

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2021	12/4/2020	Approved 6/28/2021

Rule Change Intent

The addition of Ranch Horse Riding has proven to be very popular in the Arabian industry. The Ranch Horse grouping of classes has become very popular in the working western industry as a whole among the other breeds and there is a great interest for expansion of this division in the Arabian breed. It is in the best interest of our breed and the AHA to facilitate classes that increase participation and marketability of Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian horses. AHA is proposing to add a new section AR224 Ranch Cutting which will be located under AR-26 Subchapter and the remaining Subsections be renumbered accordingly.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
AHA	Nicole Zerbee nzerbee@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions
Arabian

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 04/14/2021

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 04/26/2021

AR227 Ranch Cutting

1. GENERAL INFORMATION: *This class is judged on the ability of the horse to work a cow by separating it from the herd and holding it. A single cow is cut from the herd and the horse must demonstrate its ability to work the cow. A Ranch Cutting horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver. The objective will be to cut one or two cows, based on the division, from the herd and work the cow(s) with the assistance of two turn-back riders and two herd holders.*

2. CONDUCT:

- a.** *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.*
- b.** *Herd holders' and turn back riders' horses should be Arabian or Half-Arabian horses.*
- c.** *For Open and Amateur division competition there will be a two-minute time limit. 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.*
- d.** *For youth competition, there will be a one and one-half minute time limit. Each exhibitor may work one or two cows and has the option of ending their run before the one and one-half minute time limit or working the full one and one-half minutes. Working two cows does not assure extra credit to the run.*
- e.** *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 separate quietly his/her cow from the herd.*
- f.** *Unnecessary roughness or disturbing the herd excessively could result in disqualification.*

3. CREDITS AND PENALTIES: *Ultimate credit will be given to the 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. The horse will be judged on its performance and natural ability. Horses will not be penalized for reining during the cutting portion, but should display natural ability.*

Penalties should be assessed as follows:

- a.** *1 Point Penalties: Over-bridled (per maneuver); Out of frame (per maneuver); Losing working advantage; Toe, foot, or stirrup on the shoulder; Working out of position.*
- b.** *3 Point Penalties: Cattle picked up or scattered; Spurring on shoulder; Pawing or biting cattle; Back fence; Hot quit.*
- c.** *5 Point Penalties: Horse quitting cow; Losing cow; Changing cattle after a specific commitment; Failure to separate a single animal after leaving the herd; Blatant disobedience; Use of two hands (per cow) except for junior horses 5 years and under wearing a snaffle bit or hackamore; More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (per cow).*
- d.** *10 point Penalties: Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obviously and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver); Turn tail; Failure to cut two cows in Amateur or Open division.*
- e.** *Zero Score: Repeated blatant disobedience.*
- f.** *No Score: Lameness; Abuse; Prohibited equipment; Disrespect or misconduct; Improper western attire; Fall of horse and/or rider; Excessive disturbance of herd to the point that exhibitor is asked to leave the arena.*

GR1124 Arabian and Half/Anglo Arabian Divisions {11-F AWARD SECTIONS}

6. Award Categories. National and Regional awards will be awarded in the following categories: Working Western Horse—includes Trail, In-Hand Trail, Reining, Working Cowhorse, Cutting and Western Riding, **all** Ranch **classes** Horse Riding, one award category;

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AHA	Nicole Zerbee nzerbee@usef.org

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AR228 Versatility Ranch Riding

1. General Information:

- a. A superior ranch riding horse has a free-flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with his conformation and covering a reasonable amount of ground as if he was going across the pasture to do a task on the ranch in a timely fashion.**
- b. Ideally, the horse should have a balanced, flowing motion, while exhibiting correct gaits with proper cadence and rhythm reflecting the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working ranch horse riding outside the confines of an arena. The ideal ranch horse will travel with forward movement and demonstrate an obvious lengthening of stride at extended gaits.**
- c. 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 reins.**
- d. The overall manners and responsiveness of the Versatility Ranch Riding horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement and consistency of the gaits are of major consideration.**
- e. The ideal Versatility Ranch Riding horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.**

2. CONDUCT: *Horses will be shown individually at three gaits; walk, trot and lope in each direction of the arena. Horses will also be asked to reverse, stop and back. The selected pattern must ask for an extended trot and extended lope at least one direction of the ring. The pattern may be started either to the right or left direction. Show management has the option to set markers to designate gait changes. The pattern may be set outside or inside an arena. If the class is held inside an arena, the course shall be set up to make approximately one pass of the arena in each direction. One of the suggested patterns for Versatility Ranch Riding may be used from the current AQHA Handbook in the Versatility Ranch Horse (VRH) section or on the AHA website. The judge may utilize a different pattern as long as all required gaits and maneuvers are included.*

3. CREDITS AND PENALTIES: *Part of the evaluation of this class is on smoothness of transitions. A horse may be collected from the extended trot as the horse moves into the lope. The transition from the extended lope down to the trot is a transition to the seated trot not the extended trot. Therefore, an extra cue to achieve this gait is expected. Horses that complete this total transition within three strides calmly and obediently should be rewarded. Horses that attempt to stop or do stop prior to trotting will be penalized. Judges expect to see horses that have been trained to respond to cues. To see these cues applied discretely and the horse responding correctly could be a credit-earning situation. Penalties will be assessed as follows:*

- a. One Point Penalties:** *Over-bridled (per maneuver); Out of frame (per maneuver); Too slow; Gaping mouth; Break of gait at walk or trot for two (2) strides or less.*
- b. Three Point Penalties:** *Wrong lead or out of lead; Draped reins; Break of gait at lope; Break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides.*
- c. Five Point Penalties:** *Spurring in front of cinch; Blatant disobedience; Use of either hand to instill fear/praise; Use of two hands per maneuver; 1st or 2nd cumulative refusal; More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins per maneuver.*
- d. Ten Point Penalties:** *Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obviously and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver) breaking pattern; Leaving working area before pattern is complete; Repeated disobedience.*
- e. No Score:** *Lameness; Abuse, Prohibited equipment; Disrespect or misconduct; Improper western attire; Fall of horse/rider.*

4. No horse may cross enter Western Pleasure and Versatility Ranch Riding at the same show regardless of the section (Open, Amateur or Youth). However, horses may cross-enter Versatility Ranch Riding and Ranch Horse Riding.

GR1124 Arabian and Half/Anglo Arabian Divisions {11-F AWARD SECTIONS}

6. Award Categories. National and Regional awards will be awarded in the following categories: Working Western Horse—includes Trail, In-Hand Trail, Reining, Working Cowhorse, Cutting and Western Riding, **all Ranch classes** Horse Riding, one award category;

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Proponent Details	Contact Information
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Linked Rules	Comments
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AR229 Ranch Horse Conformation

1. GENERAL INFORMATION: *The purpose of Arabian Ranch Horse Conformation is to preserve Arabian type and conformation best suited to the function of a natural ranch horse. Selection is based upon well-mannered individuals in the order of their resemblance to the breed ideal that possess the most positive combination of balance, structural correctness, and movement. Individuals should possess appropriate breed and sex characteristics with adequate muscling. The ideal Arabian ranch horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail.*

2. CONDUCT: *To be eligible to compete in the ranch horse conformation class the horse must be entered, shown, and judged in at least one riding class in the Ranch division at that show. Horses must be at least 3 years of age. Horses in each division may be shown together as one class or divided into Purebred, Half-Arabian, Stallions, Mares, Geldings, Open, Amateur, Youth, or in any combination deemed appropriate by show management. All stallions shall be examined to confirm that they have two visible testicles. All stallions and mares shall be examined for over-shot and under-shot mouth. If examination reveals that a horse is a cryptorchid or has an over-/under-shot mouth, the judge shall not use such horse in the final placings of the class.*

3. APPOINTMENTS: *Horses are to be shown in a good working halter: rope, braided, nylon or plain leather. Any horse shown in the ranch horse conformation class may not be shown with a lip cord/chain, however a lead shank with an attached chain may be used under the chin.*

a. No whips, nor any other attention getting devices (i.e. treats, candy) are permitted.

b. For rules regarding correct western attire refer to AR144.3.

4. CLASS SPECIFICATIONS:

a. Each horse enters the arena and walks towards the judge. As the horse approaches, the judge will step to the right to enable the horse to trot straight to a cone placed 50 feet away. At the cone, the horse will continue trotting, turn to the left and trot toward the left wall or fence of the arena. After trotting, horses will be lined up head to tail for individual inspection by the judge. No hard stand-up is permitted. The judge(s) shall inspect each horse from both sides, front and rear and place the horses in order of preference.

b. Exhibitors may qualify and show more than one horse in ranch horse conformation classes. Once a horse has entered the arena and been trotted for the judge, a designated handler may hold the horse in line-up while that exhibitor shows additional horses.

c. Any person designated as a handler must also be an exhibitor at same show.

d. Back tag with horse's entry number remains with the horse.

e. In order to earn the title of Arabian (or Half-Arabian) All-Around Ranch Horse a horse must show in a Ranch Horse Conformation class.

GR1124 Arabian and Half/Anglo Arabian Divisions {11-F AWARD SECTIONS}

6. Award Categories. National and Regional awards will be awarded in the following categories: Working Western Horse—includes Trail, In-Hand Trail, Reining, Working Cowhorse, Cutting and Western Riding, **all** Ranch **classes**

Horse Riding, one award category;

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Proponent Details

AHA

Contact Information

Nicole Zerbee

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Linked Rules

Comments

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AR230 Ranch Working Cow

1. GENERAL INFORMATION.

- a. The ideal Ranch horse must also be a cow horse and this class demonstrates and measures the horse's ability to do cow work. In addition, the ideal ranch cow horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver. Holding the saddle horn is permitted.*
- b. There is a time limit per horse/rider team to perform the work and the time begins when the cow is turned into the arena. If the time has not elapsed and the judge is satisfied that all requirements of the class have been met, the judge should blow the whistle for the exhibitor to cease work.*
- c. The judge may blow a whistle at any time for the exhibitor to cease work for safety reasons.*
- d. Judges will give credit for what they have seen.*
- e. Only the judge may award a new cow to a contestant to replace a cow that will not honor a horse. If the judge awards a new cow, the exhibitor has the option to refuse the new cow by continuing to work. If the exhibitor accepts the new cow, the time for working the cow will start over. If the exhibitor intends to accept the new cow, the exhibitor must pull up immediately.*
- f. When multiple judges are scoring, any one of the judges may terminate the work or signal for a new cow.*

2. CONDUCT. Exhibitors in the open, amateur and youth divisions are allotted three minutes to complete the work. When there is one minute left, the announcer will announce, one minute remaining. At three minutes, the announcer will call for time. There are three parts to the class: boxing, fence work and roping or circling.

- a. Part One – Boxing the Cow: The rider shall ride into the arena, face the cattle entry gate and signal for their cow to be turned into the arena. The cow shall be controlled on the entry end of the arena for a sufficient amount of time to demonstrate the horse's ability to hold the cow. If the cow does not immediately challenge the horse, the rider shall aggressively move in on the cow to demonstrate his horse's ability to drive and block the cow on the entry fence.*
- b. Part Two – Fence Work: After the cow has been controlled on the entry end of the arena, the rider shall set the cow up and drive it down either side of the arena. The cow should be turned on the fence at least once in each direction. The first run out for a turn shall be past the half-way mark of the arena. All turns down the side shall be completed before reaching the end fence.*
- c. Part Three – Roping or Circling: The amateur and youth exhibitor has the option of circling the cow in the middle of the arena in both directions in lieu of roping. An amateur or youth exhibitor may circle or rope the cow but cannot combine the two to get credit for this portion of the run. Open exhibitors must rope the cow.
 - 1. To rope the cow, the exhibitor must be carrying a rope when the run starts. The exhibitor may pull up after the fence work, take down the rope and proceed to rope and stop the cow. The exhibitor must then rope the cow and bring it to a stop.*
 - 2. In the roping portion of the class, two throws are permitted and the horse will be judged on two maneuvers: tracking/rating and stopping the cow. It is not necessary that the exhibitor catch to receive a score in the roping portion. The catch is legal as long as the cow looks through the loop and the rope pulls tight on any part of the animal's body except the tail. The rope may be tied or dallied. If exhibitor does not catch, the horse will be given credit for tracking and rating and will be assessed the appropriate penalty.*
 - 3. To circle the cow, the exhibitor will maneuver the cow smoothly at least 360 degrees in each direction without interference from the fence. The circle's size, symmetry, speed and relative balance from right and left show control. Tightening the circles down with fast head-to-head speed will be a credit situation. The circles should be completed before the cow is exhausted. Once an exhibitor has committed to circling a cow, if the cow falls no new cow will be awarded.**

The exhibitor will complete the run by riding around the fallen cow to fulfill circling requirements. In the circling portion of the judging, one whistle will terminate the work and two whistles will award a new cow.

3. CREDITS AND PENALTIES. *All runs begin upon entering the pen; any infractions (such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.) are subject to penalty at that time. During Boxing, credit will be given for the horse's expression and its cow sense (i.e., making moves with little rider assistance); holding, controlling, and turning the cow; the amount of work actually done; and the degree of difficulty of the work. Credit will be given during Fence Work for making the first run past the center of the arena; making turns right on the cow; and controlling a difficult cow. If Roping, credit will be given for rating and following cow to allow rider the optimal roping position; stopping hard; and staying in the ground during the hold. Credits for each element of Roping range from -1 1/2 to +1 1/2 points. If Circling, credit will be given when the horse works willingly; acknowledges the cow; and gets close enough to the cow to control the circles. Credits for Circling range from -1 1/2 to +1 1/2 points for each direction.*

Penalties will be assessed as follows:

- a. One Point Penalties:** *Over-bridled (per maneuver), out of frame (per maneuver), loss of working advantage; Using the corner or the end of the arena to turn the cow when going down the fence; changing sides of arena to turn cow; for each length horse runs past cow; working out of position; slipping rein; failure to drive cow past middle marker on first turn; two-loop catch in amateur and youth classes.*
- b. Two Point Penalties:** *Going around the corner of the arena before turning cow; when working an animal in the open field (at least 20' from the side of arena) and the animal gets within 3 feet from the end fence before being turned; an illegal catch, or failure to catch if roping in amateur and youth classes.*
- c. Three Point Penalties:** *Exhausting or overworking the cow before circling or roping; hanging up on the fence (refusing to turn); knocking down the cow without having a working advantage; two-loop catch when roping in Open class.*
- d. Five Point Penalties:** *Failure to turn the cow both directions on the fence; spurring in front of cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise; an illegal catch or failure to catch when roping in Open class.*
- e. Ten Point Penalties:** *Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver); Off-Pattern.*
- f. Zero Score:** *Turning tail; failure to attempt any part of the class (includes failure to attempt to rope in the Open class); repeated blatant disobedience; schooling after entering the arena prior to calling for cow; schooling horse between cows if new cow is awarded, complete loss of rope in Open class; complete loss of rope in amateur or youth classes once committed to roping; use of two hands (except junior horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore), more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins.*
- g. No Score:** *bringing the cow straight over backwards landing on its back or head with all four feet in the air, lameness, abuse, illegal equipment, disrespect or misconduct, leaving arena before run is complete; improper western attire; fall of horse/rider. Note: If the Open rider runs out of time to rope, there will be no credit for the stop/hold maneuver and a 5-point penalty for failure to catch. Riders may still earn credit for tracking/rating, control/position and speed/degree of difficulty.*

4. Exhibitors in the Ranch Working Cow cannot compete in both the Ranch Working Cow and the Ranch Horse Cow Work or Limited Reined Cow Horse at the same show on the same horse. However, exhibitors may cross-enter Ranch Working Cow and Working Cow Horse and Reined Cow Horse.

GR1124 Arabian and Half/Anglo Arabian Divisions {11-F AWARD SECTIONS}

6. Award Categories. National and Regional awards will be awarded in the following categories:

Working Western Horse—includes Trail, In-Hand Trail, Reining, Working Cowhorse, Cutting and Western Riding, **all** Ranch **classes** Horse Riding, one award category;