

# The National Field Trial Champion Association will hold the National Championship February 9, 2026 at Ames Plantation, Grand Junction, Tennessee

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## Guaranteed Purse \$20,000

*Additional Cash Supplements of \$2,000 from The Bank of Fayette County,  
and \$4,000 from anonymous donors, to the Winning Handler.*

Trophy known as "The Clyde Morton Memorial Cup" to be won three times for permanent possession.

**Perpetual Trophies:** The Cecil S. Proctor Memorial Trophy • The Julia Colony Ames Memorial Trophy

- The M.G. (Mike) Perkins Trophy, a replica of the Julia Colony Ames Memorial Trophy, will be presented for permanent possession to the owner of the 2026 National Champion.
- The Barry H. Saunders Memorial Trophy, with a sterling silver likeness of the last hat pin Barry designed, will be presented to the winning handler for permanent possession.
- The Bank of Fayette County, serving Fayette, Hardeman, McNairy, Shelby and Tipton Counties since 1905, will furnish a \$2,000 purse supplement to the winning handler as noted above.
- The Waldo E. and Pearl H. Dodge Commemorative Silver Belt Buckle will be given to the winning owner.
- The Whippoorwill Wild Card Memorial Breeders Award will be presented to the breeder of the winning dog.

**Qualifications:** Details of the qualification requirements for the 2026 National Championship can be found in the NFTCA, Inc. Facebook post from October 1, 2025, and in the October 2025 issue of UKC® Field, page 13.

## NOMINATIONS FOR DOGS NOW ELIGIBLE CLOSE FEBRUARY 1, 2026

**Entry Fee: \$1,200.00**

**ALL FEES MUST BE PAID BEFORE THE DOG COMPETES!**

**Drawing will take place on Friday evening, February 6, 2026, at the National Bird Dog Museum  
at 7:00 p.m. The drawing will be held online via Facebook and open to the public.**

The 32nd Annual Winner of the Joe H. Hurdle Top Dog Award (as described in The American Field, page 1, November 6, 2010 issue) will be announced during the drawing ceremonies.

The "Award Pin" is handcrafted by David Kelley of David Kelley Jewelers, Somerville, TN.

**Judges:** Rich Robertson Jr., Payette, ID; Greg Bain, Moulton, AL; and Bill Mason, Moundville, AL.

**Reporter:** Kent Walker, Collierville, TN

*All participants must use solid barrel guns, .32 caliber or equivalent pistols and/or solid barrel shotguns .410 or greater with blank ammunition, no primers or poppers. Handlers may elect to utilize retrieval collars provided by officials of the trial. Rules promulgated by the AFTCA and the UKC/American Field for use of dog collars in competitive events will apply for this event. No running on Sunday.*

• **PURINA PRO PLAN**, is the “EXCLUSIVE” dog food sponsor of the NFTCA’s 2026 National Championship, Checkerboard Square, St. Louis, MO 63164—([www.proplan.com/sportingdog](http://www.proplan.com/sportingdog)). Contact Greg Blair, Purina Area Manager, W128 N6239 River Heights Dr., Menomonee Falls, WI 53051; Phone: (262) 939-2775. Purina was founded in 1894 by William H. Danforth, two years before the inaugural running of the National Championship and Purina’s 130+ year history now teams with the 127-year National Championship, celebrating the last 111 years at the historic Ames Plantation. Purina will provide a year’s supply of pet food to the winner and a sample to each handler. Purina will sponsor the National Championship Oil Painting of the 2026 winner by Ross B. Young, Preston, ID. Purina is also making a monetary contribution to the National Field Trial Champion Association to help defray the expenses associated with conducting a quality event.

• **SPALDING LABORATORIES**, P.O. Box 778000, Henderson, NV 89077—(888) 880-1579—([www.spalding-labs.com](http://www.spalding-labs.com))—Fly Predators™ brand bio-beneficial insects for fly control. Spalding donates a year’s worth of Fly Predators to the Ames Plantation for control of flies with their horse herd and Bye Bye Odor which is a safe and natural solution especially formulated to substantially reduce or eliminate a wide range of odors associated with animal urine or manure in barns and horse trailers.

• **THE BANK OF FAYETTE COUNTY**, 1265 Hwy. 57 East, Collierville, TN 38017—(901) 854-2265—([www.thebank1905.com](http://www.thebank1905.com)), serving Fayette, Hardeman, Shelby, McNairy and Tipton Counties since 1905, will provide a cash supplement of \$2,000 to the winning handler as noted on the previous page.

• **GARMIN INTERNATIONAL**, 1200 E. 151st St., Olathe, KS 66062—(913) 397-8200—([www.garmin.com](http://www.garmin.com))—will provide 3 Garmin Astro 430 Receivers & T 20 Collars; one unit each to the winning owner, handler and scout of the 2026 National Championship, as well as providing 4 Garmin Units for use during the competition by the handlers and officials. Garmin will also provide a Tri-Tronics Pro550 Remote Trainer and a Bark Limiter Deluxe to the winning handler.

### — SPECIAL AWARDS —

• **Tucker Trail Saddles**, known for providing riders hours of ultimate trail comfort, will award an engraved Montreal Royal Trooper saddle, saddle bags, breast strap, and bridle to the owner of the 2026 National Champion. Every Tucker saddle is handcrafted in Yoakum, Texas. Learn more about Tucker saddles at [www.tuckersaddles.com](http://www.tuckersaddles.com) or call (800) 882-5375.

• **Jack Haggis Saddlery**, Jeff and Karen Haggis, 4733 Scotchmere Dr., Glencoe, Ontario, Canada N0L 1M0—(519) 289-5544—([www.haggissaddles.com](http://www.haggissaddles.com))—will provide a Haggis Trooper Saddle for the handler of the 2026 National Champion.

• **SportDOG Brand & Gun Dog Supply**, 17645 U. S. Hwy. 82, Mathiston, MS 39752—(800) 624-6378 or (662) 615-5520—([www.gundogsupply.com](http://www.gundogsupply.com))—will provide a SportDOG Brand SD-1825 Sport Hunter to the handler of the 2026 National Champion and four \$25.00 gift certificates to be awarded in a drawing to handlers attending the trial.

• **The Saddle Guy**, 21110 Hwy. 59 South, Robertsdale, AL 36567—(334) 414-4228—([www.thesaddleguy.com](http://www.thesaddleguy.com))—will provide a Trooper Field Trial Saddle to the winning scout of the 2026 National Champion.

**SPECIAL NOTICE:** All horses must have a current Coggins Test (less than 12 months) and health papers on out-of-state animals. Tennessee Dept. of Agriculture and officials will be checking papers. No stallions will be allowed in the gallery. While running is underway, traffic will be restricted on National Championship Drive and Turner Road from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m., and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

PURINA will sponsor a National Field Trial Championship kickoff party at the National Bird Dog Museum on Friday, February 6, at 6:00 p.m.

“Everyone Invited” Brunswick Stew on Thursday, February 12 at Bryan Hall immediately following the afternoon brace, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

## 2026 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SPONSORS



*The “OFFICIAL” dog food sponsor of the 2026 National Championship*

**Spalding Fly Predators**



• **Tennessee Tractor LLC**, 11495 US-64, Somerville, TN 38068—(901) 465-9811—([www.tennesseetractor.com](http://www.tennesseetractor.com))—will furnish the use of two John Deere Gators for the trial. Come visit us for all your large AG and Small Compact Tractor needs!

• **John and Susan Ivester**, Charlotte, NC, owners of 2000 National Champion Marques Gold Rush, will provide owners, handlers and officials of the 127th Running, a commemorative hat pin, a one and only original designed by the late Barry Saunders.

• **5 Star Equine Products**, 4579 US-71, Hatfield, AR 71945—(870) 389-6328—([www.5starequineproducts.com](http://www.5starequineproducts.com))—will provide a 5 Star Equine Saddle Pad to the owner, handler, and scout of the winning dog.

• **Mid-South Farmers Co-Op**, Bolivar, TN, is donating 4,000 lbs. of 14% Protein Horse Feed (321) to be used by officials involved with the trial for their horses. Compliments of Maylon Price.

• **Area Wide Communications**, 260 Hwy. 45E North, Medina, TN 38355—(731) 783-5380—([www.areawidecomm.com](http://www.areawidecomm.com))—is donating the use of 6 two-way radios for use by the Ames Security Patrol during the competition.

• **Ames Plantation** will provide twice daily updates of each day’s running on the website below.

“Everyone Invited” Fish Fry on Tuesday, February 17 at Bryan Hall immediately following the afternoon brace, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**First Baptist Church Grand Junction** will provide sausage and biscuits each morning at the Rhea Clubhouse while the supply lasts.

**Women from the Hickory Valley, Grand Junction, Saulsbury, LaGrange, Bolivar and Middleton, TN Area** will assist with refreshments in the Rhea Clubhouse each day.

Lunches will be provided daily from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Rhea Clubhouse by Glover’s Eats and Sweets.

**MATT BACKUS, Secretary, P.O. Box 389, Grand Junction, TN 38039-0389**

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