

# Applied Appaloosa color genetics

## Part IV: the fewcap pattern

By Robert Lapp and Gene Carr

**I**t's a nice spring weekend, and your friends are visiting from out of town. They're also Appaloosa breeders and are anxious to see your new foals, now a couple months old. You've got some pretty nice babies, but there's one in particular you want your friends to evaluate.

As everyone heads to the pasture, you start explaining what's on your mind:

"I've seen many few-spot and snowcap patterns, but one filly's pattern baffles me..."

"She looks more like a few-spot, is leopard-bred, but has more dark markings than I've seen on few-spots. (See photo A)

"Other times I think she might be a snowcap because of those solid markings on her neck and head. The trouble is, she doesn't

have enough solid coloring to be a snowcap. (See photo B)

"What am I going to tell potential buyers? (See photo C)

One friend asks the obvious: "Who cares? Few-spot or snowcap, she's homozygous either way, will produce color, and with the right cross, should produce a nice baby."

"True enough," you say, "but if she's a few-spot, she's more likely to produce a leopard pattern. But if she's a snowcap, the chances of producing a blanket are higher. Besides, most people are likely to ask about the pattern anyway."

Your friends understand but aren't very helpful. After studying the filly, one says she's more like a few-spot, but the other is adamant—she's closer to a snowcap.