Clash of the Color Breeds

What combines your breed shows into one exciting event? The Color Breed Congress, taking place November 4-9 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Presented by the Pinto Horse Association of America, the show features classes for registered Pintos, Palominos, Appaloosas, and Buckskins. Exhibitors from each breed compete in breed-specific classes, and are also eligible for the combined Champion of Champions classes. The event, which takes place in the Built Ford Tough Livestock Complex, includes a trade show with over 30 vendors and offers free admission to the public (colorbreedcongress.com).

A Stress-Time Supplement

The lowdown: Farnam’s DigestAid Synergistic powder and paste contain a blend of live microbials vital for best immune and digestive health during times of stress. The product’s probiotics and prebiotics help maintain balance for proper digestive function by supporting the beneficial bacteria necessary for best intestinal health.

Time to End Soring for Good?

The lowdown: Congress is poised to pass the Prevent All Soring Tactics Act (PAST), which would at last provide full protection for gaited show horses. Soring is the practice of using chemical or mechanical techniques to create pain that causes Tennessee Walking Horses to exhibit the exaggerated “big lick” gait. Methods, including special shoeing, are carefully engineered to create a lasting “memory of pain” — likened to chewing on an abscessed tooth — so that horses can pass inspection on show day.

Undercover video: Illegal since 1970, the practice of soring has persisted. In 2012, an undercover video showed Hall of Fame Walking Horse trainer Jackie McConnell hitting a horse in the head with a stick, and his staff chemically soring and plastic-wrapping his horses’ legs.

Poster horse: In 2013, “big lick” show horse Dutch (at right), rescued at a slaughter sale and still wearing stacked shoes, brought more support for the PAST Act, which may come up for vote before Congress’ current session ends this month.

You can help: Go to walkinghorsealliance.com to learn how to contact your legislators.