

Networking hoof trimmers, veterinarians, nutritionists, dairy producers, consultants and researchers around the globe to promote quality hoof trimming, provide educational opportunities on hoof care, and improve hoof health.

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Hoof Health Conference

Feb. 7-9, 2013
 Visalia, California

Save the Date



Kloostermania Hits North America

by Vic Daniel, Ontario, Canada

With all of us having busy schedules, we need to remind ourselves that sometimes we need time off to upgrade our knowledge and expand what we are capable of doing.

Last year, the HTA under the guidance of then President Elect Dan Leer held an advanced hoof trimming course prior to the Hoof Health Conference in Lancaster, Pa. Pieter Kloosterman travelled from the Netherlands to teach a three day course in the functional hoof trimming method. It went over so well, that myself and a few others felt we needed to spread this course to other hoof trimmers. So, late this summer, three courses were held. HTA members coordinated classes in Alberta under the coordination of Philip Spence, one in Ontario under myself, Vic Daniel, and one sponsored by the HTA under the coordination of Allen Schlabach in Ohio.

As the 2011 Pennsylvania course was a bit too successful (too many students), we learned that the school (PTC+) that Pieter Kloosterman teaches for, allows a maximum of nine students for the course. Pieter has been teaching hoof care and functional method hoof trimming for over 30 years and travels the world to teach. His presentation style is very easy to understand and is well worthy of the respect he has earned from those of us who have had the privilege to work with him. PTC+ sends each participant a certificate of attendance, or if a certification course is chosen, a diploma of passing is sent.

Kloostermania started in Alberta, July 30 to August 2. The Alberta Course, run by Philip Spence, was a four day certification course for the functional method. Eight hoof trimmers attended: Doug Johnston, Quinn Marshall, Daryl Rollaman and Jeff Lanting from British Columbia, as well as Hugh Smythe from Vancouver

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Island; Rob Guyer and Philip from Alberta. Philip and Sandy Spence arranged for lakeside accommodations and meals for those attending. The course was held at Mars Dairy in Stettler, Alberta owned by Gjert and Sonja Schriver who milk 270 cows.

The first day is cadaver feet and theory, then trimming for the next two with the fourth day being the exam day. Pieter informed me of the dedication of this group to pass. Although every night there was great food and drink, all were studying their copies of "Cattle Foot Care and Claw Trimming" by Raven Toussaint. This group trimmed about 80 cows over 3 days and all, yes, all passed their exam. Congratulations to all. As Philip Spence said, "Educating ourselves is also about proving you can not only learn a new style of trimming but also you can accept how it is to be done in a consistent manner. This allows you a new tool to put in your toolbox of knowledge options."

Kloostermania then moved into Ontario August 7th to August 9th. The Ontario Course run by myself opted for the three day advanced course in theory and trimming. This course sold out in 12 hours after the initial email out. Nine trimmers attended: All the way from Northern Ontario came Albert Cousineau, and Gataen Dallaire; Locally came Peter Kudelka, Gerard Cramer DVM, Dave Stephenson, Doug Vaughan, Randall Martin; From New Brunswick came Edwin Duivenvoorden and from New York Ed Spencer. Our first day was at the shop. Gerard Cramer in Stratford



Chutes arranged in Ontario for Pieter Kloosterman course

did a lot to open his shop and supply media, tools and cadaver feet. I was the gofer, gofer food, gofer water, etc. Day two and three were trimming days in the Stratford area at the Koskamp Family Farm where about 400 cows are milked as well as water buffalo.

The farm provided us with 60 head of cattle and we set up three upright machines. I got to gofer cows in the holding area that staff brought to us. The trimmers were very impressed how quiet and easy to handle the cows were. The farm graciously supplied us with barbecued water buffalo

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Alberta and British Columbia Trimmers attend certification course instructed by Pieter Kloosterman. In photo: Quinn Marshall (kneeling), Daryl Rollaman, Hugh Smythe, Jeff Lanting, Rob Guyer, Philip Spence, Pieter Kloosterman, Doug Johnston

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burgers and chili and drinks. Fred Koskamp, one of the partners commented on how impressed he was that nine trimmers got together to share ideas and knowledge. He felt these type of events can only help the dairy producers and that we are welcomed back anytime to hold another one. Myself and my wife Maria hosted a barbecue dinner on the Wednesday evening at my home on a perfect summers evening for all the trimmers who had a great round of camaraderie and fun. The last day the farm gave us a tour of their new biodigester system after trimming. We talked about the course and it's purposes and the trimmers thanked Pieter for all his efforts.

After taking some personal time to visit friends in Ontario and New York, Kloostermania went stateside to the buckeye state of Ohio and the care of Allen Schlabach with other Ohio folks Tim Billman, Shelly Eberly, Bill Herman; From Pa., Dan Leer; J.Q. Robinson a teaching veterinarian from the Virgin Islands, Ray Kinney from Michigan, Dave Thompson from

Cobleskills, NY and Mark Burwell from Va.

They also chose the three day advanced course and held their first day at the Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute (ATI) then held a trimming day the Jentes Farm that milks around 100 cows. The group had two upright chutes and used Allen's layover table. Apparently Pieter got his exercise as the chutes had a fair bit of distance between them.

On the Tuesday evening the local trimmers did something very unique of the three course as they held a customer appreciation night for their clients and took advantage of Pieter in making him the guest speaker. All the folks involved in the class were invited. On Wednesday the class trimmed at one of Tim Billman's herds and had a lot of discussion on farm environment, cows and sore feet. Allen said overall they had a great group with no



Pieter Kloosterman instructs attendees at course in Ontario

fist fights over disagreements. All had come to see what they could learn to better their own skill set and profession.

On behalf of Phil, Allen and myself, we wish to thank and congratulate the participants for investing their time and money in their profession. When you fill all the classes and have such a happy bunch of students getting along with each other regardless of how you trim or how long you have trimmed, that is a great success and is what the HTA stands for. I know Pieter had a great time and we all hope to see more clinics such as this past summer in the future and in different locations The HTA Board is committed to advancing knowledge to our members and anyone interested in hoof health care and we will be sharing updates with our membership as these opportunities arise.

If you have interest for hosting an event such as this you can call the office and find out what you can and need to do to host one.



Attendees in Ohio participate in classroom sessions