



Contact Information:  
Arabian Horse Association  
10805 East Bethany Road  
Aurora, Colorado 80014  
303-696-4500

[mediainfo@arabianhorses.org](mailto:mediainfo@arabianhorses.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Arabian Horse Association Announces Renewed Contract with Tulsa Expo Square for U.S. Nationals

**(22-APR.-16) – AURORA, COLO.** – The Arabian Horse Association (AHA) proudly announces their renewed facility contract with Tulsa Expo Square in Tulsa, Okla., for the continued hosting of AHA's Arabian & Half-Arabian U.S. National Championship Horse Show.

The previous 2013-2017 contract between AHA and the facility has been renewed for 2018-2022. As is policy within AHA for facility contract renewals, an extensive bid process that included other major equine facilities within the United States, led the U.S. Nationals Show Commission and AHA to their selection of Tulsa Expo Square. Suitability of the facility, including safety for the exhibitors and horses were of the highest priority in the decision, as well as the availability of dates for the show.

"Expo Square is excited the Arabian Horse Association chose our facility and Tulsa as the host site for the U.S. Arabian & Half Arabian National Championship Show," says Mark Andrus, President/CEO of Tulsa Expo Square. "The new agreement begins in 2018, which marks the show's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Expo Square. We are honored to be a part of the continued partnership and look forward to hosting the world-class event for many years to come."

AHA and the Arabian & Half-Arabian U.S. National Horse Show have established a great working relationship with the Tulsa Expo Square facility and staff. The city is also supportive of the AHA's largest National Horse Show, including massive support from the Tulsa Convention & Visitor's Bureau.

"We are excited to continue the strong partnership that we have with the Arabian Horse Association," said Ray Hoyt, President, VisitTulsa, Tulsa Sports Commission, Tulsa Office of Film, Music, Arts & Culture. "The Arabian Horse Association's Arabian & Half Arabian U.S. National Championship is a show that has become a staple in the Tulsa community. Our staff and Tulsans alike look forward to the event each year. We are also thrilled to grow with the AHA as Expo Square continues to evolve and improve its facilities while still providing the world-class service that the staff is known for. We want to thank Tulsa County and the staff at Expo Square; this event would not be a reality without their strong support."

During the 2013-2017 contract, Tulsa Expo Square has continued to make improvements to the facility, including a new wash rack in the River Spirit building; replacement of stalls; extended ability for the use of outside rings; and accommodated ever-evolving needs in regards to footing and the requests of the show's exhibitors.

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“Tulsa has become like family to us,” says AHA Executive Vice President, Glenn T. Petty. “We appreciate the people, the facility and all the hard work that has gone into making our exhibitors and their horses comfortable and excited to show at their premier event. We cannot express enough how much we enjoy coming to Tulsa each year.”

Improvements to Tulsa Expo Square are imminent during AHA’s 2018-2022 contract period. Through the Tulsa Vision package, a \$30 million upgrade to several Tulsa County fairground facilities, including Expo Square, major upgrades are in the works.

Improvements through this package for Tulsa Expo Square and the Livestock Complex include, but may not be limited to: a new barn placed on the east side of the Super Duty barn; new stalls for the F-150 and Super Duty barns; overhead doors installed in the F-150, Expedition, and Super Duty barn (this will allow the barns to be enclosed during the late fall and winter and open during spring and summer months if desired); two covered outdoor arenas; covered footing storage; structural improvements, including upgrading the elevator in the Ford Truck Arena; and improved gate entrances off of 15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Street.

AHA is pleased to announce this facility contract extension to our members and exhibitors. Join us for the 2016 Arabian & Half-Arabian Championship Horse Show and a celebration of the show’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Tulsa Expo Square in Tulsa, Okla. October 21-29. More information at [www.arabianhorses.org/USN](http://www.arabianhorses.org/USN).

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AHA is a major equine association serving 85,600 Arabian, Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabian horse owners across North America. AHA registers and maintains a database of more than one million Arabian, Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabian horses and administers approximately \$2 million in annual prize money. AHA produces championship events, recognizes over 400 Arabian horse shows and distance rides and provides activities, education, and programs that promote breeding and ownership.

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