



A word from Professional Horsemen Council Chairman, Eugene Spagnola

With the last quarter of 2020 quickly approaching, it is a great time to reflect on the past nine months and prepare for next year. I personally witnessed several AQHA Professional Horsemen use their knowledge, wisdom, dedication, strength and perseverance to succeed in a very trying time this year.

Cheers to each and every one of you!

The 2020 Built Ford Tough AQHYA World Championship Show was an unprecedented event. The postponement of the Nutrena AQHA Level 1 Championships resulted in the merger of those classes with the Ford Youth World, which led us to the largest AQHA Youth World in the event's 48-year history.

The show featured 5,074 entries, which was an increase of 38% from last year. AQHA leadership and staff did an excellent job providing us with a topnotch event that was held in accordance with local, state and federal mandates to protect the safety of attendees of the Ford Youth World.

As you know, Nutrena is also the title sponsor of the AQHA Professional Horsemen's Ride the Pattern clinics. Even with the pandemic guidelines for attending the clinics, we still collected an impressive \$4,398 in donations. With the gracious match from Nutrena, the total donations during the show was \$8,796. The online auction for the Guy Stoops Scholarship Fund raised \$8,570, which was an increase of 78% over last year. Thank you to each professional who contributed to the auction and all the people who purchased an item to support the Professional Horsemen's Crisis Fund and Guy Stoops Scholarship Fund. Nutrena has a new blog called, The Feed Room, click on the logo below to check it out. Let's support those who support us!



As AQHA Professional Horsemen, I would like to remind you that your adherence to the code of ethics, especially as it relates to animal welfare, is expected at all times, not just at AQHA sanctioned events. Several cases of severe schooling this summer have been brought to my attention and will not be tolerated. We are all aware that it is sometimes necessary to school in a class. While doing so, we must be respectful of the judges, other exhibitors, show management and spectators. Respectful schooling is permissible. It is also very important that we lead by example. When it comes to sportsmanship, it is paramount that we recognize being a great winner also means being a gracious loser and that we encourage our clients to do the same.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Farnam AQHA World Championship Show November 2-21 at the OKC Fairgrounds in Oklahoma City. Special thanks to AQHA Chief Show Officer Justin Billings and his staff, in addition to AQHA Show Council Chairman Robin Frid, along with the Show Committee members, for their long hours spent making a schedule to accommodate the Farnam AQHA World, AQHA Select World Championship Show, presented by Adequan® (polysulfated glycosaminoglycan); AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge Finals; and the Adequan® Level 2 and Nutrena Level 1 championships. For more information about the Farnam AQHA World, visit www.aqha.com/worldshow.

Your Profession, Your Association, Your Horse

by Norm Luba, AQHA First Vice President

The year 2020 has been a year of firsts. First time in the long history of the Association, the annual AQHA Convention was cancelled due to the worldwide pandemic. First time the AQHA Level 1 Championships were postponed, in their admittedly short history, because of a pandemic. First time the AQHA Level 1 Championships were rescheduled with their respective AQHA world championship shows. In addition, **Your Profession**, via the AQHA Professional Horsemen's Association, has reimagined your newsletter to benefit members of **Your Association**. Congratulations on your vision and efforts to enhance this communication during a period that has been possibly the most challenging in our history and likely to your businesses. This effort truly defines those individuals entrusted to play a leadership role in the AQHA Professional Horsemen's Association.

Not all AQHA professionals working in our industry are members of the AQHA Professional Horsemen's Association. There is a level of integrity, responsibility and prestige associated with admittance into the AQHA Professional Horsemen's Association that sets **THE** standard on which your profession is, and will be, judged. The AQHA Professional Horsemen's Association is no different from any other professional association – be it medical, legal, accounting, banking and many other organized groups charged with representing the interests of their member professionals. Owners, exhibitors, breeders, service providers, etc. do take notice – there is no doubt about that. The fact is your profession will become stronger, more secure and more respected as more horsemen and -women become members of your association and abide by its standards. Continuing to assist in growing your membership will make you as individuals more secure. The wisdom of that challenge, for your future, is up to you, as members.

My best friend, who happens to be a member of your association, often reminds me, "there are givers and there are takers" in this world, and we would all be better if more of the latter became the former. Each individual has to decide which group he or she belongs to and how that will affect your profession for the long run. I recall words that I first heard as a young boy, from a man far wiser than me. I ask your indulgence in borrowing the concept for our needs. "Ask not what the AQHA Professional Horsemen's Association can do for you, but what you can do for the AQHA Professional Horsemen's Association."

Your Horse, the American Quarter Horse, will continue to benefit from the men and women who comprise the AQHA Professional Horsemen's Association through all you do as professionals. Best wishes and remain AQHA Proud!



2020 ONLINE PROFESSIONAL HORSEMEN CRISIS FUND AUCTION NOVEMBER 15-19

This is the biggest fund raiser of the year for the crisis fund. Please help by donating goods and services. Find the donation form [here!](#)



Do not miss the virtual Certified Horsemanship Association Conference on October 30. AQHA members will receive the special CHA member rate of \$95! Just enter AQHA in the Priority Code Box when checking out of the CHA website shopping cart.

Click the logo above.

Quarantine by Michelle Tidwell

Hello everyone, I am Michelle Tidwell. I am proud to serve on the AQHA Professional Horsemen Council.

When asked to reflect on how the COVID 19 pandemic has affected my life, my family and my business, it seems that while it is not ideal, we made the best of it.

Like many of you, 2020 began with us planning which shows we would be traveling to and I was filling my calendar with judging commitments. When March came around, everything suddenly stopped. Shows and schools were cancelled, and many businesses were shutting their doors.



I am fortunate that I live in a small town and work with Nancy Cahill. With school being cancelled, our youth kids rode and rode. While social distancing was put in place, we kept quarantined at the ranch, only sending one person to town to run errands.

Two of our youth kids live within half a mile of us, one of those lives on the property with us. Addie Allen, Nancy's granddaughter and Courtney Hammit lives half a mile on the same road. Horseback riding became their new PE. Both girls have horses that have shown in the all-around events and we took this time to teach them western riding. They had already been showing in horsemanship and trail. The break or showdown (which ever you wish to call it) provided no deadline to prepare for a show, so we rode and rode. Each day we would work on of the western riding patterns. Our goal was to be ready to show western riding when we could show again. Our first show back was Redbud Spectacular, and both girls successfully completed in the western riding.

Besides learning a new event we also taught the girls the name of the bridles. Now when we tell them to bring the trail bit, they know which bit to grab. Our tack also had a much-needed cleaning. The girls also rode some of the other horses we have in the barn.

In closing, I will say that I did enjoy the break at home. It allowed us time with no deadline of going anywhere. It is nice to be allowed to show again. You never truly know how much you miss something until it is taken away from you. I believe I can speak for many of us and say that we are happy to be back, doing what we love, showing horses!

Professional Horseman Spotlight Bonnie Minor



Bonnie Minor, of Dennison, Minnesota, has been a member of the AQHA Association of Professional Horsemen for more than 20 years. She has been a member of the Minnesota Quarter Horse Association and AQHA since her youth. Bonnie says that she started attending the shows because of her parents' involvement. In her final year as a youth she won a few year-end awards.

Bonnie said even as youth she could not remember the other exhibitors being very welcoming, so as she became more involved, she made sure to greet the newcomers to the shows.

Bonnie is MQHA past president, MQHA director and served as MQHA youth advisor and on the MQHA Mission Statement committee.

She has been an inspiring presence in the Minnesota Quarter Horse Association, using her talents to guide young horse enthusiasts, reaching out to other equine organizations, and encouraging people to expand their knowledge and interest in the American Quarter Horse. Because of her involvement as a youth, Bonnie especially loves giving back to the youth association. This has led her to helping with the MQHA 4-H Boot Camp, a clinic exclusively for 4-H members who want to learn more about horses. She is also a huge advocate for the AQHA Young Horse Development Program.

She said that she had a chance to meet three of the fortunate youngsters who were given a weanling and developed the colt's confidence, all the while developing their own.

She has also volunteered for many other MQHA clinics and events and has served as MQHA Booth Chairman at the Western Saddle Club Association Championships where she helped promote the American Quarter Horse by instituting awards to the high point AQHA-registered horse at the show. Her enthusiasm has helped recruit people from around the world.

Bonnie writes a column for the MQHA newsletter, using her voice to promote AQHA and MQHA and to affect positive change. She was awarded 2014 and 2017 Minnesota Quarter Horse Association Most Valuable Professional.

In the past few years, Bonnie has been a clinician and judge for the National Versatility Ranch Horse Association, helping to build a bridge between our organizations and being an unofficial ambassador for MQHA and AQHA.

"Being an AQHA Professional Horseman is an honor and enjoys working with a group of trainers with integrity and respect not only for the great American Quarter Horse, but also the people who love them," said Bonnie. "I don't consider myself one of the top guns, I work in the trenches with people who want to be the very best they can be, at the highest level which they are able. Sometimes we brave the "big time" and every once in a while, get a piece of the prize and that is incredible! I had a health scare earlier this year and I was contacted and offered help through the AQHA Professional Horsemen Crisis Fund, even before I knew I needed it. I am so grateful for the financial help and for all the individuals who reached out and contacted me and sent love and concern I did not that, I was flabbergasted and humbled. I am proud to be a member of the AQHA Professional Horsemen Family!"

2020 Farnam World Championship Update from Chief Show Officer, Justin Billings

This has certainly been a year unlike any other and full of uncertainty. John Adams once said, "Every problem is an opportunity in disguise."

The AQHA Show Department and AQHA staff have taken that to heart and used this pandemic as a chance to adapt and make change for the better.

In August, Farnam signed on as a three-year title sponsor of the Farnam AQHA World Championship Show and the Farnam Superhorse title, providing even more generous support for the event. The Farnam AQHA World kicks off on November 2 and embraces six AQHA championship shows in one to create a culminating event that celebrates the best in American Quarter Horse competition. Participants can expect several firsts at this year's Farnam AQHA World, including an optional jackpot in each class to ride for additional prize money.



For more information about the Farnam AQHA World, visit www.aqha.com/worldshow.

Exhibitors will also have the opportunity to compete in a number of new classes from the Adequan® Level 2 2-year-old western pleasure; Zimeta™ 3-year-old western pleasure stakes; working hunter under saddle stakes; ranch trail stakes; dressage and western dressage stakes; and the \$25,000 open and amateur working western rail classes, sponsored by Headley Quarter Horses.

Another \$15,000 will also be up for grabs in the new Western Pleasure Challenge. Jim Ware will host the 41st annual Triangle Sale at the Farnam AQHA World for the first time on November 6 and 7. And last but not least, the beloved Farnam AQHA World jacket is back – with a twist. Exhibitors will receive a free commemorative jacket for each horse entered in the show, courtesy of AQHA. Order your complimentary jacket at the time of entry with the option to purchase additional jackets for the rest of your connections right on the entry form.

**2020 AQHA PROFESSIONAL
HORSEMAN/HORSEWOMAN OF THE YEAR
NOMINATION DEADLINE EXTENDED TO OCTOBER 1**
[NOMINATION FORM](#)