



IN STRIDE

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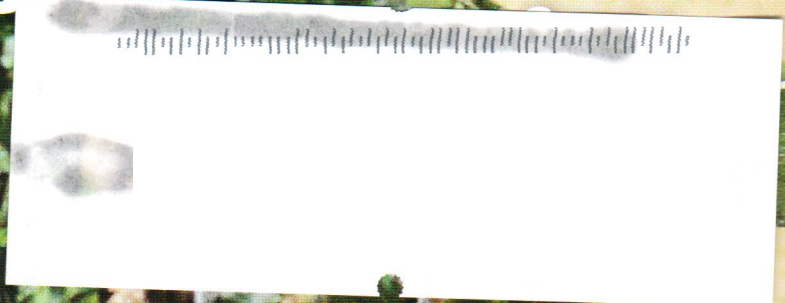
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United States Hunter Jumper Association



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runello & Boyd make History!



Horsemanship Quiz Stable Challenge Soars 300%

In just its third year, this exciting online horsemanship knowledge competition draws more than 1,200 participants.

By Louise Bowden

THE WINNING TRAINERS

Zone 1 Alicia Bessoni	Glastonbury Hunt Club
Zone 2 Ann Mitchell	Smoke Rise Farm
Zone 3 Jennifer Fessler	Steep Forest Farm
Zone 4 Courtney Boyd	Court Lin Frae Stables
Zone 5 Anne Thornbury	Equisports
Zone 6 Amy Bender	Hampton Ridge Equestrian Center
Zone 7 Julie Gass	Cadence
Zone 8 Jill Pelzel	Fall River Farm
Zone 9 Rachel Marcotte	Triple Rise Equestrian Center
Zone 10 Elizabeth Evans	Mischief Farm
Zone 11 Amy Quinlan	Dillingham Ranch
Zone 12 Beth Theisen	Two Rivers Ranch

The Horsemanship Quiz Challenge is supported in part by a generous grant from the United States Equestrian Federation.



LOUISE BOWDEN

After 30 days of intensive studying and nail-biting quiz-taking by USHJA members across the country, the USHJA Horsemanship Quiz Stable Challenge, presented by The Plaid Horse, concluded with record numbers. More than 1,200 quizzes were taken on behalf of more than 320 trainers across every USHJA Zone, marking a 300 percent increase over participation in 2014.

“We are ecstatic about the participation this year in the Stable Challenge,” said Cricket Stone, chair of the Horsemanship Quiz Challenge Ad Hoc Committee. “It’s beyond what we could have hoped for, and it means that equestrians across the country are embracing the importance of horsemanship, which is what the quiz is all about.”

From June 15 to July 15, the 30-day HQC Stable Challenge was open to Juniors and Amateurs, bringing barns together to put their horsemanship knowledge to the ultimate test for a chance to win great prizes.

At least three students per trainer had to complete the online HQC practice quiz for their barn to be eligible to win. At the end of the 30-day challenge, the three top scores under each trainer were averaged to provide an overall score, and the highest-scoring trainer per zone won a unique trainer-inspired award package with gifts from the USHJA, Charles Owen, Inc., Equestriancoach.com, Perfect Products, Professional’s Choice, Rood & Riddle, Shapley’s, Standlee Hay Company and *The Plaid Horse*.

Participants who met the age requirements and took the Level One and Level

Two HQC quizzes received 10 bonus points for each level they completed. Those points were then added to their individual scores. During the 30-day Stable Challenge, more than 70 members completed the Level One HQC quiz and almost 20 completed the Level Two quiz.

All of the winning trainers had an average score of 100 or better (with bonus points), meaning that their top students produced perfect scores, and, in many cases, took the Level One and Level Two quizzes.

Winning trainer Beth Thiesen, of Palmer, Alaska, was excited about how her students embraced the challenge.

“I have a wonderful group of students who had such fun reading the study guide and learning about horsemanship,” said Thiesen. “The study guide is so well presented, with pictures and drawings that make it more understandable. It’s such a great program to get the students talking to one another about all sorts of horse care-related issues.”

In addition, USHJA members under the age of 21 (per United States Equestrian Federation rules) were also able to compete for a chance to qualify for the Horsemanship Quiz Challenge Nationals, which takes place in conjunction with the Emerging Athletes Program National Training Session in November 2015. The HQC Nationals consists of a written exam, a horsemastership/identification exam and a final practicum that requires participants to demonstrate their mastery of practical horsemanship knowledge. For more information about the HQC, please visit www.ushja.org/programs/youth/HQC.