

KeSa Production Sale



Top horse brings \$14,500 at 17th annual auction

story and photos by Dixie Crowe

The steady chatter of whinnies, nickers, and snorts across the aisles by the young horses stalled in the Adams-Atkinson Arena barn on Colorado State University's Foothills Campus filled the air and accompanied the conversations of interested buyers.

The 17th annual KeSa Quarter Horse sale, held October 18, 2014, featured 56 catalog entries. The horses ranged from weanlings



Speedywood Jo Jo, a 2009 bay stallion, was KeSa's top-selling horse, bringing \$14,500. Trainer Luke Jones of Iowa rides him in the morning preview session.

Charles Roybal (left) brings a horse into the ring while his brother, Joe Roybal, exits the ring with a pretty blue roan filly.

born during the spring and summer to older geldings, mares, and stallions from their breeding program.

Hip number eight, Speedywood Jo Jo, a 2009 bay stallion, was the top-selling horse, bringing \$14,500. Trained by Luke Jones of Iowa, Speedywood Jo Jo has already qualified for the 2014 AQHA World Show. The sale brought an average of \$2,600 a horse.

"I am so pleased and grateful for all the support we received from CSU and the ERL. It really meant a lot to me."

— Sam Shoultz

There were many different reasons for bidders to raise their cards as the auctioneer chanted the current bid for each horse in the ring; a desire to train the next champion from the ground up, acquiring a horse that already had competition earnings and points, or adding proven bloodlines into their breeding programs.

Patrick McCue, DVM, PhD, DipACT, CSU professor and equine-assisted reproduction specialist, lectured on special reproductive cases in stallions and mares during the break between the preview and sale. (Dr. McCue is the Iron Rose Ranch Professor of Theriogenology at CSU's world-renown Adams Equine Reproduction Laboratory.) One example highlighted the successful fertilization of eggs harvested from a mare that had died. A short video clip of the manual injection of a sperm into an egg with a pipette under a microscope captured attendees' full attention.



Charles Roybal exits the sale ring with hip #42, a buckskin weanling filly.

Ken Matzner and Sam Shoultz, owners of KeSa Quarter Horses, have been long-time partners with CSU's equine sciences program. One way they support the education of the students is by providing internship opportunities at their facility east of Fort Collins.

Dana Ratcliffe, a junior equine science major, worked with the weanlings as part of her summer internship.

"Working at KeSa was a great life experience," Ratcliffe said. "I learned the proper way to halter-break babies and how to handle studs."

Sarah Domagala attended the sale as part of an assignment from the colt training class and explained what she would look for if she were buying a weanling.

"I look at personality because it's something they're going to bring through their entire lives," Domagala said. "So I look at that. It's kind of hard to judge [their] body at this age since they're always changing."

The vesicular stomatitis outbreak this summer, and subsequent quarantine of all horses to their home barns by the state veterinarian, pushed KeSa's annual sale from August to October. However, this delay gave Erin Ramirez, a senior in the equine program, the opportunity to work with the weanlings this fall.



A weanling exits the sale ring while Sam Shoultz, co-owner of KeSa, takes notes on the auction platform.



Charles Roybal of KeSa Quarter Horses warms up hip #23, Juniors Mister Fox, during the preview on a beautiful Colorado autumn day.

"We would bring them in with their mothers from pasture, and then drive them into smaller pens and separate them out," Ramirez said. "We would work on getting halters on them."

With the sale papers completed, the only sounds left in the barn were the shuffling of papers, phone calls arranging transport, and the rhythmic clip-clop of the last weanlings being led down the aisles to waiting trailers. ☺

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Jessica Bishop of KeSa Quarter Horses, warms up hip #50, Junewood Warmwood, a 2012 buckskin gelding.