

# RANCH RIDING HORSE CONTEST

**Chair:** Terry Helder, Wrightsville, PA  
**Judges:** Adam Guiste and Jennifer Sawyer

## GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

### 1. EQUINE HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:

(a). **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection:** All equine animals must be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection signed and dated by an accredited veterinarian with an inspection date within the 30 days prior to the date of arrival at the show.

(b). **Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) Statement:** This applies to horses entering Pennsylvania from states that experienced a Vesicular Stomatitis outbreak in the last 12 months. In these cases an accredited veterinarian shall determine whether the animals are free from VS, and animals shall be accompanied by a CVI with the following statement signed by the accredited veterinarian: "All animals identified on this CVI have been examined and found to be free from VS. During the past 90 days, these animals were not located within 10 miles of a site where VS has been diagnosed."

(c). **Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) Test Requirements:** All equine animals must be test negative for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) by an official test within the 12 months preceding the date of entry into the exhibition. Laboratory test results must accompany each animal to its final destination (a copy of the original lab report is acceptable). The CVI shall specify the date of sample collection and EIA test results. Foals less than 6 months of age accompanied by a test-negative dam are exempt from EIA testing requirements. If the foal is not accompanied by the dam, a copy of the dam's test results must accompany the foal to its final destination.

(d). **Piroplasmis Testing Requirements:** If an equine animal has resided in Texas or New Mexico for a cumulative total of 30 days or more within the six months preceding the date of entry into the Commonwealth, that animal must be test-negative for Babesia caballi and Theileria equi on a competitive enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (c-ELISA) test, or a Department-approved equivalent test, with the test occurring within the 30 days preceding entry into Pennsylvania. The date of test and the test results shall be written on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.

(e). **Vaccination Recommendations:** The Department recommends that exhibitors consult with their veterinarians about the proper vaccination regimen for their animals.

(f). **NOTE: RABIES VACCINATION WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE 2023 KILE SHOW:** All horses entering the show that are 3 months of age or older at the time of exhibition shall be required to be immunized against rabies within 12 months of exhibition by an accredited Veterinarian using an approved product and following its label directions. The rabies vaccination should be denoted on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, and on a rabies vaccination certificate or electronic form such as an electronic coggins which provides a complete description of the horse. A rabies vaccination certificate or electronic form must include the written name and signature of the accredited Veterinarian performing the vaccination, name of the owner, date of vaccination, manufacturer and name of product used, serial number of product used, name and unique physical description of the horse and any permanent identification used such as microchips or lip tattoos.

**2. HEALTH OF ANIMALS:** No animal showing signs of infectious, contagious, or external parasitic disease will be allowed into the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex & Expo Center. However, exhibitors observing an animal that may present a health hazard to other animals are asked to report the stall location to the show committee. The official show veterinarian, in consultation with Show Management, shall be responsible for determining the health status of all animals. Animals showing evidence of infectious, contagious, or external parasitic diseases shall be removed by their owner from the show grounds at the direction of Show Management.

**3. RIDER ELIGIBILITY:** ALL riders may ride two-handed in any legal western bit except Open Division.

(a). **Open Division Eligibility:** The Open Division is open to any professional or non-professional regardless of age or rider eligibility, regardless of past winnings. Must ride one-handed in curb bits.

(b). **Non-Pro Division Eligibility:** The rider has not received payment directly or indirectly for riding, training, assisting in training, or showing horse(s) at any time during the past five years. The rider has not received payment directly or indirectly for instructing another person or conducting a seminar in riding, training, or showing a horse any time during the past five years. No age requirement. **Premium money won is not considered remuneration.**

(c). **Novice Division Eligibility and Restrictions:** The Novice Division is reserved for individuals with limited riding and showing experience who wish to learn more about showing in ECRRA at a beginner's pace. The rider must meet all Non-Pro eligibility requirements listed above. The rider has not won any champion titles at any show or cumulative year-end award in SVRA, ASHA, East Coast Stock Horse Association, or any State 4-H finals; more than 10 points in any breed association (AQHA, APHA, etc.). No age requirement. **Stallions are prohibited in this division.**

(d). **Youth Division Eligibility:** Exhibitors in the Youth Division must be aged 8 through 18 as of January 1 of the current year. **Stallions are prohibited in this division.**

(e). **Primetime Division Eligibility and Restrictions:** Exhibitors in the Primetime Division must be 50 years of age or older as of January 1 of the current year. The rider must meet all Non-Pro eligibility requirements listed above.

**4. Point Tabulation for Champions, Day End, Year End, and Lifetime Recognition:** To be eligible for a Division Champion an exhibitor must show in four of the five classes offered in each Division. A rider will receive points by their placings and number of entries in a class. (Example: 10 horses in a class, 1st place receives 10 points, 2nd place 9 points, 3rd place 8 points etc.).

**5. Ranch Horse in Hand and Ranch Pleasure:** The top 10 horses will be placed. Eleventh place and lower will receive points by taking the total number of points left and dividing by the number of horses out of the placings, then each of those horses receive that number of points. (Example: 15 horses in the class 1st 15 points, 2nd 14 points, 3rd 13 pts, 4th 12 pts, 5th 11pts, 6th 10 pts, 7th 9pts, 8th 8 pts, 9th 7 pts, 10th 6pts 11th thru 15th place 3 points each).

### 6. EQUIPMENT AND ATTIRE:

(a). **Equipment and Apparel:** Horses shall be shown in a western stock saddle. Silver equipment will not count over good, clean working equipment. Horses of all ages may be shown in a snaffle, bosal, or curb bit. Split reins or romal reins shall be used with all curb bits. Split reins may be used with snaffle bits. When a bit is used, the mouth piece must be at least 5/16" and not more than 3/4" in diameter measured 1 inch from the cheek and must be smooth; no twisted wire mouth-pieces. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece such as prongs. Curb straps are required for curb bits and the curb chains or straps must be at least 1/2 inch in width and must lie flat against the horse's chin. No wire curbs are permitted, regardless of the amount of padding or tape.

(b). **Prohibited Equipment:** Tie downs, cavessons, gag bits, twisted-wire mouth pieces, mechanical hackamores and running martingales are prohibited. A judge may prohibit the use of any equipment deemed to be inhumane. Trimming horses is optional.

(c). **Attire:** Riders shall wear protective headgear or western hats, long-sleeved shirts and western boots. Western boots shall include typical cowboy boots or lace-up ropers. All other footwear is prohibited. The use of spurs and chaps shall be optional. Clothing should be neat and clean.

**7. GAITS - RANCH RIDING/RANCH PLEASURE:** 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:

(a). **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 topline with a bright, attentive expression.

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

(c). **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 topline.

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

(e). **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 topline with a bright, attentive expression.

The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be as those described above, with an emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness. Posting at the extended trot is acceptable. Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.

(f.) No hoof polish.

(g.) No braided or banded manes/tails or tail extensions.

(h.) Trimming inside ears is discouraged.

(i.) Trimming bridle path is allowed, also trimming of fetlocks or excessive (long) facial hair.

(j.) Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Excessive silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.

**PLEASE NOTE: Rules (f.) through (j.) may be waived at shows that offer only a few ECRRA Approved Classes.**

**8. CLASS REQUIREMENTS - RANCH RIDING (PATTERN CLASS):** Each horse will work individually, performing the required gait maneuvers and a minimum of three optional maneuvers. Horses will be scored on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each maneuver will receive a score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted. Each maneuver will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1 1/2 to

minus 1/2: -1 1/2 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -1/2 poor, 0 correct, +1/2 good, + 1 very good, + 1 1/2 excellent. Maneuver scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

(a.) **The required gait maneuvers** will include the walk, trot, and lope both directions; and the extended trot and extended lope at least one direction; as well as stops, and back.

(b.) **The optional maneuvers** may include a side pass, turns of 360 degrees or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, trot, or lope over a log(s); or some reasonable combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a horse to perform or encounter during ranch work.

**9. Ranch Riding Penalties:** A contestant shall be penalized each time the following occur:

(a.) **One-point penalties:** Too slow (per gait); over-bridled (per maneuver); out of frame (per maneuver); break of gait at walk or trot for two strides or less.

(b.) **Three-point penalties:** Break of gait at walk or trot for more than two strides; break of gait at lope; wrong lead or out of lead; draped reins (per maneuver); out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads; trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change; severe disturbance of any obstacle.

(c.) **Five-point penalties:** Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.) for each refusal.

(d.) **Ten-point penalties:** Unnatural ranch horse appearance (horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver).

(e.) **Off Pattern (OP):** Placed below horses performing all maneuvers. Eliminates maneuver; incomplete maneuver.

(f.) **Zero (0) score:** Illegal equipment including hoof black, braided or banded manes, or tail extensions; willful abuse; major disobedience or schooling.

*No specific penalties will be incurred for nicks/hits on logs or over or under spins but deduction may be made in maneuver score.*

**10. RANCH TRAIL CLASSES 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. The rider has the option of eliminating any obstacle, however, this will result in being "Off Pattern" and the horse/rider team may not place above others who have completed the pattern correctly. A judge may ask a horse to pass on an obstacle after three refusals or at any time for safety concerns. Credit is given to horse/rider teams who negotiate the obstacles correctly and efficiently. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to obstacles and ability to pick through the course when the obstacles warrant it while willingly responding to riders' cues on more difficult obstacles. Quality of movement and cadence should be considered part of the maneuver score for the obstacle. Each maneuver will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1 1/2 to minus 1 1/2: -1 1/2 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -1/2 poor, 0 correct, +1/2 good, + 1 very good, + 1 1/2 excellent. Maneuver scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points. Penalties are assessed as follows:

(a.) **One-point penalties:** Each hit, bite, or stepping on a log, cone, plant, or any component of the obstacle; incorrect or break of gait at walk or trot for two strides or less; both front or hind feet in a single stride slot or space at a walk or trot; skipping over or failing to step into required space; split pole in lope-over; incorrect number of strides, if specified; one step on dismount/remount or ground tie except shifting to balance; over-bridled (per maneuver).

(b.) **Three-point penalties:** Wrong lead; draped reins; break of gait at lope; break of gait at walk or trot for more than two strides; two to three steps on dismount/remount or ground tie.

(c.) **Five-point penalties:** Spurring in front of cinch; four or more steps on dismount/remount or ground tie; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise; use of two hands (except in snaffle bit or hackamore or those classes allowed to use two hands as per ECRRA rules) per maneuver; more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except two rein) per maneuver; knocking over, stepping out of, or falling off of an obstacle; dropping an object required to be carried; first or second cumulative refusal; letting go of gate.

(d.) **Off Pattern (OP):** Breaking pattern; repeated disobedience; leaving working area before pattern is complete. Cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly.

(e.) **Disqualification (DQ):** Lameness; abuse; illegal equipment; disrespect or misconduct; fall of horse/rider (run ends; scores will be given for work done but the horse/rider team will be disqualified and will not be placed); improper western attire. Disqualified entries are counted as an entry in the class but cannot receive points or credits for that class toward the all around.

**ALL EXHIBITORS must be in proper western attire and tack. Horses, regardless of age, may show in snaffle bits or bosals and show two-handed.**

**ECRRA exhibitors, except open riders, may show two-handed in any legal western bit.**

**11. RANCH ROUND-UP:** This is a timed event. This class is to prove the agility, versatility, and quickness of a ranch horse when called upon. Exhibitors will perform a specific pattern (one of three patterns) designed by ECRRA. The pattern must be run correctly; the fastest time wins. **Penalties:** Knock down of each obstacle will be a five-second penalty added to the time, performing the pattern incorrectly will result in a no time and will not place. **Walk Trot entries, loping more than three strides in a pattern will result in a NO TIME and will not place.**

**12. ENTRY FEE:**

FEE TABLE	By 9/23/23
All ECRRA classes, per class*	\$24
Stall Rental, per stall	\$45
<b>***ALL EXHIBITORS ARE REQUIRED TO PAY A \$5 PENNSYLVANIA LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION ADMINISTRATION FEE TO COMPETE AT KILE.***</b>	

Additional entries may be made at the Show at a cost of \$30 per class. **No new horse/rider combos will be accepted after 9/23/23.**

**13. ARRIVAL TIME:** Animals may begin to enter the barns as follows:

ARRIVAL TIME	
Horses	Starting 12:00 PM Thursday, September 28

**14. CHECK-IN:** Horses may begin check in on Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 12:00 PM. The show office will close Thursday, September 28, at 8:00 PM.

**15. TRAILER PARKING:** Trailers will be permitted to park on-site as space permits. Off-site parking is encouraged. See the [map](#) for parking directions.

**16. STALLING:** Stalls will be assigned.

**17. BEDDING:** Straw and shavings are the only bedding materials permitted to be used by exhibitors. Initial bedding will not be provided. It must be furnished by the exhibitor. A reputable dealer will be present in the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex & Expo Center to supply grain, hay, straw, and shavings at local prices during Feed Room Hours. Feed Room will be cash, check, or credit card. No "tabs" permitted.

**18. Show Office Hours:** The show office will open at 8:00 AM and close one hour after the conclusion of each day's show.

**19. RELEASE TIME:** Animals are released from the barns as follows:

RELEASE/VACATE TIMES	
Horses	Horses are permitted to leave at the conclusion of that day's show. All Ranch Riding horses must leave the grounds by 10:00 PM on Sunday, October 1, 2023.
<b>ANY EXHIBITOR REMOVING ANY OF THEIR ANIMALS FROM THE BARNS BEFORE RELEASE TIME WITHOUT APPROVAL OF THE SHOW MANAGER WILL FORFEIT ALL THEIR PREMIUM MONEY AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO REJECTION OF ALL ENTRIES THE FOLLOWING YEAR.</b>	

## **RANCH RIDING HORSE CONTEST CLASSES, 2023**

Exhibitors can arrive at the PA Farm Show Complex at 12:00 pm Thursday, Sept. 28

All classes are double-judged.

All individual classes, except for round-up, will be run on a draw basis\*

Classes will be held in the Equine Arena; Large Arena available for warm-up

**Friday, September 29 - starting at 9:00 a.m.**

### **RANCH TRAIL: WALK TROT**

- 23. Open
- 24. Non-Pro
- 25. Youth
- 26. Novice
- 27. Primetime

### **RANCH TRAIL: WALK TROT LOPE**

- 28. Open
- 29. Non-Pro
- 30. Youth
- 31. Novice
- 32. Primetime

**Saturday, September 30 - starting at 8:00 a.m.**

### **RANCH RIDING: WALK TROT**

- 13. Open
- 14. Non-Pro
- 15. Youth
- 16. Novice
- 17. Primetime

### **RANCH RIDING: WALK TROT LOPE**

- 18. Open
- 19. Non-Pro
- 20. Youth
- 21. Novice
- 22. Primetime

### **RANCH ROUND-UP: WALK TROT**

- 33. Open
- 34. Non-Pro
- 35. Youth
- 36. Novice
- 37. Primetime

### **RANCH ROUND-UP: WALK TROT LOPE**

- 38. Open
- 39. Non-Pro
- 40. Youth
- 41. Novice
- 42. Primetime

**Sunday, October 1 - starting at 8:00 a.m.**

### **RANCH HORSE IN HAND**

- 1. Mares
- 2. Geldings

### **LEADLINE**

- 12A. Leadline

### **RANCH PLEASURE: WALK TROT**

- 3. Open
- 4. Non-Pro
- 5. Youth
- 6. Novice
- 7. Primetime

### **RANCH PLEASURE: WALK TROT LOPE**

- 8. Open
- 9. Non-Pro
- 10. Youth
- 11. Novice
- 12. Primetime