

INQUIRY Presented By Iowa Thoroughbred Breeders And Owners Association: Rising Stars In The Industry

by [Joe Nevills](#) | 11.14.2019 | 4:45pm



Keeneland Photo

The Thoroughbred industry is one that's both aching for a generation of younger hands to take the wheel, and one full of young people in the barns who could one day fill the board rooms and winner's circles of racing's future.

In this edition of INQUIRY, we asked participants in the bloodstock realm to identify who that next generation of horsemen and women might be with the question: **“Who is a young person in the industry you think will take a big step forward in the coming years?”**

Chris Knehr – WinStar Farm

“I could see [Danielle Bricker](#) taking off. She's working for Todd Pletcher now. She's worked for Peter Bradley, she's worked for Chris Baccari. I could see Danielle being a name popping up. She's worked for the right people and she's working her way up.”



Marc McLean – Crestwood Farm



“Phil Hager worked with us and I think he's going places. He's got a good head of steam behind him, and he's a motivated guy with a good eye. I see him doing well in the future.”

Tom Hinkle – Hinkle Farms



“Walker Hancock. He's the president of one of the longest-standing operations in the world [Claiborne Farm]. He's a high-quality young man, and he's going to do a great job. I respect his family and I respect him.”

Mark Toothaker – Spendthrift Farm



“Liz Crow. She's a relentless worker. She's everywhere. It doesn't matter if it's 5:30 a.m. at Churchill Downs to watch a horse work or walking the barns looking at yearlings – she puts the work in, does her homework, and has a great eye for a runner.”

Carl McEntee – Ballysax Bloodstock



“Phil Hager. I managed David Hager's farm when I was 23 and Phil was a young kid. I've known him since he was 11 or 12. He's a very hard-working young man. He's got a very good eye for a horse. He's just started up his own business, and I think that'll go from strength to strength.”

Scott Mallory – Mallory Farm



“Fletcher Mauk with Small Batch Sales. Fletcher's always had a great eye for a horse. I really respect him when he comes to look at my horses.”

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