

## **Her Dream Came True**

It started as soon as she could play with her Bryer play horses pretending to have a farm. It continued with the influence of her aunt teaching her how to ride at age three. From there, every spare minute was dedicated to learning and experiencing everything about horses. Knowledge was gained by attending Penn State University in animal science, and participated in horse activities. That little girl's wish came true in 2000, when a rundown farm was purchased. Richele Grieb, from Upper Bern Township had her farm name selected many years before. "Daydream Farm" is a horse Foaling/Breeding business, working mostly with Thoroughbreds that race on Pennsylvania race tracks. This unique farm enterprise has Richele managing and housing mares for breeding and foaling. This foaling season, January to June, 40 mares gave birth. Half of the mares are housed year-round at the farm. The others are brought to the farm 60 to 90 days before foaling. If foals are born in Pennsylvania, there are incentives from the Pennsylvania's Racing Commission for owners of colts that win at our state tracks. Richele stated that, "This has provided some help for the breeding and racing industry, but Pennsylvania does not support our industry like Maryland and other states."

Foaling time is a commitment to sleepless nights. The other day was the first time she slept in her bed in 34 days as each night is spent watching video cameras, or sitting by a mare as foaling occurs. Days are filled doing normal farming chores.

In 2014 a decision was made to sell the farm's Agriculture Conservation Easements. "I wanted to have the farm stay a farm forever, but I also needed to upgrade the barn and fencing as well as fix the rundown house. Using that money and buying needed farm supplies locally, supports our agriculture businesses." Feed is purchased from Albrights Mill in Kempton and hay is purchased from a local farmer. Richele said that she is proudest of "Making my dream come true by taking this rundown farm that stood empty and having it become a successful horse breeding and foaling operation". Before saying good bye I asked, "What is needed for the future of agriculture in Berks County?" She answered, "You can love what you are doing, but that doesn't pay the bills, farming needs to be profitable. Consumers and officials need to support local and Pennsylvania agriculture and the horse racing industry."