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Connaway & Associates in the News: Two Women Take Center Stage in American Breeding

Despite the popularity of European-bred warmbloods in the show ring, there is no denying that interest in American-bred horses has increased. We're seeing new accolades being awarded to American horses and breeders such as the Connaway & Associates High Point American Bred Horse at the Capital Challenge Horse Show, but they're not being given for the sake of simply presenting another award. This heightened attention on breeding quality horses on home soil has proven beneficial for riders in our country. In some cases, the cost to go on buying trips in Europe or importing a horse from Europe is too steep. In particular, buying trips abroad became especially difficult during COVID-19, and as a result North American-bred horses have been increasingly in demand. Additionally, in many cases the cost of buying a well-produced horse that's already been imported is out of the realm of possibility. With this in mind, some have taken it upon themselves to enhance the quality of American-bred horses.

Case in point: Karin Morgenstern Jimenez and Laura Connaway. While Jimenez has made breeding her career and Connaway breeds for herself, both women are prime examples of individuals who uphold exemplary breeding standards for the sake of the sport as well as the wellbeing of the horse. Read on to learn how these women found success in breeding here in the U.S. and their topline advice for those looking to begin the breeding journey.

Karin Morgenstern Jimenez



Karin Jimenez and her husband Dr. Carlos Jimenez were awarded the 2021 US Equestrian (USEF) Ellen Scripps Davis Memorial Breeders' Cup, which recognizes an individual who or breeding enterprise that consistently breeds outstanding performance and show horses. Photo courtesy of Karin Jimenez

Jimenez of Sporting Chance Farm in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, has made a living from breeding top-quality Dutch Warmblood sport horses that often go on to be successful in high performance programs across a number of disciplines including jumping, dressage, and eventing. Her consistent track record for breeding top horses earned her the 2021 US Equestrian (USEF) Ellen Scripps Davis Memorial Breeders' Cup, which recognizes an individual who and/or breeding enterprise that consistently breeds outstanding performance and show horses. Though Jimenez knew she wanted to breed horses from an early age, it was a bit a luck that kickstarted her now 30-year-old operation.

"I had champagne taste and a beer budget," Jimenez shared of looking for a mare to get her started. "I had the luck of finding a young and very high-quality filly that had sustained a pelvic injury and would never be sound enough to jump in the high performance hunters."

Laura Connaway

For Connaway, amateur grand prix show jumper and founder of Connaway & Associates Equine Insurance Services, Inc. in Little Rock, Arkansas, the desire to enter the American breeding scene was born out of necessity. Connaway—who had spent her early adult years training with the sport's best of the best including Laura Kraut—aspired to climb the show jumping ranks and hold her own among the world's elite in FEI-sanctioned competitions. To do this, Connaway needed a viable mount but she knew purchasing a horse that was ready for the challenge wasn't financially feasible. So, she buckled down and began researching what it would take for her to breed her mare, Ceranova. Ultimately, Ceranova delivered her first foal in July 2005.

Because Connaway breeds for herself, she does her best to select bloodlines that combine scope and carefulness and are also known for being easy to handle.



Laura Connaway is pictured with her homebred, Ceralena, who progressed into a grand prix jumper mount for her. Photo by Sandra Gregory

"I like to be like a best friend to my horses, so ultimately, it's a three-pronged approach," she shared. "I want a great formed horse, an athletic horse, and I also seek out a bloodline that blends for good rideability and good personality."

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In Other News: More From Connaway & Associates



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The Plaid Horse "Your New Horse Isn't Insurable. Now What?"

When going to insure a horse you have just purchased, you may find that insurance carriers place exclusions on the policy or that insurance is altogether denied because the horse had a pre-existing condition. It's important to get a sense of the whole picture by speaking with a trusted insurance agency and ensuring that the pre-purchase exam is conducted by a trusted veterinarian prior to making a purchase. Laura Connaway provides her perspective on the topic in a recent article for The Plaid Horse. Click the button below to read the story.

[Read the Article](#)

About Connaway & Associates Equine Insurance Services, Inc.

At Connaway & Associates, teamwork allows horse people to protect horse people. Since 1992, Connaway & Associates has built a strong reputation as a reliable partner in competition and in business. Connaway and Associates is licensed in 48 states and offers competitive insurance coverage options through several A-rated admitted insurance carriers. Connaway & Associates does the work so its clients can enjoy their passion for horses. For more information on Connaway & Associates and its offerings, visit www.connaway.net.