

PEACH'S STORY

This month, we're excited to shine the spotlight on an exceptional member of our community, Peach Madl, whose deep-rooted passion for horses has shaped a life filled with dedication, hard work, and a genuine love for the animals she cares for. Her story is one of heritage, perseverance, and an enduring commitment to the equine world.

Peach's journey begins with her rich Irish heritage, which, as she describes, is "in her blood." Raised in a family where both parents had strong roots in Ireland, her early years were filled with dreams of owning a horse. At 14, Peach's determination became evident when she used money from her part-time jobs to buy and care for her very first horse—a moment that marked the beginning of her lifelong journey in the world of horses.

For the past 25 years, Peach and her husband have made a significant mark in the world of halter horses, earning over 17 World Champion titles across various registries, including APHA, ABRA, Palomino, and Pinto. Their farm, Madl Farms, located south of Baldwin City, Kansas, is a second-generation operation that raises crops, cattle, and, of course, horses. But Peach's love for horses doesn't end with halter horses. About a decade ago, she expanded her focus to the Thoroughbred breed, drawn to the elegance and strength of these animals.

"I think they are wonderful," Peach says of Thoroughbreds. "It's a breed that appeals to me for reasons I can't fully explain, but it's been a rewarding experience to work with them." The contrast between raising Thoroughbreds and other breeds, such as Quarter Horses and Paints, has sparked many fun debates between Peach and her husband. One key difference she highlights is the temperament of Thoroughbreds. According to Peach, "You can't raise your voice at a Thoroughbred," which she believes requires a more gentle approach, and her husband, naturally, finds this perspective amusing.

In addition to breeding and showing horses, Peach and her husband have founded the Baldwin Racing Adventurers, a social club dedicated to Thoroughbred racing. Through this venture, they've enjoyed watching their horses grow, race, and mature. The couple takes great pride in ensuring that their horses' well-being is a priority. For those that may not thrive on the track, Peach has made sure they transition to other rewarding careers in barrel racing, pleasure riding, and dressage, with lifelong owners who enjoy these horses for many years to come.

In her personal life, Peach is living her dream of traveling to Lexington, Kentucky, every other year to visit and occasionally purchase breeding stock. "It's been the ultimate dream for me, and now that I'm 60, I am finally living it," she shares.

Peach's commitment to the equine world extends beyond her own farm. She actively participates in advocacy and legislative efforts, particularly in Kansas. As the Eureka Downs racetrack prepares to reopen, Peach is leading the charge to ensure the Kansas Bred Development fund continues to receive necessary funding, a key issue for breeders and racers in the state. Her advocacy includes making visits to local legislators to push for policies that support the future of horse racing in Kansas.

Peach's involvement in the Kansas Horse Council (KHC) has been instrumental in her growth as an equestrian. She credits the KHC with providing invaluable resources, information, and connections to other like-minded individuals. "KHC is like a library totally focused on the well-being of our friends we call horses," Peach says. She's particularly grateful for the guidance and support she's received from Justine, the KHC Director, whom she describes as "a gift from God" for the equine community.

Peach's advice to other horse enthusiasts is simple but profound: "Just keep learning. No matter how long you've been in the horse world, there's always something new to learn." This commitment to growth and knowledge has kept her at the forefront of the equine world, and it's clear that her passion for horses will continue to shape her life for years to come.

We're proud to feature Peach in this month's membership spotlight and celebrate her contributions to the equine industry and community. Her unwavering dedication to her horses, her farm, and her passion for lifelong learning serves as an inspiration to us all.

Thank you, Peach, for sharing your incredible story with us. We look forward to seeing all that you continue to achieve in the future.