



Dancing Horse Farm

4080 Weisenberger Road • Lebanon • Ohio • 45036 • **Phone:** 513-933-0DHF (0343)

E-mail: Jennifer@DancingHorseFarmOH.com • **Web:** www.DancingHorseFarmOH.com

A premium care equine facility dedicated to providing an environment of safety, health, happiness, and education for human and horse.

"Dare to Dream"

Saddle Fitting Seminar:

"Is a saddle just a saddle, or more than meets the eye?"

The saddle Fitting Seminar with Karen Borne' had one of the largest turnouts audience wise. It was very exciting. The horses that were used for demonstration were soaking up the love from the audience presence, pats, smiles, and soft voices.

"So how are the Borne' saddles fitted to horses? Lets find out."The saddle is meant to fit along all of the eighteen ribs of the horse. This also means it should fit the Longissimus muscles and the trapezius muscles of the back. The Trapezius muscles start around the wither area and then the longissimus muscles are set along side the back, on either side of the spine. The panels of the saddle should lie on either side of the spine to allow the back to come up and through. To allow the back to "breathe." Many times, saddles are sold to customers that sit improperly on the horse. One way is when the panels are too close or sometimes on the spine. This is very painful to the horse, and can cause things like nerve damage. Then we wonder why our horses don't go the way we want them to-because the saddle doesn't fit properly. When the saddle is placed on the horse, the front of the saddle should fit just in the shoulder pockets or behind the shoulder muscles.

Karen's saddles have trees that are made from laminated beachwood. The wood is soaked, put on a vice and then fitted properly to the shape of the horse that the saddle is being fitted too. The saddle is only widened once. The leather that is used on each saddle is different. The texture varies. Some of the leather is smooth, a little bumpy, or somewhat scaled. Each different leather is unique and nice.

So, how can we tell if our horse is happy with his/her tack?

- 1.Be aware of the muscle changes our horses make.
- 2.Take responsibility to check the fit of the saddle and fix what needs to be fixed.
- 3.Make sure the saddle fits properly along the back/eighteen ribs.