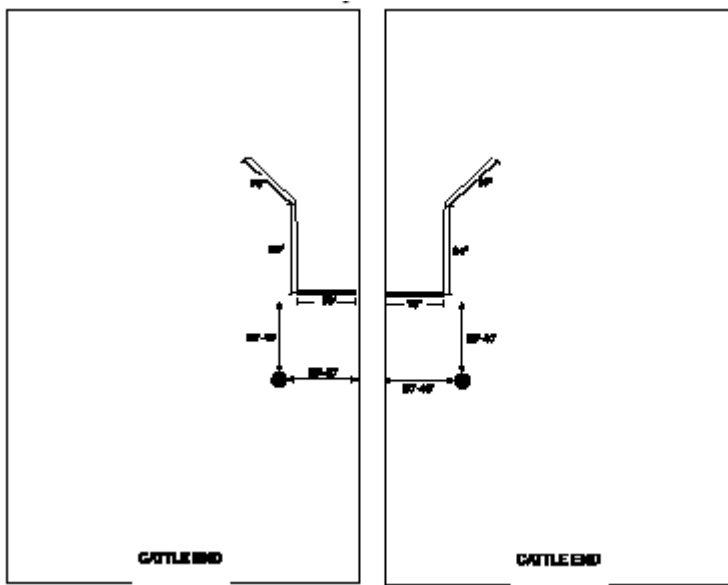


Ranch Cutting Rules

(based on the ranch cutting rules in the AQHA show guide)

This class is judged on the ability of the horse to work a cow by separating it from the herd, driving it to the middle of the arena, holding it to demonstrate the horse's ability to work the cow and finally to pen the cow. A single numbered cow is cut from the herd and the horse must demonstrate its ability to work the cow. When satisfied that the horse has proven its cutting ability, the horse and rider must then pen the cow at the far end of the arena.

- (1) Minimum number of cattle in the herd will be ten.
- (2) Objective will be to cut one designated cow from the herd and work the cow with the assistance of two turn-back riders.
- (3) Cattle to be located at one end of the arena. A pen with wing will be located on the side fence near the far end of the arena. Wing will stretch to the inside of the arena. (see diagram) A marker will be placed in the arena with a variable distance of 20 to 40 feet from the side of the arena and corner of the pen.
- (4) All cattle will be clearly marked with numbers. Cutters will draw for cattle.
- (5) There is a two and one half minute time limit. A whistle will be blown at the one minute point in the run. Time will begin when a rider crosses a time line just prior to entering the herd. The cow's number is then called. The rider will then quietly separate his/her numbered cow from the herd. Unnecessary roughness or disturbing the herd excessively could result in disqualification.
- (6) When satisfied that the horse has proven its cutting ability, the two herd holders will move out of position to the sides of the arena and allow the contestant to drive the cow by them at the direction of the exhibitor. Turn back riders cannot assist exhibitor to pen cattle, however they can prevent herd from scattering and can hold the herd if cow returns to herd. Show management may supply two herd holders, or exhibitors may supply their own herd holders. If an exhibitor is a herd holder, he or she may use the horse that they are competing on, or use a different horse. The exhibitor must drive the cow between the marker and corner of the pen and continue to drive the cow into the pen.



- (7) Credit will be given to those horses who demonstrate excellence in their herd work, driving and setting up the cow to cut, working in the center of the arena, degree of difficulty of the cow drawn, and their ability

to drive and pen the cow within the 2 1/2 minutes. Horses will not be penalized for reining during the cutting portion, but should display natural ability.

One Point Penalty

- Losing working advantage
- Toe, foot or stirrup on the shoulder
- Working out of position

3 Point Penalties

- Cattle picked up or scattered
- Spurring on shoulder
- Pawing or biting cattle
- Back Fence

5 Point Penalties

- Quitting cow
- Losing cow
- Not driving cow between marker and corner of pen prior to penning
- Not penning cattle before 2 1/2 minutes

0 - Score

- Illegal equipment
- Excessive disturbance of herd to the point that exhibitor is asked to leave the arena
- Two hands on reins except when exhibiting a junior horse in either a snaffle bit or hackamore

10 Point Penalties

- Anytime more than one cow enters the pen

(8) Scoring: 100 percent will be judged by the horse's performance and natural ability. If time and number of cattle permit, the judge may, at his discretion, award new cattle, to enable to contestant to show his horse's ability on the cow, based on the following criteria:

- (a)** The cow won't or can't run
- (b)** The cow won't leave the end of the arena
- (c)** The cow is blind or won't yield to the horse
- (d)** The cow leaves the arena