

In the midst of your life, find the Magic...

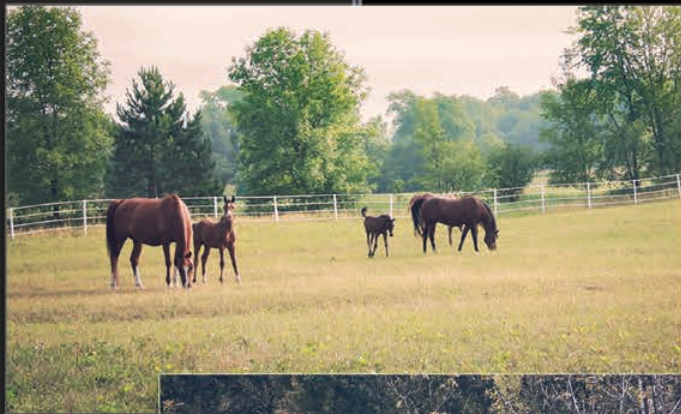
# GREYMOOR FARM



~ By *Laura Mickelson*

Set well back off a dead-end road in Elko, Minnesota is an immaculate Arabian horse breeding farm. As you drive up the tree lined driveway, you see horses grazing peacefully in the well-groomed pastures. This quiet belies the fact that horses from this breeding program have excelled in the showing capturing National and International Breeding Championships.

Owned by Donna Hentges, Grey Moor Farm has been proving for over two decades that the small breeder can compete successfully in the national show arena and market and sell foals internationally.



## THE GREYMOOR FARM PROGRAM

### First Generation

The purchase of First Cyte as a two-year-old stallion was the beginning. Shown to multiple National Championship wins in halter, First Cyte became the foundation stallion of the Greymoor program. His success individually and as a sire is no accident. He is a true and honest representative of his ancestors, bred to breed on.

First Cyte has what a breeding stallion must have, a pedigree filled in every line with national winners and producers in both halter and performance. Add to that beauty, correct conformation, intelligence, charisma and that Arabian attitude. First Cyte does what a breeding stallion must do, consistently sire high quality foals with his look and ability. Foals that shine in the show ring and go on to produce the next generation. Like the best of Arabians, he was a gentleman in the training and breeding barns, but a no-holds-barred competitor in the showing.



When it came time to add broodmares, Donna's intention from the very beginning was to start small and stay small. She knew well that the mares would determine the success of First Cyte as a breeding stallion so she diligently spent hours and hours studying pedigrees to determine the best matches. Knowing that "like begets like" and which First Cyte traits she wanted to breed on, she looked for mares that shared visible traits with him. The plan was to breed strength to strength. If the visible traits were not there, it was crucial that these traits be in the pedigree of the mare. Also important to Donna was the historical ability of the mare's ancestors to produce winners.

With a goal of breeding horses pretty and correct enough to show at halter as youngsters but also useful for their entire lifetime, trainability and athleticism also became important aspects of Donna's program. "I know no horse is perfect, but you should get as close to perfect as you can in your broodmares so that the stallion you select enhances and expands upon the mare's attributes, not "fixes" her problems." Again, breeding strength to strength.

In time, three carefully chosen foundation mares came to Greymoor: Klassic (Bask Clasix x Khemogina), Silver And Sable (The Chief Justice x NZ Silver Alicia) and Padrons Nike (Padrons Psyche x Niya). Bred only to First Cyte all three became Aristocrat Mares, two were Dams of Distinction, two were honored as Minnesota Breeders Broodmares Elite, and two produced National Champions. Determined to stay focused on quality, Donna bred an average of only two foals a year and carefully assessed the results of those matches.



Multi-National Champion First Cyte,  
Greymoor Foundation Sire



Clockwise from left: Foundation Broodmares;  
Klassic, Silver And Sable, Padrons Nike

That research has paid off with the winning accomplishments of the first of the second generation foals as well as frequent sales in both the national and international markets. Donna has sold horses to the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Romania. Interest in these second generation foals coupled with limited production have resulted in the sale of all available foals. "With my retirement several years ago I had planned to continue to produce only one foal a year, but I am having to rethink that decision", says Donna. She has only Drama Qyeen in foal (to Kanz Albidayer) for 2018, but is now planning to breed both First Cyte daughters for 2019 foals.

Although one or two mares were added to the broodmare band over time, the average of only two foals a year remained constant for the first ten years of her program. The results of those carefully researched and planned breedings to First Cyte were outstanding. The very first generation of foals at Greymoor Farm produced five National winners and two National Champions.

### Second Generation

"My plan from the beginning was to retain my best foals to continue the breeding program with a goal of producing superior quality in each subsequent generation." With the retirement of First Cyte several years ago and the retirement or death of the foundation broodmares, that plan became even more important. First Cyte x Klassic daughters multi-National Champion Drama Qyeen and Top Ten Harleqyin stayed at Greymoor after their show careers. The concept of staying small and focused was continued.

Donna selected outside sires for her First Cyte daughters in much the same way she selected her broodmares. Knowing all she needed to know about the daughters she was breeding, Donna looked for stallions that would complement the attributes of each of the "girls". The internet is a wonderful, valuable tool in the stallion selection process. Once she found a stallion that she liked (physical attributes, pedigree, show record) the real research began. Donna looked for the mare lines that crossed the best with that stallion as well as considering what the foals looked like as youngsters and accomplished later. "I believe to breed marketable babies you have to use credentialed stallions. I also enter all my foals in AHA Sweepstakes and Halter Futurity programs because I believe those credentials assist in a subsequent sale."

"After many long years of employment away from this farm, I consider myself blessed to be able to spend all my time here. I handle the horses myself and look forward to the welcoming nickers when I enter the main barn. I can't imagine looking out the window and not seeing horses and foals in the pastures, so the end of my breeding program will not be any time soon."

"Time has allowed me to take a good look at what the second generation of my breeding program (my First Cyte daughters) are producing and my program is proving to be everything I had hoped it would be. Those daughters represent the First Cyte "look" and are marrying that look beautifully with carefully selected stallions. I can't wait for the next round of foals!"



First Cyte daughters and second  
generation broodmares  
Drama Qyeen and Harleqyin



# THE FUTURE OF THE GREYMOOR FARM PROGRAM

Representing over two decades of research and proven combinations of bloodstock resulting in foals that have excelled in both halter and performance, Donna's breeding program has taken a new and exciting turn, with the birth in 2016 of GM Targaryen (Kanz Albidayer x Drama Qyeen). "Targaryen is, quite simply, the best foal I have ever produced. He is beautiful, conformationally correct, with great legs and an incredible attitude. He is a sweetheart in the stall and a "let's go get 'em" competitor. Only a yearling, I have been delighted with his show ring performance to date and look to him to get better and better with age and experience."

When the time comes for him to stand at stud, he brings a lot to the table. His sire Kanz Albidayer has an enviable show record with major championships in both Europe and the Middle East. A great stallion must come from a great dam line. A foundation mare must have generations of strong producers. A multi-National Champion mare, Targaryen's dam Drama Qyeen has not only proven herself in the showring but has already produced two National Winners and one National Champion in halter (by three different stallions). Drama Qyeen's dam Klassic produced a remarkable seven champions, two of those being National Champions and four producers of National winners. Klassic's dam Khemogiona was the dam of six champions. Khemogiona's dam Darling Gin, produced three champions and three producers of National winners.

Drama Qyeen inherited the ability to consistently produce beauty; a big eye, short head, and deep jowl coupled with conformational correctness and balance. She is also amazingly pre-potent for her sire's "look". She looks like a female version of First Cyte and Targaryen looks like his grandsire.

And the beat goes on...

A culmination of decades of breeding success. He is...



Stuart Vesty Photo

## GM TARGARYEN



TO BE PRESENTED AT 2017  
U.S. NATIONAL YEARLING  
SWEEPSTAKES COLT CLASS  
BY JEFF SCHALL

Greymoor Farm • Donna Hentges  
952-461-3311 • [firstcyte@gmail.com](mailto:firstcyte@gmail.com)  
[www.FIRST-CYTE.com](http://www.FIRST-CYTE.com)