

Volume 2, Issue 3 • Early Summer 2019

Northeast **Equestrian** *Life* *Free!*

Summer in Vermont

Your Ultimate Guide to the Vermont Summer Festival

Sound of Body and Mind

Tips to Keep Your Horse in the Ribbons All Season Long

Plus: Innovative Equine Therapies



What's Inside

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The Vermont Summer Festival will return to Harold Beebe Farm, in East Dorset, Vt., for six weeks of diverse offerings for hunter, jumper, and equitation competitors.

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The Vermont Summer Festival

Horse Show or Summer Paradise? You Decide!

By Lindsay Brock/Jump Media



Each year, the horse show season gets busier and busier. Options abound, but there is one unassuming horse show nestled in the Southern Vermont mountains that serves as an escape from the hustle and bustle. The Vermont Summer Festival, running for six consecutive weeks at Harold Beebe Farm in East Dorset, Vt., is more than just a horse show. It's a circuit that sticks to its roots, offering a relaxed but

highly competitive event in a family-friendly and entertaining atmosphere. Move over winter sports - the horses are in town!

The Vermont Summer Festival has become a favorite among riders, trainers, and local spectators alike and is gearing up for yet another successful season. The 2019 summer series will continue to offer competitive options for the hunter, jumper, and equitation rider, as

well as an ever-evolving dedication to improving the competitor experience.

"My jumpers love it, my hunters love it, and I love it," said competitor Morgan Ward of Milford, N.J., who was both a hunter derby and grand prix winner during the 2018 season. "It's a great venue and it's always a great time. They do such a great job with the facility and the footing has been phenomenal!"

A Show for the Rider

For those who travel as far north as Vermont to experience a peaceful summer show circuit with rousing competition, the Vermont Summer Festival continually ranks at the top of every “must-visit horse show” bucket list.

“There is something about Vermont,” said Matthew Metell of Wellington, Fla., who won the first grand prix of his young career at the 2017 Vermont Summer Festival aboard a horse he had been riding for less than two months. “We have good luck there and, honestly, what’s not to like?”

Tucked into the southern foothills of the Green Mountain National Forest, the Vermont Summer Festival offers entertainment opportunities that charm children, adults, and everyone in between. The Manchester area mirrors the all-inclusive vibe of the horse show itself and offers attractions that range from public swimming holes to mountain biking and much more.

One of Manchester’s biggest claims to fame is the Manchester Designer Outlets, which are considered a shopping getaway for locals and visitors alike. Located in the heart of Manchester, the Manchester Designer Outlets offer boutique shopping opportunities from more than 40 brands, including iconic names such as Bass, Overland, Theory, and Vineyard Vines.

Another draw for the Vermont Summer Festival crowd is the wide variety of dining options available after the horse show day is over. Home to restaurants offering a full range of cuisines, Manchester and its surrounding areas are a foodie’s paradise. Attending the weekly exhibitor parties, hosted by a different restaurant each Wednesday throughout the six-week show, is the perfect opportunity to sample a variety of menus.

Competition Abounds

The Vermont Summer Festival is a hotbed for developing young horses, gaining in-ring experience, and collecting valuable points for year-end finals. Qualifying opportunities span the disciplines with exciting offerings served to hunter and equitation riders by way of a World Championship Hunter Rider (WCHR) week and “Equitation Tuesdays.”

WCHR week welcomes some of the country’s top hunter competitors during the third week of competition. After gaining points at member horse shows across the nation,

including the Vermont Summer Festival, the top 10 nationally ranked riders and top six regionally ranked riders in each category go head-to-head in the WCHR Finals at the Capital Challenge Horse Show in October in Upper Marlboro, Md.

Additionally, weekly \$5,000 3'3" NEHJA Hunter Derbies make their return in 2019 with a \$15,000 finale on August 8 during the sixth and final week of competition.

For equitation riders, the Vermont Summer Festival’s “Equitation Tuesdays” have developed a reputation as a “points-palooza.” Tuesdays are dedicated to equitation classes and give riders several opportunities to qualify for the nation’s top equitation finals at year-end.

On Saturdays, the stands are heaving at the Vermont Summer Festival thanks to a dedicated following of local equestrian fans. The show is highlighted each week by a \$30,000 Grand Prix, held the first five Saturdays of the six-week circuit, before culminating with a \$50,000 Grand Prix on the final weekend. Additionally, jumper riders can celebrate the return of a \$10,000 Open Jumper Rider Bonus, presented by World Equestrian Center, which rewards consistency throughout the circuit.

It’s not only the riders and the horses who steal the show in Vermont. The course designers at the Vermont Summer Festival are some of the best in the world. The list includes the likes of Ireland’s Alan Wade, who held the prestigious appointment of course designer for the FEI World Equestrian Games™ Tryon 2018 (WEG). Mexico’s Manuel Esparza was part of the course-building team at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, while 1976 Olympic silver medalist Michel Vaillancourt received rave reviews for his course designs at the 2015 Pan American Games. All three will bring their talents to Vermont this summer.

Sprawling views of the Southern Vermont mountains, idyllic weather, and a relaxed family-friendly atmosphere have made the Vermont Summer Festival a top choice among summer horse show destinations. Whether for year-end points, a family-friendly atmosphere, or a vacation and a horse show wrapped into one, the Vermont Summer Festival is a must during the 2019 summer season.

The Vermont Summer Festival By The Numbers

When it started, the Vermont Summer Festival included 200 stalls and two competition rings. Today, the event has grown to nearly **1,400** stalls and five competition rings offering hunter, jumper, and equitation competition.

The East Dorset location includes **14** iconic blue-and-white stabling tents that can be spotted for miles in any direction.

Each summer, the Vermont Summer Festival hires **20** seasonal crew members to impeccably maintain the grounds and show rings.

Between five rings and adjacent warm-up and lunging areas, there are **750** tons of sand that are mixed with fiber to create footing. The fiber arrives in roughly **15** square bales totaling **80,000** lbs. in weight.

Eastern Hay and Grain, the official feed supplier of the Vermont Summer Festival, delivers **1,500** bales of hay (supplemented by other deliveries) and **1,000** bags of Purina grain for the hundreds of hungry horses that come and go each summer.

If you go:

- **Dine out!** Take a stroll through the streets of Manchester, VT, and indulge in the seemingly endless restaurant options. Don’t miss the weekly exhibitor party, held every Wednesday night during the six-week circuit, which showcases some of the best dining options in the area.
- **Stay the night!** There are plenty of options to make the Vermont Summer Festival a home away from home including local lodging favorites like The Inns at Equinox and The Equinox Resort, as well as the all-new Hampton Inn & Suites Manchester.
- **Experience Vermont!** Reserve some time to check out the recreation and entertainment that southern Vermont has to offer.
- **Watch hunter riders cash in** during the \$15,000 NEHJA Hunter Derby on Thursday, August 8.
- **Make it a Saturday outing!** Purchase a ticket for one of the weekly grand prix events to benefit The Dorset School, Manchester Community Library, and Rotary Club of Manchester, and watch the best riders conquer the biggest jumps. Join the conversation by using tags #VSF2019 and #summerinvermont on social media. Note: Admission Wednesday-Friday is \$6 for adults/\$3 for children and \$9 for adults/\$5 for children on Saturdays and Sundays. 100% of all gate proceeds benefit Dorset Equine Rescue, The Dorset School, and Manchester Community Library.



Northeast
Equestrian *Life*

Don't Miss Our Next Issue!

The Summer 2019 issue includes:

- A Celebration of Youth Riders,
- Meet Collegiate Equestrian Athletes,
- The Controversy Behind CBD,
- ... and much, much more!

You're Invited!

Taste Vermont Event

Meet us at The Vermont Summer Festival

August 3rd, from 11am - 4pm
East Dorset, Vt.

Sample cheeses, honey, syrup, preserves, sausages, chocolates, and other fine Vermont-made products; take home Vermont made goods; plus meet the Northeast Equestrian Life staff and pick up your copy of the Summer issue!

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