

Marion Gross, Stallion Manager at Gainesway Farm, died in Lexington, Kentucky, on February 23, 2009, following a brief illness.

An institution in his own right, Marion worked at Gainesway for 46 years, and served as Stallion Manager for 41 years. As noted by Gainesway President Antony Beck, "It is safe to say that very few working in the horse industry today have not been affected in some way by the career and work of Marion Gross."

Marion first joined the Gainesway forces when the farm was in its original location on Versailles Road, adjacent to Keeneland. At a party commemorating Marion's 40th year at the farm, in 2003, Gainesway founder John Gaines recalled how he met Marion: "Showed up at our front door on Versailles Road looking for a job." Gaines took a chance on "the kid from the mountains," and he recalled it as one of the best business decisions he ever made. Marion became the Stallion Manager in 1968.

Gainesway stood only four stallions when Marion arrived in 1963, and he oversaw the expansion of the stallion ranks to a roster of 50 horses in the early 1980s.

Marion's knowledge of his stallions, and their owners, was encyclopedic, with him clearly recalling the smallest detail of all his charges. *Vaguely Noble may have been his sentimental favorite, but Lyphard, Mt. Livermore, and Cozzene also merited special mention as he recounted the stallion careers in which he took the most pride.

Whether he was coordinating the activities of a few stallions, or dozens, Marion's influence over the stud barn was all-encompassing and unflinching. He directed thousands of matings in his extraordinary career, and consistently exhibited a calm mastery of the horses, for which he will be long remembered.

Funeral arrangements will be handled by Kerr Brothers, Lexington, Kentucky, with services tentatively planned for Friday, February 27. Further details will become available when his family finalizes arrangements.