

German LEADING BREEDER

*Horst Mueller has done it three times
using a limited number of mares.*

DURING THE LAST 15 YEARS, HORST MUELLER'S DREI LINDENHOF has established itself as one of the most successful American Quarter Horse breeding facilities in Germany.

In 2007, Mueller became the Deutsche Quarter Horse Association leading breeder for the third time, and his mare Scotch Bar Venture became DQHA leading dam. He also earned the title in 2005 and 2002.

It's just the latest success for Mueller and his wife, Elisabeth, who operate a printing business in Fulda close to Frankfurt.

Mueller had bred European DQHA Futurity and Maturity champions and a champion of champions. He has had Superior horses in western pleasure and halter, and top-10 and high-point horses in AQHA, as well as Champions and grand champions—all based on just a few mares. The secret behind his success is careful planning and breeding management as well as good marketing strategies.

The Mueller family started breeding Quarter Horses in 1992 at Drei Lindenhof close to Fulda. The name soon became a synonym for show success both in halter and performance.

In 1994, Mueller bought Magic Obsession, a 6-year-old palomino mare by Scamps Magic and out of Miss Cactus Zero.



Trophies and ribbons won during the last 15 years fill two rooms at Drei Lindenhof.



Horst and Elisabeth Mueller with some of their animals at Drei Lindenhof.



Scotch Bar Venture was DQHA Leading Dam, with her progeny earning more than 900 AQHA points so far.

In eight breeding seasons, Magic Obsession produced eight foals. Her progeny's show record includes more than 180 grand and reserve champion titles in open and amateur, 10 European champions, five European reserve champions and 10 DQHA Futurity champions and six reserve futurity champions plus several German champions and maturity champions.

One of her most successful foals was Magic Power Special, a buckskin stallion by Fritz Power, who was a five-time European champion and a five-time futurity champion.

In 1996, the red roan Marlana Glow followed, a mare by The Promotor and out of Misty Maria. Marlana Glow was a Superior pleasure horse and multiple high-point winner and AQHA World Championship Show qualifier.

Marlana Glow became a producer, too, foaling European champions, futurity champions and AQHA Champions: She is the dam of multiple all-around champions Hint Of Marlana, Marlana Special Glow and 2005 DQHA



Marlanas Special Glow is now back at the Drei Lindenhof after a successful career in the show ring.



Marlana Glow and one of her babies.



One of the most well-known horses bred at Drei Lindenhof is Magic Power Special.



Marlana's Investor, out of Marlana Glow, is one of the two 2007 colts owned by Horst Mueller that became 2007 AQHA Futurity champions.

Champion of Champions Marlanas Promotor.

When Magic Obsession became ill in 2002 and could no longer be bred, Mueller bought Scotch Bar Venture. The mare is by world champion sire Scotch Bar Time and earned 92 points in the show arena herself. Of her 11 foals so far, nine have become DQHA Futurity champions and one a champion of champions. All together, her progeny have earned more than 900 AQHA points.

Last year, a third mare arrived at Drei Lindenhof. Marlanas Special Glow returned to her breeder from Switzerland after a successful career in the show ring. The mare by Undeniably Hint had earned honors in halter and western pleasure, and Mueller was ready to bring her home.

"Scotch Bar Venture and Marlana Glow are both on their way to becoming 19 years old," he said. "At that age, there is always some risk. That's why I bought back Marlana Special Glow."

Knowing your pedigrees and breeding good stallions to proven mares is only one key to Horst Mueller's success.

"Good horses are not enough—you have to find the right marketing for them," he said.

The other key is marketing. Mueller knew that a good pedigree does not automatically guarantee a good price for a baby. So from the start, he carefully chose the best trainers

available to show his horses.

"It cost a lot of money," he said, "But it proved worthwhile. Show success is very important for promotion. So far, I never had real problems to sell my horses."

"In the beginning, we showed our horses or had them shown until they were 3 years old. However, today I try to sell them as weanlings whenever possible. It's simply a matter of money."

In addition to juggling the printing business and breeding Quarter Horses, Elisabeth rides herd on a variety of animals. At the moment, she's caring for three dogs, five cats, an Icelandic Pony and three miniature horses at the Drei Lindenhof.

"Without her, I could not manage all this," Mueller said. "She is there all the time, takes care of the animals and is always there when I need her sound advice."

However, she does not accompany her husband to the shows.

"Somebody has to stay at the farm," Elisabeth said with a laugh. "But I cannot stand the pressure of a show, anyway. That is Horst's part. I prefer the backup at home." ☐

Ramona Billing is a special contributor to The American Quarter Horse Journal. To comment, write to aqhajrnl@aqha.org.