

RANCH CUTTING

SHW334 GAITS - RANCH CLASSES. In all gaits, movement of the ranch riding horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse. The following terminology shall apply:

SHW559. RANCHING HERITAGE CHALLENGES. Challenges are open to any horse bred by an AQHA Ranching Heritage Breeder. Anyone can own and show these eligible and fully enrolled horses in the Challenges. The Challenges offer multiple divisions for various ages and skill levels for both horse and rider. Classes include working ranch horse, **ranch cutting**, ranch riding, team roping and barrel racing.

SHW559.2. APPROVAL. Ranching Heritage Challenges may be held as stand-alone events or in conjunction with a Versatility Ranch show. There will be an approval fee of \$100 per event. The shows may consist of six different classes: Working Ranch Horse, Limited Working Ranch Horse (Box-Drive-Box-Drive; amateur and youth only), **Ranch Cutting**, Ranch Riding, Team Roping and Barrel Racing.

SHW565. VRH and RHC RANCH CUTTING. This class is judged on the ability of the horse to work a cow by separating it from the herd and holding it to demonstrate the horse's ability to work the cow. A single cow is cut from the herd and the horse must demonstrate its ability to work the cow. The ideal VRH Ranch cutting horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.

SHW565.1 Objective will be to cut two cows from the herd and work the cow(s) with the assistance of two turn-back riders and two herd holders. Show management may supply two herd holders and two turn back riders, or exhibitors may supply their own helpers. If an exhibitor is a herd holder or turn back rider, he or she may use the horse that they are competing on or use a different horse. Herd holders' and turn back riders' horses should be American Quarter Horses.

SHW565.2 In all divisions, there will be a two-minute time limit. The announcer/timekeeper will give a warning when one minute of the two-minute working time has expired. Each exhibitor must work two head and has the option of ending their run before the two-minute limit or working the full two minutes. For international countries show management has the option of allowing exhibitors to work the two head or there may be a one and one half time limit and work only one head.

SHW565.3 Time will begin when a rider crosses a time line just prior to entering the herd. Time should not start until contestant crosses a pre-determined and marked timeline. The rider will then quietly separate his/her cow from the herd.

SHW565.4 Unnecessary roughness or disturbing the herd excessively could result in disqualification.

SHW565.5 Ultimate credit will be given to horses demonstrating excellence in the herd work by committing to, driving, setting up and working a cow in the center of the arena with minimal disturbance to the herd.

SHW565.6 Exhibitors will not be penalized for reining during the cutting portion, but should display natural ability.

SHW565.7 Scoring. 100 percent will be judged by the horse's performance and natural ability.

SHW565.8 Penalties should be assessed as follows:

- One point: over-bridled (per maneuver), out of frame (per maneuver), losing working advantage; toe, foot, or stirrup on the shoulder; working out of position
- Three (3) points: cattle picked up or scattered; spurring on shoulder; pawing or biting cattle; back fence; hot quit
- Five (5) points: horse quitting cow; losing cow; changing cattle after a specific commitment; failure to separate a single animal after leaving the herd; blatant disobedience
- Ten (10) points: unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver)
- Off Pattern (OP): turn tail; failure to cut two cows; repeated blatant disobedience; use of two hands (except junior and Level 1 horses shown in a snaffle bit/ hackamore), more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two-rein)
- Disqualification (DQ): lameness; abuse; disrespect or misconduct; illegal equipment; excessive disturbance of herd to the point that exhibitor is asked to leave the arena; leaving arena before run is complete, fall of horse/rider; improper western attire.