

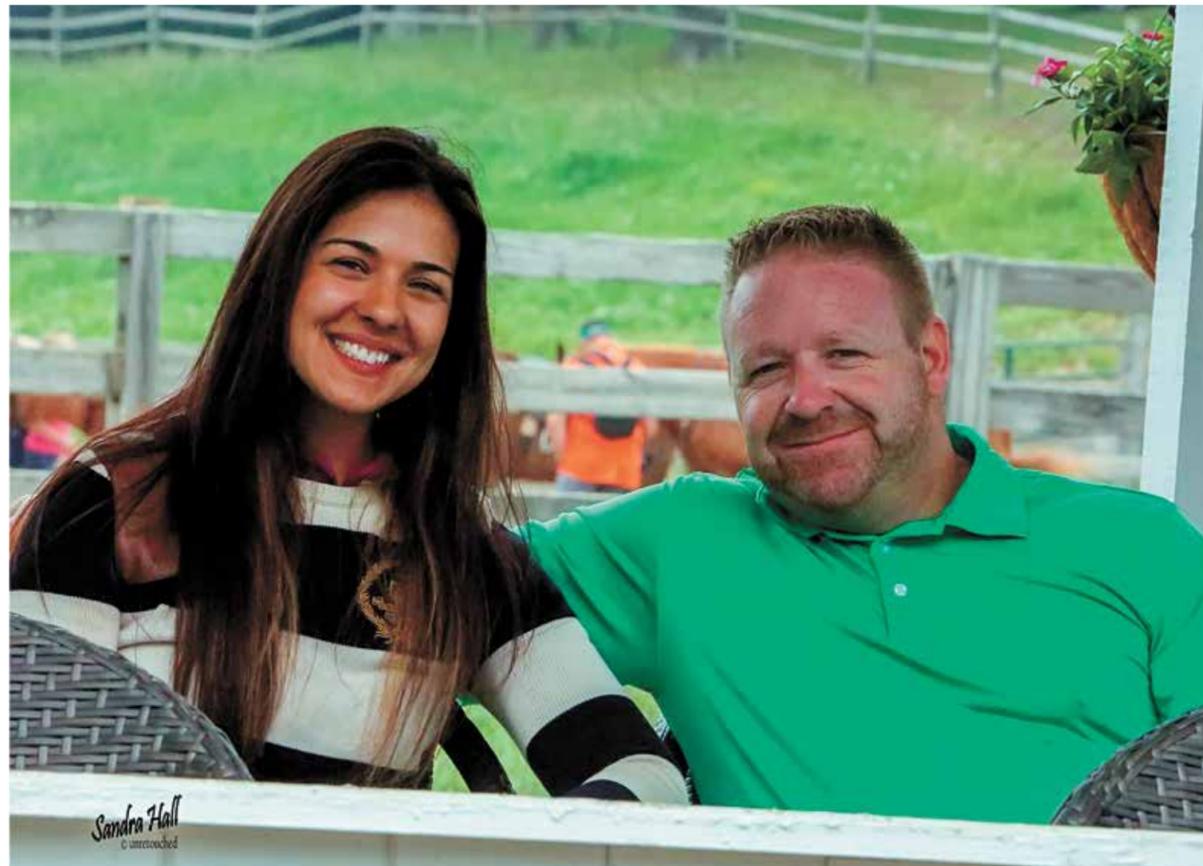
# Meadow Dream FARM

## TURNING *dreams* INTO REALITY

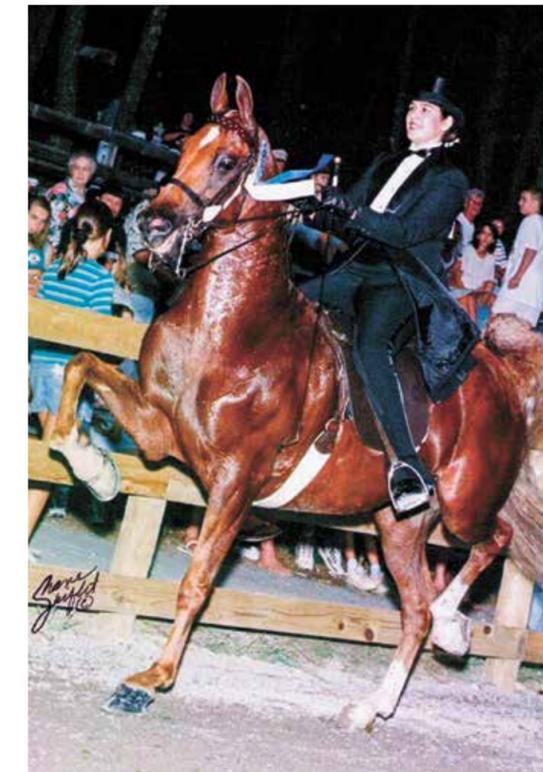
BY SARA PIZZUTO



Meadow Dream Farm sits on 15 acres with 30 stalls and boasts a thriving academy and training program.



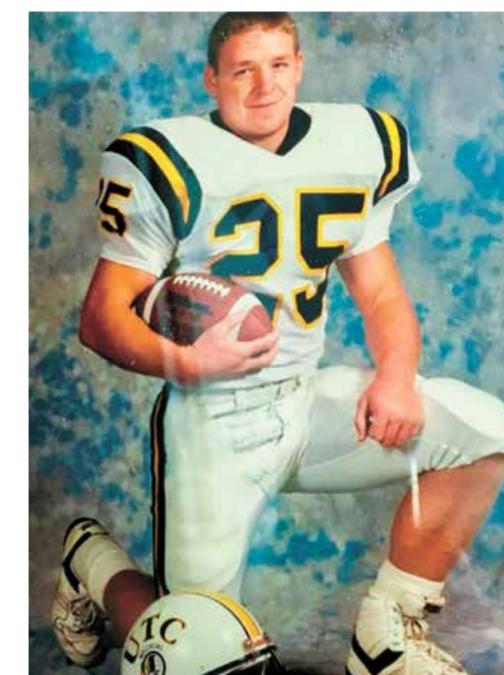
Sandra Hall © unattached



◀ Jimmy and Georgia Morrison are at the helm of their West Virginia based Meadow Dream Farm and are responsible for the success of many winning horses, ponies, and exhibitors.

▲ The Marrying Man and Georgia had a successful career in three-gaited first with Buddy Martin at Coventry Woods and then Jimmy training at both Coventry Woods and their Meadow Dream Farm. They are pictured winning at the Dayton Horse Show in 2001.

▼ Following a college career that included playing football at University Of Tennessee – Chattanooga, a profession in horses was the natural progression for Jimmy, following in the footsteps of his father Bobby Morrison, a successful trainer, and mother Lynn (Morrison) Hutchinson, an accomplished rider.



I FELT LIKE I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW

*anything else but horses*

**L**ike most horse obsessed girls, a young Georgia McCune (Morrison) begged for riding lessons. She was persistent in her request, yet her parents were initially unable to locate a nearby riding program for her to begin her equine journey. Ultimately, a local trainer named Dottie Martin opened a Saddlebred barn close to McCune's home, which helped to launch her equestrian career in the Saddlebred industry.

"Dottie had a large lesson program, and everyone pitched in to help with lessons and at horse shows," Georgia said. "After a few years of lessons my parents bought me my first Saddlebred that eventually led to multiple horses and hackney ponies over the years."

Georgia's initial passion for horses has since developed into a lifelong commitment to the Saddlebred and Hackney breeds. She along with husband Jimmy are at the helm of their Nitro, West Virginia based Meadow Dream Farm. From beginner students to world's champion exhibitors, Jimmy, Georgia and their team of professionals are responsible for the success of a myriad of horse and rider teams that all make their home base at Meadow Dream.

Prior to riding with Dottie Martin, Georgia began taking hunt seat lessons. Her mother, Rose McCune, was a school teacher and had a student who agreed to instruct her daughter. Georgia then moved to train with Dottie Martin, eventually relocating with Dottie to a new facility that was recently built. The new barn, Coventry Woods Stables, was where Georgia began teaching lessons while she was in college.

Coventry Woods Stables was also where Jimmy Morrison was honing his skills as a professional. He had taken his first and only assistant

training position under the guidance of Buddy Martin. For Jimmy, a career in the horse industry seemed like a natural progression, following in the footsteps of his father, who was a successful trainer in his own right.

"I felt like I really didn't know anything else but horses, so it just seemed natural that I gravitated towards them after school," he said.

Jimmy spent much of his childhood and early adult years working for his father and then later, Buddy Martin. He paid close attention to their training techniques both from hands on experience as well as by watching them work horses.

"I personally feel like I was more self taught than anything," he said. "I was a watcher growing up, and I basically took what I saw and incorporated things I thought would and wouldn't work, and it morphed into my training style."

While Jimmy continued to expand his equine knowledge, Georgia began as a part-time instructor, all while teaching school full time. She explained that she would always look forward to her time spent at the barn with her students.

"There is nothing that compares to the excitement of riding and showing an American Saddlebred, and I wanted to share my love for them with new riders," she expressed.

Eventually, Jimmy and Georgia fused their passions for the equine industry together, building and ultimately opening to the doors to their Meadow Dream Farm in 2002, and marrying in early 2003. They settled into their new 30 stall training facility, nestled on 15 acres in West Virginia.

The Meadow Dream Farm team prides themselves on succeeding with horse and rider combinations from a myriad of show ring divisions. From junior horses to junior exhibitors, walk/trot 8 and



under competitors, pleasure driving champions, and Hackney pony teams, the Morrisons have made a name for themselves for their versatility and attention to detail regardless of division. Jimmy explained that he always looks for a quality horse with superior conformation when searching for a new partner for one of his exhibitors.

"The first thing I look for is it has to be an attractive horse, one that's made with its neck coming out of its shoulders properly as to take away most difficulties in an amateur or juvenile getting a proper headset," he said. "Secondly, it needs to have a good brain, intelligent with a sense of calm about itself as they'll need to be able to pilot themselves sometimes."

Occasionally, a new show horse will be needed for a rider graduating from the academy ranks. Meadow Dream Farm boasts a strong academy program, with many of their riders emerging from the academy ranks and entering the equine industry with great success. Georgia explained that she is passionate about being involved in the beginning stages of a rider's career.

"We try very hard to introduce all new students to the idea and goal of working towards showing in a tournament and then an academy show," she said. "I think that by promoting the idea of showing in the early stages it helps the rider and the parents understand what we are working towards in the lessons. I think it's important to always let our academy riders know that showing in academy is not the top tier or the end goal. While horse ownership is not going to be accessible for everyone, we always celebrate and promote our performance riders and horses."

The Witmer sisters, comprised of twins Ali and Adri, and younger sister Haylen, are all graduates of the successful Meadow Dream Farm academy program. Their mom Kristy explained that much like Georgia, all three sisters had a passion for horses and pleaded for riding lessons three years ago.

"We finally gave in and let them try it and they were completely obsessed from their very first lesson," Kristy said.

Ali, Adri, and Haylen Witmer all now excel in the show ring under the Meadow Dream banner. Adri has made victory passes this year in the road pony ranks on the lines of Regal's Monarch LF, while Ali is teamed up with three-gaited competitor Arrowhead's Prince Charming. Younger sister Haylen has enjoyed

a nearly undefeated 2022 season in the walk/trot equitation division.

"Jimmy and Georgia are excellent about taking care of the horses' health and are very professional in how they train the horses to match the riders capabilities," Kristy Witmer said. "They are constantly pushing them to be the best riders they can possibly be."

Daughter Haylen Witmer has an especially exceptional show ring partner in her teammate Divine Investment. The mare has not only carried Haylen to top honors this year, but was previously teamed with stablemate Alexis Hackney for the 2020 and 2021 show seasons. Together Alexis and Divine Investment wore the roses as the 2020 Saddle Seat Equitation Walk/Trot 9-10 World's Champion of Champions, and were the world's champions in both 2020 and 2021. They ended their partnership together as the UPHA Walk/Trot Challenge Cup 10 and Under National Champions. Divine Investment helped Alexis Hackney to develop her skills to now team up with her new three-gaited pony partner, Say Yes To Success. Jimmy explained that the young eight-year-old Divine Investment has become the most dependable horse he's ever had.

"She is a gem," he said. "I can always count on her behaving when showing, flat walking, and putting on a show every time she hits the ring. She's just a beautiful mare that is probably one of the most talented walk and trot horses there's ever been. She has such a strong cadence trotting that keeps a kid right in the center of her and allows them to show off their riding abilities to their highest potential. At only eight-years-old, she is destined to have an amazing career."

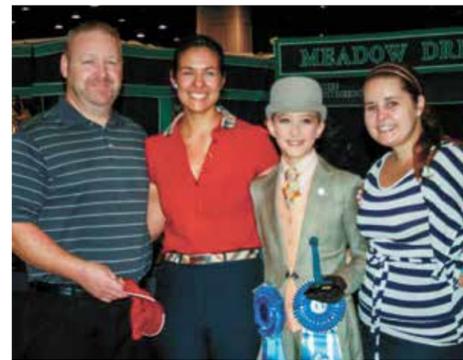
Divine Investment wasn't the only Meadow Dream entry to earn the top honors on the green shavings in the hallowed grounds of Freedom Hall last year. Jimmy and Georgia Morrison directed longtime student Sofia Rashid and her beloved CH Copper And Kings to the title of the Adult Show Pleasure Driving Section Two World's Champions. Sofia has long been a member of the Meadow Dream Farm team, earning two equitation world's titles and a reserve world's champion of champions honor under their direction.

Jimmy said he was eager to transition Sofia's performance horse, CH Copper And Kings, from the under saddle ranks to the driving division. Sofia was able to finish her junior exhibitor career with

▲ Meadow Dream Farm prides itself on earning top honors at horse shows across the nation, including in Louisville at the World's Championship Horse Show.

▲▲ Divine Investment has been a great mare for multiple riders at Meadow Dream Farm. She carried Alexis Hackney to the roses as the 2020 Saddle Seat Equitation Walk/Trot 9-10 World's Champion of Champions among many other top honors and is now paired with young Haylen Witmer for the walk/trot equitation division.

▼ Adri, Ali, and Haylen Witmer are one of the many groups of siblings that all show under the direction of Jimmy and Georgia Morrison.



▲ The Meadow Dream Farm riders spend long hours at the barn honing their skills. Their efforts were recently awarded with a snow cone truck that arrived to the barn for a post-ride break.

▶ Jimmy and Georgia Morrison are now passing their love of horses and ponies to their two young daughters, Ava and Coco.

▼ Meadow Dream Farm has a large academy program with many of their students graduating and continuing on to earn world's and national titles in the show ring. Pictured is their 2012 National Academy Championship team.



◀ Riley Pauley has been riding and driving with the Morrisons since he was four-years-old. He credits both Jimmy and Georgia for helping him grow not only as an exhibitor but as a person as well.

◀ Sofia Rashid has long competed under the Meadow Dream banner. She earned multiple world's titles beginning as a 9-year-old under the direction of Jimmy and Georgia and most recently driving CH Copper And Kings to be named the 2021 Adult Show Pleasure Driving Section Two World's Champions.

"Frankie" in the three-gaited park ranks and then graduated into the amateur division with her newly transitioned show pleasure driving teammate.

"Frankie is an intense and super competitive horse when he shows, and he has always been brighter with his ears with the blinkers on, so it just made a good fit once he learned he could settle down and walk," Jimmy said.

Sofia Rashid has returned to the show ring this year in the driving ranks with CH Copper And Kings. Her younger sister, Charlise, is also an accomplished equestrian under the direction of the Morrisons and is teamed up this year with three-gaited park performer, Tango Shoes. The Rashid sisters, along with the Witmer sisters, are among the many families comprised of multiple siblings that train at Meadow Dream Farm. Georgia explained that both the Saddlebred and Hackney breeds attract all family members.

"Saddlebreds and Hackneys are such beautiful animals that it's hard not to fall in love with them after seeing them work or compete," she said. "Therefore, it's common for us to have siblings want to be around these animals and join in."



The Pauley family, with siblings Riley and Isabella, both excel in the show ring thanks to the Meadow Dream Farm team. Riley has made 2022 victory passes with Hackney pleasure driving pony, Bud Light, while sister Isabella is newly teamed with country pleasure competitor Abigail JWA, who scored a former 2019 reserve world's title with stablemate Charlise Rashid. Riley explained that he began taking lessons with Jimmy and Georgia at the tender age of four and has since been training with them for 14 years.

"I love that they are always talking with me to strategize and how I can improve by the next show both in and out of the ring," he said. "I would not be the rider and driver that I am today without both of them."

Riley Pauley was also quick to mention the way that Jimmy and Georgia have also helped him outside of the show ring as well.

"They have taught me about sportsmanship, decision-making skills and how to successfully get to horse shows," he said. "Last summer they let me tag along to Lexington Junior League and to Louisville to teach me how to set up, I am so grateful for these and many more opportunities that I have been given over the years as they will come in handy in the future."

Georgia and Jimmy are fortunate to raise their two young daughters, Ava and CoCo, alongside the wonderful families that comprise Meadow Dream Farm. Georgia explained that she greatly enjoys sharing her passion for horses with her family as it helps to bring them closer.

"We spend time together while I'm working, and they love every minute of it," she said. "Our customers and horse friends have become our extended family, and I couldn't ask for a better environment to raise my daughters."

Both Ava and CoCo Morrison have strong role models in their parents, who are thriving in their roles as trainer and instructor at Meadow Dream. Jimmy noted that having a strong work ethic coupled with patience and good communication are the keys to a successful training operation.

"Thinking outside the box and not being afraid to try different methods are my priority, as all horses are different and rarely what works for one works for the other," he said. "This is how I approach my riders and drivers too, as individuals respond differently to teaching methods."

These training and instruction methods have aided in the success of many of the horse and rider combinations that show under the Meadow Dream banner. With the 2022 season well under way, the Meadow Dream clients are optimistic for yet another victorious year.

"Riding horses has taught our girls so many life lessons such as dedication, competitiveness, hard work, compassion, and teamwork," Kristy Witmer said. "We are excited to see what the future holds for them."

The future of Meadow Dream looks primed for success thanks to the efforts of Jimmy and Georgia Morrison. The Morrisons' talents with horses coupled with their rapport with their students has allowed for Meadow Dream Farm to rise in the equine industry. Their daughters and students are able to learn to succeed in a positive environment with a team of individuals focused on raising champions and introducing new families and riders to the world of horse shows.

◀ Abigail Hoops is successfully making her way through the Meadow Dream Farm's academy ranks having won classes on their regional circuit and at the National Academy Championship. She is already looking forward to a performance show ring career with Split Image in the near future.