

CONGRESSIONAL FARM ARABIANS



· BY JOANNE FOX ·



Joanne Fox
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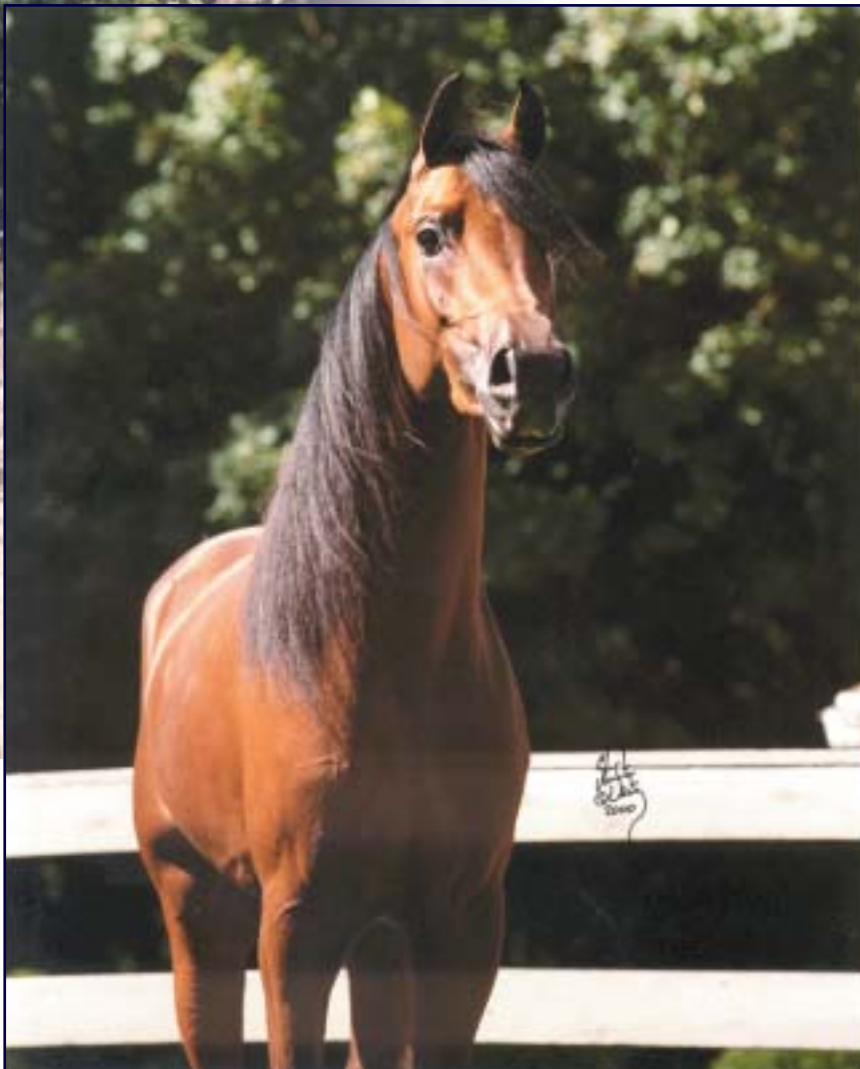
It is the kind of story all of us in the Arabian horse business like to read. A horse enthusiast falls in love with and buys one Arabian, and a decade later, owns an entire farm full of them! Such is the tale of Congressional Farm Arabians and owner Buddy Salisbury.

Born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland, Buddy began taking lessons on hunters and jumpers at the age of five and competed on the pony club circuit, though he never owned a horse of his own. He traveled to Rochester, New York, where he attended the Rochester Institute of Technology, majoring in business information systems. In 1993, Buddy returned to Baltimore to join his family's income tax and accounting practice and he has remained there ever since. It was then that he purchased his first horse, an Arabian mare. "Larry and Sherry Crow, friends in Maryland, advised me when I bought ASA Mystify Me (High Mystic x Aeolian Darshan), and taught me the basics," remembers Buddy. "From there, it was pretty much learn as you go!" Buddy showed the mare in halter and soon bred her to VA Nadeem to produce the first foal for Congressional Farm. "CFA Bhahareem competed successfully in the yearling classes and was the first to bear our CFA prefix for Congressional Farm Arabians, officially established in 1995," says Buddy.

Congressional Farm obtained its first stallion in 1999, and it was not an Arabian!

· ABOVE ·
SHELLEY AND BUDDY SALISBURY
WITH BOOMERANG NA (PADRONS
PSYCHE X BINT FORTEYNA).
A U.S. NATIONAL TOP TEN
FUTURITY COLT.

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· LEFT ·
BOOMERANG NA.

· BELOW ·
THE SALISBURY'S FIRST
STALLION, THE PAINT DOC'S
DAZZLIN AMIGO.



"I liked Paints," Buddy explains, "and wanted to cross one with Arabians. I bought a black and white paint stallion, Doc's Dazzlin Amigo." The cross proved a successful one for Congressional Farm. Amigo, now eleven and still standing at the farm, sires 95 percent color in his Half-Arabians, and, according to Buddy, "The colored foals sell so quickly, I've never gotten to show any of them!"

Buddy felt strongly that, compared with the West coast's large Arabian



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population, the East coast was in need of good breeders. “I wanted to provide quality stallions, and by crossing them with exceptional mares, offer high quality young stock on the East coast.” He began his search for an outstanding purebred Arabian stallion and discovered Boomerang NA (Padrons Psyche x Bint Forteyna) on the Nichols Arabians Web site. “He remained out of my range for some time,” admits Buddy, “but winter brought prices down and in November 2000, I was able to acquire him. When I saw him, I knew he was the one. I liked everything about him, but especially his presence. His carriage. He has a beautiful head, and like many of us, I look at the head first! He’s tall at 15.3 hands and has dramatic motion. The first time I saw him, I just liked his look.”

The next year was a big one for Congressional Farm. In 2001, Buddy married Shelley, a non-horsey girl born and raised in Galveston, Texas. Until she met Buddy, Shelley “had not been within ten feet of a horse.” Buddy soon changed all of that. After meeting in New Orleans attending different business seminars, Buddy and Shelley maintained a long-distance relationship, tying the knot in 2001 when Shelley moved to Maryland with son, David, and daughter, Danielle. On the horse business front, things were moving along as well. “Already a Region 15 Top Five in stallion halter, I sent Boomerang NA to Greg Gallún for halter competition. “We all traveled to Albuquerque to watch him in the colt futurity class,” says Buddy. “It was incredibly exciting to see him win his Top Ten in the class.”

Shelley remembers it through the eyes of an Arabian horse newcomer: “I’d never been to Albuquerque before, so that made it



· ABOVE AND RIGHT ·
CFA KABOOM, BY BOOMERANG
NA, WITH HIS DAM ARISTA KAT
AND DANIELLE.

a very fun trip. We did some sightseeing around town, and we watched as many classes as we possibly could.” Shelley continues, “It was a wonderful learning experience for me. I was amazed at the beauty and quality of the horses that were there and was able to see how we could actually be a part of that and a part of that future.”

The same year, Congressional Farm would acquire its first two straight Egyptian mares. “I was looking for older mares,” Buddy recalls, “but I fell in love with a liver chestnut yearling filly named Eventides Tempest (Ibn Layalia x Bint Khabira).” Shelley adds, “She wasn’t the horse we went down to see, but when we saw her, we loved her. It was a winning move all around.” Buddy continues, “I purchased her, and she went on to win Top Five at the Egyptian Event as a three-year-old. I also purchased



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Illa Sabiha (Moniet El Sharaf x Dameetha), who produced our first Boomerang NA baby, CFA Psynderella, Top Ten Yearling Filly at Region 15.”

“I’m not necessarily a purist when it comes to breeding, but for the marketing benefits, I began to look for an Egyptian stallion to breed to my straight Egyptian mares,” says Buddy. “In November 2003, I purchased *Orashan (*Messaoud x Ora) from Imperial Egyptian Stud with two things in mind. He already had a reputation and show record, so I didn’t have to invest

IN 2003 THE SALISBURY'S
PURCHASED THE STRAIGHT
EGYPTIAN STALLION *ORASHAN
FROM IMPERIAL EGYPTIAN STUD.





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time and energy establishing his reputation, and, as such, he could be a high-profile ambassador for our farm, bringing people to us.” Buddy is pleased that the farm quickly made many new contacts with the arrival of *Orashan to Congressional Farm.

“*Orashan is not only beautiful, but athletic as well,” says Buddy. “His show record is testimony to his beauty and ability. He fulfills my desire to stand stallions who combine the qualities necessary to succeed in halter with those necessary for performance.” *Orashan, indeed, has established himself across the board in the showing. He is a U.S. and Canadian Top Ten Stallion, Regional and East Coast Champion in Country Pleasure Driving *and*

· ABOVE AND LEFT ·
*ORASHAN (MESSAOUX X ORA).



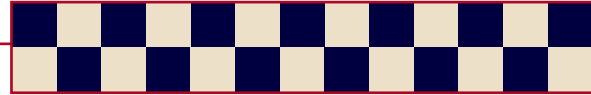
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CFA PSYNDERELLA
(BOOMERANG NA X ILLA
SABIHA) AS A FOAL AND
IN THE SHOWRING WHERE
SHE PLACED TOP TEN AT
REGION 15 IN YEARLING
FILLY SWEEPSTAKES.

Halter, Scottsdale Reserve Champion Country Pleasure Driving, and Canadian Top Ten in Country English Pleasure. Buddy has an additional goal for *Orashan. "I want to produce a very high quality colt to carry on his legacy." Along with *Orashan, Congressional Farm purchased their third straight Egyptian mare, Imperial Pharasha (Imperial Al Kamar x Imperial Phanadah). All three straight Egyptian mares will be bred to *Orashan in 2004.

"Because we are trying to attract a more diverse market, the dispositions of the horses are very important," Buddy continues. "The stallions are easy to handle, forgiving, intelligent, and very gentle. Shelley and I do much of the work on the farm without lots of help, so the horses have to be easy to work with. *Orashan, at



· ABOVE ·

THE STRAIGHT-EGYPTIAN MARE
EVENTIDES TEMPEST (IBN
LAYALIA X BINT KHABIRA).



· LEFT ·

“CNF HALEENA (VA NADEEM
X BINT HANIYA BA) WAS
THE FIRST MARE I EVER
SHOWED TO REGIONAL TOP
FIVE HONORS,” SAYS BUDDY
“SHE IS AN EXQUISITE
EGYPTIAN-RELATED MARE.
SHE HAD A GORGEOUS
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BOOMERANG NA THAT WE
SOLD AS A WEANLING. SHE
IS DUE AGAIN IN JUNE
TO BOOMERANG.”

twenty-one, is the most gentle of the group, but Boomerang NA has perfect manners. Nichols Arabians did a great job with him and sent us a gentleman.”

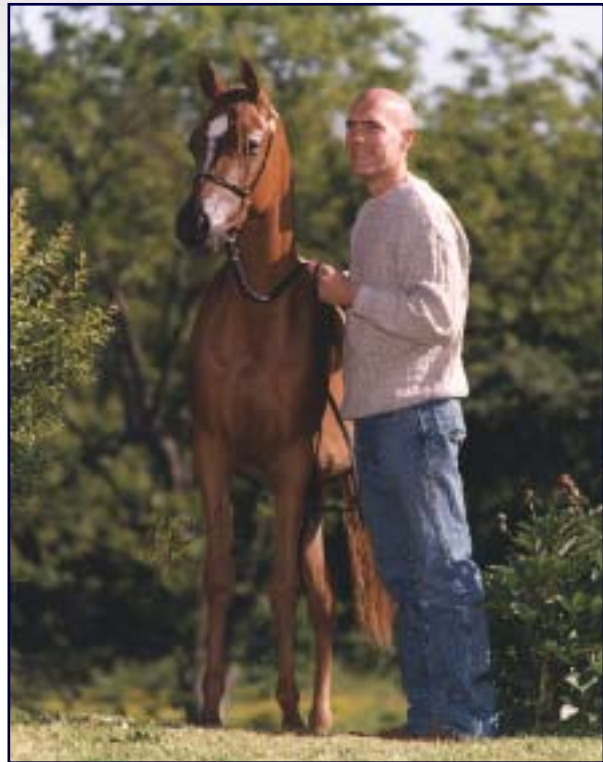
Two years ago, Congressional Farms relocated to Westminster, Maryland, in the rural Pleasant Valley. Consisting of twenty-three acres, the farm is a work in progress. Shelley describes their new home: “It’s an historic site. Our house was built in the 1700s. It’s an amazing place. There are actually three different parts to our home. The original structure was a Lancaster Amish house built in the late 1700s. The first

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addition was put on in the early 1800s, and the modern addition is only 14 years old. Our home was actually built before Baltimore County and Frederick County came together to be Carroll County in the early 1800s.

"We've added a new seventeen-stall barn and have put up all the white vinyl fencing ourselves," Buddy continues. "Ten acres are fenced while the back acreage is still waiting. The round pen and arena are up, with a walker coming soon."

With twenty-one horses to care for, the farm employs a modest staff of two full-time staff members and two part-time



Ferrara photo

· LEFT ·

TRAINER ROB SIMPSON WITH BOOMERANG NA AT THE 2001 REGION 15 CHAMPIONSHIPS WHERE HE WON TOP FIVE STALLION.

· RIGHT ·

"WE PURCHASED LADY FALCON (FALCON BHF X MOONLIGHT LADY SF) AS A WEANLING AND SHE WENT ON TO TAKE TOP FIVE HONORS WITH ROB SIMPSON AT REGION 15 IN THE YEARLING SWEEPSTAKES CLASS," SAYS BUDDY. "SHE WILL BE BRED NEXT YEAR TO BOOMERANG NA FOR A 2006 FOAL."

workers, all cleaning stalls and performing daily chores. Shelley and Buddy contribute a lot as well. "During non-tax season I spend eight to ten hours at the farm," says Buddy, "but when tax season hits, I'm down to two or three. When I'm not there, Shelley takes over many of my duties, including feeding, turnouts, medications, and such." "I'm a tax widow," Shelley laughs, and considers her main role on the farm and to Buddy as one of support. When she's not filling in for Buddy, Shelley enjoys pleasure riding her gelding Imperial Badaari (PVA Kariim x BB Ora Kalilah), while daughter, Danielle, age 14, competes in the showring. "Danielle is qualified for Youth Nationals this year in halter and also rides in the western division, both under the guidance of Steve Dady at Omni Arabians." Shelley continues, "Her involvement with the horses remains

enthusiastic. While in the first grade Danielle decided she wanted to be a veterinarian, and she has held fast to that ideal." During tax season, Buddy's hours are long and, according to Shelley, "It has been Danielle's and my responsibility to fill in for him. I always count on her to be there, help get horses in, get them fed and set up for the night with their blankets and whatever they need." Shelley goes on proudly, "She has a

CFA SECRET SENSATION, LEFT, AND CFA HALEEM, RIGHT. BOTH ARE Sired BY VA NADEEM AND OUT OF HALAN VICTORIA.



project horse, CFA Kaboom (Boomerang NA x Arista Kat), that she schools at halter, grooms, and conditions, and pretty much has brought him to where he is all on her own. She showed him to first place at the Maryland Futurity. She was really proud, as she should have been."

David, at 11 years old, is more into the sports scene, especially baseball, and is looking forward to his first time away at camp this year. David had not been as interested in the Arabians (though he showed farm-owned

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· RIGHT ·

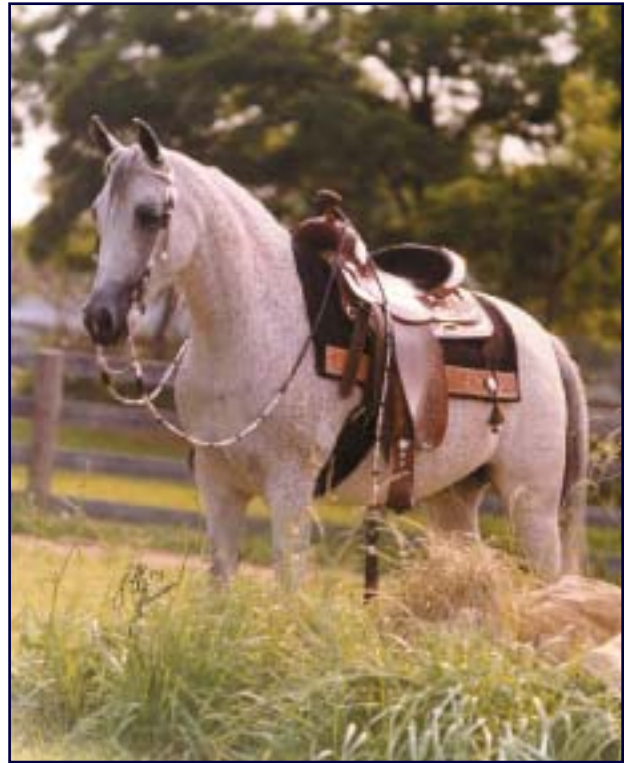
"DANIELLE SHOWED EF ANASTASIA (MA WIZJAK X SAMIRS SILHOUETTE), IN HALTER TO EAST COAST RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION LAST YEAR AND SHE HOPES TO COMPETE IN WESTERN PLEASURE THIS YEAR AT REGION 15 AND POSSIBLY YOUTH NATIONALS. SHE IS A FANTASTIC WESTERN HORSE. AND DANIELLE LOVES HER TO DEATH," SAYS BUDDY.

· BELOW ·

THE GELDING IMPERIAL BADAARI (PVA KARIIM X BB ORA KALILAH). IS SHELLEY'S RIDING HORSE.

CFA Secret Sensation [VA Nadeem x Halan Victoria] to a 2003 Maryland Futurity second place), until the first foal for 2004 hit the ground. Shelley continues, "It's a Boomerang filly out of Freedom Fame. We call her 'Bella,' and she is quite a little lady. Absolutely exquisite. She's really going to be something to see. David loves her. Perhaps it's that certain charisma we all appreciate about Arabians, but whatever it is, he and Bella have connected."

Buddy's involvement with the horses has continued to grow. "I decided I wanted to make the breeding department my main involvement," says Buddy. "Educated by my veterinarians, I learned to do the teasing, palpating, and inseminating myself, while the stallions are collected



at Omni Arabians. Shelley and I do all the foaling, and while the show aspect is fun and a necessity for marketing purposes, my best memories come from the middle of the night during foaling season, my favorite time of year." Championships, Top Tens, and all, Buddy remembers his most exciting moment as a far different kind of experience. "My most memorable moment so far came when I foaled out a mare on my own for the very first time. It gave me such a sense of warmth and satisfaction seeing the safe arrival of the new foal and the mother's well-being through it." Buddy shares, "It feels like a fresh start each time a foal is born."

Shelley's first foaling experience was somewhat different. "The very next spring after Buddy and I were married,





we had a mare foal in the middle of the day. Arista Kat (Premise EF x SA Bint Arista) foaled mid-March, a couple weeks before her due date.” Shelley continues, “We certainly weren’t expecting her to foal during the day, but even more so, we certainly weren’t expecting her to foal during tax season! She was due after the 15th of April when Buddy could have been there.” Shelley remembers, “Here I am, still very much the novice horse person, and along comes this baby! Fortunately, I had our very capable employee, Paula, to help me.” Shelley laughs, “Buddy, of course, raced home and got stopped by the police on the way, trying to arrive for the baby’s birth.” The story ends well. “The colt was happy and healthy, and mom was too!”

Buddy’s goals for Congressional Farm are ambitious. “I want to produce the highest quality foals we can. In addition,

· BELOW ·
SHELLY AND SON DAVID CURL UP
WITH “PATTY.”





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within the next few years, we hope to add a training facility to go along with the breeding and to have a full-time, established trainer in residence.” On a more personal level, “I would like for the farm to be able to sustain itself to the point that I can spend less time at the office and function full time at the farm. For this, I need to stand very strong stallions and as a result, have high-quality foals to offer.”

Congressional Farm is definitely on the move. Says Buddy, “This year will be very exciting because the quality of our mares, and consequently the arriving foals, is far and beyond what we’ve ever had.” In addition, Boomerang NA is being started under saddle with Julie Witmer of Omni Arabians, showing strong potential for hunter pleasure.

Meanwhile, as Congressional Farm grows from its simple, private beginning into a farm with a high

JUSTA PRINCESS H (JUSTAFIRE DGL X INDIGO TANZEER) WILL BE BRED THIS YEAR TO BOOMERANG. “SHE WILL BE AN OUTSTANDING ASSET TO OUR BROODMARE BAND.” SAYS BUDDY.

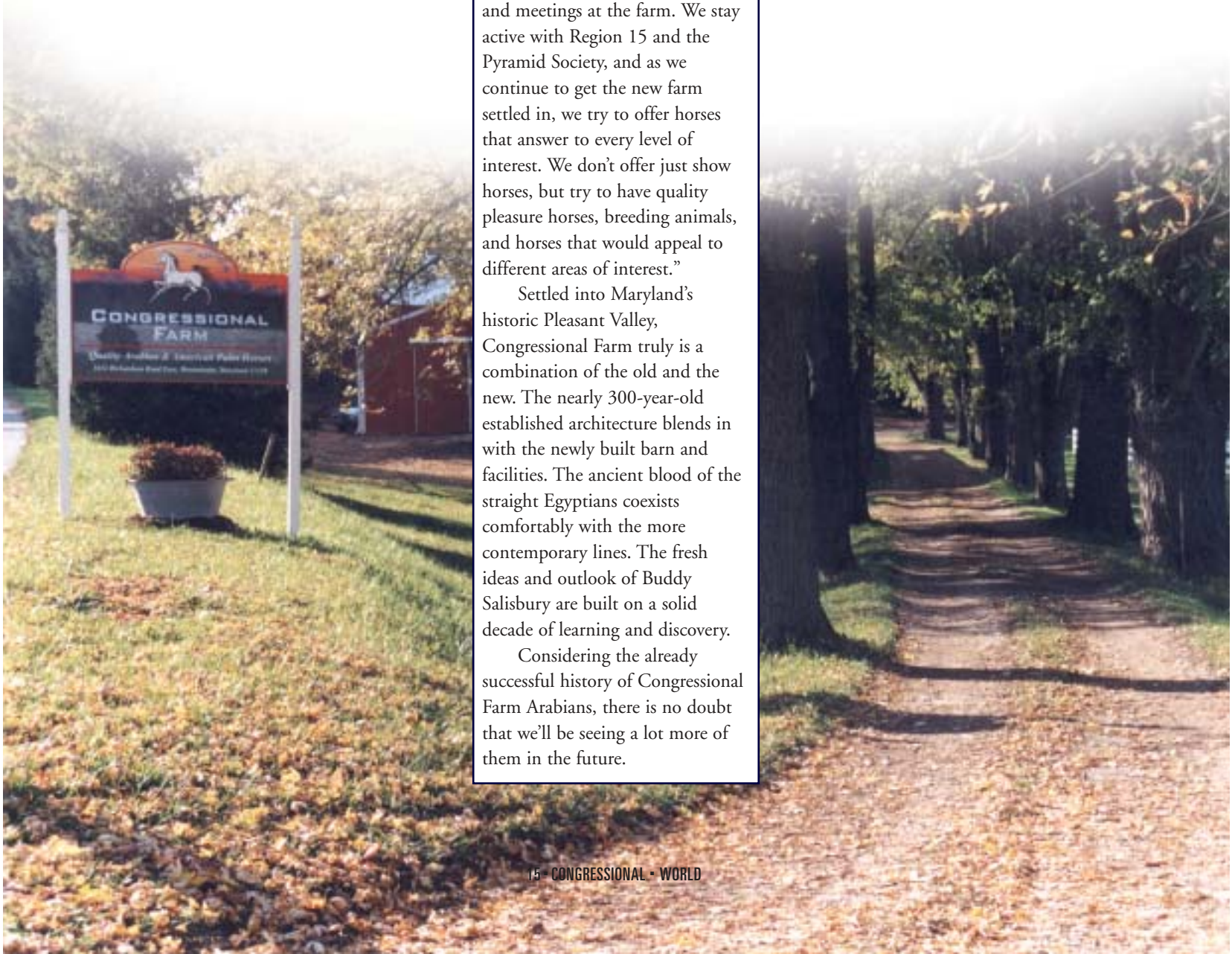




public profile, Buddy is dedicated to bringing newcomers to the breed just as he was over a decade ago. “We stay active in the Arabian horse community. We are in the Arabian Horse Association Discovery Farms program and are active in our Blue Ridge Arabian Horse Club, holding open houses and meetings at the farm. We stay active with Region 15 and the Pyramid Society, and as we continue to get the new farm settled in, we try to offer horses that answer to every level of interest. We don’t offer just show horses, but try to have quality pleasure horses, breeding animals, and horses that would appeal to different areas of interest.”

Settled into Maryland’s historic Pleasant Valley, Congressional Farm truly is a combination of the old and the new. The nearly 300-year-old established architecture blends in with the newly built barn and facilities. The ancient blood of the straight Egyptians coexists comfortably with the more contemporary lines. The fresh ideas and outlook of Buddy Salisbury are built on a solid decade of learning and discovery.

Considering the already successful history of Congressional Farm Arabians, there is no doubt that we’ll be seeing a lot more of them in the future.



CONGRESSIONAL
FARM ARABIANS



· BOOMERANG NA ·

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