

RANCH RIDING

The purpose of the Ranch Riding class is to measure the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from performing one ranch task to another. The horse should reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of a working ranch horse riding outside the confines of an arena. The horse should be well-trained, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The ideal ranch horse will travel with forward movement and demonstrate an obvious lengthening of stride at extended gaits. The horse can be ridden with light contact or on a relatively loose rein without requiring undue restraint, but not shown on a full drape of rein. The overall manners and responsiveness of the ranch riding horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of movement are of primary considerations. The ideal Ranch horse should have a natural head carriage at each gait.



CUTTING

Cutting horses are athletic, with a lot of “cow sense.” **They boldly enter a herd of cows to cut one (separating one from the rest of the herd) and do movements to keep the cow from returning to the herd for a set number of seconds.** This class is based on actual ranch work.

POLE BENDING

Pole bending is an exciting timed event that tests a horse’s speed and agility as horse and rider weave through a course of six poles spaced 21 feet apart. The team navigates the poles twice, circling the end poles before sprinting to the finish line. Precision is critical, as knocking down a pole results in a five-second penalty.

