



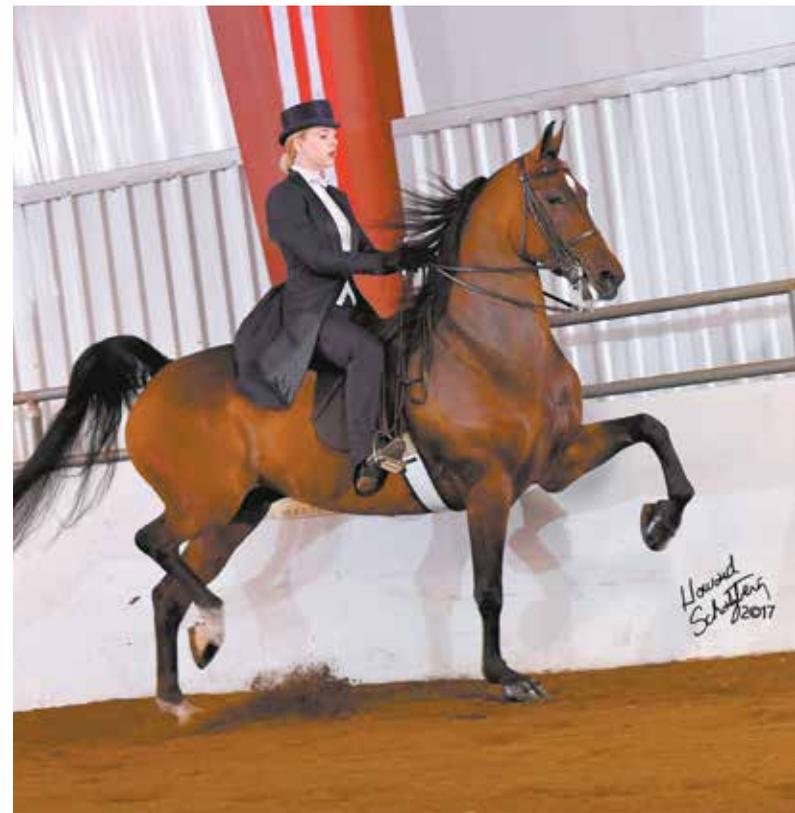
Hanna Johnson has shown several horses to world and national titles including her family's homebred Arcola's Cyd Charisse.



Kirsten, Ron, Hanna, Ada, Lars, and Inga Johnson have all enjoyed showing Morgans with great success.



Hanna Johnson and Laura Doyle look forward to a bright future at Burntside Farm.



Ledgefields Sovereign Son GCH was one of the world titled horses that Hanna Johnson showed for Arcola Farm with victories in the park and English pleasure divisions.

BURNTSIDE FARM

Opens A New Door For Hanna Johnson

BY DIANA DAVIDSON

Hanna Johnson grew up around Morgans and enjoyed great success along with her family and their Arcola Farm, based in Stillwater, Minnesota. Hanna's mother, Kirsten Johnson had horses as a youngster and returned to them years later when she bought a Morgan. She began riding and showing with Hardwood Creek Farm with young daughters Hanna and Inga in tow. Hanna remembers going to watch her mom show at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, and after that she was hooked.

Hanna began riding with Lyle and Colleen Wick at Hardwood Creek Farm and showed with them for most of her junior exhibitor career. Hanna recalls, "Growing up there, I always looked up to Alyssa Wick, both as a horsewoman and the cool, older sister I never had. I finished my junior exhibitor career showing in saddle seat equitation with Gerry Rushton and Stacy Hennessy in California, and Tom Bombolis back home in Minnesota. Stacy was an amazing instructor and teacher and helped me win equitation regional championships on both the east and the west coast (New England Regional and Morgan Medallion).

"I knew I wanted to pursue training horses professionally very early on, but was a little apprehensive to admit it out loud until I was getting closer to going to college. My initial plan was to go to Stephens or William Woods University, but my family's trainer, Tom Bombolis convinced me to stay in Minnesota to get a business degree and learn to be a horseman professionally from him. This was one of the best decisions I made. Getting a degree in business has really helped me with my own business and also how to work with clients and co-workers," Hanna added.

She credits most of her horsemanship skills to Tom Bombolis. "He took the time to teach me everything from breaking babies to fine tuning an equitation horse and everything in between. There was never a detail too small, in fact he instilled that those small details made all the difference. I worked for him at my family's farm (Arcola) for nine years. I am very thankful for the opportunities that both Tom and my mother gave me during that time."

Hanna also got to spend many of those years learning from Nancy Becker. "Nancy is truly an amazing instructor who also helped make me the horsewoman I am today. I've learned so many invaluable tips and lessons from her during the time that she was coaching both my sister Ada and brother Lars."

During the 2019 show season, Kirsten Johnson decided to slow down her operation at Arcola. When thinking about the next step, Hanna really wanted to work for someone at the top in the show horse industry.

"David Rand was at the top of that list for me. I moved to Maine and spent a year working at Rand. Working with one of the best trainers, as well as some of the top Morgan horses the breed has to offer, was a dream. There, I learned about what it takes to operate a top tier horse operation. I was also blown away, and learned a lot from watching David's work ethic and talent first hand. I am forever grateful for the opportunity I had to work at Rand," Hanna commented.

Hanna always had a strong desire to go back to Minnesota. After a call to her longtime equine vet, Brian Dahms, she connected with Arabian trainer Pam Rose at P&H. After meeting Pam and her team, Hanna made the decision to head back to her home state. It was her first time working with Arabians, but

she enjoyed the new challenge as she broke and trained young stock. She learned invaluable lessons and tips from Pam Rose, who gave Hanna many opportunities to train and work a variety of horses.

The next step in Hanna Johnson's journey began in June 2021, as her mother approached her about training her young stock at the family's farm. This was the road to the opening of Burntside Farm. "Having my own farm was a dream of mine, one I knew I was close to realizing. When the opportunity presented itself, I decided to take the leap!"

"Burntside Farm is named after Burntside Lake in Ely, Minnesota. My entire family and extended family spend most of our summers up there and it is my absolute favorite place to go. It seemed fitting to name the business after something that held such great memories with a lot of significance to me and my family," Hanna added.

Hanna is building a team at Burntside including Laura Doyle, who worked with her for several years at Arcola and she considers an invaluable asset to the farm. Burntside is currently located at the Johnson family's farm, but Hanna plans on expanding to another farm in a few years. Although right now all the horses in the barn are Morgans, Hanna Johnson would love down the line to have an equal number of both Morgans and Saddlebreds. Her goals include starting a lesson program and introducing more new people into the horse world. Rather than specialize, Hanna enjoys the variety in working with different breeds, ages, and disciplines.

With her desire and enthusiasm, Hanna Johnson looks forward to a bright future at Burntside Farm.