

Bejarano, Rafael: Born June 23, 1982. From: Arequipa, Peru.

Only member of his family to be involved with horse racing. Attended races with his father one day in his native Peru by accident (they thought they were going to a soccer match) and was so taken by the sport he chose to enter that country's jockey school. Began riding in Lima, Peru on December 8, 2001, winning with his first mount.

He came to the U.S. in 2002 and won with his first U.S. starter, John Bobby, at River Downs on July 10, 2002. Has since earned 5 leading rider titles in Kentucky and at least 27 in California. Finished in the Top 10 nationally for earnings among all jockeys every year from 2004 to 2015 (2016 he was 12th, 2017 he was 24th).

On April 27, 2012 Bejarano became a United States citizen.