

DUANE A. ESSER

Equine Professional • Trainer • Breeder • Judge • Industry Leader

Cleves, Ohio • 513-325-6373 • duane@esservalleyarabians.com

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Equine professional with 53 years of experience in the Arabian horse industry and more than 35 years as a USEF-licensed official. President and Head Trainer of Esser Valley Arabians, with extensive experience in breeding, training, showing, judging, instruction, clinics, and organizational leadership. Experienced with Arabians, Half-Arabians, Saddlebreds, Dutch Harness horses, National Show Horses, and Show Horse Alliance competition. Trained numerous Regional and National Champions and judged major competitions throughout the United States, Canada, and internationally.

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL ROLES

- President, Esser Valley Arabians LLC — Head Trainer and responsible for breeding operations.
- Vice President, Arabian Horse Association (AHA).
- Treasurer, National Show Horse Registry.
- USEF/AHA Regional and National Arabian and National Show Horse Judge; riding instructor and clinician.
- Professional trainer/breeder specializing in the development of nationally competitive show horses.

CORE EXPERTISE

Training & Development

Arabians, Half-Arabians, Saddlebreds, Dutch Harness, National Show Horses

Breeding Operations

Breeding management, horse development, selection, conditioning and presentation

Judging & Evaluation

USEF/AHA judging; Regional, National, Canadian and international competitions

Instruction & Clinics

Riding instruction, horsemanship education and clinician services

Industry Leadership

AHA governance, committees, breed/division leadership and organizational development

Show Horse Management

Conditioning, preparation, presentation, competition strategy and show operations

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Esser Valley Arabians LLC — Cleves, Ohio | President / Head Trainer / Breeding Operations

- Professional horse trainer and breeder; Esser Valley Arabians has operated continuously since 1974.
- Training and showing experience extending from 1975 to the present; breeding/farm operations since 1978.
- Trained and developed numerous Regional and National Champions across multiple disciplines and divisions.
- Extensive experience preparing horses and riders for local, Regional, National and international competition.
- Provides instruction and develops riders through practical horsemanship, conditioning, long-lining and show preparation.

Professional Judging — USEF / AHA / NSHR

- Received USEF/AHA/NSH judges card in 1990; more than 35 years as a licensed official.
- Judging assignments at U.S. Nationals, Canadian Nationals, Youth Nationals, Scottsdale and numerous Regional Championships.
- Judged National Show Horse district championships and international national championships, including assignments in Canada, South Africa and South America.
- Experienced evaluator of Arabian, National Show Horse and related breed/division competition.

INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

- Vice President, Arabian Horse Association.
- Treasurer, National Show Horse Registry; Board of Directors.
- Arabian Breeders Sweepstakes Commission — Chair/; Trustee Member.
- AHA Competition Advisory Committee — Member
- AHA Region 14 Director (2014–2018); subsequent Region 14 leadership/service.
- AHA Regional Restructure Committee — Member.
- AHA National Shows Commissions Ad-Hoc Committee — Chair.-Past
- AHA Budget and Finance Committee.
- AHA Education/Evaluation Commission — Member.
- AHA Judges and Stewards Steering Committee.
- USEF Arabian Division Committee.
- USEF National Show Horse Division — Chair.
- USEF National Breeds and Disciplines Council.
- USEF Youth Advisory Committee.
- USEF Hearing Committee — Member.
- KARABS — President/Vice President since 2000.
- Diamond Oaks Equine Science Advisory Board — Member.

EDUCATION

- La Salle High School — Cincinnati, Ohio.
- University of Cincinnati, College of Business Administration — 1980–1984.
- Equine Education: Arabian and National Show Horse Judges Seminars since 1990.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- 2023 USEF Equestrian of Honor — Vaughan Smith Award.
- 2023 AHA Region 14 Arabian Horse Ambassador of the Year Award.
- 2022 Region 14 Trainer of the Year.
- 2020 Region 14 Hall of Fame Inductee.
- 2019 APAHA Horseman of the Year.
- 2018 Region 14 Volunteer of the Year.
- 2016 AHT Readers' Choice Judge of the Year.
- 2016 Region 14 Trainer of the Year.
- 2009 USEF Pegasus Medal of Honor Recipient.
- 2007 Region 14 Trainer of the Year.

SHOWING & COMPETITION EXPERIENCE

- Multiple National Championships and Top Ten awards at Regional and National levels.
- US Nationals experience from 1978 to present; NSH Finals since their inception.
- Competition experience with Arabian, Half-Arabian, National Show Horse, Show Horse Alliance and Renai World Cup Championships.
- Broad experience across performance and breed disciplines, with emphasis on developing competitive, correct and well-prepared show horses.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Arabian Horse Association (AHA) — Life Member; Judge; leadership and committee service.
- United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) — Member; licensed official; committee and council service.
- National Show Horse Registry (NSHR) — Member; Board of Directors; Treasurer.
- Midwest National Show Horse (MWNH) — Member and Board of Directors.-Past

CONTACT

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