

BUSINESS - THE DeLONG COMPANY

DeLongs are Wisconsin-based company

For over 100 years, the goal at The DeLong Co., Inc. has been to provide information, products and services to the farming industry. In addition to being a grain elevator and major supplier of food grains domestically and internationally, they also provide seed, fertilizer and chemicals for growers in Wisconsin and Illinois. They provide delivery and storage of feed grains and seed products and also sell feed and seed manufactured for use in livestock feeds, pet foods and wild bird seeds at their mill in Clinton, Wisconsin. The DeLong Company operates two warehouses that are used to distribute various feed and pet products to dealers in Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana.

Headquartered in Clinton, Wisconsin, the business operates 15 locations in Wisconsin, Illinois and Ohio and comprises five divisions of agricultural sales and service: agronomy, grain, seed, wholesale distribution and transportation. The DeLong Co., Inc. remains a family owned and managed organization that spans six

generations of DeLong family members.

Since 1929, when William and Jesse DeLong built what was, at that time, the largest elevator and feed mill combination in the state of Wisconsin, the DeLong family has been committed to serving the agricultural community. The principal crops grown during the start-up years were hay, wheat, oats, barley, and corn. During the thirties, The DeLong Co. was the largest shipper of malting barley in Wisconsin. Another large cash crop of the era was hay, which was shipped by boxcar to Chicago and eastern points.

The DeLong Company employs between 200 and 270 full-time, part-time and seasonal employees. One long-term employee, Beverly Hahn, celebrated 50 years with the company.

The current board of directors includes fourth generation DeLongs. Current shareholders include DeLong family members from the fourth, fifth and sixth generations. For more information visit www.delongcompany.com

BREED - CASPIAN HORSE

Caspian horse brought back from brink of extinction

The remains of a Caspian horse dating back 5400 years have been unearthed in Iran. The breed is the oldest horse still in existence.

The Circle of Ancient Iranian Studies reports that the horse's remains were found during archaeological research in Gohar Tappeh, in the northern Iranian province of Mazandaran. The remains were discovered in a cemetery dating back to the late Bronze and early Iron age, around 3400 BC.

Caspians were thought extinct for a thousand years until rediscovered in the mid-1960s by an American woman, Louise Firouz.

The breed, with a maximum height of 12.2 hands, or just over four feet, was found by Firouz living around a remote village called Amol in a mountainous region near the Caspian Sea. Their last refuge from extinction was in the Elburz Mountains at the southern edge of the Caspian, where locals would periodically catch them and breed them as workhorses.

These finely built horses are now known, through DNA testing

and other research, to be the fore-runners of the native wild horses of Persia, and a key breed in the development of the Arabian horse by the Mesopotamians in the Third Millennium BC.

Caspian horses are shown in Persian statuettes dating back 3000 years and are considered a key foundation breed for the hot blood breeds of today.

Firouz found them during her search for suitable ponies for the equestrian center for children she had set up in Tehran with her Iranian-born husband.

About 30 were identified as pure, and seven mares and six stallions were bought to form the foundation stock.

Caspians were used by the ancients to pull chariots, and it is a skill they do not appear to have lost over the intervening centuries, with the horses still often used for driving.

There are about 1600 Caspians around the world now, with about 350 in Britain alone.

- horsetalk.co.nz

NEW PRODUCT - ASPEN GOLD BEDDING

Aspen Gold: Lowering costs for stable owners

Aspen Gold Premium Wood Pellet Bedding, an alternative to traditional animal bedding, is manufactured by Indeck Ladysmith of Ladysmith, Wis. Specifically formulated to keep horses healthy and comfortable in a low-dust, low-moisture environment, Aspen Gold Premium Wood Pellet Bedding is made of 100 percent aspen wood, selected for its high-absorption properties and long-lasting color.

"Our product provides unique advantages when compared to the older bedding products already on the market," said Jeffrey Shultz, Plant Manager, Aspen Gold. "By manufacturing our bedding from aspen wood, we are able to provide a healthier, more efficient bedding option for those who own or manage horses. We are committed to providing a superior product that will reduce bedding and disposal costs over the long-term," he stated.

The additive-free Aspen Gold Premium Wood Pellet Bedding for-

mula allows the product to:

- Reduce dust, keeping particles and irritation-causing agents out of the air;
- Clump with liquid waste, reducing the labor associated with stall cleaning
- Expand to three times its original volume

"I was part of Aspen Gold's pilot program," said Diane Logue, Tizmar Equine, Cannon Falls, Minn. "I found that the product reduced dust, cut the amount of time and effort it takes to clean my stalls, caused my manure pile to grow at half its normal rate and reduced my bedding and disposal costs. I always prefer wood pellet bedding to shavings or straw - and Aspen Gold is superior to other pellet brands I have tried."

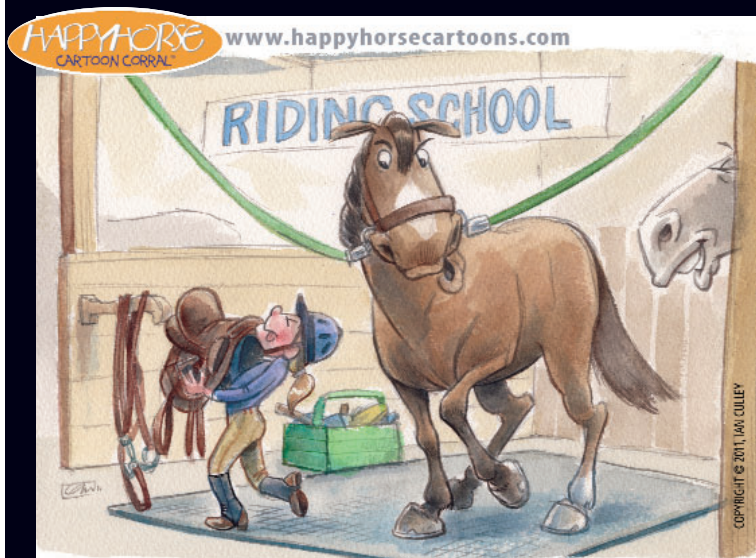
For information regarding the product or how to purchase it, email info@aspengoldbedding.com or call 715-532-3042. For general information about the product and the company, visit www.AspenGoldBedding.com.

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE FROM AHF

The Arabian Horse Foundation presented 18 scholarships in 2011 totaling \$13,500. Since the Foundation's re-launch at the Arabian Horse Association Convention in 2007, the Foundation board has given over \$50,000 to youth scholarships.

Applications for Foundation

scholarships are available at www.arabianhorsefoundation.org. The application deadline is April 1 each year. Applications are reviewed and winners announced in May. Visit the Foundation website for more information about the various giving options and areas that have been funded.



"A new student? I just finished breaking in the last one!"