

Crawfords to receive USHWA President's Awards

The dynamic duo of Michelle and Albert Crawford.

The owners of Crawford Farms in upstate New York have done so much for the betterment of the industry, in a relatively short period of time, that it is impossible to overlook their efforts.

Driven by a passion for the sport, and a desire to help harness racing prosper, the Crawfords have sponsored several seasons of the Meadowlands Pace, Kindergarten Classic, Crawford Farms Trot and the Red Mile Grand Circuit meet.



USHWA photos

Michelle and Albert Crawford

The Crawfords operate one of New York's largest breeding facilities with more than 75 mares, but are also racing enthusiasts who have several dozen horses in training.

Michelle noted, "We really enjoy our daily involvement in this industry. Al and I love the sport of harness racing and strive to see it prosper. By reinvesting back into the sport, we hope to see it grow and become as visibly recognizable as our Thoroughbred counterparts."

But they don't stop at racing. The charitable couple continues to support and donate money to many of the important causes inside and outside of our industry, including the Harness Horse Youth Foundation, Amanda Harris Fundraiser, their own ThinkPink Fundraiser for Breast Cancer, Classy Lane, horse rescues, and many more.

While social media savvy, it has become increasingly clear that any noteworthy concern that flies onto Michelle's radar is instantly transformed into a 'cause célèbre.'

"On the forefront we will be spearheading a new coalition for a pipeline to safety and aftercare programs for our Standardbreds so they no longer need to fall into harm's way after their careers or racing opportunities are done," the Crawfords noted.

Michelle added, "In the next 30 days, those in the sport that share our passion will be meeting to develop a plan and a solution that will assist owners and trainers. We intend to expand and support crucial alternatives to slaughter and kill pens. It is my 2016 goal to make a lot of noise and help our animals that make our sport what it is!"

The President's Awards, along with the Dan Patch Horse of the Year and additional human award trophies, will be presented on Sunday (March 6) in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Tickets for this gala event, the Dan Patch Awards Banquet -- Night of Champions, are now available.

All of this information and applicable ticket and advertising forms can be accessed via www.USHWA.org.