

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information and Photos

Contact: Christy Landwehr at 720-857-9550 or clandwehr@CHA-ahse.org

Certified Horsemanship Association Welcomes Ward Stutz as New President

(October 2012) – Ward Stutz of Amarillo, Texas is the new President of the Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA).

Ward is Senior Director of Breed Integrity for the American Quarter Horse Association. He is responsible for AQHA's animal welfare initiatives, which include the steward program to ensure all animals at AQHA events are treated humanely and exhibitor are practicing sportsmanlike conduct. In addition, he assists with AQHA's public policy initiatives. He is the staff liaison to AQHA's Professional Horsemen's Council.

Ward received his B.S. degree from Colorado State University in agriculture industries management and a M.S. from Oklahoma State University in animal science. His horse industry experience includes: training, judging, showing, racing, packing and teaching. Ward has been involved with many industry associations including: American Horse Council, Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, Animal Welfare Council and serving as President of the American Youth Horse Council.

"I believe that CHA is the most important equine organization in the horse industry," says Ward. "There is nothing more important than new riders having a fun and safe first experience. That is key in their decision to take that all important second ride. I would say my primary goals are to continue to increase the awareness of CHA to those interested in riding. I believe one of the ways we can accomplish this is through our network of regional directors who can identify opportunities to showcase the value of a lesson from a certified riding instructor. If we accomplish this, we will need more riding instructors and the work we have accomplished over the last few years of partnering with other organizations such

as AQHA, ApHC and ACA have helped take CHA to a new level. We must continue to foster those relationships while identifying new opportunities for growth.”

“We are so excited to have Ward as our new leader,” says Christy Landwehr Chief Executive Officer of CHA. “He brings with him such a wealth of knowledge of the horse industry and business in general. We are looking forwards to an amazing two years!”

The purpose of CHA is to promote excellence in safety and education for the benefit of the horse industry. CHA certifies instructors and trail guides, accredits equestrian facilities, publishes educational manuals, produces educational horsemanship DVDs and hosts regional and international conferences. For more information on the Certified Horsemanship Association, please visit www.CHA-ahse.org or call 859-259-3399. To find a certified horseback riding instructor or accredited equine facility near you visit www.CHAINstructors.com.

###