

Happy New Year!

I'd like to take a moment and congratulate all the judges for taking the opportunity to embrace Blackboard. It is going to be a great tool for future education! Super job to all!

There is a wealth of great information in this newsletter, so please take the time to read it carefully.

- We are getting ready to host another webinar March 19 & 20, covering Reining with Mike Mc Entire and AQHA Ranch Riding and Working Cow Horse with Bill Enk. This is additional education that is covered with your subscription to Blackboard. So, join us on March 19 and 20 if you can. If you are not able to attend the webinar, all content will be available a couple weeks after via Blackboard.
- Also the 2018 Convention will be held March 2-5 in Jacksonville, Florida. Your Judges Committee will meet during this time and go over various judging related agenda items including the recommendations from the Pattern Scoring Task Force to update the scoring of showmanship, horsemanship and equitation on the flat. All agenda items passed by the Judge's Committee must go before the AQHA Board of Directors and the Executive Committee for review and approval before any new rule is implemented.
- I'm getting great feedback from AQHA members on Judges being cognizant of our animal welfare issues and stopping/warning off situations they witness as they are out in the field judging. Great job in protecting your industry and the welfare of our animals!

#### Clarifications/Reminders:

- A judge should not break a contract after agreeing to judge and signing a contract with Show Management or AQHA for any reason after accepting a judging commitment, except in the case of serious, unexpected emergency. If unable to fulfill the judging commitment a judge must notify show management as soon as possible to allow show management maximum time to secure a suitable replacement. Offer to locate a suitable replacement, unless the emergency situation makes this impossible. The judge must also immediately notify AQHA in writing with a complete explanation of the failure to meet the commitment, including the time, date and manner that show management was notified. Judges who fail to meet a commitment for any reason other than serious, unexpected emergency, may be subject to review by the Judges Grievance Committee.
- You, as an AQHA-approved judge, represent the equine judging industry, AQHA, your fellow judges and show event officials. Promote judging in a positive light with a general feeling of pride and professionalism. Instill confidence among exhibitors and the public in the AQHA judging program, avoiding any action conducive to discrediting it. Do not make negative comments regarding the performance or ability of other AQHA judges, exhibitors, trainers, owners or show management.
- If you are contacted by show management to judge a show, please be courteous enough to promptly respond even if you are unavailable to judge the show.

- Remember, as judges you are ambassadors of our industry. In a climate where many shows are dropping in size and unable to stay in the black, it is important as Judges we understand that we have a job because of these shows. Please book your travel in a timely manner, rent a mid-size car rather than a full size car. It is not appropriate to charge show management for a rental car and then mileage on that same rental car. We all appreciate your thoughtfulness in these ways.

#### Clarification of the log drag in VRH Trail.

- The drag should simulate dragging calves to the branding fire. The walk and/or the trot are the two accepted gaits when attempting the log drag in the VRH trail class. It is important from a judging standpoint for the exhibitor to start in either the walk or start in the walk and progress to the trot gait and remain in that gait throughout the maneuver. Failure to maintain the same gait, for whatever reason, should negatively affect the quality of the maneuver. A break of gait is not a penalty unless they break gait into the lope.

The drag, depending on the weight of the log, shows how comfortable the horse is pulling something heavy and how they react to the rope around their hindquarters. Consistency while performing this maneuver shows a degree of difficulty and could be credited. The speed should remain constant and the horse has to pull and guide well to be credited in this maneuver.

It is recommended that show management give the exhibitor the option to either walk or trot the drag.

- Please be reminded of SHW 557.2. In all VRH classes, the entire class will be scored and placed. All exhibitors in each class will be ranked according to scores, placed from the highest to the lowest scores. This is the only way the All Around winner can be calculated.
- When judging Halter and VRH Confirmation, please report any excessive white markings you see on your judges' cards. Judge a suspect horse accordingly. AQHA will internally investigate your report.
- Per SHW 369.2 the judge(s) shall select the Grand Champion stallion, mare or gelding from the first-place class winners in the respective sex division. If the first-place horse does not return for any reason, the second-place horse will move up to the first-place line and be considered for Grand and Reserve. **The third-place horse cannot** move up to second place in the class.

This has happened in the field and causes problems internally with the completion of the show.

- Please note there is an error on the AQHA Working Cow Horse pattern #8 on page on page 192 in your AQHA Rule Book. The pattern and maneuver breakdown is correct, however the written description is incorrect (it is the written description for AQHA Working Cow Horse pattern #9) The online version has been corrected.

## Judge Confirmation letters from AQHA

The confirmation letters have been reformatted, so please make sure your signature goes on the appropriate line and that the document is correctly dated as indicated. These letters can be scanned and emailed to [showapproval@aqha.org](mailto:showapproval@aqha.org) or faxed to 806-349-6412. **Attach document also**

# AQHA

AMERICAN QUARTER  
HORSE ASSOCIATION

January 25, 2018

JAN BOOGAERTS  
STIPPELBERG 193  
2260 WESTERLO  
BELGIUM

Cust ID: 1545945

Dear Judge:

We were notified you consented to judge the AQHA-approved show listed below. If you have agreed to judge this show, please indicate so by signing Statement 1. If you do not intend to judge this show, please sign Statement 2 below.

Please return this signed form within 15 days from date of this letter. There are two copies included so you can keep a copy for your records. Your signed response can be scanned and emailed to [showapproval@aqha.org](mailto:showapproval@aqha.org), faxed to 806-349-6412 or mailed to P.O. Box 200, Amarillo, Texas, 79168.

If you have any questions, please call AQHA at 806-376-4811, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. central.

Sincerely,

AQHA Competition Department

Re: A9385 MCABE TACK & FEED FODSELSDAGSSTAEVNE  
BRAEDSTRUP, DA

Beginning Show Date: 05/19/18 Ending Show Date: 05/20/18

Statement 1-I have agreed to serve as a judge: \_\_\_\_\_

Statement 2-I have NOT agreed to serve as a judge: \_\_\_\_\_

Date signed: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: It is the judge's responsibility to report the following items to the Senior Director of Judges within 10 days of the incident:

- Animal abuse
- Unsportsmanlike conduct
- Class filling
- Unsatisfactory show management practices
- Any other unusual circumstances

JUD005

P.O. Box 200 ■ Amarillo, Texas ■ 79168 ■ 1600 Quarter Horse Drive ■ Amarillo, Texas ■ 79104  
(806) 376-4811

Photo of Illegal side reins



Photo of illegal bit



# AQHA

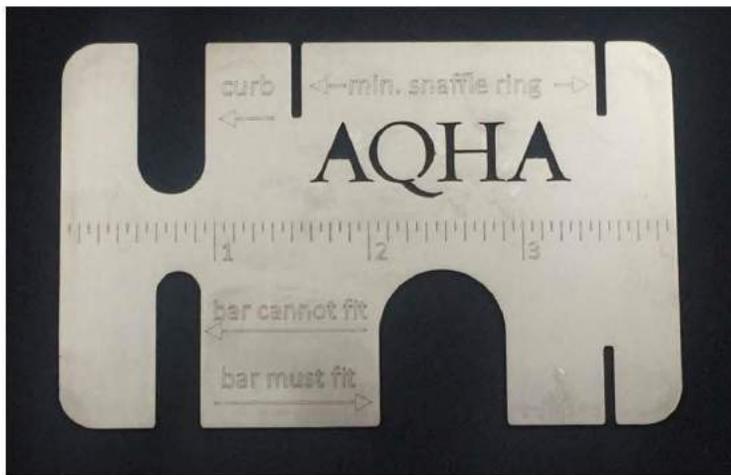
## BIT GAUGE ORDER FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ AQHA ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_



<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
_____	<u>\$20.00</u>	_____
◆ Price includes sales tax, plus shipping and handling within the U.S.		
◆ All shipments will be sent via U.S.P.S unless otherwise specified		
◆ Overnight and International shipping and handling charges are extra		

### IF PAYING BY A CREDIT CARD PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

Print your name exactly as it appears on your CC: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address for Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Visa       Master Card       American Express Card Number

Credit card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Code: \_\_\_\_\_

### IF PAYING BY A CHECK

Please make checks payable to AQHA and mail to: American Quarter Horse Association  
Attn: Carla Nelson  
P.O. Box 200  
Amarillo, TX 79168  
Phone: 806-378-4708 / Fax: 806-378-4675  
[judges@aqha.org](mailto:judges@aqha.org)

### **Specialized Judges**

Specialized judges would benefit by getting familiar with, and learning how to Judge the AQHA Ranch Riding class. Some of our alliance events are adding the AQHA Ranch Riding class to their schedules. Being approved to judge AQHA Ranch Riding along with your AQHA Specialty class will help increase your versatility and value as a Judge.

### **Final Words of Wisdom**

It's said that a wise person learns from his mistakes. A wiser one learns from others' mistakes. But the wisest person of all learns from other's successes."

— **John C. Maxwell,**