



Welcome to Magdalena Farm,

You have arrived at a very historic location in Central Kentucky. This farm was originally deeded to Captain David Shely for his service in the Revolutionary War. He and his wife, Mary Hurst, came to this area from Fredericksburg, Virginia in the late 1790's. Captain Shely was head of the Episcopal Society, of which Henry Clay was a member, and the first meetings were said to be held somewhere on this property. This land was passed down through the Shely family, several of whom are buried here on the north side of the farm at the top of a hill overlooking what is now our turf course. Included in the cemetery are the headstones of David Shely's son, John, and his wife, Magdalena Weber Shely, a woman who we consider to be the matriarch of this property for over 40 years. She was married to John Shely when she was just shy of her 16th birthday, and she died during the time of our Civil War. She is surrounded in the plot by her mother, and father, George Webber and Sarah Stogdell Webber, and several of her children and grandchildren. Our decision to honor her was the reason behind naming the farm, Magdalena.

Over the course of time, the farm was eventually developed into a horse farm that specialized in stallions. During the early to mid-1940's the farm was called "The Stallion Station". It was one of the first commercial stallion businesses. Up until then, the industry was dominated by the likes of Calumet and Claiborne Farms. The Stallion Station became the home of such important horses as Tomy Lee, winner of the 1959 Kentucky Derby. It was also home to the sire of the 1960 Kentucky Derby winner, Venetian Way, French Derby winner, Sassafras(Fr), and three-time Horse of the Year Devil Diver. The mothers of both Seattle Slew and Silver Charm were conceived in what is now called the "Breeding Shed Apartment". Before it was converted to a one room suite, stallions and mares did their mating here and the bloodlines of many important racehorses have passed directly through this farm. Subsequently, the farm was purchased by the powerful DuPont family and they re-named it, Pillar Stud. Important sires on this farm continued to lead the developing industry of breeding racehorses. The farm was eventually sold and divided several times and eventually ended up in poor shape. Kenny and Sue McPeek purchased the property in 2006 and have refurbished the land and made it into a premier boarding and training facility. The farm consists of 115 acres with 23 turnout paddocks, 63 stalls, and a 2 mile European grass gallop that is used for training purposes during the warmer months. The farm office is control center for the racing stable that Kenny manages year round. Currently, we have over 150 horses that are either racing, training, or being broken to saddle. The farm also handles mares and foals, as well as layups; basically covering any stage a horse may be in during it's career.

Our staff is continually striving to care for these horses as if they were their own children. There are 9 buildings on the grounds. The Office Barn, which is the first tall barn you see after the entrance. The Breeding Shed Apartment is located behind the Office Barn. Barns 1, 2, and 3 which were the original stallion stalls. The Poker Barn has only one stall and has a room used for Blacksmith and Veterinary work. The Poker Barn is named for the horse, Poker, who was a very difficult horse to handle due to his temperament. The barn was built to make it easier to deal with him. Poker was the maternal sire of Seattle Slew, winner of the 1978 Triple Crown feat of winning the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes and Belmont Stakes in one season. There is also the Arena Barn, which houses 36 thoroughbreds during the peak season at the farm. Beyond the Arena Barn is the Farm House that was built in the mid 1940's. It has been remodeled and is currently used.

If you visit please feel free to walk around the stable area and barns. Peppermints and carrots are the favorites of many of the horses, but please be careful and kind. They are like our children, and we find them all very special. We welcome all to come see Magdalena Farm and hope you enjoy your visit.