



Spring Forward with WDAA



Dear Friends,

This Spring seems to have a signature of erratic weather. Everywhere I have been, I have experienced extreme highs or lows or snow or wind and then abrupt changes to the exact opposite. This is a time when we have to manage our horses carefully to keep them healthy through all the swings in the weather. Horses are animals of habit and don't really appreciate so much variety in such a short amount of time.

All this reminds me that training must also be consistent. This is hard when one day is hot and horses have long hair, but the next day is cold or wet.

This is the time of the year when we must remember that we are not what we say, but what we do. Our actions define us, not our words.

I am inspired by what many of you are doing every day to care for your horses and providing extra when necessary to combat meteorological challenges or other unexpected life events. Horses are not a hobby of convenience, but living beings who require our love and care everyday. They are a commitment that horse people work relentlessly to protect and care for them.

I don't know how some of us develop this grand passion for horses that non-horsemen don't understand. Last week, a seventy something year-old lady was telling me that her father sold her horses when she was a teenager and she is still mad at him over it. She said he built a swimming pool where the horse paddock had been and she vowed never to swim in that pool.

Another lady I know spent last week dedicated to saving a foal who would have died if not for her fast thinking actions and dedicated care.

It's odd that those of us with the "horse gene" are so similar in our complete dedication and love of the animals and that everyone else thinks we're crazy.

So, I guess what I'm saying is I love being crazy with all of you and who cares what anyone else thinks. Horses are awesome and so are you!

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

WDAA Membership News

Please Renew Your Membership



For members who have not renewed their membership for 2026 yet, we thought some of you might not know how to renew a lapsed membership. Here are the steps:

- First thing is to be sure you know your username and password
- If you can't remember them, contact Kathy Newcomb (Kathy@westerndressageassociation.org)
- Open the WDAA website: <https://www.westerndressageassociation.org/>
- Scroll down to "Trying to renew a lapsed membership?"
- Click on "Renew Your Membership" in the black box.
- The form will open with your information prefilled.
- If any of the information shown in the form needs to be updated, do that now.
- Pay the renewal fee and submit the form.
- Welcome back to the Western Dressage Journey

Online International Challenge Prize List



The 2026 Online International Challenge Show prize list is now posted! Please visit [WDAA Western Dressage Online International Challenge](#) for all information. It is **EXTREMELY** important to read this prize list thoroughly; it contains all requirements for entering and video submissions.



The Western Dressage Association of America would love to celebrate our past champions by featuring you on our social media pages! As we count down to the upcoming WDAA Online International Challenge and the WDAA World Show, we're planning a Champion Spotlight series highlighting riders who have helped shape Western Dressage.

If you are a past World Champion, we invite you to participate by submitting:

- High-quality photos of you and your horse

- A short bio about you and your horse
- Your horse's breed
- Your WDAA Affiliate or local GMO (Group Member Organization)

If you'd like to be featured, please send your information and photos to Haley at strataposa@gmail.com

We can't wait to highlight the amazing champions in our WDAA community!

Ride iQ



WDAA President Cindy Butler was recently featured on Ride iQ's Ask an Expert podcast episode! [Ride iQ](#), an Official WDAA partner, hosted Cindy for this episode, where she shares A Beginner's Guide to Western Dressage—covering how the discipline works, how it is judged, and how riders can get started in the sport.

Listen here:

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/04V2TXjq7SjSw9n9cwo5Py...>

Apple Podcasts: <https://podcasts.apple.com/.../a-beginner.../id1776969830...>

Looking to take your understanding even further? Two WD R judges have each created their own set of Playbooks:

Jodi Ely's Playbooks – witty and to-the-point (~15 min each); available for Intro through Level 3
<https://rideiqcourses.com/playbooks-jodi-ely>

Ida Norris' Playbooks – in-depth and detailed (~60 min each); available for Intro through Level 1
<https://rideiqcourses.com/playbooks-ida-norris>

Next WDAA Youth Scholarship Deadline is July 15th

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 are July 15th and November 15th.**



Partner With Us for the 2026 WDAA World Championship Show!



As we gear up for the 2026 Western Dressage World Championship Show, we are looking for corporate partners who share our passion for the horse. Our event isn't just a competition; it's a celebration of the unique bond between horse and rider and a showcase of the highest levels of horsemanship.

We are officially opening the call for World Show Party Sponsors, and we need your help to make this year the best one yet.

Why Your Recommendation Matters

Our most successful partnerships often start with a personal connection. We are asking you—our dedicated members and riders—to look within your local networks.

Do you know a business owner or a local company that regularly supports non-profit organizations? Whether it's your local tack shop, a regional feed supplier, or even a non-equine business that values community and excellence, we want to hear from them. Party sponsorships start at \$4500.

More Than Just a Banner


When a company sponsors the WDAA World Show, they aren't just putting their logo on a fence. They are making a strategic investment in the future of horsemanship. Our sponsors enjoy high-impact perks, including:

- Targeted Cross-Promotion: Reach thousands of enthusiasts through our social media channels.
- Direct Marketing: Exposure to both our dedicated World Show attendees and the global WDAA membership.
- Brand Alignment: Association with an organization that prioritizes the welfare of the horse and the education of the rider.

"Our sponsors aren't just investing in one event; they are investing in the continued future of the horse."

Claim Your Spot Today

The 2026 World Show is the perfect stage for brands that value tradition, discipline, and the equestrian lifestyle. If you have a lead or if your own company is interested in joining us, please reach out directly to claim a sponsorship spot:

 For all Corporate or Party Sponsorship information, please contact Candy Hill at candy@westerndressageassociation.org

Award Sponsorships

VETERAN HIGH SCORE AWARD



In honor of Sgt. USAF Ferrell Obenhaus and Huck

Corporate Sponsorships



The V
Ober
Huck

Spon
one,

Be part of something special with WDAA. Sponsor a class, award, or moment that matters.

Welcome to the Family: Announcing Our Newest Corporate Sponsors!

🌐 For award sponsorships, visit: <https://wdaaworldshow.org/sponsor/>

We are thrilled to announce that 100X Equine and Absorbine have joined the WDAA family as Corporate Sponsors for the 2026 season!

Their year-long commitment will be instrumental in the success of the 2026 WDAA World Championship Show, held September 15–19 at the Lazy E Arena in Guthrie, OK. Both companies share our "Horse First" philosophy, bringing decades of expertise in equine health, science, and wellness to our community.

[100X Equine: The Science of Wellness](#)

Driven by a mission to be a "voice and a difference-maker" for the equine community, 100X Equine focuses on a rigorous, evidence-based approach to nutrition. Their team has over 40 years of experience across multiple disciplines, and they are dedicated to increasing longevity through high-quality, scientifically-backed supplementation. Beyond their products, 100X Equine is a passionate advocate for animal welfare, frequently donating to horse rescues and sanctuaries.

Elevate your horse's performance from the inside out. Visit 100XEquine.com to explore their evidence-based formulas and join the "Equine Nutrition Revolution."

Absorbine: The Horse World's Most Trusted Name®

A household name since 1892, Absorbine was founded by Wilbur and Mary Ida Young out of a compassionate desire to find a more humane way to treat sore, hardworking horses. From the legendary Veterinary Liniment to the ShowSheen grooming line and Silver Honey wound care, Absorbine has spent over 130 years developing high-quality products that help horses look, feel, and perform their best.

Give your horse the legendary care they deserve. Head over to Absorbine.com to stock up on show-season essentials and time-tested wellness favorites.

We are incredibly grateful for the support of these two industry leaders. Please join us in welcoming them to the Western Dressage community and thanking them for their dedication to our 2026 World Show!

✉ For all Corporate or Party Sponsorship information, please contact Candy Hill at candy@westerndressageassociation.org

WDAA Points



It's Showtime!

Show results are starting to roll in as the show season begins to pick up steam. Don't forget to check in on the [YEHP Leaderboards](#) placings as we start to get into the busy show season.

If your horse isn't enrolled in our programs, make sure to [Enroll for a Free WDAA Horse Number](#) to take advantage of our Year End High Point program and track your show results across *all* WDAA Recognized Shows!

WHL PAP Members: Keep an eye out for your **Smart Points** and make sure you have a 2026 Annual Recording Form on file. We'll be in touch with y'all soon with some exciting updates and information about the **WDAA Horse Lifetime Points and Awards Program!**

YEHP Fundraiser Buckle Orders Close Soon!

Final orders must be placed by **Tuesday, March 31st.**

Once the order window closes, all buckle orders will be sent for processing. Your selected Level and Division will be custom engraved on each buckle.

YEHP Buckles Estimated processing & shipping time: 8–12 weeks after March 31st.

Please note: International addresses may be subject to additional import fees and duties specific to your country.

Questions?

Email Alex at alex@westerndressageassociation.org

Wishing you the best of luck at your upcoming shows!

The WDAA Points Team

WDAAPoints.org

Enroll for a free
WDAA Horse Number

USEF News



USEF Champions: Athenian Lady & Boyd Martin

The Carolina Horse Park shared highlights from a special Western Dressage demo, featuring 2025 USEF National Horse of the Year Athenian Lady and her owner, Amanda Delgado, along with 2025 USEF International Equestrian of the Year Boyd Martin!

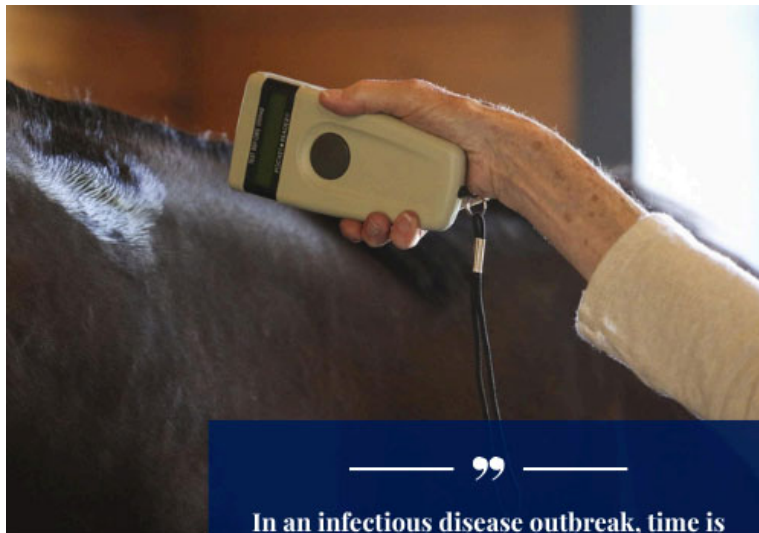
 Caroline Strickland | Carolina Horse Park

Check out the video below!



[Watch Boyd's Ride Here](#)

USEF Mythbusters: Microchips Are For Biosecurity, Not Pedigree Verification



“
In an infectious disease outbreak, time is
of the essence to protect our horses’
health and keep an illness from spreading,
”

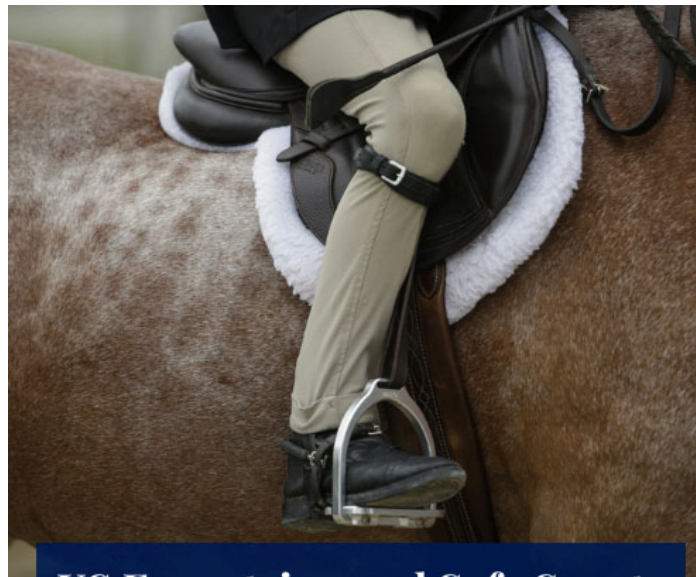
Find the latest microchipping update from USEF here:

As we near the implementation date of the US Equestrian rule requiring microchips to be on file for all horses participating in endorsed competitions, you may be hearing continued buzz about why the USEF board passed this rule back in 2023.

Earlier this year, a presidential modification delayed implementation of this rule from Dec. 1, 2025 to Dec. 1, 2026. (If you are one of many members who got your horse's microchip implanted and on their record last year, we thank you for your diligence.) We wanted to make sure all our members were thoroughly aware of the rule and our reasoning behind it before beginning to enforce the requirement. Starting on Dec. 1, horses must have a 15 digit, ISO-compliant microchip number on file with their USEF record in order to enter a licensed competition. Competition organizers will be required to check to see that a horse has a microchip number on file with US Equestrian at the time of entry. They are not required to scan horses upon entry to the grounds.

[Read More Here](#)

USEF and Safe Sport: Who, What, and Why



**US Equestrian and Safe Sport:
Who, What, and Why**

If you compete in US Equestrian-sanctioned events, you receive a prompt each year to complete a refresher of Safe Sport training – but do you know how this program came about, or what happens if someone violates one of the policies?

[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!



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



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



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

[Join WDA](#)

[Visit the Calendar](#)

[Visit the Directory](#)

[Visit the LMS](#)



Purina Mills



100 X EQUINE



WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA

