



Doubletree Horse Farms

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Versatility Ranch Horse

A return to tradition.

As the name implies this fun new part of our sport is for the horse that can do more and for the rider who wants to have more fun.

This event is centered on the talents of a working ranch horse. The Competition demonstrates the versatility of the ranch horse in five categories which include:

- *Trail
- *Conformation
- *Cutting
- *Pleasure Riding
- *Reining
- *Roping
- *Working Cow Horse

- **The same horse must be ridden in all shows and in the same division for points to count towards year end.**
- **Special notes:** The very first show you compete in at Doubletree will determine which division will be your starting point. Even if you have never competed before you will be placed according to your ability and your horse's ability after the first show.
- Riders may compete in more than one division as long as one division is higher than they are qualified for. Youth may compete in any division as well as their age division.
- You may enter a Junior Horse in more than just the junior class.

Divisions are as follows:

Youth 12 and under as of January 1st:

All youth who are 12 and under years of age as of January first of the year of competition. Helmets are encouraged. Lease horses will be permitted if they are in the care of the youth or its family for the year of competition. The same horse must be used for points tabulation.

Youth 13-18 as of January 1st

All youth who are 13-18 years of age as of January first of the year of competition. Helmets are encouraged. Lease horses will be permitted if they are in the care of the youth or its family for the year of competition. The same horse must be used for points tabulation.

Beginning Novice:

For riders who have not won \$100 or more at Doubletree events as of January first of year of competition. They may ride any AQHA approved bit two handed and will have simplified patterns to perform.

Novice;

For riders who have won over \$100 but not more than \$250 at Doubletree events as of January first of year of competition. They must ride one handed on senior horses and may ride two handed in a snaffle or hackamore on junior horses. Patterns will be more difficult.

Intermediate:

For riders who have won over \$250 but not more than \$500 at Doubletree events as of January first of year of competition. They must ride one handed on senior horses and may ride two handed in a snaffle or hackamore on junior horses. Patterns will be more difficult.

Advanced:

For riders who have won over \$500 at Doubletree Events. Patterns will be more difficult.

Junior Horse;

Open to any horse 5 years of age and under. Snaffle bit or Bosal and two hands or curb with one hand are the only acceptable bits. (No mechanical hackamores!) Other rules are the same as for Beginning Novice. Does not matter what division the rider is in.

Class definitions:

Ranch Trail:

This class contains a course with a minimum of six obstacles and is designed to show a horse's ability and willingness to perform several tasks that might be ask of him during the course of a normal day's ranch work. Beginning Novice and Youth will not lope). A horse will be rewarded with higher credit for performing these gates on the correct lead and with an alert attitude. Excessive slowness or speed is discouraged. Safety is always a major factor in credits given. Mandatory obstacles include opening and closing a gate; dragging a log either in a straight line or around a pattern; unbridling, bridling and picking up feet. Any other obstacles may also be encountered. Deductions will be made for refusals, break in gates, moving obstacles, or stepping around or avoiding an obstacle. Credit will be given for smoothness and transitions from one obstacle to the next. Stopping between obstacles is discouraged. The perfect pattern would have the contestant moving smoothly from one obstacle to another with no hesitations. Winner in each division will be awarded the following points: 30 points for 1st, 25 points for 2nd, 20 points for 3rd, 15 points for 4th, 10 points for 5th, 5 points for 6th

Judging Trail. Smoothness in transitions and working obstacles should get high scores. Ticking an obstacle carries no penalty but moving it should be counted as a refusal. Third refusal or step out gets a -5 for that obstacle and the contestant will be ask to move on to the next. Showing off is discouraged and penalized, but approaching with caution and correctness is encouraged. The perfect pattern would have the contestant moving smoothly from one obstacle to another with no hesitations. The gate, log drag, and ground tie, bridal, and pick up legs should be the highest scoring obstacles. Other obstacles should be of lesser value, especially when breaking ties. Place the riders by the smoothness and the ease that they do each of the obstacles. Scores from -3 to +3 for example for worst to best on each obstacle. Other infractions should be judged accordingly. Two hands on a senior horse by a novice, intermediate or advanced rider DQ. Youth and Beginning Novice shall be allowed to use two hands on any legal bit. Illegal equipment DQ. Third obstacle refused will DQ the rider. Obstacles missed or passes should carry a -5 penalty. Most courses will have and average of 8 obstacles.

Ranch Cutting:

A cow is cut from the herd and the horse must demonstrate its ability to work the cow. When satisfied that the horse has proven its cutting ability, the horse and rider must then pen the cow at the far end of the arena. Contestants will have three minutes to cut and pen the cow from the herd. Horses will not be penalized for reining during the cutting and should display the horse's natural cow ability. Two helpers may be used on the cutting part but may not assist in the penning. They may contain the herd at one end. After cutting the cow on the way to the pen the cow is supposed to pass between a marker and the fence. Time is called when the horses head enters the beginning of the pen. Penalties will be incurred for excessive roughness of the cow. Once a cow is cut in Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced no other cow may be worked. If the cow gets back to the herd 5 points will be deducted from the score. Time will be called when the cow re enters the herd for the third time and a zero will be given for the class. In Beginning Novice, Youth, or Junior Horse you may choose a new cow each time the cow gets back to the herd but time will be called if the cow is lost to the herd for the third time and a zero will be given for the class. Three minutes will be given to complete the class with a one minute warning. Riders may

be given a new cow if the judge feels that the cow will not honor the horse. In some shows a number may be given to the exhibitor and only that cow can be worked no matter what division you are in. Winner in each division will be awarded the following points: 30 points for 1st, 25 points for 2nd, 20 points for 3rd, 15 points for 4th, 10 points for 5th, and 5 points for 6th.

Youth Ranch Cutting:

A cow is cut from the herd. Drive the cow down the other end of the arena and put in the pen. Turn Back help will hold the herd. A third helper may help the Youth to cut from the herd and to help to keep the cow from re entering the herd. (The helper should help only when absolutely necessary and the judge will award points accordingly) If the cow is lost back to the herd a new cow can be selected and driven to the pen. If that second cow is lost to the herd one more cow may be chosen and taken down to the pen. If the third cow is lost to the herd time will be called and that will end the work. Do not scatter the herd! Winner in each division will be awarded the following points: 30 points for 1st, 25 points for 2nd, 20 points for 3rd, 15 points for 4th, 10 points for 5th, and 5 points for 6th.

Judging Ranch Cutting:

Each rider will have two heard helpers. Youth **may** have a third person to help them as much as they need. Judge will score Youth on how much they do for themselves and not rely on the third helper. Horses will be judged and receive a score of +3 to -3 on each of the following. entering and exiting a herd, keeping the cow separated from the herd(cutting), driving the cow to the pen and passing the cone correctly, and penning itself. Rider will be penalized for scattering the herd, and not maintaining control of the cow at all times. A penalty will be given for the cow getting back to the herd or for back fence violations. (back fence in novice, intermediate, and advanced only) Youth, Beginning Novice, and Junior Horses will have no back fence penalties. Penalties will be incurred for excessive roughness of the cow. Once a cow is cut in Novice, Intermediate and Advanced no other cow may be worked. If the cow gets back to the herd major points will be deducted from the score. Time will be called when the cow re enters the herd for the third time and a DQ will be given for the class. In Youth, Beginning Novice, and Junior Horse riders may choose a new cow each time the cow gets back to the herd but time will be called if the cow is lost to the herd for the third time and a DQ will be given for the class. Scoring should be on entering the herd and cutting out a cow smoothly with minimal disturbance of the herd. Cutting (keeping the cow from entering the herd). The degree of difficulty should be taken into account. Eye appeal. Separating from herd driving cow between marker and fence and penning. Speed is not a factor but smoothness and not loosing control of the cow should be rewarded. Score sheets are provided. Turning tail to the cow, fall to the ground by horse or rider, and illegal equipment results in a DQ for the work. Each loss of working advantage, scattering the herd, loosing a cow back to the fence, loosing a cow back to the herd, biting the cow, failure to drive cow between cone and fence, will result in a penalty. Failure to pen cow before time runs out will result in a major penalty. You should have a herd work score + cutting score + penning score = total

A judge will not award a new cow just because contestant could not control it. The cow must show that it will not work or will not honor the horse. Youth may have one additional helper to help them keep the cow from re entering the herd and to help in anyway the youth may need help to control the cow. Judges will score you according to how much the youth does on his or her own.

Ranch Riding:

Judged on the rail as a pleasure class. This class shows the horse's ability to move at a working speed with a rider. Horses will be shown at three gaits –walk, trot, and lope- in each direction of the arena. Horses also will be asked to change directions while on the rail, stop and back. A horse will be given credit for traveling with his head held in a normal position, ears alert and moving at a natural speed for the gait requested. Horses will be asked to extend the lope and the trot in at least one direction. (It should be noted that extension means just that not just going faster) Credit also will be given for making a smooth transition between the gaits, for keeping the correct lead and for maintaining the gait until the judge asks for a change. It is preferred that there not be more than 12 in the arena for each go round.

Classes will be split into divisions. Excessive speed will be penalized if considered dangerous to the other contestants by the judge. Winner in each division will be awarded the following points: 30 points for 1st, 25 points for 2nd, 20 points for 3rd, 15 points for 4th, 10 points for 5th, and 5 points for 6th

Judging Ranch Riding

Each division will compete separately. A horse and rider should look like they are enjoying the ride. Working gates and nothing excessively slow. Ears alert with no four beating lopes. Head carriage should be as close to level as possible. Horse should be on a loose rein but a big loop in the rein is discouraged. Horses will be asked to walk, trot, and lope in both directions. An extension of the trot and the lope may be asked in at least one direction. (It should be noted that extension means just that not just going faster) Horses must change directions on the rail and will be asked to stop and back. Loping on the wrong lead for more than one complete circle will be given a DQ for the class. Break of gate will be penalized accordingly. Illegal equipment gets a DQ for the class. No tie downs, Martingales, draw reins, or illegal bits. Using two hands on a senior horse in novice, intermediate, and advanced classes is a major penalty. Equipment failure will not be grounds for disqualification unless the class cannot be completed in a safe manner. More than one finger between the reins is no penalty for youth and Beginning Novice, but is a major penalty for the rest. Two hands any legal bit is permissible for Youth and Beginning Novice. Place your class first through 6th in each division. Each division will show separately. Wrong lead is a major penalty

Working Ranch Cow Horse:

This class combines the ability of the working ranch horse to rein, handle cattle and to put its rider in position to rope and stop a cow. The class is to be judged in three sections- reining, cow work, and roping- with scores from each section added together for the final score of the class. Each contestant will perform individually. A maximum of six minutes is allowed to complete the class with a two minute warning. When the six minute time limit has expired the exhibitor will be required to exit the arena. The time will be stopped at the end of the reining pattern and started again when the cow enters the arena. A new cow may be awarded by the judge if it will not honor the horse or will not work. Winner in each division will be awarded the following points: 30 points for 1st, 25 points for 2nd, 20 points for 3rd, 15 points for 4th, 10 points for 5th, and 5 points for 6th.

Reining Pattern for Youth, Beginning Novice and Junior Horse:

Walk to center of arena facing away from the judge. Lope a large circle to the right. At the center do another smaller circle stopping back in the center. Spin two turns to the right stop. Lope a large circle to the left. At the center do another smaller circle stopping back in the center. Spin two turns to the left stop. Lope to the right but do not close the circle. Continue up the left side of the arena and stop past the center marker. Back 10 feet stop to show completion.

Reining Pattern for Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced

Start at the center of the arena facing away from Judge.

Two spins right

Two spins left

Lope two circles same size and speed to the right and change leads.

Lope two circles same size and speed to the left change leads.

Lope a circle to the right but do not close the circle do a rundown down the left side of the arena. Stop and rollback.

Go back around the bottom of the arena up the Right side rundown, stop, and rollback.

Around the end of the arena back up the center of the arena, rundown past center marker stop, and back at least 10 feet.

Working the Cow:

After the exhibitor has completed his reining pattern he will call for the cow to be turned into the arena. Upon receiving the cow the contestant shall hold the cow on the prescribed end of the arena for a

sufficient amount of time to demonstrate the ability of the horse to contain the cow and drive up and down the end fence. After a reasonable amount of time the contestant shall take the cow down the fence, making at least one turn each way on the fence. The first turn should be past the center marker and the second turn may be anywhere on the fence on the same side of the arena as the first turn. Only your first two turns will be counted. Open field turns are acceptable.

Roping:

The exhibitor must then attempt to rope the cow and bring it to a stop. The horse is judged on his ability to trail, rate, and stop the cow. There is to be no dragging and the exhibitor is allowed only two throws. Ropes cannot be tied to the saddle horn. It's not necessary for the exhibitor to catch in order to receive a score. However, if there is no catch, a 3 point penalty for stopping the cow will be subtracted from the roping score and no more than a minus 1 will be awarded for the roping itself. 5 points will be subtracted if no attempt is made to rope the cow.

Judging Working Ranch Cow Horse

The class is to be judged in three sections- reining, cow work, and roping- with scores from each section added together for the final score of the class A new cow may be awarded by the judge if it will not honor the horse or will not work . A new cow should not be awarded just because the contestant can not control it.

Reined work: The horse should be willfully guided with little or no resistance. Each maneuver should be scored for correctness, smoothness, and eye appeal. Giving a score from -3 to +3. on each maneuver. Penalties are -1 for each ¼ circle trotted or in the wrong lead. -2 breaking gate. -1 for over or under spinning up to a ¼ quarter turn. A score of DQ for over or under spinning more than 1/4th of turn. DQ for adding or missing parts of the pattern (off Pattern) Judging starts at the beginning of the first maneuver and stops at the finish of the last maneuver. -2 for missing markers. -2 freeze ups in spins or rollbacks or backs. -1 exiting a role back at a jog. -2 going around the end on rundowns in the wrong lead.

Reining Patterns should be judged by their correctness and smoothness not speed. See general rules above for descriptions of patterns.

Working the Cow:

After the exhibitor has completed his reining pattern he will call for the cow to be turned into the arena. Upon receiving the cow the contestant shall control the cow on the prescribed end of the arena for a sufficient amount of time to demonstrate the ability of the horse to contain and control the cow. After a reasonable amount of time the contestant shall take the cow down the fence, making at least one turn each way on the fence. First turn should be past center marker on the fence and second turn may be anywhere. Open field turns are counted just as fence turns. You will receive scores on the following: Boxing from -3 to +3, fence work one direction -3 to +3, fence work other direction -3 to +3. If more turns are done the degree of difficulty might add to the score. In the event of extra turns in a direction the judge may score by averaging all the turns in that direction. Boxing should be smooth and no loss of the cow or working advantage. -1 for each loss of working advantage. Degree of difficulty up to +3 each occurrence. Biting cow -1 each offence. Not getting a turn each way -5. Changing sides of the arena in fence work -3. Not going by center marker for first turn -1. Going past wood fence on fence work turns -2. -1 for each length of the horse stopping past the cow in turns. Do not assess a loss of working advantage and also a penalty for each length of the horse past the cow in the same movement. Pick one or the other. A judge will not award a new cow just because contestant could not control it. The cow must show that it will not work or will not honor the horse.

Roping:

The exhibitor must then attempt to rope the cow and bring it to a stop. The horse is judged on his ability to trail, rate, and stop the cow. There is to be no dragging and the exhibitor is allowed only two throws. Ropes cannot be tied to the saddle horn. It's not necessary for the exhibitor to catch in order to receive a score. However, if there is no catch, a 3 point penalty for stopping the cow will be subtracted from the roping score and no more than a minus 1 will be awarded for the roping itself. 5 points will be

subtracted if no attempt is made to rope the cow. -3 to +3 will be awarded for each of the following: rating, roping, and dallying and stopping the cow. If time runs out you will receive a -3 for stopping and no more than a -1 can be awarded for the roping part. Rating is simply your horse's ability to put you in roping range and keeping you there until the rope is thrown.

Ranch Conformation:

The ranch conformation class will be based on balance, structural, correctness, breed and sex characteristic, and degree of muscling, with **balance being the most important**. Horses are to be shown in a good working halter (rope, nylon, braided, or plain leather). All sexes will be judged in one class. Horses will walk to the judge one at a time then trot away to a cone. At the cone the horse will continue trotting, turn to the left and trot toward the left wall or fence of the arena. Horses will line up head to tail for individual inspection by the judge. The judge shall inspect each horse from sides, front and rear. The conformation class should be held as the last class of the competition. Extra points will be awarded to horses placing in the top 3 of other classes. A first place win in another class will give an extra 10 points, 2nd 6 points, 3rd 2 points. Halter class points will be awarded 30 points for 1st, 25 points for 2nd, 20 points for 3rd, 15 points for 4th, 10 points for 5th, 5 points for 6th in each division.

Judging Ranch Conformation:

Silver halters and excessive clipping are discouraged. Hoof Polish is not allowed. Horses will be placed according to the breed standards they represent and not each other. Leg deformities or other conformational defects will weigh heavily on the placing. The horse that represents its breed standards the best will place higher. The judge will place the class 1st through 6th in each division. The contestants will also receive additional points for placing in other classes that day. The judge will only be responsible for placing the class and not assigning scores. Don't forget your numbers. Contestants will go in no particular order. Walk to the Judge then trot to the cone. Line up head to tail along the rail. Give plenty of room for inspection by the judge. Well groomed and healthy horse is delightful to score.

Judges Scoring and Penalties :

Judges will use forms provided. It is recommended that all judges make notes on the score sheets to help the exhibitors understand their scores and therefore can improve their performance in the future.

General rules:

No hoof polish, braided or banded mains, tail extensions, trimming inside of the ears is discouraged.

Trimming the bridle path, fetlocks or any excessive facial hair is allowed.

Tack should be a good western working outfit with minimal or no silver. Riders must wear western hat or approved helmet, long sleeve shirts, long pants, and boots. Chaps are encouraged but not mandatory. Follow AQHA rules where applicable. Split reins or Rommel's only no closed or roping reins allowed. All AQHA approved bits or bits approved in advanced by show management. Protective boots may be used in all classes. No martingales, mechanical hackamores, or tie downs will be allowed. Excessive silver may be penalized severely. If a contestant thinks that expensive tack or clothing will get a higher score they will be informed of the error in their judgment.

Note to Judges: Make lots of comments on your score sheets for the contestants to read. Try to encourage improvements. A person that you have given lessons to or trained a horse for or sold a horse to or for within the last six months may not participate in a show you judge. Each contestant is not competing against the other contestants, but rather an ideal that you hold in your mind. Each contestant competes against that perfect ride in your mind for their score. You must be consistent from the beginning of a class to the end in order to be fair. You must put away prejudices about horse breeds, attire, and personalities. Being a judge is a difficult job but one that if done fairly and consistently is appreciated by all that participate. If you make a mistake do not try to compensate for it in other classes or placings. Things move rather quickly so you must assign a score and move on. Don't think about it too long or you may mess up the next score too. Always be a professional. Never give away tips to a

contestant during the competition unless you do that for the whole group. Encourage contestants and praise is always good. You are allowed to announce to the whole group before a class starts what you are looking for or what you do or do not allow. You may also ask if there are any questions before the class starts. Discussing the contestant's scores after the entire event is over is permissible and encouraged. **Check your score sheets before signing!**

Judge's decision is final!