
Board of Directors
Date August 27, 2025; 7:30 pm
ZOOM Meeting

MONTANA QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

Board members present: Tyrell Burklund, Michele Shaw, Britt Kissock-Robinson, Josh Shengle, Rita Church, Lesli Glen, Julie Schumacher

National Directors: Gary Lynn Olson, Nancy Weaver, Marilyn Randall, Tracy Brown, Ruth McDonald-Gates

Meeting called to order by President Tyrell Burklund. Britt made a motion to approve the July 16, 2025 minutes. Michele S. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Finance: Laura reported financial reports. Ruth made a motion to approve the amended financial report as presented. Second to the motion by Britt. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Committee Reports:

Show Committee: Tyrell reported he would like to have a Show Committee meeting in the next month. Michele S. discussed the MQHYA shavings fundraiser, needing a deadline for the price of shavings.

NILE: Marilyn reported Kimes sponsorship and Cinch sponsorships are secured. She is working with Austin Frank on getting jackets for hi-point jackets. Laura has invoiced approximately \$8,800 in sponsorships. The International Agriculture contingent's schedule has been completed. Several MQHA members farms will be visited by the group. Rita is scheduling volunteers for the booth at the Metra.

Membership Services: Rita Church reported that to date there are 121 new or renewed members, 40 lifetime members; 24 MQHYA members.

Marketing: Julie reported on the gun raffle; only 300 tickets available with drawing at Convention. Discussion about federal compliance. Julie has that handled. Gun will be available for public viewing at Nile. Julie is also doing a liquor basket raffle for Nile. Contributions are encouraged.

Recreational Riding: Julie reported she is trying to partner with a group out of Lolo for a poker ride and would like to set up the Booth there. Dates are the end of September.

Amateur: No report.

Youth: Michele S. reported the Youth had an August meeting. Discussion regarding the website; Laura and Michele S. having been updating the forms and ease of navigating the Youth portion of the site. Sidney McCasland has been trying to get a number on the chap raffle. Big Sky Classic shavings fundraiser garnered approximately \$800. Discussion regarding year end awards. MQHYA youth present at the meeting decided to keep the existing rules regarding awards the same.

Breeders/Ranch: Lesli reported she will be trying to get some podcasts completed. She will be visiting the Fredericks and Steve Bond's places to get those completed. Lesli has a volunteer to help with the podcasts. Another idea she is working on is information on the website to ship semen internationally.

By-Laws: Tyrell reported he is reading through the By-Laws and will have any necessary revisions to Laura for the memberships vote. Recommendations need to be to Laura on or before September 20, 2025 in order to be in compliance with current By-Laws regarding notification to the membership. Alternates for National Director positions need to also be into Laura by the same date.

Legislative: Britt reported she emailed Laura with the extension of the current legislation affecting MQHA and the agricultural industry. Laura will forward onto the Board.

Awards: Laura reported she and Michele McGuigan have been working on the finalization of the points.

Region 2: Rita suggested anyone coming to the Show bring items to the Consignment booth. Also an opportunity for the Youth if they want to donate an item to the Silent Auction with proceeds going directly to the Youth organizations. All awards have been compiled. Tracy B. reported they are still looking for donations or sponsorships at the Show.

2025 Convention: Tyrell reported he will be having a Convention Committee meeting within the month of September.

Hall of Fame: Ruth reported she has been working with Ryan Jaeger and they have compiled an impressive list of possible inductees into the HOF.

New Business

Correspondence: Laura reported she received emails concerning AQHA's Professional Horsemen and Volunteer of the year. Laura will be emailing the members with a list of MT Professional Horsemen and the dates they received the award and will then send that to the membership.

All agenda items have been satisfied. Britt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second to the motion by Rita. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Bakker
2025 Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting – September 17, 2025 – ZOOM Meeting; 7:30 pm

LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT – emailed to the Board

AQHA/MQHA RULES/CHANGES

AQHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVES NEW RANCHING RULES

The AQHA Executive Committee recently reviewed and approved rule changes from the AQHA Ranching Committee. These were approved by the AQHA membership and the Board of Directors at the [2025 AQHA Convention](#) in March. All rules are effective January 1, 2026, unless noted otherwise.

The highlights of the approved Ranching Committee recommendations are as follows:

- Amend **SHW564.2 VRH Limited Ranch Cow Work** as follows:
 - – 5 point:
 - Spurring or hitting in front of cinch at any time or excessively whipping or spurring the horse;
 - blatant disobedience, defined as kicking, biting, bucking, rearing, striking or obviously insubordinate;
 - running the cow into the back fence with force;
 - contestant not in a working position that causes the cow to initiate at least one turn/change of direction on the second boxing phase before crossing the timeline and terminating the work;
 - use of either hand to instill fear.
- Amend **SHW422.6 and SHW561.7** as follows:
 - **Drag an object:** For open and amateur classes ONLY, the drag is not to be used in any youth or Rookie/Level 1 amateur classes. Drag may be a complete figure eight and may begin in either direction. The exhibitor must have the rope dallied on the saddle horn (half or fully dally) or attached to a fixed ring near the cinch (international events only) for the duration of the drag.
- Amend **SHW422.7 and SHW561.8** as follows:
 - Optional obstacles may be used provided the obstacles can be found in everyday ranch work. Optional obstacles from which selections can be made include, but are not limited to:
 - A jump obstacle whose center height is not less than 14 inches high or more than 25 inches high and is at least 5 feet from side to side at the approach. Holding the saddle horn is permissible for this obstacle.
- Amend **SHW305.5:** ...in trail, ranch trail, ranch riding, VRH ranch trail and VRH/RHC ranch riding, it is permissible to change hands on the reins or carry the extension in the rein hand to work an obstacle...
- Recommend a task force on the feasibility of creating a recognition program for employees (ranch hands, veterinarians, etc.) of **Ranching Heritage Breeders**.

<https://www.equinechronicle.com/2025-ranch-rule-changes/>

CONCERNING HORSES

THE HORSE PROTECTION ACT – No updates

FYI: EQUINE ACTIVITY LIABILITY LAWS

Currently, 48 states have enacted laws which limit the liability of equine sponsors and professionals, veterinarians, or others, for the injury or death of a participant as a result of, or due to the inherent risk of equine activity or agricultural tourism activities. Two states do not have any laws regarding equine activity liability (California and Maryland).

It is the policy of the **state of Montana** that a person is *not* liable for damages sustained by another solely as a result of risks inherent in equine activities if those risks are or should be reasonably obvious, expected, or necessary to persons engaged in equine activities.

Liability is not limited by this statute where the equine professional knowingly provided faulty tack or equipment, failed to make reasonable and prudent efforts to determine the ability of the participant to engage safely in the equine activity, owns or otherwise is in lawful possession of the land or facilities upon which the participant sustained injuries because of a known, dangerous latent condition, or if he or she commits an act or omission that constitutes willful or wanton disregard for the safety of the participant or intentionally injures the participant.

<https://www.animallaw.info/statute/mt-equine-activity-liability-chapter-1-availability-remedies-liability>

CONCERNING AGRICULTURE

DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK REPORTS BRUCELLOSIS AFFECTED HERD IN BEAVERHEAD COUNTY

August 15: The Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL) received confirmation that an animal from a Beaverhead County herd within Montana's Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) tested positive for brucellosis. The herd has been placed under quarantine pending the completion of an epidemiological investigation.

The positive bull was identified as a brucellosis suspect during required testing at a livestock market in late July. The animal was euthanized and taken for necropsy at the Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL) where tissues were collected and sent to the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa for confirmatory testing. NVSL was able to grow the *Brucella abortus* organism from one of the lymph nodes collected from the animal.

NEW WORLD SCREWORM UPDATE

August 25: A human case of flesh-eating screwworm was detected in the United States related to the latest outbreak of the parasite in Central America, according to officials. The patient had recently returned to Maryland after traveling to El Salvador. Travel-related cases of screwworm pose a low threat to the public health of the United States.

The case, however, will likely shake the cattle ranchers, beef producers and livestock traders who were already put on alert about potential screwworm infestations. The USDA has estimated a screwworm outbreak could cost the economy in Texas, the biggest U.S. cattle-producing state, about \$1.8 billion in livestock deaths, labor costs and medication expenses.