



# *The Contact*

*Keeping Members Informed*

Nebraska Dressage Association - [www.nebraskadressage.org](http://www.nebraskadressage.org) - January/February 2014 Edition

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## Happy New Year!

Welcome your new NDA board members Katie Miller (President), Briana Bartlett (Vice-President), Melissa Ward (Secretary), and Tish Gade-Jones (Treasurer). The NDA is looking forward to an exciting new year and we wish all our members continued success in their pursuits, whether that be advancing in your training, buying a new mount, or competing. Good luck to you all and best wishes for the New Year!



## Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

Horse Tack Sale	February 22 9am - 2pm	Round the Bend Banquet Hall, Ashland, NE
No Bull, Just Horses Expo	March 7-9	Lancaster Event Center, Lincoln, NE
The International Omaha	April 11-12	CenturyLink Center, Omaha, NE
NDA Cornhusker Classic Schooling Show	May 30	Quail Rund Horse Centre, Elkhorn, NE
NDA 37 <sup>th</sup> Annual Cornhusker Classic I & II	May 31 - June 1	Quail Run Horse Centre, Elkhorn, NE
Nebraska's Big Rodeo	July 23-26	Burwell Fairgrounds, Burwell, NE
Nebraska State Fair	August 22 - September 1	Fonner Park, Grand Island, NE
Aksarben's 4-H Horse Show	September 21-22	Lancaster Event Center, Lincoln, NE
Aksarben's River City Rodeo & Stock Show	September 25-25	CenturyLink Center, Omaha, NE

**The biggest enemy  
to the partnership  
of dressage is  
impatience and the  
human nature to  
dominate other  
creatures**

*Walter Zettl*

## Inaugural Dressage World Show... Western, That Is!

By Emily Johnson

It is always a pleasure to plant oneself on the sidelines of a dressage show and soak up the many sights and sounds characteristic of these events. The finely turned out competitors and their mounts, the familiar ding of the judge's bell, the anticipatory rider and her horse proudly prancing down centerline; all these are part of the pleasure and excitement that goes with a dressage show.

The most recent show I attended was no exception as it possessed all of these distinctive moments, with a few differences. For one, the riders at this dressage show donned cowboy hats and intricately fringed chaps. They boasted colorful and bold patterns on their boots versus the classic black and sat atop Quarter Horses, Paints, mules and ponies, rather than the more traditional sport horse breeds.

At this point, you may be wondering if I made a wrong turn en route to the arena and inadvertently found my way into a western show. But this was not the case. This

was a bona fide dressage show, a bona fide Western Dressage show, that is. My recent trip to the inaugural Western Dressage World Championship Show held November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 in Tulsa, Oklahoma inspired this article.



For those of you not familiar with Western Dressage, you may well be wondering what I am talking about. Western Dressage is an emerging new discipline that promotes and utilizes Classical Dressage principles to benefit the western horse.

Though the concept of using Classical Dressage to enhance western horses and riders is not new, having an organized and United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) sanctioned association is. The Western Dressage Association of America (WDAA) was founded in 2010 and has been on a mission to promote the incorporation of the tried and true principles, correctness and beauty of Classical Dressage, with the history, heritage and love of the western horse and western way of life. An 'east meets west' kind of deal, if you will.



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The WDAA has worked resolutely since their inception to establish their organization as the leader in education and standards for this new, and up until recently, fairly unknown discipline. Their efforts were well rewarded this past year when Western Dressage became an officially recognized discipline by the USEF with the WDAA being named the USEF Recognized Affiliate.

To organize and run a World Championship show just a first short years following the birth of a new discipline and the dawn of a new association is a remarkable feat. Notably, the association executed a very well-run and abundantly attended first show. Cowboy hats off to the WDAA!

The Western Dressage World Championship Show drew competitors from 10 different states, including Nebraska (more on that in a minute), 2 Canadian provinces and attracted over 12 varying breeds of horses, including a 25 year old pony (named Cookie Monster!) and a Mule. Every ride time across the two days was filled and the show committee and participants alike were proud to draw the attention and enthusiasm of USEF "S" judge Debbie Rodriguez as the show's official judge.



Debbie, competitors and spectators alike, were treated to two days of happy horse and rider combinations performing tests from Introductory Level up through Level 2 (Western Dressage's equivalent to English Dressage's Second Level), plus two evenings of freestyle rides. When not prancing down centerline, many of these horses work as full time ranch

horses, trail mounts or carriage horses. Some were retired reiners, rehabilitated jumpers, or former lesson horses now embarking on a new career in Western Dressage. It was a joy and privilege to watch a diverse group of horses and riders all pursuing the same goal of traveling together in balanced, forward (no western pleasure here!) and harmonious movement.

One of this year's competitors and new World Champion is the Nebraska Dressage Association's very own Kathy Lewis and her lovely mare, Simon Says I'm Solo. After competing in the Western Dressage classes offered on the Nebraska Dressage Association's show circuit the past couple of seasons, Kathy decided she and Solo were ready to take on the WDAA World Show. And ready they were, bringing home one first place and one fourth place finish in their respective Introductory Level classes. It was a real pleasure and honor to both coach and share in this momentous experience with Kathy. Undoubtedly she and Solo well represented the Nebraska dressage community!







The energy and excitement surrounding next year's event are already ripe and plans are in place for the show to become an event spanning three or more days. Kathy and I had such a great experience at this inaugural show that we have already committed to make the trip down again next year, this time with a caravan of trailers. So, mark your calendars and join us in setting your sights on the 2014 Western Dressage World Championships!

For more information on Western Dressage and upcoming shows and educational offerings please stay tuned to the *NDA Contact* and visit these websites:

Nebraska Dressage Association  
[www.nebraskadressage.org](http://www.nebraskadressage.org)

Western Dressage Association of America  
[www.westerndressageassociation.org](http://www.westerndressageassociation.org)



### About the Author

Emily Johnson of Mountain Rose Horsemanship is proud to be on the cutting edge of the new and exciting Western Dressage movement.



Emily is one of only a small group of instructors in the nation to have completed the WDAA Train the Trainers™ program and is also a proud member of the Western Dressage Association of America®, the United States Dressage Federation and the Nebraska Dressage Association. Her instruction is inspired by the principles of natural horsemanship, ranch horsemanship, and classical dressage. Her teachings reflect her passion for equipping horses and humans for success on their journey toward individual wholeness and ultimate partnership. Emily is eager to share her knowledge and enthusiasm for this new discipline with horse enthusiasts of all kind. The Mountain Rose Horsemanship curriculum now includes Western Dressage clinic offerings and instruction to serve and support you and your horse on your journey of ever increasing lightness, understanding and ultimate partnership!



## Show Your Support for Our 2014 Sponsors!

Please help us welcome our new 2014 NDA Sponsors: Kathy Lewis with Kathy Lewis Consulting, Dan Urban with Urban Equine Events, Dara Liss with Esprit de Corps Dressage, Lincoln Equestrian Center, and Sally Queal with The Riding Center.

Back for another year are Still Waters Ranch, Regg & Wally's, 3B Enterprises, Jane Fucinaro Dressage, Parker's Smokehouse, S & L Stables, Stricklett & Associates, and The Dressage Foundation.

Please continue to give your thanks and patronage to these businesses. Without their support we could not continue to fund our events and programs. Thank you to all our sponsors past and present!

This year the Fundraising Team changed up the sponsorship packages to include car magnets. Those will be coming out soon. There were changes made to the ad sizes and package perks to make us more competitive in the market and save money on our newsletter costs. We are always looking at ways to improve our advertising options to give our sponsors the best exposure possible so please let us know if you have suggestions for improvements to our packages. If you know of anyone who may be interested in advertising with us, please let us know that too. We welcome new sponsors throughout the year!

In 2014, we will be working with The Dressage Foundation to help raise funds for the grants, funds and scholarships given to NDA members. We will be "giving back" and "paying it forward" to ensure there are funds available for future use for NDA members. Look for more details in the coming months.

Good luck to everyone for a successful 2014 show season. We hope you will achieve all your goals this year.

*Lisa Van Stratten      Cindee Hansen      Melissa Ward*  
2014 Sponsorship Committee



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## Support Our Friends at Still Waters Ranch

In case you were unaware, Stillwater Ranch fell victim to an unfortunate barn fire in early December. Fortunately all of the horses were safe, though the barn, and all tack and equipment inside, were a complete loss. See [here](#) for more information from the Lincoln Journal Star.

Here is an update from owner, Arnie Cole:

First off, words cannot express how thankful we are for all of you! The love you have poured out to Char, Laura, Darin and I is overwhelming to say the least. Got to tell you I am very proud of Laura and Darin. They risked their lives, even after the Sheriff told them not to try and save a single horse; they saved them all.

The other unsung heroes are our new neighbors John and Trista Jennings who risked their lives for our horses. In fact, had they not been working on their house at 1:30 in the morning and rushed over to wake up the kids all of our horses would have certainly been burned to death. Even though I haven't met them and they aren't horse people, they helped lead our horses' safety with Laura and Darin.

We are overwhelmed with your generosity during this very difficult and tragic time. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the love, kindness, hard work, support and all of the delicious food. You have given so much of yourselves that it will be impossible to ever return. We are humbled by the hundreds of well-wishers and offers of help. We appreciate them all.

As you know Still Waters Ranch was first built during some terribly difficult and tragic times. Out of the ashes of our own personal tragedy grew a ranch and academy that you & I have come to know and love. Let's not fool ourselves for one minute it's not the facility because as you know there are lots of places to go to have lessons and attend summer camp.

At least from my standpoint, what makes Still Waters Ranch a wonderful place for you, the horses and I, are Char and Laura, and their desire to make a difference in your life and the life of your children. Of course the frosting on the cake is both of them absolutely love horses - yours, mine and theirs and use horses to teach us how to be great humans. And as far as kids - I

don't know about you, but what great role models Laura and Darin are to all of us Their passion about what we do here at Still Waters, but believing in something so strongly that they would go into a burning building to rescue horses. And don't you think for a minute they didn't lay it all on the line--not only by going in the barn for halters and horses, but leading the horses out right next to the waterfall with the building on fire- not knowing if it would explode. From what I hear there were some near misses with the turned out horses. Darin was struck by one of the frightened horses barely missing his face hitting him in the chest and one kicked so high barely missing Laura's head by inches. The first thing both of them said to us is they want Still Waters to grow into something even greater than it was.

This is a very serious and critical situation for us from a financial stand point. We have no business lapse insurance and it may be very difficult to get all the necessary funding from our insurance co. This is a major part of our life. Not just daily activities and job but our retirement and savings have all been invested completely



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Karen L. Stricklett, MS, CRC, ABVE-D  
President





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*He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul... Ps. 23: 2,3*

in our ministry and educational program. We have always chosen to personally underwrite the losses for the ranch and academy for all of these years in our effort to provide God's gift of horses regardless of ability to pay. Last year with the hay prices we lost pretty big. This year we lost two of our horses, my major ranch accident and now the fire. All that to say we are not bucks up as we try to and make a go of it once again. Plus we aren't getting any younger.

People are coming out of the woodwork offering to help. Even though we did not (nor are we now) soliciting donations, one family whose daughters used to ride here sent us a check for \$500 out of the blue... it goes on and on. We tried to see if we could at least give them a tax deduction by using a non-profit foundation but attorneys have told us that won't work.

However we want you to know we are exploring turning the Still Waters Riding Academy side into a nonprofit organization in the next couple of weeks so we could possibly offer tax deductions and possibly developing a sustainable business model for Char and Laura to operate under.

So I have been asked "is it all over for Still Waters Ranch--can we make it? Do Char and I really want to do this anymore?" The answer is

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yes we do want to rebuild--we want children and you coming into our lives and making it wonderful just like you have always done. We want Laura and Darin to take the ministry and run with it--taking it to new and greater heights than Char and I have ever dreamed of.

We understand your dilemma with our current situation wanting to have your children in our lesson program. I think from our ability to start back our lesson program on a very limited basis we should be back operational by the first of the year.

Thanks to Tori, Anna, Laura, Darin and many of you, the difficult daily chores are being taken care of. We are working on systems and ways of making things easier to manage day to day operations.

If you would like to donate or loan any tack and equipment to Still Waters Ranch, please contact the Coles at 402.432.0543.



## The Thoughtful Rider

Riding begins and ends for the most in the upper body from the hips to the shoulders. The horse picks up on it so readily because of its simplicity. The straight hip-shoulder line always remains the same whether full seat, half-seat or jumping position with the only changes being: body to the front open door and forward, right shoulder forward into the half-pass left, upper body back half-halt and so on.

This allows for the hands to be free and to ride in looped reins after every little signal. The goal is to ride through the body, without hands and rein weight only. It is just like when having a dog on a leash and going for a walk, run or better yet bike ride. Zero weight on the leash is the only way for it to be pleasant and successful. In riding, it's the same. The beauty of it is that it takes all the mystery out of the exercises.

The focus needs to be from the hips to the shoulders and keeping a straight line whether positioning that part of the body to the front of the vertical or on the vertical or behind the vertical depending on the forward, the quiet, and the bringing back of the horse.

In order to develop upper body riding, the rider must release the legs and hands fully and use them only when necessary and then release them again. It is through the release that the body will become as it should and play its role of riding in the most subtle way. The end result will be light and harmonious riding and the horse moving freely as if without the rider.

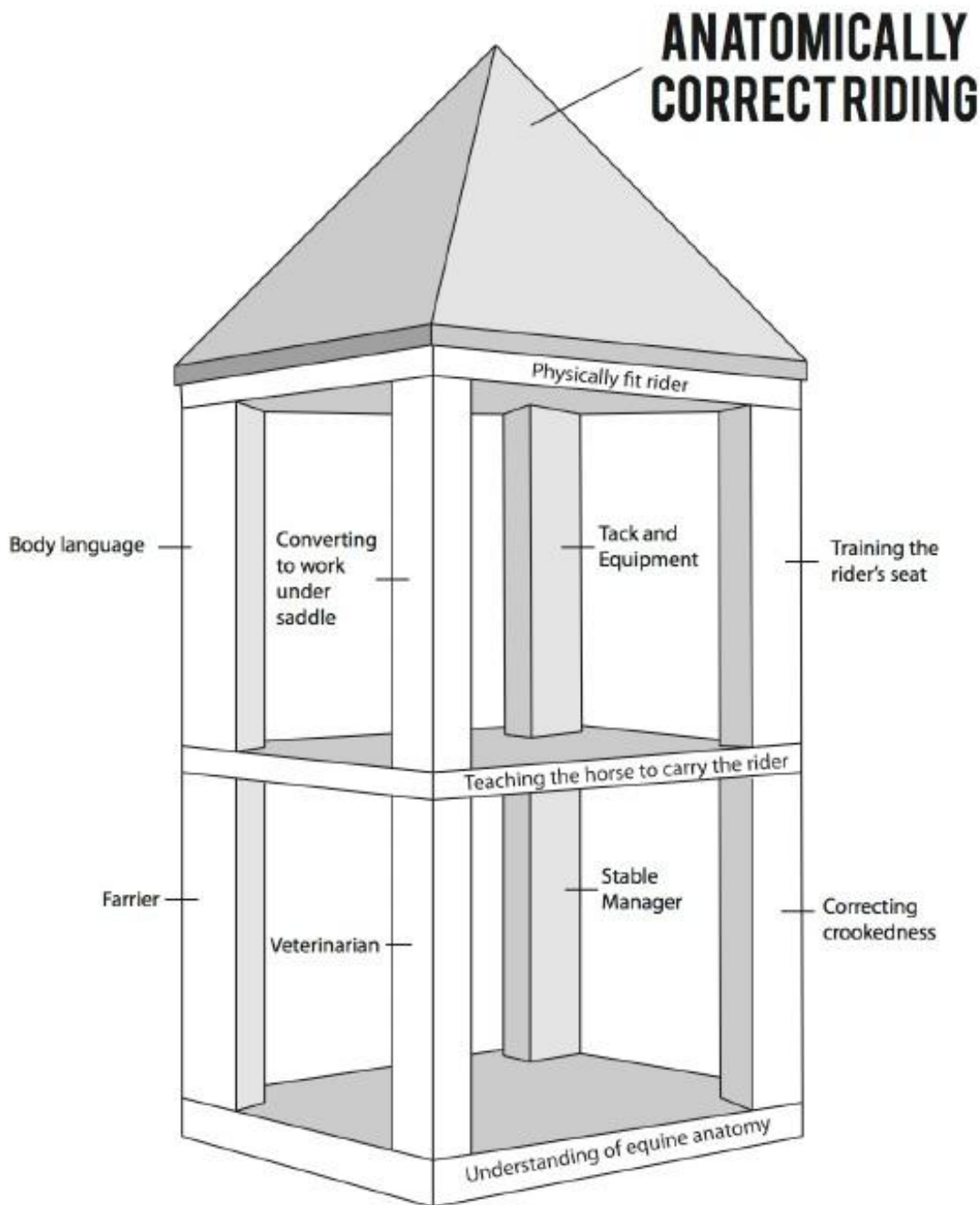
*Hector Carmona*



## Nebraska Dressage Association Scholarship Application Guidelines

The Nebraska Dressage Association will be giving away three \$500 scholarships, one each to a Junior/Young Rider, Adult Amateur and a Professional rider. These scholarships may be used not only for riding clinics, but also for any type of educational event the recipient wishes to attend.

Applicants may seek to attend a wide variety of events that encompass the “Anatomically Correct Riding” structure, from mounted clinics to horseless lectures- anything that promotes the well-being of the horse and rider!



## Nebraska Dressage Association Scholarship Application Guidelines

Please describe in 500 words or less the following points:

- Demonstrate your dedication and commitment to the sport of dressage and the Nebraska Dressage Association (hours of volunteering, involvement in local events, clubs, etc.).
- Describe how you will benefit from attending the event you wish your scholarship funds to cover. Please include long term and short term goals.
- How does this event promote wellness of horse and rider in the sport of dressage?
- Briefly describe your financial plan, including costs of event, lodging, etc. and how you plan to use the scholarship money.
- Why should you receive the scholarship? Are you willing to participate or organize clinics? Do you have any ideas how to give back to the association?

Please email your completed scholarship application to the following address no later than **April 30th, 2014**. The NDA Board of directors will review your application and winners will be announced May 15th.

You will receive email confirmation when your application is received. Additionally, if you have any questions or concerns please contact Jane Fucinaro or Dara Liss.

Send your completed application to Jane Fucinaro at [jfucinaro@gmail.com](mailto:jfucinaro@gmail.com). Thank you for your participation and good luck!

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Nebraska Dressage Association  
Scholarship Application 2014  
Cover Sheet

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check which one applies:

Must be current NDA member:

\_\_\_\_ Junior/Young Rider

Yes or No?

\_\_\_\_ Adult Amateur

\_\_\_\_ Professional

What event do you plan on attending:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates: \_\_\_\_\_



## NDA Contact Editor Needed!

We are currently looking for someone to take over as editor of *The Contact*, the NDA's bi-monthly e-newsletter. Responsibilities include assembling interesting articles and news items for the newsletter, and then laying out the content and sponsor ads. Are you:

...great with words?

...brimming with great ideas for interesting dressage-, horse-, or community-related articles?

...interested in helping the NDA communicate to its members?

...able to work with a lengthy document in Word or another word processing or layout program?

...looking for a great way to volunteer for the NDA outside of horse shows?

Then you'll be perfect for this!

Shaina Kennedy, our existing editor, will be happy to help the new *Contact* editor get on their feet during the transition, so you won't be left hanging! This could be an awesome opportunity for you to be an integral part of the NDA.

We need someone right away, so please let us know ASAP if you're interested in working on the March/April 2014 of *The Contact*. Please contact [nebraskadressage@yahoo.com](mailto:nebraskadressage@yahoo.com) if you are interested.

Thanks!

## NDA Board of Directors



2014  
Horse Shows  
April 4-6  
April 17-20  
April 30 - May 4  
August 27- 31  
September 3 - 7

Watch for future dressage shows hosted by Urban Equine Events

[www.urbanequineevents.com](http://www.urbanequineevents.com)



2014  
Horse Shows  
May 28 - June 1  
June 4-8  
June 11-15  
September 10-14

[www.midstateshorseshow.com](http://www.midstateshorseshow.com)

## Volunteers Needed for the 2014 International Horse Show!

**Event will be held April 11-12, 2014 at the CenturyLink Center, Omaha, NE**

The best events need the best volunteers and we believe the International's volunteers are simply the greatest! Join us behind the scenes at one of the most exciting "up and coming" horse shows in the nation. Multiple opportunities are available in a variety of areas during the 2014 International Omaha Horse Show. For more information on how to get involved as a volunteer, [fill out our volunteer form here](#) or contact us at [theomahainternational@gmail.com](mailto:theomahainternational@gmail.com).

### Volunteer Mission Statement:

Volunteers are an essential part of the International team success. The dedication to the 2-day event is imperative to the execution so we may change the way the equestrian sport is presented in this country.

### Benefits of Volunteering:

To volunteer with the International Omaha it costs \$25. Benefits include:

- Polo shirt (to wear during your shift, then it's yours to keep)
- Catered meal during shift
- Two ticket vouchers for one International night event (a \$48 value)

### Volunteer Positions:

There are a wide variety of volunteer positions and shifts available. Shifts begin at four hours long. The days of the horse show shifts start at 8am and run through the evening performance; approximately 9pm. If interested please email [theomahainternational@gmail.com](mailto:theomahainternational@gmail.com) to learn more.

### High School/College Students:

Join the Blue Ribbon Group and be a part of Omaha's only international show jumping competition. You can be part of the excitement to help the gallery of breeds come to life. This is a great way to help Omaha and the surrounding areas to expand the growth of our equestrian community.

The International is run by a not-for-profit, so your time can count toward school volunteer requirements. If interested please email [theomahainternational@gmail.com](mailto:theomahainternational@gmail.com) to learn more.



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### Nebraska Dressage Association

*A charter member of the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) since 1973.*



education. competition. community.

*The NDA's guiding purpose is to further the use of classical dressage techniques by disseminating educational material and sponsoring clinics, workshops, and shows.*

### Membership benefits include:

- Subscription to the monthly newsletter, *The Contact*
- Group Membership in the USDF
- Subscription to USDF monthly publication, *USDF Connection*
- Eligibility for NDA Year-End Awards
- Eligibility for USDF Rider Awards
- Reduced fees for NDA events

**JOIN TODAY!**  
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## FEI Introduces New and Revised Dressage Tests Effective January 1, 2014

The [Fédération Equestre Internationale \(FEI\)](#) has announced revised and new dressage tests that will come into effect January 1, 2014. The FEI has revised its Intermediate II, Grand Prix, and Grand Prix Special, which will be applied at the start of the 2014 competition season. Additionally, a Medium Tour has been announced to assist horse-and-rider combinations transition from the Small Tour to the Big Tour. The Medium Tour will utilize the newly introduced Intermediate A and B Tests and may be offered at either CDI Events and/or USEF/USDF Dressage Competitions. These new and revised tests will impact USEF and USDF programs and championships as outlined below:

- USEF Dressage Competitions may offer all FEI Tests effective January 1, 2014. CDI Organizers should refer to the updated FEI rules.
- For the USEF Young Adult 'Brentina Cup' Dressage National Championships, when ridden in a CDI within the qualifying period, riders may choose to count either the FEI Intermediate II or the FEI Intermediate B towards the ranking list. There will be no changes to the tests ridden at the Championships.
- For the Markel/USEF Developing Horse Grand Prix Dressage National Championships, there will be no changes to the tests that the horse/rider combinations ride in the qualifying competitions or at the Championships.
- To qualify for the GAIG/USDF Regional Championships, horse/rider combinations will need to use either the Intermediate B or Intermediate II test to qualify for Intermediate B (formerly Intermediate II) Championship. At the Regional Championships and US Dressage Finals, horse/rider combinations will ride Intermediate B test.

All FEI Tests can be found [here](#).



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### **Nebraska Dressage Association Contact**

Do you have any submissions  
you'd like to share? Photos?  
Upcoming events?

Please send all ideas and  
articles to  
[ndacontacteditor@gmail.com](mailto:ndacontacteditor@gmail.com)  
by February 23, 2014. Thank  
you!

[www.nebraskadressage.org](http://www.nebraskadressage.org)

### **NDA Sale Barn Advertising Policy**

Sale Barn advertisements are free to NDA members and will run for three issues unless notification is received to cancel the listing sooner. Non-member sale barn rates are \$5 per issue. Website ads are \$5 for NDA members and \$10 for non-members. Advertising prices are per listing per issue. Show entry forms or flyers are free to NDA members. Non-members will be charged regular advertising rates of \$50 for a full page ad, \$35 for a half-page ad, \$15 for a quarter-page ad, and \$20 for business card size.

Advertising images, documentation, and any questions should be sent to Lisa Van Stratten at [dalevanstratten@abbnebraska.com](mailto:dalevanstratten@abbnebraska.com). Checks should be made payable to NDA and should be sent to Tish Gade-Jones, 1900 South 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 68502.

*NDA makes no endorsements or representation in connection with  
advertisements placed in the Contact.*