



California 4-H Equine Field Day

List of Presenters

Dr. Alyx DeBenedetto - Equine Chiropractor

Dr. Alyx DeBenedetto became interested in chiropractic after sustaining a horseback riding injury at the early age of 13 years old. After several years of being told by medical doctors to take medications and stop riding horses for her recurrent back pain, her next door neighbor, a chiropractor, suggested an alternative. After receiving treatment she was back riding, being able to compete on the Fresno State Equestrian Team while completing her undergraduate at CSU Fresno.

She went on to graduate from Palmer West Chiropractic College in December of 2008 and Options for Animals (Animal Chiropractic School) in 2009. Her Practice mainly includes equine and canine patients, however she also works with animals you would find around the farm and their owners in the Central Valley area since 2010. She is the mother of two beautiful daughters and enjoys sharing all her passions with them, especially riding horses, and gardening.

Lyndee Stairs- Barrel Racer

California barrel racer Lyndee Stairs has a real knack for turning dreams into reality. Lyndee has grown up on a horse. At the age of three, she obtained her first pony. Lyndee and her pony Apache, dominated the local play days and junior rodeos. In the more recent past, Lyndee has concentrated on rodeos and barrel futurities. Lyndee's dream of becoming one of an elite group of top trainers and competitors has come true. Since 1990, Lyndee has been in the top ten in total winnings on the West Coast.

Lyndee and her husband Lance Stairs' barrel horse ranch in Hanford, California has become well known for helping others' dreams come true also. As trainers and clinicians they are always teaching the principles necessary not only to win, but to keep students performing at their best. Through their many students and customers, they have helped their dreams come true also. Lyndee has helped some of the top open and youth competitors become champions.

Rick Kelley-Western Pleasure and Reining Breeder and Trainer

Rick Kelley, owner and operator of Rick Kelley Performance Horses has been in business in Clovis, California for the past 26 years. He and his team diligently try to provide the best all-around program for you and your horse including reining, showmanship, trail, horsemanship, and pleasure from futurity horses to the aged event horse including barrel and ranch versatility horses.

Since 1987 Rick Kelley Performance Horses has produced champions at the All American Quarter Horse Congress, American Buckskin World Show and Pacific Coast Quarter Horse Association. Rick's breeding program and selection of young prospects has produced quality A.Q.H.A., A.P.H.A. and A.B.H.A. horses that have won every major event in California for Open, Non-Pro and Youth exhibitors competing in all-around, western pleasure and reining.

Rick Kelley has served as President of GSPHC, PCQHA Board of Directors, and he is currently on the [AQHA](#) professional Horsemen's Committee.

Francesca Baron- Horse Breaking and Training of Reining a Cow Horses

Francesca Baron was born in Vicenza ,a city in the north east of Italy.

Supported by her family, her passion for horses began at 6 years old when she got her first horse.

In 1988, she started showing in the AQHA of Italy Performance Youth disciplines like horsemanship, showmanship, hunter under saddle, hunter hack , western pleasure , trail , and hunt seat equitation.

In 1990, at the age of 12, she was selected to compete with the Italian team at the Youth Quarter Horse World Cup in Calgary , Canada , as well as in 1994 at the Youth Quarter Horse World Cup in Germany . She was trained by Paola Donarini and Filippo Masi until she graduated from high school. Then her passion became her job working for both Italian (Filippo Masi , Gianluca Marchesini) and American horse trainers (Don Boyd , Todd Crawford, and John Ward). During this time she also studied to become an NRHA , NRCHA and NCHA judge.

In 2005, she built her own little ranch on her family's property in Torreselle near Vicenza and began showing reining, cutting and Cow Horses . During this time, her passion for the Cow Horse focused her efforts into promote this discipline in Italy and Europe where she was the Vice President of the European Reined Cow Horse Association . She was the first woman in Europe to win the European Cow Horse Futurity in 2013 . Currently Francesca is working for NRCHA Million Dollar Rider Jon Roeser in Lemoore, CA .

Francesca Baron is a NRHA judge, NRCHA judge, a worldwide 1A judge for NCHA, and a level 2 Reining instructor for the Italian Federation of Equine Sports. She was the 2007 ERHA Limited Open Champion, and Reserve Champion. The two rein Open Champion and the Two Rein Open Reserve Champion, an ERCHA Futurity Finalist in 2008, ERCHA Limited Open Champion and Reserve Champion, ERCHA Two Rein Open Reserve Champion, ERCHA Hackamore Open Champion in 2009 and many more Champion wins in the following 4 years.

Sarah Schneider Bellach - Hunter/Jumper Trainer

Growing up in the Bay Area, Sarah Schneider Bellach was fortunate to work with some of Northern California's top trainers. As a junior rider, Sarah enjoyed success in the Hunter, Jumper, and Equitation rings; earning numerous Championships and Top-Ten Medal Finals placings. After taking a couple years away from riding, Sarah transferred to Fresno State to join the Equestrian Team and feels her time at Fresno State (first as a student-athlete and, after graduating, as Assistant Coach) was instrumental in helping her develop her horsemanship philosophy. After leaving Fresno State, Sarah spent some time competing as an amateur before accepting a position as Assistant Trainer with Patrice Corbridge's Cottonwood Farm. Under Patrice's tutelage, Sarah spent time teaching, training, and competing with clients and their horses and was able to learn from working with one of California's most respected training teams. Sarah left Cottonwood Farm after the birth of her second child to focus on her family and keeps herself involved in the horse community by acting as an independent training consultant.

Susan Henderson-Perry - Horse Judging Trainer and Equine Nutritionist

B.S. and Master's Degree from Kansas State University in Animal Science and Industry.

Currently Susan works for Associated Feed as an Equine (Equus Feed) and Show Feed specialist. She works with farms, feed stores, FFA and 4-H groups to deliver the best nutrition possible to achieve her customers goals. For 20 years she was an Agriculture Teacher and coached 5 State FFA Horse Judging teams with 2 National wins and 1 reserve champion team. She also coached a State and National FFA Livestock Judging Team.

Susan raises registered Angus cattle and Quarter Horses with her family and enjoys the sport of Cutting. Currently her son is leading the Pacific Coast Junior Youth Cutting Association.

Mariya Pitel, DVM – Acupuncturist

Dr. Mariya Pitel spent her childhood in rural Crimea on a family farm nestled between the vineyards, almond groves and sheep pastures bordered by the Black Sea. Interacting with her aunt, who was a staff veterinarian at a large state-owned dairy, helped Mariya define her future career very early on. When later Mariya moved to California, she found herself right at home, surrounded by vineyards, cattle farms, horse pastures, and fruit orchards. She pursued her dream of becoming an equine veterinarian, earning her B.S. degree in Neurobiology and later her DVM degree at UC Davis. Her professional interests include lameness, reproduction and acupuncture.

Mariya was trained at the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society, currently the only accredited certification program recognized for veterinary acupuncturists. She is one of many veterinarians working at Pacific Crest Equine in Exeter, California.