



Our Andalusian stallion Cicerone

## COULD AN AZTECA BE YOUR IDEAL HORSE?

by Scott and Sarah Wehrmann,  
Double Diamond Ranch, Blair, Nebraska

Azteca horses are quite rare, especially in this part of the country, and we are often asked "Why an Azteca?". Many folks we encounter have yet to meet one.

We'll start with the idea of heterosis, or "hybrid vigor". Whether the goal is to breed better horses or beef cattle or any other species, crossing two unrelated bloodlines can produce offspring that outperform either parent. The Azteca was founded on the idea of crossing the Iberian Andalusian or Lusitano with the American Quarter Horse to produce a horse with exceptional cow sense, movement, presence, beauty, and athleticism yet at the same time to be quiet, steady and able to handle most any situation.

The Iberian Andalusian and Lusitano breeds are some of the most ancient breeds, used for centuries as war horses, mounted bull fighting, handling cattle on the open range, and as the preferred mounts of royalty. More recently they have excelled in dressage, especially in the Spanish or French styles. While evaluating a horse is far more subjective or subtle than simply weighing calves at weaning, from the very beginning the foals have an undeniable "something" about them. A few years later, well into their education, that "something" becomes even more clear.

We want an all-around athlete who can work cattle, handle them on a rope in an arena or out in the open, be capable of fine precision riding, all the movements and flexions with true collection and self-carriage, and do it with graceful elegance. For us, the ideal horse is an Azteca. There are active associations in the US, Mexico, and Canada dedicated to registering, promoting and preserving the Azteca, and the International Andalusian and Lusitano Association will register them as well.

While our original intent was to breed and train ranch horses capable of competing at the national level in cutting and reined cowhorse events, many of our horses find

homes with people who need a good, safe family horse. They want a quiet, respectful partner to love and grow with. They want to go trail riding, go to horsemanship clinics or events, or just enjoy sharing their life with a horse. Our Aztecas are ideal.

Our broodmare band was built on the old AQHA foundation blood of King and Poco Bueno. We bred these mares to our stallions Marsala Badger and Lil Wildcat, both sons of Peppy San Badger and fine bridle horses themselves. They are gone now and we miss them every day, but we have many of their daughters and sons. These mares are then bred to our Andalusian stallion Cicerone producing about twenty Azteca foals each spring.

Cicerone was brought to the United States from Spain in 2005. He has proven to be everything we hoped for and more. He is quiet and gentle, affectionate and respectful. Absolutely anyone can handle him either on the ground or in the saddle. We use buffalo to start our colts working cows, and that is when Cicerone can turn on the fire and the bullfighter in him shows. He loves to be challenged, and especially to "win". He has unbelievable stamina, an inner strength that just keeps growing. His foals show these same qualities and are just as beautiful, athletic and intelligent.

We invite you to take a look, send a note or call, or better yet, come by for a visit. The mares seem to enjoy showing off their babies, and Cicerone just enjoys showing off. It is always fun and interesting to meet other horse lovers, no matter the breed or discipline they are into. Please join us for an open house on October 9th, 2010 from 1 to 6 pm for ranch tours and foundation horsemanship demonstrations by Scott. You will get to meet our Azteca horses and see if an Azteca could be your ideal horse. Visit our website at [www.DoubleDiamondRanch.info](http://www.DoubleDiamondRanch.info) or call us at 402-456-7505.

### Double Diamond Ranch Open House

16002 County Road 21, Blair, NE  
Ranch Tours and Horsemanship Demonstrations  
**October 9, 2010 1-6pm**

[www.DoubleDiamondRanch.info](http://www.DoubleDiamondRanch.info)

**Bryan Neubert Colt Starting  
and Horsemanship Clinic**  
Christensen Field, Fremont, NE,  
Scott Wehrmann, Sponsor  
**November 18-21, 2010**

