

2023 BLACK HILLS STOCK SHOW & RODEO®

AQHA VERSATILITY RANCH HORSE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19 & FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

RANCH RIDING

- horses show individually
- judges are looking for relaxed, responsive horses with soft and cadenced gaits
- the horse should make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, plus the horse should be soft in the bridle and yield to contact

RANCH TRAIL

- obstacles are approximate to those found during the course of everyday work on a ranch
- judges are looking for well-broke, responsive and well-mannered horses that can navigate and negotiate the course, and do so in a correct and efficient manner
- Rule SHW561

RANCH REINING

- measure the ability of the stock horse to perform basic handling maneuvers
- this class can be held with or separate from the ranch cow work class; if the two are held together, they are still scored and placed as individual classes.

RANCH CUTTING

- similar to other cutting classes, ranch cutting is judged on the ability of the horse to work a cow by separating it from the herd and holding it
- the objective is to cut one or two cows, based on the division
- for open, cowboy, and amateur there is a two-minute limit where each exhibitor must work two head, but has the option of working the full two minutes
- in youth competition, there is a one-and-a-half minute time limit where the exhibitor must work one cow but has the option of working the full time

RANCH COW WORK

- riders have the choice between ranch cow work or limited ranch cow work for youth and amateur, where riders are allotted one minute and forty – five seconds to complete the work
- there are three parts to the limited ranch cow work, boxing the cow, setting up the cow and driving it down the fence to the opposite end of the arena, and boxing it at the opposite end of the arena
- for ranch cow work, there are three parts of the class: boxing, fence work, and roping or circling
 - the horse and rider must accomplish all three parts in three minutes

RANCH CONFIRMATION

- to be eligible to compete in the ranch conformation class, the horse must be shown in at least one of the other categories on the day of the show
- judges are looking for balanced, structurally correct horses with adequate muscle
- must show in a good working halter – rope, braided, nylon or plain leather – exhibit a walk and trot then line up for inspection

DIVISIONS

OPEN:

- must have a current AQHA card
- open competition is usually for the most experienced exhibitors, trainers, and professional horsemen, but amateur and youth may also compete.

AMATEUR:

- must meet AQHA's requirements for competition
- youth – 18 years and younger (age as of January 1)

COWBOY:

- is for the working ranch cowboys
- the rider of the horse must either be an owner, family member, or full-time employee of the ranch that owns the horse
- employees must have been employed for a minimum of 90 days prior to competing
- the rider must have less than \$5,000 per association lifetime earnings in any of the following: NRHA, NRCHA, NCHA, ACHA, RHAA, ASHA, or SHOT or less than 25 AQHA or APHA open points in reining, cutting, working cow horse or Versatility Ranch Horse within the previous 10 years. No exhibitor can have earned more than \$5,000 in any individual association.

AWARDS

- All Around Versatility Ranch Horse titles are awarded at every VRH show to the high-placing horse and rider team in the open, cowboy, amateur, and youth divisions
- the duo must enter and show in a minimum of three categories – meaning, 1 cattle class, conformation and at least one additional class (ranch riding, trail or reining.)
- Rule SHW555
- Points earned at individual classes count toward qualifying for AQHA Versatility Ranch Horse World Championship

Complete rules and regulations can be found in the AQHA Handbook or online at AQHA.com

Show Secretaries: Kelsey Coon & Ashley Kanaman
Show Manager: John Kaiser
Judges: Rick Chayer & Dolly Chayer



Schedule of events available at

BlackHillsStockShow.com | Rapid City, SD | **605.355.3861**  