

RANCH HORSE CUTTING RULES

This class is judged on the ability of the horse to work a cow by separating it from the herd, driving it to the middle of the arena and holding it to demonstrate the horse's ability to work the cow. A single numbered cow is cut from the herd and the horse must demonstrate its ability to work that cow.

- 1) The number of numbered cattle and non numbered cattle will be equal.
- 2) The objective will be to cut one designated cow from the herd and work the cow with the assistance of two turn back riders and two herd holders.
- 3) Cattle to be located at one end of the arena. Designated cattle will be clearly marked with numbers. Cattle numbers will be drawn after class is closed and prior to class starting.
- 4) There will be a two minute limit. There will be a one minute time notification and a buzzer for completion notification.
- 5) Each exhibitor must work two head. The rider must work the designated cow first and then any non numbered cow within the two minute time limit.
- 6) Time will start when the rider crosses a time line just prior to entering the herd.
- 7) The rider will then quietly separate his/her numbered cow from the herd.
- 8) Credit will be given to those horses who demonstrate excellence in the herd work, driving and setting up the cow to cut, working in the center of the arena and degree of difficulty of the cow drawn, within the two minute limit.

1 POINT PENALTY

- losing working advantage
- toe, foot or stirrup on the shoulder
- working out of position

3 POINT PENALTY

- cattle picked up or scattered
- spurring on the shoulder
- pawing or biting cattle
- working on back fence

5 POINT PENALTY

- quitting cow
- losing cow

O SCORE

- illegal equipment
- excessive disturbance of the herd to the point that the exhibitor is asked to leave the arena
- two hands on the reins except when exhibiting a junior horse in either a snaffle or a hackamore

SCORING: 100 percent will be judged on the horse's performance and natural ability.

- * The horse will not be penalized for being reined during the cutting portion but should display natural ability.
- * Unnecessary roughness or disturbing the herd excessively could result in a disqualification.
- * Sponsors will provide the two herd holders and two turn back riders.
- * If the number of cattle permit, the judge may, at his discretion, award new cattle, to enable for a contestant to show his horse's ability.