
Board of Directors
Date July 22, 2026
Zoom Meeting, 7:30pm

MONTANA QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

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

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

Meeting called to order by President Tyrell Burklund. Cathy made a motion to approve the May 20, 2026 minutes. Seconded by Marilyn. Motion carried.

Finance: Laura emailed the financial report and supporting documents. Julie made a motion to approve the financials as distributed. Second to the motion by Britt. Motion carried. Discussion regarding needing to utilize funds from DAD account to cover the Big Sky Classic expenses. Britt made a motion to transfer \$5,000 from the DAD account to cover the expenses. Second to the motion by Rita. Motion carried.

Old Business: The tablet lease agreement regarding usage and the lease agreement that was submitted by the Western Montana Quarter Horse Association with hand written amendments to the MQHA lease agreement. Bonnie DeVeniero indicated she does not have the time to properly train personnel before a show. Suggested having a tablet liaison at the show knowing how to use the tablets and assisting with problem issues. Further discussion regarding training prior to the show and also at the 2026 Convention. Positive input from the Sparks Some Fun for using the tablets and software. Additional discussion regarding setting up training with Funnware and requiring any lessees be trained prior to any shows. Discussion regarding the suggested amendments by WMQHA to the lease. Board was in agreement that any amendments to the lease in place is not acceptable. Josh made a motion to curtail any lease of the MQHA tablets and equipment until training is completed at the 2026 MQHA Convention. Second to the motion by Lesli. Motion carried. Laura will draft a letter to WMQHA regarding this decision and will mail it to the President of WMQHA regarding the lease of the equipment.

Tyrell received an apology letter from an MQHA member, regarding the incident at the Big Sky Classic Show to Show Manager Will Lyons. Marilyn Randall and Scott Neuman were both cc'd on the letter. Letter will be filed with the MQHA correspondence.

Committee Reports:

Show Committee: Big Sky Classic: Tyrell did not have a report regarding the Big Sky Classic.

Nile VRH Show: Marilyn reported she has awards from Kimes as well as an assortment of prizes. They will be monogrammed by Dallyo and available for recipients. Cinch jackets are sponsored and hi-point award patches are being done. Josh also has the coolers that are being monogrammed.

Membership Services: Rita reported currently MQHA has 90 new or renewal members for 2026, 42 lifetime member, and 21 MQHYA memberships.

Marketing: Julie reported she is still working on the Member Spotlight and needs more information from members. Julie would also ask the Board how they would like to proceed in regards to marketing to help pay the bills. Ideas are needed to get fund raising done. Selling calendar pages again as well as the Directory. Lesli and Britt have some ideas they will share with Julie.

Amateur: Cathy reported Sparks Some Fun was well attended however slightly under the numbers from 2025. Adding the additional day was well received. Cathy will let the Board know at the August meeting how the show did financially.

Youth: Laura reported for Michele Shaw that the Youth will be having a meeting in October and no new report until then.

Breeders: Lesli reported the Breeders had a meeting. Laura will resend minutes from the meeting to Lesli. Discussion regarding ideas for more participation from the Breeders. The Committee had ideas regarding having some of the Breeders advertising on the MQHA website as well as increasing membership. Another meeting is planned in late August.

Ranch: No report.

By-Laws: Tyrell reported he talked with Laura about implementing more verbiage regarding sportsmanship and mirroring AQHA's verbiage. A proposed by-law will be sent to the General Membership in compliance with current By-Laws. Britt made a motion to mirror the AQHA verbiage VI0220 to the MQHA By-Laws and sent to General Membership for approval. Second to the motion by Josh. Motion carried.

Legislative: Britt has a Legislative report that will be emailed to the Board and an amendment to these minutes.

Recreational Riding: Julie reported the Poker Ride, Jack Saloon, Graves Creek, Lolo area is last weekend in September 2026 and the event planners would like MQHA participation again. Cathy reported the AQHA Horseback 250 is live again as of July. Email from AQHA was sent to the membership.

Region 2: Rita reported webpage is updated every day. Clinician is Heather Young, AQHA/APHA Judge from Gainesville, TX, a VRH specialist. Tuesday afternoon will be Ranch Horse, all around will be Thursday afternoon. English Versatility classes are being offered and jackpotted.

Hall of Fame: Tyrell reported the HOF Committee had a meeting and talked about a Save The Date option. Discussion having a dinner but decided to have hors d'oeuvres and drinks and have the Breeders as well as HOF inductees Friday evening. Scooter raffle will again be offered. HOF nominations would like to be received on or before October 1, 2026. Save The Date letter to go out the 1st of September after Board approval.

New Business: Nancy Weaver mentioned that Tyrell had signed a petition regarding opposing the Van Drew Amendment 120 that passed the Committee. Wording concerning the transportation of horses for slaughter and the broad overview. Verbiage is ambiguous and includes all horses. All AQHA affiliate have signed against the Van Drew report. Britt indicated the verbiage is also included in the Legislative report.

Correspondence: No new correspondence.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Bakker
2026 Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting – August 26, 2026 ZOOM Meeting; 7:30 pm

LEGISLATIVE REPORT – AMENDMENT

RULE CHANGES

The AQHA Show Committee met during the 2026 AQHA Convention in March in Las Vegas and made several show-related rule-change recommendations that were approved by the members and AQHA Board of Directors and sent to the AQHA Executive Committee. At its April meeting, the Executive Committee reviewed the Show Committee's rule-change recommendations. The highlights of the approved Show Committee recommendations are listed below. All rules are effective January 1, 2027, unless noted otherwise.

Level 2 Eligibility at the AQHA World Championship Show

The following changes are effective beginning at the 2026 AQHA World Championship Show.

- Level 2 Open Team Roping Eligibility: PRCA cardholders have been removed from the ineligibility list for Level 2 open heading and heeling.
- Level 2 Open Halter Eligibility: SHW247.3: If a horse wins an Open class, except halter, at the Level 2 Championships, the horse is no longer eligible to compete in all Open age divisions and/or all sex divisions of that class at any future Level 2 Championships for the subsequent 3 years. If a horse wins 3 Open halter classes at the Level 2 Championships, the horse is no longer eligible to compete in all Open age divisions and/or all sex divisions of that class at any future Level 2 Championships for the subsequent 3 years. However, if the horse is Level 2 eligible, the horse may continue to show in that class in Level 2 competition.

AQHA Championship Show Level 1 Halter Eligibility

- SHW246: If an exhibitor wins a class at the Level 1 Championships, except for halter, he/she is no longer eligible to compete in all exhibitor age divisions and/or sex divisions in that class, at that level or lower, at any future Level 1 Championships.
- Additionally, any exhibitor who wins a total of 5 Level 1 Championships in the Youth and/or Amateur divisions is no longer eligible to compete in halter classes at the Level 1 Championships.
- Any exhibitor who wins a Level 2 Championship in a halter class or any combination of 3 or more top 3 Level 2 Championship placings is no longer eligible to compete in halter classes at the Level 1 Championships.
- Any exhibitor who places in the top 3 of a Level 3 World Championship halter class is no longer eligible to compete in halter classes at the Level 1 Championships.

Walk-Trot and Small-Fry Classes

- Level 1 Walk-Trot and Small-Fry classes will now offer Year-End High-Point awards.
- Level 1 Walk-Trot Working Western Rail will be added as an AQHA-approved class. Additionally, as recommended by the Ranching Committee, Level 1 Walk-Trot Ranch Riding and Ranch Trail will be added as AQHA-approved classes.

Level 1 Horse Non-Pro Classes

- Add SHW238 to provide a single place of reference for eligibility of horses for Level 1 Horse Non-Pro classes and remove SHW370-370.4 Level 1 Horse Non-Pro Showmanship, SHW430-430.4 Level 1 Horse Non-Pro Western Horsemanship, and SHW615-SHW615.4 Level 1 Horse Non-Pro Hunt Seat Equitation.
- SHW238. LEVEL 1 HORSE NON-PRO ELIGIBILITY. Exhibitors must have a current youth or amateur membership. Youth exhibitors are not eligible to exhibit a stallion, see exception for youth ages 14 and older residing in Mexico, South or Central America in SHW215.9. Horse ownership is required per SHW220.
- SHW238.1 Level 1 Horse Non-Pro classes are offered in showmanship, western horsemanship and hunt seat equitation.
- SHW238.2 Horses are eligible to compete if they have not, as of October 31 of the previous show year, earned more than 10 AQHA lifetime points (points earned by the horse from all levels in any division will count excluding introductory/rookie points and are cumulated in determining eligibility) in that corresponding class.
- SHW238.3 Horses placing in the top 3 (Level 1 Horse, Level 2, or Level 3) at any AQHA World Championship Show are ineligible to show in the corresponding Level 1 Horse Non-Pro class beginning the following year.
- SHW238.4 Eligible horses will have the entire calendar year to compete in their respective Level 1 Horse Non-Pro Class.
- SHW238.5 These classes must be held as standalone classes. Standalone classes allow for judges and show staff to create simpler/lower degree of difficulty patterns that

are appropriate for horses at this limited stage. This allows for exhibitors to develop these younger or less experienced horses while showcasing their skills in pattern classes competing on horses with similarly limited experience. If a lead change is included in a pattern, it must be designated as a simple lead change.

- Effective June 1, 2026, any horse exhibited in the youth, amateur, or Level 1 Horse Non-Pro division must be solely owned by the contestant showing the horse or the contestant's immediate family (SHW220).

AQHA World Championship Shows Policies

The following changes are effective beginning at the 2026 AQHA World Championship Show.

- World Show Performance Halter: Horses (with the exception of racehorses with two speed indexes of 80 or higher) must qualify, enter, and legitimately compete in a Level 3, Level 2, or Level 1 riding/driving class within the same division (Open, Amateur, or Select). If an Open Level 1 or Level 1 Horse Non-Pro class is used to satisfy this requirement, the horse must have also qualified for a Level 2 or Level 3 riding/driving class in the respective division.
- Level 3 Class Scheduling: Preliminary goes will be scheduled for classes at the AQHA and AQHYA World Championship Shows which had 45 Level 3 entries in the previous year except for cattle and speed classes which require 25 entries the previous year. This policy will be reviewed annually.
- Affiliate Invitee World Show Qualifying: The top 5 amateur and Select exhibitors/horses, plus ties, in each Level 3 class which do not qualify nationally in each affiliate will receive an invitation to the respective world show class. This also includes the top 5, plus ties, in each Level 3 open class. To qualify through this option, at least one-half point must be earned in the respective class. If the horse (open) or exhibitor/horse (amateur and Select) are Level 2-eligible, they are also able to enter the Level 2 class. This qualifying method will not be added to the horse's permanent AQHA record.

Show Approval and Class Categories

- Ranch Riding Category: Ranch Riding will move from Category V to Category II. For lifetime achievement awards, points earned on or before December 31, 2022, and on or after January 1, 2027, will be counted as Category II for awards. Points earned from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2026, will be counted as Category V.
- Show Approval: SHW118: A youth division may be approved separately or in conjunction with an AQHA-approved show for all ages provided a minimum of four approved youth performance events are offered, two of which must be showmanship at halter and either western pleasure or western horsemanship.

Class Procedure and Penalty Updates

- Showmanship: SHW372: All exhibitors may enter the ring and then work individually, or each exhibitor may be worked from the gate individually. When exhibitors are worked individually from the gate, a working order is required. The following maneuvers are considered acceptable: lead the horse at a walk, jog, trot or extended trot, or back in a straight or curved line, or a combination of straight and curved lines; stop; and turn 90 (1/4), 180 (1/2), 270 (3/4), 360 (full turn) degrees or any combination or multiple of these turns, not to exceed 630 (1 3/4) degrees in one turn maneuver. The pull turn is an unacceptable maneuver. The extended trot shall not be used in Small-Fry classes. The judge must have exhibitors set the horse up squarely for inspection sometime during the class.
- Working Western Rail: SHW426.5: Touching or holding the saddle horn during any extended gait is acceptable.
- Working Cow Horse: Amend SHW505.3 to add: Once an exhibitor has committed to circling a cow, if the cow falls down no new cow will be awarded. The exhibitor should complete the run by riding around the fallen cow to fulfill circling requirements.
- Use of Hand to Instill Fear: Amend the 5 point penalty in SHW454.4 (Western Riding), SHW464.4 (Trail), SHW797.6.4 (In-Hand Trail) and the 10 point penalties in SHW438.3 (Western Horsemanship) and SHW621.2.3 (Hunt Seat Equitation) to "use of either hand to instill fear or praise."

To read all 2026 AQHA Standing Committee reports from the 2026 AQHA Convention, visit [aqha.com/convention](https://www.aqha.com/convention).

<https://www.aqha.com/-/aqha-executive-committee-approves-show-committee-recommendations>

AQHA HORSEBACK RIDING PROGRAM TO LAUNCH NEW HIGH-POINT AWARDS WITH EQUINE TRAIL SPORTS

July 16: The American Quarter Horse Association Horseback Riding Program is excited to partner with Equine Trail Sports, creating a new opportunity for AQHA members to earn year-end recognition for participating in trail-challenge events. AQHA members who compete in eligible Equine Trail Sports Challenges can earn points that accumulate throughout the year. Standings will be tracked during the season, with top riders in each division recognized through the new AQHA HBR x Equine Trail Sports High-Point Awards. The first-place winner in each division will receive an AQHA plaque, certificate and patch, while second- through fifth-place finishers will receive a certificate and patch.

To learn more about the AQHA Horseback Riding Program, program eligibility, award details and frequently asked questions, visit www.aqha.com/equine-trail-sports-high-point-awards. Riders can also learn more about Equine Trail Sports and find upcoming qualifying events on the Equine Trail Sports website and event calendar by visiting www.equinetrailsports.com.

CONCERNING HORSES

AQHA TAKES AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE POLITICAL, LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY PROCESS

For those involved in equine, whether as a beginner or someone who makes it their livelihood, government at all levels has an impact on our industry. As the largest equine breed association in the world, AQHA believes it is our duty to take an active role in public policy to ensure the horse and our members' best interests are represented in government.

How does the government affect the equine industry? Laws are in place at all levels; city, state and federal, that govern our horse, use of horses, and overall equine business. In addition, there are animal welfare laws at all levels of government that regulate how our horses should be cared for, laws that oversee water quality for livestock, tax laws that give tax breaks for agriculture enterprises, laws that regulate federal land, laws that control import and export of horses, immigration and many more.

It is our job to fight for the laws that support our industry and oppose laws that bring harm. AQHA's role requires that our members take an active part to influence policy to support the horse and the membership. Not only do we, as members, have the opportunity to make an impact, we have partners that can help influence the outcome of public policy for our benefit. These groups include:

- National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA): AQHA has a lobbying partnership with NCBA.
- American Horse Council (AHC): AQHA was a founding member of the American Horse Council, based in Washington, DC.
- AQHA Public Policy Committee
- The AQHA Public Policy Committee comprises a group of dedicated leaders who recommend positions and action plans related to legislative and regulatory issues identified as important to the American Quarter Horse industry.
- AQHA Political Action Committee (AQHAPAC)
- The American Quarter Horse Association has made a commitment to lead the equine industry through the tough world of public policy.

<https://www.aqha.com/policy>

AQHA PUBLIC POLICY DEPARTMENT - REQUEST FOR STATE AFFILIATE SIGN-ON:

Opposition to Van Drew Amendment 120 in the Build America 250 Act

June 15: AQHA respectfully requests that all state affiliates join a coalition letter opposing the inclusion of Van Drew Amendment 120 in the Build America 250 Act. MQHA did send a letter opposing the amendment.

The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure recently adopted Amendment 120, introduced by Representative Jeff Van Drew (R-NJ). If enacted, this amendment would prohibit the transportation of horses to a processing facility. According to AQHA, its inclusion represents a significant and immediate concern for the horse industry and establishes a precedent that could invite future restrictions on livestock and equine transportation.

AQHA works in close partnership with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) to ensure that issues affecting horse owners and the livestock community are effectively represented in Washington, D.C. NCBA has prepared a coalition letter to the leadership of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure expressing strong opposition to the inclusion of Van Drew Amendment 120 in the Build America 250 Act. The NCBA letter states, "...[the amendment] creates a new enforcement structure and a compliance burden that threatens routine and legitimate horse transportation." And, "The amendment creates uncertainty about when a trailer could be stopped, what documentation a hauler would be expected to carry, and how a "knowing violation" would be evaluated."

May 18: The Amendment reads, "(1) Prohibition. – No person may transport or cause to be

transported, an equine from a place in a State, the District of Columbia, or a territory or possession of the United States through or to a place in another State, the District of Columbia, or a territory or possession of the United States, or any place that is under the sovereignty of a government that is not the United States –

(A) In a motor vehicle containing 2 or more levels stacked on top of each other; or

(B) With reason to believe that the equine may be slaughtered for human consumption.

The civil penalty is \$100-\$500 for each violation.

https://transportation.house.gov/uploadedfiles/vandnj_120.pdf

OREGON PETITION COULD CRIMINALIZE EQUINE BREEDING

June 2: A petition to ban hunting and fishing in Oregon could end up on the November ballot.

The People for the Elimination of Animal Cruelty Exemptions Act, or PEACE Act, currently has more than 125,000 signatures in support of the measure, exceeding the 117,173 required to be added to the ballot. If passed, the law would criminalize injuring or killing animals, including killing for food, hunting and fishing. This includes slaughtering livestock and poultry, wildlife management practices, scientific or animal research, and breeding practices for livestock, domestic and equine animals. Organizations including the Oregon Farm Bureau and the Oregon Cattleman's Association oppose the petition, calling it an attack against ranchers and pet owners.

https://www.8newsnow.com/news/national-news/petition-to-ban-hunting-and-fishing-in-oregon-gains-momentum-with-125000-signatures/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook_8_News_Now&fbclid=IwY2xjawSTCxlHleHRuA2F1bQlXmABicmlkETE3MzJuWXhYaVhBNTBMR2NLc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHhZrJ50yeU3LD3l9sXl1hWT96ZuolwkeEbFG0u38RsLqtcWWW4WR6RPnUB_aem_Y7Y4SKkO6VHCwq9nhmKGDA

AQHA PARTNERS WITH WORKING RANCH COWBOYS ASSOCIATION (WRCA)

May 28: AQHA and the Working Ranch Cowboys Association have continued their partnership, keeping AQHA an official sponsor of the WRCA and its flagship event in Amarillo and adding top-horse awards for WRCA-sanctioned rodeos throughout the year. AQHA will remain a sponsor of the 2026 WRCA World Championship Ranch Rodeo, which is November 12-15 at the Amarillo Civic Center, and honor an AQHA Fan Favorite remuda (in addition to the domestic and international Best Remuda awards), the Top Ranching Heritage-Bred Horse and the Top AQHA Youth Horse during the Youth Cow Horse Championship.

<https://www.aqha.com/-/aqha-partners-with-working-ranch-cowboys-association>

EDCC Statistics

The following number of cases were reported from May 1 through June 30:

- Eastern Equine Encephalitis
 - o Florida – 1 (June)
- Equine Herpesvirus – Abortion
 - o Alberta – 1 (May)
- Equine Herpesvirus – Neurologic
 - o Florida – 1 (June)
 - o New Jersey - 1 (June)
 - o Oklahoma – 1 (May)
 - o Ontario - 1 (June)
 - o Texas - 1 (June)
 - o Virginia - 1 (June)
- Equine Herpesvirus – Respiratory
 - o Nebraska – 1 (May)
 - o Oregon – 1 (May)
 - o Oregon – 1 (June)
 - o Washington – 1 (May)
 - o Wisconsin – 2 (May)
- Equine Infectious Anemia
 - o California – 8 (May)
 - o California - 22 (June)
 - o Colorado - 1 (June)
 - o Manitoba – 1 (May)
 - o Nevada - 1 (June)
 - o Washington - 5 (June)
- Equine Influenza
 - o North Dakota – 2 (May)
 - o Wisconsin – 3 (May)

- o Wisconsin – 5 (June)
- Salmonellosis
- o Maryland - 1 (June)
- Strangles
- o Florida – 2 (May)
- o Florida - 4 (June)
- o Maryland - 1 (June)
- o Michigan – 8 (May)
- o Michigan - 1 (June)
- o Montana – 3 (May)
- o Nebraska – 2 (May)
- o New Hampshire – 2 (May)
- o North Dakota - 1 (June)
- o Ontario – 1 (May)
- o Oregon – 5 (May)
- o Oregon - 2 (June)
- o Virginia – 1 (May)
- o Washington - 6 (June)
- o West Virginia – 1 (May)
- o Wisconsin – 3 (May)
- o Wisconsin - 2 (June)
- West Nile Virus
- o California - 1 (June)

<https://equinediseasecc.org/handler/managedfilehandler.ashx?id=102&ext=pdf>

CONCERNING AGRICULTURE

NEW WORLD SCREWORM STATUS

July 30: The current status of NWS in the US:

- 43 Cases in TX & NM
- o 8 Active: ongoing disease mitigation efforts on the individual animal until it is free of NWS myiasis, including treatment and wound management of the infested animal.
- July 29: Brewster Co TX – Domestic Cattle
- July 21: Sutton Co TX – Domestic Goats
- July 17: Starr Co TX – Domestic Cattle
- July 14: Pecos Co TX – Domestic Sheep
- July 13: Brewster Co TX – Domestic Cattle
- July 13: Sutton Co TX – Domestic Dog
- July 10: Crockett Co TX – Domestic Goats

o 35 Inactive animal cases: mitigation activities are no longer required on that animal. Either the animal has fully recovered, with myiasis resolved and treatment completed, or appropriate measures have been taken to prevent the spread of NWS, such as appropriate carcass management of a deceased infested animal.

MDOL & FWP: BE VIGILANT

July 20: The Montana Department of Livestock (DOL) and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) are urging the public to be vigilant and stay informed about New World Screwworm (NWS). NWS (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) is a fly that lays eggs in wounds of any warm-blooded animal. The eggs hatch into larvae, commonly referred to as maggots, which feed on living tissue causing severe injury to and potential death of infested animals. This feeding behavior contrasts with the larvae of our local fly populations that will only feed on dead or decaying tissue. The NWS fly was eradicated from the United States in 1966, and its recent return has the potential to cause significant disruption and economic damage to the livestock industry.

Confirmed cases of NWS are currently localized to Texas and New Mexico. Operating with an abundance of caution, DOL has enacted an official order.

<https://news.mt.gov/Department-of-Livestock/NWS-Agencies-Urge-Vigilance>

NEW WORLD SCREWORM CONFIRMED IN TEXAS & NEW MEXICO

June 8: New World Screwworm (NWS) has been confirmed in a dog residing at a household in Lea County, New Mexico. This is believed to be an isolated case; however, because the dog's recent travel and exposure history remain unknown, USDA and state partners have initiated inspection of additional animals in the dog's home and increased outreach in the area while continuing to investigate the animal's movement history. New World screwworm (NWS) poses a serious threat to livestock, pets, wildlife, and in rare cases, people. The larvae feed on living tissue and can cause severe wounds, animal suffering, and significant economic harm if not detected and

treated quickly.

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/news/agency-announcements/usda-confirms-first-case-new-world-screwworm-dog-lea-county-new-mexico?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

June 4: New World Screwworm (NWS) has been confirmed in Zavala County, Texas - a single case in a calf with no additional detections reported at this time. AQHA warns TX horse owners to stay informed and monitor horses closely. AQHA encourages members to speak with their veterinarians for guidance on prevention, detection and treatment options. The EDCC reports horse owners can protect their horses from screwworm by checking daily for any wounds, drainage, foul odor, or unusual irritation, and by cleaning and protecting even minor cuts as soon as they are found to reduce the opportunities for the screwworm fly. NWS is treatable, and there are well-established protocols that can lead to successful outcomes when cases are identified and addressed early.

<https://www.aqha.com/-/new-world-screwworm-confirmed-in-texas-officials-implement-standard-response-measures>

<https://www.equinediseasecc.org/news/article/ALERT-Screwworm-Confirmed-in-the-United-State>

JOHN RICH IS SPECIAL ENVOY FOR AMERICAN LANDOWNERS

June 10, 2026: As Special Envoy, Rich will serve as a leading advocate for America's farmers, ranchers, and private landowners, helping ensure their concerns are heard and their rights are protected. He will engage directly with landowners across the country and work to address challenges posed by government overreach, activist pressure campaigns, and outside interests that threaten private property rights and the long-term viability of rural communities.

A key focus of Rich's work will be advocating for landowners facing pressure related to large-scale solar and wind development that may impact productive farmland, ranchland, and rural livelihoods. He will work closely with USDA leadership and stakeholders to ensure landowners have a strong voice in decisions affecting their property and communities.

<https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2026/06/10/secretary-rollins-welcomes-president-trumps-appointment-john-rich-special-envoy-american-landowners>

OTHER

THE DEF DEBACLE: THE RISE OF "DELETING" AND WARRANTY WARS

A Western Justice Legislative Fund Opinion Piece

Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) requirements, imposed under EPA emissions standards since around 2010, were supposed to deliver cleaner air through Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) systems. In reality, they have created a cascade of failures—faulty sensors, sudden derates, shutdowns, and skyrocketing maintenance—that plague farmers, ranchers, truckers, and equipment operators. The result: billions in annual downtime, repairs, towing, and lost productivity. These headaches don't stay isolated. They drive up operational costs that trickle down to consumers through higher freight rates, and in turn, higher prices on food and other everyday goods.

Adding insult to injury, government and military vehicles have long operated with exemptions or different standards that often do not require the same DEF/SCR mandates imposed on civilians. If public-sector and defense fleets can function effectively without them, why force the burden onto private agriculture operations, truckers, and families who rely on diesel-powered equipment for their livelihoods?

In response, many owners "delete" their vehicles: removing or bypassing DEF/SCR, DPF, and EGR hardware, then reprogramming the ECU. The benefits are immediate—restored power, better fuel economy, fewer breakdowns, and no more DEF fluid hassles. Yet when vehicle and equipment owners turn to "deleting" these problematic systems for reliability, manufacturers often respond by voiding entire vehicle warranties. This imbalance demands reform, especially as manufacturers are exploring less DEF-dependent designs.

Rural America, trucking, and consumers deserve equipment that works reliably without punitive overreach. Manufacturers adapting to market needs through limited-delete codes or emissions-flex options would be a common-sense step. It's past time to move beyond one-size-fits-all mandates that punish the very owners keeping the country running. Warranty protections should safeguard the vehicle, not the flawed emissions add-ons forced upon it.

[https://link.horsebusinessmanager.com/email-](https://link.horsebusinessmanager.com/email-preview/kgcUv349mJWY4iod8XdH/0YYOSHfOiEoPuGbm8Ci0?time_stamp=1783724906111)

[preview/kgcUv349mJWY4iod8XdH/0YYOSHfOiEoPuGbm8Ci0?time_stamp=1783724906111](https://link.horsebusinessmanager.com/email-preview/kgcUv349mJWY4iod8XdH/0YYOSHfOiEoPuGbm8Ci0?time_stamp=1783724906111)