

## RANCH PERFORMANCE DIVISION - NCRC

NCRC's Ranch Performance Division is based upon AQHA rules. Some rules have been modified to meet the needs of the open horse show format.

The Ranch Performance horse should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse's performance should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse.

**RANCH PERFORMANCE HALTER** - based upon AQHA/VRHA Ranch Conformation. The purpose of ranch conformation is to preserve American Quarter Horse type by selecting well-mannered individuals in the order of their resemblance to the breed ideal and that are the most positive combination of balance, structural correctness, and movement with appropriate breed and sex characteristics and adequate muscling. Horses may be shown in a good working halter: rope, braided, nylon, leather halter with silver or plain leather.

**RANCH PLEASURE** - on the rail; horses to be worked in both directions at all gaits. . The following terminology shall apply:

**Walk**-The walk is a natural, flat footed, four-beat gait. The gait is rhythmic and ground-covering. As in all gaits, the horse should display a level, or slightly above level top line with a bright, attentive expression.

**Trot**- The trot is a natural two-beat gait demonstrating more forward motion than the western jog.

**Extended Trot**- The extended trot is an obvious lengthening of the stride with a definite increase in pace. The horse should be moving in a manner as if it were covering a large area on a ranch with an above level top line.

**Lope**- The lope is a three-beat gait. The lope should be relaxed and smooth with a natural, forward moving stride.

**Extended Lope**- The extended lope is not a run or a race but should be an obvious lengthening of the stride, demonstrating a forward, working speed. The horse should display an above level top line with a bright, attentive expression.

**RANCH RIDING** - pattern class; cones are placed in NCRC patterns as a guide for gait changes. 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 reins. 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 the movement are of primary considerations. The ideal ranch riding horse should have a natural head carriage at each gait.

**RANCH TRAIL.** The ranch trail class should test the horse's ability to cope with situations encountered while being ridden through a pattern of obstacles generally found during the course of everyday ranch work. The horse/rider team is judged on the correctness, efficiency and pattern accuracy with which the obstacles are negotiated and the attitude and mannerisms exhibited by the horse. Judging emphasis is on identifying the well-broke, responsive and well mannered horse which can correctly navigate and negotiate the course. NCRC patterns are designed to fit the facility arena and are based on multi-level exhibitor use. Safety is the main priority of all patterns. Mandatory AQHA maneuvers/obstacles may or may not be used by NCRC.

### GENERAL:

- Horses of any age may show in the Ranch Performance Division.
- Horses entered in the Green Horse Division and/or Novice Rider Division may not cross enter to the age group Ranch Division Classes. Cross entry from the Ranch Performance Division Age Groups and the Western Performance Division Age Groups is allowed.
- Hoof polish is allowed; braided or banded manes or tail extensions are allowed.
- Trimming inside ears, trimming bridle path, trimming of fetlocks or excessive (long) facial hair is allowed
- Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit
- Use of a breast collar and/or rear cinch are optional
- Show clothing common to Western Performance should not count over good working clothing of Ranch Performance