



## Q-Ribbon – November 2013

### AQHA Leveling Program

Changes to the [AQHA leveling program](#) – driven by exhibitor feedback – are on the way for 2014. Many of those changes are directed at what had been known as the [Novice and Rookie levels](#), and 2014 will see the reintroduction of [the mid-levels](#).

To collect exhibitor feedback, the AQHA Blue-Ribbon Task Force worked with Mallory Vestal, Ph.D., of West Texas A&M University, and C. Jill Stowe, Ph.D., of the University of Kentucky. The group designed an email survey, which was sent to 23,000 AQHA members, ages 19 and over who have shown in the past three years.

To aid with level verification, the Blue-Ribbon Task Force will be working with the AQHA IT Department to develop a Web-based verification system for 2014 that will aid members in [finding their level](#).

Beginning in January 2014, [the enhancements to the entire leveling program](#) will take place. Necessary rules will appear in the 2014 AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations.

To view the 2014 enhancements to the leveling program, [download this attachment](#).

Definition of Experience	2013 Level Names	2014 Revised Level Names
Most highly accomplished – exhibitor	Open	<b>Level 3</b> <i>All points earned in the past three years, all divisions, all levels excluding Level 1</i>
Most highly accomplished – horse	Open	<b>Level 3</b> <i>All open division points earned in the past three years, excluding Level 1</i>
Moderately accomplished – exhibitor	Intermediate	<b>Level 2</b> <i>All points earned in the past three years, excluding Level 1</i>
Moderately accomplished – horse	Progressive	<b>Level 2</b> <i>All open division points earned in the past three years, excluding Level 1</i>

Minimally accomplished – exhibitor	Novice	<b>Level 1</b> <i>All points earned in the past three years, excluding Level 1 (horse) points; an exhibitor can return to Level 1 if the exhibitor has not earned any points in that class for 10 consecutive years and must meet the eligibility requirements per Rule SHW245.3</i>
Minimally accomplished – horse	Green	<b>Level 1</b> <i>Lifetime points, all divisions, all levels excluding Level 1 (exhibitor) points</i>
Beginner to few accomplishments – exhibitor	Rookie	<b>Rookie</b> <i>Lifetime points, all divisions, all levels excluding Level 1 (horse) points</i>
Beginner to few accomplishments – horse	Rookie	<b>Rookie</b> <i>Lifetime points, all divisions, all levels excluding Level 1 (exhibitor) points</i>

### **Computer Programming Update**

You will begin to see judge's card labels and the show approval application with two class-code numbers for each class – the new six-digit code, as well as the existing four-digit code. This is due to the computer programming we are currently performing. In-house, AQHA will be entering the six-digit code for show approval; however, for show results processing, AQHA will be entering the four-digit code.

You, as show management, will continue to use the six-digit codes you have been using this past year. If you haven't converted, please do so at your earliest convenience. Any necessary changes/conversions needed to be done to handle our system will be performed by AQHA in-house.

### **Competition Licenses**

Annual [AQHA Incentive Fund competition licenses](#) will expire December 31. If the horse owner wishes to receive money for points earned in 2014, they must complete a competition license for each Incentive Fund-nominated horse before the horse competes.

To receive [Incentive Fund](#) payout, owners must pay a competition license fee of \$50 for the amateur division and \$50 for the open division per horse. The fee can be paid any time during the year, and will become effective when it's received by AQHA or by show management. Points earned prior to paying the annual license fee will not be Incentive Fund-eligible.

Please be sure to download the [AQHA Incentive Fund competition license form](#) and have it available to competitors at your upcoming AQHA-approved shows.

### **Show Management Workshop**

Need a leveling refresher? Have more questions? Or do you need show management re-certification? Please keep in mind AQHA Rule SHW100.14, which states that one of the individuals designated on the show approval application as show manager or show secretary for approved shows and special events must have attended an AQHA show management seminar within five years preceding the date of the scheduled show. This will be enforced and could affect your future show approvals.

With that in mind, we're inviting you to attend the AQHA Show Management Workshop December 6-7 in Irving, Texas.

Show Management 101 Workshop for Beginners will be held prior to the AQHA Show Management Workshop. Show Management 101 is slated for 8 a.m. - noon on Friday, December 6. Registration for the show management workshop 101 is \$25 in addition to the workshop fee of \$155.

The Show Management Workshop is from 1-5 p.m. on Friday, December 6, and 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 7, at the Dallas/Fort Worth Grand Sheraton. Registration for this seminar is \$155. Bring your laptop and a copy of any entry forms you have used and would like to share with others!

Get your reservation in early, as space is limited. Reservations to attend this workshop must be booked in advance by submitting the [registration form](#) to Valerie Smith by November 15, 2013. You may send by email to [valeries@aqha.org](mailto:valeries@aqha.org) or by fax at 806-349-6412.

### **Dallas/Fort Worth Grand Sheraton**

4440 West John Carpenter Frwy  
Irving, TX 75063  
(overlooks airport)

Complimentary shuttle offered from/to airport  
\$102 single/double occupancy

Hotel reservations must be made by November 19, 2013 (to receive this rate). Reservations made after that date will be in space available only at the hotel's prevailing rates. You must make your hotel reservations by contacting the hotel directly at: Sheraton DFW Airport Hotel, 1-972-929-8400 (phone) or 1-972-929-4885 (fax).

### **Industry Show Summit**

We have another event we'd like to invite you to attend! On December 8, 2013, at the

Dallas/Fort Worth Grand Sheraton in Irving, Texas, you can attend the inaugural Industry Show Summit, sponsored by AQHA and the American Paint Horse and National Snaffle Bit associations.

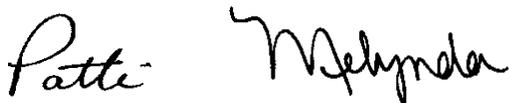
AQHA, APHA and NSBA are teaming up to help strengthen the integrity of competition by bringing together many of the industry's leading judges, trainers and industry professionals. The summit will explore the judging system and education process, class rules and how they are interpreted. The summit will provide ways to become more consistent through video runs and reviews of classes as well as the score deviations and the scoring system. Humane training at events will also be discussed.

Participants will attend 45-minute sessions with panel-led discussions covering western pleasure, hunter under saddle, horsemanship, hunt seat equitation, western riding and trail. These discussions will be followed by 30-minute open dialogue and question and answer sessions. In the open dialogue sessions, participants will be able to ask questions and provide input in an open, dialogue-friendly setting.

This first-of-its-kind summit and symposium is designed to be positive, friendly and open, with the goal of helping exhibitors at a variety of levels.

Limited space is available for members of the host organizations and **registration is required** for this free event. Please register by completing the [registration form](#) and emailing it to [sspears@aqha.org](mailto:sspears@aqha.org) or faxing it to 806-349-6412.

Thanks for all you do!

Handwritten signatures of Patti and Melynda in black ink.

Patti Carter-Pratt Melynda Ackley