

# SDQHA DIRECTORY

## 2024-2025



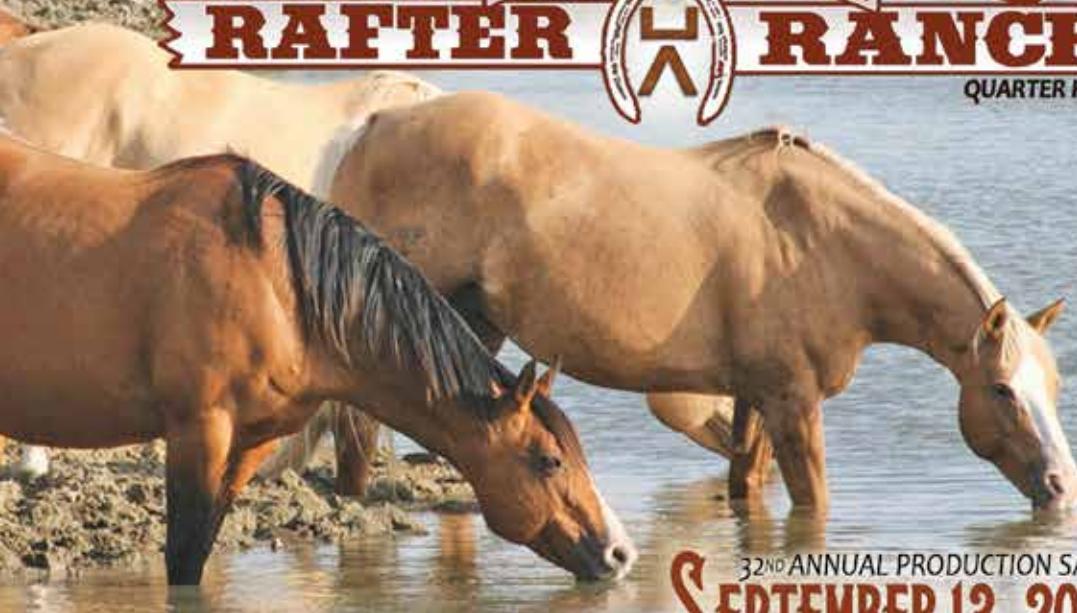
SOUTH DAKOTA  
QUARTER  
HORSE  
ASSOCIATION



THE SOUTH DAKOTA QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
DEDICATED TO DEVELOPING AND PROMOTING BENEFICIAL SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL  
HORSE ENTHUSIASTS. OUR GOAL IS TO DEVELOP OUR MEMBERSHIP THROUGH  
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, RECOGNITION PROGRAMS, RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, THE  
MONITORING OF EQUINE PUBLIC POLICY, THE FOSTERING OF INDUSTRY RELATIONS, AND THE  
MARKETING, PROMOTION, AND PUBLICITY OF THE AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE.

# OPEN BOX RAFTER RANCH

QUARTER HORSES



## RAFTER RANCH STALLIONS!

Limited breedings! Foals by these stallions arrive Spring 2025!  
Featuring Flit Bar, Sugar Bars, Leo and Driftwood genetics!



**FLIT DRIFT** 2005 Bay Roan • #4903016  
Flit Bar  
DR NICK BAR  
World Ch. Estie Tag  
Jae Bar Flinn  
DOCS REDWOOD REBA  
Redwood Patti

Dr Nick Bar, Jae Bar Flinn, Orphan Drift • 15.0 hh, AQHA Register of Merit Tie-Down Roping • Sire of winners in barrels, roping, ranch events • 5 Panel N/N

### MI CISCO FROST

2012 Buckskin • #577066  
Sun Frost  
PC CISCO FROST  
New Sovereign  
MI TOP EFF  
Top Bar Eff

Sun Frost, Mr Trouble Step, Hank Bar • 15 hh, AQHA ROM ... 33 AQHA pts., Top 10 World Show Tie-Down Roping • Sires conformation, class and color! • 5 Panel N/N



### FROSTED REDWOOD

2013 Bay Roan • #5776590  
Frenchmans Guy  
FROST FLASH  
Busy Bar Bee AA  
DOCS REDWOOD REBA  
Redwood Patti

15.1 hh, AQHA ROM Heading and maternal brother to Rafter Ranch stallion Flit Drift • Foals show outstanding class, color, solid conformation! • 5 Panel N/N



### SANDOC WONDER

2017 Red Dun • #6016810  
Big As I Am  
FLIT WONDER  
Tia Miss Flit  
Stans Sandoc  
SEA SANDOC WOMAN  
Sea Penney Woman

Powerful Red Dun son of AQHA Ch. Flit Wonder, Sandoc Wonder has earned 59 AQHA pts., Open AQHA Perf. Register of Merit, AQHA World Champion L2 Tie-Down Roping • 5 Panel N/N

### INTRODUCING IN 2025...



### SUN SOCKS WONDER

2018 Dark • #5915233  
Big As I Am  
FLIT WONDER  
AQHA Ch. Tia Miss Flit  
PC SUN SOCKS  
TOP SOCKS EFF  
MI Top Eff

ROM son of our AQHA Champion Flit Wonder, "Captain" has 81.5 AQHA pts. in heading, heeling, tie-down, breakaway and performance halter • Fast, smart, tough, he will be a great addition here! • 6 Panel N/N

### CASEYS FAME

2019 Sorrel • #6013306  
First Down Dash si 105  
DASH TA FAME  
Sudden Fame si 98  
BULLY FOR CASEY  
Frenchmans Surena  
BULLYS FRENCH GIRL  
Frenchmans Surena

Good looking son of leading sire Dash Ta Fame is a mover with exceptional disposition and ability • Barrel futurity money earner • Foals are outstanding! • In training for barrels and breakaway • 6 Panel N/N

### FIRE FOX JET

2013 Palomino • #5557521  
Special Effort si 104  
FRENCHMANS FIRE FOX  
PC Dax Fox  
MISS GOLD DUST WOMAN  
Flight Of Honor AA

Special Effort & Fire Water Flit • 15.3 hh, AQHA Register of Merit, World Show qualifier, Heading • Sires big, classy, fast, kind and athletic colts! • 5 Panel N/N



### FROST FLASH NICK

2019 Red Dun • #6009627  
Frenchmans Guy  
FROST FLASH  
Busy Bar Bee AA  
FLIT PEP SAN  
Tia Miss Flit

Balanced, handsome, athletic and willing, this Frenchmans Guy grandson fits any event with his brains, speed and ability • Full foal crop coming in 2025! • 5 Panel N/N



Six Generations Ranching  
and Raising Quarter Horses  
in South Dakota!



All OBRR bred horses eligible for  
Elite Breeders Incentive and  
AQHA Ranching Heritage  
Breeders Challenge!

A few prospects at the ranch for  
sale private treaty!

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605/538-4450  
P.O. BOX 98  
FAITH, SD 57626

For more information, visit:  
**RAFTERRANCH.COM**



# Welcome from the SDQHA President

## Bob Carr

Hello fellow members. I want to thank everyone who contributed to last year's SDQHA events. Whether you attended the annual banquet, showed in the show pen or volunteered your presence is deeply appreciated.

Please, feel free to browse our website, [sdqha.com](http://sdqha.com) to see how you can become more involved in your SDQHA club. My hopes for our members are to develop an organization that goes beyond the show pen yet continues to promote the equine industry and creates opportunities for each member to become the best version of himself. In order for this hope to become a reality, it is crucial for each member to recognize they are not just another entry in a class, or another breeder registering a new foal in our breed, but rather another being with a unique perspective that has the potential of improving and growing our organization.



### SDQHA Show Schedule

January 24-26 BHSS AQHA Versatility Ranch Horse Competition & Winter Classic Show

Rapid City SD

June 5-8 Brookings Summer Shootout

Brookings SD

June 20-22 Black Hills Summer Circuit

Rapid City SD

July 12 Level 1 (Novice) & Rookie Horse Show

Aberdeen SD

August 17 Special Event Ranch Rail, Ranch Trail, Working Western Rail, & Ranch Riding

Aberdeen SD

Go to [SDQHA.com](http://SDQHA.com) for more details

SOUTH DAKOTA  
QUARTER  
HORSE  
ASSOCIATION

# SDQHA

## South Dakota Quarter Horse Association

### 2025 SDQHA Officers & Board of Directors

#### Officers

President	Bob Carr, Chester	605.261.8778
Vice President	Sheila Schelske, Reliance	605.450.8437
Secretary	Shelby Holmes, Sioux Falls	605.838.8614
Treasurer	Jodie Svennes, Luverne MN	605.691.5320
Interim Youth Contact	Debbi Holmes Stockstill	605-354-3621

#### Directors - East

Bob Carr	Chester	605.261.8778
JoLynn Jacobson	Stratford	605.228.4636
Sheila Prins	Grenville	605.880.6583

#### Directors- West

Belynn Johner	Spearfish	605.641.6763
Amanda Dikoff	Hermosa	605.430.6234
Mindy Hubert	New Underwood	605.985.5426

#### Directors- Central

Sheila Schelske	Reliance	605.450.8437
LeAnn Bender	Mobridge	605.733.2427
JD Lauing	Blunt	605.280.4823

#### Directors at Large

Sammy Ryan	Vale	605.515.2542
Randy Guggisburg	Custer	605.431.5117
Dakota Karber	Clark	605.251.3760

#### AQHA Honorary Vice-President

Georga Sutton	Gettysburg	605.264.5452
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#### National Directors

Janet Hansen	Ft. Pierre	605.223.9949
Debbi Holmes-Stockstill	Virgil	605.354.3621
Jim Hunt	Faith	605.538.4450
Jim Hootman	Harrisburg	605.359.1475
Jim Sutton	Onida	605.258.2596
Dean Johnson	Mud Butte	605.866.4551
Larry Larson	Rapid City	605.393.0900
Kristen Gonsoir	Groton	605.380.7066

[www.sdqha.com](http://www.sdqha.com)

# SDQHA

SOUTH DAKOTA QUARTER  
HORSE ASSOCIATION

#### Mission:

The South Dakota Quarter Horse Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing and providing beneficial services and opportunities for all horse enthusiasts. Our goal is to develop our membership through educational programs, recognition programs, recreational opportunities, the monitoring of equine public policy, the fostering of industry relations, and the marketing, promotion, and publicity of the American Quarter Horse.

For more  
info visit  
us online  
[sdqha.com](http://sdqha.com)





# SDQHA Annual Banquet

By Kristen Gonsoir

After canceling the 2024 Convention due to the dangerous cold, the South Dakota Quarter Horse Association held its annual convention and banquet January 10-12, 2025, in Pierre, SD. The festivities began Friday evening with an informal evening honoring SDQHA Legacy Award winners and hearing of their stories at the historic Casey Tibbs Center just across the river in Fort Pierre, SD. AQHA President, Jim Hunt, served as the master of ceremonies for Friday's festivities and Saturday's evening banquet. Jim, South Dakota's first AQHA President, and his wife Joni are from Faith, SD. Saturday morning activities began at 8:00 am at the Pierre Ramkota Convention Center with an SDQHA Board of Directors meeting. SDQHA is governed by a twelve-member board with representatives from the east, central, west, and at large, along with South Dakota's AQHA National Directors.

The Annual General Membership Meeting was called to order Saturday at 1:30 PM by SDQHA Vice-President Kristen Gonsoir. Special guests present included AQHA President Hunt and Miss Rodeo South Dakota, Jordan Jensen, from Brookings, SD. During the general meeting, vacancies on the board of directors were voted upon and filled. SDQHA welcomes new board of directors Amanda Dikoff, JD Lauing, Dakota Karber, and Randy Guggisberg. The upcoming March elevation of Jim Hunt from AQHA National Director to AQHA Past President will result in a vacant South Dakota AQHA National Director position. Applications for SDQHA's endorsement for this opening were received from Amanda Dikoff and Heather Sutton. Following the vote of the general membership, Heather Sutton will be forwarded to the AQHA Nominations and Credentials Committee as SDQHA's endorsed candidate.

Candidates for AQHA National Director openings must go before the AQHA Nominations and Credentials Committee at the AQHA Convention at the end of March in Las Vegas. It is this committee that selects AQHA National Directors.

The Horse Protection Act scheduled to go into effect on February 1, 2025, has been generating much discussion in the horse community. AQHA President Hunt shared with the general membership the implications of this law going into effect on the horse industry. He encouraged members to contact their congressional representatives to express their deep concerns about the negative impact this act will have on the horse industry. Following the annual meeting the SDQHA board of directors reconvened to elect officers. Bob Carr was elected SDQHA President and Sheila Schelske SDQHA Vice-president.

Saturday evening was a fun filled evening honoring the 2024 and 2025 50-year AQHA breeders and one 75-year breeder and 2025 Producer of the Year, in addition to the end of year SDQHA Show Award Winners and the SDQHA Legacy Winners. Assisting AQHA President Hunt in the presentation of breeder, producer, and legacy awards was Debbi Holmes Stockstill.

Hollman Quarter Horses- John and Lis Hollmann were honored as Producer of the Year. Their outstanding breeding program was a part of over half of the barrel horses that ran at the NFR.

Decades of producing American Quarter Horses were recognized at the SDQHA Banquet. Jerry and Sue Gollihers and their family were recognized for 75 years of breeding American Quarter Horses. Double recognition was given to the Crago family for their 2024 50-year accumulative breeder award and their consecutive breeder award in 2025. Krogmans, Shofields, John G Johnson, and Holmes Quarter Horses were all honored for reaching their

50-year breeder mark in 2024. In 2025 Lutter Quarter Horses earned their fifty-year breeder award.

The SDQHA Legacy Winners kicked off with the Show Legacy honoree, Larry Larson. Larry is at home on a horse and behind the camera. The Rodeo Legacy recipient, Tom Miller of Red Owl, has been involved in nearly all aspects of the rodeo industry. Bob and Jonabeth Mollman were recognized as winners of the Ranching Legacy Award as the fifth generation is about to take over ranching. John E Johnson was recognized as Promoter of the Year having sold over 100,000 head of horses. The Lasting Legacy was presented to the late Joe Rowe who made a lasting impact as a horse show judge. American Quarter Horse Racing is a family affair for the Racing Legacy awardees Casey and Dee Hannum. Jim Bahr, a fellow with a knack for helping others, was recognized as Show Trainer. Frank Kenzy, who started training before he was ten years old, was awarded the Cow Horse Trainer award. Finally, the western riding leged and AQHA Hall of Fame inductee, Harley D Zip, owned by the Papendick family was honored as Legacy Horse.

Sisters brought home the 2024 and 2025 AQHA/SDHSRA Horse of the Year Ridden by a Girl. In 2024 CW Inchin To Win and Landry Haugen earned the honor and in 2025 VF A Famous Lady and Arina Haugen were the winners. The 2024 AQHA/SDHSRA Horse of the Year Ridden by a Boy was Played With A Snake and Branden Routier. 2025 AQHA/SDHSRA Horse of the Year Ridden by a Boy was Pepto Two A Tee ridden by Gabe Glines. The 605 was well represented as Piper Cordes and Fiestas Cantina were named 2023 National High School Barrel Racing Champions.

During the evening AQHA National Director Emeritus Jim Hootman presented Bob Carr with the adult sportsmanship award and Rowdy and Sorely Wetz with the youth sportsmanship awards.

2025 marked the second year for the Raffle Rampage. Attendees had the opportunity to win custom 40X cowboy hats, Justin Boots, a custom leather handbag made by artisan Vanessa Barondeau, and an SDQHA Engraved Henry Shotgun. The evening concluded with a live auction of tickets to the timed event championships at the Lazy E Arena, SDQHA Directory space, artwork, and Mike Clite's saddle donated by his wife Vickie. Thank you to all who purchased items and tickets! In addition to the honorees and their families and friends, special guests included Miss Rodeo South Dakota, Jordan Jensen and Lieutenant Governor Larry Rhodes. During the banquet and Sunday morning church service, Tracy Buer provided music. If you have someone you wish to nominate for a SDQHA Legacy award, please reach out to a SDQHA director or South Dakota AQHA National Director. We look forward to seeing you January 9-11, 2026, for the next SDQHA Convention!



# 2025 SDQHA Show Dates

*All shows are pending approval until all approval application forms and fees are received.*

## **BHSS AQHA Versatility Ranch Horse Competition & Winter**

### **Classic Show Rapid City SD**

Jan 24-Jan 26, 2025

## **Brookings Summer Shoot Out Swiftel Center, Brookings, SD**

June 5-8, 2025

## **Black Hills Summer Circuit, Rapid City, SD**

June 20-22, 2025

## **Level 1 (Novice) & Rookie Horse Show Akkerman Arena**

### **Aberdeen, SD**

July 12, 2025

## **Special Event Ranch Riding, Working Western Rail, & Ranch**

### **Trail Akkerman Arena Aberdeen, SD**

August 17, 2025

## **AQHA Region 2 Central States Fairgrounds - Rapid City, SD**

September 10 - 14, 2024

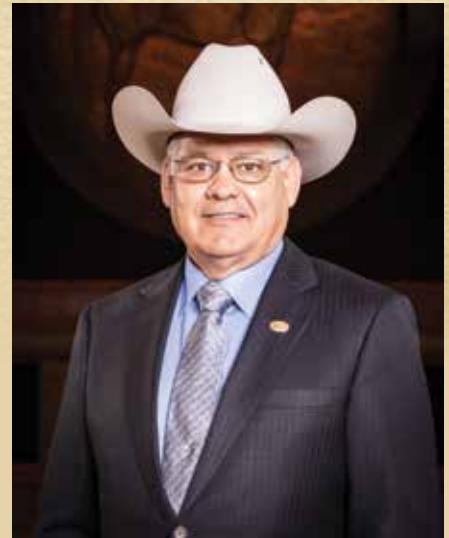
**\*\*\*Please note only the AQHA judges placings will count for year-end awards, not the Region judges placings.\*\*\***

**\*All shows and dates are tentative until officially SDQHA approved, check [www.SDQHA.com/shows](http://www.SDQHA.com/shows) for updates on show approvals, show bills, and confirmed show dates\***

## **2025 Brookings Summer Shootout Sponsors:**

- Marcia Hendrickson
  - Laurie Breuning
  - Get n Branded
  - Daktronics
  - Jodie & Phil Svennes
  - Lori Tobin
  - Hope Hall
  - Monterey Ranch
  - Bryan & Sheila Prins
  - Cecelia Steen
  - Penny Peterson
  - Wilbur Ellis Miller, SD
  - Bob & Wanda Carr
  - Tractor Supply
  - Tim & Kristen Gonsoir
  - Jim Hootman
  - Jim & Joni Hunt
  - R&B Foods of Wessington, SD
  - Plus any/all volunteers or others I may have omitted.
- This show wouldn't be possible without all of you!**

James “Jim” Hunt of Faith, South Dakota, graduated from South Dakota State University with a bachelor’s degree in agricultural business. Hunt currently owns and operates Open Box Rafter Ranch, a working cattle and horse operation that has produced its own annual Quarter Horse production sale since 1994. Hunt and his wife, Joni, have seven children, all of whom are involved in the family ranching operation. Hunt, who serves on the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City, has also served on the Rushmore Plaza Expansion Project Design Committee, Central States Fair Board of Directors, Black Hills Stock Show Horse Committee, Black Hills Stock Show Foundation Board, Sunshine Bible Academy School Board, SBA Foundation Board, Bethel Free Lutheran Church deacon and South Dakota Quarter Horse Association Board of Directors.

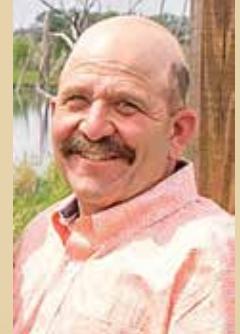


Larry Larson has been a member of SDQHA since 1973 serving as president in 1990. He became an AQHA National Director in 2000 and elevated to Director At Large in 2015. He has served on the Marketing, International, and Hall of Fame AQHA Committees. He has been involved with the American Quarter Horse since the early 1970's. He has been the South Dakota Horseman of the Year, the Black Hills Stock Show Horseman of the Year, and most recently a SDQHA Show Legacy Award winner. He served as a judge for the 2024 Miss Rodeo America Contest. Larry grew up in the Mobridge-Wakpala area and moved west to Rapid City in 1984.

#### Welcome from your 2024 SDQHA President

Hello, I am Bob Carr, my wife Wanda and I live in rural Chester SD. We have three children Jessi Serocki, Jodi Thompson and Tyler Carr. Jessi is married to Brett Serocki and Jodi is married to Franklin Thompson. We are also blessed to have one granddaughter, Irelynd Thompson. My family partnered up with my parents in the 80's to help raise Quarter horses on the ranch in Hayti. My wife Wanda shows her quarter horse gelding in many rail events and trail classes. My daughters like the ranch discipline classes.

I have served on the board of directors for the last couple of years. I look forward to being your SDQHA President.



SDQHA welcomes Amanda Dikoff back on the board of directors. Amanda has served as the SDQHA President in the past. Amanda began showing in AQHA in 2004. She has earned numerous awards on the state, regional, and world level. As a youth she showed in nearly all events, but today in the amateur division she focuses on the ranch events. Amanda is an AQHA Amateur Ambassador. Amanda lives in Hermosa on the family ranch where she also breeds American Quarter Horses.

Debbi R. Holmes Stockstill and her husband Wayne live in Virgil. Debbi has been involved with American Quarter Horses for over fifty years. She is an AQHA National Director, AQHA Affiliate Advisory Board- Region 2, and currently serves on the AQHA Stud Book and Registration Committee and is chair of the SDQHYA task force. She is a past SDQHA President, AQHA Leadership Program participant, member of AQHA Public Policy Committee. She raises and shows American Quarter Horses, including AQHA Champions, Superiors, Reserve World Champions.



BeLynn (Meredith) Johner and her husband Kent live in Spearfish and have two children, Piper and Talon. BeLynn showed in the APHA all around as a youth. She and her mare liked trail the least, but if it had been a timed event they would have been very successful. BeLynn qualified for the AQHA world show in 1999 with her first American Quarter horse. Marriage, a career, and kids put horses on the back burner. Piper then began showing and BeLynn became show mom. BeLynn is also a director for the WQHA and a member of the Region 2 AQHA Championships Committee.

Jim Hootman, AQHA National Director Emeritus, has been hooked on the American Quarter Horse since his first show in 1957. Originally from Fairfield, IA, Hootman now lives in Harrisburg, SD. Jim retired after 36 years with Hy-Vee, Inc. He and his late wife Kathryn have 2 daughters, Susan and Kary, and 3 grandchildren Cole, Shelby, and Ben. Jim considers the SDQHA members his extended family.



Meet Dakota Karber from Clark. Dakota is serving her first term on the SDQHA Board of Directors. Dakota has been involved with the American Quarter Horse since childhood. She and her husband Jake currently breed American Quarter horses and compete in roping and ranch rodeos.

Dean Johnson ranches in Western South Dakota on the south fork of the Moreau River with his family. Dean has over 30 years' experience in training, showing, and breeding American Quarter Horses. The Johnson breeding program includes ranch, cutting and cow bred horses. Dean has been an AQHA National Director for 13 years and serves on the show council, animal welfare council, and the ranching committee. Dean is also an AQHA Professional Horseman, NRCHA Professional Horseman, and NRHA Professional Horseman.



SDQHA Treasurer Jodie Svennes and her husband Phil live in Luverne, MN. Jodie has been involved with the American Quarter Horse since she started showing AQHA shows in 2007. Jodie currently serves on the AQHA Show Committee. Jodie has one daughter and two sons along with ten grandchildren and one grandchild on the way!



AQHA Honorary Vice-President Georgia Sutton is from Gettysburg. Georgia was the first women SDQHA president and a part of the first class of Wrangler Woman of Influence. She and her family were also inducted into the AQHA Hall of Fame. Georgia has been involved with the American Quarter horse for 56 years. Georgia has one daughter, Dr. Heather Sutton, DVM who is also involved with American Quarter Horses. Georgia currently serves on the AQHA Ranching Committee.

Janet Hansen and her husband David live just outside of Fort Pierre. Janet got her first American Quarter Horse in 1958. She started in rodeo and 4-H, moving to queen contests, and then showing AQHA and NRHA. Before moving to South Dakota, Janet was a board member for the Oklahoma Amateur Quarter Horse Association. Janet moved to SD in 1994 and joined SDQHA in 1997 and became a board member in 1999. She is also an AQHA National Director Emeritus. She has two daughters and 6 grandchildren.



JD Lauing joined the SDQHA board of directors in 2025. JD, Becky Amio, and his parents Bernie and Genie Lauing are American Quarter Horse Breeders on their century old family-owned ranch near Blunt. JD and his dad have registered over 40 foal crops. The Lauing family were the SDQHA 2021 Producer of the Year. JD has been involved with the American Quarter horse nearly all his life, purchasing his first American Quarter Horse in his early teens from the Suttons. Today he manages the production part of the Lauing ranch which includes several home raised stallions bred to complement their established broodmare band. Their ranch focuses on foundation genetics.

Sheila Prins and her husband Bryan have three children and two very loved grandchildren. She has owned quarter horses for over thirty years. During those thirty years, She and Bryan have used quarter horses on their ranch, in rodeo, in showing and had several broodmares. Their ranch is located in the Coteau Hills by Drywood Lake. Sheila have been active with SDQA since 2012 as a board member or helping with SDQHA activities.



Kristen Gonsoir has been an AQHA National Director since 2022. Kristen and her husband Tim live in rural Groton. Kristen has been a SDQHA or SDQHYA member since 1982 when she first began showing her first American Quarter Horse, Mr Two D Doc. Kristen is an AQHA Level 1 judge and AQHA Professional Horseman. Tim and Kristen ranched up until 2021 when they sold the ranch to their son, Stan and his wife Emily. Tim and Kristen also have a daughter Joellen who is married to Jordan Miller and five grandchildren with one more expected in August. Kristen continues to raise and show American Quarter Horses in addition to judging.



JoLynn Jacobson and her husband Gary McNeil are from Aberdeen. JoLynn has been active with AQHA since 2004 where she shows amateur all-around with ranch events being her favorite. She also enjoys working cow horse events. JoLynn and Gary operate a large farm near Stratford.

Sheila Schelske and her husband Ryan live in Reliance. Sheila has been involved with AQHA since 2007. She had American Quarter Horses growing up, but her 21-year-old gelding was the first American Quarter Horse she showed. He is still going strong, though he is ready to take on his lead line roll with their daughter Adalynn. Sheila had the privilege to take her gelding to AQHA Novice Championships in 2015 and they were World Qualifiers that same year in Ranch Riding. She was also an AQHA Certified Show Secretary for 6 years but has stepped back to focus on family and showing.



Shelby Holmes, our SDQHA secretary, has been involved with the American Quarter Horse since she was born. She started showing when she was ten. Shelby is an AQHA Amateur Ambassador and member of the AQHLead class of 2025. As a youth she served as SDQHYA President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Reporter. She also served on the AQHYA National Board of Directors. Sheby lives in Harrisburg.

Le'Ann Bender and her son run a ranch near Mobridge. Le'Ann is a 30 year AQHA breeder and is an AQHA Ranching Heritage Breeder since it came to fruition. Le'Ann takes part in all aspects of the ranch year round but especially loves to take her camera with her when she checks the cattle and horses and is able to snap a lot of pictures of the animals and landscape. Each spring she looks forward to the new foals and calves. Ranch raised horses have been involved in AQHA shows, reined cow horse competitions, and cutting horse competitions. She is also on the board of directors for the Ranchers Quarter Horse Breeders Association.



Mindy Hubert joined the SDQHA Board of Directors in 2023. She and her husband Chad live in New Underwood. As H Open 6 QH, they have been raising American Quarter Horses in Western South Dakota for 25 years. They currently stand Caseys Pick and in 2024 expanded their operation to begin collecting and shipping semen on outside stallions.

Randy Guggisberg is from Custer and joins the SDQHA Board of Directors this year. Randy grew up on a farm in Iowa and moved to South Dakota for college. In 2022 Guggisberg was honored as the SDQHA Trainer of the Year. Randy has been around horses most of his life. In addition to training, he also has a breeding program that features bloodlines from some of the top reining stallions. Randy is also an AQHA Professional Horseman.



Sammy Ryan has owned Quarter Horses as long as she can remember, using them for ranching and rodeo. About ten years ago she began sporadically entering AQHA events, competing in Ranching Heritage Challenge and Versatility Ranch Horse events. She has set her goal on competing at the AQHA VRH & RHC World Show and will have a trailer load of junior horses to help her get there. She is excited to hit the show road, promote SDQHA and raise her son Marshall on American Quarter Horses. Sammy currently resides in Blackfoot, Idaho.

# 50 YEAR BREEDER

## *Crago Cattle Company*



The AQHA breeding program started in 1957 when Vincent and Margaret Crago bought two AQHA registered mares and a stallion. At that time, Vince and Margaret were partners with Chet and Zola Crago under the name "Crago Brothers." "This is a 50 year award, but it actually started over 65 years ago," Chuck Crago said. "First it was Crago Brothers, then Crago Cattle Company; now we each have our individual operations." Although business structures and nomenclature have changed, the family's deep love for good Quarter Horses has only grown over the decades. Vince and Margaret bought Wrangler Red in 1963. The pretty red dun stallion was double bred King P-234 on the top with Chubby and Yellow Jacket on the dam side. "Us kids all grew up on these Wrangler Red get," Chuck said. "They were cowy, athletic and trainable. We won many awards using them in 4-H and roping. They were also super ranch horses." Margaret's father Ralph Beckwith also raised Quarter horses on his ranch near Midland, South Dakota. "Our Grandpa Beckwith would bring four or five mares up every year to turn out with Wrangler Red," Chuck recalled. "In 1976, we went and looked at a red dun stallion by the name of Beckwith Dun at Grandpa's, and bought him. He was by a Classy Bar, Sugar Bars, Leo stallion, and out of a Wrangler Red daughter." The Beckwith Dun get were very nice horses and won many awards with all the Crago families. "He was a Sugar Bars, Leo and King bred horse; a great pedigree then and still great today!" Chuck said. Crago wins on homebred horses go back to Center of the Nation Quarter Horse Association shows throughout the 1980s, including Futurity Halter Champions, Hi Points, Super Horse Award, Working Cow Horse and Super Horse Runner Up. In 1991, Bruce, Ralph and Chuck placed fourth at the AQHA World Championship in Team Penning with all three brothers riding Crago bred horses. The team of brothers also won the South Dakota Rodeo Association Team Penning Championship in 1990-91-92. Chuck, Bruce and Mary were the AQHA Amateur Team Penning Reserve World Champion team in 1992.

In 1976, Vince and Margaret Crago and their three sons Bruce, Ralph and Chuck formed the Crago Cattle Co. partnership. The operation continued until Vince retired in 2000. At that time all the three Crago sons with their families split into their own individual horse and cattle operations. Although Crago Cattle Co. is no longer an entity, the hard work behind building a strong breeding program and passion for good horses continues in each branch of the Crago family. Vince Crago passed away in 2006, but Margaret still resides on the old Crago homestead. She still owns two young mares. She also continues to own and operate a dress shop in Spearfish, South Dakota, at 92 years of age.

Bruce Crago and family raise horses and cattle. He has three sons: Barry and his wife Kristin have two daughters, Lilly and Caroline Crago; Colby and his wife Tanya have three daughters, Chloe, Lainey and Brylee Crago;





Justin and his wife Stephanie have a daughter, Remi, and a son, Gray. The kids are all involved with horses, showing, rodeoing and ranching.

Kristy and her husband Clete Schmidt and their son Casen and daughter Kyler are on the ranch with Ralph and Becky, raising horses, cattle and sheep. Clete and Kristy Schmidt have showed in the Ranching Heritage Challenge with success including 2016 RHC Level 1 4 year old and up working ranch champion, Amateur Boxing Champion, 2017 RHC Cowboy Class Champion with top placings in working ranch amateur and level one. Clete and Kristy's children Casen and Kyler are competing and showing in 4-H on their home raised Beckwith Dun descendants. Casen won the Top Horse award at the Newell Ranch Rodeo in 2023. Colby, Clete, Kristy and Casen won the Nisland Ranch Rodeo on home-raised horses. "We have had many repeat customers and some of the high sellers at this sale," Kristy said. "We continue to ride what we raise. We love hearing from customers who are enjoying and having success with horses we've raised."

Chuck and Mary Crago married in 1985. Through 30 years of production sales and following the switch to private sales, their children were all active in the horse program and on the ranch. Billy Donovan and wife Laura live in Rapid City with their three children, Alexia, Austin and Alicen. Troy Donovan and wife Jordan with their sons Thomas and Henry live in Colorado. Troy designed the family's website: [www.crago.com](http://www.crago.com). Courtney and her husband Hayse along with their daughters Reata and Rustyn live in Texas where they rope and run barrels. Jade also lives in Texas where he breeds and trains barrel horses and also has a leather shop. Three of Chuck and Mary's most notable early stallions were Docs Decathlon, Taylor Jess Tivio and PC Bronsin. "We like the cow and speed with proven bloodlines through the old AQHA Hall Of Fame horses and legends like Sugar Bars, Leo, King, Three Bars, Driftwood, Jet Deck, Doc Olena and Sun Frost," Chuck said. "When we bred these stallions to Doc O Dynamite, Sak Em San, Beckwith Dun, Sun Frost, and Driftwood mares we ended up with super prospects the public loved and could go on with and show. With horses bred like this we drew customers from all over the U.S.A. and even a few from Panama," Chuck said. The next stallions Chuck and Mary stood were Nonstop Bubblin, Son Of Hickory, Dox Wired Lena, Duals Blue Peppy and home raised CM Dynamite Frost. "Mary showed Nonstop Bubblin at many levels from Amateur association to big WPRA rodeos, making the Badlands

Circuit finals and two amateur finals. CM Dynamite Frost was campaigned in the WRCHA and heading and heeling with great success at AQHA shows. We are very proud of these stallions too." Chuck and Mary still have these old but great bloodlines in their stallions and mares. "We are so proud of all the stallions we have had, but equally happy with our broodmares," Chuck said. "We have several daughters and granddaughters by our old stallions. We have also added broodmares with the bloodlines such as Tres Seis, Darkelly, Ivory James, Dash Ta Fame, Flit Bar, and Mulberry Canyon Moon." Cragos were confident that these mares would cross well with their stallions. The resulting foals have proven themselves time and again. One mare they are especially proud of is a mare they call "Hope," CM Bubblin Dynamite. Hope is by CM Dynamite Frost and out of a Nonstop Bubblin daughter and her second dam is by Bugs Alive in 75. "The best thing about Hope was that she was a great ranch horse, NRCHA money earner, trained in the heeling, won the three year old ranch horse competition with Chuck, and then campaigned with Jade, Mary, and Courtney. She has a long record of winning at every level from local to big shows and WPRA rodeo and stayed sound to run until she was 20, then retired to just keep raising a few more babies. We had always flushed her and continued to show her. Hope was a great producer too, she is the dam to three 1-D barrel horses and her fillies are now in the breeding program. We are super excited about her son who is one of our most popular stallions, High Road Ta Fame by Dash Ta Fame. He is a classy looking, athletic 1D stallion with an impeccable disposition and balance in his conformation which makes it easy for speed and turn; he is everything we want in a stallion!" Chuck and Mary are using five stallions today. Fire On Bug, CM Nonstop Nitro, and Platinum Bully are older and have sired winners in calf roping, team roping, barrel racing and many more events. "We love our boys," Chuck said. "The two younger stallions are Bubblin Ta Fame and High Road Ta Fame. We raised these two stallions and their get are just getting old enough to compete. We are so excited about these stallions. These stallions are great outcrosses for many mares." The Crago families are very thankful for all the customers they have had who still remain friends and repeat customers because of the horses through the years. "What a fun ride we have had," Chuck said. The Crago heritage lives on in the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Vince and Margaret Crago. Working cattle every day with ranch raised horses is a true legacy.



# 2025 SDQHA Membership Form

**DUES: \$50.00 for Individual - Family - Business – Corporation**

**Family Membership** includes Husband/Wife and children 18 & under (open only). Children holding an amateur card or over the youth age of 18 must have their own membership as an individual.

\*\*Please note **SDQHYA** membership is a separate membership. **Youth must have a separate membership to the SDQHYA** to state qualify for the youth world or to earn youth points and awards in SDQHYA. Youth who exhibit a horse owned by someone else in their family must have the owner join the SDQHA.

**Each person exhibiting the horse must have a membership and the owner must have a membership to the SDQHA prior to exhibiting for qualification for state points and awards.**

NAME/BUSINESS: \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY \_\_\_\_\_ INDIVIDUAL \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS \_\_\_\_\_ TRAINER \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark One)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL (important for SDQHA communications): \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Check if you have enclosed an additional \$10 to have your WEB or FACEBOOK URL linked on [www.sdqha.com](http://www.sdqha.com) for the current membership year. (\$10 for each link you would like advertised)

WEB/FACEBOOK URL: \_\_\_\_\_

WEB/FACEBOOK URL: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I do NOT want my membership information printed in official SDQHA publications

\_\_\_\_\_ I do NOT want to receive informational mailings/emails from the SDQHA

**Amateurs must designate at the time of membership if they want SDQHA points to go towards the amateur or the select amateur division. Please circle each family member's division.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ AMATEUR OPEN SELECT AMATEUR

Enclosed:

\_\_\_\_\_ Membership Dues (\$50)

\_\_\_\_\_ Web/Facebook link (\$10 per link)

\_\_\_\_\_ Total

Send To:

Jodie Svennes - Treasurer  
413 Central Lane  
Luverne, Mn 56156  
[svennesjp@gmail.com](mailto:svennesjp@gmail.com)

Paid with (if paid online please include invoice w/  
form):

Card ([sdqha.com/store](http://sdqha.com/store)) Check  Cash

SDQHA Site: [www.sdqha.com](http://www.sdqha.com)

SDQHA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/South-DakotaQuarter-Horse-Association-199118856954035>

## SDQHYA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Welcome to the South Dakota Quarter Horse Youth Association! We look forward to watching your youth excel and have fun in a great association! First youth membership is \$20.00; each additional youth membership is \$10.00.

If the horse the youth is showing is not registered in the youth's name, a family membership from the SDQHA is required as well for points to count in the youth division. Ownership will be according to the AQHA rule book.

SDQHA forms can be obtained at [www.sdqha.com](http://www.sdqha.com). A youth must have a current membership before their points will count for year-end awards. Visit us on Facebook!

We try to keep our page updated with everything the youth are doing!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ BD: \_\_\_\_\_ (as of Jan 1) Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ BD: \_\_\_\_\_ (as of Jan 1) Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ BD: \_\_\_\_\_ (as of Jan 1) Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ BD: \_\_\_\_\_ (as of Jan 1) Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(If you are a first-year member, please circle your name above.)

Parents Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

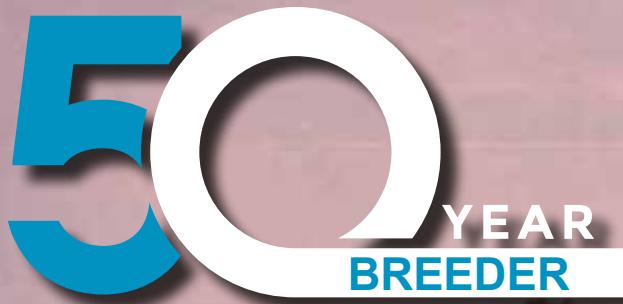
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check to SDQHYA.

Mail memberships and sponsorships to:

SDQHYA C/O SDQHA  
413 Central Lane  
Luverne Mn 56156



# Holmes Quarter Horses

By Sally Scholle

Janet Holmes remembers her first registered American Quarter Horse: a young mare by the name of Petite Pretender, purchased with her mother, Ethel Diercks, in 1963. Petite Pretender, by My King, by King P-234, was the horse that led the path to Holmes Quarter Horses, recently named as a recipient of AQHA's 50-year Legacy Award.

"I started crawling on her in the barn," said Janet, who was a sophomore in high school when she and her mother purchased Petite Pretender. "My mother said we could probably start breaking her, but I already had her broke to ride. I showed her in 4-H for the next four years."

In 1968, Janet married Don Holmes Jr., and together, they launched Holmes Quarter Horses in Plankinton, South Dakota. Their goal was to produce good-looking horses capable of earning a living. They purchased horses from excellent breeders, and their culling program paid off as they retained and bred good-minded, sturdy horses that would stand up to heavy ranch use.

When the Holmeses started a family, Janet considered herself a stay-at-home mom, but her interest in horses didn't wane. "We were into watching pedigrees," she said. "We liked horses that were sound to take out to work and pretty to look at, and they had to be safe around kids."



In 1968, to start their breeding program, the Holmeses purchased a gray stallion, Mr Judge Bars, by Judge Crocker by Wimpy II. "He had 120 foals by the time he passed away," said Janet. "They had earned AQHA championships, Superiors, and Register of Merits. They were family horses." When prospective buyers came to look at horses, the Holmes children led them for inspection, proving the young horses were quiet and had potential for a variety of uses.

Janet says Mr Judge Bars' lineage included mares that were tremendous milkers. "We don't do a lot of supplemental feeding because those mares take care of their babies," she said. "That has been an attribute that has made a lot of difference for us."

With a continued emphasis on pedigrees, the Holmeses purchased daughters of Hollywood Snapper 48, Texas Pine, Showdown Rick, Post Card, Bay Step, Capital Gain, Dino Dell, Beau Bonanza, Smokey Duster Too and Babe Cody. They also had granddaughters of Joe Reed, Poco Dell, Keith Harlan, Pretty Buck, Sugar Bars, Leo San, Pat Star Jr, Poco Pine, Bill Cody and Two Eyed Jack.

"We bought a mare called Susan Pine, an own daughter of Texas Pine, and she had been shown until she was about 11," said Janet. "She and Mr Judge Bars were kind of a magic cross for us, and we ended up with six daughters from her. She was 25 when she had her last colt for us."



Mr Judge Bars and Susan Pine



Mr Judge Bars and Debbi



To continue improving the herd, the Holmeses introduced carefully selected stallions into their breeding program. Roosters Roan, a red roan stallion sired by a son of Rooster Bars out of a daughter of Lucky Roan King, was purchased in 1988. He produced top quality rodeo and ranch horses, and his offspring won year-end saddles and trailers. The Holmeses also bred mares to Bills Rock, by Cutter Bill, and added his offspring to their broodmare band.

Ima Rhinestone Two ("Twoee") was purchased as a two-year-old in 1993 from the Pitzer Ranch. He was a son of Rhinestone Jack out of a daughter of Watch Joe Jack. Twoee was a good-minded horse and passed that trait to his foals. Although the Twoee horses were so quiet they were sometimes viewed as 'lazy', owners quickly realized that the potential for performance was there and all they had to do was ask for it.

Twoee sired a Reserve World Champion, multiple World Show Qualifiers, Registers of Merit, and daughters that made outstanding broodmares. In addition to the Mr Judge Bars mares, the Holmeses added daughters of Billy Two Hat 2, Sir Quincy Dan, and Mr Baron Red to their herd.

Lone Roan Wolf, a red roan son of Joe Jack Honey Bar out of a daughter of RBM Duster Wolf, was purchased in 2012 at the Pitzer Ranch Sale. He is still going strong at the age of 27, with two foals expected in 2024. After Don and Janet divorced, Janet continued with the Holmes Quarter Horses name. She has added the genetics of Genuine Hombre with great success and is now in the 6th generation of the program tracing back to Mr Judge Bars and Susan Pine.

Janet retained Lone Roan Wolf daughters and started hauling mares to outstanding stallions for breeding. "I found a horse in Iowa that I really

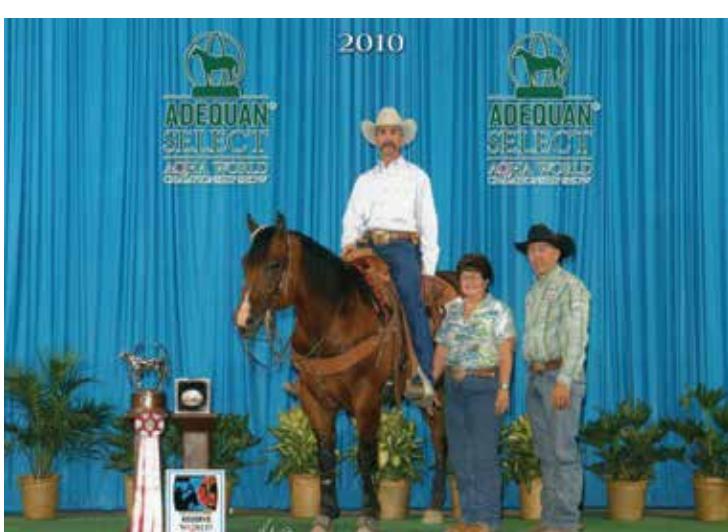


liked," she said. "He was an own son of Genuine Hombre and that's when I got into palominos. Three of my young mares are palominos. I crossed the Lone Roan Wolf mares to the Genuine Hombre horse and got palominos."

Holmes' Quarter Horses has always been a family operation. As the Holmes' son Donald R. Holmes III (Chip) was growing up on the ranch, he broke and rode some of the young horses. He also taught himself to make his own equipment. Delesa (Holmes) Bosworth broke, rode and drove young horses, and she and her children ran barrels. Delesa's daughter Bailey Bosworth served as the 2012-13 Jr. Miss Rodeo South Dakota. Devena (Holmes) Jackson worked with and showed her own young horse.

Debbi (Holmes) Stockstill worked with and showed horses while at home, then started her own breeding program in 1998 in Virgil, South Dakota, with great success. This year, Debbi decided to pasture breed using her son of Show Me a Song Joes for the 2024 foal crop. "I think it's going to be a good cross because my mares have quite a bit of height," said Janet. "Debbi's Show Me A Song horse is a little more refined, and you can see that in foals. The mares have the thickness and her stallion will keep the traits we want in foals."

Raising American Quarter Horses is a way of life for the Holmes family, and they consider themselves fortunate to have met and work with many good people through Quarter Horses. They appreciate their customers, many of whom return to purchase again.



*Ima Rhinestone Two Reserve World Champion*

# 50 YEAR BREEDER

## John G. Johnson

John G. Johnson's life revolved around horses. The Johnson ranch has long been known for raising good cattle and good using horses.

John's father, Oscar Johnson, came to Perkins County as a teenaged cowboy, helping to trail cattle for emigrant families moving west from eastern North Dakota. His mother, Hilma Sandwick's family came to the area with a team and wagon along with other pioneer families when she was five, following the trail north from Deadwood, South Dakota.

When John was a kid, they used three teams of horses to mow hay. Then they raked it and stacked it using workhorses, and built fence around the stacks.

Oscar raised horses for the Army, using Thoroughbred stallions provided for him. Starting with Morgan mares that served well for working or saddle horses, he eventually produced speed when he crossed them with the government studs.

"We had Morgans and work horses," John said. "Then we got a Thoroughbred Remount stallion named Lord Capo to raise remount horses for the Army."

"The remount horses were blooded horses. They had to pass inspection before the Army would buy them." Johnson remembers trailing horses about 20 miles northwest to the railroad at Lemmon, to ship horses.

After the Army stopped buying horses, John started racing those fast horses with neighbors at local fairs.

John and his older brother, Andrew, continued to upgrade the family's horses and started running horses at county fairs.

"Miles City, Montana, was the first place I entered a real race. I won darn near all the races and after that people started bringing me their horses to train," Johnson said.

John's first great quarter horse he ran with success was a palomino stallion by the name of Go Go Dakota, who won Grand Champion at halter in the morning and the QH Derby that same afternoon. His latest horse, Faster Than Hasta, is a winner of stakes races and has \$265,657 in winnings to date. In between these two great horses, John had a list a mile long, of successful runners that he was also very proud of. He was a member of the South Dakota Quarter Horse Racing Association, where he served as Vice President and board member for more than 30 years.

Johnsons have made a name for themselves raising barrel racing and rope horses, as well as racehorses, that have gone on to have successful careers. Speed is the basis for their breeding program, even for the arena.

"You can always ride a fast horse slow, but you can't ride a slow horse fast," John's son Bob was quoted as saying.

John's other great love was raising colts out of his race mares. One of his greatest accomplishments was receiving the award from the AQHA as a 50 year Legacy Breeder of Quarter Horses.

John would have been tickled to see French Kirk, a horse he bred and raised, now owned by Matt Reeves, hazing for four steer wrestlers at the 2023 National Finals Rodeo. French Kirk also assisted Matt in winning



both his 2018 and 2020 The RFD-TV's The American Steer Wrestling Championship.

The family has bred, raised and trained American Quarter Horses for over 50 years. John passed away in January of 2022 and his wife Shirley passed in February of 2022. John was proud to have reached 50 years as a breeder. The last of his mares were sold this past year, so this marks the end of his breeding program, but his legacy and the influence of Johnson Ranch horses will continue to be felt for a long time to come.

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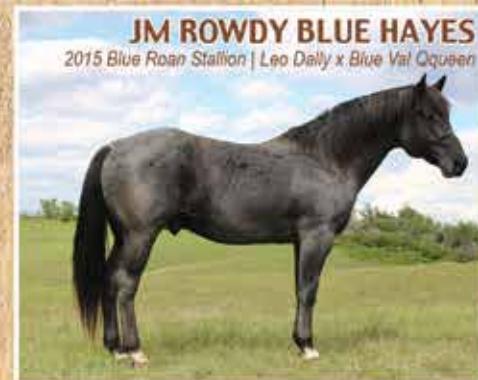
Blunt SD

Bernie, Genie, JD Lauing & Becky Amio

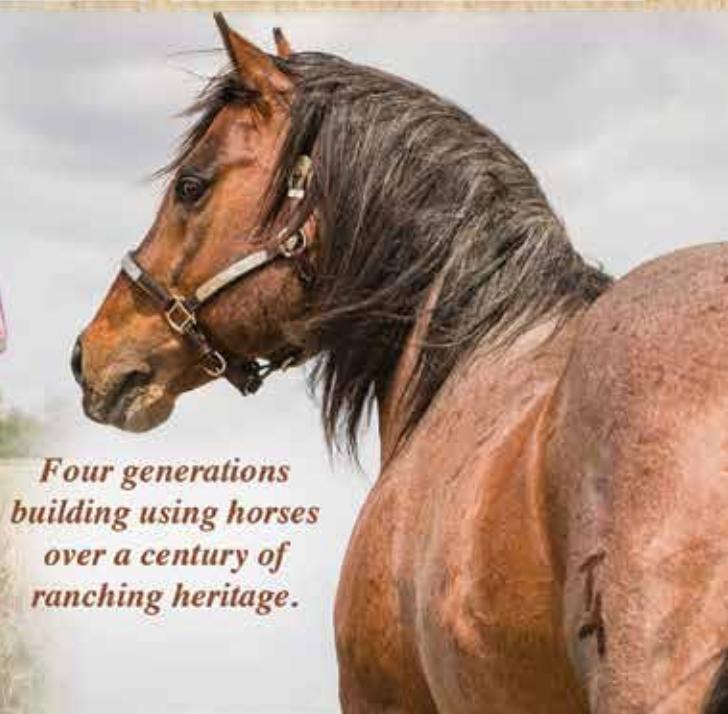
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# 50 YEAR BREEDER

## SCHOFIELD FAMILY

By Maria Tibbets and Ruth Wiechmann

Hauling their horses to the neighbors' branding is the primary source of marketing for the Schofield family, of Philip, South Dakota. But when your goal is to raise solid ranch horses that can do about any job that needs to be done, that's the best marketing there is, says John Schofield, who ranches and raises horses with his dad, Bob.

In the early 1980s, Bob Schofield took over the ranch from his dad, who started their registered horse business in 1971 with a stud named Bucks Ace High and half-a-dozen Hoddy-bred mares.

"Dad and I worked on the breeding program together pretty much since the beginning," Bob said.

Bob purchased the first of his own registered mares in 1975 after graduating from high school.

"Mainly what we're after is ranch horses," said Bob. "We just want good using horses. We don't own a four-wheeler, everything we do with our cows is horseback."

They've got about 30 mares and stand Sampsons Boy Six, a grandson of Grays Starlight going back to Freckles Playboy on the bottom, CRD Boons McKeag 20, a Driftwood bred stallion, and Bailey Sugar Kirk.

They've had a procession of studs through their program in the last 50 years, including Ole Alamitos AA, by The Old Man; Husky Fancy Bar, who goes back to Roan Bar and Tom Baker; Fox of the Country, a Leo grandson; Dusters Image, an own son of Range Duster; Tailorwood, a grandson of Orphan Drift; and Mr Fancy Freckles, a grandson of Colonel Freckles.

"Tailorwood would be one of our most memorable horses," Bob said. "We used him in our breeding program for many years. He was a gentle stud that was used for all ranch work and would let our kids climb up on him in the pasture while with the mares."

About half of the mares they have now are Tailorwood daughters, and every mare on the place, minus one was bred and raised by the Schofield family. Bob said they like the Driftwood bloodline, and plan to keep building the horses they like, and like to use.

As others in the industry get more specialized, focusing on speed for arena





horses, or cow sense, for cutting horses, the Schofields are trying to stay in the middle of the road, breeding horses that have some size, some speed and some cow—enough of each to be successful dragging calves, tying onto a bull or sorting in the alley. But their first priority is disposition.

“We breed for good cow sense, disposition, conformation, agility, and stamina,” Bob said. “There is nothing better than having a horse that will work all day for you, doing whatever task is needed. Our horses excel at all ranch work in general. They are put to all kinds of tasks when working cattle. We are able to use them from sorting cattle, to checking calving cows in blizzarding weather, to roping and doctoring sick livestock.”

Schofields have also raised horses that have been successful in the arena in various events. But that’s not what they’re chasing for their horses.

“We breed a lot for size. Most of our horses are over 15.2 pretty easily. The biggest horse we own is 16.1. I don’t ride him very much in the winter because it’s hard to get my leg that high with clothes on,” said John.

Schofields used to sell their horses through the horse sale at Phillip Livestock Market. When that sale stopped, they sold through Faith Livestock, but now all their sales are private treaty.

“Paperwork and promoting our program have been one of the hardest things about building our breeding program,” Bob said. “We much more enjoy working with and using our horses on the ranch.”

They sell most of their horses as yearlings and weanlings. When they had the sale they sold weanlings, but more people want yearlings now, it seems, he said. “We sell them to make room for the younger horses. We sell a few saddle horses. People will ask if we’ve got an older broke horse for sale. They can come down and ride them, if they like them, they can take them, if not, we’ll keep them and keep riding them.”

Schofields recently sold a horse that is destined for the arena, but for the roughstock events, as a pick-up horse. “We use them for ranching, but they can do about anything you need,” Bob said.

Though marketing isn’t a big part of their program, word has still gotten out about their horses. “We have quite a few repeat customers,” Bob said. “There are always some new ones showing up, mostly through word-of-mouth. They see our horses at a branding or something, and ask where they came from. We’ve had them get down into Florida and all over Texas. They get strung around eventually.”

The family is an AQHA Ranching Heritage Breeder, and recently received their 50 year Breeder award.

“My favorite part of raising horses is finding the new colts and seeing how they turn out,” Bob said. “We love hearing from people who have been using our horses and seeing what they can do with them.”

Bob and his wife, Harla, have four daughters, Kristina, Callie, Shelby and Samantha, who come home and help. Shelby and Kristina run the family’s Facebook page, where they advertise some horses.

Bob and John both say they’re in this business because they love horses. “I love to ride,” John said. “I love to work on them. I’m getting more into training them myself. It’s just an incredible feeling when you’re trying to get a horse to do something and the horse figures it out. We try to have all our horses be enjoyable.”

For Bob, watching four generations of the family using horses out of their program is one of the most fulfilling aspects of raising horses for over 50 years.

“My children, grandchildren, nephews, great nephews, and great nieces all use horses from our breeding program. Knowing that my family shares in my dad’s, and my love of horses is pretty special. Seeing new generations continue the legacy that my dad began is very rewarding.”



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## SDQHA Sponsored Special Event Ranch Riding, Ranch Rail, & Ranch Trail

Brown County Fairgrounds-Akkermann Arena, Aberdeen SD

August 17, 2025 Registration starting at 7:00am; Show starting at 8:00 am

Judge: Tom Crowley

Show Manager: Pearl Holt; Show Secretary: Caryn Leith

Package Fee	\$65.00
All Breed Classes	\$12.00
Amateur	\$12.00
Select Amateur	\$12.00
Youth	\$12.00
Open	\$12.00
AQHA Processing Fee/Horse	\$12.00
Office Fee	\$15.00

(\*\*) ALL BREED CLASSES ARE NON-AQHA APPROVED CLASSES, OPEN TO ANY BREED

### Ranch Riding

1. \*All Breed Youth W/T Ranch Riding
2. \*All Breed Adult W/T Ranch Riding
3. Rookie Amateur Ranch Riding
4. Rookie Select Amateur Ranch Riding
5. Rookie Youth Ranch Riding 13 & Under
6. Rookie Youth Ranch Riding 14-18
7. Rookie Ranch Riding (Jr & Sr)
8. Level 1 Amateur Ranch Riding
9. Level 1 Select Amateur Ranch Riding
10. Level 1 Youth Ranch Riding 13 & Under
11. Level 1 Youth Ranch Riding 14-18
12. Level 1 Ranch Riding (Jr & Sr)
13. Amateur Ranch Riding
14. Select Amateur Ranch Riding
15. \*\*All Breed Youth Ranch Riding
16. Youth Ranch Riding 13 & Under
17. Youth Ranch Riding 14-18
18. \*\*All Breed Adult Ranch Riding
19. Ranch Riding (Jr & Sr)

### Western Working Rail

20. \*\*All Breed Youth Working Western Rail
21. Youth Working Western Rail

22. \*\*All Breed Adult Working Western Rail
23. Amateur Working Western Rail
24. Select Amateur Working Western Rail
25. Working Western Rail (Jr & Sr)

### Ranch Trail

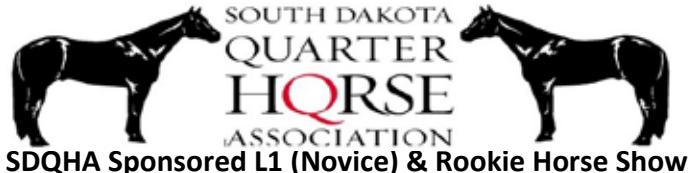
26. \*\*All Breed Youth W/T Ranch Trail
27. \*\*All Breed Adult W/T Ranch Trail
28. Rookie Amateur Ranch Trail
29. Rookie Select Amateur Ranch Trail
30. Rookie Youth Ranch Trail
31. Rookie Ranch Trail (Sr & Jr)
32. Level 1 Amateur Ranch Trail
33. Level 1 Select Amateur Ranch Trail
34. Level 1 Youth Ranch Trail
35. Level 1 Ranch Trail (Sr & Jr)
36. Amateur Ranch Trail
37. Select Amateur Ranch Trail
38. \*\*All Breed Youth Ranch Trail
39. Youth Ranch Trail
40. \*\*All Breed Adult Ranch Trail
41. Ranch Trail

- All Exhibitors must be current members of AQHA & Show papers of AQHA registered horses prior to entering AQHA classes.
- Classes may be combined at the discretion of the Show Committee.
- All Horses originating from outside the state of South Dakota must have a negative EIA test within the past twelve (12) months.

\*\*\*May enter online or at the show\*\*

Entry forms and show bills are posted on [sdqha.com](http://sdqha.com)

Contact: Jodie Svennes [svennesjp@gmail.com](mailto:svennesjp@gmail.com) or 605-691-5320



**SDQHA Sponsored L1 (Novice) & Rookie Horse Show**

Brown County Fairgrounds- Akkermann Arena, Aberdeen SD

July 12, 2025 Starting at 9:00 am

Judge: Kristen Gonsoir

Show Manager: Pearl Holt; Show Secretary: Caryn Leith

Package Fee-All Day (All Breed or AQHA)	\$65.00
**All Breed Classes	\$12.00
L1/Rookie Youth/Amat>Select Amat	\$12.00
AQHA Drug Fee/Horse	\$12.00
Small Fry /Leadline	Free of Charge
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(\*\*) All Breed Classes are open to any breed

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3. L1 Youth 3-Year-Old Mares
4. L1 Youth Aged Mares
5. L1 Youth Performance Mares

**Grand/Reserve Youth Amat Mares**

6. \*\*All Breed/All Age Mares
7. L1 Amat Yearling Mares
8. L1 Amat 2-Year-Old Mares
9. L1 Amat 3-Year-Old Mares
10. L1 Amat Aged Mares
11. L1 Amat Performance Mares

**Grand Reserve L1 Am Mares**

12. L1 Youth Yearling Geldings
13. L1 Youth 2-Year-Old Geldings
14. L1 Youth 3-Year-Old Geldings
15. L1 Youth Aged Geldings
16. L1 Youth Performance Geldings

**Grand/Reserve L1 Youth Amat Geldings**

17. \*\*All Breed/All Age Geldings
18. L1 Amat Yearling Geldings
19. L1 Amat 2-Year-Old Geldings
20. L1 Amat 3-Year-Old Geldings
21. L1 Amat Aged Geldings
22. L1 Amat Performance Geldings

**Grand/Reserve L1 Amat Geldings**

- SHOWMANSHIP**
23. Small Fry Showmanship
  24. Rookie Youth Showmanship
  25. Rookie Amat Showmanship
  26. Rookie Select Amat Showmanship
  27. L1 Youth Showmanship
  28. L1 Amat Showmanship
  29. L1 Select Amat Showmanship
  30. \*\*All Breed Youth Showmanship
  31. \*\*All Breed Adult Showmanship

**LEADLINE**

32. Small Fry Lead Line 6 & Under
33. \*\*All Breed Lead Line 6 & Under

**HUNTER UNDER SADDLE**

34. L1 Youth W/T HUS
35. L1 Amat W/T HUS

36. Rookie Youth HUS
37. Rookie Amat HUS
38. Rookie Select Amat HUS

39. L1 Youth HUS
40. L1 Amat HUS
41. L1 Select Amat HUS

42. \*\*All Breed Youth HUS
43. \*\*All Breed Adult HUS
44. Small Fry HUS

**HUNT SEAT EQUITATION**

45. Small Fry Equitation
46. L1 Amat W/T Equitation
47. L1 Youth W/T Equitation
48. Rookie Youth Equitation
49. Rookie Amat Equitation
50. Rookie Select Amat Equitation
51. L1 Youth Equitation
52. L1 Amat Equitation
53. L1 Select Amat Equitation
54. \*\*All Breed Youth Equitation
55. \*\*All Breed Adult Equitation

**WESTERN PLEASURE**

56. L1 Youth W/T Western Pleasure
57. L1 Amat W/T Western Pleasure
58. Rookie Youth Western Pleasure
59. Rookie Amat Western Pleasure
60. Rookie Select Amat Western Pleasure
61. L1 Youth Western Pleasure
62. L1 Amat Western Pleasure
63. L1 Select Amat Western Pleasure
64. \*\*All Breed Youth Western Pleasure
65. \*\*All Breed Adult Western Pleasure
66. Small Fry Western Pleasure

**WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP**

67. Small Fry Horsemanship
68. L1 Amat W/T Horsemanship
69. L1 Youth W/T Horsemanship
70. Rookie Youth Horsemanship
71. Rookie Amat Horsemanship
72. Rookie Select Amat Horsemanship
73. L1 Youth Horsemanship
74. L1 Amat Horsemanship

75. L1 Select Amat Horsemanship
76. \*\*All Breed Youth Horsemanship
77. \*\*All Breed Adult Horsemanship

**TRAIL**

78. Small Fry Trail
79. L1 Amat W/T Trail
80. L1 Youth W/T Trail
81. Rookie Youth Trail
82. Rookie Amat Trail
83. Rookie Select Amat Trail
84. L1 Youth Trail
85. L1 Amat Trail
86. L1 Select Amat Trail
87. \*\*All Breed Youth Trail
88. \*\*All Breed Adult Trail

**RANCH TRAIL**

89. Rookie Youth Ranch Trail
90. Rookie Amat Ranch Trail
91. Rookie Select Amat Ranch Trail
92. L1 Youth Ranch Trail
93. L1 Amat Ranch Trail
94. L1 Select Amat Ranch Trail
95. \*\*All Breed Youth Ranch Trail
96. \*\*All Breed Adult Ranch Trail

**RANCH RIDING**

97. Rookie Youth Ranch Riding
98. Rookie Amat Ranch Riding
99. Rookie Select Amat Ranch Riding
100. L1 Youth Ranch Riding
101. L1 Amat Ranch Riding
102. L1 Select Amat Ranch Riding
103. \*\*All Breed Youth Ranch Riding
104. \*\*All Breed Adult Ranch Riding

**REINING**

105. Rookie Youth Reining
106. Rookie Amat Reining
107. Rookie Select Amat Reining
108. L1 Youth Reining
109. L1 Amat Reining
110. L1 Select Amat Reining
111. \*\*All Breed Youth Reining
112. \*\*All Breed Adult Reining

•All Exhibitors must be current members of AQHA. Copies of AQHA registered horses must be shown prior to entering classes.  
 •All Horses originating from outside the state of South Dakota must have a negative EIA test within the past twelve (12) months.

**For Information, contact: Jodie Svennes [svennesjp@gmail.com](mailto:svennesjp@gmail.com) or 605-691-5320**

Showbill posted on [SDQHA.com](http://SDQHA.com)

**SDQHA SUMMER SHOOTOUT**Dakota Bank Center 824 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Brookings SD 57006

Approved by SDQHA &amp; CONQHA June 5-8, 2025

**Thursday 5th-Triple Judged-8:00am****HUNTER UNDER SADDLE**

1. Amat HUS Walk Trot
2. Amat Select HUS Walk Trot
3. Youth HUS Walk Trot
4. Amat HUS Rookie
5. Youth Rookie HUS
6. Amat HUS L1
7. Youth HUS L1
8. Open HUS L1
9. Amat HUS
10. Select Amat HUS
11. Youth HUS
12. Open HUS
13. Small Fry HUS

**HUNT SEAT EQUITATION**

14. Small Fry HS/EQ
15. Amat HS/EQ Walk Trot
16. Amat Select HS/EQ Walk Trot
17. Youth HS/EQ Walk Trot
18. Amat HS/EQ Rookie
19. Youth Rookie HS/EQ
20. Level 1 Horse Non-Pro HS EQ
21. Amat HS/EQ L1
22. Youth HS/EQ L1
23. Amat HS/EQ
24. Select Amat HS/EQ
25. Youth HS/EQ
26. Lead line
27. 10 & Under Walk Trot

**WESTERN PLEASURE**

28. Amat Walk Trot West Pleasure
29. Amat Sel Walk Trot West Pleasure
30. Youth Walk Trot West Pleasure
31. Amat West Pleasure Rookie
32. Youth West Pleasure Rookie
33. Amat West Pleasure L1
34. Youth West Pleasure L1
35. Open West Pleasure L1
36. Amat West Pleasure
37. Select Amat West Pleasure
38. Junior West Pleasure
39. Youth West Pleasure 13&U
40. Youth West Pleasure 14-18
41. Senior West Pleasure
42. Small Fry West Pleasure

**HORSEMANSHIP**

43. Small Fry Horsemanship
44. Amat Walk Trot Horsemanship
45. Amat Sel Walk Trot Horsemanship
46. Youth Walk Trot Horsemanship
47. Amat Horsemanship Rookie
48. Youth Horsemanship Rookie
49. Level 1 Horse Non-Pro Horsemanship
50. Amat Horsemanship L1
51. Youth Horsemanship L1
52. Amat Horsemanship
53. Select Amat Horsemanship
54. Youth Horsemanship 13&U
55. Youth Horsemanship 14-18

**WORKING WESTERN RAIL**

56. Youth Working Western Rail
57. Amat Working Western Rail
58. Amat Select Working Western Rail
59. Open Working Western Rail

**RANCH RIDING**

60. Amat Ranch Riding Rookie
61. Youth Ranch Riding Rookie
62. Amat Ranch Riding L1
63. Youth Ranch Riding L1
64. Open Ranch Riding L1
65. Amat Ranch Riding
66. Select Amat Ranch Riding
67. Youth Ranch Riding
68. Open Ranch Riding

**RANCH TRAIL**

69. Amat Ranch Trail
70. Youth Ranch Trail
71. Select Amat Ranch Trail
72. Open Ranch Trail

**REINING**

73. Amat Reining L1
74. Youth Reining L1
75. Open Reining L1
76. Amat Reining
77. Select Amat Reining
78. Youth Reining (All Age)
79. Open Reining

**SPEED EVENTS**

80. Amat Barrel Racing
81. Youth Barrel Racing
82. Open Barrel Racing
83. Amat Pole Bending
84. Youth Pole Bending
85. Open Pole Bending

**Friday 6th-Triple Judged-8:00am****HALTER**

86. Open Yearling Stallion
87. Open 2 Year Stallion
88. Open 3 Year Stallion
89. Open Aged Stallion
90. Open Performance Stallion
91. Amat Yearling Stallion
92. Amat 2 Year Stallion
93. Amat 3 Year Stallion
94. Amat Aged Stallion
95. Amat Performance Stallion
96. Open Yearling Mares
97. Open 2 Year mares
98. Open 3 Year Mares
99. Open Aged Mares
100. Open Performance Mares
101. Amat Yearling Mares
102. Amat 2 Year Mares
103. Amat 3 Year Mares
104. Amat Aged Mares
105. Amat Performance Mares
106. Youth Yearling Mares
107. Youth 2 Year mares

**108. Youth 3 Year Mares**

109. Youth Aged Mares
110. Youth Performance Mares
111. Open Yearling Geldings
112. Open 2 Year Geldings
113. Open 3 Year Geldings
114. Open Aged Geldings
115. Open Performance Geldings
116. Amat Yearling Geldings
117. Amat 2 Year Geldings
118. Amat 3 Year Geldings
119. Amat Aged Geldings

120. Amat Performance Gelding
121. Youth Yearling Gelding
122. Youth 2 Year Gelding
123. Youth 3 Year Gelding
124. Youth Aged Gelding
125. Youth Performance Gelding

**SHOWMANSHIP**

126. Small Fry Showmanship
127. Rookie Amat Showmanship
128. Youth Rookie Showmanship
129. Level 1 Horse Non-Pro Showmanship
130. Amat Showmanship L1
131. Youth Showmanship L1
132. Amat Showmanship
133. Select Amat Showmanship
134. Youth Showmanship 13&U
135. Youth Showmanship 14-18

**TRAIL**

136. Small Fry Trail
137. Amat Walk Trot Trail L1
138. Amat Sel Walk Trot Trail L1
139. Youth Walk Trot Trail
140. Open Trail L1
141. Amat Rookie Trail
142. Youth Rookie Trail
143. Amat Trail L1
144. Youth Trail L1
145. Amat Trail
146. Select Amat Trail
147. Youth Trail
148. Open Trail - All age

**WESTERN RIDING**

149. Amat Western Riding L1
150. Youth Western Riding L1
151. Amat Western Riding
152. Select Amat Western Riding
153. Youth Western Riding
154. Open Western Riding

**FEES:**

All Day \$75 per horse/ per judge

\*\*May cross over to any/all AQHA divisions\*\*

Class Fees: \$15/class/judge

Small fry \$5/class is OPEN TO ANY BREED

Office Charge: \$15 per horse-one time charge

AQHA Processing Fee: \$10 per horse/ per judge

Stall Fees: \$40/night or \$135 for circuit; Jump out fee \$20

Wood shavings: Market Price -No Outside Shavings

RV Hook-up \$40/night (Elec &amp; water)



**SDQHA SUMMER SHOOTOUT**Dakota Bank Center 824 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Brookings SD 57006

Approved by SDQHA &amp; CONQHA June 5-8, 2025

**Saturday-7th-Triple Judged-8:00am****HUNTER UNDER SADDLE**

- 155. Amat HUS Walk Trot
- 156. Amat Sel HUS Walk Trot
- 157. Youth HUS Walk Trot
- 158. Amat HUS Rookie
- 159. Youth HUS Rookie
- 160. Amat HUS L1
- 161. Youth HUS L1
- 162. Open HUS L1
- 163. Amat HUS
- 164. Select Amat HUS
- 165. Youth HUS
- 166. Open HUS
- 167. Small Fry HUS

**HUNT SEAT EQITATION**

- 168. Small Fry HS/EQ
- 169. Amat HS/EQ Walk Trot
- 170. Amat Sel HS/EQ Walk Trot
- 171. Youth HS/EQ Walk Trot
- 172. Amat HS/EQ Rookie
- 173. Youth HS/EQ Rookie
- 174. Level 1 Horse Non-Pro HS EQ
- 175. AMAT HS/EQ L1
- 176. Youth HS/EQ L1
- 177. Amat HS/EQ
- 178. Select Amat HS/EQ
- 179. Youth HS/EQ
- 180. Lead line
- 181. 10 & U Walk Trot

**WESTERN PLEASURE**

- 182. Amat Walk Trot West Pleasure
- 183. Amat Sel Walk Trot West Pleasure
- 184. Youth Walk Trot West Pleasure
- 185. Amat West Pleasure Rookie
- 186. Youth West Pleasure Rookie
- 187. Amat West Pleasure L1
- 188. Youth West Pleasure L1
- 189. Open West Pleasure L1
- 190. Amat West Pleasure
- 191. Select Amat West Pleasure
- 192. Junior West Pleasure
- 193. Youth West Pleasure 13& U
- 194. Youth West Pleasure 14-18
- 195. Senior West Pleasure
- 196. Small Fry West Pleasure

**HORSEMANSHIP**

- 197. Small Fry Horsemanship
- 198. Amat Walk Trot Horsemanship
- 199. Amat Sel Walk Trot Horsemanship
- 200. Youth Walk Trot Horsemanship
- 201. Amat Horsemanship Rookie
- 202. Youth Horsemanship Rookie
- 203. Level 1 Horse Non-Pro Horsemanship
- 204. Amat Horsemanship L1
- 205. Youth Horsemanship L1
- 206. Amat Horsemanship
- 207. Select Amat Horsemanship
- 208. Youth Horsemanship 13 & U
- 209. Youth Horsemanship 14-18

**WORKING WESTERN RAIL**

- 210. Youth Working Western Rail
- 211. Amat Working Western Rail
- 212. Amat Sel Working Western Rail
- 213. Open Working Western Rail

**RANCH TRAIL**

- 214. Amat Ranch Trail
- 215. Youth Ranch Trail
- 216. Select Amat Ranch Trail
- 217. Open Ranch Trail

**RANCH RIDING**

- 218. Amat Ranch Riding Rookie
- 219. Youth Ranch Riding Rookie
- 220. Amat Ranch Riding L1
- 221. Youth Ranch Riding L1

**REINING**

- 222. Open Ranch Riding L1
- 223. Amat Ranch Riding
- 224. Select Amat Ranch Riding
- 225. Youth Ranch Riding
- 226. Open Ranch Riding
- 227. Amat Reining L1
- 228. Youth Reining L1
- 229. Open Reining L1
- 230. Amat Reining
- 231. Select Amat Reining
- 232. Youth Reining
- 233. Open Reining

**SPEED EVENTS**

- 234. Amat Barrel Racing
- 235. Youth Barrel Racing
- 236. Open Barrel Racing
- 237. Amat Pole Bending
- 238. Youth Pole Bending
- 239. Open Pole Bending

**Sunday-19th-Triple Judged-8:00am****HALTER**

- 240. Open Yearling Stallion
- 241. Open 2 Year Stallion
- 242. Open 3 Year Stallion
- 243. Open Aged Stallion
- 244. Open Performance Stallion
- 245. Amat Yearling Stallion
- 246. Amat 2 Year Stallion
- 247. Amat 3 Year Stallion
- 248. Amat Aged Stallion
- 249. Amat Performance Stallion

- 250. Open Yearling Mares
- 251. Open 2 Year mares
- 252. Open 3 Year Mares
- 253. Open Aged Mares
- 254. Open Performance Mares
- 255. Amat Yearling Mares
- 256. Amat 2 Year Mares
- 257. Amat 3 Year Mares
- 258. Amat Aged Mares
- 259. Amat Performance Mares
- 260. Youth Yearling Mares
- 261. Youth 2 Year mares
- 262. Youth 3 Year Mares
- 263. Youth Aged Mares
- 264. Youth Performance Mares

**265. Open Yearling Geldings**

- 266. Open 2 Year Geldings
- 267. Open 3 Year Geldings
- 268. Open Aged Gelding
- 269. Open Performance Gelding
- 270. Amat Yearling Geldings
- 271. Amat 2 Year Geldings
- 272. Amat 3 Year Geldings
- 273. Amat Aged Geldings
- 274. Amat Performance Geldings
- 275. Youth Yearling Geldings
- 276. Youth 2 Year Gelding
- 277. Youth 3 Year Gelding
- 278. Youth Aged Gelding
- 279. Youth Performance Gelding

**SHOWMANSHIP**

- 280. Small Fry Showmanship
- 281. Rookie Amat Showmanship
- 282. Youth Rookie Showmanship
- 283. Level 1 Horse Non-Pro Showmanship
- 284. Amat Showmanship L1
- 285. Youth Showmanship L1
- 286. Amat Showmanship
- 287. Select Amat Showmanship
- 288. Youth Showmanship 13&U
- 289. Youth Showmanship 14-18

**TRAIL**

- 290. Small Fry Trail
- 291. Amat Walk Trot Trail L1
- 292. AmatSel Walk Trot Trail L1
- 293. Youth Walk Trot Trail L1
- 294. Open Trail L1
- 295. Amat Rookie Trail
- 296. Youth Rookie Trail
- 297. Amat Trail L1
- 298. Youth Trail L1
- 299. Amat Trail
- 300. Select Amat Trail
- 301. Youth Trail
- 302. Open Trail - All age

**WESTERN RIDING**

- 303. Amat Western Riding L1
- 304. Youth Western Riding L1
- 305. Amat Western Riding
- 306. Sel Amat Western Riding
- 307. Youth Western Riding
- 308. Open Western Riding

**Stalls, bedding, and camping reservations can be made online:**

**SDQHA.com**

**Show contact: Kristen Gonsoir**

**1-605-380-7066 or**

**kristen@gonsoirquarterhorses.com**

# DW Productions 2025 Open WSCA Pleasure & Ranch Show Saddle Series

Jackpot Classes ♦ High Point Buckles & Reserve Awards Each Weekend ♦ Series Year End Saddles & Awards

Show Manager  
Dani Wilson 507-450-4559  
dwproductionsllc@gmail.com  
www.dwproductionsllc.com



**Friday (4:00 PM Start Time)**  
1 Non-Stock Type Halter\*  
2 Tiny Tot Halter 7 & Under\*  
3 Tiny Tot Showmanship 7 & Under\*  
4 Pony Showmanship 56" & Under\*  
5 W/T PeeWee Showmanship 10 & Under\*  
6 W/T Jr. Showmanship 11-17\*  
7 W/T Sr. Showmanship 18 & Over\*  
8 W/T Jr. Ranch Conformation 17&Under\*  
9 W/T Sr. Ranch Conformation 18-34\*  
10 W/T Sr.+ Ranch Conformation 35&Over\*  
11 Jr. Ranch Conformation 17&Under\*  
12 Sr. Ranch Conformation 18-34\*  
13 Sr.+ Ranch Conformation 35&Over\*

#### 10 Minute Open Arena English Only

14 Pony Hunt Seat Pleasure\*  
15 W/T Jr. English Pleasure 17&Under  
16 W/T Sr. English Pleasure 18&Over  
17 Pony Hunt Seat Equitation\*  
18 W/T Jr. English Equitation 17&Under  
19 W/T Sr. English Equitation 18&Over

#### 10 Minute Open Arena Ranch Only

20 W/T Jr. Ranch Rail Pleasure 17&Under\*  
21 W/T Sr. Ranch Rail Pleasure 18-34\*  
22 W/T Sr.+ Ranch Rail Pleasure 35&Over\*  
23 Jr. Ranch Rail Pleasure 17 & Under  
24 Sr. Ranch Rail Pleasure 18-34  
25 Sr.+ Ranch Rail Pleasure 35&Over  
26 W/T Jr. Ranch Riding 17&Under\*  
27 W/T Sr. Ranch Riding 18-34\*  
28 W/T Sr.+ Ranch Riding 35&Over\*  
29 Jr. Ranch Riding 17&Under  
30 Sr. Ranch Riding 18-34  
31 Sr. Ranch Riding 35&Over

#### Saturday (8:00 AM Start Time)

32 2Yrs & Under Halter\*  
33 Non-Stock Type Halter\*  
34 Tiny Tot Halter 7 & Under\*  
35 Tiny Tot Showmanship 7 & Under\*  
36 Pony Showmanship 56" & Under\*  
37 PeeWee Showmanship 10&Under  
38 Jr. Showmanship 11-13  
39 Int. Showmanship 14-17  
40 Sr. Showmanship 18-34  
41 Sr.+ Showmanship 35-49  
42 Sr.50+ Showmanship 50 & Over  
43 W/T PeeWee Showmanship 10 & Under\*  
44 W/T Jr. Showmanship 11-17\*  
45 W/T Sr. Showmanship 18 & Over\*  
46 Guys Only Showmanship\*\*\* BENEFIT CLASS!



#### 5 Minute Open Arena Longe Line Only

47 Yearling & 2 Yr. Old Longe Line\*  
48 Adaptive Halter\*  
**10 Minute Open Arena English Only**  
49 Non-Stock Type English Pleasure  
50 Non-Stock Type English Equitation  
51 W/T Jr. English Pleasure 17 & Under\*  
52 W/T Sr. English Pleasure 18 & Over\*  
53 Jr. Hunt Seat Pleasure 13 & Under

No  
Membership  
Required!

2025 Dates	May 16-18	July 4-6	October 10-12
Friday Judge	Michael Saterbak	Kevin Woodford*	Sara Schaefer*
Saturday Judge	BJ Peterson	Sherrie Nichols	Tina Langness
Sunday Judge	Kim Ziegler	Ben Sparks	Blaine Burt
Location:	North Iowa Events Center	Mason City, IA	*Non-WSCA Judge

108 Jr. Ranch Riding 17&Under

109 Sr. Ranch Riding 18-34

110 Sr.+ Ranch Riding 35&Over

#### Sunday (8AM Start Time)

111 2Yrs & Under Halter\*

112 PeeWee Showmanship 10&Under

113 Jr. Showmanship 11-13

114 Int. Showmanship 14-17

115 Sr. Showmanship 18-34

116 Sr.+ Showmanship 35-49

117 Sr.50+ Showmanship 50 & Over

#### 5 Minute Open Arena Longe Line Only

118 Yearling & 2 Yr. Old Longe Line\*

#### 10 Minute Open Arena English Only

119 Non-Stock Type English Pleasure

120 Non-Stock Type English Equitation

121 Pony Hunt Seat Pleasure\*

122 Jr. Hunt Seat Pleasure 13 & Under

123 Int. Hunt Seat Pleasure 14-17

124 Sr. Hunt Seat Pleasure 18-34

125 Sr.+ Hunt Seat Pleasure 35-49

126 Sr. 50+ Hunt Seat Pleasure 50 & Over

127 **Jackpot Jr. Hunt Seat Pleasure 17 & Under\***

128 **Jackpot Sr. Hunt Seat Pleasure 18 & Over\***

129 Pony Hunt Seat Equitation\*

130 Jr. Hunt Seat Equitation 13 & Under

131 Int. Hunt Seat Equitation 14-17

132 Sr. Hunt Seat Equitation 18-34

133 Sr.+ Hunt Seat Equitation 35-49

134 Sr. 50+ Hunt Seat Equitation 50 & Over

#### 5 Minute Open Arena Driving Horses Only

135 Open Driving

136 Tiny Tot LeadLine 7 & Under\*

#### 10 Minute Open Arena Pleasure Only

137 Non-Stock Type Western Pleasure

138 Pony Western Pleasure\*

139 PeeWee Western Pleasure 10&Under

140 Jr. Western Pleasure 11-13

141 Int. Western Pleasure 14-17

142 Sr. Western Pleasure 18-34

143 Sr.+ Western Pleasure 35-49

144 Sr.50+ Western Pleasure 50 & Over

145 W/T PeeWee Western Pleasure 10&Under

146 W/T Jr. Western Pleasure 11-17

147 W/T Sr. Western Pleasure 18 & Over

148 **Jackpot W/T Western Pleasure\***

149 2 & 3 Yr. Old Snaffle Bit Western Pleasure

150 **Jackpot Jr. Western Pleasure 17 & Under\***

151 **Jackpot Sr. Western Pleasure 18 & Over\***

152 W/T PW West.Horsemanship 10&Under

153 W/T Jr. Western Horsemanship 11-17

154 W/T Sr. Western Horsemanship 18&Over

155 Pony Western Horsemanship\*

156 PeeWee Western Horsemanship 10&Under

157 Jr. Western Horsemanship 11-13

158 Int. Western Horsemanship 14-17

159 Sr. Western Horsemanship 18-34

160 Sr. + Western Horsemanship 35-49

161 Sr.50+ Western Horsemanship 50 & Over

**Sponsored By**



**Denny's Trailer Sales**  
Wykoff, MN  
507-352-5491

#### High-Point Buckles

Jr Walk-Trot Ranch

Sr. Walk-Trot Ranch

Sr+ Walk-Trot Ranch

Jr. Ranch

Sr. Ranch

Sr+ Ranch

W/T PeeWee

Jr Walk-Trot

Sr Walk-Trot

PeeWee

Junior

Intermediate

Senior

Senior+

Senior50+

Arabian or ½ Arab

Pony

#### High-Point Awards

Non-Stock Type

Horse 2 Yrs & Under

Tiny Tot

Review Judge for WSCA qualifying days. WSCA Rules Apply

\*\$6/Class/Day \$10/Jackpot Class Age as of Jan. 1, 2025

Stall Fee: \$65 Pre-Entry \*\*\*Benefit Class Proceeds in Memory of Kam Ronningen

\*Non-WSCA Qualifying

High-Point Classes posted on website.

Pony classes are any age rider w/pony 56" & Under. Same horse & rider cannot compete in w/t & w/t/l.

A stall is required to come show. All Rules Posted at [www.dwproductionsllc.com](http://www.dwproductionsllc.com)

# 50

YEAR  
BREEDER

## Krogman Quarter Horses

By Ruth Nicolaus

If you're into cutting, reining, reined cow horses or barrel horses, Krogman Quarter Horse is your one-stop shop.

For the past 70 years, they have been raising Quarter Horses near White River, S.D.

Siblings Steve Krogman, Lorena Hight, and Neil Krogman have partnered with the horses since their dad, Louie Krogman, passed away in 1991.

Louie was the start of the horse business.

Born in 1902, he grew up around ranch and draft horses, but wanted Quarter Horses. With a mental picture of the perfect horse in his head, he went to the 1950 National Western Stock Show in Denver and saw what he considered the perfect horse: an AQHA yearling stallion named Tom B Glover, the Grand Champion at halter. Louie bought him for \$1,000 (about \$12,000 today).

His older sister told him he was crazy, son Steve recounted. "She said he's the craziest person in the world to buy that horse. He'd never make it in this world if he spent money on crazy things like that."

But he wasn't crazy; he knew what he wanted.

For a time, he wanted race horses. He bred Tom B Glover to mares he owned, then bought an own son of Three Bars and crossed the Glover mares with Three Bars' son.

Louie was in the race horse business from 1955 to the early 1970s, and

during that tenure, he set a Kansas state record at the 400-yard distance for Quarter Horse racing, which held for many years.

Another racing stallion contributed to the Krogman bloodlines.

While at a race track in Colorado, Louie saw Leo 3, who had, unbeknownst to his owner, been entered into a claim race by his trainer. Leo 3 hadn't won much, so the trainer thought he'd put him in a cheap claim race, and the horse might win it.

After a phone call from Louie's trainer, telling him about the horse, Louie borrowed the cash from neighbors to buy the horse, flew to Colorado, and claimed him.





"The owner was terribly, terribly mad," Steve said. He sued Louie, but Louie won. Leo 3 "did a lot of good for us," Steve said. "He had super, super colts that were good looking and could really cow. Ranchers liked them."

By the late 1970s, Louie quit the race bloodlines and raised ranch horses with foundation bloodlines: Leo, Three Bars, and King.

Then he bought Paprika Pine from a good friend, Sonny Thomason. A grandson of Poco Pine, Paprika Pine crossed well on the Leo 3 bloodlines.

For a while, Louie was known for his roans. He had a lot of red roans, selling them at the annual sale. When several people asked for blue roans, Louie bought a blue roan stud.

Krogmans "were pretty much known for raising roan-colored horses that would really watch a cow and work good in the rodeo arena, the cow pen, and for ranchers," Steve said.

The three siblings work together, but each handles a different discipline: Steve oversees cutting horses, Lorena's interest is the reining, and Neil and his daughters handle the barrel horses.

For the cutting and reined cow horse, Cant Kick This Cat is their senior stallion. The 14-year-old sorrel's sire is High Brow Cat, the number one producing cutting sire ever. High Brow Cat has another son, Metallic Cat, who will probably surpass his sire in cutting earnings; the Krogmans own Metallic Aviator, a son of Metallic Cat.

Cant Kick This Cat not only threw good cutting babies, he changed how the Krogmans bred their horses. When they purchased him, they didn't realize he had an injured stifle; they just knew he couldn't cut. Because of the injured stifle, he isn't able to cover live mares. The Krogmans switched from pasture breeding to AI.

"It turned out that it was lucky that he was hurt," Steve said. Because of AI, they are able to breed 60 or more mares a year to him, instead of the 20 or 30 they'd have done through pasture breeding.

The stallion Smart Little Romeo was an influential part of their cutting bloodlines. He died at four years of age, but they kept a lot of broodmares out of him that worked very well on Cant Kick This Cat.

Lorena Hight's part of the program is the reining and reined cow horses.

A horse lover since she was a little girl, she rodeoed through high school, training her own horses for Little Britches, 4-H, high school and SDRA competition.

The first influential reining horse stud she had was Heza Valentine Pine, a palomino, "I fell in love with and had to buy," she laughed.

She followed him up with Whiz My Nu Chex, whose sire is Topsail Whiz, the NRHA's only ten-million-dollar winning sire, another palomino. Her sons use him around the ranch. "They have ridden him, dragged calves on him, rounded up cattle on him, and used him in some pretty rough areas," Lorena said. "They said they've never rode anything so sure-footed who can go out and get a cow."

Whiz My Nu Chex's oldest offspring are 5-year-olds. "People are really liking them," Lorena said.

In her reining horses, Lorena likes an athletic horse with cow sense and "horses that are pretty to look at and fun to watch move. They travel out classy and will watch a cow. They're not just reining but the rope horse type, too."



Neil and his daughters, Alyssa Hicks, Mariah Hossle and Savannah Krogman, who all competed in Little Britches, junior high and high school rodeo, focus on the barrel racing part of Krogman Quarter Horses.

Two stallions are their primary horses right now. VF Chase This, a grandson of Frenchmans Guy, is 8 years old and "has been doing well for us," Alyssa said. "His offspring are of riding age and are intelligent. We're excited to see what they have to offer under saddle."

The second stallion is Fame And Champagne, a 2016 sorrel grandson of Dash Ta Fame and an own son of Woodbridge.

Fame And Champagne "is just what we're looking for," she said. "Sensible and willing, and he throws those traits to his colts." Alyssa and her husband Josh have used him for ranch work and he's had training for the barrels and roping.

Alyssa looks for foals that are "easy to get along with, trainable, and I like them to have a little bit of personality. I like them to be pretty movers, nice and smooth, but have that quickness to them as well, with good feet."

Fame And Champagne is giving his offspring a "nice pretty head and nice hip," she said. "They have a little size to them. He throws a nice heavy bone on them."

Steve said Krogman Quarter Horse clientele is ranch people looking for horses to ranch on, horses for youth equine activities, and the weekend hobbyists who might compete in team penning or other horse events.

But no matter the discipline, the Krogmans have a horse for it. With the three branches of the family each doing its own event, "we stay up to date in the industry," Alyssa said.

"Whether you're looking for cutters, reiners or barrel racing horses," Steve said, "or a cross of those three, we have a lot of mares that are cow bred mares, crossing them on our running studs so you have that cow-run cross that people are looking for."

Louie might be surprised at how the horse world has changed, but he would be pleased the business is still going strong and the love for horses continues in the next generation of Krogmans.

Congratulations, Steve and Leigh, on 50 years raising registered American Quarter Horses!



# 2024 SDQHA Horse of the Year

## Pepto Two A Tee “Cali”

RIDDEN BY A BOY

*By Collette “Koko” Gjermundsen*

South Dakota cowboy Gabe Glines had his eyes on a state high school all-around title; he claimed two, thanks in part to a cutting horse named “Cali.” This summer, Cali became the 2024 National High School Rodeo Association Boys’ American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) Horse of the Year. The South Dakota Quarter Horse Association has chosen Cali as the Horse of the Year ridden by a boy.

Pepto Two A Tee, known as “Cali,” is owned by Gabe’s parents, Chris and Nicole Glines, who ranch near Smithwick, S.D. Horse and rider tallied up 215 points at the National High School Finals Rodeo (NHSFR), which kept them 20 points ahead of the AQHA Horse of the Year Reserve Champion, Metalllicexpectations or “Spec,” ridden by Justin Anaya of New Mexico.

Horses and riders nominated for the award earn points based on placing in events at the NHSFR, with a first place finish in a go-round or the average worth 200 points and a 20th place finish worth 10 points. Points earned may also vary according to the number of total contestants in a given event. The award was a Tod Slone breast collar and \$1,750, both sponsored by the AQHA.

Glines and Cali won both of their performances at the NHSFR, scoring a 145 to tie for 13th in the first go round and had the fifth highest score, a 146, in the second go round. “I came into the short-go sitting eighth in the cutting,” Gabe Glines said. “I didn’t have the best run ever and ended up 20th overall in the world standings.”

Besides cutting, Gabe competed in calf roping, steer wrestling reined cow horse and team roping in the South Dakota High School Rodeo Association. In 2024 he ended the year second in cow cutting and he was the state’s steer wrestling champion. He credits his parents with keeping him mounted on good horses and his older brothers, Levi and Garrett, for pushing him in the practice pen. Gabe attended two years of high school in Nebraska and finished up through homeschooling, graduating this past spring. He now attends Black Hills State University where he will pursue a business degree and compete in calf roping, steer wrestling and team roping in the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association.

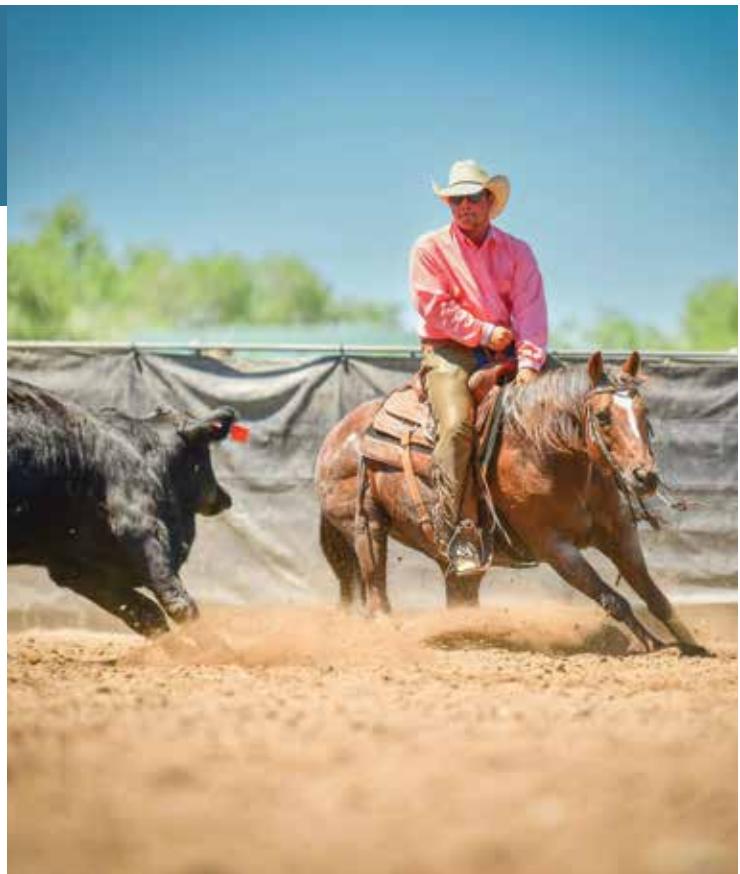
Cali is a 17-year-old bay roan mare. She was bred by John A. Harrah, Reno, Nev., and foaled in Texas in 2008, a daughter of Sweet Lil Pepto out of Billie Two A Tee. She’s a granddaughter of Peptoboonsmal who was a winner of \$180,487 in American Cutting Horse Association (ACHA) earnings and a producer of over \$27 million in earnings. Other notable names in Cali’s pedigree include Sweet Lil Lena, Freckles Playboy, Peppy San Badger and Royal Blue Boon, a cornerstone mare in the cutting horse industry.

Glines’ acquired Cali two years ago when Gabe decided to add cutting to his high school rodeo repertoire. She was previously owned by Steve and Tresa Bass, Brewster, Neb., and ridden by their sons, Ty and Cooper.

Cali was shown a bit in the ACHA when she was young, but most of her experience has been in high school cutting. “She took both our boys to nationals,” Steve added. Ty competed at the NHSFR his sophomore and junior years and Cooper competed on her at nationals his sophomore through senior years. Ty placed in the top 20 his junior year. Cooper was seventh going into the short go and ended up 12th overall his sophomore year and placed 22nd overall his senior year.

Glines has always been a multi-event cowboy, but when he added cutting he was able to take a solid leap into the South Dakota High School Rodeo Association all-around race, tying for first place in 2023 and winning the all-around champion title in 2024. “That mare, she was a game changer when it came to winning the all-around titles,” Gabe said. “She’s solid and did her job right every single time. I could always count on getting points from her.”

He calls Cali a down-to-earth, solid mare that doesn’t take a lot of extra care. “Just some green grass and water is all she needs,” Gabe said. “She’s a good mare, she knows her job and it’s dang sure a lot of fun.”



## SDQHA Proud



**Select 3 year-old- Stallions**

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**Reserve World Champion**

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# 2024 SDQHA Horse of the Year

## VF A Famous Lady “Chili”

RIDDEN BY A GIRL

By Ruth Nicolaus

It was two old college friends touching base that introduced Arina Haugen to her horse Chili.

And now Chili is the 2024 SDQHA AQHA Horse of the Year, ridden by a girl.

The fourteen-year-old mare, whose registered name is VF A Famous Lady, was owned by Mike and Becky Grant and their daughter Rayne, of Wheatland, Wyoming.

Rayne had ridden Chili in junior high and high school rodeo, winning the National High School pole bending, reserve barrel racing and all-around titles, and Chili winning National High School Rodeo AQHA Horse of the Year.

But Rayne was off to college at Laramie County (Wyo.) Community College, and Chili was unemployed, sitting at home.

The Haugens were in a bind in 2023. Older daughter Landry, a senior at the time, was to compete at the South Dakota High School Finals in Pierre, while middle daughter Arina was headed to the National Junior High School Finals in Perry, Georgia. Haugens' youngest daughter, Blaisely, is ten years old.

Landry and Arina had shared pole bending horses during the regular season, but there was no way they could get the pole bending horse from Pierre to Georgia for Arina to ride.

“We had to put Arina on another horse, and we didn’t have anything else that was good enough,” mom Dee remembers. “Arina had qualified in four events, and I thought, maybe she doesn’t need to go in the poles.”

But then Tyler, who college rodeoed with Mike Grant, remembered the Grant family and their horse, and wondered what Chili was doing. So Dee called Mike.

“What are you doing with Chili?” she asked, and Mike replied, “call Rayne. I’ll bet she’d love it if Arina rode her.”

So Rayne got the horse legged up, and a week before National Junior High Finals, the Haugens picked up the mare in Douglas.

Arina got two rides on the mare before she competed in Georgia, “and everywhere she went, she was remarkable,” Dee said. Arina and Chili’s pole bending runs got faster as the rodeo went on: 20.1 seconds in the first round, 19.9 in the second, and then 19.6, and 19.3. “She was just phenomenal.”

At National Junior High Finals that year, Arina won a round, placed fourth in a round, and came back to the short go second high call, but hit a pole.

From Perry that year, she and her family went straight to Guthrie, Okla. for the Little Britches Rodeo Finals, where, on Chili, she won reserve in the barrels and third in the poles.

After Little Britches Finals, she competed at the WCRA Finals in the 15 and under youth division, where she was the pole bending champion for her division (and did well in the barrels, too).

“It was just like this storybook tale,” Dee said.

But they didn’t own the mare; the Grant family did. “We wanted her, but I knew I’d have to sell a kidney,” to own her, she said.

So she called Rayne, and the two worked out a deal. Rayne “wanted some younger horses to step up her game and train more,” and she took some of Haugen’s horses as part of the trade for Chili.

Dee said that if Arina ever questions if her daddy loves her, he proved it with the horse trade.

Tyler had recently bought a three-year-old cow horse, and that was one of the horses Rayne picked. “We giggle,” Dee said, “that the next morning, Ty went out to feed and his mare is gone. Now you know what dads do (for their kids). If your kids ever wonder if you love them, there you go.”

Chili, who is by Born To Be Famous with Frenchmans Guy in her pedigree, is not very good at the gate, Dee said.

“We have to have a game plan at the gate,” she said. “She rears and wants



to go in. She would scare a lot of young girls.”

The Haugens have a strategy: they keep Chili and Arina away from the gate till the arena is ready. Either Dee or Tyler is there with them, and they have a buddy horse with her. Arina’s goat tying horse is Pepper, “so it’s usually the Chili-Pepper team,” Dee quipped.

The horse is not only talented, but tough, Dee said. Chili, in a fifteen-day period last year with state high school rodeo, ran in both the barrels and the poles at four regional rodeos and three rounds at state, a total of fourteen runs in fifteen days. Arina won the state barrel racing title last year, against a tough group of horses, Dee said.

Chili was a little reserved when they first got together, but she’s warmed up, Arina said.

“When I first got her and went to pet on her, she wouldn’t let me love on her,” she said. “Now that we’ve gone together more, I can tell she likes me more than anybody else. She’ll walk right up to me and go to pushing on me. She knows that I’m hers and she’s mine.”

Chili loves to rodeo. When it’s time to load up, “she’ll go ahead and jump on the trailer,” Arina said. “She’s so smart, I swear she knows she’s going to go and make her run.”

The Haugens hope to pull embryos from Chili. “I definitely want some babies out of her,” Arina said. “I don’t want her bloodline to end, because she’s so cool.”

The whole experience of getting Chili from Rayne Grant was inspirational to Dee.

When Rayne let the family borrow the horse, she was very helpful to Arina in how to ride her.

“Rayne said, ‘this is how I ride her, this is what I do, treat her like your own,’” Dee said. “Rayne was so good and kind about it, it still makes me teary. The opportunity she offered Arina is not something everyone would do.”

“There are times we all have that struggle, where life is tough and people are rotten.” But Rayne was the opposite. “I felt like my faith in humanity was restored.”

Arina is also grateful to Rayne. “She’s told me to enjoy every ride, because she misses Chili.”

“What a blessing it has been for Arina and Chili,” Dee said. “They love each other.”

# Lutter Quarter Horses

## AQHA 50-YEAR BREEDERS

By Kaycee Monnens Cortner

Lutter Quarter Horses is being recognized by the American Quarter Horse Association after reaching the milestone of 50 years in the Quarter Horse breeding business. Not only has Gilbert Lutter been involved in all facets of the horse business, but he has also extended his home and horses to area youth to teach them about the discipline of cutting. The Lutter family consists of lifelong producers, competitors, and South Dakota Quarter Horse Association members.

Gilbert and his wife Zelda were married in 1961, following which they were heavily involved in the halter horse showing business. While raising their four children—Joe, Wanda, Marsha, and Barb—the kids took an interest in rodeo so a switch was made to performance horses. Their daughter, Wanda was Miss Rodeo South Dakota in 1983, and her interest in cutting also led Gilbert to buy the family's first cow horse when she was in high school. It seems that the cutting bug was one that the Lutters could never shake, for they still raise and compete on cutters.

"My kids were always involved in horses," said Lutter. Gilbert himself grew up this way, his father John being passionate about registered Belgian horses, taking them to parades and showing them at the South Dakota State Fair. Not only did Gilbert inherit this love for horses, but he also passed it onto several generations. Just to name a few: his grandson, Dylan, is a certified equine surgeon at Kansas State University; granddaughter Emma has built a barn in nearby Zell for her horse training career; and a great granddaughter is competing in playdays. "It gets in their blood a little bit," he said. That's not to mention the dozens of high school kids that he mentored throughout their careers, helping them practice at his house, ride his horses, and show in the cutting pen.

For almost 40 years, Gilbert and Zelda owned Redfield Livestock Auction, hosting horse sales twice a year for several years throughout. They sold the sale barn in 2008, but remained in the auction business with their two children, son in law, and daughter in law. Lutter & Associates specialize in real estate and farm auctions.

All the while, they have raised quality Quarter Horse prospects to ride and market. One of their signature stallions was Dox Outside Chance by Doc O'Lena and out of Smart Hickory, who influenced their program for many years. They took their progeny to show in cuttings in South Dakota and surrounding states at the height of their traveling and competing. Their two current stallions are SDP TR Tari Rey, by TR Dual Rey, out of Tari Acre and General Pepto (Peptos Blueprint) out of a daughter of Dox Outside Chance.

Lutter still enjoys raising foals every year and showing his young horses in the cutting pen. In 2022, he had success at the Dakota Classic Cutting



Futurity. A home raised gelding named LR Pepto Charlie, by their stud General Pepto, who placed second in the Non-Pro with Gilbert also won a round and placed in the Open with trainer Sam Sheppick.

For raising quality horses, Lutter is selective about his broodmare band, which has remained at about 10 mares for the majority of the family's horse-raising years. "I am always kind of pretty critical of the conformation. I like to have some with good conformation and hopefully good dispositions," he said.

Lutter has his eye on a weanling standing in their corral for his next stallion prospect. He is out of a daughter of Highbrow CD and sired by Fiddle and Steel (Metallic Cat x Lil Bit Reckless, by CD Royal). Fiddle and Steel is owned by Wagonhound Land and Livestock and is standing at 6666's Ranch.

"We haven't give up yet, I guess," he smiled.

Lutter is not fussy about pedigree, as long as his horses produce performers.

Lutter appreciates the versatility of the Quarter Horse, citing the vast array of disciplines in which they are competitive. "Being in the halter horse business, I always appreciated a good lookin' one," he said. When choosing performance horses, he liked finding horses with quiet dispositions, cow sense, and athleticism.

Having found a formula that works over the past five decades, Lutter will stick with it. "We haven't changed anything very much," he said.

Being an expert in all aspects of the horse market, Lutter is pretty happy with the current state of the industry. For the foreseeable future, he will keep showing and raising good horses.

Lutter Quarter Horses will accept their 50-Year Breeders Award at the 2025 AQHA Convention Breeder Recognition Banquet, held March 28-31 at the South Point Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas.



# 2024 SDQHA Legacy Horse Harley D Zip

By Ruth Nicolaus

A once in a lifetime horse gave the Papendick family of Rapid City, South Dakota, the ride of a lifetime.

Harley D Zip, a bay gelding, is the 2024 South Dakota Quarter Horse Association Legacy Horse, and a 2023 inductee into the AQHA Hall of Fame.

The gelding, by Maximum Zip, a grandson of Zippo Pine Bar and out of Miss Faithfully, accumulated 6,000 AQHA points, with more than one third of them in the Open Western Riding with Jason Martin; sixteen World Champion titles; nine Reserve World Champion titles; six Youth World championships; multiple Congress Championships; Congress Amateur Versatility Championships, and numerous year-end High Point Awards. He was also a 2016 inductee in the National Snaffle Bit Association Hall of Fame.

Kerry Papendick and her daughters, Kristina and Ali, had shown locally and regionally, but as the girls got older, Kerry realized they might want to branch into showing nationally.

They became clients of Highpoint Performance Horses in Pilot Point, Texas, working with trainers Jason Martin and Charlie Cole.

After about two years of training, Martin and Cole told the girls it was time to step up to more advanced horses.

It was 2003, and it just happened, at that time, another Highpoint client who owned Harley D Zip, was looking to sell him to buy a new prospect. Harley, who was eight years old at the time, was trained by Martin and Cole beginning with his junior years.

That client, Joetta Meredith Bell, a "phenomenal non-pro trainer," Kerry said, sold Harley to the Papendicks.

Bell had won quite a few points with the horse before she sold him, and the girls admired her and considered her a mentor. "They looked up to her and her riding ability, and how she presented herself at horse shows," Kerry said.

Kristina, the elder daughter of Lew and Kerry, had seen Harley as a three-year-old and called him her "dream horse." So when Joetta sold him to the family, she was astounded. "Kristina said, 'I can't believe Joetta said yes.' So I think the girls tried to fit in with Harley, to impress Joetta."

Owning that horse "put us on the map," she said.

The horse stayed at Highpoint; Kerry and the girls spent about two weeks every school month and all summer near Pilot Point, riding Harley and their other show horses and learning from Jason and Charlie.

Kristina showed him first, in the Youth division then for a year at the Amateur level. When she went off to college at the University of South Carolina, younger sister Ali got a turn at him. She showed him through her youth career as well, and for a year in the Amateurs.

When Ali went to college, mom Kerry got her turn at the reins. Lew was their "number one best supporter, fan-wise and financially," Kerry said. "He stayed home and worked his butt off so we could go to horse shows."

Harley competed in several classes: horsemanship, trail, equitation under saddle, and halter showmanship, but he shone in western riding. In western riding, Harley made the cadenced lead change look graceful, smooth and easy.

"It flowed," Kerry said. "He would point his front leg out so it looked like he was flowing into the lead change." Harley changed leads so fluidly, he set the standard for the class.

All three Papendick women competed on Harley in their respective classes: Youth, Amateur, and Select. The horse was the only horse to win a World Championship title in Junior, Senior, Youth, Amateur and Select in the same class. He also set a record in AQHA Incentive Fund earnings.

Harley was very intelligent and knew when he was at a show, and sensed if a show was more important.



"He was one of those horses, that, after a certain point, he'd been to enough horse shows that he knew it was time to perform, and if he performed well, he could hang out at his stall."

He also knew how to say, "enough." He bucked off Jason, Ali and Kerry each once. It was his way of saying, "you've done enough training on me," Kerry said. "I know what to do, no more of that." After that, there was an understanding, and it worked out wonderfully."

Harley was particular with who rode him, and had an especially close relationship with Jason, his Open rider and trainer. "I'd never seen a horse connect with a person like that," Kerry said. "They knew each other so well." Jason had ridden Harley since he was three years old.

Jason's bond with Harley was evident at the horse's last AQHA World show in 2011, when they competed together. After the Open Senior Western Riding, Harley performed bridleless, and the crowd gave them a standing ovation.

The family retired Harley in 2011 and he came to live at the Highview Ranch.

Just as in his show career, Harley "knew what was going on," Kerry said. He'd never been in a large pasture, but on the ranch, he fit in. "I never had a problem with him with fences, or with other horses. He adapted to whatever situation you put him in."

The girls, now grown women, don't show horses anymore. Kristina Comer is married with two young daughters and lives in South Carolina. Ali Wendlandt married last fall and lives in Colorado. Kerry has a picture of Kristina's daughters on Harley.

The phenomenal horse passed away in August of 2021 and was laid to rest on the ranch.

He gave the Papendicks more than they ever imagined.

Harley "gave us an extraordinary journey into the Quarter Horse world, in the AQHA world of showing," Kerry said. "For the industry, as a whole, he set a standard in the western riding class, that I think every exhibitor tries to emulate, to win the class. And he'll never be forgotten for that."

The horse taught the Papendicks many lessons, she said.

"He taught me how to perform with other horses and ride other horses better. He taught my girls how to ride better. If we hadn't had Harley in our lives, I don't think we'd still be showing quarter horses. He took us on one of those perfect journeys."

"It was one of those journeys I don't think I'll ever see again in my lifetime with a horse."

"I just hope everybody gets a chance to own their own little Harley. It makes your life with horses unbelievable."

## SDQHA 2023 Lasting Legacy Award:

# Joseph Rowe

Joe Rowe's love of horses began as a young boy helping his grandfather and father with a team of Belgian horses. He valued his faith, family, friends, fairness and our freedoms.

When his grandfather retired, Joe's father, Burdell, became an auctioneer. His business included farm and livestock sales and later monthly horse sales of all breeds in Luverne, Minnesota. When Joe was growing up his Saturdays and after school days were spent helping in the barn. This included breaking young colts and fillies for the monthly horse sales. Joe often called them "30 day wonders."

One of Joe's favorite recollections of those days was the first time he met Jim Korkow. Jim's dad called Burdell and said "I'm sending my son down with a load of colts for the sale tonight, can someone help him unload?"

The response from Burdell was, "Sure, Joe is at the barn; he will help him."

When Jim pulled in, he said, "Joe turn off the lights, I will send them out one at a time; you put them in the pens."

As Joe recalls, Jim went into the dark stock trailer with an armful of web halters. As Jim put a halter on each colt they came out one at a time and went into a pen. Next day they led them into the sale ring looking fit and in great flesh and all were halter broke! A friendship developed between the two young teens.

Joe met his future wife, Carrie Erickson, at the University of Minnesota.

"He said I hazed him!" Carrie recalled. "I was a city girl and had no idea what he was talking about! As I look back, he was right! I had never met a guy who wore pressed blue jeans and cowboy boots even in August's hottest days. He talked horse all the time."

Joe kept telling Carrie, "You have to come to 'God's Country!'"

After she ironed several pairs of his blue jeans, away they went one weekend to Luverne, Minnesota. The following day they went across the border to South Dakota, "God's Country!" "We only got as far west as Charlie's Pizza in Sioux Falls," Carrie recalled. "It was a big deal back then because you could drink beer at 18 in South Dakota!"

During college, Joe frequently went home to continue to help his dad with horse sales and getting horses ready for a sale. He made his first sale and the couple married in June of 1968. They owned Show Me Sal, a quarter horse mare that Joe began showing in some Quarter Horse shows in Minnesota.

Joe was drafted into the Army in 1968. After two years of service, Joe was discharged and the family moved back to Luverne, Minnesota. His dad had had an accident and needed help breaking and training his barn full of horses.

As it turned out, some of the customers wanted their horses campaigned at the Quarter Horse and Appaloosa shows. Rowe's Training Stable was born and down the road they went to various shows in four states.

"Our circle of friends expanded to horse show exhibitors and we have very fond memories of good friendships and fun times," Carrie said. "Our whole family was involved in preparing the horses for the show ring. This lasted for about 13 years. We quit showing after Joe witnessed a judge's subjective way of placing classes. That experience led us to quit showing professionally for almost a decade. We still had our horses but only used them at home."

In 1992, Joe got a call from Rock Rapids Iowa to judge a horse show for their fair. His response was, "I'm not a judge; that was my dad."

After much encouragement from the show committee telling him that they knew he was a good judge of a good horse and a good rider and he would be fair, Joe accepted his first show to judge.

After that first show he received more calls to judge. He decided he



needed an objective system. As a judge himself he didn't want the exhibitors to experience a similar frustration as he once had in the show ring. His system was a score sheet for each class. In the various events the exhibitors demonstrated their skills based on the pattern selected. Under his system each maneuver in the pattern was singled out and listed on his score sheet. As they completed each maneuver in the pattern, he would note on his score sheet how well they did each task.

Under the system every exhibitor begins with a score of 70, which he considered a good average score. As the exhibitor completed the pattern, including various stops, turns, and gait transitions, they could earn or lose points on the score sheet. When the last exhibitor in the class has completed the pattern, he added the scores and the highest becomes his class winner and the rest followed. When he would be asked questions on his placings—the score sheets or the rule book he always had in his back pocket would settle the questions.

Joe judged for 30 years and judged 20 to 30 shows in a season. He held judging cards for the Pinto Horse Association, Pony of America, Iowa 4-H, Minnesota 4-H, and South Dakota 4-H. He judged Open shows including the Clay County Fair, the POAC Regional show, South Dakota State 4-H show, Minnesota State 4-H show and Draft Horse shows.

The highlight of Joe's judging career was working with young people; he considered them "the future of the horse industry."

Joe loved the United States of America and was adamant about starting every show with the National Anthem. He carried his own American flag and a recording of the Star Spangled Banner with him to every show. There were no excuses: the anthem was sung and the flag displayed. Then the show could begin!

Joe had a long relationship with the McCrossan Boys Ranch, that began with the South Dakota Wagon Train to celebrate the South Dakota Centennial in 1989. He loved horses and mentoring young people and giving back to his home state – "God's Country."

Joe had a passion for Ray Herren's Quarter horses. He went down to Ray's one day and came home saying, "Ray has a new guy helping to get some of his horses ready to show. I watched him ride a little bit. He has really nice light hands; he will work out great for Ray."

That young guy was Jim Barr.



BOTH STALLIONS NOW APHA APPROVED AND IRHA FUTURITY SIRE ENROLLED!



# mr Wimpy RED

Shane Rux  
Photographer

2014 sorrel stallion (Wimpys Little Step X Beauty Baroness)  
5 Panel n/n | Frozen Semen | 2025 Fee: \$1,000 LFG (+shipping)  
Pasture breeding at Virgil, South Dakota May 15 – July 15!

2X AQHA L2 Open World Show Heading Reserve World Champion  
2020 AQHA L2 High-Point in the Nation, Heading  
Superior Heading  
Superior Heeling

Incentives Include: IQHA Ranch Horse Futurity, Ranch Horse Extravaganza & Futurity

# Show Me A Jack

2015 palomino stallion (Show Me A Song Joes X Dutchess Jo Jack)  
5 Panel n/n | Frozen Semen | 2025 Fee: \$750 LFG (+shipping)  
Pasture breeding at Plankinton, South Dakota May 15 – July 15!

Incentives Include: HPI, the IQHA Ranch Horse Futurity, Ranch Horse Extravaganza & Futurity





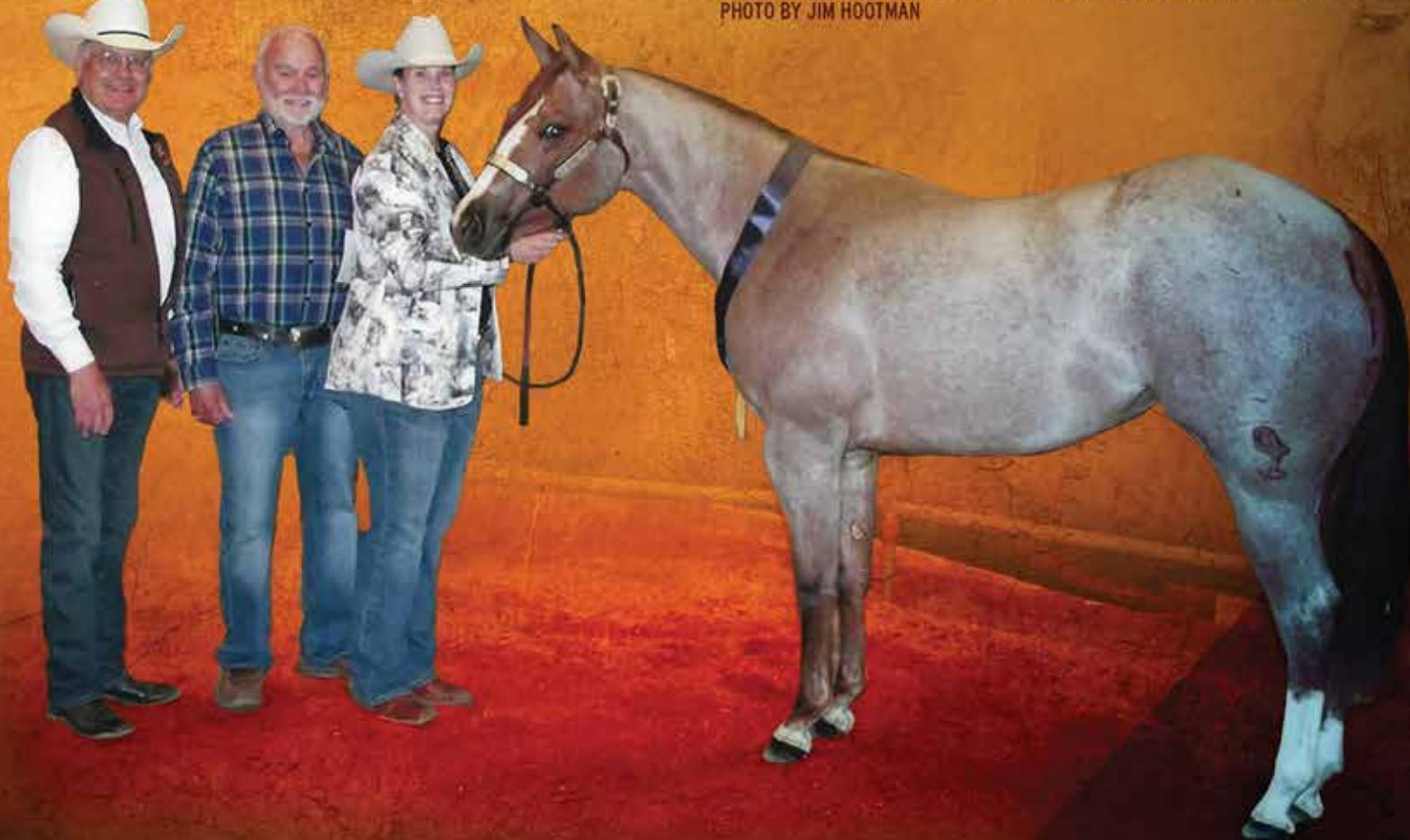
DEBBI HOLMES QUARTER HORSES

## 27 YEAR BREEDER

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Debbi Holmes Quarter Horses

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By Kaycee Monnens Cortner

From crossing two bloodlines to the training process to the finished performance horse, Gollihers are there for every step of producing a quality Quarter Horse. Located in Belle Fourche, South Dakota, the family is honored this year by the South Dakota Quarter Horse Association as 75 Year Breeders.

Jerry and his wife, Sue, along with their daughter, Zeann, and Jerry's brother and sister-in-law, Warren and Jan, continue the breeding program that was founded in 1948 by their patriarch, Z.N. Golliher.

Z.N.'s passion for horses was passed to his son, Jerry, who began training horses at 16. "The first person that ever paid me was John Tischer. I got three dollars a ride." Since then, he has ridden well over 2,000 horses.

Jessica (Ryan) Keeth, who has ridden multiple Golliher horses, said, "Golliher horses are easily trained, thanks to Jerry's start. Words don't even describe his style. You can point them in any direction you want them to go."

At 75 years old, Jerry still studies horsemanship on the Cowboy Channel, ropes the dummy every day, and improves his riding skills. For Golliher, creating lightness and feeling a horse's feet are key to his approach.

#### Breeding History

Gollihers have a long history of choosing quality performance stallions to own or lease.

It has been 75 years since Z. N. and Margaret Golliher purchased their first registered Quarter Horse stallion, Fire Fly Chief, at the Denver Stock Show.

A son of Fire Fly Chief called Pharaoh won the gelding halter class with Z.N. Golliher at the Denver Stock Show, while the family was still living in Colorado. The gelding was featured on the Justin Boot ad for a time.

Z.N. also owned a grandson of the legendary King called Lobo Roper.

Fire Fly Chief Junior was another favorite performing stallion for Gollihers. "I placed in the cutting at the NHSFR on him and then bull dogged on him, and Joann Smeenk-Johnson ran him in the barrels and won the all-around," said Jerry.

Z.N. leased Diamond Dial, by Johnny Dial for two years. Jerry said his owner hauled him to Belle Fourche from New Mexico in the back of his



*Fire Fly Chief Junior was one of the signature stallions during Jerry's upbringing. The horse competed in steer wrestling, cutting, and barrel racing.*

pickup. They raised a colt by him that won the National Finals Rodeo barrel racing average called Flashy Dial, ridden by Becky Carson.

Z.N. then leased a stallion called Sergeant Jay by Moon Deck. Moon Deck was inducted into the AQHA Hall of Fame in 1996 after an illustrious racing career, and the Top Deck lineage (Moon Deck's sire) is one of the fastest in the breed.

On the subject of lineage, Z.N. purchased one of his more iconic stallions called Range Duster, a maternal half-brother to Moon Deck. His sire was Wild Deck by Top Deck. Range Dusters' progeny won such prestigious titles as: Badlands Circuit Finals barrel racing (with Robin Bail Tierney and Coly Moody Blake, respectively), National Little Britches Finals Rodeo pole bending champion (Carole Hollers), and Dusters Pride being a record-setting racehorse (trained by Larry and Barb Moe).

Other notable stallions that influenced their program include: Hoddy Jay by Sergeant Jay, who won SDRA Calf Roping with Jerry in 1978; Shake it Special by Special Effort; Humbolt Duster by Humbolt by Alamitos Bar; Lil McGin by Little Easy Cash (who sired an arena record holder at Cheyenne Frontier Days, ridden by Peggy Garman, and also sired a Bob Feist Invitational champion, ridden by Drew Horner); Personal Affair by Easy Jet; Flying Z Stinger by Range Duster; Flying Z Ace by Bills Ryon SI 113.

Not slowing down soon, Gollihers are currently riding the two- and three-year-olds by stallions including: Zisco by Flying Z Ace out of a Disco Jerry bred mare, Easy Ta Fame by Freckles Ta Fame (Can Man), and Jacob Bear Returns by Bee Z Bear out of a Complete Return (Dash For Cash) mare.

Both Jerry and Sue were each competitive rodeo athletes. Sue was the 1979 Calgary Stampede barrel racing champion and won the first Women's All-Around in the South Dakota Rodeo Association.

Jerry's professional and amateur rodeo career led him to several SDRA and Northwest Ranch Cowboys Association year-end titles, countless local victories and with a wealth of knowledge. They passed their love of competition and horses onto their daughter, Zeann, named after her grandfather.

#### Event Production and Present Day

Gollihers' contribution to South Dakota's Quarter Horse scene does not end with the sale of a well-bred horse.

They said, "Anymore, there are so many nice, quality horses that just need a chance to prove themselves. We have tried to provide that place."

Their barn along Highway 85 – along with the expertise of Jerry and Sue – has always been available to those who are eager to improve their horsemanship and become better competitors. It takes a lot of knowledge and labor to make a winning horse, and you've got to have a place to do it," said Jerry. The barn may be leased, and Gollihers produce a number of events and clinics each year.

The Dakota West Barrel Racing Futurity has been hosted by Gollihers since 1979. It was the second 5-year-old futurity in the nation, which they began producing in an area where futurities were nonexistent. Next August will be their 44th futurity.

Zeann Gollifer produced the Roper Rally Barrel Racing Futurity for 15 years and now plays a vital role in the production of the Pink and Ruby Buckle Futurities. "If we're thinking about promoting Quarter Horses, those barrel racing futurities have been one of the most promoting things for the Quarter Horse industry," said Jerry.

For over three decades, Gollihers and their friend Carole Hollers have hosted a breakaway roping clinic in the barn. Over 1,000 students have been taught, and the clinics are now hosted up to nine times yearly at various locations, due to increased attendance.

Jerry and Sue were honored by the South Dakota High School Rodeo Association as persons of the year in 2013, are members of the Casey Tibbs Museum Hall of Fame and were parade marshals in the Belle Fourche Roundup Fourth of July parade in 2014. Jerry is in the BHSU Rodeo Hall of Fame.

Jerry and Sue agree that all the buckles and awards they received over the years were greatly appreciated and some were hard earned. They also agree that nothing gives them greater pleasure than to see someone doing well on a horse with Gollifer Quarter horse breeding. The highlight of each year is when the new colts are born and the whole process starts over.



*Gollihers produced the 8-State Futurity, which became Dakota West Futurity. This will be their 44th year.*



*One of Gollifer's current stallions, Zisco, is by Flying Z Ace*

# RODEO HISTORY

## ***South Dakota high school cowgirl wins national barrel racing title 55 years after the last South Dakotan to do it!***

**By Ruth Nicolaus**

It's been a long dry spell, but a South Dakota high school cowgirl won the National High School Rodeo barrel racing in 2023, 55 years after the last South Dakotan did it.

The feat was accomplished in 2023 by Piper Cordes, Wall; the last South Dakotan to do that same thing was Maxine McCullough in 1968.

Cordes, eighteen years old, won both rounds and placed third in the short round at the National High School Finals in Gillette, Wyo.

She was aboard her horse Fiestas Cantina "Fiesta," a horse she and her parents, Spencer and Paige, received as an embryo, a gift from Alan Woodbury.

Last summer was her third qualification for Nationals, and she was ready.

"I just remember thinking, I've done this before, it's just another run, I don't have to do anything special, I just have to be smooth," she said. Her first run was 17.015 seconds, in the Tuesday morning performance. Her second run was Thursday night, and the time between the two runs was a little anxiety-filled.

"I had too much time to think," she said. "I was fine till Thursday morning, then I started getting a little nervous." But the nerves didn't matter; she also turned in the fastest time of the second round, with 16.725 seconds.

The pressure was even greater for the short round, on July 23.

"I was definitely more nervous," she said. "I remember thinking, I have to finish this off. I did not work this hard to not secure the whole thing." She controlled her nerves by picturing herself running at a playday rodeo.

And to top it off, she drew last hole for the short round. "I had to wait on all 19 girls to run, but that honestly didn't make me nervous," Cordes said she safety-ed up on the back side of the first barrel. "I thought Fiesta was close, and I moved him over with my foot. I knew it cost me time, but I ran another 17 second run and I knew that secured the title."

One of the sweetest moments of the week in Gillette at Nationals was greeting her mom and grandparents in the stands after the second round. "I was so happy," she said. "It was a great moment."

Fiesta, out of Rosas Cantina CC and sired by Fiestas Gotta Gun, is an eight-year-old gray gelding who is smart, Cordes said. "He's so smart, he adjusts to things like no other horse I've ridden. He listens to me so well. He doesn't do anything without my cue, and he loves reassurance. He loves his little pets and head scratches. He wants to please. I can tell he loves barrels and his job."

Her riding style matches Fiesta's style. "I'm a very laid back rider," she said. "I think less is more, and Fiesta is the same way. He doesn't get hot at the gate. He's very smooth riding, he's very catty, and he's very ratey. I feel like we both have the same technique. We're both calm, smooth, laid back and we feed off each other."

Prior to Cordes, the last South Dakotan to win the barrels at the National High School Finals was McCullough of Highmore, in 1968.

Before McCullough, three other South Dakotans won the national title: Jean Vroman Smith, Belle Fourche (1967); Rose Mary D'Arta, New Underwood (1966) and Connie Stinson Price, Viewfield (1960).

The horse that Smith rode when she won Nationals in 1967 in Elko, Nev. has her own unique story. She and her dad had gone to Bowman, North Dakota, to look at a prospective barrel horse, and Smith rode a beautiful little filly who was perfect, in her opinion. But when they went home, it was with a big, gangly, two-year-old paint mare who was rough riding. The mare barely fit in the horse trailer, and when they came home, someone tossed a firecracker near the trailer and the mare freaked out, getting her front feet stuck in the rails. But Patchie the mare turned out to be an excellent barrel



horse; Smith used her for the poles as well.

Connie Stinson Price won the national title in 1960 aboard a horse her dad bought at the sale barn for \$165. Little Miss was a tiny bay mare with Welsh blood who "never made one mistake," Price said. That year, Price won not only the barrels at Nationals but the all-around, and she was the state high school rodeo queen as well.

D'Arta has passed, Price said; the two were classmates at New Underwood. D'Arta's father was a doctor in town and they had no horses, so she rode Price's horses.

When Cordes played high school volleyball in New Underwood, she remembered seeing Connie's name on a banner at school, for winning numerous rodeo titles.

"I thought that was really cool," she said. Cordes' mother Paige is a niece to Connie's husband Jay.

Cordes was proud to bring the barrel racing title back to South Dakota.

"It's a great feeling. I think South Dakota is such a great rodeo state. We get so much support. I love rodeo in South Dakota. I love the atmosphere. Everyone is there to do their best, and support you. They're not selfish about it in any way."

Cordes will graduate high school in May of 2024; she participates in high school volleyball, gymnastics, is a member of the National Honor Society, and founder of the Wall High School Book Club.

She is the 2022 and 2023 S.D. High School Rodeo barrel racing champion and finished third in the barrels in the S.D. Rodeo Association. At the 2023 state high school finals, she and Fiesta won a round in the pole bending and placed second in another round to qualify for the short round.

# A RARE JEWEL

## SDQHA AWARD WINNING HORSE EXCELS IN TWO DISCIPLINES

By Ruth Nicolaus

Braden Routier has a rare horse.

Played With A Snake "Stella" is not only a rope horse, the mare is a cutting horse as well.

She was purchased from Eli Lord and Codi Sebastian two years ago as a nine-year-old breakaway horse.

Braden, who was sixteen at the time, breakawayed on her, then started tying down calves on her.

"One day we were down roping in the barn, and she turned back on a couple of cows. I found out she could cut, too," he said.

He had competed in the cutting his freshman year on a horse belonging to his grandma, Shelly Mueller. When that horse wasn't available his sophomore year, he wasn't going to cut.

But with Stella showing an inclination for it, he went to the high school practice cutting in Kadoka, S.D. At her first competition, he tied for the win on the sorrel mare.

Now eleven years old, she's got what it takes for the tie-down roping, too.

"She fires so well and she's quick on her feet," Braden said. "Once you rope and ask her to stop, she stops as fast as she can, and works the rope perfectly every time. I never have to worry about her giving me enough pull when tying, and I'm confident with her underneath me."

Her primary job isn't cutting, but she has the skills for it. "No matter what, she'll try for the whole two and a half minutes. My sophomore year, I wasn't as experienced in cutting, but once I figured out how to set my cattle up right, I dropped my hand and let her do her job. Things usually played out pretty well in the end."

Braden started on Stella in 2022, but the two were getting to know each other, and he didn't rope as well as he'd liked.

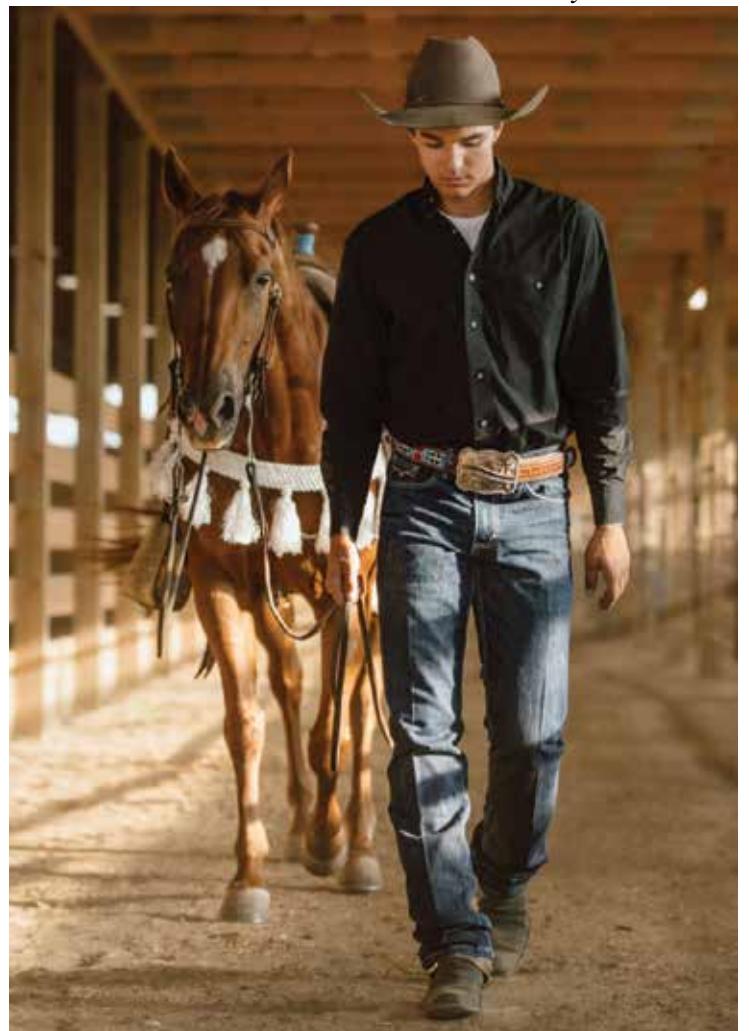
Then, this past June, things turned around. "We roped really well all season and came into (S.D.) state (high school finals) almost maxed out in both the tie-down and the cutting." The cutting went well, with him winning fourth. Unfortunately, a lacerated liver from a steer wrestling accident at state kept him from Nationals in the roping.

He was able to cut at the National High School Finals Rodeo, but not tie-down, due to the injury.

The cutting scene at Nationals was the biggest stage the sorrel had been on. "She'd been to rodeos with a lot of tie-down roping, but at Nationals for the cutting, you're in the arena for a longer time period." In the first round, he scored 135. The second round went better, with her cutting out three cows. They didn't make the short round, but finished 32nd in the standings. "I was very happy with her," he said.



Photo by Dawn Padden



The mare knows the difference between the cutting and the tie-down, Braden said. "She stays very calm for the cutting, which is what you want in a cutting horse. In the tie-down, she knows when it's go-time and she's fired up."

She also has an attitude and is smart, "so smart she sometimes knows what she can get away with and what she can't. When I first got her, she was standoffish. It took a lot of loving on her, riding her every day, me building confidence in her and her building confidence in me and trusting each other."

Her background is a bit of a mystery, Braden said. Before Lord and Sebastian owned her, she was owned by Robert Sperry of North Dakota. Braden thinks the MK brand on her left hip might be related to MK Performance Horses in Arkansas, who train cutting horses. "She might have been a cutting reject," he said. "That's my theory. And after seven years (of not cutting), she still knew what she was doing and knew how to win."

Braden competed at 4-H rodeos this summer, finishing the season as reserve state tie-down champion at 4-H finals. He roped at a few South Dakota Rodeo Association rodeos this past summer, and even went to his first PRCA rodeo in Brookings, South Dakota in October. "I was a little late, but Stella did great. We made a solid run."

A senior at Harding County School in Buffalo, Braden played football all four years, basketball three years, is a member of the FFA and National Honor Society, is president of the student council, and is on the gold honor roll.

He'll college rodeo this fall and hopes to major in business, although his choice of schools is undecided.

Having a horse that does so well in the roping and the cutting is rare, Braden said, "and especially for her to excel as much as she does in both events."

"She does her job every time."

# SCRATCH THE ITCH

## SDQHA AWARD HORSE OF THE YEAR

RIDDEN BY A GIRL

By Ruth Nicolaus

He's short, he's nosy, and he itches a lot, but he's just won the South Dakota Quarter Horse Association Horse of the Year, Ridden by a Girl.

CW Ichin to Win "Scratchy" is owned by the Tyler and Dee Haugen family, Sturgis, South Dakota, and ridden by their eldest daughter Landry.

Scratchy may have a unique personality, but he's proven himself time and again in the rodeo arena as a breakaway and goat tying horse.

In her senior year of high school, Landry won the South Dakota State High School goat tying title on him. She also won the cutting title on a different horse, and the all-around title as well, and at the 2023 Little Britches Rodeo Finals, she won the world champion senior girls goat tying title.

Scratchy came to the Haugens four years ago from neighbors and good friends Paul and Jana Griemsman. Landry was needing to step up her horsepower, so Paul brought over a bunch of horses for her to try. She roped on each one, but none really caught her attention.

Paul told her there was a horse at home he didn't bring, because the horse was hurt. But as soon as the gelding was sound, he'd bring him over.

A few weeks later, Scratchy showed up. "He was so broke and so easy," Landry said. "I roped one calf on him and thought, 'this is going to work.'"

Her mom roped on the sorrel that winter, as she and Landry trained him in the breakaway and the goat tying.

In 2021, two days before the high school rodeos began, Landry's good horse abscessed. She had taken Scratchy a couple of places and roped on him, but she wasn't sure he was ready. But he was her only option, so she rode him and won the goat tying at the regional rodeo.

He became her main mount, although goat tying wasn't her strong suit at that point.

Her junior year of high school, she gave herself an attitude adjustment. She hadn't done well in the goat tying at high school rodeo, having qualified for the National High School Finals in the poles and the barrels, and she thought she could have done better.

"I was pretty not happy about it," she said. "It got a little personal, and I got after myself, and it certainly paid off. In my mind, whether or not it's true, I thought I tied goats well enough to have won state. It irritated me that it hadn't happened and I knew I hadn't put the effort in to do so."

So she practiced tying goats in the mornings before school, at night after school, on high school basketball game days, "any time I had the opportunity to get better, I did."

Her senior year it turned around; she was state high school goat tying champ and finished in ninth place in the world standings.

Scratchy, who is eight years old, excels at goat tying. "He's as good of a goat tying horse as you'll find anywhere in the world," Landry said. "But he's a pretty awesome breakaway horse, too."

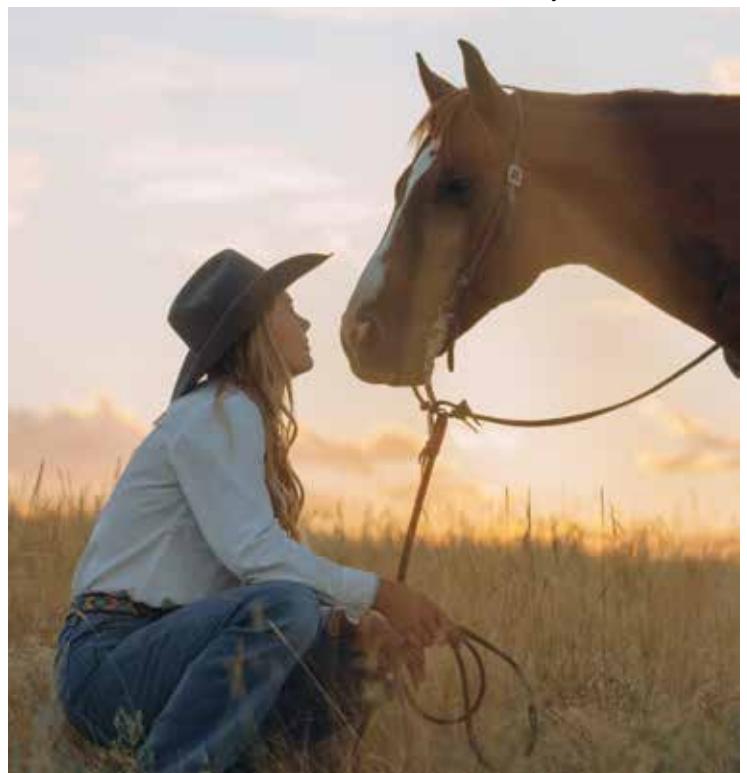
He's short, standing 14.3 hands, which makes it easier for her to step off. "Shorter is better for me," she said.

But he's also calm, composed, and fast.

"He gets a little crazy at the gate, but he's super level-headed." In the breakaway, his athleticism is apparent. "He's built to leave the box very hard. He's quick, too. On some horses, when you drop your hand, they're unsure. I know when I drop my hand, he'll leave."

He's also able to adjust to different goat tying setups. In some arenas, the run to the goats will be 100 feet long or more; at one of Landry's college rodeos last fall, the run was 160 feet. "That's a long ways, and they have to be able to handle your weight and not be scared of you hanging off the side of them."

A freshman at the University of Wyoming, Scratchy and Landry are in second place in the breakaway, third in the goats, and second in the all-around race for the Central Rocky Mountain Region. Landry is majoring in mechanical engineering.



In addition to her qualification in the goat tying and breakaway at the 2023 National High School Finals, she also competed in the cutting and the reined cow horse.

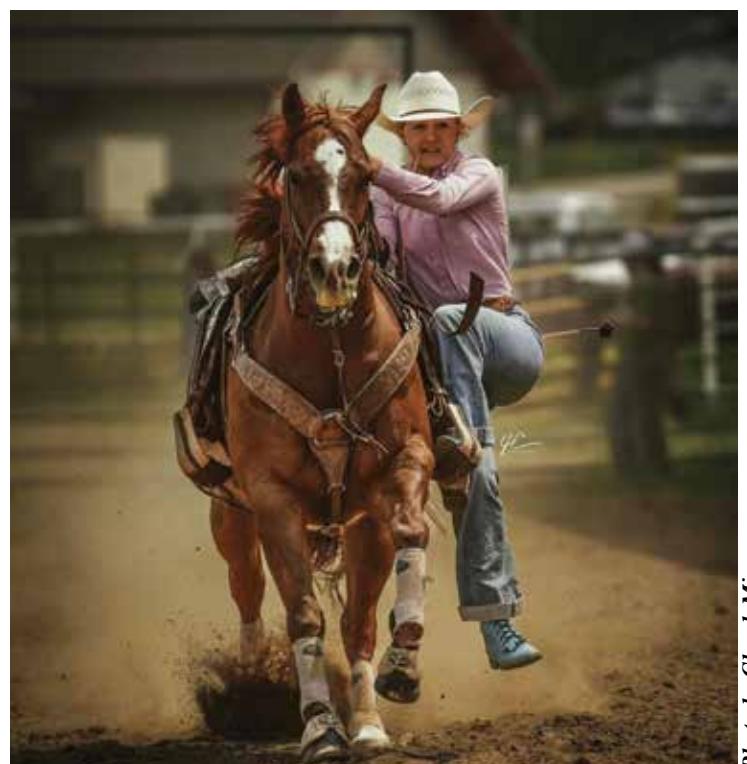
Scratchy loves to travel. If the trailer door is open, he gets in. "He loves his job, he absolutely loves it."

He has a good friend, a horse named Perks. "They go to playing, bucking and kicking each other," Landry said. "It's like watching two little toddlers."

She's proud of her horse and the award he's won.

"I'm biased, but I love him," she said. "He's got a great mind and an amazing attitude. Whatever you want, he's like, 'yes, ma'am, no ma'am.' I think he wants me to win as much as I want to win."

"I grew up with him, and he taught me how to win, how to compete, how to have success."



# HORSE SENSE

## *Tim Bahr's Pearls of Wisdom Learned Alongside Horses*

By Denice Rackley

Spending your life with horses doesn't come without some bruises and stepped on toes. But the upside to that is crossing paths with people that develop into friends and the ability to share life lessons learned to make their path to the show ring or wherever life takes them a bit smoother.

Jim Bahr of Brandon, South Dakota, has spent the last 45 years in the presence of horses and their owners. Riding for pleasure, competing, judging and training - if it can be done with horses, Bahr has done it. To be a good trainer not only do you need to dive deep into the minds of horses, but you also have to be part psychologist to uncover the potential in people and discover what is holding them back.

Bahr firmly believes the outside of a horse is good for the inside of a man or a woman.

He'll be the first to tell someone to pursue your dreams. However, he will quickly follow that with "sticking to your dream takes commitment, an occasional dose of humility, hard work, and appreciation for each triumph, as well as every struggle."

You see, Bahr knows we learn more from our struggles than we ever will from our success.

Raised on a dairy farm in Granada, Minnesota, Bahr grew up understanding and appreciating hard work. His love of horses was fueled by his relationship with his grandfather. At every opportunity, Bahr would ride his bike the four miles to his grandfather's farm where he could trade working dairy cows for helping his grandfather with horses.

"My grandad had driving horses and would take them all over showing in local fairs and parades," Bahr said. It really didn't matter if his grandfather was working with light saddle horses or teams of workhorses; Bahr couldn't get enough. Soon, the bike was traded in on a pony, the pony traded in for a horse. Like many rural kids, 4H provided an avenue to explore his interests and it was here Bahr met the gal who would become his wife.

Focusing on horses and showing, Bahr participated in his local Fairmount Saddle Club for ten years. His first wins and losses were at county fairs and local horse shows. Daily responsibilities and hard work that come with caring for horses didn't dampen his enthusiasm. The wins and losses combined to fuel his passion to continually grow his knowledge and skill. He soon began training horses after school.

Once Bahr graduated high school, he had a decision to make – stay on



the farm milking cows or throw caution to the wind and get serious about training horses. Thoughts of getting out of the dairy barn and spending days horseback were enticing – it wasn't a hard choice.

Etching out a living training horses did put a different spin on things, but Bahr's wife Nancy has been beside him through thick and thin.

"Just starting out in the business, you take work as it comes, do your best and put lots of miles on your pickup," Bahr noted.

Bahr has worked with countless horses and owners throughout his career. He has competed in everything from western pleasure shows to gaming and performance events. He has competed in local fairs, all the way to the Palomino Horse Breeders Association World Show and everything in between. He has started race horses to trail horses in every breed imaginable, even training a Tennessee Walker for Jane Fonda.

For Bahr, there have been many horses that stand out in his mind: Indian Hand Maiden - the horse that provided his first taste of English riding. Asked to ride without irons and blindfolded by his trainer, he was scared, but he came away with a better understanding of leg – bit - horse connection and the importance of feeling and trusting your horse to become one as you ride. His palomino Moncha, who won reserve champion at the palomino world show stands out in his mind, as does his current young stud Bars, an Only in the Moonlite son, who will hit the show ring next year.

Making a name for himself through his personal horses and those he trained for others, Bahr was honored to be named the 2023 South Dakota Quarter Horse Legacy Show Trainer of the Year. The accolades, trophies and ribbons are a visual representation of his hard work and dedication to his craft, but as he has matured, there are more meaningful accomplishments.

"I find the most joy in watching my students, the horses I have touched, my daughter Jamielee and grandson Kingston Solomon excel and enjoy their





relationship with horses," Bahr explained. "I have accomplished my goals in this industry, now I enjoy helping others accomplish theirs."

Seeing his grandson develop into a good horseman and follow in his footsteps is especially meaningful for Bahr. Living in Texas, eight-year-old Kingston spends summers with Bahr, riding his ponies and horses in and out of the show ring, enjoying every second.

Passing on pearls of wisdom that have taken a lifetime to learn, Bahr believes the lessons we learn by working with horses and animals in general serve us well regardless of our path in life. Some of his wise words include:

- Mutual respect is the foundation of all relationships. It is a two-sided coin – it needs to be earned and given from you and your horse
- It takes time, a ton of work and being honest with yourself to truly know yourself and your horse
- Obedience and respect are different
- Connections are vital – between a person and a horse and between individuals
- When things are not going well – Stop, relax, take a break, and approach the problem differently, don't try to force it.
- Ask, Accept and Reward the Try
- Figure out your (and your horse's) weaknesses and strengths, then work to improve those weaknesses
- Every action comes through the mind - you must work with the mind to change or teach behaviors – this is true of people and animals
- Listen to your horse – let them tell you what they want
- Every horse is different – with different likes, dislikes and abilities
- Horses are incredibly intelligent and sensitive – most people don't give them enough credit



- There's no guarantee your horse will get 'it' – no matter how many times you try or how many trainers you go to
- You and the horse need to enjoy yourself
- Don't make it about you – Ego has no place in relationships
- You will never know it all
- Take pride and joy in the journey – enjoy the small wins that no one else will ever see
- Understanding that a horse that is trying and giving his best is a win regardless of the ribbon color or if you come away empty handed
- Training needs to be authentic – horses know the difference. One method will not fit every horse or rider. Any method that builds trust and respect and works for you and your horse is the right one.
- Learn from everyone, try different techniques and make your own way
- Horses have a way of making us look incredibly smart or really stupid, sometimes it just depends on the day

Bahr's wise words are echoed by many in the training world regardless of whether they train business leaders, athletes, or animals.

To advance in any career you need the right talent and tools for the job. "If you have a specific goal in mind, working with a horse that is naturally talented in that area will help you achieve your goal," Bahr said.

"There are talented horses and average horses," Bahr noted. "Training is about coming together and each of you giving all you have."

"Great horses make great horsemen, not the other way around."

Pursuing your passion doesn't guarantee success. It simply makes the road and hours dedicated to your craft more enjoyable, Bahr said. "We will all end up in the dirt a time or two, or maybe a 1000 times. Dust yourself off and get back on." This is true of working with horses and living life.

Teaching his grandson, and his students, foundational truths and pointing out that a good ride and the connection with each horse is worth more than a win, Bahr is embracing the next chapter in his illustrious training career – excited to spend a bit more time on the rail and willing to impart some of his hard-earned pearls of wisdom to those ready to watch and listen.



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# LARRY LARSON

## 2023 SDQHA SHOW LEGACY HONOREE SOUTH DAKOTA SHOWMAN and HORSEMAN

Larry Larson is well known in the horse world, with a career showcasing years of championships and associations with industry greats, both human and equine alike. His success came through a self-driven passion for horses, good mentors and great opportunities, and a lot of wet saddle blankets. He is being recognized as the 2023 South Dakota Show Legacy honoree by the South Dakota Quarter Horse Association at their upcoming meeting January 12-14, 2024, at the Ramkota in Pierre, S.D.

As the third of four brothers and the only family member with an interest in horses, Larson said he “begged, borrowed and stole horses” from friends for years,” before he eventually got his first horse – a bay gelding named Honda. “My Dad and a very tolerant rancher named Fritz Wientjes worked out a unique payment plan, which included deliveries of cases of canned food and cartons of cigarettes bartered from our family store,” said Larson. Needless to say, his first horse was a challenge with lessons learned.

Growing up in the ranch country of north central South Dakota, Larson was exposed to the horse industry in all facets from rodeo to ranching to the horse show arena from a young age and said it has been a lifelong addiction for him. His family owned a general store in the small town of Wakpala, S.D., on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation (he is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe) but moved to Mobridge in 1963 to continue their educations. Larson graduated there in 1972.

“Everyone in the ‘60s seemed to have a Poco-bred horse, and so of course, my second horse was Miss Poco Mark. I showed her in 4-H and local saddle clubs in every class offered while gaining confidence for my later years in the Quarter Horse show arena,” he said.

Larson didn’t initially own a saddle so he mainly rode bareback. When it came time for the county 4-H horse show he borrowed a saddle at the last minute from a lady on the outskirts of town, packed it onto his bicycle and pedaled it through town back to the barn. With his last-ditch tack addition, he qualified for the South Dakota state 4-H horse show several years but never



ahead of Larson in school, attended the same church and trained racehorses throughout high school. Upon graduation Mott moved up to the bigger tracks, eventually becoming the trainer of the champion racehorse Cigar, among others, and is still a leading trainer at Churchill Downs and other major Thoroughbred racetracks across the nation.

“I was initially drawn to AQHA events by befriending and closely observing several men in the industry at an early age, including Bill McNeil who owned an immaculate acreage and facility on the eastern edge of Aberdeen, S.D., and Tom Eliason from west of Gettysburg,” said Larson. “McNeil was gifted with an amazing eye for quality Quarter Horses and knew how to fit and market them in a very professional manner.”

Eliason, an AQHA judge, ran a band of broodmares and showed successfully in almost every AQHA show event offered with an eventual AQHA World Championship in roping.

The gelding Steel Gold came into Larson’s life in the mid-1970s. They showed in western pleasure and Larson captured his first Grand Championship in halter at the Fort Meade Quarter Horse Show near Sturgis, S.D., in 1977. “The judge pointed at me and I looked behind us to see who had been named the Grand Champion Gelding, not believing it was actually us with the win,” he said.

For about 20 years, starting in the early ’70s, Larson showed professionally for others while hauling a few of his own home-raised horses within a 500-mile radius of Mobridge.

“I only had one broodmare – a Sugar Bars bred mare I bought at the National Western Stock Show in Denver in 1982, bred each year to different stallions and she was a producer!” he said.

Her second foal, sired by Par For The Course, was named Persuasive. She was shown to multiple AQHA class and futurity wins as a foal while still on



competed there, as he had no horse transportation to Huron.

During high school Larson worked for a time at a fledgling race stable owned by Bill Mott, the son of the Mobridge veterinarian. Mott was a year

the mare, at a time when weanling and yearling classes drew well over 20 entries. She sold that fall into Wyoming and became an AQHA Champion, Superior Halter and Superior Western Pleasure and Canadian National Champion while earning a few barrel racing points along the way.

"At the summer show in Sioux Falls in 1984 my broodmare, her foal and her yearling filly, sired by Joe Quincy, were all in the same Grand and Reserve class – an unusual occurrence even today," said Larson.

Another highlight in his show years was campaigning the stallion Joe Quincy. After being purchased as a weanling by the Ford Ranch of Lemmon, S.D., Larson led him to 19 class wins out of 20 shows as a yearling with one second place. This was before AQHA offered points for yearlings. Joe Quincy went on to compete in the performance arena and became a notable sire. Larson's last homebred foal, Inspired By Money, was sired by Inspirative by Impressive, and he showed her as a weanling and yearling to many class and futurity wins, then showed her in western pleasure as a 2- and 3-year-old.

After managing the Oahe Veterinary Clinic in Mobridge starting in 1973, Larson relocated west to Rapid City in October of 1984 and moved into an apartment above the newly-opened Hart Ranch arena, giving riding lessons and producing a new horse sale called the Hart of the Hills for two years.

"One of my riding students was an 8-year-old girl and her father, an ophthalmologist, came to watch her ride one Saturday," said Larson. "The next week he offered me a position working with him at the new Black Hills Regional Eye Institute."

Larson continued to train for the family and eventually managed their new Skyline Meadows Stable near Rapid City for several more years. He just started his 40th year at the Eye Institute in December of 2023, working on the surgery floor for the past 23 years alongside a talented team of surgeons and medical staff.

"After a slight showing burnout in 1991, I made the decision to offer equine photography even though I had no experience with cameras," he said. "My years of show experience helped guide me and give me an eye for the finished images, both in and out of the arena."

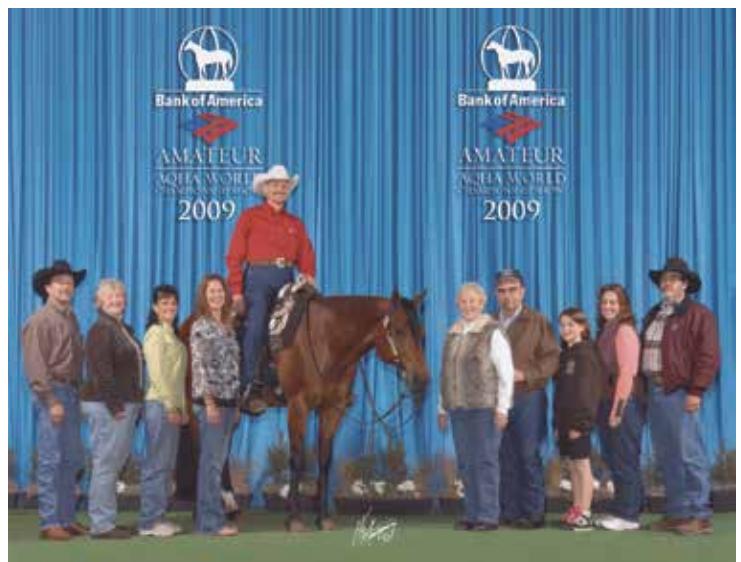
Larson said many of his early shows seldom had a photographer available at events, so he decided to enroll in the last photography clinic offered by renowned equine photographer Don Shugart of Grapevine, Texas. The training bolstered a new career launch.

Now with two very diverse careers, Larry Larson Photography, Inc. will enter its 33rd year of service in 2024, and specializes in equine photography, graphic ad design and website creation and hosts annual equine photography clinics in Rapid City, Laramie, Wyo., and Anchorage, Alaska. While promoting ranches across the nation with photography, promotional ads, websites and sale catalog design, Larson is also a freelance writer for national equine publications and a past judge for the American Horse Publications contest for all equine breed publications.

Larson was also instrumental in initially naming, managing and photographing the now very successful Black Hills Stock Show Winter Classic Quarter Horse Show Circuit. He also managed and photographed the Black Hills Summer Circuit, Central States Fair Quarter Horse Show and the AQHA Region 2 Championship for close to 20 years and photographed and covered the barrel pens at the Fizz Bomb and 5-State Breeders Futurities for many years. In addition, he said his 20 years of photographing the South Dakota State 4-H Horse Show in Huron – ironically, the show he qualified for but never made it to as a youngster – was one of his most gratifying events.

As part of the initial planning stages of all the AQHA Regional Experiences (now called Regional Championships), Larson flew to Amarillo and met with AQHA staff and others from across the nation to formulate ideas on implementing the shows. The first Region 2 Championship Show in Rapid City was managed and photographed by Larson for many years. It's now the largest Regional Championship in the nation.

Following his treatment for lymphoma cancer in 2007, Larson was invited to ride the multiple AQHA World Champion and 2023 AQHA Hall Of Fame Inductee horse Harley D Zip, owned by Lew and Kerry Papendick of Rapid City, at a Rein In Cancer fundraiser event during the 2009 AQHA



**Larry and Harley D Zip were joined at the backdrop by friends following his ride at the "Rein In Cancer" ride at the 2009 AQHA World Championship Show in Oklahoma City, Okla.**  
Photo Courtesy Larry Larson

World Show in Oklahoma City. "It was an evening I will never forget – both emotional and humbling," he said.

Larson holds life memberships in the American Quarter Horse Association, South Dakota Quarter Horse Association and Center of the Nation Quarter Horse Association. He was a member of the Rapid City Quarter Horse Association for 30 years, and served as president, vice president, director, editor, point secretary and many other capacities in all of these associations as needed since the early 1970s. His AQHA affiliations include serving as national director (2000), director at large (2015), foundation ambassador, member of the heritage society, and on the marketing, international and Hall of Fame selection committees. He has also been named South Dakota Horseman of the Year (2016), Black Hills Stock Show Horseman of the Year (2019), AQHA Region 2 Don Brunner Grit & Perseverance Award (2017), and 2024 Miss Rodeo America Pageant judge at the National Finals Rodeo (2023).

Bill and Deb Myers of St. Onge, S.D., own Myers Performance Horses and need little introduction as owners of the legendary stallion Frenchman's Guy. Bill Myers said Larson has been an integral part of their success story. "Larry has been involved in our program for a long time – I can't even remember how long – making our sale catalogs and doing horse photography," said Myers. "His workmanship is second to none; he never settles for a halfway job and has a great eye for horses and conformation."

Myers said Larson has also been instrumental in the process of nominating Frenchman's Guy to the AQHA Hall of Fame. "He's been dedicated to our program through the years; he believes in us and believes in our horses," said Myers. "But more than just a professional relationship, we've become very good friends with Larry through the years. We appreciate him more than words can express, and we want to say congratulations to him from all our family."

From a boy without a saddle to receiving national recognition as he approaches his seventh decade of life, Larson is quick to acknowledge those who helped him get where he is at. "I feel those initial years of being mentored by others and my own experience in the arena were merely stepping stones playing a huge part in what I've done and continue to do today," he said. "I'm a 100 percent or nothing type with everything I choose to be involved in, and feel a little perfectionism plays a huge roll in every aspect of our lives."

As he looks back on his affiliation with the South Dakota Quarter Horse Association, both in the show pen and as an officer, since 1973, he simply states: "I've always been very proud to be part of it."



## Par Excellence: Frenchmans Quarter Horses

By Kaycee Monnens Cortner

"The horses are good; they might even be great. But it takes good horsemen and horsewomen to make a program great, and we've been surrounded by many of them," said Lis Hollmann.

Frenchmans Quarter Horses, owned by John and Lis (Loiseau) Hollmann of Hot Springs, South Dakota, is the pilot program for timeless legends, including Frenchmans Guy, French Flash Hawk "Bozo," and more. Their bloodlines have influenced the South Dakota and national Quarter Horse industry on an incomprehensible level. At the 2023 National Finals Rodeo, a staggering nine barrel horses can be traced back to their program.

And it all started with a mare.

### History

Caseys Ladylove was purchased on a whim when Lis Hollmann's parents, James and Frances Loiseau, went to a horse sale in Luverne, Minnesota in 1963. Frances, who didn't even write her own checks at the time, raised her finger on a two-year-old palomino filly while her husband was out back looking at horses. The gavel fell at \$750, and when James found out what his wife had done, he couldn't have been happier. "[Caseys Ladylove] was the cornerstone of their program," said Hollmann.

The couple began raising foals and befriended the Cowan family along the way. Pat Cowan was a racehorse trainer for Loiseaus, and crossing Caseys Ladylove on their stallion, Laughing Boy, was particularly successful. The first two-year-old to run Triple A in the state of South Dakota was a filly of that cross called Frenchmans Fox.

"Mom always named them 'Frenchmans something,'" said Hollmann. Loiseau was a French surname and it was a simple way to brand their progeny by name.

When asked how her mother and father chose horses, Hollmann's answer was simple: instinct. "My mom used to say, 'I just look at them and I like them or I don't like them. If a man walked into the room right now, you'd either think he was good looking or you wouldn't. That's the only way I can explain it.'" Frances knew when a horse had a certain *je ne sais quoi*.

Hollmann's father passed away in 1977, leaving Frances with their band of broodmares – numerous daughters of Caseys Ladylove. "It was difficult

for her to hang onto them, but she wouldn't entertain any concept of selling those mares."

It was only when Hollmann became an adult did she realize just how special her parents' herd of horses was. "Those mares were the topic of conversations almost anywhere we went in the horse world. There's an awful lot of good horses now, but there weren't back then. And they really stood out," she said.

"My mom didn't have it easy. Of course, nobody did back then. When my mom was in her early teens, her father died. Her mother ended up losing the farm. My dad bought that farm. Then they got married. They had eight children. The youngest child – my brother Val – has developmental disabilities. After dad died, she had the farm, the horses, and Val to take care of. None of that was easy, but she did it."

In 1993, John, Lis, and Val, who had been living in Colorado, moved to Hot Springs, South Dakota. At that time, Frances's remaining broodmares came to live with Hollmanns. They had a couple of broodmares of their own at the time, including Frenchmans Topaz and Caseys Charm. The partnership





was then founded for Frenchmans Quarter Horses.

Hollmann credits her husband for the continuation of the program. "My husband, John, is a very generous individual. Horses were never on his radar growing up, but he knew how much I loved them, and he's come to love them, too. He deserves a tremendous amount of credit."

Hollmann's brother, Val, is an important part of the program. "He loves those horses," she said, and has laid claim to all the gray horses on the place.

Frances never needed to market. Her customers came by word of mouth. At the very end of her life, she began putting weanlings in Jim and Joni Hunt's Open Box Rafter Ranch annual production sale, a relationship that continues today. "Jim is one of the biggest supporters of our mares and my mother's program," Hollmann said.

#### Maternal Strength

It seems that maternal strength, both human and equine, is the reason for the longevity and depth of the program. Caseys Ladylove's influence is still felt today, as is Frances Loiseau's.

James and Frances never kept a stallion back. They retained all the fillies, ran them on the track, then bred them. After James's passing, Frances knew she could sell their mares for a lot of money. Yet, Frances said, "If I did sell them, I'd spend the money, and then what would I have?"

Caseys Ladylove was inducted to the AQHA Hall of Fame in 2017.

The cross mentioned earlier, Laughing Boy x Caseys Ladylove, produced a mare called Frenchmans Lady. Her son, Frenchmans Guy, is one of the greatest producing stallions of all time, with progeny earnings of well over \$15 million. In 2022, he was still Equistat's second top producing maternal and paternal grandsire, even two years after his death.

Caseys Ladylove crossed on Tiny Circus produced Caseys Charm, the dam of French Flash Hawk "Bozo." Bozo and Kristie Peterson won four consecutive world championships, and he was inducted into the ProRodeo Hall of Fame in 2018.

At the 2023 NFR, over half of the barrel horses that ran in the Thomas and Mack had Caseys Ladylove on their papers.

Promise Me Fame Guys "Levee" ridden by Lisa Lockhart is by Aint Seen Nothin Yet by Frenchmans Guy. Firewaterfrenchfame "Apollo" ridden by Summer Kosel, has the same sire.

Sissy Winn's This Guy Will Moonya and Wenda Johnson's Smoken French Winner are both out of daughters of Frenchmans Guy.

Sand In My Socks "Sandi" ridden by Stevi Hillman, is sired by BHR Frenchies Socks by Frenchmans Guy. Sue Smith's Diamond Center "Heff" is by A Smooth Guy, by Frenchmans Guy, as well.



The \$2 million earning (and counting) standout mare, DM Sissy Hayday "Sister" ridden by Hailey Kinsel, is by PC Frenchmans Hayday, by Sun Frost and out of Caseys Charm. Paige Jones's Famous Hayday is by the same stallion.

Finally, the strength of maternal lines shines through in Fiery Miss West "Missy." Jessica Routier's singular mount for six years, the pair has qualified for as many consecutive National Finals Rodeos and surpassed earnings of \$1 million. Missy's paternal granddam, PCFrenchmanslisbet, is the only full sibling to Bozo. Her dam, Frenchmans Bo Dashus, can be traced along the bottom of her papers back to the matriarch herself.

A few of the most notable programs who have built upon their Frenchmans progeny include Myers Performance Horses (St. Onge, SD), Nichols Quarter Horses (Waco, TX), and Westergren Quarter Horses (Lincoln, NE). The late Dr. Glen Blodgett from the Four Sixes Ranch (6666 Ranch, Guthrie, TX) also incorporated several Frenchmans mares into the ranch's program.

"I hope my mother had the same type of satisfaction when she saw what John and I were doing as I do when I look at my clients and see what they're doing with their horses."

Hollmann said her mother's greatest advice was lived. "If the going got tough, she never gave up. She loved her mares and was proud of her children."

#### Present Day and Looking Forward

Hollmans recently bought back a stallion they had sold several years ago. One Swift Eagle, by One Dashing Eagle and out of a daughter of Strawberry Silk and Corona Cartel, will stand to the public this coming spring. "We're excited about that," Hollmann said.

"Our goal is to raise stallion quality colts and broodmare quality fillies. When we're looking at a stallion, it's really important that he's conformationally correct, that he's pretty, has athletic ability, and throws good minded colts," Hollmann said. "We never breed for incentives; we always breed for the horse. It's like breeding for color. If you're not breeding for the horse, it's easy to make a mistake. As a horseman, you always breed to make the best horse you can."

"We have the unbelievable advantage of having the foundation laid by my parents. The biggest advantage we have – and probably why we've been nominated for this honor – is we have incredible clients who have purchased horses, come back, and been repeat buyers. They're building their programs around these genetics. What an honor that is for us."

Hollmanns would also like to acknowledge the support and friendship of photographer Larry Larson (SDQHA's 2023 Show Legacy), auctioneers Lynn and Seth Weishaar, and pedigree man John E. Johnson (SDQHA's 2023 Equine Promoter of the Year).

"It's humbling to receive this honor, because our friends and clients see what my parents started and we're carrying on."

# Ryane Bakke

## AMATEUR SELECT ALL AROUND & OPEN ALL AROUND RESERVE

I would like to Thank SDQHA for being a welcoming and fun neighbor to come and show with!

The atmosphere and enjoyment is contagious, and I always look forward to coming and spending time with my SD friends. I really enjoyed Jim Hunt joining us at Brookings and Rapid City SD!

What an honor to have the AQHA president give a speech, inform us of goings on at AQHA and help pass out awards! I think Mr Hunt enjoyed it too! I am very lucky to have versatile AQHA horses that allow me to pursue my passion and dreams with such wonderful people from all over the United States.

Thank you again SDQHA for the fun, I look forward to what 2025 brings!



# Jazmine Hart Cissman

## AMATEUR ALL AROUND RESERVE

This show year I and Rugged Coed Whiz (Cody) started the year with the goal of winning in at least one class at every show. Cody did that and went above and beyond. Cody has been so willing and has gone into every class I have last minute entered and tried his heart out along with continuing to improve our score every time he entered the arena. I could not be more excited for our journey to continue and for the next show season and hopefully go to more shows and continue to improve.

# Haylee Borgen

## LEVEL 1 ALL AROUND RESERVE

After a 7 year hiatus from competing, Haylee and Midnite Moonpie, a/k/a Mylee, found each other in late 2022. This year was their second season in the show arena together and they have so enjoyed getting back to it! The duo's favorite class is definitely western pleasure, but trail is following closely behind as they improve their skill set. Haylee says her favorite part of any show is seeing Mylee work so hard and earn that deep mid-afternoon nap in her stall. Teeth out and everything!



# Daislee Buckle

## YOUTH ALL AROUND CHAMPION

Thank you to the SDQHA club for the year end awards and the opportunity to show at the SDQHA shows! I enjoyed the South Dakota Quarter Horse Shows this past 2024 show season with my mare, Dressin In Chrome. My favorite classes with her are Equitation, Horsemanship, and Ranch Riding classes. Looking forward to the SDQHA Shows again in 2025!

# Meagan Norgaard

## WALK TROT ALL AROUND RESERVE

I found Pistol 2 years ago in Texas! My goal was to find something big that would excel in english events that was preferably dark with little to no socks...failed on half that, he is neither dark nor sock free! But, once I rode him I knew he was the one! He is super curious and likes to mess with things! He kind of reminds me of a big dog that doesn't know how big he is. Pistol is quite a ham and keeps life entertaining!

Pistol and I started to click around a year ago thanks to the help of Melissa, Krista, and Ashley Montgomery. I'm so greatful to have them! I didn't see us doing many classes other than Hunter Under Saddle, English Eq, and showmanship. They challenged us to do horsemanship, trail, and western pleasure! Pistol picked up trail pretty quickly and I've really been enjoying the new challenge. We've learned a lot in the past year and I can't wait to keep going! We attended five shows this past year. One in Verndale to kick off our year! Then it was off to the Brookings Summer Shootout. This was especially fun as Aria (my daughter) got to show in lead line for the first time! Alyssa Nix was kind enough to share Blu Buddy. Aria had an absolute blast! From there we headed to PHBA World. Our main goal for this past year was to go to Palomino World and be in the top 5 in all our classes. We came home with 4 World Titles, 2 Reserve World Tiles, and the Golden Horse Award (AKA All Around) for our division! He gave me some fantastic rides! It was a very fun show and it was great to meet a whole new group of people! I hope to go again in 2026! From there we headed to Valley City where we prepared for Region 2! Region 2 is always one of my favorite shows! Class sizes are generally pretty good and this year we had a blast with the Montgomery crew! It has been so fun to go to shows with them and gain some new friends! I think that's one of the best parts of showing. It is so fun to be around others who love horses! I've attended Region 2 for quite a few years and I was thrilled to finally earn a buckle and the Amateur Walk Trot All Around! It was a great way to wrap up the year!

Out of those 5 shows we received 4 All Arounds and the 5th one we tied for the all around and received reserve all around. I'm so proud of what we accomplished. At the beginning of the show year all arounds weren't even on my radar! I can't thank the Montgomery's enough for all their encouragement, knowledge, and support!

A big thank you to my mom for being super supportive over the years! I'm so glad we both have horses of our own now so we can show together. It makes showing extra special and I always look forward to cheering her on!

I feel so blessed to have found such a unique horse to call my own and look forward to next season!



# Nautica Hagg AMATEUR ALL AROUND

The 2024 show season was one for the books for Solano Rey Whiz (Saul) and I. We competed at the Brookings summer circuit, the Rapid City summer shoot out, Region 2, and a couple of open shows. We also would have competed at Aberdeen but unfortunately it was canceled this summer. I purchased Saul in the summer of 2019 from Jerry Hanson originally for carrying flags during rodeos, as he had spent the past three years of his life working on a ranch. Little did I know he and I both would excel in the show arena. Before I purchased him, I grew up competing in English and Western classes with another one of my horses and I had not had previous experience in ranch show events. I knew right off the bat that Saul was a special horse with loads of hidden talent. He has the most try out of any horse I have ever ridden, is an extremely fast learner, and loves to show off in the pen. Saul and I quickly became a very strong team with both of us learning and training for the ranch show ring. We soon discovered that together we excelled in Ranch Riding and Ranch Trail events.

Saul and I qualified for and competed at the AQHYA World Show in Ranch Riding twice and have qualified for the AQHA World Show twice in Ranch Riding and Ranch trail. Our goal is to compete at the AQHA World Show next November while I take a year off in between my undergraduate and medical school. I am forever grateful to have had the chance to grow up with horses as it instilled qualities of responsibility, work ethic, teamwork, and working for something bigger than yourself in me. In just our first year in the amateur division we pointed out of the level one ranch riding classes.

I would like to extend a warm thank you to my parents, my older sister, and my trainer, Mark Guynn, for all the support to help me succeed. To win the Amateur All Around award in only my second year as an amateur is a dream come true, and I cannot wait to see what else is in store for us down the road!



# Jan Ketterling WALK TROT ALL AROUND

My roots run deep in the South Dakota prairie and it is a joy to come back to my home state to show on the AQHA circuit.

My parents, Merle and Betty Ankrum raised 6 kids on a ranch outside of Highmore, SD. We grew up caring for cattle and horses and learning countless, valuable life lessons. We were active participants in 4/H activities and youth rodeos.

I transitioned from the rodeos of my youth to horse shows after moving to North Dakota. Showing on the AQHA circuit had always been on my bucket list and I had the opportunity to start living that dream 10 years ago. I have been blessed with wonderful support from my parents and siblings, my husband, Keith, my trainer, Darren Buckle/Buckle Performance Horses, BPH barn manager, Ryane Bakke, and my horse show friends. It takes a village and I couldn't ask for a better team who have helped me in so many ways.

I showed my All Around gelding, No Doubt Ima Loper, for a number of years. When he sustained an injury 3 years ago, I purchased his half sister, Lazy With Lace (Elle) from Sandhill Performance Horses. Elle started her AQHA career this year as a green three year at the Summer Shoot Out in Brookings. She seemed to enjoy her job, especially the trail and pattern classes.

We are proud of her progress over the summer and her performance at our favorite show, Region 2. Elle's calm demeanor, focus, and cooperative attitude made showing a green horse fun and rewarding and we are looking forward to the 2025 season.

Thank you SDQHA for always making us feel welcome and for your fun, well run shows. We appreciate you, your organization, and all your hard work. We are so honored to receive the All Around Award.

Kind regards, Jan Ketterling



# Vicki Engstrand LEVEL 1 ALL AROUND

I consider myself so fortunate to have been introduced to the South Dakota Quarter Horse Association. I have met many outstanding people. So friendly, helpful, and willing to make a kind comment, introduce themselves, and just be kind. Living in Iowa, I had not shown in South Dakota before. I only started showing AQHA shows in the last 4 years.

The Sioux Falls show in 2020 was my first South Dakota show and I really liked the relaxed atmosphere. My friend, Linda Foxworthy, got me interested in trying this show. I started showing my young horse, but because of an injury, he is not showable. Last November I got a new horse, Stryder, Hez Good N Lazy. He has taught me so much. He does the All Around and I wanted to try a lot of classes. I had mostly done the western classes in open shows. He has been a great horse for me. I could never have reached my goals of showing in QH shows and improving my skills without the Montgomery girls at MonteRay Ranch. They encouraged me so much and helped me gain a lot of confidence. I love showing in the pattern classes- Showmanship, Trail, Horsemanship, Equitation, (started Western Riding this year), as well as Western Pleasure and Equitation. I am still working on continuing to improve and setting new goals. I want to thank my husband, Eddie, for helping to make my dream of showing a reality. He is at every show and is a great supporter.

I love the Region 2 show in Rapid City and have been there for 3 years so far. I love the Brookings show too. We did pretty well at those shows this year, but I didn't even dream that Stryder and I had won the Level 1 All Around for 2024! This is very exciting! I want to thank the South Dakota Quarter Horse Association for a wonderful organization and for providing a way to have so much fun with our horses.



# Dede Cuka OPEN ALL AROUND

We have had Annie since she was a yearling, she has a great, laid-back personality. Geoff Morris has spent a lot of time riding her for us. I'm not sure if she Annie has a favorite class but mine is trail. My most exciting moment in 2024 was the ride she gave me at the ABRA world show in junior ranch trail which resulted in a reserve world championship. My challenge for 2025 is changing to showing one handed. This year is her last year in junior.





# John E. Johnson

## 2023 SD 274A Equine Promoter of the Year

John E. Johnson was raised on a cow/calf ranch in northwestern South Dakota. The family had no ATVs or four wheelers; all the cow work was done horseback.

"We didn't consider ourselves cowboys or great horsemen, but we sure did spend a lot of time in the saddle," Johnson recalled.

His first horse was a Shetland/Thoroughbred cross that Johnson thought "the best pony in the whole world."

His days were full of that pony for both work and play.

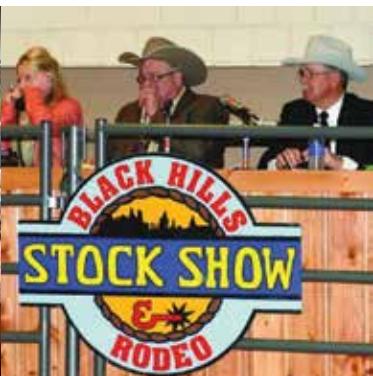
"I always had an interest in the Quarter Horse, and in my grade school years the walls of my bedroom were covered with pictures of horses cut from magazines," he said. "I even made my own books with pictures of Quarter Horses glued to pages with their registered names written under each one."

When Johnson was 15, he had the opportunity to buy two older Quarter Horse mares.

"My goal was to raise some foals of my own," he said. "The mares were Hard Twist and Oklahoma Star genetics and crossed well with several different neighbors' stallions."

Johnson was active in the 4-H horse program for many years and showed annually at the Horse Achievement Days. He had reasonably good success, with little coaching, and was able to qualify for the State 4-H Horse Show. The trips to Huron were a summer highlight. He recalls that one of his first attempts at learning real horsemanship was attending a Monte Foreman clinic in Belle Fourche, South Dakota.

"During my high school years, I finally had the opportunity to compete in rodeo," he said. "Bat Ridley was a good horseman and cowboy and he gave me a chance to practice on his cattle and rope on his horses at the high school rodeos. Bat taught me a lot about rope horse conformation, training and genetics."





Johnson's college years were spent at South Dakota State University, where he competed in college rodeo as well as on the collegiate livestock judging team. He was successful as a horse judge in college and placed at Ft. Worth, AkSarBen and Chicago. This provided an opportunity to learn more about Quarter Horse genetics and form.

"My judging experience in college qualified me to judge many 4-H and open horse shows in future years," he said. "I also had the experience of managing the Jackrabbit Stampede."

After college, Johnson entered the banking industry, continuing to rodeo and study Quarter Horse genetics. He started colts and trained some calf roping horses in the evenings and on weekends as an added source of income.

"I rode in a barn owned by Dr. Ron Ford, VET Quarter Horses, and had many discussions with Dr. Ford about performance horse genetics, conformation and soundness," Johnson said. "Dr. Ford had me announce the preview to his sale in 1972 and in 1973 he made the decision to hire me to announce the preview and sale in support of Col. Lynn Weishaar. That was the beginning of a long and lasting relationship with Lynn in the horse marketing business."

In over 50 years of announcing sales and thousands of miles of travel, Johnson has had the satisfaction of seeing "an awful lot of good horses." He has worked over 1000 sales and sold over 100,000 head of horses in his career. Over ninety percent of his work was with Lynn Weishaar, but he has worked with 21 different auctioneers in 15 different states.

Johnson's wife, Marilyn, was also a big part of his involvement in the horse industry.

"For several years we operated a sale management business under the name J & J and Associates. Marilyn and I would spend hours with a set of American Quarter Horse Stud Books, extending pedigrees and putting together catalogs," he said. "In the years when Lynn and I were doing over 40 sales annually, Marilyn would often do the catalog research necessary for me to look intelligent as an announcer."

Both John and Marilyn had other careers.

"In addition to being one of the best horse sale announcers and Quarter Horse genetics experts in the US, he also excelled as a business man in the banking business," said their daughter Sammi. "He was a major player in the growth and success of the First Western Bank Corporation before they sold to

First Interstate Banks. Before he retired, he was President of First Interstate Banks of South Dakota. He served as President of the South Dakota Bankers Assn and is still on the SD banking advisory board. Most horse people think he announced at horse sales for his real job...that's not the case. They were his side gig for 50 years."

Eventually Johnsons' hours involved with sale management had to come to an end. The couple travelled extensively over the years to look at the great AQHA stallions of the time. Marilyn is also an active team roper and ran barrels for many years.

Daughter Sammi is a good hand and had success in 4-H, high school and college rodeo. During this time, Johnson served both the South Dakota High School Rodeo Association and as the national director to high school rodeo from South Dakota. Sammi now operates a photography and video horse marketing business under the name SJ Equine.

"I now get to travel with Sammi as a photography assistant and continue to see some amazing Quarter Horses," he said. "My granddaughter, Hadlee, now loves to rope and gives me a reason to continue to make some good rope horses and stay involved."

Johnson feels lucky to have owned a lot of good horses over the years, first calf roping horses and later to continue his "addiction" to team roping.

"I always say that my favorite horse is the one I am riding, and I hope that I can be remembered as riding good ones," he said. "I would have to say that my favorite horse in the last 50 years was Kita Smoke, a palomino gelding of Mr. Gunsmoke and Oklahoma Star breeding. His barn name was 'Rodman.' He was a tremendous athlete and didn't have a very pretty face. He liked team roping so much that he would have gone to the ropings without me."

Johnson has been involved with the American Quarter Horse in many different ways throughout his lifetime.

"I have raised good ones, trained good ones competed on good ones, and sold good ones," he said. "I have had the opportunity to have some of the great horsemen of our time as my friends and have sold for some of the greatest performance Quarter Horse programs in America."

In the business of marketing Quarter Horses, Johnson hopes that he will be remembered as always putting forth the effort to get sellers the best return possible for their Quarter Horses.



# Casey & Dee Hannum

## 2023 SDQHA Racing Trainer Legacy

Training horses with your family at your side is a special thing. The people you meet and train for make lasting memories. Win pictures of family and friends are a true time capsule of the many people who supported Casey and Dee Hannum along the way.

The horse that started Hannums was named Diasono Jan. Her first foal was Boleo Charge and he was a great horse winning most of the time and setting track records at Fort Pierre and Casper Wyoming. Hannums said, "All her foals had run in them, with good dispositions."

Diasono Jan, who received a Register of Merit in racing for the American Quarter Horse Association, had four full sisters who also produced fast horses. Their sire was named Diamond Crest who Hannums used on their broodmare. He also sired quality ranch horses.

"Some of our favorite Quarter horses we ran for friends were, Bolady May, Corona Doll and Texoh Toddy, these horses were owned by Gordon and Shirley Turman. Jess and Eide Knight owned Bodancer Jonnie. We were blessed to have the best of the best. Randy Curtis was a true friend that helped care for and break colts. He then went on to jockey for us. He was very instrumental in our success on the track," said Hannums.

Hannums children, Darla, Stacey, and Jolene, worked by Casey and Dee's sides cleaning stalls, grooming and whatever else they were old enough to do. Congratulations to Casey and Dee Hannum 2023 SDQHA Racing Trainer Legacy award winners.



CASEY HANNUM, OWNER  
CASEY HANNUM, TRAINER  
300 YDS. 16.70

DIASONO CHARGE

ABERDEEN, S.D.

C. TOREVELL, UP  
WILD GAIN, 2nd  
MAY 28, 1984



CENTRAL WYOMING FAIR SEPTEMBER 3, 1983  
JETTEN GALE RACE 1 place show

GETROCKIN' RACE 1  
350 yds 18.53

CASEY AND/OR DELORES HANNUM ----- owner  
CASEY HANNUM ----- trainer  
CLAY TOREVELL ----- up



# BOB MOLLMAN

## HORSES HAVE BEEN A LARGE PART OF BOB MOLLMAN'S LIFE FOR AS LONG AS HE CAN REMEMBER.

"As a young kid, my brothers and I learned to ride on an old horse named Marge. We also had a bay quarter horse named Flash. She was one of the fastest horses around and we raced everyone we rode with. In the fall of 1965, my mother Margaret went to a monthly horse sale and came home with three colts. She paid \$20 apiece for two of them and \$35 for a nice bay colt. That bay colt was pretty shapey and I latched onto him right away calling him Bill. I trained Bill and kept him for 15 years," Bob recalled.

After serving in the U.S. military, Bob returned to the ranch. He and Jonabeth were married and started ranching in 1971.

"I always had the horse bug, so we bought and raised colts every year to train and sell to the neighbors," Bob said. "Along with working to build our cow herd, I rode colts for extra income and when I didn't have the time in the day, I would ride them at night. Thankfully, the neighbors always had the coffee pot on during those times."

In 1992, Mollmans began buying fillies to use as broodmares from their friends, Bob and Karen Meyer.

"We bred them to a red roan stallion we purchased named 'Snips Roan Baker.' Going back to 'Peter McQue' eleven times, he was the cornerstone of our program and produced exceptionally minded colts with lots of shape," Bob said.

They later purchased a blue roan stud named 'Friendly Zipper Bar' and a red dun stud named 'Sugar Super Star' that was sired by Jim and Joni Hunt's 'Sonny Sugar.' They sold colts private treaty until they had enough to begin holding annual horse sales at Stockmens Livestock in Dickinson, North Dakota, in conjunction with several friends and neighbors.

"We sold colts for over 10 years until liquidating our mares in 2004 and 2005," Bob said. "Some went into our son Page's breeding program along with a few other reputable breeders in the area."

Jonabeth and the kids were a big help on the ranch over the years.

"We did all our cattle work primarily horseback and everyone in the family was mounted on their own horses for the job. The kids all have their own stories to tell about some of the special horses they grew up on. We've also had a great crew of friends and neighbors always willing to lend a hand – rain, snow, sleet or hail. Our families and friends made our success in ranching possible over the years."

Mollmans have five children: Page, Bowen, Blaine, Preston, and Molly.

Page trained horses for the public for 18 years; he now has a successful breeding program of his own with approximately 30 broodmares and several quality stallions. He sells his colts annually at the Dakota Breeders Classic in Mobridge. In addition to his horses, he runs a 300 head cow -calf operation south of McIntosh.

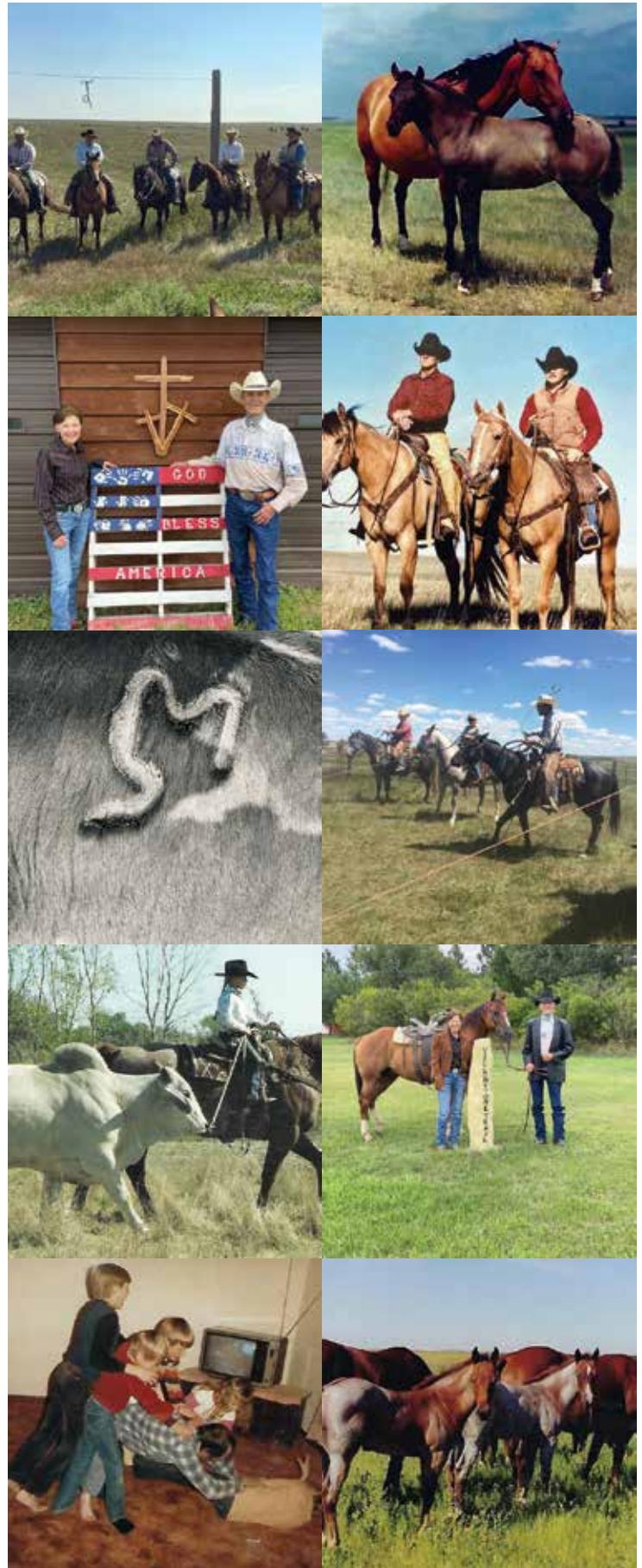
Bowen served in the army after high school and was stationed overseas during the Kuwait/Iraq war. He is now a Doctor of Optometry and lives with his family in Yankton, South Dakota.

Blaine and his family ranch on his grandparents place where they hold an annual production sale selling bulls and bred heifers on a 600 head cow/calf outfit north of McIntosh.

Preston served in the Air Force along with doing four tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan as an airplane mechanic. He now ranches with his family on his wife's grandparents' place near Morristown, running a 350 head cow/calf outfit.

Molly is an RN, has worked as a travel nurse, pediatric oncology, case management for health and hospice and now does IV infusions. She and her family live in Sioux Falls, SD.

"We have been blessed with 18 grandchildren that we enjoy spending time with and will be celebrating our 52nd Wedding Anniversary in October," Bob said. "I have been starting colts since 1966 and continue to do so, starting another one this spring. I still enjoy riding and helping all the boys with their cattle work; I especially enjoy riding with the grandkids on occasion. Now it feels more like fun and less like work. Over the past few years we have reduced our 500 head cow/calf operation down to less than 100. It's time for the 5th generation to take over."



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## TARI CD SMOKE

2011 Chestnut Stallion

- ◆ Colts are eligible for South Dakota Reined Cow Horse
- ◆ Stallion Stakes during the Futurity/Derby Show
- ◆ Stud fee is \$1,500 + mare care

TARI CD SMOKE

I CD COW

COYOTE TARI

CD OLENA

SNIPS CHERIE

COYOTE COLONEL

TARIS RED DOLL

## CD SMOKIN FEATURE

2020 Chestnut  
Palomino Stallion

- ◆ Stud fee is \$800  
+ mare care

TARI CD SMOKE

X

CHEX SPINNING LADY



NHSRA AQHA BREAKAWAY HORSE OF  
THE YEAR FOR 2024 BY TARI CD SMOKE



Offspring For Sale By Both Stallions

THESE STALLIONS HAVE GREAT DISPOSITIONS, CONFORMATION WITH A BIG HIP, AND A KIND EYE THAT THEY PASS DOWN TO THEIR OFFSPRING. THEY ARE RANCH HORSES WITH FLAIR.

# Zilverberg and Holmes

## Take the Lead in the AQHLead Program

By Kristen Gonsoir

South Dakota's equine industry future leadership is bright. Zane Zilverberg of Holabird has just finished his year long experience as part of the AQHLead Class of 2024 and Shelby Holmes of Sioux Falls is just beginning her experience in the AQHLead Class of 2025.

The AQHLead program, presented by Farnam, is designed for young adults, ages 21-35, to help support their development as leaders in the equine industry. Participants attend leadership-focused webinars, have access to a network of mentors, and receive grant-funded travel to ultimately gain more insight into their roles and impact in the industry. Since its inception in 2020 over 30 young adults have strengthened their leadership skills in various aspects of the equine industry.

Zilverberg is a licensed real estate agent for South Dakota, North Dakota, and Montana who works for the Clark and Associates Land Brokers, LLC. As a youth, Zilverberg participated in the 4-H rodeo and horse programs where he competed in nearly all the events including hunt seat equitation and hunt seat equitation over fences. He also competed in steer wrestling, calf roping, team roping, cutting, and reined cow horse in junior high and high school rodeo. Cutting was one of his favorite events which he placed in at the 2017 National High School Rodeo Finals. In 2016, Zilverberg was a recipient of an AQHA Ranching Heritage Young Horse Development weanling. Through his post-secondary education, Zilverberg continued to rodeo with Mitchell Tech and Chadron State College earning a trip to the college national finals. In addition to his real estate career, Zilverberg trains his own horses for roping and ranching and looks to their potential sale down the road.

Young Adults submit applications to AQHA in December and successful candidates are notified early in the year. Holmes was notified of her acceptance into the program in mid-January. Her first official event with the program will be the 2025 AQHA Convention at the end of March in Las Vegas, Nevada. When asked what she hopes to gain from this experience Holmes said, "my goal through this program is to gain networking and researching opportunities and expand my leadership skills." Holmes has already taken on a leadership role in the South Dakota Quarter Horse Association as meeting secretary. In preparing for AQHA Convention in March, Holmes has been in contact with other members of the 2025 AQHLead class. Holmes graduated from South Dakota State University in 2024 and is currently working as a veterinarian technician while waiting to start veterinary school. Her professional goal is to become a rural mixed animal veterinarian with a focus on equine medicine. Following the completion of veterinary school, Holmes hopes to return to showing horses while staying involved in SDQHA.

Zilverberg's experience through AQHLead indicates Holmes should have a great opportunity for networking. Zilverberg's first activity with the program was attending the 2024 AQHA Annual Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. His class consisted of ten young adults that were split into two groups. One of Zilverberg's biggest surprises with the program was that he was the only male young adult. "As I look at the 2025 class, I see there is only one other male, too," says Zilverberg. He hopes more young men get involved in the program in the future. Zilverberg's biggest take away from the program was "the networking and people connections I made. I also enjoyed getting all the different views from all over the United States." One of Zilverberg's future aspirations within the equine industry is film making. He has already done some work as a stunt man and was a featured actor in the local film production, Battle Kursk with the Schuetzle Company Productions. He was also a background actor in the latest series of Yellowstone. A connection Zilverberg made through AQHLead was with



**Shelby Holmes and Zane Zilverberg**



Dr. Nathan Canaday, veterinarian at the Four Sixes Ranch. Zilverberg says, "I haven't done any work yet procured through my connection with Dr. Canaday to Taylor Sheridan but hope to in the future."

Zilverberg spent the past summer learning about different horse training methods. He also picked up a few training tips from his travels in Canada, where he was visiting local events and rodeos. He hopes to continue to learn more about liberty training- the teaching of horses to kneel, rear, and Spanish walk on command, horse training tools important in the film industry. Throughout the year Zilverberg met monthly with his fellow AQHLead classmates virtually where they got to connect with many different leaders within the equine industry.

AQHLead participants receive a travel grant budget which may be used to attend an industry event or place of interest in addition to the AQHA Convention. Zilverberg had looked at attending the Congress in Ohio but could not get expenses to fit within his allotted budget due to the high cost of travel from central South Dakota.

AQHLead is supported by a grant from the Dogwood Foundation, Dan and Stephanie Janis and other support through the American Quarter Horse Foundation. More information on this program can be found on the AQHA Website.

# 2024 Open Award Winners

## ADELIA M CUKA -FANCY LIL CHEX

- ◊ Hi Pt RANCH RIDING - LEVEL 1
- ◊ Hi Pt JUNIOR RANCH RIDING
- ◊ Hi Pt RANCH TRAIL
- ◊ Hi Pt RANCH TRAIL LEVEL 1
- ◊ Hi Pt JR RANCH TRAIL
- ◊ Hi Pt JUNIOR WORKING WESTERN RAIL

## ADELIA M CUKA -BE INVITED THIS TIME

- ◊ Hi Pt PERFORMANCE HALTER GELDINGS

## AMANDA I DIKOFF -SLIDIN FER JUICE

- ◊ Hi Pt SENIOR RANCH RIDING
- ◊ Res Hi Pt SR RANCH TRAIL
- ◊ Hi Pt SENIOR WORKING WESTERN RAIL

## AMANDA I DIKOFF -I WHIZ ALL DUN

- ◊ Res Hi Pt SENIOR RANCH RIDING
- ◊ Hi Pt SR RANCH TRAIL

## ANITA KLITZKE -SHEZ WILLY SPECIAL

- ◊ Res Hi Pt WESTERN PLEASURE - Level 1

## DEBBI R HOLMES STOCKSTILL - BOUJEE RED DIAMONDS

- ◊ Hi Pt TWO-YEAR-OLD MARES

## DOUGLAS CUKA -ELANTES GOT SPIRIT

- ◊ Hi Pt THREE-YEAR-OLD MARES

## DR HEATHER A SUTTON - STOPPIN AT STARBUCKS

- ◊ Res Hi Pt JUNIOR RANCH RIDING
- ◊ Hi Pt PERFORMANCE HALTER STALLIONS
- ◊ Res Hi Pt WORKING WESTERN RAIL
- ◊ Res Hi Pt JUNIOR WORKING WESTERN RAIL

## GARY OR DEBORAH A MAILLOUX - BOONS CHOICE COWBOY

- ◊ Res Hi Pt JR RANCH TRAIL

## HAYLEE BORGEN -MIDNITE MOONPIE

- ◊ Res Hi Pt AGED MARES

## JAN AND KEITH KETTERLING - LAZY WITH LACE

- ◊ Hi Pt JUNIOR TRAIL

## JANET S HANSEN -IMAGE IN BLONDE

- ◊ Hi Pt Yearling Mares

## JAZMINE HART-CRISSMAN -

- ◊ RUGGED COED WHIZ
- ◊ Res Hi Pt RANCH RIDING

## MARTY J HEINTZ -RIGHTEOUS RASCAL

- ◊ Hi Pt AGED GELDINGS

## NAUTICA HAGG -SOLANO REY WHIZ

- ◊ Hi Pt RANCH RIDING
- ◊ Res Hi Pt RANCH TRAIL
- ◊ Hi Pt WORKING WESTERN RAIL
- ◊ Res Hi Pt SENIOR WORKING WESTERN RAIL

## PAISLEE RAE BUCKLE-DRESSIN IN CHROME

- ◊ Hi Pt AGED MARES
- ◊ Hi Pt TRAIL - Level 1

## PENNY L PETERSEN -SEATTLE SECRET

- ◊ Res Hi Pt RANCH RIDING - LEVEL 1

## RYANE BAKKE -LAYLAS LOPIN MACHINE

- ◊ Hi Pt TRAIL
- ◊ Hi Pt SENIOR TRAIL
- ◊ Res Hi Pt WESTERN PLEASURE
- ◊ Hi Pt PERFORMANCE HALTER MARES

## SCOTT A PETERSON -RIPPLEZ

- ◊ Res Hi Pt Yearling Mares

## SHEILA SCHELSKE -HOLLYWOOD PICK PLAY

- ◊ Res Hi Pt RANCH TRAIL LEVEL 1

## SHELBY HOLMES -RIDE ON

- ◊ Hi Pt WESTERN PLEASURE

## VICKY BORGEN -MIDNITE MOONPIE

- ◊ Res Hi Pt TRAIL - Level 2
- ◊ Hi Pt WESTERN PLEASURE - Level 1

## VICKY BORGEN -KISSIN INDA SHADOWS

- ◊ Res Hi Pt SENIOR TRAIL
- ◊ Res Hi Pt PERFORMANCE HALTER MARES



# 2024 Amateur Award Winners

<b>ADELIA M CUKA -</b> <b>FANCY LIL CHEX</b> ◊ Hi Pt PERF HALTER GELDINGS ◊ Res Hi Pt RANCH TRAIL	<b>JAN ANKRUM KETTERLING -</b> <b>LAZY WITH LACE</b> ◊ Res Hi Pt THREE-YEAR-OLD MARES ◊ Hi Pt WALK TROT TRAIL - L1 ◊ Res Hi Pt WALK TROT HUNT SEAT ◊ EQUITATION - L1	<b>SHEILA SCHELSKE -</b> <b>HOLLYWOOD PICK PLAY</b> ◊ Res Hi Pt WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP ◊ Res Hi Pt RANCH RIDING - L1
<b>ADELIA M CUKA -</b> <b>BE INVITED THIS TIME</b> ◊ Res Hi Pt WORKING WESTERN RAIL	<b>JANET S HANSEN -</b> <b>IMAGE IN BLONDE</b> ◊ Hi Pt YEARLING MARES	<b>SHELBY HOLMES-RIDE ON</b> ◊ HI PT WESTERN PLEASURE
<b>ALYSSA L NIX ~JUST A BLU BUDDY</b> ◊ Res Hi Pt SHOWMANSHIP AT HALTER ◊ Hi Pt TRAIL ◊ Res Hi Pt TRAIL - L1	<b>JANET S HANSEN -ICE COLD CORONAS</b> ◊ Hi Pt REINING ◊ Res Hi Pt PERFORMANCE HALTER ◊ GELDINGS	<b>TRISHA PITTS -</b> <b>REVOLUTIONARY STAR</b> ◊ Res Hi Pt REINING
<b>AMANDA I DIKOFF -</b> <b>SLIDIN FER JUICE</b> ◊ Hi Pt RANCH TRAIL ◊ Hi Pt WORKING WESTERN RAIL	<b>JAZMINE HART-CRISSMAN -</b> <b>RUGGED COED WHIZ</b> ◊ Hi Pt RANCH RIDING - ROOKIE	<b>VICKI L ENGSTRAND -</b> <b>HEZ GOOD N LAZY</b> ◊ Res Hi Pt SHOWMANSHIP AT HALTER - Rookie ◊ Res Hi Pt SHOWMANSHIP AT HALTER - L1 ◊ Hi Pt TRAIL - L1 ◊ Hi Pt WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP - Rookie ◊ Hi Pt WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP - L1 ◊ Res Hi Pt WESTERN PLEASURE - L1 ◊ Hi Pt HUNTER UNDER SADDLE - Rookie ◊ Hi Pt HUNT SEAT EQUITATION - Rookie ◊ Hi Pt HUNT SEAT EQUITATION - L1
<b>ANITA KLITZKE -</b> <b>SHEZ WILLY SPECIAL</b> ◊ Res Hi Pt WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP - Rookie ◊ Res Hi Pt WESTERN PLEASURE - Rookie	<b>JO LYNN JACOBSON -</b> <b>CORONAS EASY DRIFTER</b> ◊ Res Hi Pt RANCH TRAIL L1	<b>VICKY BORGEN -</b> <b>KISSIN INDA SHADOWS</b> ◊ Hi Pt SHOWMANSHIP AT HALTER - Rookie Res Hi Pt ◊ WALK TROT WESTERN PLEASURE L1 ◊ Res Hi Pt PERF HALTER MARES
<b>DOUGLAS CUKA -</b> <b>ELANTES GOT SPIRIT</b> ◊ Hi Pt THREE-YEAR-OLD MARES	<b>MARTY J HEINTZ -</b> <b>RIGHTEOUS RASCAL</b> ◊ Res Hi Pt AGED GELDINGS	<b>WANDA CARR -</b> <b>ONE POWERFUL KRYMSUN</b> ◊ Hi Pt WALK TROT WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP - L1 ◊ Res Hi Pt WALK TROT HUNTER UNDER SADDLE - L1
<b>DR HEATHER A SUTTON -</b> <b>STOPPIN AT STARBUCKS</b> ◊ Hi Pt THREE-YEAR-OLD STALLIONS	<b>MARY ELIZABETH M YOUNGS -</b> <b>NORTHERN SKAIS</b> ◊ Hi Pt RANCH RIDING - L1	
<b>ELAINE HARDEE -</b> <b>HAY HAY GOOD LOOKIN</b> ◊ Hi Pt AGED GELDINGS ◊ Res Hi Pt WALK TROT TRAIL - L1 ◊ Hi Pt WALK TROT WESTERN PLEASURE - L1	<b>MEAGAN NORGAARD -</b> <b>PISTOL PACKIN</b> ◊ Hi Pt SHOWMANSHIP AT HALTER - L1 ◊ Res Hi Pt WALK TROT WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP - L1 ◊ Hi Pt WALK TROT HUNTER UNDER SADDLE - L1 ◊ Hi Pt WALK TROT HUNT SEAT ◊ EQUITATION - L1	
<b>ELIZABETH DIKOFF -</b> <b>SLIDIN FER JUICE</b> ◊ Res Hi Pt RANCH RIDING	<b>NAUTICA ELIZABETH HAGG -</b> <b>SOLANO REY WHIZ</b> ◊ Hi Pt RANCH RIDING ◊ Hi Pt RANCH TRAIL L1 ◊ AMATEUR ALL AROUND CHAMPION	
<b>EMILY F JOHNSON -</b> <b>GOTA LOTA STYLE</b> ◊ Hi Pt SHOWMANSHIP AT HALTER ◊ Hi Pt WESTERN RIDING - L1 ◊ Hi Pt WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP ◊ Hi Pt WESTERN PLEASURE - L1	<b>RYANE BAKKE -</b> <b>LAYLAS LOPIN MACHINE</b> ◊ Hi Pt WESTERN PLEASURE ◊ Hi Pt PERFORMANCE HALTER MARES	
<b>HAYLEE BORGEN -</b> <b>MIDNITE MOONPIE</b> ◊ Hi Pt AGED MARES ◊ Res Hi Pt WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP - L1 ◊ Hi Pt WESTERN PLEASURE - Rookie		

# 2024 Youth Award Winners

## Paislee Buckle-Dressin In Chorme

- ◊ Hi-Pt Showmanship –Level 1
- ◊ Hi-Pt Showmanship 13 & U
- ◊ Hi-Pt Walk Trot Trail-Level 1
- ◊ Hi-Pt Walk Trot Western Horsemanship-Level 1
- ◊ Hi-Pt Western Pleasure-Level 1
- ◊ Hi-Pt Ranch Riding
- ◊ Hi-Pt Ranch Riding-Rookie
- ◊ Hi-Pt Walk Trot Hunter Under Saddle-Level 1
- ◊ Hi-Pt Walk Trot Hunt Seat Equitation-Level 1
- ◊ Hi-Pt Performance Halter Mares
- ◊ Hi-Pt Working Western Rail
- ◊ Res Hi-Pt Ranch Riding-Level 1



## Payton Sargent-Loops Little Nugget

- ◊ Hi Pt Youth Showmanship
- ◊ Hi Pt Western Horsemanship
- ◊ Hi-Pt Ranch Riding-Level 1
- ◊ Hi-Pt Ranch Trail-Level 1
- ◊ Res Hi-Pt Working Western Rail

SOUTH DAKOTA  
QUARTER  
HORSE  
YOUTH  
ASSOCIATION



## Kenzie Kabeiseman-Rightfully Good

- ◊ Res Hi-Pt Showmanship 13 & U



# MEET YOUR SOUTH DAKOTA AQHA AMATEUR AMBASSADORS

By Kristen Gonsoir

South Dakota is fortunate to have two exceptional and experienced horsewomen serving as AQHA Amateur Ambassadors. Both Amanda Dikoff and Shelby Holmes started their impressive show careers in the AQHYA division and are today amateurs. In the fall of 2024, The American Quarter Horse Association introduced the AQHA Amateur Ambassador Program designed to offer a friendly face to new people at AQHA shows and events throughout the year. Not only do Dikoff and Holmes have much show experience, their vibrant personalities and desire to help others make them outstanding AQHA Ambassadors.

This program, developed by the AQHA Amateur Committee, is designed to create a welcoming environment while also offering an outlet for AQHA Amateur exhibitors who would like to serve and strengthen our exhibitor experience and ultimately grow AQHA membership and engagement. Not only is Dikoff an AQHA Amateur Ambassador, she is part of the Amateur sub-committee rolling out the program.

Dikoff is from Hermosa and has shown in nearly all events over the years. Showmanship still holds a special place in her heart from days of youth showing but ranch riding is her current favorite event. She also shows in ranch trail and working western rail.

Holmes, from Sioux Falls, shows in showmanship, halter, western pleasure, and western horsemanship with showmanship and western horsemanship being her favorite.

At AQHA shows and events, Amateur Ambassadors can help with a range of information such as stalling, showbill questions, where to find pattern and score sheet postings, restaurant and hotel recommendations, and recommendations for community points of interest and services. Ambassadors can also direct members to AQHA Professional Horsemen for training advice and horsemanship mentoring. Amateur Ambassadors are never to provide training information which includes pattern interpretation, legality of equipment, rule interpretation, etc. Those questions should be directed to Stewards, Professional Horseman, or trainers.

At horse shows, Holmes can often be found traveling with her grandpa, Jim, and her horses Sweet Thang and Ryder. One thing that is a must have at horse shows for Holmes is an energy drink. "I am not usually a coffee or energy drink drinker, but at horse shows I must have one in the morning," says Holmes. Horse shows for Dikoff are also a family affair as she always travels with her mom, Betty. Along with horses Dudley and Juice, two mini poodles, Scarlet and Dolly, can also be found at the shows with Dikoff and her mom. Both Jim and Betty are also both excellent show competitors. What is Dikoff's favorite quick travel snack? Goldfish.

Both Dikoff and Holmes have traveled to many shows across the United States. Holmes says when preparing to go to a show someplace she has never



## AMANDA DIKOFF AND SHELBY HOLMES

been to she looks up the fairgrounds or event center before arriving to get a feel for the layout and stalls and to help guide what she should bring. She also recommends, "to always have at least two or more of things like hose connectors, tack hangers, hoses, or extension cords." For both Holmes and Dikoff, the first thing they do when arriving at the showgrounds is to find their stalls; and before unloading their horses, they bed the stalls and put out fresh water and hay. Many of Dikoff's show plan recommendations mirror Holmes. She too likes to know where she is going in advance since she is driving her rig. Dikoff says, "I don't want to put myself into any places I don't want to be." She also says, "I make sure I have the schedule down properly to plan. There is just no fast way to move in so give yourself plenty of time so that you can get a good night's rest."

Both Dikoff and Holmes best advice centers around their horses. Dikoff says, "make sure you give yourself enough time to really settle in with your horse. They need time to rest after a long haul and you can get adequate arena time." Holmes says, "It is important to always tell them (your horse) 'good job' and to thank them. You should try your best to do well in your classes, but it is more important to have fun and to have good sportsmanship and horse husbandry. Horse showing is meant to be fun and a bonding experience for you and your equine partner."

This next show season, look up your AQHA Amateur Ambassadors at your AQHA shows. They want to help you make your shows a great experience and if you are at shows in South Dakota or neighboring areas, South Dakota's AQHA Amateur Ambassadors Shelby Holmes and Amanda Dikoff are great resources!



## TOM MILLER - 2023 SDQHA RODEO LEGACY AWARD

By Savanna Simmons

Red Owl, South Dakota, rodeo legend Tom C. Miller has traversed his rodeo career wearing many figurative hats and always a literal cowboy hat. From high school and college rodeo to PRCA rodeos, to a judge and coach, Miller has left his mark on the rodeo industry. He was inducted into the Rodeo Hall of Fame in 2017, and is the 2023 SDQHA Rodeo Legacy Award recipient.

Miller's saddle bronc riding career began by way of college rodeo like many rodeo athletes. He claimed National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association all-around champion titles in 1970 and 1971.

"The college deal was easy. I worked every event then. My dad was a cowboy and he said I could only haul one horse," Tom said. "You did as much as you could on one horse. It was a little different then. During college, I got to trading horses that were specialized for events."

From college, Tom naturally went on to compete at the professional level and was the Badlands Circuit Saddle Bronc champion from 1977 to 1980. He qualified for the National Finals Rodeos six times, and won the average in 1975, 1979 and 1981, coming up short of winning the world title in 1981 by \$5.28.

He wasn't in rodeo just for the money or fame. There were very few aspects of sliding into his saddle cinched down on a bucking horse that Tom didn't care for.

"I just like everything about it. I like competitions; I like to travel; I like the people; I like the bucking horses; there wasn't much for a long, long time I didn't like," Tom said. "I just liked to see if I could get to the next rodeo, sometimes we did three a day. I liked the challenge from getting there to getting on for a long, long time. I never got tired of it. I love a challenge."

Tom could often travel to several rodeos in one day largely due to Johnny Morris, a bareback rider, and fellow bronc rider, Bobby Brown who flew Tom to many rodeos.

Every good thing must eventually come to an end. One fall Tom broke his leg, which was set in a cast, but had to be rebroken and reset, then stabilized with pins. He was invited to a match bronc riding the next year, which he couldn't turn down. "Johnny Holloway and I had a match bronc ride. I still had pins in my leg and one horse laid on me in the chute. I thought the screw heads were going to come through my leg," Tom said. "I was at the age -- I was getting into my upper 30s -- where it's hard to get it back; it took a long time to get over that injury. In the meantime, you lose your edge. I thought the Lord's trying to tell me something, so I just quit."

While still competing in the mid-1970s, PRCA established a rule that all rough stock contestants were required to either pay \$50 or judge one rodeo. Tom didn't care to pay the fine, so he judged one rodeo, though he didn't judge anymore for a few more years thereafter.

"Then in 1985, I probably judged a few. In 1985, each contestant in each event picked who they wanted to judge the finals," Tom said. "Butch Knowles and I were chosen to judge the first NFR in Las Vegas."

Tom judged many bronc rides after his retirement from rodeo and also coached many bronc-riding clinics, some for a few years with Holloway in Eagle Butte, South Dakota, roughly 35 years ago, as well as some for more than 25 years with Korkow Rodeo in Pierre, South Dakota, and some more with Burch Rodeo Company in Gillette, Wyoming.

"It got to be too much going on. They were fun. I like kids and I like the young horses. It was kind of fun to do, but when you're getting as many kids as we were getting -- 25 to 30 people -- it was hard to spread myself that thin. I would get help sometimes, but some of them needed a lot of individual attention."

Tom noticed changes to the rodeo industry, some good, others less so. The largest change was the money and horses.

"The money is a lot better, and the horses are way, way better. We had good horses then, but they weren't in abundance. The day money paid about \$400 at the first NFR I went to. Now it's an ungodly amount of money, which is great," he said. "They're making horses way, way better, and the bulls are way better. I think change sometimes is good. Some changes I'm not in favor of, and that's the way it is. When I started, once you left the amateurs, you couldn't go back. That gives young guys a chance to get better and get confidence. Now, where they can go both sides of the fence, the pros can take the young guys' money all the time. Once you make that step you should stay there or go back to amateurs full time."

As the third generation, Tom has turned most of his focus to managing his family's ranch forty miles from Faith.

"When I was in rodeo, I was 110 percent. Now that I'm ranching, I'm 110 percent. I've never done anything I didn't want to do. There are some things here that aren't the most enjoyable, but I still enjoy it," he said. "What a blessing I don't have to do something I don't like to do. I think that as long as you're happy doing what you do, you'll do a good job. If you're not happy doing what you're doing, find something else; you'll do a lot better job of it."

Tom and Vivian have two sons, Jeff and Ryan and three granddaughters, all of which are in Texas, Vivian's home state.

"Jeff is in Texas taking over the ranch that his dad was on, Ryan is in the oil business," Tom said. "No more money than there is here, if Ryan wants to come back he's welcome to it and if he doesn't, he doesn't."

Jim Hunt traveled the rodeo road at the end of Tom's career.

"He was devoted to his family, and anywhere we went traveling, bronc riders and cowboys had the highest regard for Tom Miller," Hunt said. "Hats off to Tom Miller; he deserves all the credit in the world. It's not just for Tom, it's for South Dakota as well. We're proud of him."



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# 2023 SDQHA Cow Horse Trainer of the Year

By Ruth Wiechmann

Frank Kenzy was training horses with his father before he was ten years old. Growing up on the family ranch near Iona, South Dakota, riding was just a part of their way of life. Frank's father, Harry, raised quarter horses. Frank's boyhood years were full of starting colts and hauling mares to be bred.

Kenzy got started training cow horses when he had the opportunity to attend a horsemanship clinic put on by Kevin Stallings in Chamberlain, South Dakota.

"Kevin was showing cow horses and he had one there," Kenzy recalled. "We hit it off, and he came back several times to put on clinics. I rode with him some; that's how I was introduced to it."

Kenzy tried his hand at training a cow horse after riding with Kevin and watching video tapes. There were not many opportunities to show a cow horse in the area at the time, but in 1989, Frank took his home trained horse to a show in Gillette.

"He wasn't very good, but we went," Kenzy said.

Kenzy said that one difference between training a ranch horse and a working cow horse is the finesse that goes into the reining part of the competition.

"You need to get your reining maneuvers so precise in showing, and the horse has to be able to figure out the cow horse part of it as well," Kenzy said.

Kenzy showed cutting horses for several years, and after the South Dakota Reined Cow Horse Association got started he was able to start going to those shows and migrated more into cow horses than cutting. Time in the cutting pen helped him get the herd work down.

"A cow horse show is a triathlon event," he said. "You have herd work, reining and fence work. Getting it all tied together is a challenge."

As both a breeder and a trainer, Kenzy said that finding a horse that can do all three events well can also be challenging.

"They have to have the right pedigree and conformation for it," he said. "Then it's just up to the individual. We start them all the same, and gear them towards the cow horse events, but some of them can't do all the events. Some can't change leads or turn around enough to be a reiner. Hopefully the ones that turn out you can make a show horse out of and win something on them."

For a time, Kenzy had a group of area friends that he was able to ride with frequently.

"There were several guys I rode with who helped me quite a lot," he said. "Tom Eliason and Don Ulmer were a couple of them. We had a good group of people who came and rode all the time and we really worked at it together."

Kenzy said that many aspects of training a cow horse were similar to training ranch horses.

"It just meant getting them more broke; being able to read a cow is very important to both ranch horses and cow horses. When you're working on the ranch your horse needs to be able to handle cattle. Timing and rate are important when you start fencing or boxing a cow. Just knowing your cattle is a big part of both."

Around 2000, Kenzy gravitated back to showing cow horses. By this time, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska and Colorado all had cow horse shows established, so he had more opportunities for showing in the region. In 2004, per Equistat, he made the list of the top 21 trainers of three year olds in the nation. In 2008, he was ranked 14th in the top trainers for cowhorse and cutting horses combined.

The family's stallion, Annies Little Pepper also made the top 25 list of cow horse sires.

"We rode a lot of horses by him," Kenzy said.

Throughout his showing career, Frank had the opportunity to show at the



NRCHA Futurity, NCHA Futurity, and the AQHA World Show in cutting, cowhorse and reining.

One of Kenzy's favorite horses was the stallion Dual Playin, owned by Dick and Linda Caulfield of Nebraska..

"We trained and showed him throughout his career," he said. "He was fun to show."

He also had many customers who purchased prospects and then left with him for their training and showing.

"Jessabelle Pepper and Reggie Pepper were both mares that we raised and trained," he said. "We sold them as prospects and our customers left them here for us to ride and show. We were lucky to have good customers that wanted to work with us that way."

As Kenzy's children got older and started to rodeo in high school, Frank stepped away from showing. He still starts a few colts every year.

Frank's children, Charli, Erin and Myles, have all been involved in showing horses with their dad while growing up. All of his children excelled in cutting in High School Rodeo. Charli qualified for the National High School Rodeo in cutting three years. Erin also qualified for NHSR three times and won the SD High School Cutting Championship three years. After the girls graduated from High School, the NHSRA added cow horse as an event. Myles won the SD High School Cowhorse Championship the three years that he competed in it.

"A lot of kids compete in working cow horse and cutting in high school rodeo now," he said. "In the spring a lot of my time goes to working with those kids."

With their own breeding program, they are doing more roping these days, but still breeding for cow horse prospects that can also be used on the ranch.

"Once you get a cow horse trained right, you can do anything you want to do with him," Kenzy said. "They adapt to all disciplines, no matter if it's barrels, roping or ranch work. They get so broke because they have to do such a variety of things well in the cow horse."



# From *Miss Rodeo South Dakota* to *AQHA World Champion*

By Kristen Gonsoir

The pressure of extreme competition is not new to Groton, SD horsewomen Melynda (Sletten) Larsen. In 2014 she represented South Dakota at the Miss Rodeo America Pageant in Las Vegas. Since 2014 Larsen has traveled back to Vegas for more competitions but not ones on the rodeo queen stage. She still rides a horse and wears chaps and a cowboy hat, but she has traded her crown for a revolver. Las Vegas is home to many Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association's (CMSA) major events in addition to the Miss Rodeo America Pageant. After rodeo queening Larsen was "looking for something different." After watching her cousin, an AQHA Reserve World Champion Amateur Cowboy Mounted Shooter himself, practicing mounted shooting, Larsen decided she wanted to give mounted shooting a try. Fast forward ten years to the 2024 AQHA World Championship Cowboy Mounted Shooting in Amarillo where Larsen and her mare RY Jet Smoke, AKA Cinder, were named World Champions in Amateur Cowboy Mounted Shooting.

2024 was the first year Cinder was Larsen's main match horse. Nine years ago, Larsen began shooting on a dun mare appropriately named Dunney. Through the years Larsen has moved up the levels of the CMSA where she is just one win away from moving to the next level, a five. While AQHA Cowboy Mounted Shooting only has a revolver division, the CMSA also has shotgun and rifle divisions. Larsen placed third in the 2019 CMSA World Championship's shotgun division and finished that year as CMSA shotgun high point limited rider. In this division the rider must shoot first with their revolver, holster it, and then draw their shotgun from their scabbard and shoot. Through the years, Larsen has traveled to mounted shootings as far as Nevada, Arizona, and Texas. Most major CMSA competitions also offer AQHA classes run concurrently. Larsen says that the rodeo queen world and cowboy mounted shooting share some similarities in that "both are like family. The people have your back."

Whether it is revolver, shotgun, or rifle competition, a skilled horse is a vital partner for success. Placings in cowboy mounted shooting are determined by time, however, missing a balloon, which are the targets used, results in five seconds per miss added to your time. The pattern that the rider must navigate at the highest rate of speed possible that still allows for shooting accuracy, is posted for contestants the day of competition. The patterns include tight turns and changes in directions. Larsen purchased Cinder as a yearling from breeder, Rodney Yost of Gann Valley, SD. Larsen completed all of Cinder's groundwork before sending her back to Yost to be started under saddle. The original plan was to enter Cinder in the four-year-old cowboy mounted shooting futurity, but Cinder took longer to acclimate to gun fire than planned. Larsen describes Cinder as a smart, smooth, friendly mare that loves attention, all traits very desirable in a mount for any discipline. Cinder can even be a bit of a Houdini in untying herself and



even taking off her own halter. Because of her outstanding potential, Larsen chose to take it slow with Cinder and forego the futurity to ensure she had a great mount for the long run. As Cinder was seasoned traveling with Larsen and Dunney, she was used as Larsen's second horse. Through that time, she just kept getting better and better. Larsen says, "she is the kind of horse you have to outsmart all the time." Larsen must continually switch up how she begins each pattern.

Larsen's plan for Cinder certainly has worked out. At the October AQHA World Championships Larsen missed a balloon in her first pattern. Larsen knew her second pattern had to be clean and fast to secure one of the fifteen spots in the finals. Cinder and Larsen secured the twelfth spot in the finals despite the early miss. No preliminary times carry over into the finals; however, riders go in order of fifteenth finalist to top finalist. Larsen had a fast, clean finals run. "Being in the twelfth spot meant I got to sit and watch most others' goes," says Larsen. "As I watched others go, I realized I kept moving up. I started thinking, oh, I might get a ribbon." As the last of the finalists ran Larsen began to realize, "Oh, I am getting a globe!" Larsen and Cinder did not just get a globe, they got the gold globe of World Champions.

In addition to competing in cowboy mounted shooting, Larsen has owned and operated Platinum Salon and Spa in Aberdeen, SD for the past nine years. This past year she and her husband Lance hosted their first mounted shooting clinic in their new facility, Six Shooter Barn, LLC. In the future they hope to add horse boarding and a horse hotel to the Six Shooter Barn offerings. Larsen plans to travel to even more AQHA and CMSA events in 2025 and to be back at the AQHA World Show.



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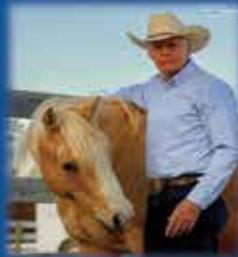
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