

## Inaugural "Battle in the Saddle" Coming to Oklahoma City State Fair Park

Oklahoma City, OK – the world's most talented horses and cowboys take center stage July 6, in Oklahoma City to battle it out for top honors at the inaugural Battle in the Saddle competition. State Fair Park and the American Quarter Horse Association have teamed to present this first-of-its-kind equestrian event. Battle in the Saddle, owned by Oklahoma State Fair Inc. and managed by AQHA, will be a premier equine competition showcasing five western disciplines.



allowed us to create one of the finest equine facilities in the world at State Fair Park. We look forward to working with AQHA to present an equine competition that will be unique and fun for the whole family.

Adding to the excitement of the competition, the United States Equestrian Federation National Open Reining Championship and Official United States Equestrian Team Selection Trial for the United States Reining Team will be the qualifying

Beginning July 6 and continuing through July 10, 2010 at State Fair Park, competitors will shoot it out in the five fast-paced, exciting events: reining, working cow horse, roping, cutting and ranch horse competition. Open to all breeds, horses and riders will compete for their share of more than \$130,000 in added money, contributing to an estimated \$340,000 in purses.

The cutting, reining, roping and working cow classes will be recognized as AQHA special events. All breeds are welcome, but American Quarter Horses competing will receive AQHA points. The ranch horse competition is open to all ranches that meet the criteria of the AQHA-Bayer Best Remuda Award.

The roping events will be recognized by the American Rope Horse Futurity Association and follow ARHFA rules, which combine times with judges' scores to get a contestant's overall score. Horses competing in the cutting will receive National Cutting Horse Association recognition. Ancillary reining classes will be approved by the Oklahoma Reining Horse Association. The National Reined Cow Horse Association will be involved as well.

"We are extremely proud to be a part of this inaugural event and look forward to Battle in the Saddle beoming an additional world-class equine event for Oklahoma City," said Timothy J O'Toole, President/General Manager of Oklahoma State Fair, Inc., the organization that operates State Fair Park. "The citizens of Oklahoma City have

event that selects the U.S. team to compete at the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games.

To add to the international flair of Battle in the Saddle and the WEG selection trial, the AQHA Youth World Cup will also take place in conjunction with the event. Youth World Cup is a team competition featuring some of the best American Quarter Horse Youth Association members from around the world. Youth exhibitors from 17 nations are scheduled to attend and compete in the 2010 Youth World Cup. Youth World Cup competition alternates between the United States and another host country every two years.

State Fair Park in Oklahoma city, often referred to as "The Horse Show Capital of the World," is a premier equine facility that annually hosts the American Quarter Horse Association World Championship Show, the National Reining Horse Association Futurity and Derby, the U.S. Team Roping Championships, the International Finals Rodeo and many other major equine events. With more than \$70 million in recent renovation and stalls available for 3,000 horses, State Fair Park has become the go-to destination for top-tier equine competitions and events.

In addition to the top-caliber equine competition in the arena, Battle in the Saddle will also feature a trade show. Visit [www.battleinthesaddle.com](http://www.battleinthesaddle.com) for exciting additions to this historic equine event!

## After 20 Years of Separation, AQHA's Journals Set to Reunite

*The American Quarter Horse Journal*, December 16, 2009 – For more than 20 years, *The American Quarter Horse Racing Journal* has been a stand-alone publication serving racing owners, breeders, trainers and fans. It wasn't always that way. Starting with the first issue of *The Quarter Horse Journal* in 1948, racing has always been an integral part of the American Quarter Horse and the American Quarter Horse Association.

Beginning with the January 2010 issue, the *Racing Journal* is again a part of *The American Quarter Horse Journal*. The *Racing Journal* section -- Q-Racing -- will join the other discipline sections: halter; rail and pattern; reining, cutting and cow horse; and ranching, rodeo and ropes.

"This decision was not an easy one to make, and many different scenarios were considered before the AQHA Executive Committee and Racing Council approved this change," said Jim Bret Campbell, AQHA's senior director of marketing and publications. "Many consumer publications have had to restructure how they do business or have gone out of business altogether. After considering all of the options, allowing this change seemed the best way to continue serving our members, subscribers and advertisers."

Subscriptions to the *Racing Journal* will simply roll over to a Journal subscription, and *Racing Journal* subscribers will still enjoy the same great racing coverage they have become accustomed to with the bonus of receiving news from other segments of the industry. Likewise, Journal subscribers will still receive the same magazine but with the addition of the new Q-Racing section.

The savings in printing, postage and paper will help AQHA promote American Quarter Horse racing in new and innovative ways. AQHA remains committed to bringing readers the stories and industry news in print through the Journal, daily news and statistics through [aqharacing.com](http://aqharacing.com), the twice weekly Q-Racing email newsletter, and live race video and archives through Q-Racing Video.

AQHA news and information is a service of AQHA publications. For more information on The American Quarter Horse Journal, The American Quarter Horse Racing Journal or America's Horse, visit [www.aqha.com/magazines](http://www.aqha.com/magazines).

## 8th Annual Oklahoma Horse Fair Offers Competitions, Sales, Shopping and More!

Once again it's time to make your plans to attend the Oklahoma Horse Fair. The 3-day annual event is scheduled for February 12 – 14 at the Stephens County Fairgrounds in Duncan, OK. The Fair has proven to be one of the best events in the area for horse buyers, sellers, trade show merchants and horse enthusiasts. Many of the trade show vendors offer handmade bits, spurs, saddles and strap goods – some love to trade, so bring your saddle or equipment and trade for something new or different!

The 2010 fair schedule features the popular "Best Trail Horse in Oklahoma" competition, which is open to all ages and breeds. A Friday afternoon Open Ranch Horse Competition is also open to anyone and unlike past competitions, entered horses do not have to be offered for sale. The annual horse auction will be held Saturday, beginning with the popular pony sale featuring 35 top ponies. The following select sale features a nice selection of ranch and show horses.

The Stallion Alley Preview is scheduled for Friday evening and Saturday morning and Cowboy Church will be held Sunday morning

Other Sunday highlights include the return of the 5-D Open Barrel Race and the 4-D Junior Barrel Race. A western trade show is held all three days, offering saddles and tack as well as all sorts of merchandise for the western way of life.

Admission is free all three days. For more information, call (405)226-0630.

One Sunday a cowboy went to church. When he entered, he saw that he and the preacher were the only ones present. The preacher asked the cowboy if he wanted him to go ahead and preach.

The cowboy said, "I'm not too smart, but if I went to feed my horses and only one showed up, I'd feed him."

So the minister began his sermon.

One hour passed, then two hours, then two and a half hours. The preacher finally finished and came down to ask the cowboy how he liked the sermon.

The cowboy answered slowly, "Well, I'm not very smart, but if I went to feed my horses and only one showed up, I sure wouldn't feed him all the way."

**Don't Miss A Single Issue!**



**\$12 - 6 Issues**  
**The Heartland HorseTrader**  
**7550 E. Smith Ferry Rd.**  
**Muskogee, OK 74403**  
**918.682.0653**  
**lam@swhorse-ok.com**