

“What Makes My Appaloosa Special”

By: Adam Ryun

I really like Appaloosas and one is very special to me. Her name is Straw In Her Jeans, but she is better known as “Peaches”. She is a 1998 gold champagne blanketed mare, and I think she is beautiful! Peaches became mine last year in 2015 to be my walk/trot horse, but she has been in our family for over sixteen years.

My mom bought her when Peaches was almost 2 and Mom was a teenager. Peaches was to be her show, trail, and trap line horse. They did lots of things together, and Mom said she could never sell Peaches. It is really special to me that she is my horse now. She has traveled all over the United States, and even went to Alaska and back with our stallion, Straws Mighty Magnum, who is her full brother. In Alaska my Dad showed her in his first show. When Peaches was playing out in the pasture she got injured and was semi-retired for nine years. I was the lucky one that brought her out of retirement!

Peaches and I are really good friends. Whenever she sees me she nickers. Straw In Her Jeans loves when I curry comb her on her neck and give her grain or sugar cubes. She has a silly nicker she does when she knows what I am getting for. I ride her a lot around the ranch. Sometimes we just like to walk around and look at things, or we will go and walk through our cows and calves to see how they are doing. That is my favorite activity, and I think it is Peaches’ favorite too! We do some showing, also. Last year Peaches and I were the 2015 Reserve North Dakota ApHC walk/trot youth! I was really excited about that and we won a halter. I am really looking forward to this show season. This year I want to add Hunter Under Saddle because Peaches can be speedy, but she’s also kind of lazy. Straw In Her Jeans helped me become a better rider last year and this year so far. She had forgotten some things when she was retired, but we worked as a team together and helped her to get back in shape to perform and taught us both some new stuff! When I started last year, I did a lot of classes she had never shown in

before. She doesn't like the white poles in trail classes. I think it's because we never see white logs on the ground when we ride around the ranch. We make a pretty good team, though, and have lots of fun.

Straw In Her Jeans had a baby named Ivy. Ivy was a pretty chestnut filly with a blanket, socks, and a blaze. She was very sick when she was born. Peaches was a great mommy and let everyone love on Ivy and help to make her healthy again. Ivy is now a mom to two foals; a colt and a filly! I guess Peaches being a good mom and grandma makes her really special too!

These are just a few of the things that make Peaches special to me. She's also very important to my family. Everyone that meets her loves her. I'm so glad she is my first horse and can't wait to see what other special moments we will share.