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NRHA Professionals

The National Reining Horse Association unveils its professional of the year award winners.

By Christina Brezack

National Reining Horse Association

April 24, 2013



Mike McEntire of Selma, North Carolina, is the 2012 NRHA Professional Horseman of the Year. (Photo courtesy of NRHA)

The National Reining Horse Association Professional of the Year awards recognize and honor individuals who exemplify excellence in the NRHA community as an NRHA professional. These awards are presented in five different categories based on their 2012 involvement. This distinction is reserved exclusively for the elite individuals who, in all aspects of their career, consistently excel in perpetuating the growth of the NRHA, both in and out of the show pen, while maintaining the ideals of good horsemanship, sportsmanship and welfare of the reining horse.

Award recipients will be recognized at the NRHA awards banquet on Thursday, June 27, at 5:45 p.m. They will be awarded custom Montana Silversmiths spurs.

NRHA Professional Horseman of the Year

Mike McEntire of Selma, North Carolina, has been an NRHA professional since 2003. With NRHA lifetime earnings of more than \$950,000, McEntire has placed on the top-20 NRHA professionals list for several years. McEntire is a perennial finalist in NRHA major events; his accomplishments in the show pen include the 2003 NRHA novice horse open world championship, the 2010 NRHA Futurity open reserve championship and the 2011 All American Quarter Horse Congress championship, among many others.

McEntire has coached and mentored many students to their first wins, first titles and multiple year-end championships. He has been called patient, honest and forthcoming. McEntire's training philosophy is embodied and guided by his appreciation and consideration for the horse.

Find out more about Mike McEntire at www.mcentirereining.com.