

Sunrise Ranch offers “Rare Jewels” at Summer Spectacular Sale

John Walker’s Sunrise Ranch of Fayetteville, Arkansas, is a name sale buyers have come to associate with some of the very best yearlings sold each year. It is also a name that the performance horse industry has come to know as the breeder of multiple aged event finalists in NCHA, NRCHA and NRHA competition.

During the NCHA Summer Spectacular Sale on July 31, buyers will have an opportunity to choose from 17 select lots offered from this “horse haven in the Ozarks”. The unique feature of the offering is a group of Sunrise cutting mares that will be sold. According to ranch manager, Chad Vanlandingham, “we sell a number of yearlings annually, but this is the first time we have offered a group of our best mares in Fort Worth.”

The headliner of the Sunrise catalog is Nurse Gray. “I believe Nurse Gray is the best mare we have had a chance to sell in several years”, said Western Bloodstock’s Jim Ware. “We assisted Sunrise Ranch with her purchase from Stephanie Roven several years ago. Nurse Gray has proven herself from the opportunities Stephanie gave her to become a producer and Chad has continued to breed her to complementing stallions. Several of her younger produce are in good hands and should secure her future.” Nurse Gray sells with a weanling by Metallic Cat and with ETs by Metallic Cat and High Brow CD.

Other fabulous Sunrise mares selling include Cat N Gail, earner of \$56,240, and already the producer of foals earning \$111,118. She sells with weanlings by Peptoboonsmal and Sweet Lil Pepto and with an ET by One Time Pepto.

Shorty Mialena, a beautiful daughter of leading NCHA Futurity Champion maternal grandsire, Shorty Lena, also sells. The earner of \$42,147, this mare is from the royal family of Quejanamia, producer of earners of \$625,838. Shorty Mialena sells with a weanling by Reys Dual Badger and back in foal to Dual Rey.

Cats Bobby Sox, earner of \$66,030, and producer of earners of \$241,558, rounds out the mare offering from Sunrise. This great High Brow Cat daughter sells with an ET by One Time Pepto.

An additional feature with the sale of High Brow Cat daughters, Cat N Gail and Cats Bobby Sox, is that they both sell with paid breedings to Dual Rey for 2011. "The Dual Rey and High Brow Cat cross has proven extremely successful with this year's 4-year-olds including Rockin W and Cat A Rey", stated Ware. "The breedings to Dual Rey are a value added feature to these packages."

In addition to the mares, Sunrise consignments include yearlings and weanlings by High Brow Cat, High Brow CD, Metallic Cat, WR This Cats Smart, Smooth As A Cat, Cat Ichi, Peptoboonsmal, Sweet Lil Pepto, Hes A Peptospoonful, Boonlight Dancer, Dual Rey, Reys Dual Badger, Autumn Acre, Soula Jule Star and Duals Blue Boon.

Since its inception, Sunrise Ranch has focused on the breeding end of the cutting horse industry. Its current broodmare band totals 14 head and is considered one of the best in history. These elite mares have average cutting earnings of \$116,630, and the production of the producing aged mares is just as impressive. Current NCHA/NRCHA winners produced from Sunrise Ranch mares include:

Reyminate, owned by Christy & Dub Leeth, shown by Paul Hansma
Cherry Chex Dually, owned by Marvine Ranch, shown by Eddie Flynn
Dual R Smokin, owned by Black Rock Ranch, shown by Grant Setnicka
Amanda Starlena, owned & shown by Phil & Mary Ann Rapp
Bobby Starlight, owned by John Semanik, shown by Zane Davis
Im Divas Cat, owned by Tim & Melissa Drummond, shown by Eddie Flynn

"I really enjoy the broodmares and their foals", stated Walker. "Chad does an incredible job purchasing good mares for us and then matching them to

the best available stallions. We have fantastic results selling our yearling each year at the NCHA Futurity Sales. About every two years we sell a few of our best mares that we have had for a while. The program works well for us and allows others a chance of a lifetime to own great mares with a positive program going for them. That is exactly what we are doing at this year's NCHA Summer Spectacular Sale. Anyone knows that the national economy is not what it was. However, it appears that a lack of good horses is being offered right now. I believe that it might just be a good time to market a few good ones."

John Walker naturally inherited his love of good horses and cattle from his father, Willard Walker. The senior Walker, in addition to being a major force within the livestock industry, contributed significantly to the creation and development of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. Willard Walker moved his young family from Tulsa, OK, to Fayetteville, AR, when Sam Walton hired him to be the first manager of Walton's Five And Dime Store on the Fayetteville, AR, Square. He worked hard to make the Fayetteville store a success, working half days for free and sleeping on a cot in a storeroom until the store opened. At the time Walker was hired, only Sam or his brother, Bud, had served as a store manager within the growing Walton organization.

According to Alice Walton, "I can't ever remember a time while growing up that Mr. Willard wasn't a part of my life. He was such a good man and spent a lot of quality time with me and my brothers as kids. You never forget the people that are kind to you as a child."

When Wal-Mart went public in 1970, Walker took the risk and bought as much stock as he possibly could. He became a member of the original Wal-Mart Board of Directors and had more stock than any of the store managers. Walker retired from Wal-Mart in 1972 to spend more time nurturing his love of Charolais cattle that were so popular at the time. From 1972 until 2002, Walker raised or showed multiple national champion Charolais from his ranch in Springdale, AR. His name will always be synonymous with the great Charolais bull, Jack Dempsey.

Willard Walker also had a colorful history with cutting horses and an association with some of today's "big-name trainers". He purchased his first horses in 1980, simply to use out of necessity on the ranch. That initial purchase turned into much more as he soon owned 115 head. Some of Walker's first show horses were trained and shown by an up-and-coming young trainer, also from Northwest Arkansas, named Jody Galyean. Additionally, future NCHA Futurity Champion trainer, Tommy Marvin, worked as resident trainer for Walker from 1984 until 1991. Walker bred NCHA Derby Champion, Dixieland Docs Per, as well as NCHA Derby Reserve Champion, Hickory Prescription, who became an all-time leading producer.

Mr. Walker dispersed his cutting horses in 1991. Eventually, the purebred cattle were dispersed in 2002. He died in 2003 after many years of declining health. His wife, Pat, is active in the commercial cattle business and the ranch is still managed by D.A. Davis, a major force within the Walker Ranch for the past 31 years.

John Walker purchased his first cattle from his dad in 1997. Additional cattle acquired during the 2002 dispersal of his father's Charolais herd became the nucleus of his current cattle operation at the Fayetteville ranch. Adding his first cutting horses in 1998, Walker established the current operation known as Sunrise Ranch. Chad Vanlandingham became the Sunrise Ranch Manager in September of 2001 and his duties include not only the huge responsibility of over-seeing daily operations but planning and implementing the breeding of the famous mares at Sunrise. It's a family affair with the Vanlandinghams at the ranch as Chad's wife, Patricia, handles all the business. Their sons, Chandler-age 13 and Wyatt-age 9, have literally grown up at the ranch. "We love it here in Northwest Arkansas", says Chad, "and I am very privileged to be able to raise my family in such a wonderful environment. I can't imagine living anywhere else or working for finer people."

The entire NCHA Summer Spectacular Sale catalog featuring the Sunrise Ranch consignments is available for viewing at

www.westernbloodstock.com. Printed catalogs are available at Western Bloodstock's booth in the NCHA Trade Show located in the Amon Carter Exhibit Hall on the grounds of the Will Rogers Equestrian Center in Fort Worth, Texas.