

Donna Lakin – Thousand Oaks Farm, September 5, 2009

Entry closing date: August 22, 2009

Winding your way through the quarter-mile paved driveway through the woods, Thousand Oaks Farm will transcend you to the bluegrass hills of Kentucky. There you will find rolling green meadows with a jump course, thirteen white vinyl-fenced pastures with lanes between each and large shade trees. Sitting on 200 hundred acres, there are miles of groomed trails through deeply – wooded hills, wildflower meadows, fruit orchards and pine groves. The people at Thousand Oaks Farm invite you to trailer your horse in to tour its facility, take a leisurely trail ride, or rent one of the arenas by the hour. The indoor arena is 60 x 120 with sand/shredded rubber footing and the outdoor arena measures 165 x 180 with a crushed limestone base.



Horses are bedded down in one of 30-12x12 matted stalls, each with individual lighting and electric at the front of the stall. Automatic fly spray systems run through the stall barns and each aisle way has radiant-heated floors. The stall barns are insulated and keep a comfortable 47 degree temperature in the winter so blankets can come off at night.

Spectators are welcome to watch lessons and training in the comfort of the lounge or coffee bar, play a game of pool, or sit out in the sloping lawn surrounding the outdoor arena or in the shade of a gazebo. Riders may

trailer in for a lesson with one of the three trainers in-residence. Jim Meachum is a start-finish horse trainer focusing on the gentle education of horses who rides western and dressage, Donna Lakin is a CHA certified instructor working with riders in Hunt Seat, Stock Seat and dressage fundamentals and is the farm manager, and Sarah Michael is a dressage S-judge who trains and holds clinics at Thousand Oaks Farm.

The boarders at this farm are as varied as the horses it keeps, ranging from teen riders to college students to school teachers, executives, retired professionals and at-home moms. Friday evenings will often find a Happy



Hour being had in the lounge while pre-show grooming is going on in the stall barns. A warm smile and positive atmosphere are ever-present at this farm as a result of the friendly mix of people on-staff, in boarding, and in lessons. Visitors are always welcome so stop by, introduce yourself, and take a tour of this fine facility.