Good afternoon and thanks for joining us I'm Judy Simpson. This weekend marks one of Vermont's biggest educational and economic events of the spring. The eighth annual everything equine kicks off Saturday and runs through Sunday at the Champlain valley expo in Essex junction. Everything declined draws thousands of horse lovers around the region to spend time and money during a weekend of exhibits demonstrations and seminars. With me is one of the founders of everything equine Betsy green is the equine specialist with the University of Vermont extension and a professor of the animal science department. Nice to have you with us again.

Betsy.: Thank you.

Judy.: This is a very busy time for you.

Betsy.: Yes it is. Between finishing up the semester with classes and welcoming new students coming next semester and the rest of my time is everything equine and everything equine and also everything equine.

Judy.: You always draw some of the biggest names in the horse world to everything equine. Who are this year's headliners?

Betsy.: This year we have several different varieties for the whole audience again which worked out very well last year. Due to popular demand we have David Davis coming back. But Anne Dodly a local favorite Charlotte Vermont and also spending her winters in Ocala doing equatations and hunter jumper type things. Then we have JC Daudlyn and he is actually from Quebec and he does gaming. He'll do training horses for any discipline body does things like barrels pole Bending and all that stuff. So he'll be doing some cool stuff for us. You can see him chasing barrels there and doing pole Bending and the pictures. And like I said David he is a showman he's a three time world champion rainer he is roman riding hopefully we'll have a chance to see him do some of that at the horsing around show and of course tricks. If you recall he had Anson Tebbits teaching him.

Judy.: I remember that.
Betsy.: It was awesome. We have all kinds of things for the whole audience. David will be doing some more of his training methods as well. He'll do some tricks and help some people teach their horses how to do some beginning tricks but a lot of his time this time will be focused on training.

Judy.: In addition to the educational entertainment aspects of the weekend there is also some significant economic activity.

Betsy.: Yes of course we always have the consumer trade show which is huge because it helps let everyone know what's going on in the industry. It puts the products right out in front of everybody so they can do their spring shopping. I know you have done yours there. And our sponsors that come and help with the show help underwrite some of the headliners and such as well. Guys farm and yard has been there with us the whole time horse works and a lot of other folks that bring all of this stuff and help the industry get together find out what's new and go forward getting your horse shopping and coming to learn which is my end of the deal.

Judy.: Which is really great because you get catalogs in the mail but then you wonder I wonder if this really works? Or what it actually looks like? Or how to put it on? And what is right there you can check it out.

Betsy.: You can try it on see if it fits. I won't buy any boots that I can't try on.

Judy.: What are some of the other weekend highlights?

Betsy.: Of course we have our kids' corner every year which is always popular. We have last year for the first time we had an art show and you see pictures of last year's. We will have that again and people can actually submit. There's different levels of the competition and there's actually some prizes and awards given from beginner to professional you can display your art at everything equine. It's really neat to see some of the stuff that goes there.

Judy.: One of the biggest entertainment events of the week and is called horsing around and we have some video from last year. Always popular.

Betsy.: Yes of course.

Judy.: Let's take a look at that. That Sunday right?

Betsy.: Sunday afternoon yes horsing around on Sunday afternoon at 130.

Judy.: So we're looking at some video here?

Betsy.: We do have our pond hill drill team coming back a favored from Castleton. They always bring in and fill the arena. And they do some wild things with the horses as they're demonstrating and it's always entertaining very much a crowd pleaser.

Judy.: That kind of gets too excited to try those things yourself.
Betsy.: Yes and we will have some drill teams this time around. Will have pond hill we will have some student drill teams and we will have some Icelandics. We will have quite a bit of running around in partners doing all kinds of things. When you have 20 horses in that arena at one time going every which way at a cantor or more that's always a good time.

Judy.: It is. Throughout the weekend horse riders and owners are going to be learning and talking about some key issues. What are some of the big topics this year?

Betsy.: In the demo rain we will actually have some of the technology for lameness evaluation and we will do Dr. Phil Van Harrabeld from the Vermont large animal clinic will do some digital radio graphs and then you'll take those and go into the seminar room after that and show what they took show how they've done it in the demo pen and then talk about what that and abnormal one. Hopefully the horse we will have will be perfectly normal but what kinds of things they can do for diagnosing lameness and things like that. We have all kinds of nutrition talks we have feeding caring for of course dealing with equine law. Jessica Ebert who has done a lot of good talks on liability and such will be giving the legal ins and outs of buying and selling horses. She actually just purchased a horse for self and although she knows it she just recently lived it so she's going to share things that get refreshed when you're put in the middle of those situations too.

Judy.: Excellent.

Betsy.: The other thing is we actually have quite a bit of hot topics. We had comments on things from the emotional things. Care of the horse we've had some higher levels of neglect showing up as the economy and too many unwanted horses and things like that. In fact I will be doing something on my experience being an independent observer at a wild horse gather out in Nevada this past summer.

Judy.: Tell me about that because that is intriguing.

Betsy.: It was quite interesting. We actually knew the concepts but actually being out there that. I took the picture on the hill as the helicopter was gathering up and I will just show the examples and some of the things that are done. The perceptions and misperceptions that are put out there. It's interesting because you can't handle those horses like you can handle your mini. Will I don't know maybe.

Judy.: I could use a helicopter some days I think.

Betsy.: But it's a whole different world when these horses have not been handled so people think that it's just go up and pat them and you can be 20 feet away from the fence and you shift a shoulder at them they are aware and they move away from the fence. So it's interesting.

Judy.: Yes and there's the perception that it injures the horses to her them by helicopter when in fact it's easier to do it that way then use other horses.

Betsy.: It's something that you don't really until you've actually seen it. I thought the hourses would be more stressed then they were and I was actually pleasantly surprised that of course you can put pressure on an animal whether you're on the ground doing something whipping it or up in the air but the way you handle yourself and the horse and respond with a horse was an interesting experience the whole dynamics.
Judy.: You mentioned earlier thoroughbreds and rescues?

Betsy.: Yes and we've had the New York thoroughbred rescue organization that's had some fairly bad articles that on the fact that people that have been well funded to rescue are having issues with neglect and starving horses. It just goes to show that even when there's excellent funding their management mismanagement whenever the cases the decisions that are made at the legislative level can have an impact on the horses welfare good or bad.

Judy.: Exactly you mentioned a whole fact that a lot of people have been giving up their courses because they cannot afford to keep them anymore in this economy so where do they go?

Betsy.: Exactly. Everyone says the rescuers will take them well that's not always the case. Certainly everybody would love to but when you're having trouble putting food on the table and paying your own mortgage you can't necessarily save the world and every horse in it.

Judy.: Let's get back to what's gonna be going on this weekend. You mentioned David Davis but and I think we have some photos you wanna show.

Betsy.: Sure. He's going to do.

Judy.: My favorite.

Betsy.: The electric cowboy. Is going to do demonstrations at the horsing around and of course as I said he's quite the showman. He truly enjoys it. He is done this at the world Congress and at other national events. He was actually at the world equestrian games too. He's been around the country and probably around the world. I think we're reaching to get you to bring in your mini to learn how to do this?

Judy.: If you throw in a trailer I will bring him and I guarantee you will be a crowd pleaser. If you've ever seen anybody being chased by miniature horse it's a lot of fun.

Judy.: He does that too.

Betsy.: That's like an knee up issue. David is always is going to do some things both during the day and doing some examples of training. I don't think he'll be able to train you to do this with your mini over the weekend.

Judy.: That wouldn't be safe.

Betsy.: But he'll be doing a lot of beginning training as well as his force free training which is actually how he starts all horses.
Judy.: Tell me a little bit about that because that's the big issue for a lot of people now. They're really looking at that as opposed to something more traditional ways to train horses.

Betsy.: It's pretty much looking at the horses behavior and response and using their natural instinct. Then backing off rather than pressuring an rewarding good behavior or what you perceive as good behavior by releasing pressure from the horse. Instead of continuing on. How many times have you been in a riding lesson and you say OK you'll hourses done what you need OK release the pressure and your instinct is to hold onto the reins but he's always working with helping people identify those behaviors and then act on them in a positive way so that the horse is more comfortable and the horse is therefore more willing to do it you want.

Judy.: And also recognizing the signs when the horse isn't comfortable and how to work around that.

Betsy.: Yes and if the horses not doing what you need to do he puts a little bit more discomfort making the horse work around him for example until the horse says it's much easier to do what he wants.

Judy.: Then try to fight him. I haven't quite gotten to that point yet with Buster but we're working on it. Tell me a little bit about how this event has grown Betsy? When you first started eight years ago did you ever imagine that it was going to be this popular?

Betsy.: It was something that I knew with us but who took off that first year and we up've been keeping going. As things go you always have to try to figure out how to make something new and exciting but yet you still have new people coming into the horse industry that still need those basics on whether its feeding care or whenever how to find a good instructor how to recognize when you need to make a change and all those that then you also have to have something for the people that are experienced so that when people are watching these things they can walk away and say I could go try that and in my book then they try it and don't get hurt and their horses don't get hurt. It's always been interesting trying to get a broad spectrum of levels of experience knowledge discipline and have something new and exciting every year.

Judy.: There's always something new you can learn.

That's it.: Absolutely I can tell you how many times I have we learned things. I was like oh yeah I knew that. I need to practice.

Judy.: That's just it because a lot of it is practice and repetition.

Betsy.: Yes there's so many different things that sometimes there's things we want to know sometimes there's things that we need to know and how to package those so that you can have people coming to take away things that they will do more responsible stewardship management or care land whenever or get active in their community with the horses and such as well.
Judy.: Tell me a little bit about the impact that the horse industry has on Vermont.

Betsy.: If you think about it people think horses are just fun pets. We might treat them like pets but they are livestock. In state statute their livestock and they actually act like livestock no matter how much we treat them like that's. They will automatically go back to their own instincts so just trying to think about what we put into these animals and if you think about all the stuff in the food store you go to the retail part and there's a whole lot more horsey stuff because we bought stuff for them not because they necessarily need it but because we want them to look pretty.

Judy.: It's a big economic impact.

Betsy.: It's a huge economic impact on the state and it helps keep everybody else going as far as so the structure is there for the rest of livestock industry.

Judy.: We're talking about this weekend the eighth annual everything he Klein and horsing around events. It's happening Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 1 at the Champlain valley expo in Essex junction. For tickets and information go to flynnntix.org or you can call (802)-863-5966 you can also buy tickets at guys farm and yard in Vermont and Aderondack Tack in Plattsburgh. Betsy thank you looking for to it.

Betsy.: Yes I hope to see you there.

Judy.: You will. That's our program for today I'm Judy Simpson we will see you again next time on across the fence.

Across the fence is brought to you as a public service by the University of Vermont extension and WCAX TV.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. University of Vermont Extension, Burlington, Vermont. University of Vermont Extension, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating, offer education and employment to everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status.