

Not too many years ago it was standard practice on most Eastern livestock farms to keep at least one good saddle horse and frequently two or three. These horses were used to work the cattle, check the fences and pastures, to raise the kids on, has seen a general trend toward using the Western type horses which would include the Quarter Horses, horses trained on Western ranches for stock work and of recent, the Appaloosa Stock Horses.

Cresswell Farm is the home of one of the large bands of registered Appaloosa brood mares East of the Mississippi. It is headed by a foundation registered stallion named "High Thunderbird," Reg. No. 1822. These horses were originally introduced into Virginia by Max Tappero from his home State of Washington, where the Appaloosas were the proud possessions of the Nez Perce Indians of the Northwest. Max is now showing and training these horses for Cresswell Farm.

The winning show record of "High Thunderbird" has been remarkable considering he is only 4 years of age and the competition that has been pitted against him. Just as the "Tops are in Virginia" for Angus, the tops of working horses of other breeds have been brought into Virginia as well as other Eastern states, and are actively campaigned in Western Show Classes.

"High Thunderbird" was named Champion Pleasure Horse, all breeds competing, in the Virginia State Horse Show for 1959. He was Champion Pleasure Horse and Reserve Champion Stock Horse at the Lynchburg Spring Show 1959. (The Lynchburg Spring Show has become one of the important Eastern Stock Horse events). He won seven other Stock Horse Championships and one Trail Horse Championship in Eastern area shows in 1959.

His most sensational showing, all things considered, was in the National Show held in Harrisburg, Pa., this fall. He had been in pasture for two months with his band of brood mares, then taken out, shod and put in the trailer to Harrisburg. Despite his pasture condition compared with fitted show horses, "High Thunderbird" won 4th in the Western Pleasure Horse Class (57 entries); 5th in Trail Horse Class (39 entries); 7th in Stock Horse Class (43 entries). Horses from all over the U.S., Canada, South America and Europe competed in show.