

# North American Hanoverian Jumper Breeding Program

By Michael Boyd and Judy Hedreen

In 1993, the Hannoveraner Verband (HV) started a program in Germany to encourage and promote the breeding of show jumpers within the Hanoverian breeding system. The essence of the Jumper Breeding Program was to identify mares and stallions with the necessary pedigree and jumping performance and encourage the breeding of top show jumping sires to this mare base.

With the JBP well underway in Germany, the American Hanoverian Society in partnership with the Canadian Hanoverian Society (a district breeding club within the verband) established our own JBP in 2005 using the same criteria as established by the verband.

## JBP Criteria

Stallions must have an appropriate jumper pedigree and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Stallion performance test jumping index of at least 125 or 8.5
- A successful competition record at USEF 8/9 or above
- A jumper breeding value index of at least 120

Mares must also have an appropriate jumper pedigree and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Mare performance test (MPT) free jumping score of 8 or above
- A jumper breeding value index of at least 125
- A successful competition record at USEF 7/8 or above
- At least two offspring or close relatives with a successful competition record at USEF 7/8 or above

## Top JBP Bloodlines

Dr. Ludwig Christmann, the Hannoveraner Verband's foreign breeding manager, conducted research into heritability and found that jumping is by far the most heritable characteristic.

As a result, mares and dam lines are considered most important when breeding for jumpers. While tracking mare families presents special challenges in the U.S., we can highlight a couple. Servus is the grandsire of the renowned HV Horse of the Year Stakkato through his sire Spartan. The Servus daughter Susie came to the U.S. and produced daughters and granddaughters now in the JBP. She was the standard bearer and foundation mare for Silverhorne Sporthorses. The daughter Susie Too scored an 8 in her MPT, Susie Three scored an 8.75, and granddaughter Silvia S scored an 8.5.

The U.S. bred Pia Blanca (Sylvan Farm) produced three daughters in the JBP. Arielle scored an 8 in her MPT, EM Fair



Lone Oak Photography

The young mare Cassina (Cassini II/Escudo I) during her free jumping test as part of her Mare Performance Test as a three-year-old. At the time she was owned by Mike Boyd of Ontario.



Photos Courtesy Michael Boyd

Left: Rossini (Raphael/Cassini II) jumping; Middle: Ruby (Raphael/Cassini II) is a full sister a year younger, and Right: Sassy Gina B (Stolzenberg/Graf Grannus). All three were bred by Michael Boyd.

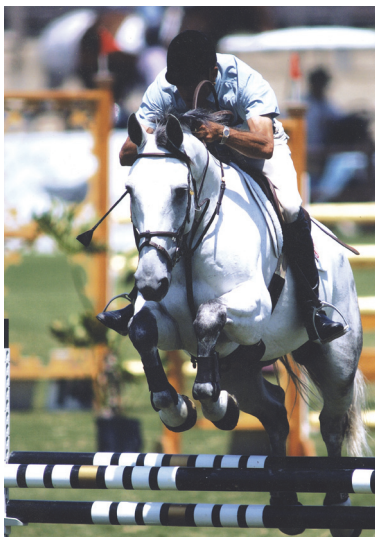


Sheri Scott



Susie Three (Sir Caletto x Susie) bred and owned by Silverhorse Sporthorse LLC. This is during her mare performance test at Silverhorse Sporthorse in 2011 with rider Lisa D.

Courtesy Silverhorse Sporthorse LLC



Puccini S (Prinz Gaylord x Susie) bred by Glenwood Farms and owned by Silverhorse Sporthorse LLC with Hap Hansen at Spruce Meadows taking the blue ribbon in the 1.20 meter class of 75 competitors.

bred to the mares currently active. From this you can tell which are currently successful crosses and which are showing potential. Breeders are always on the lookout for that new cross that will prove to be the next nick.

Not surprisingly, Stakkato and his sons have the greatest number of mares in the JBP. Now many these mares are being bred to more modern types, such as Diacontinus (Diarado/Diamant de Semilly).

Let's have a look at the horses in the Jumper Breeding Program and those available for breeding. The goal of the JBP is

Lily scored a 9 and EM Francesca scored a 9.5. The EM Francesca daughter Fiona scored an 8.5 to enter the JBP. Bodega Bay by EM Francesca is currently competing in the Young Jumper 7-year-old division at WEF. Another Pia Blanca daughter, Animation, was a hugely successful AO/AA jumper, winning many championships and Horse of the Year titles. Several of this mare's offspring are currently competing in the jumpers with top international riders.

The best place to look for information on Hanoverian bloodlines in the JBP is a book published annually by the verband. This is a good place to start a search for the pedigree of your perfect jumping mare. The verband website is [www.hannoveraner.com](http://www.hannoveraner.com) and has English pages. It lists stallions that cover the most mares and the successful young and mature stallions. Further, it lists all the mares who have been accepted throughout the years into the JBP and which stallions have been



Courtesy Judy Hedreen

Three mares, left to right: Pia Blanca (by Pik Solo), EM Francesca (by Wanderer) and Fiona (by First Gotthard): three generations of jumping bloodlines—Granddam, dam and daughter—all in the Hanoverian JBP owned by Judy Hedreen of Sylvan Farm at the time. EM Francesca scored a 9.5 and her filly Fiona scored an 8.5 in the JBP.

to breed for the big ring, national and international horses. The World Breeding Federation of Sport Horses annually publishes a list of the top sires of international jumping horses competing at the 1.5 and 1.6 meter levels. The 2017 list includes Chacco-Blue (1), For Pleasure (3), Cornet Obolensky (4), Balou du Rouet (9) and Quidam De Revel (10). Often on the list, now number one in eventing, is Contendro I.

While these stallions are available via frozen semen, several of their top sons and grandsons are available here in North America. Here are a few: the Chacco-Blue son Chacco's Rubin DSF stands in Canada.

His pedigree also includes Contender (sire of Contendro I), Quidam De Revel and Continue (dam sire of Balou du Rouet). The stallion Chicardo is by Clinton, the sire of Cornet Obolensky. Bred in the U.S., Chicardo was reserve champion of his stallion test and awarded top jumping horse honors. If mare owners are looking



Paws and Rewind

Bodega Bay, also bred by Judy Hedreen, was a 2011 colt by Balou du Rouet out of EM Francesca. Now owned by Barbara Rowland, he and Devin Ryan competed in the 2017 Zone 2 6-Year-Old Young Jumper Championship.



Shelia Armstrong

Chacco Rubin DSF (Chacco Blue x Quidam's Rubin) owned by Dreamscape Farm during his stallion test.

for highly desirable older blood, there is Viva Voltaire by Voltaire out of a Grannus mare, standing in Canada.

Both Voltaire and Grannus are renowned sires of jumpers. Valentino, by the Voltaire son Now or Never, is a very successful sire of jumpers with a jumping index of 161. Both Viva Voltaire and Valentino are standing in Canada. Standing in the U.S. is King Kolibri, by Kolibri, a famous sire in Eastern Europe who has an exceptionally strong dam line. His dam Athletica, by internationally renowned Achill Libero H, was successful at the 1.6-meter level. The dam and granddam produced 1.5- and 1.6-meter jumpers. North America is also lucky to have the Balou du Rouet son Bliss and the Contendro I son Contratto rounding out a great lineup of jumping stallions.

### Increasing Use of Non-Hanoverian Sires and Dams

Besides stallions who have met the JBP criteria, the program also allows foals sired by stallions who have made the top 100 show jumpers in the WBFSH rankings and the top 50 WBFSH sire rankings. Consequently, you will see an increasing influence in the Hanoverian JBP from top jumping sires from other registries such as KPWN, Selle Français, Belgian Warmblood and other German registries such as Holstein, Oldenburg and Westfalian.

Over the years jumper breeders have looked for the best damlines to produce their jumping horses. When picking mares for breeding, certain stallions are valued on the dam side of the pedigrees. Stallions from different Warmblood registries have been used in the Hanoverian dam lines with excellent results in producing top jumpers. Breeders should look for mares carrying bloodlines such as: Acorado/Ahorn, Contendro/Contender, Balou du Rouet/Baloubet du Rouet, Argentinus, Calido, Cassini I/II, Clinton I/II, Landor S and Quidam du Revel. Often these mares crossed with highly rideable/good-minded Hanoverians will produce a highly athletic horse with good rideability. A horse with these qualities is very desirable, both for amateur and professional riders.

Detailed information on the requirements for admission to the JBP can be found on the American Hanoverian Society website under the "Programs & Resources" tab. You can also find a listing of the approved stallions in the JBP; currently there are nearly 20 in the U.S and Canada. You'll also find a listing of the approximately 200 mares in the U.S. and Canada who have been admitted to the program.

In the last ten years, the AHS and the verband in Canada have registered just over 100 foals bred from mares in the program and sired by JBP stallions. Many of these foals are now finding their way into the jumper ring in the United States and Canada. ♦