



Key Points to Remember

1. Education, experience, and a desire to continue to learn are indicators of a farrier's strong commitment to conscientious, professional care.
2. AFA Certification is not the only measure of a farrier's skill, but it provides an established standard by which to measure knowledge of equine anatomy, physiology, and biomechanics of the horse.
3. Farriers bring a range of talent, experience, and expertise to the job at hand.
4. A prospective farrier's skills must be a good match for your horse's shoeing needs and performance expectations.
5. Investing in quality service pays off in the long run.
6. The AFA is here for you and your horse through our mission to further the development of farriers and our commitment to the welfare of your horse.



AMERICAN FARRIER'S ASSOCIATION

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www.americanfarriers.org

Choosing A Quality Farrier



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Purina is proud to partner with the American Farrier's Association and share science-based insights to improve hoof quality and growth. Our goal is to educate members about the unique needs of horses and how nutrition can address those needs.

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AMERICAN FARRIER'S ASSOCIATION



We want the best for your horse.

Choosing a farrier to provide quality care for your horse's hooves is one of the most important decisions you will make, whether you ride Western or English, for pleasure or in competitions, if your horse is active, or out to pasture. It is important to evaluate your horse's activity level and your performance expectations. Knowing what services your horse needs, whether it's trimming, basic shoeing, and/or therapeutic care, will help you find the right farrier.

What makes a good farrier?

Education

Farriers vary in education, training, experience, and expertise, from part-time farriers to full-time certified professionals and highly educated specialists. A farrier's investment in continuing education provides not only knowledge, but also a network of skilled professionals to benefit your horse throughout his lifetime. Farriers have

many opportunities to participate in continuing education. There are clinics, contests, webinars, and apprenticeships available, as well as opportunities to partner with a mentor, read educational periodicals and engage in the AFA's voluntary Certification Program.

Certification

A very good farrier might not be certified, however AFA members who participate in our Certification Program demonstrate their commitment to excellence in hoof care. An AFA Certified Journeyman Farrier has achieved an internationally recognized standard of education and practical skill. A farrier's participation in the AFA's Certification Program stands as one of the strongest indicators of an enduring commitment to the farrier trade and, more importantly, to your horse.

Communication

Ask about a farrier's professional affiliation, certification level, and commitment to education. It is important that you and your farrier communicate well. A good farrier will be happy to share information with you. He or she will want to have your horse on a regular shoeing schedule and will be willing to work with you and your

veterinarian as members of the team managing your horse's health and well-being.

Get the best value.

Charges for farrier services vary quite a bit, even in the same location. Find out the price range in your area. Investing in the best farrier your budget allows will save you money and trouble. Poor quality trimming and shoeing can lead to loss of riding or training time, unsoundness, and even big vet bills.

How to find a farrier.

A personal referral from a trusted farrier, trainer, friend, or veterinarian is a great way to start. The AFA website has a Find a Farrier section. Search by city or state for farriers near you at: americanfarriers.org/find-a-farrier/

All 50 states have professional farriers associations. Contact information for AFA affiliated associations in the US, Canada, and Israel is on our website at: americanfarriers.org/chapters/

You can call us at the AFA office: (859) 233-7411 ext.0

My AFA Certified Journeyman Farrier started shoeing for me in 1994 after my veterinarian recommended I try him to see if he could successfully address some recurring issues with my horse's feet. He succeeded, and I have worked with him ever since. I like that as a CJF he not only has the skills my horses need, but also the knowledge necessary to adapt to situations as they arise. He tells me that studying for his CJF in the 80's set him on a quest for learning that exists to this day, and I can vouch for it!

— ANNE W., WELLINGTON, FL.