



For Immediate Release:

Q-Ribbon December 2012 / January 2013

Deadlines to remember

Prior to December 1, AQHA should have received your April show application(s) and any corrections to your March show(s). Prior to January 1, AQHA should receive your May show application(s) and corrections to your April show(s).

2012 RESULTS

IMPORTANT NOTICE: All 2012 show results must be received and processed by AQHA prior to January 10, 2013. As mentioned previously, AQHA is moving to a new computer system. In an effort to make the migration from the old system to the new system, we must have your show results submitted as quickly as possible. If your show is the last weekend (December 28-31), we will contact you personally to assist you in any way in getting us those results to us quickly. If you are behind and have not submitted your results, we'll be in contact as well and appreciate your assistance in getting those to us by overnight delivery.

2013 Rulebook

The 2013 AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations will be available online shortly. Printed books will not be available until after the first of the year. However, we will mail printed books to January and February shows as quickly as possible. Keep an eye on www.aqha.com/handbook for the electronic version in the upcoming weeks. The book has been reorganized and sectioned to be more user-friendly, grouped together by subject: show management, judges, equipment, halter, western, cattle, English, etc. All rule numbers will be different, but are easily followed and understood. We've attached a couple of the sections to give you a first-hand glance at the changes. We think you'll really like the show management section ([attached](#))! But as always, feedback is welcome.

Updated Inhumane Treatment Rules

Please become familiar with the new inhumane treatment rules. We want to specifically bring these to your attention and suggest you print these off and post at your show. See [attached rules](#).

Eligibility Participation

Another area that has been clarified is exhibitor eligibility rules. Again, see [attached rules](#).

Show Applications

Show applications are now available on the [Manager Resources page](#). Patti is currently developing a video blog that goes into depth, step by step on how to complete the application, which will be available in the near future.

AQHA 3.0 – Data Specifications

As mentioned, AQHA is in the process of developing a new database system, and we want to give you some information regarding show numbers and show results upload specifications. With the new system, show numbers that begin with an "A" will convert to 90, with the remaining numbers staying the same. Data specifications will be made available to you as soon as possible on the

[Manager Resources page.](#)

AQHA's IT department is working with several software developers to ensure updates are made to programs currently being used for show managers/secretaries.

With the change in systems, we will see a lag time in publicizing the new leveled classes. The current system is not programmed to handle the new classes/class codes, so there will be a short time where these classes will not be published in the *Journal's* show calendar. We are looking at ways to assist with the publication of your classes outside of the show calendar.

Leveled Classes

We applaud the shows that are offering leveled classes and welcome your feedback as we implement the new classes. Level eligibility will be available mid-December. There will be a link on the [leveling program page](#), which you can access to find an exhibitor and/or horse's level. For leveled classes, show management needs to supply each ring steward with a draw order denoting Intermediate/Progressive entries to expedite the judges' process of filling out their placing cards. To access the leveling program page, visit www.aqha.com/leveling.

Novice Show \$400 Support

Due to directives from the AQHA Executive Committee, we've had to trim some budget items. One of the areas trimmed involves promotional funds. The \$400 that was previously given to All-Novice shows has been eliminated for the foreseeable future.

Score Sheets

Reminder – beginning January 2013, all score sheets including horsemanship, equitation and showmanship must be sent to the AQHA office along with your show results. Beginning January 2014, it will be necessary that you post these and make them available to exhibitors.

Incentive Fund License 2013

In 2013, Incentive Fund Licenses will need to be renewed per horse, per division. The form can be found on the [Manager Resource page](#) and are sent with your show approval packet.

Sample of Sponsorship Request for Your Show

Lisa Merfeld has graciously allowed us to share with you a sample letter requesting sponsorship of the IQHA Mayflower State Show as an example of how to go about soliciting sponsorships. Lisa points out that it is important to follow up several times, as folks are busy and forget to respond. It's suggested to follow up every couple of weeks with an email or phone call once you get within two months of the show. See the information [attached](#). Thanks for sharing, Lisa!

Competition Department Featured Employee

Valerie Smith: Secretary to Senior Director of Shows and New Events (Charlie Hemphill) and Director of Competition Administration (Melynda). Valerie is most valuable to both Patti and I with the development of the Show Management Workshops. We couldn't do our jobs without her!

Valerie began her career with AQHA in February 1999 – in the Customer Service Department. She was the first technical specialist in that department



and responded to all AQHA emails and helped customers/members with AQHA's website, including the "For Members" area. Valerie has worn many hats with AQHA including working at Quarter Horse Outfitters, and has truly loved this organization and feels it is her second family. "I love working with members and being the friendly voice they hear on the other end," she attests.

Valerie is married to Paul and they have four children and five grandchildren. Her oldest two sons (Daryl and Russell) are in the Army, both spending time in Iraq and Afghanistan. Daryl is a staff sergeant and is stationed in Fort Benning, Georgia. Russell is stationed in Fort Stewart, Georgia, and is being deployed to Afghanistan again in March 2013. Daughter Sarina graduates in the spring with her bachelor's degree in social work, and Valerie's youngest son, Stetson, is still in high school. She enjoys getting to spend time with her grandkids twice a year, as they do not live here.

Valerie, Paul and Stetson live in the country with horses and dogs and enjoy spending time with all of them!

[Q-Ribbon Newsletter and Straight Talk](#)

Miss an issue of the *Q-Ribbon Newsletter*? Check them out here – [Q-Ribbon Newsletter Archives](#).

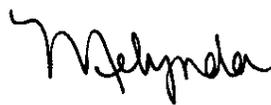
[Straight Talk Video Archives](#) – Get the inside scoop with Straight Talk, a blog presented by Patti. The most recent blog is Part 1 in a series regarding the AQHA leveling program. We think you'll find a great deal of pertinent information here. Check it out!

As always – please let us know if you have not heard from AQHA regarding your show approval application within 15 days from the date you sent it to us. We are happy to check the status of processing and get you information necessary to proceed with your plans for the show.



Patti Carter-Pratt

Executive Director of Shows



Melynda Ackley

Director of Competition Administration