



Dressage Club of New Mexico

Young Horse Symposium with Laura DeCesari

23-24 May 2026

at Hell Canyon Farm 262 Camino los Abuelos Santa Fe NM

Sponsored by:

*Hell Canyon Farm*

*Orion West LLC*

*Faxon Equine*

## CALL FOR RIDERS/HANDLERS

We are pleased to invite you to apply for a position as a DEMONSTRATION RIDER/HANDLER with your horse. Below is the information about the Symposium and the application process. **Deadline to apply is 10 May 2026.**

### FORMAT

The Symposium will feature a presentation of training concepts for young horses or horses a bit older. Age range for this Symposium is 2 years old through 9 years old who are just starting their work or are being restarted. Laura Decesari, Dressage Coach, FEI rider and recognized expert on starting the young horse, will be featured to explain the handling, training and riding of the young horse. Sessions will be in the riding arena or round pen, as needed.

Riders/Handlers and their horses should be comfortable and open to being observed and instructed in front of a large audience in an arena or round pen. Microphones, speakers and cameras will be used each day. Flowers, tables, chairs will be present. Banners secured to the arena walls will also be present. All Riders/Handlers will have a warm-up day in the arena before the Symposium begins and are encouraged to ride or walk through the arena on this day so their horses may see the décor and arena set-up. There may be as many as 50+/- auditors and staff/volunteers in attendance outside the dressage court barriers.

This Symposium is open to Adult Amateurs, Professionals and Jr/Young Rider riders/handlers — we will be accepting approximately 10 Riders/Handlers and Horses of varying age, experience, levels and gender. The format will consist of one horse and rider/handler combination at a time for demonstration, explanations of technics, concepts and coaching by Laura. She will have a brief discussion with auditors and riders/handlers between each session.

### DEADLINES AND SELECTION PROCESS

**Completed applications must be received by Selection Committee at [pferdfrau@gmail.com](mailto:pferdfrau@gmail.com) on or before 10 May 2026.** DCNM and its Selection Committee are not responsible for late or misdirected applications. If you do not receive an email confirmation of receipt of your application within 24 hours of sending, please contact Maureen Mestas at 505.310.1050.

**We will notify all applicants as soon as the selection process is completed, no later than 12 May 2026.**

### FEES AND CANCELLATIONS

Rider/Handler Fee: The Demonstration Pair fee for Saturday and Sunday sessions 23 and 24 May, is \$200, payable to DCNM.

#### Stabling Fees:

Piñon Show Barn 10x10 stall, rubber floors with 2 bags of shavings (Fri-Sun) FREE for DCNM Member

Piñon Show Barn 10x10 stall, rubber floors with 2 bags of shavings (Fri-Sun) \$100 for Non-Member

A rider/handler *Thank You* gift vest is included.

Sponsored lunch Sat and Sun; dinner with Laura on Sat at HCF; daily snacks, beverages; and gifts for each rider.

**Payment for rider/handler fee and stall must be received before 15 May 2026, or the next available rider/handler on the alternate list will be chosen.** Check, Credit Card, Venmo and PayPal are accepted. Please contact Maureen Mestas immediately should any selected rider/handler need to cancel.

**Hotel, transportation, or additional food costs are not included.** We have Symposium guestrooms at Doubletree by Hilton at a low rate of \$106 per night: 4048 Cerrillos Rd, Santa Fe, NM 87507 (12 minutes to HIPICO) Phone: (505) 473-4646

**RV or LQ reservations** available at [www.santafeskiesrvpark.com](http://www.santafeskiesrvpark.com)

## SYMPOSIUM TURNOUT OF HORSE AND RIDER

**HORSES:** Please braid manes. If you plan to use saddle pads, bonnets and/or polo wraps/brushing boots, please use white or light colors. Bonnets and/or leg coverings are not required. Traditional dressage tack only, please.

**HANDLERS:** If you will be working from the ground with your horse and Laura, please wear riding breeches or jeans, comfortable boots and a light-colored shirt. You will be given a vest (which you may keep) to wear over your shirt. **Helmets required.**

**RIDERS:** Please have hair secured in your usual show style. Breeches should be white or off-white. White gloves preferred but color is allowed. Dressage tall boots required. You will be given a vest (which you may keep) to wear over your riding shirt. **Helmets required.**

*White or light colors will allow Auditor audience to see rider position and activity of the horse better.*

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR RIDERS ON 23-24 May 2026 (final schedule subject to slight time adjustments)

### Friday, 22 May — Hell Canyon Farm

8am-6pm Rider/Handler & Horse Check In, Stall Assignment and Warm-Up/Hand Walk Day for All Horses

### Saturday, 23 May — Hell Canyon Farm Piñon Arena

8:00am	Event check-in for Auditors
8:30am	Introduction of Laura DeCesari and Symposium Overview
8:45am	Presentation by Laura
<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Break</b>
10:15am	Presentation by Laura
<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Lunch On Site</b>
12:30pm	Presentation by Laura
<b>2:30pm</b>	<b>Break</b>
2:45pm-5:00pm	Presentation by Laura

### Saturday evening

**6:30pm** Reception and Dinner for Auditors and Riders, Presentation and Q&A with Laura DeCesari

### Sunday, 24 May — Hell Canyon Farm Piñon Arena

8:00am	Event check-in for Auditors
8:30am	Q&A with Laura
9:00am	Presentation by Laura
<b>10:15am</b>	<b>Break</b>
10:30am	Presentation by Laura
<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Lunch On-Site</b>
12:30pm	Presentation by Laura
<b>2:30pm</b>	<b>Break</b>
2:45pm-5:00pm	Presentation and Conclusion Discussion/Q&A by Laura

**We are happy to have volunteers to assist each day - DCNM members will receive volunteer hours toward year end awards. Volunteers will receive a free auditor pass (non-transferable).**

**Will also have sponsorships and advertising opportunities for the arena, digital programs, banners, gift bags.**

**On-Site Vendors are also welcome! Vendor Area at the Arena entrance.**

Questions? Please contact Maureen Mestas [pferdfrau@gmail.com](mailto:pferdfrau@gmail.com) or 505.310.1050



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## Rider/Handler Application Form

**Due on or before 10 May 2026**

Please send your completed application to the Symposium Rider/Handler Selection Committee at [pferdfrau@gmail.com](mailto:pferdfrau@gmail.com)

**\*\*Rider Fee paid in full is not due until you are notified that you are selected\*\***

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Jacket/Vest Size: S M L XL and circle one: Men or Ladies

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Horse \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Breed of Horse \_\_\_\_\_

Sire: \_\_\_\_\_ Dam \_\_\_\_\_ Dam Sire \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Horse Owner \_\_\_\_\_ City/State of Residence \_\_\_\_\_

If your horse is being ridden and has any experience with schooling shows, recognized shows, other symposium/clinic experience), please indicate:

Levels of Activity – Horse \_\_\_\_\_

Levels of Competition Competed – Rider \_\_\_\_\_

Does your horse have any behavioral issues which may be hazardous? If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**SHORT BIO OF YOU AND YOUR HORSE** (2 Paragraph Limit). To be published online and in the event program:  
(Attached separately)

Each horse will need a current Coggins Report. If the horse has been out of state in the 30 days before the Symposium, a Health Certificate from a veterinarian is required, dated after the horse returned to NM.

Stabling Special Instructions, if any \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Extra Shavings Bags needed \_\_\_\_\_ \$14 each \*2 bags of shavings are included in the stall fee for Fri-Sun\*

Rider Dietary Restrictions/Needs \_\_\_\_\_

Videotaping from designated area only. You may purchase additional shavings onsite from HCF (see above).

\*\*\*Horse health documents and signed Rider/Owner Waiver must be received by 15 May 2026.

OFFICE USE ONLY: Rider Fee Paid Date/Method \_\_\_\_\_ Stall Fee Paid Date/Method \_\_\_\_\_