

# Equestrian center recognized as Business of the Month

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EDWARDSVILLE - Triangle H Farm LLC has been recognized as the River Bend Growth Association Business of the Month for April.

"We appreciate what (the RBGA) has done for us and we hope to be able to support them the same way," owner Marcy Heepke said. "It has been an incredible networking opportunity, and it really does its best to support its members."

Triangle H Farm, 2082 South Moreland Road, is a full-service horse riding, training, boarding and education facility. Owners Jeff and Marcy Heepke set the standard for their business with the motto "striving to provide a safe, friendly, family-type atmosphere for horse and rider using natural horsemanship techniques."

Marcy Heepke has dreamed of running a center like this her entire life. Devoting her school years to her passion for horses, she has a bachelor's in animal science, equine science, and a master's in animal science, equine reproductive physiology, and has served as instructor for Southwestern Illinois College and Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

She often is invited to speak at shows and clinics and holds a title with many other organizations related to the equine industry. She was honored as one of the Top 50 Riding Instructors in America by the American Riding Instructors Association. In all, Heepke has nearly 20 years of riding instruction education experience, including experience as a breeding manager, stable manager, herdsman, equine reproduction technician and veterinary technician.

Heepke credits her husband, Jeff, for sticking by her and providing support with the growing business.

"(Jeff) is integral to the farm," Marcy Heepke said. "He helps with the hay crop and many other things that keep the farm running."

Also involved with his family farm, Jeff Heepke farms about 4,000 acres of corn, soybeans and horseradish at Heepke Farms.

Triangle H Farms has been in business for five years. The couple moved onto the property and immediately began building the equine center, fertilizing and re-seeding 40 acres, building an indoor covered riding arena, adding a new stall barn and fencing in nearly 50 acres of pasture. Starting out with just four stalls, the business has grown to accommodate 70 horses and boarders.

After purchasing the property in 2006, the owners completed work on the outdoor arena and announcer's stand.

Today, the center features boarding services including regular cleaning, Progressive Nutrition feeding choices, and regular visits by health professionals.

Riding lessons are available to children and adults and are taught by ARICP certified instructors. Small group lessons, semi-private lessons, private lessons, and lesson packages are available. A horse training program offers ground training, horsemanship training and mounted training.

Horse leasing also is available.

Heepke is excited about the many groups and organizations she is able to work with through the business. She was quick to point out the Madison County Trailblazers, who hold about nine shows per year at the farm, the Hooves Paws and Claws 4H Club events for children ages 8 to 18, and the Triangle H Equestrian Club, which is open to children and adults.

The Heepkes, who have been married since 2002 and make their home in the Edwardsville area, have two children, Grace, 3, and Emma, 2. Marcy said a love of horses runs in the family.

"They have both been winning awards since before they were a year old," Heepke said. "That is just how I got started. My mom rode when she was pregnant with me, and I have been riding ever since."

For information, call (618) 692-4823 or visit the Web site at [www.trianglehfarm.com](http://www.trianglehfarm.com).