



Dragonsmeade Farm

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE BREEDER OF THE YEAR

BY SARA PIZZUTO

Any successful business, brand, or program is often linked to a particular name. In the Morgan industry, the name of Dragonsmeade has stood alone and become synonymous with great success. For years, horses bearing the Dragonsmeade prefix have consistently risen to the top of their respective divisions at the nation's most prestigious horse shows. The Dragonsmeade Farm breeding program has produced impeccable talent throughout their storied career in the equine world, most recently being recognized as the Breeder Of The Decade. The achievements of the Dragonsmeade bred competitors have helped this breeding program earn your vote, for the remarkable sixth time, as the People's Choice Breeder Of The Year.

Dragonsmeade Farm's involvement with Morgan horses dates back to the 1970s. Yum Kee and Susan Fu

became invested in the breed and supported the show careers of their then junior exhibitor daughters Iann Fu Longenecker and Ling Fu Wylie. Longenecker recalled early memories of her mother's breeding discussions with fellow horse enthusiast and breeder Linda Kohler.

"We were up in Kohler and listening to my mother and Linda Kohler talking about their broodmares and what stallions they liked and what broodmares they loved," Longenecker said. "It was a just a friendship, just a common discussion among friends. We had one or two broodmares up in Kohler but it wasn't something as serious as we are doing now."

Their business turned serious in 1999 when Dragonsmeade Farm was established. Yum Kee Fu, a prominent architect, was charged with designing his facility and crafted the estab-

lished nestled in 100 acres of land in Winchester, Kentucky. Since its inception, Dragonsmeade Farm drew breeding influences from Kohler, Cedar Creek Farm, and Rock Walker Stables as they began their illustrious breeding program.

"We always bred what we loved," Wylie said. "We liked the personalities, we liked how they had the drive behind. So that's how we decided that's who we were going to breed to."

For decades, Dragonsmeade Farm has been the starting point for notable world champions such as Dragonsmeade Icon, Dragonsmeade Carnegie Hall, Dragonsmeade Axios, Dragonsmeade Vendome, Dragonsmeade Sea Dragon, Dragonsmeade Eltanin, and Dragonsmeade Varvatos. Their prefix continues to be stamped on the breed's best through their notable

stallions as well as the successful mares that have been an integral part of their program. Broodmares such as HVK Obsidian, Cedar Creek Pirouette, HVK Dragonfly, Black Tie Debutante, have been invaluable according to Longenecker.



Iann Fu Longenecker (l) and Ling Fu Wylie celebrated the success of the Dragonsmeade bred entries with Tim Roesink, the trainer of many champions carrying the Dragonsmeade prefix.



Winchester, Kentucky is home to Dragonsmeade Farm and the birthplace of countless champions bred by The People's Choice Breeder Of The Year.



The Dragonsmeade stamp was clearly evident as a weanling in 2018 as well as in his world titled debut season in 2020 for Dragonsmeade Synergy.

"I think the maternal line is very important in our studs and in the dams too," she said. "That is paramount. I think that that's what draws us. My mother always loved the maternal line and I think that's transferred to us and in what we pick."

The results of the Dragonsmeade stallions combined with their stellar lineup of broodmares have produced sensational Morgan horses that have created a lasting legacy in the Morgan industry. The Dragonsmeade bred entries showcased a program steeped in history, success, and quality at the 2020 Morgan Grand National. Those equines bred by the Fu family traversed all divisions in Oklahoma City with world titled showings. Performers like Dragonsmeade Well Played and Dragonsmeade Eltanin shined under saddle in the park division, while Dragonsmeade Synchronicity was a park harness world champion. Dragonsmeade Vendome continued his reign in the pleasure driving division, and both Dragonsmeade IconicFusion and Dragonsmeade Sriracha carried junior exhibitors down victory lane as classic pleasure world champions. Dragonsmeade Anthracite CH, Dragonsmeade Provenance, and Dragonsmeade War Emblem wore the roses in the English pleasure division, while Dragonsmeade Synergy represented the Fu family in the in-hand ranks.

In addition to their success as breeders, both Iann Fu Longenecker and Ling Fu Wylie earned coveted Morgan Grand National victory passes last season aboard their homebreds. Wylie teamed up with her Selvin Torrez trained mare, Dragonsmeade Muse to conquer the western pleasure division as the Western Pleasure Amateur World Champion. She also scored a pair of classic pleasure driving grand national titles on the lines of Dragonsmeade Hereafter, headed by Tim Roesink. Roesink also trained Longenecker's equally victorious show string. She was the Futurity Classic Pleasure

Driving Three-Year-Old World Champion with Dragonsmeade Kindred, and the Pleasure Driving Ladies Reserve World Champion partnered with Dragonsmeade Indochine.

"Whenever I show a homebred I think of the horses in their pedigree that I've known and loved," Longenecker said.

Dragonsmeade Spectre is an example of a Dragonsmeade bred horse that not only excels in the show ring but is now following in his sire's footsteps as an up and coming breeding stallion. The son of Dragonsmeade Icon and Dragonsmeade Ibarra holds world championship titles from the two-year-old, three-year-old, and four-year-old pleasure driving divisions and was most recently named the 2020 Pleasure Driving Stallion/Gelding Reserve Grand National Champion with trainer Tim Roesink on the lines. Longenecker explained that they were initially hesitant to keep Spectre as a stallion.

debut in 2021.

"Now at six he is more physically refined and confident," Longenecker said. "Since Tim has guided him to perfection throughout his show career, 'Cat' has blossomed into a regal show horse. We are excited to see him show under saddle this season. He seems more relaxed and supple under saddle so his motion is even more fluid."

In addition to Spectre's upcoming debut, Longenecker mentioned her excitement towards coming three-year-olds Dragonsmeade Synergy by Icon and Dragonsmeade Concorde, and Dragonsmeade L'Etoile, both by Dragonsmeade Vendome, among other youngsters who will be showing for the first or second time this coming season. She finds it rewarding to see the distinctive look of a Dragonsmeade horse that has been passed through generations of bloodlines and enjoys cheering on their homebreds as they evolve in their careers.

"When you can see through full siblings, the stamp, they look all very similar, that's wonderful," she said. "And then to see the horses that you have sold go on and be successful for their new owners and several new owners down the line, and that has happened repeatedly, that is very satisfying."

With each passing year, Dragonsmeade Farm has continued to positively and successfully promote the Morgan breed. Their show horses reflect over 30 years of successful bloodlines and their



Dragonsmeade Kindred is pictured with his dam, Dragonsmeade By Design, in 2017 and added his name to the long list of world champions bred by Dragonsmeade as Iann Fu Longenecker drove him down victory lane in 2020.

"'Cat' is an interesting horse," she said. "The older he gets the more interesting he becomes. As a two-year-old he was already 15.1 and very mature. He was a bit too mature for a two-year-old. We thought about cutting him but decided to wait. After seeing his first foal crop in 2020 we are relieved his bloodlines can continue."

In addition to his newest full crop, both Longenecker and Wylie are looking forward to this naturally gifted performer in his under saddle

breeding program has enhanced the industry. Dragonsmeade recently experienced the loss of their beloved stallion And The Beat Goes On. However, his legacy, as well as the legacy of their other stallions and broodmares live on through their progeny that continuously rise to the top of the industry. It is the Fu family's enthusiasm and passion for the Morgan horse coupled with their history as breeders and exhibitors that encompass all that is clearly Dragonsmeade.