



NILE Ranching Heritage Challenge & Versatility Ranch Horse SHOW RULES

EXPLANATION OF DIVISIONS

- **All Breed Open** - For any exhibitor of any age, with any horse of any breed regardless of ownership. Will show Ranch Cow Work (fence).
- **All Breed Limited Open (Non-Pro)** - For any exhibitor over the age of 18, that has not shown, judged, trained, or assisted in training a horse for remuneration, monetary or otherwise, either directly or indirectly, nor received remuneration for instructing another person in riding, training, or showing a horse for three calendar years previous. For any horse of any breed regardless of ownership. Will show Limited Ranch Cow Work pattern (box-drive-box-drive).
- **All Breed Youth** - For any exhibitor 18-years-old or younger, with any horse of any breed regardless of ownership. Will show Ranch Cow Work pattern (fence).
- **All Breed Limited Youth** - For any exhibitor 18-years-old or younger, with any horse of any breed regardless of ownership. Will show Limited Ranch Cow Work pattern (box-drive-box-drive).
- **All Breed Rookie Youth** - For any exhibitor 18-years-old or younger, with any horse of any breed regardless of ownership, who has never shown in a fence work class. Will show Rookie Ranch Cow Work pattern (boxing).
- **AQHA Open (AQHA SHW552)** - For any exhibitor with any horse regardless of ownership. Both the owner and the exhibitor must be members of AQHA in good standing. Allowed to show up to three (3) junior horses and three (3) senior horses in each class.
 - Junior horses are 5 years old and younger. (SHW112.6). Senior horses are 6 years old and older. (SHW112.7)
- **AQHA Limited Open (Ranching Heritage ONLY)** – For any exhibitor with 25 or fewer AQHA or APHA points in open reining, cutting, or working cow horse within the previous 10 years and less than \$15,000 lifetime earnings in any of the following: NRHCA, NCHA, NRHA, ACHA, RHAA, ASHA, NRSHA, or SHTX, including earnings reported by Q Data, Equistat and other verifiable resources.
- **AQHA Cowboy** - For working ranch cowboys who are full-time employees of a working ranch. The horse must be owned by a family member or the full-time employee of the ranch. Employees must have been employed for a minimum of 90 days prior to competing in the Ranching Heritage Challenge.
- **AQHA Amateur** - For any exhibitor meeting AQHA Amateur eligibility and ownership requirements and holding a current AQHA Amateur card. Exhibitor must be 19 years of age or older on or before January 1 of the current year and no longer eligible to compete in AQHA Youth classes. Exhibitor must have not shown, judged, trained, or assisted in training a horse (whether or not a registered American Quarter Horse) for remuneration, monetary or otherwise, either directly or indirectly, nor received remuneration for instructing another person in riding, driving, training or showing a horse for three calendar years previous to application for amateur membership (see AQHA Rule SHW225 for details). Any horse exhibited in the amateur division must be solely owned by the contestant showing the horse or the contestant's immediate family (see AQHA Rule SHW220 for details).
- **AQHA Youth** - For any AQHYA member in good standing. Every person competing in a youth class at any AQHA-approved show must hold a youth membership and be 18 years of age or younger on or before January 1 of the current year. Any horse exhibited in the youth division must be solely owned by the contestant showing the horse or the contestant's immediate family (see AQHA Rule SHW220).
- **AQHA Limited (Amateur and Youth)** – Eligibility for the limited amateur and limited youth division is not restricted, except that exhibitor must meet youth and amateur membership requirements. There is no cap on points or money earned by either horse or exhibitor.
- **AQHA Rookie (Amateur and Youth)** - Rookie eligibility is based on lifetime achievement of exhibitor and horse. For a horse and exhibitor to be eligible in a rookie level class, the exhibitor must have earned no more than ten (10) lifetime points in any breed association (including but not limited to AQHA, APHA, AQHA VRH All Around); or \$500 in a national organization (including but not limited to NCHA, NRCHA, NRHA, RHAA, NRSHA, NSBA) in any western performance discipline western pleasure, working cow horse and boxing, western riding, reining, cutting, trail, ranch riding, ranch trail, western horsemanship, working western rail, VRH ranch riding, VRH ranch trail, VRH ranch reining, VRH ranch cow work, and VRH ranch cutting. (see AQHA Rule SHW552.4).
- **AQHA Level 1 (Ranching Heritage ONLY)** – For exhibitors meeting Level 1 eligibility requirements. (see AQHA Rule SHW559.2)

CLASS PARTICIPATION RULES (AQHA SHW556)

- See AQHA SHW305 for details on legal bits and requirements for horses of a certain age.
- No horses less than 3 years of age may be exhibited.
- No hoof polish.
- No braided or banded manes/tails or tail extensions, except in any VRH class where roping is involved, the horse's mane may be braided for a distance of 12"-16" in front of the saddle pad. No ribbons or other kind of ornamentation will be allowed.
- Trimming inside ears is discouraged.
- Trimming bridle path is allowed, also trimming of fetlocks or excessive (long) facial hair.
- Equipment with excessive silver should not count over a good working outfit. Excessive silver is discouraged.
- Holding the saddle horn with either hand will not be penalized in any class.
- Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.
- Romal reins are allowed and a get down rope may be used (SHW556.10). When ground-tying with split reins, one or both reins may be dropped, romal reins may be loosely draped over the horse when used with or without a get-down rope. Hobbles are allowed.
- The use of two-rein equipment is allowed in working cow horse, boxing, and ranch riding, but for one year only.

GENERAL RULES

- Accuracy of eligibility is the responsibility of the exhibitor.
- Cattle Class Entry Fees must be paid by October 1st. **CATTLE FEES ARE NOT REFUNDABLE AFTER OCTOBER 1 FOR ANY REASON.**
- Late Entry Fee applies to new entries received after October 1st. Absolutely NO LATE ENTRIES into any cattle work classes. Non-cattle classes may be added to an existing entry after October 1st without late fee. Additional classes must be added a minimum of five classes before the desired class is called to the arena.
- All-Breed divisions will follow AQHA rules.
- Exhibitors cannot cross-enter subdivisions within Amateur or Youth divisions.
- Youth and Rookie Divisions cannot show stallions (AQHA SHW114.5, SWH552.4).
- Cowboy, Amateur, and Youth exhibitors are allowed to show up to three (3) horses in each class (AQHA SHW552.2). Open exhibitors may show up to four (4) Junior horses and four (4) Senior horses in each class (AQHA SHW552.1).
- AQHA classes require active membership for both the exhibitor and horse owner.
- There will be NO ROUGHING OF THE CATTLE. Contestants that run a cow into the fence intentionally will be disqualified.

EXPLANATION OF CLASSES – see AQHA Rule Book

- Ranch Cutting (AQHA SHW566)
- Ranch Riding (AQHA SHW560 & **SHW416)
- RHC Team Roping (AQHA SHW568)
- RHC Barrel Racing (AQHA SHW559.6 & SHW700)
- RHC Breakaway Roping (AQHA SHW559.9 & SHW528)
- RHC Steer Stopping (AQHA SHW569)
- Ranch Reining (AQHA SHW562)
- Ranch Cow Work & RHC Working Ranch Horse (Fence) (AQHA SHW563)
- Limited Ranch Cow Work & RHC Limited Working Ranch Horse (Box-Drive-Box-Drive) (AQHA SHW564)
- Rookie Ranch Cow Work & RHC Rookie Working Ranch Horse (Boxing) (AQHA SHW565 & SHW 559.3.3)
- Ranch Trail (AQHA SHW561 & **SHW420)
- Ranch Conformation (AQHA SHW567)

All-Around placings will be calculated following AQHA SHW555 rule. All-Breed will follow AQHA rules.

- Based on a one horse/one rider combination with exception to ranch conformation for exhibitors with multiple horses.
- Must compete in at least one class in each of the following three class categories:
 - **Category I:** Ranch Conformation
 - **Category II:** Ranch Riding, Ranch Reining, Ranch Trail
 - **Category III:** Ranch Cutting, Ranch Cow Work

REFUND POLICY: A full refund will only be given if requested prior to the entry deadline of October 1st. After entry deadline a partial refund may be considered if a horse becomes severely injured, disabled, or deceased prior to the start of competition. Documentation, on official letterhead, from a licensed veterinarian stating the severity of the debilitating injury or illness is required. Admin, obstacle, stall, and entry fees may be refunded; however, office and cattle charges will not be refunded after entry deadline of October 1st. Stall and RV fees are only refundable after October 12 if a vet letter is received.

RHC PAYOUT: Jackpot, added money, and purse payout will follow AQHA Ranching Heritage standards.

VRH PAYOUT: Jackpot payout will include \$20 from each entry, excluding youth divisions. Possibility of added money depending on sponsorships. VRH Payout will be based on the number of horses shown in each class and will be paid as follows:

# 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%

Show Schedule:

****SHOW LOCATION: Miller’s Horse Palace****

Sunday, October 15th

Exhibitor Check-In: Show Office open 1 PM – 6 PM

Exhibitor Clinic with AQHA Judge & Professional Horseman Marilyn Randall, 2 PM – 4 PM

No charge to attend (*do not bring your horse*) - Sponsored by Eastern Montana Appaloosa Horse Club

Barn Party following clinic – drinks, snacks, music, and games – COME HANG OUT & HAVE SOME FUN!!

Monday, October 16th

Show Start Time 7:00 AM – Ranching Cutting, Ranch Riding, followed by RHC Team Roping, Breakaway, and Steer Stopping

Tuesday, October 17th

Exhibitor Breakfast – 6:30 - 8:30 AM – Sponsored by Friez Insurance Agency, Inc.

Show Start Time 7:00 AM – AQHA Ranching Heritage Working Ranch Horse classes followed by Versatility Ranch Cow Work and Ranch Reining (**VRH Reining and VRH Cow Work will NOT be held concurrently**)

Wednesday, October 18th

Show Start Time 7:00 AM – Ranch Trail and Ranch Conformation



NILE HORSE DEPARTMENT

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