



Ready, Set... Show Season!



Dear Friends,

I have been reading things on social media lately and it just makes me exhausted. There is so much misinformation and so much drama being pushed out. It's just crazy what people or AI makes up and what others repeat and what garbage becomes thought of as fact. I'm not just talking about politics or Olympians; it's happening regarding Western Dressage as well.

Just because someone on the internet says a saddle is allowed or a new program is coming out because of their suggestion or a club discriminated against them doesn't make it true.

I believe misinformation originates in three ways:

1. Self-promoters spew out opinions or hearsay they believe to be factual but maybe haven't researched thoroughly or they rant about a subject from one viewpoint to sway others to support their views.
2. Well-intentioned people ask questions which can be answered by anyone to gain correct answers or information. This is a problem because they don't go to the source for their answers and this may be because

they don't know the source or where to find it, but it opens the door for the third place where misinformation originates.

3. Self-proclaimed experts who like to answer questions on social media whether they know the answers or not. They also like to create drama by presenting subjects for debate that they know are controversial. I believe they do this with good intentions because they want to help others and spark change, but it often ignites widespread arguments, including much conjecture and opinion that is not productive or helpful to anyone and even incites anger between respondents.

Regardless of how misinformation is started, it makes our community look unfriendly and even militant. That is not in our mission or vision.

We created Western Dressage to be a friendly, welcoming community of people who want the best for our horses.

To be true to our mission, WDAA is excited to implement two new educational programs to be headed by Board Member, Kim Mackey and staff member Maddie Jacoby. They are developing a WDAA podcast and a WDAA webinar series that will be great sources for correct information about WDAA and Western Dressage. Additionally, WDAA is starting a Western Dressage judges' only Facebook page that will be moderated by members of the judges' education committee.

We hope these new avenues of information will be helpful for all Western Dressage enthusiasts. They will be rolling out as soon as possible. In the meantime, please try not to be one of the three sources of misinformation and refer questions to the USEF Rulebook, the WDAA website, or to WDAA directly for accurate answers to questions.

I appreciate how excited our members are about sharing their love of Western Dressage with others and I hope that will always continue. However, we want to share information in the most accurate, positive and user-friendly ways possible. Therefore, WDAA staff and volunteers are working hard to bring the new programs out for you soon.

Enjoy the Journey,
Cindy Butler, Your President
Western Dressage Association of America

WDAA Membership News

Advanced Walk/Jog will be coming to a show near you in 2027!



USEF WD 130.2 -

Advanced Walk/Jog tests provide a more advanced understanding of the aids. The rider should demonstrate correct position and use of the aids. The horse should demonstrate improved balance and the beginnings of engagement in the jog and show suppleness of the topline, a harmonious performance, and be softly on the aids. The regularity and quality of the gaits are considered in all movements.

Advanced Walk/Jog PROPOSAL for the 2027 competition year:

To be eligible for Advanced Walk/Jog, a horse and rider combination must not have shown in any class requiring a lope within the same competition year.

2026 Online International Challenge Judges Announced

We are proud to present our judges for the 2026
WDAA Online International Challenge Show!

Corinne Bridgeman - OK
Cindy Butler - IL
Melissa Creswick - CA
Katharina Nowotny-Boles - TN
Susan Posner - KY
Nell Tekampe - WI
Patti Thompson - FL
Charlotte Trentelman - FL
Glenda Warner - MI
Barbara Wood - MO



- *Phase 1 - Entries Accepted - May 18 - June 1, 2026
- *Phase 2 - Videos Submission Accepted
(Once Entry Is Accepted) - June 16, 2026
- *Phase 3 - Judging and Score Board - June 18 - July 1, 2026
- *Online Awards Ceremony - July 5, 2026,

Prize list coming soon!

[Online International Challenge Page](#)

Our Judges Seminar Was a Huge Success!

What a Ride!

We've officially wrapped up an incredible weekend of learning, growth, and community. A massive thank you to all our attendees, clinicians, and volunteers who made this seminar one for the books!

The future of Western Dressage is looking brighter than ever with so many dedicated judges and enthusiasts sharpening their eyes and deepening their knowledge of the discipline.



*Clinicians: Cindy Butler, Joanne Coy, Gail Matheus
and Jodi Ely*

WDAA Youth Scholarship Deadline is March 30th

The Western Dressage Association of America (WDAA) is proud to present a [scholarship opportunity](#) funded by a youth grant provided by the US Equestrian Federation.

Three (3) scholarships of \$500 each are available to youth riders who are looking to enhance their Western Dressage education.

Applications will be accepted year-round.

Grants will be awarded 3 times per year: April, August, and December. Funds must be used within 12 months of receipt. **Deadlines for submission will be March 30th, July 15th, and November 15th.**



World Show Sponsorship Opportunities



Silver Stirrup Sponsorship – \$600+

Supporting the Strength and Future of the WDA World Show

The Silver Stirrup Sponsor level recognizes barns, trainers, exhibitors, families, and supporters who choose to make a meaningful impact on the success of the WDA World Show.

Sponsors who reach \$600 or more in total class, division, freestyle, or award party sponsorships qualify for Silver Stirrup recognition.

Silver Stirrup Sponsor Benefits:

- Preferred Stabling Placement for sponsors attending the [World Show](#)
- All Silver Stirrup Sponsors will be featured on a dedicated Silver Stirrup Sponsor page on the World Show website, separate from general class sponsors
- Recognition in the official World Show program as a Silver Stirrup Sponsors
- Sponsor name announced:
 - During sponsored classes or divisions
 - During applicable awards

- On the [Total Horse Channel](#) live stream
- Each Silver Stirrup Sponsor will receive a Silver Stirrup banner/flag to display on their golf cart, stall, or Corporate Sponsorship area during the World Show

Optional Dedication Listing this year's World Dressage Championships Show. Securing your spot early ensures maximum marketing lead time and brand placement across our channels. Multiple participation levels are available to fit your budget.

In Honor of _____

Contact Candy at _____

candy@westerndressageassociation.org to review the

Silver Stirrup Sponsorship and help you plan for the continued growth of the WDAA World Show! Email Kim at kim@westerndressageassociation.org



Email Candy for Corporate Sponsorships

Corporate Sponsors Wanted
 Sponsorship - Silver Stirrup Sponsorship

Are you planning your 2026 show season? 🐾



Look no further than the WDAA Event Calendar!

From WDAA Live Recognized Shows and Online Recognized Shows to Western Dressage clinics and WDAA educational courses, everything you need to map out a successful season is right here.

Start planning, set your goals, and make 2026 your best year yet!

🌟 And don't forget to renew your WDAA membership to stay eligible for our point programs.

[View the Calendar](#)

WDAA Points



Dear WDAA Family,

A *massive* thank you to all the members who have jumped in to support our inaugural YEHP Buckle Fundraiser! Your support means everything. The majority of the funds raised covers the craftsmanship of these stunning buckles, with the rest going toward improving our WDAA Points programs for everyone.

As a special thank you: every qualifying horse that had a buckle ordered for their YEHP achievement will get an exclusive digital badge on their YEHP scorecard highlighting that 2025 Leaderboard achievement!

YEHP Champions: keep an eye on your inbox for the details on adding your horse's photo to the new YEHP Champions page! We are building something special to showcase you and your horse's spectacular achievement.

Reminder: YEHP buckle orders are being accepted through **March 31, 2026**. Make sure to place an order before the deadline if you've been eyeing one for your Champion, Reserve, or Top 10 horse!

Thanks for an incredible year of WDAA Points! We can't wait to see what our members achieve in the coming year! Happy showing!

WDAA Points Team



YEHP



WHLPAP



YEAR END HIGH POINT

WDAA HORSE LIFETIME POINTS & AWARDS PROGRAM

WDAA Recognized Shows provide official show results

COST

FREE

Pay-to-Participate

COST

TIMELINE

ANNUAL

Runs
January 1st - December 31st

LIFETIME

Points are
cumulative and never reset

TIMELINE

POINTS

Based on placing in class
1st-10th

Based on
individual performance.
scaled by levels,
percentages, and show type

POINTS

AWARDS

Digital Certificates
for Top 10
Buckles available for
purchase for Top 10

Personalized Awards
plaques, halters, stall guards, medals,
buckle, and bronze sculpture with your
horse's name
WHLPAP Awards Banquet
at the WDAA World Show

AWARDS

JOIN

Sign up for a
Free WDAA Horse Number
on WDAApnts.org

One-time: Enrollment Fee
Yearly: Annual Recording fee
Per-Test Fee: select only the
scores you want to submit

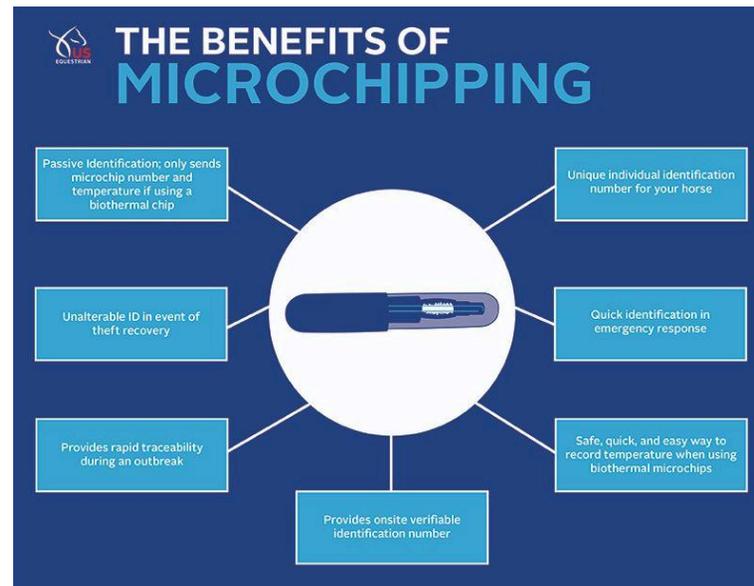
JOIN

Visit wdaapoints.org to enroll your horse in YEHP or WHLPAP!

USEF News



Microchipping Rule Delayed!



Find the latest microchipping update from USEF here:

After receiving and considering member feedback, a recent presidential modification was approved, delaying US Equestrian's implementation of GR1101.10 requiring competing horses to have a microchip on file with USEF

from Dec. 1, 2025 to Dec. 1, 2026. Several of our affiliates have expressed concern that not all their members were made aware of the upcoming requirement, and we are using this time to get everyone up to speed.

Learn more about microchips: <https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/TJMycQtVsEQ/microchip-101>

Find microchip mythbusters here: https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/15GXJPR_Azk/microchip-mythbusters

Find FAQs, including how to report your horse's microchip number, here: <https://www.usef.org/faqs/microchips>

USEF Lite Grants Available to Offset Costs of USEF Lite Licensed Competitions



US Equestrian would like to remind eligible competitions of updates made to the USEF Lite Grants, which provide funding to USEF Lite licensed competitions. Lite licensing is designed to give competition organizers and athletes a lower cost, more relaxed competition environment which still has the benefits of US Equestrian's rulebook and oversight.

USEF Lite Grants provide further savings by offering financial assistance to competitions to hire necessary staffing, with up to \$300 available for one- and two-day competitions and up to \$500 for shows that are three days or longer. The grant may be used toward the hiring of required Qualified Medical Personnel or hiring a USEF Applicant Steward or Technical Delegate to officiate the competition.

[Read The Full Article Here](#)

USDA Postpones Implementation of Horse Protection Amendments



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) today announced that it will postpone the effective date for the Horse Protection Amendments final rule. Previously scheduled to take effect on February 1, 2026, several provisions of the rule have been vacated by the courts, and the non-vacated provisions will now become effective on December 31, 2026. This postponement follows ongoing legal developments and legislative directives aimed at providing regulatory clarity for the horse industry and federal inspectors.

[Read The Full Article Here](#)

WDAA Test Revisions to Date

UPDATE

- Level 1 Freestyle: 4/5/2022 Total points correction on cover page only.
- Level 2 Test 2: 3/30/2022 Movement 15 clarification that the collect jog begins at V. Changed sidepass from 4 steps to 4 strides.
- Level 2 Test 2: 5/23/2022 Changed sidepass from # of strides to go to the first quarter line.
- Level 2 Test 4: 2/15/2022 Changed sidepass from 4 steps to 4 strides.
- Level 2 Test 4: 5/23/2022 Changed sidepass from # of strides to go to the first quarter line.
- Level 2 Freestyle: 1/7/2022 Movement 10 has had the verbiage "through the jog" removed. And now states only "Simple change of lead".
- Level 3 Freestyle: 4/26/2022 Total points correction on cover page only.
- Level 4 Freestyle: 4/26/2022 Added L|R to movements 9 & 10. Removed L|R from box 11. Corrected total points on cover page.
- Level 5 Test 1: 12/10/2021 Added "Left Lead" to movement #1 to clarify the lead to take from the halt.
- Level 5 Test 3: 12/10/2021 Added "Left Lead" to movement #1 to clarify the lead to take from the halt.
- 2022 Western Dressage Equitation Tests: 11/30/2022 Tests Retired.
- 2023 Western Dressage Equitation Tests: 12/1/2022 Added using the new Walk-Jog, Intermediate, and Advanced categories.
- 2023 Western Dressage Equitation Patterns: 02/22/2023 Changed the word "test" to "pattern".
- 2024 Western Dressage Equitation patterns:
01/18/2024 Movement #4 Lope to Halt movement changed to "Halt through the Jog."



Join WDAA or renew your membership today so you don't miss out on exclusive member benefits!

[Join WDAA](#)



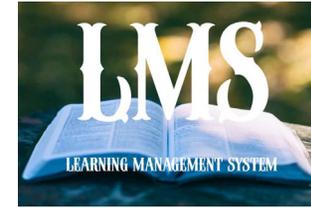
WDAA has some very exciting events, be sure to check the calendar regularly so you don't miss out!

[Visit the Calendar](#)



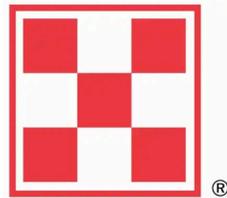
Take advantage of this free member benefit! Professional directory to connect potential clients with professionals.

[Visit the Directory](#)



The LMS is a great way to learn more about Western Dressage. Only available to members.

[Visit the LMS](#)



Purina Mills



WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA

