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For more information, check our our website at www.iowaranchhorse.com

Thank you to those who ventured out in the cold weather for the IRHA Banquet and Annual meeting in December. The food was wonderful and it was great to see everyone after a few months off of showing. If you were unable to attend and need to complete your 2026 membership, please fill out the [form](#) and submit to Joan. Having this in the system beforehand expedites the registration process at shows.

The 2026 IRHA schedule has been set, and we are hoping to have increased attendance this year. The desire is always to have the shows in different areas of the state, but that can be difficult to accomplish in finding reasonably priced facilities that can accommodate our needs, including having a covered arena, space for cattle and enough stalls and camping spots. If you know of locations that may work for next year, please pass the information on to a board member.

For this year, we will start our season in Afton at the Union County Fairgrounds on May 2 & 3. Keep an eye on the website and Facebook for the show bill and how to make reservations for stalls and camp spots. The plan is to hold cattle classes in the rodeo arena, but the covered arena has been reserved in case of weather related issues. June 13 & 14 will be at the Western Iowa Expo building in Denison (the Cowgirl Queen Contest will be held this weekend), July 25 & 26 at the Greene Co. Fairgrounds in Jefferson, and back to the Union County Fairgrounds in Afton September 5 & 6.

A new class was added for 2026 for junior horses, enabling them to have another training opportunity and exposure. An Open Junior Horse Ranch Horse Pleasure class will follow the Open Ranch Pleasure class in the show order.

Respectfully Submitted by Erin Cook

"No hour of life is wasted that is spent in the saddle." – Winston Churchill

Did you know....

- The Iowa Ranch Horse Association celebrated its 25th anniversary? A celebratory potluck will be held at one of the shows this year.
- That the Iowa Horse Fair was moved back to May 8-10 this year?
- That the Greene County Fairgrounds in Jefferson is getting a [new horse barn](#)?
- That the Union County Fairgrounds in Afton is working on [covering their arena](#)?

ISU Extension and Outreach article on [Arena Etiquette](#)

