



# What RANCH HORSE level should I choose?

<b>LEVEL I</b>	NO LOPING	NO COW EXPERIENCE	NO TRAIL SHOW EXPERIENCE	NO SIMPLE OR FLYING LEAD CHANGE	HORSE HAS NEVER SEEN TRAIL BRIDGE, DITCH, ETC.
<b>LEVEL II</b>	LOPING BUT NO EXTENSIONS	LIMITED EXPERIENCE WITH COWS	LIMITED EXPERIENCE WITH TRAIL SHOWS	SIMPLE LEAD CHANGE ONLY	HORSE HAS SEEN TRAIL BRIDGE, DITCH, ETC. ONCE OR TWICE
<b>LEVEL III</b>	LOPING AND EXTENDED LOPE	LOTS OF COW WORK EXPERIENCE	LOTS OF TRAIL SHOW EXPERIENCE	SIMPLE AND FLYING LEAD CHANGE	HORSE COULD JUMP THROUGH A FLAMING HOOP

*Use the above guidelines to help you choose a suitable level. These are examples, we recommend you choose the level that closest matches you/your horse.*

## Which divisions can I go in?

***Are you 13 or under? (as of 1/1/2024) You can enter:***

- 13 & under (will ride Level 1 Patterns)
- Level 1 Open, Level 2 Open, Level 3 Open

***Are you 14 – 18-years-old? (as of 1/1/2024) You can enter:***

- 13 years old – 18 years old (will ride Level 2 Patterns)
- Level 1 Open, Level 2 Open, Level 3 Open

***Are you 18+ years old as of (1/1/2024) and NOT a paid professional trainer/instructor? You can enter:***

- Level 1 Amateur, Level 2 Amateur, Level 3 Amateur
- Level 1 Open, Level 2 Open, Level 3 Open

***Are you 50 years or over and NOT a paid professional trainer/instructor? You can enter:***

- Level 1 Select, Level 2 Select, Level 3 Select
- Level 1 Open, Level 2 Open, Level 3 Open
- Level 1 Amateur, Level 2 Amateur, Level 3 Amateur

***Are you 50 years or over and ARE a paid professional trainer/instructor? You can enter:***

- Level 1 Select, Level 2 Select, Level 3 Select
- Level 1 Open, Level 2 Open, Level 3 Open

***Are you or your horse showing for the first time ever this year?***

- Then you can additionally show in ROOKIE. Any age of horse or rider can enter this division.

# Important Information

## **WHAT IS RANCH CONFORMATION?**

Ranch Conformation is a halter class judged on your horse's structural soundness and conformational ability to perform in a working ranch setting. Unsound horses will be disqualified. This class is placed 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. Your horse does not have to be clipped and manes should not be banded or braided. The horse should be presented, cleaned and in its natural state.

## **WHAT IS RANCH SHOWMANSHIP?**

Ranch Showmanship is designed to evaluate the exhibitor's ability to execute a set of maneuvers selected by the judge while being smooth and efficient. Emphasis will be on the horse's physical condition, conformation best suited to lasting soundness in a working ranch setting, and the handler's ability to present a clean, well-trained horse. Pairs will be judged through a series of practical maneuvers from the ground one might encounter during daily work on a ranch.

## **WHAT IS RANCH TRAIL?**

Ranch Trail is a simple pattern with up to five (5) natural ranch type obstacles, transitions, and maneuvers that would normally be performed while in a working ranch situation. The horse should move naturally forward and willingly, not in a headset, as it would in a real working environment.

## **WHAT IS RANCH RIDING?**

Ranch Riding is a pattern class in which the rider and horse are judged on being natural and efficient as if they were working on a ranch. Patterns consist of transitions and maneuvers that would normally be performed while in a working ranch situation. The horse should move naturally forward and willingly, not in a headset, as it would in a real working environment.

## **WHAT IS RANCH REINING?**

Ranch reining is a modified reining pattern. Flying lead changes are only expected in Level 3 patterns. This reining pattern is most like a reined cow horse pattern. With less spins and circles than a standard NRHA pattern. Level 1 ranch reining patterns will be walk trot. Horse should perform pattern willingly and easily guided, moving forward naturally and not in a forced headset.

## **WHAT IS STOCKMANSHIP?**

Stockmanship (the cow work phase) is a simple class in which the horse and rider pair are judged on their ability to work cattle correctly and efficiently. The judge considers things like control of the cow, cow sense, eye appeal, and correctness of work. The purpose of this class is to see how well the horse and rider can work cattle by demonstrating their understanding of flight zones and balance points. The cow work required will be more difficult at each level. Please see the "Stockmanship Explained" document for additional details.

# Important Information

## **WHAT IS RANCH PLEASURE?**

Ranch Pleasure is a class designed to showcase the movement and versatility of ranch style horses. This is a fun rail class in which you get to show your Ranch horse's gaits and way of going with your fellow competitors and friends. This is NOT a pattern class. The ranch riding horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse with a natural top-line with a bright, attentive expression, as a representation of the breed and conformation of the horse. Low or false headsets or overly slow gaits will be penalized.

## **WHAT IS FLAG WORK?**

Flag work will be judged on a horse's boxing ability while working a string cow. The string cow is on a Cow Trac system with a preprogrammed routine by the judge. Exhibitors and horses then will nod to acknowledge they are ready for the flag cow to begin moving. Then will box the flag cow much like a regular cow. This event is to help prepare horses and riders for working live cattle. Exhibitors will be judged on how well horse and rider pairs work together to read the flag cow. The horse should keep up with the flag cow and not turn until the flag turns. Once the flag stops moving, the round is complete, and the rider can exit the arena.

## **APPAREL AND EQUIPMENT**

All legal western show equipment and apparel is acceptable.

Boots and hats are required. Chaps or chinks are acceptable but not required.

Equipment with silver will not count over a good working tack. Silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged. It is suggested competitors use a breast collar and a rear cinch. Hobbles or a rope are optional equipment and may be attached to the saddle.

Only one hand may be used on the reins in conjunction with a curb bit.

Romel reins must be held correctly with no fingers left between the reins.

Horses may be shown two handed in a snaffle bit or hackamore/bosal at any age.

Hands must not be changed.

A horse must be ridden in the same bridle/bit combination for all phases. Posting or standing at the extended trot is acceptable.

## **AWARDS**

Awards will be given out for each class daily, cups, towels, ribbons. Weekend Overall Champion & Reserve awards will be given to all divisions in each level. You must show in all classes in the same level/division to qualify for overall awards. Series champion awards will be silver buckles. Reserve awards tbd.

# STOCKMANSHIP

The ideal stock horse must also be able to work cows, this class demonstrates and measures the horse's ability to do cow work. The purpose of this class is to see how well the horse and rider can work cattle as a team while understanding flight zones and balance points of the cattle.

**The cow work required will be more difficult with each level:**

- **In Level 1** stockmanship this class requires only that horse and rider demonstrate control over a single cow along the short side of the arena for 60 seconds.
- **In Level 2** stockmanship this class requires that horse and rider demonstrate control over a single cow along the short side of the arena and then drive or follow it down the long side for 60 seconds. Level 2 **is not** expected to box the cow at the far end of the arena.
- **In Level 3**, the pair demonstrates their ability to control a cow by boxing on one end, driving the cow to the far end and then boxing the cow again on the far end. Time allowed is 1 minute 30 seconds.

**You will be judged on these five areas in relation to the level and division you are showing in:**

- Control of the cow - how well the pair is able to move or control the cow
- Horse cow sense - how much the horse displays a natural affinity or good ability for working cattle.
- Rider cow sense - how well the rider understands the flight zones and balance points of the cattle.
- Eye appeal - the ideal is a well matched team that enjoys working cows together
- Correctness of work - not over working the cows, horse biting cows, chasing more than needed etc.

**On the following page there is an example score sheet**



