



## 2023 NILE Gold Buckle Ranch Horse Futurity RULES

The Gold Buckle Ranch Horse Futurity represents the versatility, performance, structural soundness, and willing attitude of ranch horses produced by our region’s top breeders representing the Appaloosa, Paint, and Quarter Horse breeds. The ideal ranch horse can perform both in and out of the arena. A well-broke ranch horse is relaxed, responsive, and well-mannered. They travel with deliberate forward motion and cope easily with any situation encountered during everyday ranch work. As a ranch horse progresses through training, they gain the ability to use their natural cow-sense and become a cowboy’s ultimate partner for getting the job done!

### ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible to compete in any NILE Gold Buckle Ranch Horse Futurity class, horses must meet the following requirements:

- Pay all required entry fees before entry deadline.
- Submit proper entry form to the NILE office before entry deadline.
- Be the proper age for the class entered.
- Meet necessary purchase or nomination requirements.
  - Consigned to or Purchased through the NILE Gold Buckle Select Horse Sale.
    - Eligibility begins after the horse has been accepted to the sale. Meaning horses can compete the same year they are consigned to the sale. But if for any reason the horse does not go through the sale ring their eligibility will be invalidated and placings will be disqualified, and winnings revoked.
    - Horses bought back by the consignor through the sale ring are considered eligible.
    - Horses must go through the sale ring, meaning horses accepted into the sale but scratched do not meet the eligibility rules.
  - Be sired by a NILE Nominated Stallion (nomination must be current).
    - The nominated stallion is also eligible to compete in his age-appropriate class.

### SHOW FORMAT:

Weanling class will show in conformation only. Yearling class will show in both conformation and round pen, combined score. Two-Year-Old class will show a pattern including trail and reining maneuvers. Three-Year-Old, Four-Year-Old, and Five & Up classes will show in a working cow horse pattern (combined score reining and cow work). Ranch Trail classes will complete a trail pattern.

### ENTRY FEES:

An office fee of \$15 will be deducted from each entry. Cattle fees will be deducted from each entry in a cow work class (3, 4, 5 & up). A partial refund may be considered if a horse or rider becomes severely injured, disabled, or deceased prior to the start of the show. Documentation on official letterhead from a licensed veterinarian stating the severity of the injury or illness is required. Office fees, late fees (increases to entry fees), and cattle fees are not refundable.

**Entry Deadline October 12, 2023.**

Entry fees will be as follows:	Weanling/Yearling/2-YR-OLD <i>ELIGIBILITY: PURCHASED THROUGH NILE HORSE SALE</i>	Weanling/Yearling /2-YR-OLD <i>ELIGIBILITY: SIRE BY NOMINATED STALLION</i>	3, 4, 5 & UP <i>(cattle charge included)</i>
<b>DISCOUNTED ENTRY Paid at 2022 Sale</b>	\$100	\$200*	\$150
<b>October 24 - April 1, 2023</b>	\$130	\$230*	\$180
<b>April 2 - August 1, 2023*</b>	\$150	\$250*	\$200
<b>August 2 - October 1, 2023*</b>	\$175	\$275*	\$225
<b>October 2 - October 12, 2023*</b>	\$250	\$350*	\$300

\*Increased entry fees are considered late fees and will not be included in purse calculation.

**Ranch Trail:** \$50 entry fee. Ranch Trail will be offered as a standalone class for horses already entered in their age-appropriate futurity class. 50% of entry fee will be paid out as a jackpot.

### PURSE BREAKDOWN:

Purse paid is based on the number of horses that compete the day of the show.

# of Horses Shown	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 or more
# of Places Paid								
1	100%	60%	50%	40%	30%	30%	28%	28%
2	-----	40%	30%	30%	25%	24%	23%	23%
3	-----	-----	20%	20%	20%	18%	17%	16%
4	-----	-----	-----	10%	15%	12%	11%	10%
5	-----	-----	-----	-----	10%	9%	9%	8%
6	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	7%	7%	6%
7	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	5%	5%
8	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	4%

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#### **ADDED MONEY:**

Added money to the Gold Buckle Ranch Horse Futurity Purse will come from both NILE sponsors and NILE Stallion Nomination fees. A minimum of \$500 will be added to each futurity class, excluding ranch trail classes.

#### **PURSE SPLIT:**

The purse will be split 85/15, with 85% being paid to the owner of the horse at the time of the futurity. The remainder of the purse (15%) will be paid to the individual or organization that has made the horse eligible. If the horse is eligible because it was consigned to the NILE Gold Buckle Select Horse Sale, then the consignor will be paid. If the horse is eligible because it was sired by a nominated stallion, then the stallion owner will receive the winnings. Eligibility will be determined first, by the horse being consigned to the sale, and second, by the horse being sired by a nominated stallion. Eligibility will remain with the horse regardless of changes in ownership after entry.

#### **NOMINATED STALLIONS:**

The nominated stallion and his progeny are eligible to enter their age-appropriate futurity class. Nomination form and fee are required. Nomination is good for one year and stallions must be nominated each year eligibility is desired. Eligibility will remain regardless of changes in ownership after entry or nomination.

#### **RULES FOR ALL CLASSES:**

Riders and/or handlers will show in western attire (See AQHA SHW320.1).

All horses will be shown in western stock saddle (See AQHA SHW305.8).

All horses will be shown in legal bits and head gear as outlined in AQHA rule book (2022 edition, pages 4-5 and SHW556.7-12).

All horses in Ranch Conformation will be shown in a good working halter: rope, braided, nylon or plain leather. Horses may not be shown with a lip cord or safety lead; however, a chain may be used under the chin or over the nose.

No braided tails or tail extensions will be allowed. The mane may be banded or braided.

Lame or unsound horses will be severely penalized or may be dismissed by the judge.

#### **WEANLING FUTURITY:**

Open to any horse born in 2023 that has been sired by a nominated stallion. The class will be judged on Ranch Conformation. Stallions, mares, and geldings will compete together. The purpose of Ranch Conformation is to select the individual that presents the most positive combination of balance, structural correctness, and movement with appropriate breed and sex characteristics and adequate muscling.

#### **YEARLING FUTURITY:**

Open to any horse born in 2022 that has met eligibility rules. The class will be judged in two parts: ranch conformation followed by round pen. Scores for the two portions will be added together for the final score (score sheet provided by NILE). Stallions, mares, and geldings will compete together.

- The conformation portion will be judged on Ranch Conformation. The purpose of Ranch Conformation is to select the individual that presents the most positive combination of balance, structural correctness, and movement with appropriate breed and sex characteristics and adequate muscling. Points will be awarded to each horse based on their placing in the halter portion. For example, in a class with 14 horses first place will be awarded 14 points, second place will be awarded 13 points, etc.
- The round pen portion will be judged on movement, training, and manners. Horses must complete at least one circle each direction at the walk, jog, and lope. The lead line must be removed after entering round pen. Halter may be left on or removed. Lunge whips are optional. Only traditional lunge whips are allowed. The following are NOT allowed: flags, carrot sticks, trainers stick, halter whips, whips, or crops. Horses shall be marked down for excessive play in the round pen. Time starts when the gate closes. There will be a 2-minute time limit to complete round pen work with a warning given at one minute remaining.

#### **TWO-YEAR-OLD FUTURITY:**

Open to any horse born in 2021 that has met eligibility rules. Horses will be shown in a pattern class with reining and trail maneuvers, including but not limited to trot over poles, bridge, gate, pick-up and carry a slicker, load in trailer, log drag, and lope both directions. Pattern will be determined by NILE officials and posted prior to show day.

#### **THREE-YEAR-OLD FUTURITY:**

Open to any horse born in 2020 that has met eligibility rules. The class will be judged in two parts: reining followed by cow work. Scores for the two portions will be added together for the final score with emphasis on the cow work portion (score sheets provided by NILE). Horses will show first in a reining pattern (pattern selected by NILE officials). At completion of reining pattern, the rider will hesitate and call for a cow. Cow work will follow AQHA rules (SHW564.1) **BOX-DRIVE-BOX-DRIVE**. Horses will work individually boxing a cow at the end of the arena, driving the cow down the fence, boxing the cow at the opposite end of the arena, and then driving the cow back down the fence past the middle of the arena. 1 minute and 45 second time limit to complete cow work with warning given when 50 seconds remain. Pattern will be selected by NILE Officials and posted prior to show day.

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**FOUR-YEAR-OLD FUTURITY:**

Open to any horse born in 2019 that has met eligibility rules. The class will be judged in two parts: reining followed by cow work. Scores for the two portions will be added together for the final score with emphasis on the cow work portion (score sheets provided by NILE). Horses will show first in a reining pattern (pattern selected by NILE officials). At completion of reining pattern, the rider will hesitate and call for a cow. Cow work will follow AQHA rules (SHW563.2) **BOX – FENCE – ROPE/CIRCLE**. Horses will work individually boxing a cow at the end of the arena, taking the cow down the fence, making at least one turn each direction on the fence, and then EITHER circle the cow in each direction OR rope and stop the cow (cannot do both). 3-minute time limit to complete cow work with warning given when 1-minute remains. Pattern will be selected by NILE Officials and posted prior to show day.

**FIVE-YEAR-OLD & UP FUTURITY:**

Open to any horse born in 2018 or earlier that has met eligibility rules. The class will be judged in two parts: reining followed by cow work. Scores for the two portions will be added together for the final score with emphasis on the cow work portion (score sheets provided by NILE). Horses will show first in a reining pattern (pattern selected by NILE officials). At completion of reining pattern, the rider will hesitate and call for a cow. Cow work will follow AQHA rules (SHW563.2) **BOX – FENCE – ROPE/CIRCLE**. Horses will work individually boxing a cow at the end of the arena, then taking the cow down the fence and making at least one turn each way on the fence, and then EITHER circle the cow in each direction OR rope and stop the cow (cannot do both). 3-minute time limit to complete cow work with warning given when 1-minute remains. Pattern will be selected by NILE Officials and posted prior to show day.

**RANCH TRAIL:**

Open to any horse entered in their age-appropriate Futurity class. Ranch Trail classes will be divided by age. Trail course will include no less than six and no more than nine obstacles. Patterns will be designed with age-appropriate maneuvers. See AQHA rules (SHW561.6 – SHW561.8) for prohibited and mandatory obstacles as well as obstacle examples. Patterns will be determined by NILE Officials and posted prior to show day.

**Location:**

Metra Park – Billings, Montana  
Futurity – First Interstate Arena  
Ranch Trail – Super Barn

**Judges:**

Futurity Judge: *TBD*  
Trail Judge: *TBD*

**Show Secretary:**

*TBD*

**Show Manager:**

Bonnie DeVerniero (406) 694-5234

**Stall Manager:**

Chris Hanson (406) 698-6637

**Announcer:**

Bryce Glen

**Schedule:**

8 a.m. Thursday, October 19, 2023

Futurity Class order will be as follows:

- ✓ 5-year-old & Up
- ✓ 4-year-old
- ✓ 3-year-old
- ✓ 2-year-old
- ✓ Yearling

Ranch Trail course will be open from 9 a.m. to Noon in the Super Barn. Exhibitors will complete their pattern at any time while the course is open.

**Patterns:** (viewable at [www.thenile.org](http://www.thenile.org))

**Stalling:**

Stalls may be purchased for day use or overnight use and will be filled first come first serve. Indoor Stall Barn \$45 per night. Outdoor covered stalls \$35 per night. If you have special requests (ex: you want to be next to someone) make a note on the entry form. Hay and shavings are available for purchase, or you may bring your own.

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