"There roughly 240 classes in an eight-day period, all of them are having different specifications and qualifications to show and to move on," Hagan said.

One of Hagan's horses in the show, HS Daydream's Heads Up, won the American Saddlebred Breeders Hall of Fame award for Horse of the Year in 2021. Hagan said he won the Three-Gaited World's Grand Championship with HS Daydream's Heads Up two years ago. Last year, the horse-rider duo won the Fine Harness World's Grand Championship as well.

"Those classes are two of the three most difficult classes to win and the most prestigious classes at the World's Championship Horse Show," Hagan said. As an amateur, he won against professional trainers in the classes.

"That was the first time in history that an amateur breeder/rider-driver have won those two classes on a horse that they bred and raised," Hagan said.

Along with showing his horses, Hagan has a passion for breeding Saddlebreds. Hagan Saddlebreds, the name of Hagan's horse business, raises 15 to 30 foals every year, according to its website.

Hagan said he has broodmares on farms in Carlisle, Kentucky, and Columbia, Missouri. His performance horses and horses in training are at operations in Simpsonville and Versailles, Kentucky, as well as in Ohio and North Carolina.



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