



Tales from the Trails at Dunrovin

November 11, 2019

Winter Workers Take Residence

Kris and Levi move in to feed the herd in winter. Dunrovin feels most fortunate to be able to welcome Kris and Levi to the ranch for the winter. Both are local guys who know their way around a cold and snowy Montana winter, and they seem eager to do a good job of ensuring that our animals get all the food and water they need to enjoy their winter's rest. Ranch Manager Kelli has been putting them through their paces all week so they will be ready to assume full responsibility when she leaves for her long winter's break on Thursday. Kelli has gained lots of confidence in them and can now leave worry-free!



Feeding the herd can be tricky. Dunrovin's horses are wise to the sight and sound of the feed truck that daily brings them fresh hay. The minute they hear it coming down the road, they line and run to catch up to its first stop along the way. Great care must be taken while driving to avoid hitting them as they crowd all around the truck.



Horses are troublemakers. All the horses know that the tasty special "packer pellet" treats are thrown out of the truck window for the horses to spend all day finding, so they come right up to the driver at each stop hoping to beg some extras. They have no shame!



It's a two-step, two-man process. While it is possible for a single person to do the job, it is so much more efficient to have two people working together. Just getting the feed truck into the field can be a big challenge for one person. The horses run to the gate when the truck arrives, which makes driving the truck in without letting some horses out nearly impossible for one person. Past attempts have resulted in loose horses running through the local subdivisions! So, Levi and Kris will work together this winter.

Once the truck is safely in the field, the first step is to get fresh hay from the haystack and load up the truck. Then one person slowly drives the truck all around the field while the other tosses hay in all directions. The idea is to spread the hay and pellets throughout the field to mimic natural grazing conditions. This keeps the horses moving and eating throughout both day and night. Their digestive tracks function best with movement and continual eating. Pellets provide minerals and fiber that they do not get from the hay. Water and salt blocks are always available near the corral and haystack.



The barnyard crew gets fed twice daily. The ponies, donkeys, and any horses needing extra TLC stay at the barn all winter and are fed hay every morning and evening.

Broadcast Date: November 12, 2019

Time: _____

Location: _____