

Lyle and Myra Johnson, from Bismarck, North Dakota, have been pillars of the North Dakota Quarter Horse Association for many years. Their dedication and contributions span three generations, making the Johnson family the quintessential NDQHA family.

Lyle and Myra have two daughters, Sonya Gross from Napoleon, and Shelly Johnson from Bismarck. They are also proud grandparents to Krista Marolt, Megan Gross, and Isaac Gross, and great grandparents to Matthew Marolt. Matthew may represent the fourth generation of Johnsons in the North Dakota Quarter Horse Association.

The Johnson family has been actively involved in NDQHA activities and events for many years. Lyle was instrumental in establishing the North Dakota Amateur Quarter Association in 1975 and served as a director from 1987 to 1994. During that same year he managed the NDQHA Amateur show at the North Dakota State Fair. Myra served as a North Dakota Quarter Horse Association director from 1985 to 1993 and was the Vice-President in 1987 and again in 1993.

Myra's love for horses began as a pre-teen, and she has passed this passion down through the generations. The family began showing horses when Sonya and Shelly were young. Myra and Lyle hauled the girls to shows nearly every weekend. This tradition continued with Sonya's daughters, Megan and Krista. Myra also competed at the shows, while Lyle was always the supportive father and husband helping in any way possible at the shows and at home.

Their daughters, Sonya and Shelly, and granddaughters, Krista and Megan, have all served in numerous NDQHA leadership roles and have been successful competitors at the American Quarter Horse Youth Association World Show, the All-American Quarter Horse Congress, and the American Quarter Horse Association Level 1 Championships. Shelly represented NDQHA in the Congress Queen Contest in 1992, describing it as the experience of a lifetime.

The Johnson family has raised and shown many notable horses over the years. Some of these include:

- Haley Star, shown by Sonya in Western Pleasure, Showmanship and Hunter Under Saddle
- Tardy Precious, NDQHA High Point Amateur Junior Halter Mare, 1991 World Show Qualifier in Amateur-two-year-old Mares, and earning an AQHA Amateur Register of Merit, shown by Myra
- Skipa Regal Star – 1989 Mon-Dak Yearling Futurity Champion and World Show Qualifier in 1990 in Amateur Geldings, shown by Myra
- Tuff Bo Jangles – 1986 Mon-Dak Futurity 3-year-old-Pleasure Champion, shown by Sonya
- Jenny Go Grand – 1985 Mon-Dak Futurity Yearling Filly Champion, shown by Shelly
- Temporals Gal – 1985 NDQHA High Point Halter Mare and High Point Youth Halter Mare, shown by Shelly

- Hesa Charmin Scotch – 1994 High Point Amateur horse, shown by Myra, and ultimately, by many other youth and amateurs from NDQHA. Charmin was a multiple AQHA Youth and Amateur Champion.

The family has also raised many colts over the years, with Sonya and Shelly doing an excellent job of starting and showing them or preparing them for sale to numerous clients who went on to have successful show careers with those horses.

Although Myra and Lyle no longer own horses, they have continually encouraged Sonya and Shelly and their grandchildren to stay involved with horses and the North Dakota Quarter Horse Association. Hopefully, this involvement will continue for many years, and generations, to come.

Lyle and Myra have been retired since 2005 and still live in Bismarck. After enjoying several winters in Arizona, they now stay in North Dakota year-round.

When asked about their greatest accomplishment, Myra humbly states that she and Lyle are proud they have instilled in their children and grandchildren the love of horses and showing.

Myra and Lyle Johnson's enduring support and contributions have left a lasting legacy in the North Dakota Quarter Horse Association community.