

Introduction to the German Sport Horse Industry

Yssabelle Marrero
 Virginia Tech – Blacksburg, VA



Overview

This past summer I went on a study abroad to Germany. I got to learn about the sport horse industry by visiting, riding, and touring prominent locations throughout Germany as well as locations in Austria and Czech Republic.

Objectives

- Gain understanding of the purpose and structure of the German breed organizations; Hanoverian, Holstein, Oldenburg
- Understand importation process of horses
- Develop appreciation for German and Austrian equestrian culture in the horse industry through design and riding
- Personal objective: compare and contrast facility design and management of the U.S and Germany



Image 1: Group picture at Röwer and Rüb



Image 2: Lipizzaner foal at Piber



Image 3: courtyard of Spanish Riding school in Vienna

Locations Visited

- Germany
- Holstein Verband
 - Röwer Rüb
 - Hannoveraner Verband
 - Hoff Kasselmann
 - Oldenburg
 - Böckman Horse trailers
 - Luhmühlen



Image 4: evolution of horse trailers

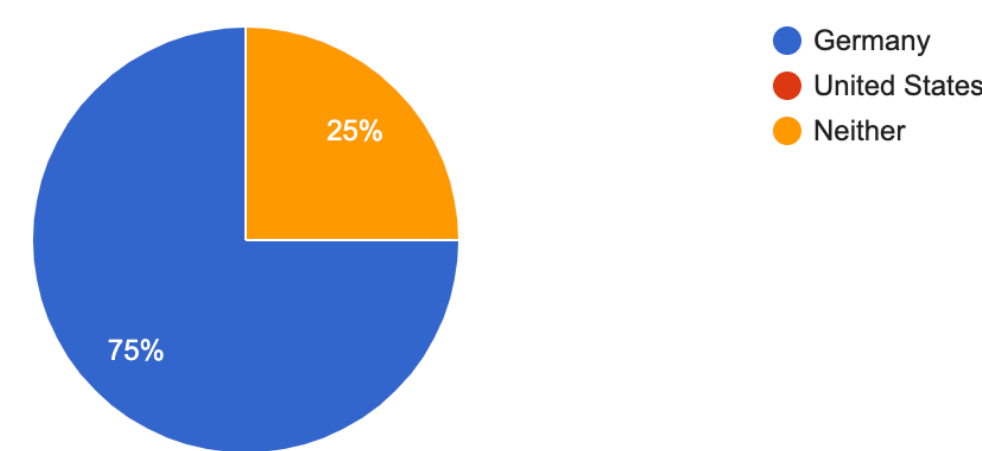
- Austria
- Lipizzaner Gestüt Piber
 - Spanish Riding School of Vienna

The Expectations

Before setting off on our 8 hour flight to Germany I sent out a survey to the group of girls going on the trip and asked them what their expectations of Germany vs United States horse industry would be.

What country has a better breeding facilities?

- 75% of the group answered Germany
- Its important to note that in my survey I also asked how many had previous riding and horse experience and 100% of the group has been affiliated with horses for 10+ years



When asked about what the amenities all facilities should have the following were some of the responses

- Large turnouts
- Good footing
- Wash stalls
- Feed/ tack room
- Vet area on site
- Good ventilation



Image 5: tack room at the Spanish Riding School in Vienna

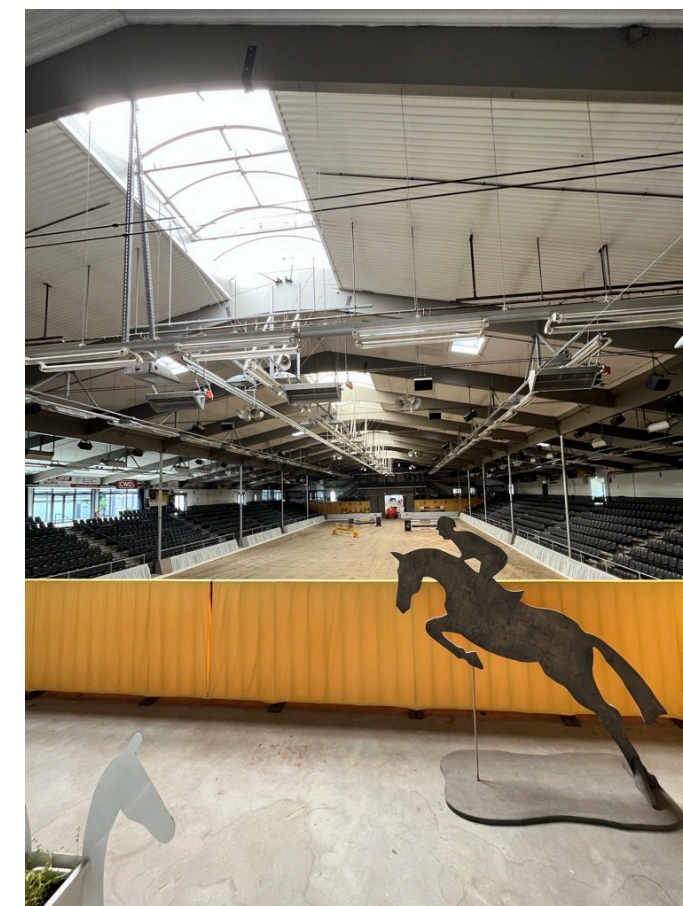


Image 6: Arena at Hannoveraner Verband

Another question asked in my survey was about the expectation of German facilities. The following is a summary of what was said

Elaborate designs compared to U.S barns. Better up- keep and managerial styles will differ. Expectations of more hot walkers.

What We Know After

After our trip concluded I discussed with the group how their expectations differed to what was now know

- Agreement of beautiful designs was a big point that was said
- Stall designs were different to what we have in the United States
- Feeding and tracking techniques of the horses are much more up kept than some of us had thought



Image 7: Entrance to Guido Klatte

Redefin vs New Barn

Redefin is the state stud where the group got to ride and test for their bronze. The main comparison of my research was centralized around Redefin barn.

	Redefin	New Barn
water	- automatic water bowls	- water buckets
bedding	- straw	- shavings
feed bucket	- located in back of stalls	- located in front of stalls
tack room	- assigned tack - displayed on white board	- assigned tack - lockers for each horse
stall design	- concrete flooring - ventilation panels in doors - no privacy partitions - sliding doors	- concrete flooring - non-slip mats - privacy partitions by feed buckets - sliding doors



Image 8: Sunset over Redefin



Image 9: New barn on plantation rd

Conclusion

The study abroad helped me learn new experience and see more of the world. Viewing the differences and similarities between the United States and German facility designs. Not only did I learn new horse knowledge, the study abroad also helped me pick up life skills for being in a different country. Having to adapt and respect the way cultural practices are done to have a better time.

Contact information

If you have any questions about my paper or the study abroad contact me yssabellem@vt.edu . You can also contact Beth Sheely if you are interested in going on the trip which happens every other year!
 Program Contacts: Beth Sheely – beblackw@vt.edu