



To Our Members,

2020 has proved a challenging year in many ways thus far. Our show producers were challenged to continuously adapt and implement new rules and regulations. Our trainers were challenged when show numbers began to dwindle and horses began leaving training programs. Our members were challenged to continue supporting our industry while adjusting to the “new normal” we find ourselves living in. Finally, our industry was challenged with border closures and the cancellation of one of the crown jewels of the Canadian cutting scene, the Calgary Stampede Cutting Horse Futurity.

As news of the Calgary Stampede Futurity cancellation hit home, the Alberta Cutting Horse Association Board of Directors felt it imperative to find a way to celebrate our sport while promoting trainers, young horses and weekend warriors, collectively. Our Association is in a good financial position due to the prudent leadership of both your current and past boards, and through the generosity of so many businesses and members over the years. This philosophy of saving for a “rainy day” has proven wise as we are now able to support our industry as we navigate forward through these challenging times.

We are grateful to the Black Elk Cutting Horse Association who stepped forward with a proposal and investment to work with the ACHA in developing a show designed to finish off the year in a positive light by bringing together cutters of all levels to compete and celebrate our exceptional sport.

With that, the **COWvid Challenge** was born, a one-time-only event to end a tough year on an extremely high note. This event promises to be a show as unique as the year we are currently experiencing. It is intended to thank our entire membership for supporting our association through these tough times and for continuing to come out and cut throughout 2020.

From October 21 to October 25, the Alberta Cutting Horse Association is proud to announce the COWvid Challenge, presented by the Black Elk Cutting Horse Association at the Calnash Arena in Ponoka, Alberta.

The COWvid Challenge will feature total added money and prizes in excess of \$80,000. There will be something for every cutter, including a full slate of aged event classes featuring three goes in the open futurity. The COWvid Challenge will also highlight our weekend warriors. Jeff Smith saddles will be up for grabs to the aggregate weekend show champions in the weekend classes being offered, pending NCHA approval, which include the Non Pro, 50 am, 15 am and 2k Limit Rider. There will also be a feature event: an exciting Pro-NP/AM competition where both the trainer and np/am of the championship team will walk away with one saddle EACH.

Time was not necessarily on our side, and we do recognize the challenges we may face hosting a major aged event at the end of October. The Calnash Arena features a fully-covered and heated facility, from arena, to cattle pens, to stabling, thus making it a great choice of venue in the event of inclement weather that Alberta has been known to throw our way.

More details to follow, but until then make sure to mark October 21 to 25 down to attend the first, and only, COWvid Challenge. The Board of Directors can't wait to send this year out in style and are already looking forward to next year with some big plans in the works!

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