

John Hovde

NDQHA Hall of Fame Inductee – 2016

John Hovde was born in Williston on December 30, 1946. He grew up on a Williams County ranch near Epping, North Dakota. In 1969 he graduated from North Dakota State University with a bachelor's degree in Animal Science. He then served two years in Vietnam with the 1st Cavalry Division, one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army. After discharge, John and his wife, Kathi, made their home not far from his childhood home; there they raised their two children, JJ and Kristen.

John has often been referred to as the 'Horse Whisperer' of North Dakota. In 1972 he began offering horsemanship clinics to individuals of all ages and backgrounds. He has also served as an adjunct professor for the North Dakota State University Equine Science Program. John emphasizes the art of communicating and learning how to understand the body language of horses through the development of trust and respect. His philosophy has always been that horsemanship is learning how to ask a horse to do something in a way the horse can understand.

For many years John has been active in the Mon-Dak Quarter Horse Association and the North Dakota Cutting Horse Association, serving as president of those associations multiple times. Through the years, he has mentored many high school cutting horse enthusiasts and judged countless North Dakota High School Rodeo Association cutting competitions.

In 2009 John was inducted into the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame in the Cowboy Long Rider Division. This division recognizes individuals who are instrumental in creating and maintaining North Dakota's horse culture.

John and Kathi host the Mon-Dak Quarter Horse Association and North Dakota Quarter Horse Association Annual Benefit Trail Ride at their Rafter H Ranch. Proceeds from that successful event are donated to Home on the Range in Sentinel Butte, North Dakota; St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; and the AQHA Foundation.

Since 2010 John has represented the North Dakota Quarter Horse Association as an AQHA Director, serving on the Recreational Riding Committee and, most recently, the AQHA Ranching Council. He is an AQHA Professional Horseman and an AQHA Ranching Heritage Breeder.

Two of John's favorite quotes include:

I have always learned the most on the days I spoke the least.

***Softness in a horse was there at birth.
Softness between human & horse must originate from the human.***

John Hovde is an asset to the equine world and truly is a Horseman's Horseman. It is most fitting that he be inducted into the 2016 North Dakota Quarter Horse Association Hall of Fame.