

Why the Horses need you . . .

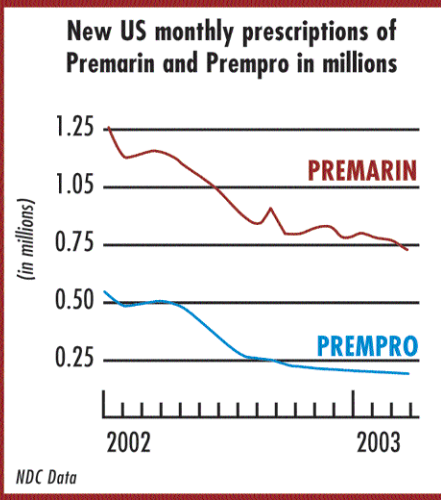
The Past . . .

Since the early 1940's, the urine of pregnant mares has been processed into drugs used to treat menopausal symptoms in women. One such hormone replacement therapy (HRT) drug, Wyeth-Ayerst's Premarin (named from **PRE**gnant **MARE** ur**INE**), was the most popular drug in America between 1975 and 1999, with approximately nine million women taking Premarin prescriptions.

To manufacture the estrogen replacement pills, 40,000-60,000 mares were employed at over 425 Canadian and northern US "PMU" (Pregnant Mare Urine) farms. In the spring, the mares are turned out to pasture in small herds with a stallion; and by October they are pregnant. The mares spend the winter in "pee barns" hooked up to a urine collection system. They stand in small stalls with little exercise for 5-7 months, have their babies, and then are released to the pasture, where they begin the process all over again. Some lucky foals born of this process find homes through the efforts of industry-related marketing and independent rescue organizations. But the fates of the vast majority of both foals and mares that have outlived their usefulness can include being sent to auction yards, feedlots, and even slaughterhouses that ship the trendy horsemeat to Europe and Japan.



January 2001: A study by researchers at a Seattle HMO of 5,212 postmenopausal women finds increased breast density in those taking hormones, but says the changes may disappear once hormones are stopped.
July 2002: The US government's landmark Women's Health Initiative (WHI) study of more than 16,000 women links estrogen-progestin pills with an increased risk of breast cancer, heart attack and stroke.
May 2003: Estrogen-progestin pills, once thought to sharpen the mind, are linked with a doubling of the risk of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia in older women; from another analysis of WHI data.
June 2003: Breast cancer in women taking estrogen-progestin pills may be harder to detect and more aggressive; from an analysis of data from WHI study.



The Present . . .

Beginning in 2001, several research studies by the Women's Health Initiative alerted the public that women taking Premarin and its sister drug Prempro had an increased risk of breast cancer, heart attack, stroke, Alzheimer's disease, and dementia. The studies also found that breast cancer in women taking estrogen-progestin pills may be both harder to detect and more aggressive. In response to the news, new monthly Premarin and Prempro prescriptions plummeted more than forty percent in just a year and a half.

In October 2003, in response to the changing market conditions, Wyeth announced to a group of Manitoba-based PMU ranchers that the decreased demand for Premarin means a fifty percent reduction of Wyeth's required number of mares. And in early spring 2004, thousands of out-of-work, pregnant mares will foal – doubling the number of horses in need of new homes and otherwise destined for slaughter or other inhumane situations.

The Future . . .

While the decline in the PMU industry is good news for horses and equine lovers, the mares and their coming foals desperately need new homes. As panicking ranchers face uncertain financial futures, United Animal Nations (UAN) has already heard of private slaughter auctions taking place in northern Manitoba where semi-truck loads of horses are being carried off to a grim fate. Many PMU ranchers want to do right by their horses. But finding a good home for their mares and foals can be difficult - especially from northern Canada during the winter. How will the adopting public know about their horses?

PMURescue.org is United Animal Nations' contribution to provide a humane alternative for PMU horses. By creating this portal website that enables both rescuers and ranchers to post adoptable PMU horses on the Internet, UAN hopes that these wonderful, deserving horses will find refuge in good homes. UAN is offering the use of PMURescue.org to ranches and rescue groups free of charge.

Visit PMURescue.org today and spread the word about this website's availability to horse lovers everywhere. **Help bring the horses home.**



"I love these horses. They've been good to us and I will do what it takes to find them loving homes. That's why I've asked for your help."

- Former PMU Rancher whose 120 horses are listed on PMURescue.org



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