welcome Professor Betsy green of the UVM animal science department and the equine science specialist with UVM extension. Thanks for being with us. Eighth year amazing.

Betsy.: Thanks it's crazy. It went fast.

Judy.: Did you think back in 2004 that this would become one of the state's top events?

Betsy.: I guess I wasn't thinking top event but it didn't really surprise me that it would be a hit because I've all people know how many force people there are in this multifaceted industry of Vermont. It's a great place to bring everybody together and from the trainers vendors to everybody that has any kind of interest in horses. It didn't surprise me that it's been a hit.

Judy.: How do you know that it works?

Betsy.: How do we know? That's one of the things that we always have to try to figure out an extension anyway. We've done a survey every single year a computer survey we do evaluations of the individual seminars and some of the things we asked even things like why? Why are people coming? One of the first things 85% over 85% of these folks come to participate in watch seminars demonstrations and workshops. That's a really good thing for me seeing that that's my part of the event with extension and getting horse knowledge out and about. Other things 60% come to buy it for supplies and equipment. One stop shopping. And over 40% come to interact with other horse people. That's really something like I said whether you're meeting new people finding people in common in your discipline
whenever. That 8% answered that their dragged here by a horse lover. That's pretty good to and they have to have somebody to haul the shavings and hay at home and such.

Judy.: Exactly and shovel of course. So what else have you learned from your evaluations?

Betsy.: We asked about some of the demographics to try to figure out who is coming what their purchase a patient in the industry and first of all do they plan on coming to everything equine have they been before do they plan to again. 97% of the folks that took the survey planned on coming to this upcoming 2011. 97%. And 90% of those that were surveyed actually own or lease a horse and 1/3 those had between three and five horses.

Judy.: Wow that's a lot.

Betsy.: That's a lot of mouths to feed and of those that own the horses we had broad across the industry. We have new owners 1 to 5 years 30% of those had owned for 1 to 5 20% for 6 to 10 and then 22% of ours surveyors had owned for over 20 years. There's new owners there's longtime owners we certainly wouldn't call them old owners and it's really cool. Of course 85% of those that took the survey were female and that probably reflects the population of everything equine crowd in the equine industry in Vermont anyway.

Judy.: What's the impact on those who attend? Do you know what they take away from everything equine?

Betsy.: In fact we ask them. That's one of the key things we ask for immediate what do you expect to change what kind of things did you learn but then we also the thing we have to measure somehow which is not always easy is long-term impact. What have you actually done as a result? So one of the survey questions it is in the past everything equine what things have you changed? Things like detecting colic early by watching horse behavior.

Judy.: We should mention that colic is a deadly issue.

Betsy.: Yes one of the most serious gastrointestinal upset of any kind and one of the most serious that most owners deal with. Other things like becoming a more effective and confident rider. Which is going to be a safer rider as well so that's important for us. Learning to take better care to make sure folks who come to their barn know the risks involved so if there's any kind of the accident or something there either prevented or their aware of the situation had a time. That helps a lot especially with today's society expecting everything to be perfect. You are a horse owner in you know not everything is perfect.

Judy.: Everything is almost never perfect.

Betsy.: Yeah and in fact some other folks said they became more aware of their rights as a horse owner. We also educate about responsibilities as well. Other things improving stable management. I like the one that says I can't think of anything that hasn't been influenced by what I learned at everything equine. That looks very good for us. More confident and then there is a lucky horse that gets massaged most regularly because of what they learned from josé trott.

Judy.: Okay I can see where I'm headed this year.
Betsy.: Yeah. Also one of the hot topics to was the large animal rescue situation. Whether it's unwanted horses and all those issues around. The fed stuff on that as well and that's made an impact.

Judy.: As an extension professor the key for you as education.

Betsy.: Absolutely that is my role is to help organize the different presentations and we actually have some pictures of some undergraduates from UVM presenting equine exercise physiology. We also had some other students talk about miniature horse nutrition. I hope you're at that talk.

Judy.: I think it's more miniature horse diet.

Betsy.: Yes that they don't need as much as we feed them or that they think they need. Then another student presented on owning your first horse. What to do in what to think about and what kind of things you had to know to have a good example. We have students talking again this time on many different topics from equine metabolic syndrome. In fact you'll see another one of our students as we've done some research in a show not too far down the road at Morgan horse farm.

Judy.: So you'll bring some big names to the horse world of Vermont who are some of the headliners this year?

Betsy.: this year we have David Davis and JC Dodlynn and also Ann Doddly. Last year we had David Davis was such a popular presentation and he didn't get a chance to show off his skills in training. But you have Ruth Hogan Polson we had Greg Princeton jumping up we equate a variety and versatility was the theme. You can see David and his trip horse and he'll show you some more of that but he'll also talk about training. Of course he's quite the showman and his horses are as well. I think we're going to have him tried to do some roman riding this time we'll see. You do that with your mini right?

Judy.: Sort of.

Betsy.: He also does the cowboy church on Sunday morning and he's great at singing and can play the fiddle too. This was teaching your stand well mounting or bow in case you can get up to get on. He can also teach to sit that's one he teaches right there is rearing but I'm not so.

Judy.: I try to avoid that.

Betsy.: Exactly. I guess you teacher dog to bark so you can teach and not to bark well maybe. Then of course Ruth was also teaching she did a great thing writing to music and developing rhythm and consistency as well. Again that some other demonstrations with Ruth.

Judy.: In addition to the workshops and seminars it was also a lot of fun.

Betsy.: Oh yes we always have fun with horsing around. Horsing around again this time will be on Sunday afternoon as it was last year and it's something that has really worked out because the horse organization that's helped out in the past has been the horse council the last few years. You see the video with our miniatures green MTN miniatures but Vermont farm bureau and in fact some of the funds from this were rolling out a horse farm
of distinction program from Chittenden County that can then be adapted to other counties. It's really cool to see some benefits for the horse industry to come out of this and of course this is Marcy baron or dale. She came in and proper dressage and classical music and then came back in with her rip roaring around showing the versatility of the combined driving. You see you have to have that person on the back to get those wheels around. Then Becky train showing off a little bit of dressage. She was actually in the breed row and that was the first time we offer that. We will be offering that again because people want to see more horses on site so this way there was a little barn and there will be again a tent with stalls that has some variety of breeds. Then of course we had Dan Langdon doing some jumping competition. We had Greg Prince the headliner was doing a little bit of judging against him and his student in the audience was clapping. Here is his student riding the big paint and she won. It's always a lot of entertainment and edutainment because we learn a little bit. There's Ruth riding her dressage horse showing her fancy moves as well. Writing to music of course and riding two the victim it was really neat. A neat show.

Judy.: That's great a chance to see that kind of showmanship.

Betsy.: Yes in all extremes from the and games to the other and then of course you have to have babies.

Judy.: We also have had to have a another clip from horsing around that involves two of the headliners and maybe you can tell us a little bit about what we're going to see?

Betsy.: You saw Ruth's showing off some of her dressage moves and you know that how sometimes dressage can be perceived as fancy stiff and all that and then you have David Davis the showman. David does cowboy dressage so we thought we put them together and they actually had a little competition going on. Some of the music during their show was anything you can do I can do better but the clipper going to see is them working together not having done this before it's really pretty neat.

Judy.: Let's take a look.

[music]

Judy.: No way. We've been talking about the seven successful seasons of everything equine and this coming weekend is the eighth annual everything equine and horsing around event this Saturday and Sunday, April 30 May 1 at the Champlain valley expo in Essex junction. For tickets and information you can go to flynntix.org or call (802)-863-5966 you can also buy tickets at guys farm and yard stores in Vermont and Adirondack tack in Plattsburgh and while you're taking down that information all it you know that Betsy's going to be back tomorrow to tell us to some of the big names that are coming to the expo this weekend and shall also tell us more about her involvement in the wild horse roundup among other things. Betsy looking for to that and I think the most important thing about this week and coming up is that there's always something new you can pick up which is great.

Betsy.: Yes new things and things to learn about and enjoy.

Judy.: Exactly. That's our program for today thanks for joining us I'm Judy Simpson see you again next time on across the fence.

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