

USEA and USEF Pathway for Developing Young Horses

US Equestrian and the US Eventing Association are committed to providing the opportunities to produce Event horses from the start of their young careers through representing our country in Championships. The following information outlines the opportunities available between the organizations to highlight and assist owners, breeders and athletes.



U.S. Eventing Association

Young Event Horse mission

The USEA Young Event Horse (YEH) program was designed to identify young horses ages four and five, that possess the talent and disposition to, with proper training, excel at the 4-star and 5-star levels of eventing. Qualifying competitions include a dressage test and jumping/galloping test, whereas Championships also include a conformation test.

For more information visit the [YEH webpage](#).

Grant Opportunities

The Holekamp/Turner Grant: provides a YEH Championship competitor with the opportunity to represent the United States at the FEI Eventing World Breeding Championships in the 7-year-old CCIYH3*-L Championship at Mondial du Lion in Le Lion d'Angers, France. A large cash grant is awarded with the purpose of paving a clear pathway for U.S team horses to progress in the sport of eventing. For more information, visit this page.

Recognition

The USEA is now recognizing the nation's leading [6-year-olds on a Preliminary leaderboard](#), and [leading 7-year-olds on an intermediate leaderboard](#). Additionally, the USEA maintains a [YEH leaderboard](#) for YEH-4 and YEH-5 horses each year.

Young Horse Symposium

An annual symposium where attendees are treated to two educational sessions on the proper training and evaluation of young eventing prospects, with a morning session on evaluation jumping, galloping, and a masterclass in the evening.

U.S. Equestrian

USEA/USEF Developing Horse Championships

- Six-year olds at CCI2*-S
- Seven-year olds at CCI3*-S level and receiving the Jonathan R. Burton Trophy
- Currently on an annual bid process, see the [USEF Website](#) for specific location details
- Currently seeking sponsorship for the Championship and overseer of grant opportunity

Developing Horse Series

Principles

- The aim of the USEF/USEA Six- and Seven-Year-Old Development Horse Series is to identify horses with the perceived ability to eventually contribute to the Elite Program and achieve podium scores within three quadrennials.

- The Program is based on Team Championship preparation and success.
- The Program is overseen by the USEF Technical Advisor/Chef d'Equipe, Robert Costello and Development Coach, Leslie Law.
- Top achievers in the Series will be provided strategic guidance and training opportunities.

Outline

- Series of CCI1* and CCI2*-S for 6-year olds: offer CCI1* from December-June of each year and then CCI2*-S from July-November. Encourage organizers to hold YH specific divisions.
- Series of CCI2*-S and CCI3*-S for 7-year olds: offer CCI2*-S from December-June of each year and then CCI3*-S from July-November. Encourage organizers to hold YH specific divisions.

- All CCIs within the respective timelines and applicable levels will be included in the standings. It will be encouraged for competitions to run separate YH divisions.

Recognition

- Athletes, horses and owners will be recognized following the last FEI competition of the season.
- Owners will receive a pin in recognition of their horse's achievements with the hopes that they will be able to have a collection as the horse progresses up the levels.

Future Pathway

Owners wishing to seek guidance on the future of their eventing star may contact USEF Team Staff, Robert Costello and Leslie Law for guidance on the future of their horse. USEF looks forward to additional opportunities for horses aimed at representing the U.S.

Grant Opportunities

Seeking sponsor for securing the future of U.S. developing horses. Please reach out to USEF Managing Director, Eventing Amber Braun at abraun@usef.org for more information.

Future opportunities

Grants at USEF begin at 4* and 5* level. As horses develop and produce results they are eligible for these opportunities.

Other

- We welcome feedback on developing opportunities for these futures horses, owners, breeders and athletes. Please contact Christina Vaughn, Director of Development Programs at cvaughn@usef.org.