

Trail riders spend countless hours preparing



Along with birds chirping and visions of wildlife with their young in tow, is a new season of trail riding. My family has made countless friends on the trail. Friends for life.

There's a lot of preparation for the on-coming season. We ride all winter at the Melville Agri-Park's indoor arena. We spend countless hours riding with our young friends in the Agri-Park's Young Riders' Program and doing all the chores. It's grueling, but we love it.

The worst time of the year is filling out vacation forms to include every trail ride we can think of. Work often gets in the way.

The best part of trail riding is visiting with old and new friends and swapping tales of previous adventures. Of course, we swear to never tell; but....

There is nothing like horse people's generosity. Often the trail-ride event is used for raising money for a sick child or another special project. Horse people will also help a family with young riders or swap a well-broke horse for a misbehaving horse that your father-in-law thought he could handle (but couldn't).

If your tent is leaky, they'll offer you a dry

bed in their home. When your horse gets away on you, some knight-in-shining stetson will retrieve your mount and save you miles of walking.

At this moment, I can't think of a better way to spend the summer.

Hope to see you all on the trail.

Debra A. Ward
Horse lover from away back





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