



CRACKER BOX NEWS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER WHERE WE KEEP YOU UP TO DATE ON HAPPENINGS AT THE FARM



WE ARE SO LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING!

Photo credit: Janet Halasinski

Welcoming Our New Team Members

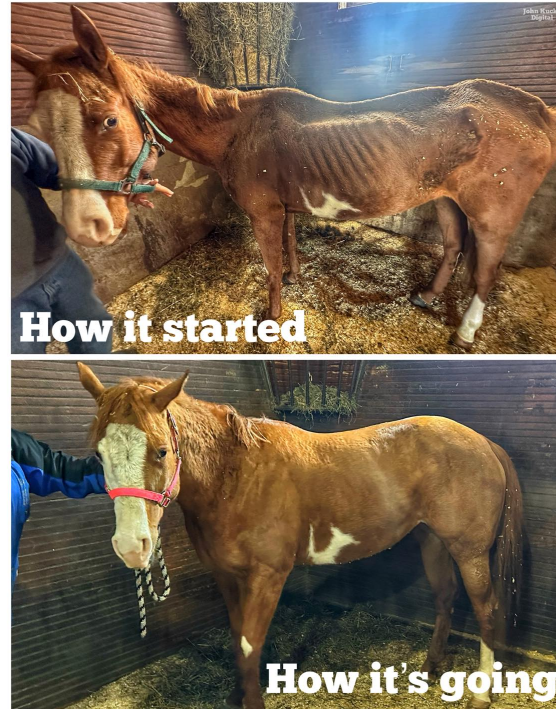
We are thrilled to introduce the newest members of our board: Lynda Faulks, Beth Ares, Mary Novick, and Janet Halasinski. These exceptional individuals join current board members: Hank Stuart, Sonia Cliffler, and Barb DeRoo in bringing a wealth of experience, expertise, and passion to our organization, and we are excited to have them join us in advancing our mission. All have strong track records of leadership at the farm that align our goals and we look forward to their invaluable contributions.

We are confident that the addition of these new and returning former board members will help us continue to thrive and achieve our goals. Please join us in welcoming them to the team!

Our staff is also growing and we are excited to introduce Grace Lukash, our newest addition to the Cracker Box Palace team! Grace joins us as an Animal Care Specialist, bringing a deep passion for animal welfare and a wealth of hands-on experience in animal care. We are thrilled to have Grace on board and look forward to the positive impact she will have on our team and the animals we serve!

Success Story: Rose the Rescue Horse

We want to share the inspiring journey of Rose, a rescue horse who was surrendered to us in October in extremely poor health. When Rose arrived, she was malnourished and struggling, far from the vibrant and strong horse she was meant to be. However, with the dedicated care, love, and attention from our incredible team, Rose has made remarkable progress.



Today, we're proud to announce that Rose is within 100 pounds of her goal weight! Her transformation has been nothing short of extraordinary. She's gaining strength and she's beginning to show her true personality — playful, curious, and full of life. Rose's story is a testament to the power of compassion, care, and time.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to John Kucko for helping bring Rose's story into the spotlight. His coverage has touched the hearts of many and played a crucial role in raising awareness about the work we do here at Cracker Box Palace.

But unfortunately, Rose is just one of many. Each animal we rescue has its own heartbreaking story of abandonment, neglect, or abuse. While the road to recovery is long and often challenging, it's stories like Rose's that remind us of the profound impact we can have when we come together to offer love and support.

We are so grateful for the generous donations, tireless volunteers, and passionate supporters who make it possible for us to continue this important work. Every day, we strive to give animals like Rose the chance they deserve to heal and thrive.



Volunteer Spotlight: A Heartfelt Thank You



We want to take a moment to express our gratitude to some truly exceptional volunteers who go above and beyond to support our mission. Their dedication and hard work are invaluable, and we are so fortunate to have them as part of our team!

- **Hank and Karen Ester:** Twice a week, Hank and Karen generously dedicate their time to caring for our horses. Their consistent commitment and passion for ensuring the well-being of our equine friends is truly inspiring.
- **Ed and Joanne Hewig:** Ed and Joanne are always ready to pitch in, helping with the tasks that often go unnoticed but are so crucial to keeping everything running smoothly. Whether it's cleaning, organizing, or taking care of the many behind-the-scenes tasks that others might shy away from, they're always there, making sure everything is in order.

We are so fortunate to have Hank, Karen, Ed, and Joanne as part of our volunteer family. Their time, effort, and selfless dedication are what make our community so special. Thank you, Hank, Karen, Ed, and Joanne.

If you are interested in being a “helping hand” at the farm, don't hesitate to reach out. We appreciate the support.

Volunteer Opportunities

First photo: Hank Ester working in the horse stalls

Second photo: Ed Hewig, Lynda Faulks - volunteer and Board member, and Joanne Hewig organizing the workshop

Winter's Best Kept Secret

Looking for a peaceful winter escape? Discover Winter's Best Kept Secret — snowshoeing or hiking on our farm's scenic trails! This season, we're inviting you to experience the beauty of winter from a whole new perspective.

Our trail system consists of several marked trails running through both field and forest. It's the perfect way to enjoy the winter season, get some fresh air, and take in the serene surroundings of our farm, all while getting a great workout!

Trails are open dawn to dusk. We encourage you to come experience the calm beauty of winter and make lasting memories with family and friends.

[Link to Trail Map](#)



Photo: Trail Works group. Photo credit: Barb DeRoo



Celebrating a Century of History at Alasa Farms Horse Barn!

This year marks the 100th anniversary of our main horse barn at Alasa Farms!

Did you know that all structures at Alasa Farms are listed on the National Register of Historic Places? The 1925 Horse Barn, designed and built by the John B. Pike & Son Company, was a cornerstone of Alasa Farms operations and is celebrated for its progressive design, which was state-of-the-art for its time.

Architecturally significant, the barn featured innovative designs for feeding and horse care, including Jamesway equipment for steel pipe stalls, feed troughs and chutes, large roof ventilators, water supply to stalls, mechanized mucking machinery, and a ventilation system to ensure fresh air circulation. Remarkably, many of these systems are still in use today, serving our rescue horses.



After a century of continued use, the stalls are in need of repair to keep them safe and functional for our rescue horses, staff and volunteers. We are currently seeking quotes for the restoration work, and your support can make a significant impact in helping us reach our goal to restore all the interior stalls. We are grateful to our partners at AmeriCorps of Lyons, as well as the Lisk Morris Foundation, Inc., and the Karpus Family Foundation, Inc., for their past support and commitment to help make this project possible.

The horse barn is still a cornerstone of the Cracker Box Palace operations just as it was 100 years ago. We invite you to join us in preserving this piece of history by making a contribution today.

Stay tuned for details about our centennial celebration this fall. We look forward to seeing you here.

DONATE TODAY

Save The Dates - Upcoming Events



A DAY IN THE LIFE A Virtual Fundraising Event

March 29, 2025
11:00 - 11:30am

View Live on Facebook

Experience the heart and dedication behind farm life at Cracker Box Palace during a **30 minute virtual streaming event**.

Come with us as we explore the meaningful work our staff and volunteers perform daily in each barn for our animals.



EASTER EGG HUNT

April 19, 2025

Cracker Box Palace is hosting our Annual Easter Egg Hunt for children ages 12 and under. Several activities planned including tour of the farm, outdoor games, pictures with the Easter Bunny and refreshments.

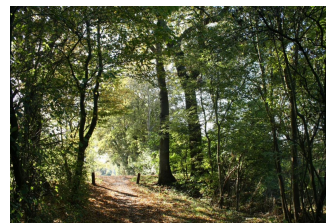
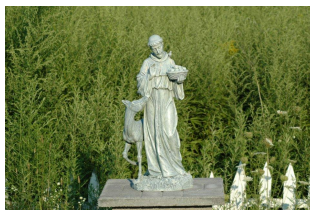


VOLUNTEER DAY OF SERVICE

May 3, 2025

A dedicated day of service at the farm to "Spring Clean" the barns and grounds, gearing up for the bustling spring and summer seasons ahead.

Email us at **volunteer@crackerboxpalace.org** if interested in participating



DAY OF CARING

May 15, 2025

United Way Day of Caring is the largest community-wide volunteer event across our region. Grab your co-workers, friends, and family and spend the day helping Cracker Box Palace at Alasa Farms.

BLESSING OF THE FARM

May 25, 2025

Celebrate Memorial Day weekend by blessing our farm and honoring our cherished animal friends who have passed on. Join us for a community gathering of remembrance and gratitude.

NATIONAL TRAIL DAY

June 7, 2025

Our trails committee invites you to join us in making our forest healthy for National Trails Day! We currently are working towards eliminating the invasive species that reside in our forested land, cleaning and clearing our marked trails, improve trail markers, and improve the trail experience!



GOLF TOURNAMENT

Sodus Bay Heights Bay Golf Club

June 23, 2025

Registration Opens April 1st

Be on the lookout for more information about this fun annual event!

Look for our E-Newsletter Monthly!

Cracker Box Palace at Alasa Farms is registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions to Cracker Box Palace are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

NYS Tax# 225956 | NYS Char Reg# 40-91-09



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