

savvy gives him a valuable perspective on how to beat back the enemies of freedom and property rights. He has powerful advice for the ordinary Americans who want to make a difference. “I had a politician at my house who said, ‘People don’t realize this, but if we get just five written statements, where somebody takes the time to write to the government about something that is important to them, we take it seriously.’ So, the Department of Agriculture, Interior, all those people take you seriously if you say, ‘This is what we need to do and why.’”

Forrest hasn’t taken his rigorous road to success for granted, so he has a warning for the good people who may be complacent or unaware they’re being targeted by extremist groups. “There are so many people who say,

‘Ah, let someone else handle this,’ or ‘It’s not for me,’ but the world depends on ag people, and they’re now a small minority, the true ‘one-percenters.’”

Offering a sound solution, Forrest continues: “We have to get all these guys working in ag together and get their stories out to everyone. If we start doing what HSUS is doing—going into schools, FFA and 4-H groups, talking to students and working with law enforcement—we can win. You can no longer sit back and expect someone else to defend your rights. You have to be a farmer and a politician.”

Not a man to back down from a fight, Forrest nevertheless doesn’t aspire to be an army of one. His success has not lulled him into complacency, and it’s likely he’ll be

defending agriculture and property rights for the rest of his life. But fighting battles is only part of his motivation. He wants to inspire and activate others, the younger generation, to take their rights and futures into their own hands. Protect the Harvest, as well as his work in giving the Hammond family a new lease on life, are to Forrest what gives his wealth its true value. ■

Marjorie Haun, a freelance writer and managing editor of Free Range Report, lives in Utah’s high desert. Her focus is on natural resources policy and government-run-amok. She finds Protect the Harvest to be a valuable resource for journalists, as well as farmers, ranchers and all involved in animal enterprises. Please go to protecttheharvest.com and become a supporting partner.

Wild Spayed-Filly Futurity

A classy idea for natural talents. By Todd Macfarlane

The first-ever Lucas Oil/Protect the Harvest Wild Spayed-Filly Futurity in Reno, Nev., in September 2018 was an unquestionable success. In contrast, there is no question that the federal government’s wild-horse program is an undeniable disaster. Because federal bureaucrats have been completely unable to come up with any real solutions to the excess feral horse problem and because Forrest Lucas has a track record of being willing to try new things, Vice President Mike Pence has charged him with developing private-enterprise solutions to the wild-horse problem. Having already commissioned the movie “Running Wild” to help frame the issues and call more attention to the problem, one of the first things Forrest did was start looking for ways to both “harvest” some of the vast supply of wild horses, and put them to productive beneficial use, as well as to show that neutering mares, just like gelding stallions, is a viable alternative for birth control and can produce good, reliable ranch or pleasure horses.

The Wild Spayed-Filly Futurity itself was the brainchild of Dave Duquette, Lucas’ right-hand man at Protect the Harvest, who is both a former Marine and reined cow-horse trainer. The idea was a crazy one—not to mention a very expensive experiment—but Lucas has never shied away from crazy new ideas, so he told Duquette to run with it, with full support from Lucas Oil and Protect the Harvest.

With that directive, Duquette made arrangements to adopt 12 two-year-old fillies from the BLM’s wild-horse facility in Burns, Ore., have them spayed, and with special approval auctioned them off during the Reno Snaffle Bit Futurity in 2017. The goal was to bring them back a year later to compete in their own special division, to showcase the natural abilities of wild horses and the reliable usability of spayed mares. Throughout the event Duquette wore T-shirts and hoodies for sale by PTH that said, “The best gelding I ever rode was a spayed mare.”

What better way to prove the point than through the rigors of a competition patterned after the snaffle-bit futurity in Reno, with cutting, reining, and individual cow work. And the wild spayed fillies didn’t disappoint—including a big dose of mustang spitfire attitude. During the spayed-filly futurity finals, a veteran horseman and longtime snaffle-bit futurity participant grabbed Forrest Lucas by the arm and said: “This Wild Spayed-Filly Futurity has added a whole new dimension and injected a whole new level of energy and excitement into this event that has been miss-

ing for years. Thanks so much for being willing to step up to the plate.”

During a break in the competition, a Wells Fargo stagecoach entered the arena. On it were Forrest and Charlotte Lucas and recently pardoned Harney County, Ore., ranchers Dwight and Steven Hammond. Duquette, who also helped to secure the Hammonds’ release, made an emotional introduction. “Aside from the birth of my son,” he said, “our work to help get Dwight and Steven out of

prison has been one of the most important and rewarding experiences of my life.”

In terms of the competition results, the 12 spayed fillies covered the full spectrum of ability and attitude, but the race for first place ended up being very stiff. It has long been

said that the West was won on a bay, and on the strength of some big moves and an exceptionally high score in “cow work,” it was a quick, cowy little bay filly by the name of Three Fingers Holly—owned, trained and shown by Lance Johnston (above)—that edged Three Fingers Blonde, a beautiful, leggy, solid-performing palomino, by one hundredth of a point, to win the Wild Spayed-Filly Futurity and take home the \$25,000.

It was a classy, exciting event, offering a lot for people to look forward to in years to come. It also offers a better life for excess horses. ■



Lance Johnston wins on Three Fingers Holly.