

## **AQHA News and Updates**

### **If You Are Trailering Out of State: USA**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture instituted its Animal Disease Traceability Program on January 9. The system, which will become effective March 11, is intended to improve USDA's and state authorities' ability to trace livestock, including horses, in the event of a disease outbreak. The new system applies to all livestock moving interstate.

Under the new federal regulations, horses moving interstate must be identified and accompanied by an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI), commonly called a health certificate, or other state-approved document, such as a Coggins test chart or equine passport approved by the animal health officials in the sending and receiving states.

Horses may be identified by methods currently used in the horse community, such as a description sufficient to identify the individual horse, including, name, age, breed, color, gender, distinctive markings, and unique and permanent forms of identification, such as brands, tattoos, scars, cowlicks, blemishes or biometric measurements. Electronic identification can also be used, as can digital photographs.

"All states now require an ICVI to accompany any horse entering their state. This should make for a smooth transition to the new traceability rule, since most horse owners moving their horses interstate for breeding, racing, showing, sale, etc. should already be in compliance with the provisions of the new rule," said Jay Hickey, president of the American Horse Council.

This new rule is based on the previous National Animal Identification System (NAIS), which was the original voluntary system proposed by USDA to deal with disease outbreaks and traceability. The NAIS was not supported by much of the livestock industry, requiring USDA to reconsider its approach.

"This more limited and simpler system just adopted is the result. The new system does not require the registration of premises housing livestock or the specific reporting of individual movements of horses," Jay noted.

Go to [www.horsecouncil.org](http://www.horsecouncil.org) for more information.

### **AQHA Database Tuneup**

So, what does this mean for you as AQHA members?

This update will allow customer service representatives to better assist with questions and paperwork; provide more streamlined mail services; and much more.

As the transition begins to convert the old system to the new, members will find that certain services on [www.aqha.com](http://www.aqha.com) are unavailable. Unfortunately, you may also experience an increased hold time when calling the office, and it may take a bit longer for a representative to answer questions. These anticipated delays that you may experience during the upgrade will subside as the transition is completed.

As changes transpire, AQHA will provide more detailed updates at [www.aqha.com](http://www.aqha.com) on how the database upgrade will affect members.

### **Specifics that YOU need to know:**

- AQHA's online member services area will NOT be available February 15-28. This means current members can't renew a membership online and new members can't join AQHA online. The ability to purchase a subscription to *The American Quarter Horse Journal*, submit stallion breeding reports, register a foal, and conduct any online AQHA business, etc. will be unavailable in the member services area. After February 28, these services will resume as normal.
- Paperwork submitted after February 1 will be delayed.
- There will be some changes to the current \$10 complimentary Internet records research for members with the new system. For February only, the \$10 will need to be used between February 1 and February 15. Between February 16 and February 28, this service will not be available. While the \$10 in complimentary Internet records won't be offered in the new system, AQHA will offer Internet records discounts each month for members.
- AQHA Incentive Fund payouts will be slightly delayed. Members eligible for Incentive Fund payouts can expect checks to arrive in March.

### **AQHA Educational Judging Seminar and Novice Judge Testing in Irving**

To learn firsthand how your scores or placings are calculated, how judges are professionally trained and how to perfect performance requisites before you enter your next American Quarter Horse show, sign up for the AQHA Educational Judging Seminar, March 18-20 at the Sheraton DFW in Irving, Texas. Registration fee is \$350 and space is limited.

AQHA judge seminars are open to current *AQHA-approved judges*, potential judge candidates and exhibitors wanting to learn more about how American Quarter Horses are judged at approved shows.

Register by March 4 by printing and mailing a *registration form* and registration fee to: AQHA Judges Department, P.O. Box 200, Amarillo, TX 79168, or fax the form, along with your credit card information for the registration fee to (806) 349-6412.

### **Novice Championships**

Several qualifying methods exist for competitors seeking an invitation to the 2013 AQHA Novice championship shows.

The qualifying period for the 2013 Novice championships is May 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013. Competitors may qualify through either national or state methods, and qualifiers may choose which Novice Championship to attend. Also, a qualification in one class earns exhibitors the chance to enter any class at the Novice Championship for which they are eligible.

To nationally qualify, an exhibitor must:

- Show at 20 shows in a Novice class; if a show does not offer the Novice class, contact the show manager or show secretary to add the class. Shows will be counted by show numbers; for questions about how many show numbers a show will count for, competitors should ask the presiding show manager or secretary. As Novice youth and amateur halter classes are not commonplace, Novice-eligible halter exhibitors may compete in the corresponding youth and amateur Intermediate or Open level halter class to count for their 20 shows. —or—
- Place in the top 10 in a Novice class at an AQHA Regional Championship Show. If the Regional Championship does not offer the Novice class an exhibitor is interested in, the exhibitor should contact the show manager or show secretary to add the class. Again, since Novice halter classes are not

commonly offered, a top-10 finish in the corresponding Intermediate youth/amateur or Open youth/amateur halter class at a Regional Championship will count for Novice-eligible halter exhibitors.

For competitors interested in qualifying through their state or province, AQHA affiliates will submit qualifying methods, which will be posted on [www.aqha.com/novicechampionships](http://www.aqha.com/novicechampionships). If an affiliate does not submit a qualifying method, AQHA members residing in that state or province must qualify through another affiliate or nationally qualify. Learn more about Novice eligibility at [www.aqha.com/novice](http://www.aqha.com/novice). Stay tuned to [www.aqha.com/novicechampionships](http://www.aqha.com/novicechampionships) for Novice Championship updates regarding class lists and this year's schedule.

### **Regional Championships**

Check out the [2013 AQHA Regional Championship Shows](#) to be held across the United States and Europe, representing [11 regions](#). As of right now AQHA regions one, two, three, six, seven, eight, nine and ten have set [dates](#). Currently, Region Four is postponed for 2013 and Region Eleven is tentative.

For Regional Championship eligibility rules, find your region and see dates and locations of upcoming events, visit [www.aqha.com/regionalchampionships](http://www.aqha.com/regionalchampionships).

### **World Show Qualification Point Levels**

The points required to qualify for the 2013 World Championship shows will remain the same as the qualifying points required for the 2012 shows.

- Built Ford Tough AQHYA World Championship Show, qualifying period May 1, 2012 - April 30, 2013, [view Ford Youth World qualifying points](#)
- Adequan Select World Championship Show, qualifying period June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2013, [view Adequan Select World qualifying points](#)
- Bank of America Amateur World Championship Show, qualifying period August 1, 2012 - July 31, 2013, [view Bank of America Amateur qualifying points](#)
- AQHA Open World Championship Show, qualifying period August 1, 2012 - July 31, 2013, [view AQHA Open qualifying points](#)

Points earned in Intermediate/Progressive- and Open-level classes will count toward 2013 AQHA world championship qualification; in other words points earned in Intermediate or Progressive classes will carry the same weight as points earned in Open-level classes.

Separate Intermediate/Progressive finals will not be held at the 2013 shows, but top-placing Intermediate- and Progressive-eligible entries will be recognized during the class finals. Recognition of the top three Intermediate exhibitors and Progressive horses in each world show class will replace the previous Intermediate awards. Intermediate awards were presented to the top three exhibitors who had never been in the top 10 at a world show in the particular class in which they were competing. Now, Intermediate and Progressive awards will be based on level eligibility.

The Intermediate and Progressive world show awards are incorporated with the new AQHA leveling program, which went into full implementation January 1. You can learn more about the leveling program at [www.aqha.com/leveling](http://www.aqha.com/leveling).

## **AQHA Ranch Pleasure**

Making its debut at the 2012 World Championship Show, ranch pleasure was met with an enthusiastic response by exhibitors and spectators alike. However, ranch pleasure was only offered as an open-division class in its inaugural year. This year, youth, amateur and Select amateur competitors can now compete in ranch pleasure in their divisions and vie for the first ranch pleasure world championships at their respective shows.

The points required to qualify in ranch pleasure for the 2013 Built Ford Tough AQHYA, Adequan Select, Bank of America Amateur and AQHA Open world championship shows is set at two points.

Refer to Rules SHW416-419 for ranch pleasure class guidelines in the [AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations](#).

To find a show that offers ranch pleasure, check out the AQHA Calendar of Events featured in every issue of [The American Quarter Horse Journal](#) and look for shows offering Class Code 430.

## **AQHA's Animal Welfare Efforts: 2012**

AQHA continually revises its policies concerning animal welfare via the AQHA Public Policy Committee and the Association's standing committees. Through these avenues, as well as industry leadership, advisory groups and councils, AQHA is able to expand upon its proven efforts to safeguard the welfare of American Quarter Horses, as outlined by the AQHA Statement of Position, which can be found on the Association's website (<http://bit.ly/AQHASTatement>).

The implementation of a new set of equipment rules at the AQHA World Championship show was just one of the steps the AQHA Welfare Commission took in 2012 to ensure the safety and well-being of our horses.

AQHA established a breed integrity and welfare division in 2009, and later that year developed the AQHA Stewards Program, which consisted of AQHA-accredited people who are on the ground at AQHA competition events to ensure that the health and welfare of the American Quarter Horse is paramount.

With the formation of the AQHA Animal Welfare Commission early in 2012, the Association was able to move ahead with better ensuring the integrity of our industry and the safety of our horses. Here are a few other things that AQHA had a hand in this year, with regard to animal welfare:

- After its first meeting in February, the Animal Welfare Commission developed a definition of abuse: "Any excessive and/or repetitive action to cause obvious distress or discomfort to a horse", and then began working on a set of recommendations on new equipment policies that will be enforced at all AQHA shows. The policies also included a structure of fines and penalties that will be assessed to violators. All of these recommendations were approved by the AQHA Executive Committee this fall and, as I mentioned earlier, implemented at the AQHA World Championship Show in November.
- AQHA expresses concern for the health and welfare of the racing athlete through rules and through financial support of worthy industry initiatives. These include support of a racing surface research project, support of the industry's Racing Medication and Testing Consortium, and national movements through Racing Commissioners International for uniform medication rules.
- The Association formed the racing equine health, welfare, integrity and research subcommittee, which is asked to "protect the horses, horsemen and fans that enjoy and participate in the sport of American Quarter Horse racing and all horse racing."
- AQHA has taken a high-profile role in the identification of and the development of tests for performance-enhancing illicit drugs that have no business being used in our industry. The Association spearheaded efforts to

reduce the improper use of dermorphin, clenbuterol or clenbuterol-like substances for anabolic effects. As a result, several racehorse trainers have been suspended by racing officials from racing for periods specific to their infractions. These same racing trainers have also been suspended indefinitely from AQHA.

- AQHA and The Jockey Club are working together to address the issue of permitted race-day medications and illegal doping of horses. AQHA conditionally endorses the Reformed Racing Medication Proposal presented by The Jockey Club and will be working with its leaders to discuss possible modifications to gain broader industry support. Both AQHA and The Jockey Club agree that teaming together, working jointly on the Reformed Racing Medication Proposal and addressing this most important issue in a united fashion will move the industry to where it needs to be to address race-day medications, uniform rules and illicit and illegal drugs, and punish those who use them in swifter fashion and with harsher penalties.
- AQHA supports the efforts of state racing commissions and racetracks in their efforts to expand race testing, including both in- and out-of-competition testing. AQHA also supports the commissions and tracks implementing procedures penalizing rule violators.
- The New Mexico Racing Commission recently adopted Association of Racing Commissioners International model rules to toughen existing medication-use policies.
- 24/7 video monitoring and surveillance has been implemented at all AQHA world championship shows.

For further updates:

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