

2015 NAERIC Trainers' Challenge

May 2015 – The 2015 NAERIC Trainers' Challenge took place at the Horse³ event (<http://www.keystonecentre.com/horse3/>) on May 1, 2 & 3 in the Westoba Agricultural Centre of Excellence at the Keystone Centre in Brandon, Manitoba. At Horse³ a multitude of disciplines are featured; fans attend clinics, see demonstrations, enjoy entertainment, shop at the H³ Trade Show, and get the opportunity to Ride-with-the-Experts!

The NAERIC Trainers' Challenge has been referred to as the highlight of the event. Crowds of nearly 1,000 assembled each day to watch and learn from the trainers. Three colt starters take a young horse out of a supplied remuda, and individually call upon their knowledge, skills and ability to quickly form a relationship with the horse.

The remuda was provided by NAERIC Ranchers, Kirk & Gail Bridgeman of Bridgeman Land & Livestock Ltd. located in Rapid City, Manitoba, and Doug & Deb Fenty of D5 Performance Horses located in Miniota, Manitoba.

Vying for the coveted H³ belt buckle, this year's trainers' challenge was accepted by three of the best colt starters in Canada. Lachlan Bell took the prize with gelding **DF Frosty Bandido** from D5 Performance Horses. Tom Durocher (**Prophets Peppy**) and Russ Krachun (**Money Double Dash**) were both strong contenders with geldings from Bridgeman Land & Livestock, Ltd.

In four hours over the course of a weekend, the trainers were judged on how well they interacted with their colt, and how much they were able to achieve in starting the colt. Judging was in the capable hands of Bob Kaufman, Steve Rother and John Tilley.



NAERIC Trainers' Challenge Winner, Lachlan Bell, with *DF Frosty Bandido*



Competitor, Tom Durocher, with *Prophets Peppy*



Competitor, Russ Krachun, with *Money Double Dash*