

What has fueled the Belgian draft horse popularity?

1. The growing ecological awareness that some of the tools and methods of modern agriculture are destructive, causing many to seek alternatives among which is the draft horse as a source of power.
2. An economic crunch that makes home grown power, that runs on home raised fuel, which in turn enriches the soil in the form of manure. The Belgian reproduces itself plus providing surplus for sale, and appreciates rather than depreciates for the first half of its life.
3. Their beauty. The Belgian at his best is a spectacular animal. Once discontinued at some fairs for being behind the times, they have been welcomed back as a crowd pleaser. More and more big commercial firms are also looking to the Belgian hitch as an advertising vehicle.
4. Nostalgia plays a role. Increasing numbers of horse minded people are finding their pleasure horse in the form of a team of Belgians. Their good disposition and the willingness to work make them a great favorite on some of the small part-time farms that continue to increase in number.

If you are contemplating the purchase of a team or even a single draft horse, or some mares or a stallion for breeding, we invite you to visit one of the Belgian breeders in your area. Whether your purpose be that of show, advertising, or just pleasure, you will be able to find Belgians to fit your needs. This versatile breed did not become "*America's Draft Horse Breed Supreme*" by being second best. Go With A Winner - Go With Belgians.

For more information contact:

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Belgians

- The Draft Horse Breed Supreme



Strength in Numbers by Adriaan Holman

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Belgian - The Draft Horse Breed Supreme

The Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America had its start and beginning with the partnership of the Wabash Importing Company in Wabash, Indiana, where it is still maintained today.

The three partners and their lawyer, James D. Conner, Jr., who was to become the secretary for over 50 years organized The American Association of Importers and Breeders of Belgian Draft Horses on February 25, 1887. The name was changed to the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America January 14, 1937 after reorganization under new Indiana laws.

The organization was formed so that the breed would be kept pure and protected by a registration in America of the imported animals and their descendants.

The American Belgian Breeder has achieved more in the improvement of a breed than in any other species of livestock. Our modern Belgian type of today is much different from that of the European type.

Color has changed drastically from the early Belgian. Black, gray, red roans with black points, browns and bays have given way to the predominant colors of today which are blonde, sorrel, roans with light points and chestnuts. In all of these colors there are different variations. The white manes and tails are the most desirable. The white stripe is also sought after. This will vary in width also. Most all the colors do have light colored legs. This does not necessarily mean that the horse has white socks. White socks are more desirable to some people than others.

The American breeders have developed a Belgian horse with style in the neck and head, sloping shoulders and pasterns, strong level back and big shapely feet. His bone is clean. Hocks should be clean and straight and hind legs placed properly. The horse should move well at

both the walk and trot. Yet along with these changes, he still retains his depth of middle, heavy muscling, close coupling and easy keeping qualities which make him "America's Draft Horse Breed Supreme".

Some important considerations for judging are draft type, soundness, size, conformation, quality and action at both the walk and trot.

The Belgian horse is very diversified, being used as a source of farm power, showing in both halter and hitch classes, pulling competition, pleasure, the production of a cash crop and the production of sorrel and blonde mules the color so prized today.

