

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2024



No Foot, No Horse



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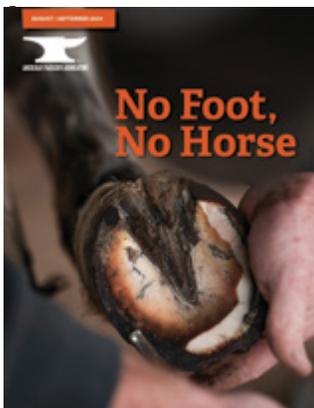
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Cover

Chilhowie, Va., farrier Corey Sheets, CJF, participating in a contest. Photo by Brittney Sheets Photography.

Image: Martha Jones

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Our Mission

Representing professional farriers, veterinarians, suppliers and horse owners, the American Farrier's Association is the oldest and largest membership organization for the farrier industry in North America, and the only one with internationally recognized standards of competency through our certification programs. Setting the standard for excellence in hoof care, the AFA provides professional development, certification, leadership and resources for the benefit of the farrier industry and the welfare of the horse.



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AFA President's Letter

Hello, Friends!

It's been a good summer in Mississippi, but I've been seeing you all out there "praying" for cooler temps and so forth, and I guess soon you'll be getting your wish.

There's always a lot going on at the AFA, and this summer has been no different. Obviously, we're getting closer and closer to our 53rd Annual Convention in Chattanooga by the day, so if you haven't registered by now, I don't know what you're waiting for. The speaker line up is, frankly, unbelievable this year. The National Forging & Horseshoeing Competition will be full of incredible competitors and topped off by the return of the Jackpot Class and possibly even a President and Past President duo [who shall remain nameless for now, but may include yours truly] in the Draft Class, the Thursday night social we've all come to love, roundtables, Certification opportunities, and all your favorite things and people all in the same week. It's going to be a year to remember, and I have to thank Convention Chair, Adam Fahr, CJF and Rules Committee Chair, Justin Fry, CJF, as well as their committees, for the massive amount of time, energy and dedication they put in to ensuring we all have a great time and learn as much as possible in just one, massive week.

I also wanted to let you all know that during our Board of Directors meeting in June, leadership approved Little Rock, Arkansas as the site of our 2026 Convention. Taking place March 16-20, we will not only be returning to Little Rock, which was such a good site for us in 2022, but we will also be returning to the time of year that seems to be better for the majority of our membership. And I look forward to seeing you there!

This next part is especially important to me, and I hope it is to you, as well. In this issue you will find the candidates for our Director and Officer positions, and as you'll see in my own candidate statement, I have the utmost respect for those who have served in the past, those who are currently serving, and those who are willing to serve in the future. There are many times that it's not an easy job, and times that — as leaders — we don't make everyone happy. This is not what we want, but it happens. But it's during those times that strong, honest, thoughtful, wise and passionate people are most critical to our association. I am running to be your President for a second term, and I

can tell you that serving with the Board members and Committee Chairs I've had the last two years has been one of the greatest honors of my life. So, whether you have one candidate or several on the ballot in your Region, please log in and vote. Although you may not feel it's necessary, trust me when



I say it is one way of thanking these people for their willingness to do what many others cannot, and it is sincerely appreciated.

Moving on, the Foundation has been up to some big things that I hope you've heard about by now. Beginning August 1st, they started the first of many fundraisers to fund an ambitious but overdue project – that of owning our own AFA property. This fundraiser is dear to my heart in many ways, but especially because it's been created for our Certification candidates and features a priceless experience: two full days with Daniel Jones, CJF, travel, lodging, Certification materials from the office, and supplies and shoes from my friend Eric Gilleland's Hoof House in Social Circle, GA. My hat is off to the Foundation Board for their vision, for their passion, and for the outstanding work they're doing for the AFA's future.

Looking ahead, we have some unbelievable events coming up in September – the first is the World Championships at Spruce Meadows put on by the WCB, and the second is the International Team Horseshoeing Competition at Stoneleigh. At both of these, the top talent in the world will be competing, and if that doesn't make you excited, I don't know what will. I hope you follow along with both, and wish all of the competitors, especially our American Farriers Team and Apprentice Team, well. I have no doubt they will make us proud in England.

With that, I'll wrap this up. But as always, I look forward to seeing you down the road... which this time of year happens to lead to Chattanooga in just over three months. See you there!

Respectfully,

Hank Chisholm, CJF
President, American Farrier's Association



FIA President's Letter



*Farrier Industry Association Mission Statement:
The mission of the FIA is to provide companies in the hoof care industry with programs and services which will strengthen and grow their businesses.*

Is the skilled trades gap real for farriery? Reports show that there will be a shortage of equine veterinarians soon; predicted by the low number of vet students that pursue large animal/equine focused practices when they graduate. Mike Rowe, the Dirty Jobs guy, has a foundation that awards scholarships to help increase the number of men and women learning a skill that's in demand, including farriery. He states on his FB page: "America's workforce has had a math problem, and we've struggled with it for nearly a decade. For every five American workers who will retire this year, two workers replace them."

In July, I visited Oklahoma Horseshoeing School, Idaho Horseshoeing School, and Montana State University Farrier School. All 3 have great instructors that are working to give their students a foundation in our trade that they can then use to take them to the next level. Each school has their own curriculum, class size, work environment, and requirements for graduation from their program. The classes are full at these schools currently, but are we going to see a decline in young folks that are looking to become a farrier in the next few years? Obviously only time will tell, but our industry could see a shortage, too, when other skilled trades are competing for young people that want to learn a trade. The Farrier Industry Association members can (and do) lead in their communities by sharing information about our great vocation. If you see an opportunity for the FIA to get involved, please let us know.

Peak FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out) alert! It looks like we will easily have more FIA MarketPlace booths sold in 2024 than our last AFA Convention in Chattanooga. The MarketPlace committee shared in our Board of Directors (BOD) meeting last week that we have already sold over 100 booths! This is shaping up



to be a record setting year in attendance for the Convention and the MarketPlace! Contact the FIA office today if you are interested in booth space.

2024 election time is around the corner! We are going to need new FIA Board members and BOD officers. Please consider joining the FIA BOD or serving on a FIA committee. You must be working for an FIA member company to be eligible. We have many spots to fill that may be an appropriate fit for your interests. Committee members usually meet several times a year but are not required to attend the BOD meetings. New BOD members are voted on by the membership and meet every other month. Contact the FIA office if you are interested.



The FIA member lunch in Chattanooga will have another panel discussion this year. Rob Michel of Oleo Acres Farrier & Blacksmith Supply will put selected members on the hot seat and get some manufacturer and supplier perspective on tech issues. We will have an opportunity for FIA members to submit their own questions for the panelists, too. This could be your chance to find out how your peers handle that sticky situation that you are dealing with in your business. Also, Farrier Family Feud will have a serious infusion of technology this year thanks to Torri and Bailee from Broadline Farrier Solutions. This duo is already beta testing the FFF template with great success! Thank you to the FFF committee for going "next level" with this fun addition to the AFA Convention program. Erin at Rusty Brown Jewelry will make sure that the winners are adorned with appropriate bling when they head out with awesome team prizes after this competition, compliments of RB!

P.S. CORRECTION!!! In the last issue of *NFNH* I wrote that Todd Boston shod Kentucky Derby winner Mystik Dan with St. Croix race plates. Mystik Dan was shod by Todd Boston, however he used Kerckhaert race plates. My apologies for spreading fake news.

Mark Hickcox, CF
The Victory Racing Plate Company
FIA President

Executive Director's Report

Hello, AFA and FIA Members!

By the time you read this, we'll be down to about one month of summer remaining, so I hope you all had the opportunity to enjoy every moment of this season — whether that found you at farrier events nationwide, on family vacations, or even just making the most of all the big and small moments that you weren't under a horse!

But with the end of summer also comes my annual No Foot, No Horse “to do” list! With our 53rd Annual Convention right around the corner (wow!), and several of our programs and committees in very high gear, there are a lot of things for you to think about, sign up for, and participate in — and I sincerely hope you will!! So, let's get to it already!

1.) Chattanooga is Coming Your Way! Have you heard the news? We want to see you in the great state of Tennessee in November!! So, get yourself registered for the Convention and the National Forging & Horseshoeing Competition now! By the time our next issue comes out, we will have bypassed the deadline for entering to compete (which is coming up VERY soon on September 20), as well as the Early Bird discount deadline for registration (and you do not want to let that deadline get by you!). So, as you're reading this, take a few minutes to visit our website or our app to get that box checked! As a reminder — if it would help you to have us register you from the office, all of us (Jade, Margie, Susie and myself) are here and happy to do so! Give us a call in the office while you're driving from stop to stop, and BOOM! You're ready for Chattanooga!

2.) Director and Officer Elections: Okay, this is a big one. In this issue, you'll find our Director and Officer candidates on Pages 10-13. With online voting opening on August 15, now is the time to take just a few minutes out of your day to log in, read the candidate statements, and show your support! Not all Regions have multiple candidates on the ballot, but one GREAT way to show your support for those willing to share their time and treasure with the AFA is to vote! It lets them know you care, lets them know you support their decision to help lead our association, and most importantly, shows that you are invested in our future! We are so, so lucky to have outstanding candidates put their names forward for leadership, and these individuals play a critical role in our association, so please show them how much they're appreciated by taking the time to vote!

3.) 2024 Achievement Awards: And while you're logged in, well, of COURSE you want to vote for our Achievement Award nominees!! This year's list will inspire you even if you're not the “get inspired” type, so help us honor these very special people and make your selections! Every year we simply cannot wait to recognize our award winners during the Grand Finale, and we not only hope you'll vote, but we hope you'll be in attendance to recognize their massive contributions! Just do it!

4.) Cultural Exchange Program: If this program is of interest to you (and after we've gotten to follow along on so many

participants' amazing travels, how can it not be?) it is time to get your application together! You can apply for either our short exchange (2-4 weeks) or our longer exchange (3 months), and instructions to do so can be found on our website or app. If you have any questions on the process or the experience, please feel free to reach out to our Chair, Vern Powell, CJF, TE at mvpfarrier@gmail.com or our Vice-Chair, Kim Lacey, CJF, at k.lacey@live.com anytime. You are also welcome to reach out to our past participants to hear about how the exchange changed their lives!

5.) American Farriers Team and USA Apprentice Team: Take a moment to like and follow our 2024 American Farriers Team and Apprentice Team on Facebook (@American Farriers' Team) to catch scenes from the upcoming International Team Horseshoeing Competition at Stoneleigh!! They've been practicing — and they're ready for the big stage! Good luck to our Apprentices, Jose Berumen, Sam Sellers, CF, Jaycie Steger, CF and Aaron Warner, CF, and our AFT, Daniel Jones, CJF, Tom Petersen, CJF, Sawyer Spradling, CJF, Lamar Weaver, CJF and Rory Bauer, CJF [alternate]. We are SO proud of ALL OF YOU!!

With all of that on your “to do” list, I'll wrap this up by wishing you all a great start to the fall season! One of my favorite quotes for this time of year is “*Autumn, the season that teaches us that change is beautiful,*” and boy, does it ever. So, I hope you all enjoy the cooler temps, changing leaves, and the great things still to come in 2024!

Cheers!

Martha Jones
Executive Director
American Farrier's Association and Farrier Industry Association



AFA News & Press Releases

53rd Annual AFA Convention & National Forging & Horseshoeing Competition: Registration Opened on June 12!

Attention Early Birds: this is your moment! Registration for our 53rd Annual Convention & National Forging & Horseshoeing Competition opened on June 12, so be sure to fill out your packets or register online (or through our app) sooner rather than later! November will be here before we know it, so it's not too soon to start planning!

And competitors: please remember that space is limited, so you'll want to

sign up no later than mid-September to save your spot. (In fact, by the time our next issue of *No Foot, No Horse* comes out, we'll already be past the deadline to compete!) Sign up today! Even if you miss the sign up, you can still watch the competitors and pick up an idea or two for your own work

Also, Certification opportunities abound at Convention, so start practicing and plan to continue your journey in Chattanooga! Whether you are pursuing your CF, CTF, or CJF — or even one of our higher education Endorsements — be sure to sign up today!

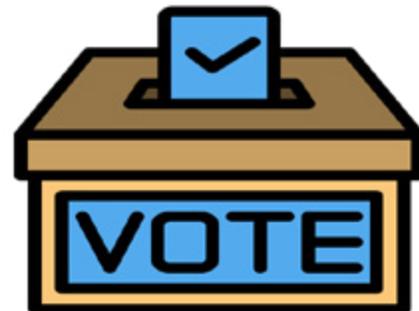


2024 Director & Officers Elections

It's that time of year again! As you'll see in this issue, it's time to vote for our next group of leaders! We have a great bunch of individuals willing to serve our Association. Be sure to check out their candidate statements so you're ready to vote for the candidate(s) within your Region! We are so thankful

to have members that continue to step up to keep the AFA moving forward. We're so proud of where we've come from, and we can't wait to see where we continue to progress.

Special thanks to the individuals on Pages 10-13 for their willingness to guide us all forward.



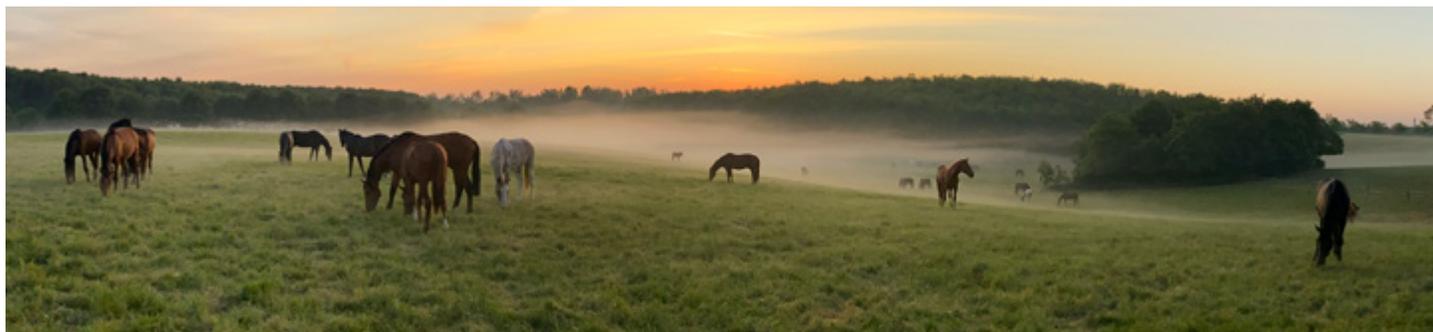
Cultural Exchange: Applications Due September 1

With Jack Trainor, CJF, having left for Europe on July 6th and Sara Snyder, CJF, recently home from her trip to South Africa, we want to remind you that these adventures could be in your future!

For more information, application procedures, and the application itself,

head to our website: americanfarriers.org/page/cultural_exchange! You are also welcome to reach out to our Cultural Exchange Chair, Vern Powell, CJF, TE, DipWCF, with questions at mvp-farrier@gmail.com. Are you our next participant? If so, get your application started and turned in by September 1!

If you are interested in applying, read the article by Cody Bogard, CJF, TE, DipWCF (beginning on Page 28).





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FIA Member Spotlight



As the Farrier Industry Association (FIA) continues its reach to our expansive industry, we will be introducing you to some of the dedicated professionals that volunteer their time as the driving force behind the FIA's loyal membership.

1. What led you to Life Data Labs®, and when did you begin your career there?

I've been with Life Data® for a little over seven years. I grew up in the community where Life Data® is located and always knew of the company's excellent reputation. A few years out of college, I had been working in marketing and graphic design for some other local businesses when Life Data® reached out to me to inquire if I knew of anyone who may be interested in joining their team. The available position immediately grabbed my interest, and I knew it was an opportunity I couldn't pass.

2. What has been your biggest challenge since joining Life Data Labs®?

I wouldn't necessarily call it a "challenge," but the biggest endeavor has been continuing my education in equine nutrition. There is much to learn about equine nutrition, and new information and research continue to advance the subject. Our founder, Dr. Frank Gravlee, had a passion and vision to improve the lives of horses through balanced nutrition and sharing his research and education with the equine industry. This has been echoed within our company culture, as Dr. Gravlee and his son, Dr. Scott Gravlee, have always taken the time to ensure our staff is knowledgeable about our products and equine care. While working on our next blog article, answering a customer's question, or preparing for our educational presentations, I had the pleasure of discussing topics one-on-one with Dr. Gravlee

several times. He was always patient and kind and would answer my questions with a smile.

3. Who were your greatest influences/mentors?

My parents played a significant role in my career by always encouraging my interests, education, and work ethic. They taught me the importance of striving for my goals early in life and not giving up when things become difficult. My biggest mentor since joining Life Data® has been Mike Barker. Mike worked at Life Data® for over 20 years and did so much to progress Dr. Gravlee's mission of educating horse owners. Mike and I worked closely before he retired, and he shared much of his experience with me. I will always look back on what we accomplished together with great pride.

4. What is the best business advice you could give someone who is just starting out?

My advice is always to continue learning and growing in your field. It is easy to become too "comfortable" in a career and in "what we know." When you feel you're an expert and there is nothing else to learn, it can lead to complacency. We can be left behind as our industries progress if we become complacent.

5. What business lessons have you learned the "hard way?"

Mistakes will happen, and it's easier to learn from them and move on rather than to dwell on them. I think it's important to acknowledge the mistake and ask yourself, "Why did this happen?" and "How can I prevent it from happening again?" When you have answered those questions, you can proceed confidently, knowing you'll do better in the future.

6. If you had it to do all over again, would you take the same path?

Yes, I would take the same path. It's rewarding being part of the Life Data® team and contributing to the betterment of the horse. I can confidently talk to horse owners about our company, knowing that products like Farrier's Formula® have helped thousands of horses. The best part is meeting horse owners and hearing their first-hand testimonials. I can't help but smile every time I hear, "Your products saved my horse."



Corbin Delaney



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2024 Director and Officer Elections

Candidate for President

Hank Chisholm, CJF #4687



Hello everyone, hope y'all are well. Here we are 3 years into my role as the President of the American Farrier's Association and what an incredible journey it's been. Still, I wonder how this opportunity came to be but it has been special to say the least. My term as you know is up in Chattanooga, which will be the best Convention to date! I've decided to run for the office of the President for another term. I've learned so much in the

last 3 years. Mostly that I'm not that important, but the importance lies in the ability to put the correct people in place and let them do their job. I strongly believe this is the case with all the volunteers that the Association has now. From the Executive Director and office staff this team is second to none. All the committees and their Chairs. Same.

My goal is to continue to work with the Board of Directors who are absolutely wonderful, very forward thinking and motivated individuals. I am looking forward to continuing to work with them on all aspects of the AFA in the United States of America and abroad. So, with that said it would be an absolute honor to serve you for another term. Thank you for everything!

Candidate for Treasurer

Earl "Tri" Ellerbee, CJF #9100



Hello, I am Earl Ellerbee, CJF, most know me as Tri. It is a privilege to be nominated to the position of Treasurer of the American Farrier's Association and succeed the current Treasurer, Tim Byrne, CJF. My journey in this trade had a rocky start after graduating the Colorado School of Trades in the early winter of 2003. I spent 9 years trying to figure out farriery with a Doug Butler textbook and a head full of arrogance. I was right on my way to applying for a county job

when a farrier buddy intervened and reintroduced me to the American Farrier's Association and opened my eyes to just how important furthering your education is.

The AFA Certification program helped guide me in the right direction through the development of solid, sound farrier skills, and put me in contact with people that held themselves to higher standards. Which they imbued on me through my testing processes. The AFA is the foundation of my career as a hoof care professional and I will forever be indebted to the organization.

I achieved my Certified Farrier in 2015, and then my Certified Journeyman Farrier in 2017. I still felt lost after making such

wonderful accomplishments. That lead me to the world of farrier competitions and volunteering in my local farrier association, the Florida State Farriers Association.

Currently, I am serving as the state chapter Treasurer, and have been for 6 years. My tenure as a leader in the FSFA led me to serve as a committee member on the Membership Committee of the AFA for 4 years. While sitting on that committee, I had worked to become an AFA Certification tester with future personal goals of attaining my Forging Endorsement and to become a Certified Instructor in the Pre-Certification Program. I have spent the last three years serving as the Region 4 Director on the American Farrier's Association Board of Directors. Being able to volunteer my time to the AFA is, by far and away, the most humbling and fulfilling experiences of my farrier career.

It would be an esteemed honor to have your vote of approval for the position of American Farrier's Association Treasurer in this upcoming officer election. You can be assured that I will work diligently to budget the funds of the AFA to the best of my ability with wise and informed financial decisions for the betterment of the Association. I appreciate everyone that has helped me along the way in this journey. To the leaders who laid the ground work, to the young farriers that keep me on my toes, every one of you are the reason the AFA has such a strong future. Thank you.

Candidates for Regional Directors

REGION 1

Josh Cotton, CJF #9932



In 2003, I unceremoniously quit my job as the foreman on a drywall crew and went to shoeing school. My first job as a farrier was with Jeff Engler, CJF, the day after I completed the 6-week farrier course. This is what I do. I take care of horses' feet. Shoeing horses is all I do to support myself and my family, so being educated, motivated, and connected to my farrier community is essential to my physical, emotional, and financial health.

I learned immediately that although the shoeing days can feel like you are doing this job alone, you will never succeed in the long run without help. Luckily, the people and resources we need are all around us and ready to assist if you are willing to put in the work on your end. While I spent my evenings ruining

steel under a carport tent in my driveway at night, Mike Poe, CJF, AWCF gave me used tools. Greg Burdette, CJF, was telling me at failed Certification attempts to quit gripping the hammer and slow down. When I got to the next level in my journey, Chris Gregory CJF, FWCF, ASF, was there to give me confidence in my skills and tell me that it's time to go faster. Their guidance, along with countless others along the way, and my 10,000 hammer swings, got me to where I am today. I am proud to be an AFA journeyman and a Certification Tester.

If you have met me, you know I am not the loudest guy in the room. I'm quiet because I'm listening. I listen when those who have gone before me have something to say and I listen when those who are coming up in our industry are talking. I would be honored to listen to you. As a member of the AFA, your questions and ideas have a place at the table. As your Region 1 representative, I will do my best to get your voice to the head of the table.

Brian Strelow, CJF, TE, FE, EE #5561



My name is Brian Strelow, and I would like to continue to serve as your Region 1 representative. If reelected, it will be my last term serving you in this capacity as I believe it is important to continue to bring new ideas and new energies to any organization.

With that said, there are many programs and projects that I have helped on with the current administration and I would like the

opportunity to see those through with Hank and the rest of the Board. I have made a few recommendations to the Executive Committee for current and future candidates to represent Region 1, and I know they will also do a wonderful job helping the AFA continue to be the continent's best farrier organization.

Thank you!

Butch Whitaker, CJF #19184



I began my career in 2010 and have since dedicated myself to the farrier trade. In 2015, I purchased the Oregon Farrier School, an institution dedicated to training the next generation of skilled farriers. At the Oregon Farrier School, we offer a comprehensive curriculum that combines hands-on experience with theoretical knowledge, ensuring our students are well-prepared for the demands of the profession.

industry standards and practices. For the past four years, it has been an honor to serve as an AFA tester, contributing to maintaining high certification standards for our profession.

My goal is to leverage the resources and expertise of the Oregon Farrier School to attract new individuals to the farrier trade and the AFA. By fostering a passion for this craft and providing top-notch education, I aim to produce high-quality future farriers who are well-prepared for long and successful careers.

Your consideration in voting for me as Director for Region 1 would be greatly appreciated. My commitment is to work collaboratively with the President, the Board of Directors, and AFA members to further the mission of the AFA and support the growth and development of our industry.

In addition to running the school, I actively compete in the World Championship Blacksmiths, staying at the forefront of

REGION 2

Jake Stonefield, CJF #20366



I hope this message finds all of you well as the summer grind is upon many of us. My name is Jake Stonefield, and I am running for a position as a Director in Region 2. My wife, Sara, and I have three children, Nora, Noel, and Levi. I have been a farrier serving east central South Dakota for 20+ years. I am very active in my local Chapter, the High Plains Farriers Association, as an original incorporating member and having served as the President

the last three years. I attained my Certified Journeyman Farrier Certification in 2021 and have served as an approved tester since 2022.

The AFA has been a center point for me and my career since I became a member. I have seen so many before me offer their time and add sweat equity to this fantastic organization, and if given the opportunity I would like to do my part as your Director. In conclusion, I hope you all take the time to vote and I would be honored to have your consideration.

Lee Olsen, CJF #19891



Hello everyone, my name is Lee Olsen, I live in Weatherford, Texas. My wife, Jamie, and I own and operate Olsen Equine. We have two sons, Trace (12) and Eli (4).

One of the ways the AFA is special to me is because of how it has greatly changed my life and shoeing career. The Certification process IMO is extremely important to any farrier no matter how you want to shoe horses. It's a black and white test with no room

for opinions, only facts. What a beautiful thing and a credit to the industry. It truly changed my life and I can't imagine where I would be without it.

The second reason is the lifelong relationships that have resulted from being a part of the AFA. Salt of the earth people that truly have a giving heart. People that may appear to be competition, but really, they just want to help you however they can and help you thrive in life.

That's a pretty cool industry that I'm proud to be a part of and willing to give back to it. I would encourage you today to look around and see what you can do to help this great community that we have together. God Bless America.

Janelle Monroe, CF #4689



Hello, all! My name is Janelle Monroe. I started my career as farrier coming about 30 years ago. I own Fiasco Farm Farrier Service. I became a member of the AFA in 1996 — a great decision indeed.

I love being part of this organization and have served 2 years as a Director in the past and am currently on the Membership Committee. If elected, my goal is to be committed to support our region and give you a voice. I

listen, communicate well, and care about your needs. I promote Certification and continuing education as important goals for all. I would count it an honor to serve you. Thank you for your consideration!



Your vote in this election is important, so don't wait until the Convention to vote for your choice. You can vote now online at AmericanFarriers.org/page/2024-candidate-statements

REGION 3

Tobias Ellis, CJF #19907



Hi, AFA members and future members, I am Tobias Ellis, CJF. I grew up in the small town of Blodgett, Oregon, riding horses, three wheelers, and working with my dad in the forest. I attended the Linn-Benton Community College Farrier Science program in 2000.

Since completing farrier school, I have been a full-time farrier, gradually increasing my business to a multi-farrier practice in both the Willamette Valley and Central

Oregon, working with other farriers and veterinarians.

I joined the American Farrier's Association in 2015 and have been active in continuing education events, both attending and hosting. In 2021, I earned my Certified Journeyman Farrier Certification and plan to continue learning, growing, and teaching others. I hope to give back to others some of the hospitality, knowledge and talent that so many amazing people have shared with me.

In fall 2022, we moved so that I could take a farrier position at the University of Illinois Veterinary Med School. This

new position pushes my skills as a farrier, teacher, and mentor, and hopefully bridges the gap in between farriers and veterinarians. Horses deserve us to work together for their benefit.

I am honored by the nomination to represent Region 3 for the AFA Board. If voted in, I will work hard to represent our Region and the American Farrier's Association at the local, national, and international levels. The AFA is an amazing family that needs more members! Thank you for your time and consideration in voting for me to be your representative.

REGION 4

Kayla Shepherd, CJF #20145



Hello, my name is Kayla Shepherd and I have been nominated to serve on the Board of Directors. I currently run a multi-farrier practice with my husband, Lyle

Shepherd, CJF, and three apprentices. I graduated Troy Price Horseshoeing School in 2015, then worked under John Schmidt, CJF, AWCF, for several years. With his help, I passed my CF in 2017, then the Journeyman in 2018. I went on the long Exchange and spent 3 months working under great farriers in the United Kingdom. I was the President for Music City Horseshoers Association for 4 years and

served as a Tester for Certifications. The AFA jumpstarted my career and made me the successful farrier that I am today.

Opportunities like this are a great way for me to give back to the AFA, and I would be honored to be a spokesperson for our region to keep the Association moving forward. Thank you for your time and consideration.

REGION 5

Betsy Lordan, DVM, CJF, TE, DipWCF #19504



I'm writing to express my interest in a position on the AFA Board of Directors. I have been an AFA member for several years and believe in its mission and its dedication to professional development.

As a veterinarian and farrier, I've developed both skillsets simultaneously. Both skills have complemented each other in my work. It is my goal to develop the strongest skillset to improve my work on lameness issues in horses. I feel that this requires both a strong background

in horseshoeing and diagnostic imaging and lameness. While I focus on podiatry and therapeutic horseshoeing, I have recently completed an intensive certification in equine musculoskeletal ultrasound through the International Society of Equine Locomotor Pathology. I also become an AFA Tester in the past year.

Traveling between the two worlds, working and learning beside both veterinarians and farriers, I have come to understand and appreciate priorities on both sides of the fence. I've also learned a lot about collaboration between colleagues in complementary fields. As a member of the Board of Directors, I'd like to help work as a liaison between the two professions to further the development of veterinarian/farrier communications. I

would have a great opportunity to communicate with the local leaders of our AFA Chapters and not only bring your individual chapter needs to the broader AFA organization, but use this platform to build bridges with local veterinarians.

In the past few years, I have also been part of an international group that travels to Mexico for a farrier clinic every year and I have been very involved with the Spanish translations of the CF and CJF examinations. As a member of the Board of Directors, I also have a keen interest in continuing to develop resources in Spanish to allow the AFA to reach more members within the US and internationally. I hope I can serve the AFA organization and Region 5 in this leadership position in the coming term.

The ADD/ADHD Farrier Conundrum

An unorthodox approach for passing your next Certification written exam. This article is the second installment of a two-part series.

By Chris Diehl, CJF, FE, EE, AWCF

After reading the first installment of this two-part series (*No Foot, No Horse*, June / July 2024), you have a better understanding of ADD/ADHD, and we can move forward with the alternative study techniques I have used over the years to help me achieve my levels of Certification. I hope that this article helps you continue with your career path to CF, CTF, or CJF, including all the specialty endorsements.

Traditional Study Methods

When I talk with other farriers about why they cannot get past the written exams, the answers are always the same. It is always a lame excuse about how they do not have the time to study. I call BS on that because if you can schedule horses, you can schedule a half hour a day study break before you go home. Pack books in your truck. Home life can be very distracting so avoid it as your studying safe place. If you cannot study on the road, find a spot at home where you will be left alone. A place to be yourself and study how you see fit. Explain to your family that even though your truck is in the driveway you need about 30 minutes to unwind and study a chapter before coming inside. They will support you and understand, as they want you pass as well.

Hands-On Learner?

One of my favorite excuses is they are a "hands on" type of learner. That is fine, except what is more hands-on than holding a book in one hand, reading the information, and using your other hand to write down notes? A fantastic way to get some serious hands-on learning while using your textbook is to hand write flashcards. While there is a wonderful set of farrier flash cards available for purchase, nothing is more powerful for the ADD/ADHD mind than sitting down and hand writing as many

as possible. Flash cards are nothing new for studying, but with a few creative twists you can really drive home the information. Too often people think of flashcards as hours slaving away going through the textbook finding the definitions. That is ridiculous. In the back of every textbook is a glossary and all your flash card information is right there from Abscess to Zebra. Mix it up a little, do not just write down the definitions verbatim, and add some flair to your cards. Draw pictures or doodle-like comics: anything to make that card stick out in your mind.



Use different markers for various parts of the exam. A red marker for questions regarding tendons and ligaments. A blue marker for bones and joints. Do not be afraid to get creative with your flash cards.

I Can't Seem to Focus

Ones inability to focus when reading a textbook is ADD/ADHD 101. Again, a person with ADD/ADHD cannot pretend to be interested in a topic that they do not care about. That person will drift away in to make believe land and their brain will focus on what makes them happy.

How do you overcome that? Simple: start getting interested in studying for your Certification written test. A harsh reality here is if you are not willing to be interested in all the portions of the exam you will not be certified. But not all is lost. You can trick your brain into enjoying studying if you accept your own limitations.

Start with a topic you want to learn about. If you enjoy shoeing cow horses and western sport, start by reading about that. Before you know it, you are reading about injuries in western sport horses and that will take you back to the textbook chapters you have been avoiding. Those chapters will not be so boring to read because you are invested in learning more about your preferred topic. You have successfully tricked yourself

into focusing on other areas of required studying.

Use lots of sticky notes or book tabs with references on them. This will make finding information much less painful. There is no rule that says you must read a textbook from Page 1 to Page 600 in order. It is your book, read it however you want.

Study Gum?

Yes, the act of chewing gum increases blood flow to the head, which studies have shown, creates a noticeable difference in increasing test scores. If you make an effort to chew gum while you study and take your test there is a correlation between flavor association and the material you are studying. Have you ever eaten something so close to how Mom used to make it that it took you back to a memory of her? You can get that same forced reaction with chewing gum.

Make sure to stick with a strong flavor that you will only chew during study time. I chose watermelon because I hate watermelon-flavored gum, so it was a flavor that would trigger my memory response harder. Just do not forget to bring your gum to the Certification.

Scented Candles or Essential Oils

Although there isn't any medical data proving that scent is associated with retention of study material, it is completely unconscious. A relaxing environment is more productive for retention. How nice would it be if we could all light a eucalyptus candle and just start remembering everything we read.

Can't Read? Draw!

I am not an artistic person, but I will let you in on a little secret. A proper sketch pad with textured paper, a few charcoal pencils, and some creative finger shading will bring your sketches to life. Every textbook has hundreds of pictures of horses and their anatomy. Start at the bottom and work your way up one bone at a time, one day at a time. Draw the coffin bone first. Draw it large enough where you can label the anatomy of the bone. Draw a cantaloupe sized coffin bone if that is what you must do. Draw it three or four times from different perspectives.

Shade it in with your charcoal pencil and make it look like something right off the pages of the textbook. Before you know it, you will trick your brain into reading more about the coffin bone because you need to properly label the parts. And just like studying western sport horses, if you do not want to draw a coffin bone first, you do not have to. Draw something else that interests you. Start with something easy like the cannon bone. Either way, you are going to rely on reading the text-

book whether you like it or not.

Sit Front and Center at a Clinic

Clinics are the best option for continuing education that farriers have access to. However, too often the first few seats are left open, and the rows seem to fill up more as you get to the back of the room. If you really want to keep your ADD/ADHD in check, sit in the first row directly in front of the speaker's line of sight. If you start to wander off, it will be obvious

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to the speaker, and you will force yourself to pay attention.

There are No Rules for Studying

Nowhere in the Certification guideline book does it say where you must gather your study information. It gives you a list of recommended study materials, but it does not say anywhere in the book that the candidate must use farrier or vet manuals as your only research source. What does this mean? You have unlimited options. One is to use your phone. That voice in your phone named "Siri" is useful. (When she gets the words right.)

Me: "Siri find information on equine chronic founder."

Siri: "Ok finding a recipe for Icelandic flounder."

Siri might not be the best option but there are a million articles out there as well as YouTube clips and more recently free podcasts on equine anatomy. If you are stumped on a question from the textbook, use your phone.

Study Right Before Bed

Taking 15 minutes before bed to quickly review the same material that you studied earlier during that day helps with reinforcement and retention. Try to avoid making it a full-blown study session. Keep it brief, something simple like flipping through your flash cards before turning out the lights.

Teach the Subject You are Struggling With

This one is my favorites because it's almost a homerun every time. A training tactic we used in the military was to have lower enlisted soldiers teach small "here let me show you" style classes to help them with something they are struggling in. If you know several guys in the area are testing for CF, form a study group and randomly assign topics to teach each oth-

er. This not only lightens the overall study load on each person, but it catapults your learning out of fear of embarrassing yourself or worse, giving your peers bad information leading to their failure. Today, you can form study groups online or something as simple as texting a random question to the group. Forming an international study group is easily done with apps like Facebook if you are sitting for the AWCF exam. It is amazing that we have access to these modes of communication, and foolish that more farriers do not capitalize on these options.

Teaching Yourself

The granddaddy of alternative study techniques is one that requires you to let go of all your inhibitions. The best way to learn from the textbook is to teach it to an empty chair. This is your chance to openly verbalize the questions about anatomy that have been hemming you up. Pace back and forth in front of an empty chair and teach that chair what you know about everything farrier related. Show that empty chair you are the master of your craft. Own the room. And when you slip up, do not get flustered, you do not want the chair to see your weakness. Go through the book, grab your phone, ask Siri, watch a YouTube clip, and give the answer to that chair.

And when your ADD/ADHD brain cannot take anymore abuse, walk over to the empty chair, sit down and mentally absorb everything you told it. Spit out your watermelon flavored gum and exhale.

Really Understanding the Written Test

I was lucky to have an Examiner stop me from torturing myself with unnecessary studying. I focused on what the AFA is asking me to do to become a CF. I only had to study anatomy from the knee and hock down. If you do not read the Certification guideline booklet, you

would never know that and waste hours studying. For example, did you know that there are 60 questions on the written test? That means to score the minimum 80% you can get 12 wrong and still pass. This means you can breathe a little when taking the test.

Finish your exam and check your work. Look for obvious mistakes. If you are stumped on a question, use the process of elimination, and go with your gut feeling. When you are finished, take the number you know you could get wrong and see if it is more or less than the number of questions you know you got incorrect. Keep fixing them until the numbers work in your favor. Do not be afraid to shoot for 80% as your goal. Although there is an award given for the highest score of the year, it is not a contest.

Having ADD/ADHD should not be a deterrent to taking an AFA Certification. You can become a Certified Farrier and a Certified Journeyman Farrier. You need to find a way to study that works for you. I've shared the tips and techniques that have helped me overcome my ADD/ADHD and achieve CF, CJF and AWCF. Take these ideas and apply them to your next Certification written exam. I believe that if you take a different approach to your study techniques you will see positive results at the next Certification.

Thank you for being part of my AFA Educational Endorsement exam. I wish all the future AFA Certification candidates the very best of luck at your next level of testing.

References

Allen, A. P., & Smith, A. P. "Chewing Gum: Cognitive Performance, Mood, Well-being, and Associated Physiology". BioMed Research International, 2015, 654806. doi.org/10.1155/2015/654806



Learn more about the requirements for certifications and endorsements at
americanfarriers.org

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ROAD TO THE JOURNEYMAN

By Tim Hensley, CJF



First things first, I believe that God chose me to be a farrier, not that I chose to shoe horses for a living. There was NEVER any influence to be a farrier in my family except for a baby blanket made by my mom. On this blanket was a collection of Mickey Mouse characters. There was a Mickey roping Pluto, a Mickey riding a horse, and a Mickey blacksmith forging a shoe. My future was forged from an early age.

Fast forward to high school in Helena, Montana, and my love for rodeo. I started steer wrestling at first, but it didn't take long before I found my love for riding bareback horses. I graduated high school in 1997 and went to college at Fort Scott Community College (FSCC) in Fort Scott, Kansas. During my 2 years at FSCC, I needed some electives, so I chose Charlie Comstock's shoeing class. I remember the very first shoe I nailed on; I drove the first nail straight through the horse's foot, straight through my apron, and straight into my leg! I thought to myself, never again will I shoe horses. As I progressed in riding bucking horses, I graduated FSCC and got an offer to rodeo for University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM). It was a no brainer to get a Bachelor's degree on their dime. It was there that I remember my buddy Josh Shackleford shoeing horses and thinking that it looked like a great way to make a living.

As I rodeoed for UTM, I filed my permit and bought my PRCA card, which had me thinking there would never be a bad day again. In 2002, I was fortunate enough to win the Ozark Region in the Bareback riding and be the first in my family to graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture. Rodeo soon became my life, but then an injury sidelined me for a while in 2005. It was then that I happened to drive by East Coast Horseshoe Supply. It crossed my mind to

pursue horseshoeing as a career, so I stopped in and asked Piper Steffin if she knew of anyone that I could apprentice under. Only one name came out of her mouth, and that was Hollie Salter. He was a giant of a man who was very intimidating, but at the same time had a passion for shoeing horses, and had been shoeing for over 30 years.

I apprenticed under Hollie for four years, shoeing and trimming his horses as practice and payment. EVERYTHING was done cold until I met Eric Gilleland, CJF, FE, TE, and Lucas Gilleland, CJF. They opened my eyes at a Georgia Professional Farriers Association clinic to the wider world of farriery. If not for those two friends, I would have kept running down the cold banging road and probably would have ruined my elbow fairly quickly, considering I was still riding bucking horses. Eric and Lucas both encouraged me to pursue Certification, and after many trips to forge with Eric, Jeff Morton, CJF, Jeremy Miller, CJF, and others, I took my CF horse. I took it cold on a stall jack and passed it! I then passed my shoe board shortly after, but the written took a great amount of effort!

By 2012, I had stopped riding bucking horses, and in 2015 I had become a CF and bought my first shop anvil as a reward for myself at Convention. It was a Scott Big Boy with bumping blocks. I also built my first coke forge. It was then that I tried my hand at learning the art of how to use a horn and run a coke fire. In 2016, my wife Haley, daughter Josie, and I moved back to Montana. I was done with the humidity, bugs, snakes, tornadoes and heat of Georgia. Not long after we moved back, our daughter Chloe was born. With three girls all depending on me, I started a new business in Montana. At this time, I met two more farriers who have become friends of mine and have influenced me greatly: Tom Peterson, CJF, and Kyd Kelley, CJF. Like Eric and Lucas, they encouraged me to pursue my Journeyman.

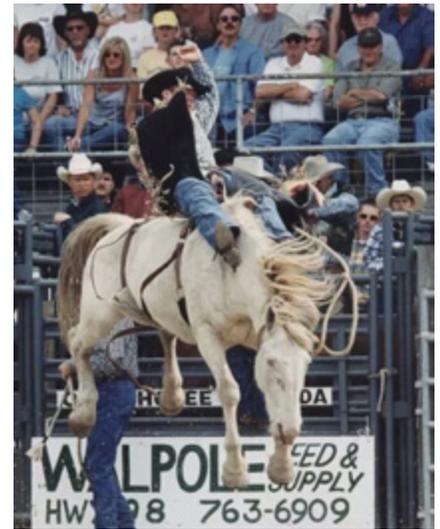
In 2019, another influence entered into my story in the form of World Championship Blacksmiths (WCB) and the Trnka family. I entered my first WCB contest in Sheridan, Wyoming and INSTANTLY learned how much I DIDN'T know. However, entering the contest started a journey with a new family that has FOREVER changed my life for the good. I went to all the WCBs

for a few years, scared to death that if I made the live shoeing, I was not efficient enough to shoe with handmades.

After a few years in the WCB and being fed up with making excuses for myself, I started the Journeyman process. I instantly learned that the written was going to be tough again. My mindset had changed, though, from the time of taking the CF written, and I began getting up at 5 A.M. and studying for the first hour and a half of EVERY DAY! I had put in the time on the anvil with Tom and Kyd to pass the bar shoe on the first go, but the horse was still a time crunch. So with the bar shoe passed, I focused completely on the horse and the written. I started doing practice goes on Cameron Brooks' horses and Rory Bauer's, CJF horses. Then the icing on the cake was when I flew to Texas to ride and practice with Sawyer Spradling, CJF. Little did I know that I was also going to get help from Lamar Weaver, CJF who was hanging out with Sawyer at the same time.

It was still winter in Montana, but in Texas, I was sweating to death and dehydrated by the fourth journeyman run for the day. With my hands cramping and no sweat coming out anymore, Sawyer asked me if I had one more in me. I dug deep and said yes. I believe it was that last horse that gave me the confidence I needed. With all the effort I had put forth, I took my exam on the horse and written in Montana at the end of March and passed both. Making a full circle, passing the bar shoe in Montana, failing both the written and horse in Washington and Wyoming, to passing the written and horse back in Montana, in 2023 I became a Certified Journeyman Farrier!

The moral of the story is, if I can do it, so can you! If you're willing to set aside your pride, shut your mouth, work EXTREMELY hard, open your eyes and ears and ask for help, you too can become a CJF! I want to thank my wife Haley and my daughters Josie and Chloe for supporting me in my journey. Without the help from Eric Gilleland, CJF, FE, TE, Lucas Gilleland, CJF, Tom Peterson, CJF, Kyd Kelly, CJF, Sawyer Spradling, CJF, Lamar Weaver, CJF, Craig Trnka, CJF, and the whole WCB family and many others, I don't think this journey would have been possible. Now the learning can truly begin!



Certification and Tester Update Schedule

Craig Stark, CJF — Certification Committee Chairman, (918) 857-0771
Lucas Gilleland, CJF — Pre-Certification Committee Chairman, (678) 873-2555
Online Registration through the AFA Certification Calendar required for all Certifications

August 16

New Mexico Tester Update

Host: New Mexico Professional Horseshoer's Association
Location: Cameron Veterinary Clinic
84 Ranch Rd., Santa Fe, NM 87540
Examiner: Nichole McCasland, CJF, AWCF, ASF
Contact: Christin Sell, CJF – ironbarhorseshoeing@gmail.com, 575-654-2038

August 16-17

New Mexico Certification

Host: New Mexico Professional Horseshoer's Association
Location: Cameron Veterinary Clinic
84 Ranch Rd., Santa Fe, NM 87540
Examiner: Nichole McCasland, CJF, AWCF, ASF
All Levels/Areas Offered
ONLINE Registration Only – americanfarriers.org
Contact: Christin Sell, CJF – ironbarhorseshoeing@gmail.com, 575-654-2038

August 16-17

Wisconsin Certification

Host: Wisconsin Farriers Association
Location: W1 1586 Czech Ave., Coloma, WI 54930
Examiner: Jennifer Horn, CJF
All Levels/Areas Offered
ONLINE Registration Only – americanfarriers.org
Contact: Noah Yoder – noahy2006@gmail.com, 920-539-8386

August 23

Ontario Tester Update

Host: Ontario Farriers Association
Location: Synergy Farms
732 Ferguson Rd., Ashton, Ontario K0a1b, Canada
Examiner: David Sierra, CJF
Contact: Mike Mehak, CF – info@ontariofarriers.ca, 647-227-9604

August 23-24

Ontario Certification

Host: Ontario Farriers Association
Location: Synergy Farms
732 Ferguson Rd., Ashton, Ontario K0a1b0, Canada

Examiner: David Sierra, CJF
All Levels/Areas Offered
ONLINE Registration Only – americanfarriers.org
Contact: Mike Mehak, CF – info@ontariofarriers.ca, 647-227-9604

August 30

Montana Tester Update

Host: Montana Professional Horseshoer's Association
Location: Montana State University Farrier School, 2730 W. Garfield St., Bozeman, MT 59715
Examiner: Eric Gilleland, CJF, TE, FE
Contact: Diego Almeida, CJF, TE, EE, FE, AWCF – diego.almeida@montana.edu, 708-297-7620

August 30-31

Montana Certification

Host: Montana Professional Horseshoer's Association
Location: Montana State University Farrier School, 2730 W. Garfield St., Bozeman, MT 59715
Examiner: Eric Gilleland, CJF, TE, FE
All Levels/Areas Offered
ONLINE Registration Only – americanfarriers.org
Contact: Diego Almeida, CJF, TE, EE, FE, AWCF – diego.almeida@montana.edu, 708-297-7620

September 13-14

Rhode Island Certification

Host: Southern New England Farrier's Association
Location: Ocean State Equine, 11 Winsor Ave., North Scituate, RI 02857
Examiner: Jacob Manning, CJF
All Levels/Areas Offered
ONLINE Registration Only – americanfarriers.org
Contact: Garrett Maloney – stonebridgeforge@verizon.net, 401-744-4981

September 20-21

Michigan Certification

Host: Michigan Horseshoers Association
Location: Henry Detweiler's Shop, 8810 Nashville Hwy., Vermontville, MI 49096
Examiner: Jacob Manning, CJF

All Levels/Areas Offered
ONLINE Registration Only – americanfarriers.org
Contact: Jennifer Horn, CJF – jhorn847@gmail.com, 906-440-2537

September 20

Oregon Tester Update

Host: Oregon Farriers Association
Location: Oregon Farrier School, 3000 Finlay Rd., Silverton, OR 97381
Examiner: Brian Buckner, CJF
Contact: Beau Whitaker, CJF – whitakerlivestockco@gmail.com, 541-777-2110

September 20-21

Oregon Certification

Host: Oregon Farriers Association
Location: Oregon Farrier School, 3000 Finlay Rd., Silverton, OR 97381
Examiner: Brian Buckner, CJF
All Levels/Areas Offered
ONLINE Registration Only – americanfarriers.org
Contact: Beau Whitaker, CJF – whitakerlivestockco@gmail.com, 541-777-2110

September 27-28

Missouri Certification

Host: Heartland Horseshoeing School
Location: Heartland Horseshoeing School, 327 SW 1st Lane, Lamar, MO 64759
Examiner: David Sierra, CJF
All Levels/Areas Offered
ONLINE Registration Only – americanfarriers.org
Contact: Chris Gregory, CJF, FWCF, ASF – chris@heartlandhorseshoeing.com, 417-682-8484

October 4-5

Indiana Tester Update

Host: Indiana Farrier's Association
Location: 13121 N 700 W, Nappanee, IN 46550
Examiner: Jacob Manning, CJF
Contact: Troy Price, CJF – troy@troypricehorseshoeingschool.com, 260-227-0677

October 4-5

Indiana Certification

Host: Indiana Farrier's Association
Location: 13121 N 700 W, Nappanee, IN 46550
Examiner: Jacob Manning, CJF

All Levels/Areas Offered
ONLINE Registration Only –
americanfarriers.org
Contact: Troy Price, CJF – troy@troyprice
horseshoeingschool.com, 260-227-0677

October 4-5

Oklahoma Certification

Host: Oklahoma Farriers Association
Location: Five Star Horseshoeing School,
807 Johnson Rd., Minco, OK 73059
Examiner: Doug Russo, CJF, AWCF
All Levels/Areas Offered
ONLINE Registration Only –

americanfarriers.org
Contact: Craig Stark, CJF – craigstarkcjf@
yahoo.com, 918-857-0771

October 19

Ohio Certification

Host: Mid Eastern Farrier's Association
Location: Grizzle Ridge Arena, 52106 Grizzle
Ridge Rd., Jerusalem, OH 43747
Examiner: Jacob Manning, CJF
All Levels/Areas Offered
ONLINE Registration Only –
americanfarriers.org
Contact: David Bentrem, CJF –

dbhorseshoeinginc@gmail.com,
412-580-4458

October 25-26

South Carolina Certification

Host: South Carolina Farriers Association
Location: Palmetto Equine
Veterinary Services
451 Jenkins Cir., Townville, SC 29689
Examiner: Jennifer Horn, CJF
All Levels/Areas Offered
ONLINE Registration Only –
americanfarriers.org
Contact: Dusty Newby, CJF –

Calendar of Events

We encourage you to contact the local host of any event you were planning to attend to see if it is still taking place. The AFA does not necessarily receive notification of all event postponements and cancellations. Thank you!

August 24

ESFA Annual Clinic

Host: Empire State Farriers Association
Location: Southlands Foundation,
5771 Rt. 9, Rhinebeck, NY 12572
Clinician: Mark Schneider, CJF
Contact: Tom DuBois, CJF – 845-800-3656,
tomdubois109@gmail.com

August 25

ESFA Annual Contest

Host: Empire State Farriers Association
Location: Dutchess County Fairgrounds,
6596 US-9, Rhinebeck, NY 12572
Clinician: Mark Schneider, CJF
Contact: Tom DuBois, CJF – 845-800-3656,
tomdubois109@gmail.com

August 30-31, 2024

TPFA Clinic

Host: Texas Professional Farriers Association
Location: Lone Star Cowboy Church
2244 US-84, Mexia, TX 76667
Clinician: Bill Poor, CJF
Contact: Daniel Gunderson, CJF –
txprofarrierassn@gmail.com, (469) 552-1662

September 6-7

IFA Contest

Host: Indiana Farriers Association
Location: Lonestar Equine, 5246 W 400 N,
Warsaw, IN 46582
Judge: Tom Petersen, CJF
Contact: Lydia Mudd, DVM, CF –
ljmudd2@gmail.com

September 13-14

Derby City Annual Contest

Host: Derby City Farriers Association
Location: Stone Place Stables, 7718 Rose
Island Rd., Prospect, KY 40059
Judge: Travis Smith, CJF
Contact: Zeke Evans – horseshoes92@
gmail.com, (502) 645-8911

September 20

SWOFA Hammer In

Host: Southwestern Ohio
Farriers Association
Location: 11958 Sigal Rd.,
Germantown, OH 45327
Contact: Jacob Burall, CF – 870-715-5370

September 21

NFS Fall Clinic

Location: Northeast Farrier Supply,
480 Hayden Station Rd., Windsor, CT 05095
Clinician: Dusty Franklin, CJF, ASF, AWCF
Contact: Vin Giannetti – vin@northeast
farrier.com, 413-348-4867

September 27

**SAFA 2024 Convention
Warmup Contest**

Location: Washington County Fairgrounds,
17046 Fairground Dr., Abingdon, VA 24210
Judge: Bodie Trnka, CJF
Contact: Jared Brown, CJF –
jaredbrowncjf@gmail.com, 276-964-1414

October 17-19, 2024

Georgia Contest

Host: Georgia Professional
Farriers Association

Location: UGA Livestock Instructional Are-
na, 2600 S. Miledge Ave., Athens, GA 30605
Judge: Mark Milster, CJF
Contact: Chris Gilham, CJF – chris_gilham@
yahoo.com, 678-485-9860

October 18

SWOFA Hammer In

Host: Southwestern Ohio
Farriers Association
Location: 7750 Richland Rd. NE,
Rushville, OH 43150
Contact: Josh Knotts, CF – 307-763-0248

October 29, 2024

IAPF Clinic

Host: Iowa Professional Farriers Association
Location: Andrew Kempf's Shop, 2955
205th St., Seymour, IA, 52590
Clinician – Michael Wildenstein, CJF, FWCF
(Hons)
Contact – Andrew Kempf, CJF – 641-895-
0324 – CALLS ONLY, NO TEXTS

November 6

Equine Podiatry Clinic

Host: Indiana Farriers Association
Location: Boone County Fairgrounds
1300 E 100 S Lebanon, IN 46052
Clinician: Dr. Simon Curtis, FWCF, BSc
(Hons), PhD, HonAssocRCVS
Contact: indianafarriersassociation@
gmail.com

TOOL CORNER

Step by Step Drive-in Stud Application

Drive-in studs have been used for years for seasonal and non-seasonal low impact traction needs. FPD recently introduced solid carbide drive-in studs to the market. In the past, drive-in studs were commonly produced with a carbide insert in the center of a mild steel "sleeve".

Solid carbide studs are very precise and hard throughout. It's important to use exactly the right drill bit size and one of a high quality to get an optimum fit. The studs are tapered so that they tighten as they are driven into the hole but require a 17/64" hole to fit correctly. A 17/64" bit is the only correct size. You may find bits in places like Home Depot or Lowes that indicate they are 17/64" but may also have a metric size shown like 6.8mm. It's very likely that the bit manufacturer is trying to accommodate various markets and the bits marked in this way may not be a precise 17/64" size and you could end up with a hole that is oversized or even undersized in some cases. Buy bits that are consistently correct. The higher the quality, the better the bit will perform and last before dulling. A dull bit will end up creating inconsistent holes.



KnKut 17/64" Step Point Drill Bit



FootPro Solid Carbide Studs, Step Point Bit and Hlocan Stud Set tools

One option for a high-performance bit is the US made KnKut Step Point bit, now available from your FPD dealer. This bit has a unique point that "bites" instantly when making contact with the shoe. So much so that in many cases you don't need to center punch to get started, unless you are punching just to make sure of your position on the shoe. The Step Point actually works as if you have drilled a pilot hole, lessening the stress on the full bit dimension and creating less heat. Heat is a contributing factor to the wear of a bit and reducing it will increase bit life.

It's also recommended to use a drop of cutting fluid with each hole you drill.



KnKut Stubby Length 17/64" Drill Bit

Once you've drilled the stud hole, carefully position your stud before striking to be sure it is going in straight. Make one light blow to get it started correctly and then drive to the desired depth. It's important

not to "bottom out" a stud on the anvil, something that usually would not occur except when using thinner shoes that are 1/4" or 7mm.



Cutting Fluid applied before drilling

The C11 studs have a button head configuration and you need to make sure you don't drive them to the point the head makes contact with the ground surface of the shoe. Leave a small gap between the shoe and the bottom of the head of the stud. Failure to do so could cause the stud to loosen prematurely or even fracture when applying.

Drive-in studs are an efficient way to provide traction for icy conditions, or travel across hard surfaces. In many cases, the solid carbide studs can be used for more than one shoeing cycle. Carefully applied, they are one more good tool to have in your rig.



C11 applied – note the small gap between head and shoe surface.



Scan QR code to watch the Proper Installation of Solid Carbide Studs on YouTube.



FootPro Studs – C11 on left and C13 on right

KEY APPLICATION POINTS

- Buy good quality, precise 17/64" drill bits.
- Make certain you have the bit tightened correctly in the chuck of your drill press.
- Be sure your drill press chuck is rotating true- in time they can wear and not produce a true hole.
- Start the studs carefully and centered.
- Do not bottom out on the anvil or the ground surface of the shoe with the head of the button type studs.



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AMERICAN FARRIERS' ASSOCIATION

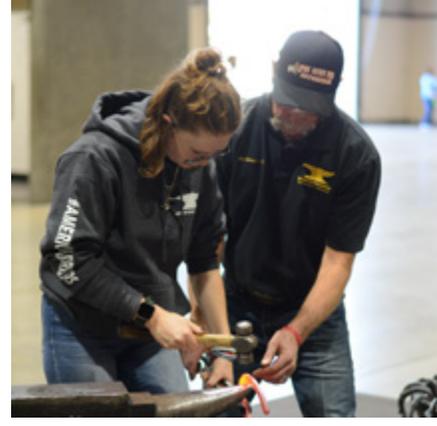
53rd Annual Convention

Presented by



– November 11-15, 2024 –





SPEAKERS

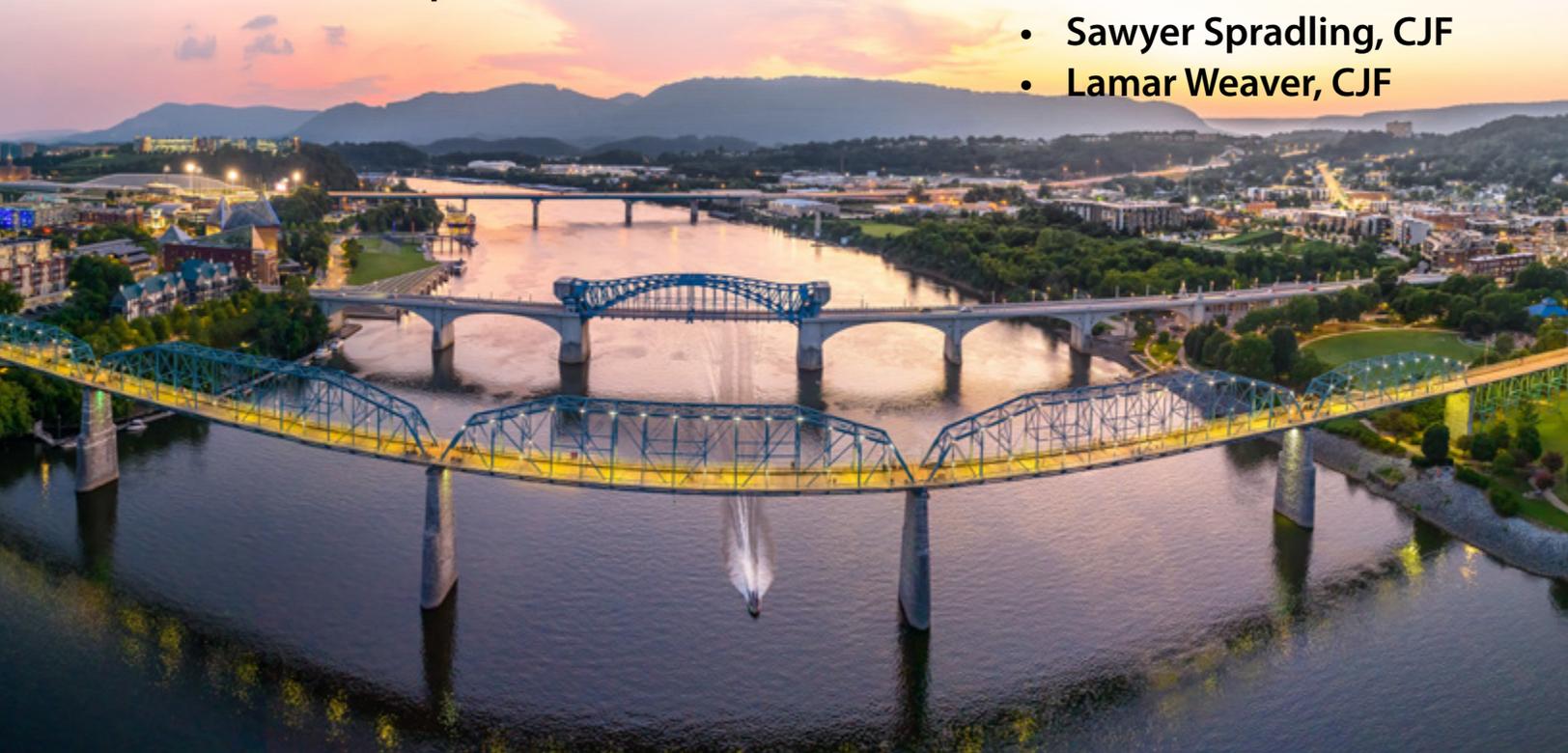
- Jim Linzy Keynote Speaker: Dr. Simon Curtis, FWCF, BSc (Hons) PhD, HonAssocRCVS
- Panel featuring Brian Mullins, CJF; Lyle Shepherd, CJF; Kayla Shepherd, CJF; Lee Olsen, CJF; and Jason Critton, CJF, TE, AWCF
- Riley Kirkpatrick, CJF and Gavine Cooper, CJF
- Ben Benson, AWCF
- Travis Burns, MSc, CJF, TE, EE, FWCF
- Brian Beasley, DVM, CJF, DACVSMR
- Nigel Fennel, CJF, FE, FWCF (Hons)
- Wren Burnley, DVM
- Chad Chance, CJF
- Austin Edens, CJF
- Mark Milster, CJF

JUDGES (OPEN) AND SPEAKERS

- Bodie Trnka, CJF
- Travis Smith, CJF
- Lewis Balfour, DipWCF

JUDGES (INTERMEDIATE)

- Rory Bauer, CJF
- Daniel Jones, CJF
- Tom Petersen, CJF
- Sawyer Spradling, CJF
- Lamar Weaver, CJF





AMERICAN FARRIERS ASSOCIATION

53rd Annual Convention

Presented by



No matter how you're traveling to Chattanooga, make sure to visit these FIA MarketPlace Exhibitors, November 13-15, during the AFA Convention!

3D Hoof Care
American Farriers Journal
Anatomy of the Equine
Anvil Brand
Badger Built, LLC
Buddy Aprons
Bulldog Tools
California Farrier Supplies
Camp Run Forge
Cody Gregory LLC
Cronimet Specialty Metals
EasyCare, Inc.
F.LLI BASSOLI SAS
Farrier Products
Distribution, Inc.
G E Forge & Tool
Glue-U USA
Georgia Farrier Supply
Grand Circuit Products, LLC
Hanton Horseshoes
Hemp for Horses
Hoof House

Horse Science Anatomyworks
Indian Creek Forge LLC
Iron Range Manufacturing /
J Fry Tools
Kahn Forge/Vulcan/
Thoro'bred
Kawell USA
Keystone Leather/RATE
Kodiak
Life Data Labs, Inc.
Mark Ling Blacksmith, LLC
MagnaWave PEMF
Monetta Farrier Supply
Montana Farrier Supply
Mustad USA
Myron McLane Aprons
NC Tool Co., Inc.
Nordic Forge, Inc.
Northeast Farrier
Supply/Blacksmith
Oleo Acres Farrier Supply

Ore Branch Forge, Inc.
Priefert
River Bottom Forge
Royal Kerckhaert USA - Save
Edge
Rusty Brown Jewelry
Shayne Carter Knives
Saft-Tracc.com/Kwick Kranker
Stockhoff's Horseshoe &
Supplies
Stonewell Bodies and
Machine, Inc.
TK Steelworks LLC
Tennessee Farrier Supply
Texas Farrier Supply Inc.
The Shoein' Shop
The Victory Racing Plate
Company
Well-Shod
Werkman USA/Pathfinder
Farrier Products
Yukon Forge

DETECT A
PROBLEM.

RECOMMEND A
SOLUTION.



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How to Make the Cultural Exchange Program Work for You

By Cody Bogard, CJF, TE, DipWCF

The first participants in the Edward Martin Cultural Exchange went to the United Kingdom in 1982. Since then, over 70 participants have been selected to live and study with some of the top farriers overseas, both in the UK as well as other countries. While the Cultural Exchange is known to be a once in a lifetime opportunity with great benefit to anyone that has gone, it is certainly an underutilized benefit of belonging to our Association. Too often, when speaking with members about the possibility of participating in the Cultural Exchange, they

have thought it is not possible due to needing to run their own business or because of family commitments.

If you are one of those that would love to go but don't think you can, keep reading. My goal is to encourage you that it is possible to go, and probably easier than you think, even if you are running a full time business. In order to make the trip go smoothly there are a few things we need to do before going, while there, and once we get back.

Before Going (Preparing for the Trip of a Lifetime)

Constant Education

Before you leave, it is vital to get your clients on board. One of the key ways I have found to do so is by constantly educating them. If our clients are used to us going on educational trips with the understanding that we are doing so to benefit their horses, and if we are continually educating them as well, they will be excited that we are going to one more educational opportunity. A quote from one of my clients sums up the attitude we want them to develop:

"If I knew you had this opportunity and you turned it down, I'd strangle you."
— Susan N.

Building Relationships

Even if our clients are excited for us to go, it won't do any good if we leave them high and dry for an extended period of time. It is often said this is an amazing industry for a variety of reasons. It is an amazing thing that as competitors in the same industry we would constantly be helping each other. Think of all the clinics, hammer-ins, contests, Certifications and other events we go to. Why would I host a shop night to

make the competition better? Why help a fellow competitor figure out a shoe when we are in the same class? Why help the new farrier prepare for a Certification? While farriers did not always get along and there are still some that don't, for the most part we are here to help each other, especially those of us in organizations like the AFA.

By being involved with your local association and building good relationships with the other farriers in your backyard, it is easy to get a variety of friends to help cover your books while you're gone. I was fortunate enough to easily have all of my clients covered by local farriers, but even out-of-state friends offered to come help cover clients if needed. While there were some clients lost (this can be a great time to "clean house"), I still came back to a healthy business even after being gone for 3 months. In short, if you surround yourself with other farriers that support each other, it will make getting reliable coverage for your clients while you are gone easy.

Save Some Money

If you are not working but still have

some expenses, the money has to come from somewhere. If you are in the early stages of your career and still hoping to get paid at one stop so you can buy fuel to get to the next, this might not be the time to go. On the other hand you likely don't need to have as much set aside as you might think. Aside from payments on things you have financed, like a truck or rig, all the expenses you normally have for work will be put on pause. Obviously there will still be household expenses and how much you need will depend on your individual situation.

In general, it is a good idea for all of us to have several months of expenses set aside in case of an emergency, as we never know if we will get hurt and be unable to work for an extended period of time. This same concept or even the same fund can be used while on this trip. As far as the cost of the trip, your flight is covered by the AFA and there are no hotel costs. Since all your needs will be provided for, the only money you will need while there will be for any personal items you may have forgotten, gifts you want to buy, or a round at the pub to thank your host.

While There (Making the Most of the Trip)

Be Flexible

Most of us, when stepping into a new experience, will have at least some preconceived idea of what it will be like or at least what we want it to be like. It is easy to miss some of the best moments of an event, or really any part of life, if we are overly focused on what we want to happen. As we look at others who have been on the Exchange before, it is easy to want to request a similar focus or to stay with the same people. While it can be good to speak up about what we need or want, I found the best moments during my trip were the ones I never would have planned. While it would have been easy to request going to certain places or focusing on certain things, being able to just be flexible and allow the trip to go however it goes is generally best.

Help Out Where You Can

As someone on the Cultural Exchange, we are there to learn, but we are also there to be an ambassador of not only the AFA, but all American farriers and really the entire country. Anytime you are able to help with any aspect of the day, whether simply setting up the rig while out shoeing or taking the dog for a walk while at the house, step in to do what you can. Our hosts are going out of their way to help us by bringing us into their homes and already busy lives, and sharing their knowledge. By stepping into the lives of our hosts, we are also able to get a better feel of the local life and culture. Showing gratitude to our hosts and their families is huge. While we are there staying with a farrier, it is often the spouse who is cooking and dealing with our laundry. A sincere thank you goes a long way, but also bringing a small gift for each host is recommended.

Take Notes

A great piece of advice from Abby Bunyard, AWCF, ATF, was to write down at least one thing you have learned everyday. While in the van with Abby, it was more like discussing at least one thing learned at each barn. No matter how much you think you will remember, write down everything. Your phone can be useful for note taking, but I would recommend getting a notebook or small planner to take notes each day and journal about the trip. Looking back later you will be glad of everything you wrote down as it will all be a blur later on.

Keep Everyone at Home Updated

Using social media to keep your clients updated with where you are and some of what you are learning is a great way of making sure they are ready to welcome you back when you get home. As long as clients understand they and their horses are benefiting from your trip, they will be ready to welcome you back when you get home. Focusing on a post a week on social media is a great way of continuing to engage with your clients as well as show off the Exchange for other farriers.





While There (Making the Most of the Trip)

Process Slowly

After several weeks of working with different hosts, there will be a multitude of new ideas and techniques that will possibly be causing you to rethink everything you thought you knew. While it can be tempting to go to one extreme or the other, either completely changing what you do immediately or somewhat forgetting everything you learned while gone, neither is ideal. On week 11 of 13, I was discussing this very subject with Sarah Logie, FWCF, as at the time it felt like I needed to completely rethink how I approached trimming and shoeing. Sarah's advice has proven extremely helpful: when you get back home just get back to work at first. Once you are settled in, get out your notes and start processing through them slowly. Taking a concept at a time or evaluating a horse you are working on for what new information might be a benefit is far better than

trying to process months of information at once.

ROI (What Do You Get)

Leaving for up to 3 months is quite the investment, so what do we get from going on the Exchange? That depends on you. It is entirely possible to go on the Exchange, get back, and not be affected at all by everything that you were supposed to learn. Of course, that would be a bit of a tragedy to have wasted an amazing trip. There are some on the other hand that have made the American Farriers Team soon after returning or who have gone on to become clinicians. Obviously each of us will have a different experience: remember to be flexible, but everyone I have talked to that has gone through the Exchange has been greatly affected in multiple ways. First is simply the information or skills gained while there, another way many are affected is simply the change

in perspective that translates into how we learn and think about trimming and shoeing in the future. Certainly not least are the lifelong friendships made during the trip. Having the opportunity to talk with or even visit farriers from around the world is a huge benefit.

For those that still don't think they can get away for 3 months, there is the option of going 3-4 weeks. While it is preferred that someone going on the Exchange be able to go for the full 3 months, it is also recognized that not everyone can be gone for that amount of time. Because of this, there is a short Exchange. While this is still a considerable amount of time to most of us, it is far more doable. I would highly encourage you to try to take advantage of this fantastic benefit of our Association and apply for the Exchange. For more information check out AmericanFarriers.org/page/cultural_exchange.

Event Wrap-Ups

Land of Lincoln Horseshoers Association Certification

It was a fantastic weekend in Farmer City, Illinois, for the 2024 LLHA American Farrier's Association Certification! All of the candidates did amazing jobs and all left with some extra knowledge to apply to their practices. It never gets old seeing so many faces show up to expand their knowledge and craftsmanship!

Thank you, Billy Walther, CF, Tyler Joos, CJF, Tobias and Connie Ellis, CJF, and Rabeka Clarke for your dedication and hard work to make this event run smoothly. Midwest Equine at Illinois Veterinary Clinic sent one of their greats, Dr. Taylor, to help take care of the horses and candidates during the practical examinations. We must extend an incredible amount of gratitude to our Examiner, Jacob Manning, CJF, as well as all of our Testers and Provisional Testers, for sharing your knowledge with the candidates.



Kansas Farriers Association Certification

By Nick Redman, CF

We had a great turnout at the Kansas Farriers Association Certification in Manhattan on June 7-8! There were 30 candidates from 15 states and countries.

Thanks to our Examiners, Brian Buckner, CJF, and Craig Stark, CJF, for presiding over this event. Also, thanks to all of the Testers who scored the various parts of the weekend: Tom Trosin, CJF Brandon Stubbs, CJF, Remington Leach, CJF, DipWCF, Tim Russell, CJF Trey Wilcox, CJF, Ian Bevington, CJF, Jake Stonefield, CJF, Mark Sumler, CJF, and Ryan Strait, CJF. Thanks to Dr. Croft with KSU for being on standby all of Saturday to keep our horses and candidates safe.

Thanks to Russ Wieggers, CF, Cathy Wieggers and Ian Bevington, CJF, for setting up shop. Thanks to all of the KFA board members, Matthew Shaklee, CF, Trey Wilcox, CJF, Ty Zehms, and Matt Merrill, CJF, for everything they did to make this possible. Matt and Devin, Matthew Fleming, Jay Sanders, Nathan Lindsey, and Stan Tracz all showed up to fill in where necessary. Deana Wieggers Reh-Leverett did a great job on the flyers and publication. Special thanks to Susie Fennell in the AFA office for doing an amazing job of communicating in the months leading up to this Certification. Finally, thanks to the horse owners who volunteered their horses for continuing education.

There are no requirements to be certified, and the Testers and Examiners are all volunteers. This shows the level of dedication so many people have to improving this trade. I'm proud to be a part of two organizations like the Kansas Farriers Association and the American Farrier's Association! See you June 6-7, 2025, at the Riley County Fairgrounds!





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The Official Publication of the
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Education – Certification – Communication – Innovation – Research

Event Wrap-Ups

Farrier Fest

That's a wrap for Farrier Fest 2024. We cannot thank everyone enough that came together to make this event happen. To all the clinicians, sponsors, those that donated, and everyone that attended, we are sincerely appreciative of all of your support. Without ALL of you this could not have happened, and best of all, it was free to all those that attended. As with every event, the first year is a major learning experience and we truly value everyone that gave their input and suggestions on how to make next year even better. We will definitely work on opening up more time for the attendees to go to their rigs and forging stations to do more shoe building, blacksmithing, modern materials applications, or whatever you might want to do.

Always remember that the Farrier Fest strives to be a non-denominational event and our main goal is to make this event enjoyable and a great learning experience for every style of farrier out there. We are already collaborating for next year.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Be safe, and we look forward to seeing you all next year.

