

# MELISSA BROWN

## Horse Manager, Breeder, Owner, and Instructor: Melissa Brown, Doing Her Job and Having Fun

Graduate: Class of 2001      Occupation: Manager/Breeder/Owner/Instructor  
By Shaelyn Luker, Spring 2010

Do you know anyone who graduated from Forest Park and appeared in a calendar? Melissa Brown, currently residing in Brookston, Indiana, was pictured in the Draft Horse Calendar, and Historic Prophetstown Farm has been featured in a magazine, Horse Progress Days. Draft Horse Journal will also have a photograph of Melissa in an upcoming calendar.

Melissa received her high school diploma from Forest Park in 2001, the same year she was accepted into Purdue University. In 2005, she graduated with a bachelor of science degree. After a two-year break, Melissa continued her educational courses in equine artificial insemination, mare management, and stallion management at Ohio State in 2007. Melissa currently takes continued education courses at Colorado State University. Traveling from Brookston, to Lafayette, Indiana, for the past year, Melissa also currently teaches one class per semester in equine studies, at Ivy Tech Community College. Instead of having one job title, Melissa has four: manager of agricultural operation (Historic Prophetstown), breeding manager (RX Acres Belgians), owner of MB Equine Services, and adjunct instructor (Ivy Tech Community College). The locations of her jobs include Battle Ground, Brookston, and Lafayette, Indiana.

Before working at Historic Prophetstown, Melissa had never worked with horses or livestock. She went there looking for a job to pay for her living expenses, but fell in love with her job. Starting as a traditional part-time employee while attending school, Melissa was offered a full-time position. After six years, Melissa now manages all the agricultural operations of the facility. They farm sixty acres using strong, draft horses instead of the farming equipment used today. These horses do not just work as farm machinery; they also pull tourists using wagons for entertainment purposes. While on the farm, Melissa breeds Milking Shorthorn cattle, Berkshire hogs, Barred Rock chickens, and Romney sheep. Out of the four breeding animals, she shows Milking Shorthorn cattle. If in need of beef, pork, lamb, or eggs, Historic Prophetstown provides these items for sale.

As breeding manager of RX Acres, Melissa's job responsibilities include the foaling, breeding of the mares, and shipping the semen of their studs across the United States and Canada. She manages a herd of Belgian and Clydesdale horses that consists of twenty to twenty-five mares (female horses) and four stallions (male horses) that have not been neutered. After working here for five years, Melissa owns a few mares and has joint ownership in a couple of the stallions on the farm. Throughout the year, Melissa takes care of management of the horses; however, she does not provide veterinary services. Do you need your mare bred, stallion collected, or your mare foaled? Melissa can get the job done for you. She started her business, MB Equine Services, two years ago. Melissa said, "People can bring their horses to me in my barn, or I will travel up to 100 miles to one's farm."

Melissa did not veer far from her childhood dream of becoming a veterinarian. Not everyone can find a job they truly love and call it a hobby. As Melissa says, "Find something that you love to do-I know it is a cliché, but it is true. I love my job and what I am doing. Everyone is worried about how much I am working, but I can't be away. And I feel like I have not worked a day."