

Owyhee County 4-H Ranch Horse

The foundation of the 4-H Ranch Horse Class for Owyhee County is based on the traditional use of the horse on cattle ranches of the western United States. This project is designed specifically to allow members, parents and others to learn, practice and use the horse in ways that were historically used by cattlemen during the settlement of the West.

These classes will help promote the continuing use and appreciation of the traditional customs and practices that are still used today. The Ranch Horse classes will also emphasize quiet methods of working cattle and horses. Other aspects of this historic and useful lifestyle that will be reinforced include: integrity, cooperation, work ethic, and management of horses and cattle used by western cattlemen.

Updated: January 21, 2016

REQUIREMENTS.

Members in the Ranch Horse class must be enrolled in the basic 4-H Horse program. They must complete all necessary elements of the 4-H Horse Project, including club oral presentation, record book, horsemanship phase evaluation, participation in showmanship and any other project requirements listed in the current Owyhee County 4-H Horse Project Rules and Guidelines. Ranch Horse participants must exhibit the same project horse and bridle during the Ranch Horse competition as they used in the 4-H horse show at the fair. Members **MUST** provide their own equipment, including necessary tack, ropes, etc. Participants may be required to pay a cattle charge to compete in the Ranch Horse classes. This fee may be waived at the discretion of the OCHL. Participants must qualify every year. Qualification deadline is July 15.

Any adult handlers and helpers in the arena will be expected to abide by the Owyhee County 4-H Youth Development Code of Conduct, as well as respecting the same rules set forth for members regarding required dress and legal gear and horse equipment in the current Owyhee County 4-H Horse Show Guidelines and Requirements and the PNW 4-H Horse Contest Guide.

RANCH HORSE LEVELS.

The Ranch Horse classes shall be divided by experience, rather than by age. To insure safety of the members and to promote opportunities to teach cattle handling skills, all Ranch Horse members must be signed off at a Ranch Horse Qualifier Day. These events will be scheduled by the OCHL during June or July, and will be held in at least two areas of the county to insure that each member has an opportunity to qualify before the July deadline.

Level 1 is open to approved members of any age, but only members in the Junior 1 or Junior 2 division who completed in the Level 1 Junior Boxing Class will be eligible to receive the Top Hand buckle.

Level 2 is open to any approved member who competed in the Level 2 Boxing class at the fair.

Level 3 is open to any approved member who competed in the Level 3 Cow Work class at the fair.

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Dummy Roping on Foot. This event will be open to Cloverbud horse members and non-members 7 years of age and under. Each participant will be allowed to rope the provided dummy as many times as the announced time limit will allow. This class is strictly for exhibition and is not a timed or scored event. Cloverbuds will receive participation ribbons only.

All levels of Ranch Calf Roping will require a break-away hondo.

Level 1 Ranch Calf Roping (on foot). ONLY Level 1 members will receive a score, although members from other levels may participate to complete their ranch horse experience. Ranch Calf Roping will be held in a pen in front of the covered grandstand. Several ropers will be in the pen at the same time, similar to a branding. Courtesy and ranch etiquette will be judged, along with the safety of each person in the pen. Any member who exhibits unsafe behavior or displays lack of control which creates a safety issue to themselves or other contestants may be excused from the class. Ropers will be expected to cooperate with each other to head or heel a calf, and then pull the rope tight, just as if they were roping from horseback. Helpers will remove rope from calf after each successful catch. Time limit will be 5-10 minutes; exact time will be announced at fair.

Scoring.

Points will be given for: head catch (catch as catch can), both heels catch, one heel catch

- No points given until rope is tight.
- Points for stockmanship skills displayed
- Points for "stylish" catches
- No deduction for losing rope.
- Minus 5 points=courtesy deduction for cutting off another roper or not taking turns.

Ranch Calf Roping, Level 2 will be held in a pen in front of covered grand stands. Ropers will be allowed in the pen 2 or 3 at a time. This will be similar to a branding situation. Smaller calves may be marked for heeling only. Larger calves may be roped by head or heels. Participants will rope calves in a bunch, then dally and drag the calf until hondo breaks or until signaled by the ground crew to stop.

Scoring.

Points will be given for: head catch (catch as catch can), both heels catch, one heel catch

- Members may be disqualified for reckless behavior or unsafe handling of rope
- Points for horsemanship skills displayed
- Points for stockmanship skills displayed
- Points for “stylish” catches
- No points will be given until hondo breaks or ground crew signals to stop
- Dry, slick horn only - rubber on horn will result in disqualification
- No deduction for first event of losing rope.
- The time limit for this event will be announced at the fair

Ranch Calf Roping, Level 3. Calf roping will be held in a pen in front of covered grand stands. Ropers will be allowed in the pen 2 or 3 at a time. This will be similar to a branding situation. Smaller calves may be marked for heeling only. Larger calves may be roped by head or heels. Participants will rope calves in a bunch, then dally and drag the calf until signaled by the ground crew to stop and hold the calf. The ground crew will pull the rope off the calf for the roper.

Scoring.

Points will be given for: head catch (catch as catch can), both heels catch, one heel catch

- Members may be disqualified for reckless behavior or unsafe handling of rope
- Points for horsemanship skills displayed
- Points for stockmanship skills displayed
- Points for “stylish” catches
- No points will be given until ground crew signals roper to stop and face calf
- Dry, slick horn only - rubber on horn will result in disqualification
- No deduction for first event of losing rope.
- The time limit for this event will be announced at the fair.

Team Branding, Level 2 & 3 *[EXHIBITION ONLY--NO AWARDS GIVEN]*. This class may be offered only if time, livestock and scheduling allow for it. Team Branding will be ranch style with dry horns and NO RUBBER on horns. This class is ONLY open to Level 2 or 3 participants who were pre-qualified at a ranch horse event, along with any adult partner with whom the member plans to participate. If the member qualifies for Team Branding but does not have an approved adult partner, the Ranch Horse Committee will assign one. The Team Branding will be conducted with 4 participants to a team (possibly 2 adults & 2 members).

Ropers will head and heel a calf and stretch it out for the ground crew to throw and “brand” with a branding iron dipped in paint. To limit the amount of time that the calves are headed, the ropers will be allowed a maximum of four minutes to rope 2 calves. The time will be stopped while the ground crew mounts and the ropers assume the ground crew duties. The time will start again and the new set of ropers will be allowed an additional four minutes to rope 2 more calves and the new ground crew will “brand” those calves. If the four minutes are up before the calf is heeled, the time rule stands, but if the calf is headed AND heeled, the time will be allowed to continue so the calf can be branded. Ropes must be off the calves and ground crew must place branding iron in paint bucket and move behind a marked line before time is called. Teams will only be allowed to rope two calves per set of ropers, regardless of any time that may remain. Acts of poor sportsmanship or roughing the stock will result in disqualification or penalty of time at the discretion of the judges and/or Ranch Horse Committee.

Ranch Rodear Sorting, Levels 1, 2 and 3 (see diagram on page 6)

1. This class is designed to reflect quiet cattle handling methods, and members will be scored heavily on horsemanship skills, team work and the ability to “read” cattle. While it is necessary to limit the available time, this class is not to be confused with a race to finish with the fastest time, or to pen the “most” cattle.
2. Judges will meet with members to discuss expectations and answer questions before the class.
3. Teams will be drawn at random, and will be made up of three project members of differing skill levels.
4. Each Team shall be assigned an adult Coach on horseback. The purpose of the Coach is to provide advice and guidance from their experiences of working cattle from a rodear. The Coach shall meet with the team members prior to the competition and aid in the planning. Once the team is in the arena, the Coach shall give verbal instructions as needed to aid the less experienced members. The Coach shall not cut an animal out of the herd nor pen the sort, but may give reasonable help and support to keep the sort straight.
5. Teams will then draw for tag number of cow to be sorted first.
6. Taking turns, each of the three team members will sort one cow from the rodear. Continuing in turn, each member may consecutively sort as many cattle from the rodear as time allows. As a team, one member sorts, two members hold the rodear, alternating with each cow.
7. Teams will sort cattle starting from the tag number drawn and proceed on in numerical sequence. (Example if team #1 draws cow tag #2, the sequence would start with tag #2, followed by #3, #4, #5, #6 and so on. There shall be two animals marked with each number to allow selection.
8. A “Wild Card” animal may be offered as double the points as another animal, but should involve more risk—such as a wilder, or harder to handle animal. In the event a Wild Card animal is offered, it cannot be sorted BEFORE the two-minute warning is given, unless ALL other animals in the rodear have already been properly sorted within the time limit.
9. If team members lose any part of their rodear, adult handlers and the coach shall help turn all the animals back, as those animals must be brought back before any more cattle can be properly sorted. The same member should then complete his turn.
10. While the team is sorting cattle, adult helpers on horseback will assist by taking possession of sorted cattle, once they cross the boundary line, as well as holding the sorted animals. As soon as the team leaves the rodear, the helpers will leave the sort to be gathered by the team and hold the rodear so no mixing of the rodear and sort occurs.
11. The team must gather the sort, move the sort any way they can, back past the fence and gate, and then put ALL the sort through the gate. Once ALL cattle are through the gate, the sort must be put in the pen.
12. Time limit will be 6-10 minutes, exact time will be announced at the fair. A 2-minute warning will be given. Timers will record finish time for teams. In the event of a tie, Judges are allowed to consider time used when placing teams.

Scoring.

As a TEAM, the following scores will be given:

5 points = each cow sorted successfully (for example: in correct sequence, crossing out of the rodear boundary)

10 points = Wild Card animal sorted properly

20 points = team successfully getting ALL worked cattle through “gate”

10 points = each cow successfully penned

30 bonus points = team successfully penning ALL sorted cattle. (Cattle must enter the pen by crossing the line created by two opposite panels of the opening.)

5 points deducted = each cow sorted out of sequence that crosses boundary line.

5 points deducted = each cow crossing BOUNDARY LINE that gets by contestants holding the rodear.

5 points deducted = each cow crossing the boundary line if member sorts more than one cow in his turn, even if the cow is in the right sequence.

10 points deducted = each occurrence of excessive help by adult Coach

These points will determine a team score for rosette placement.

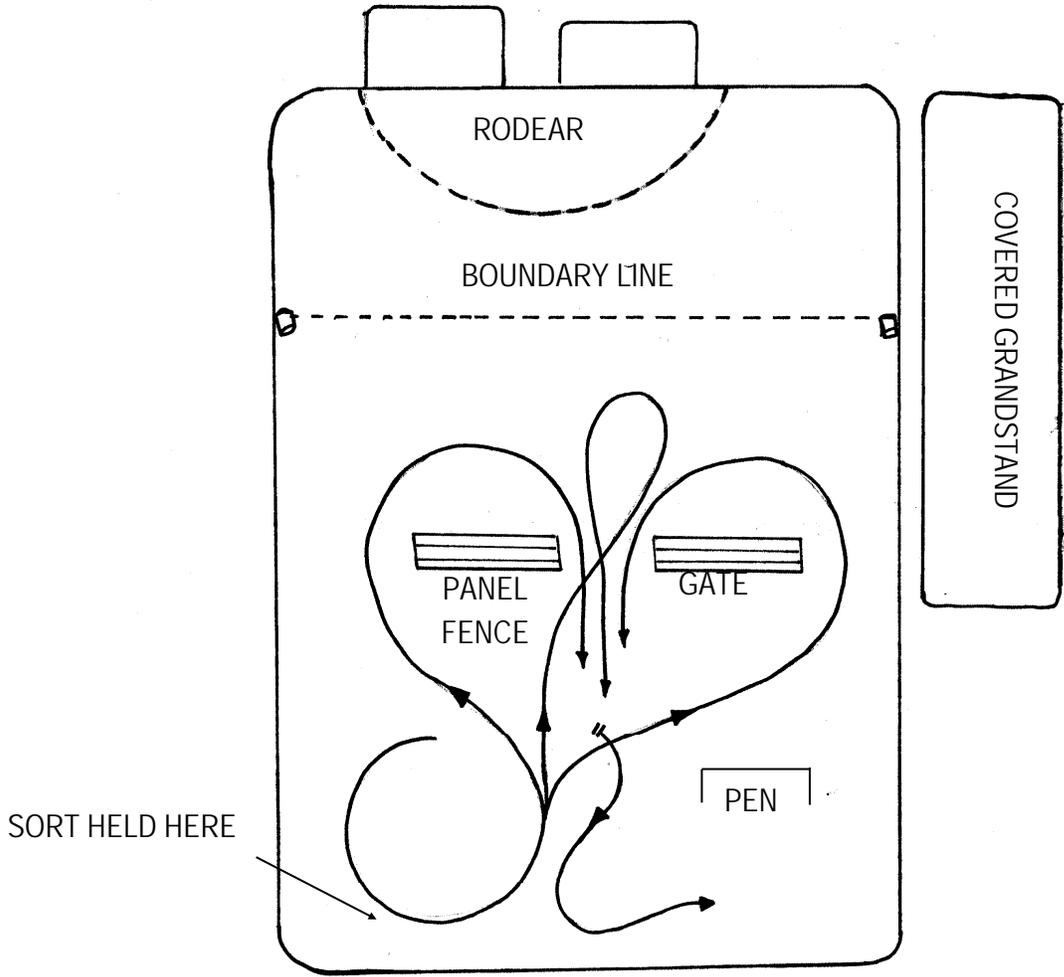
Ranch Rodear Sorting Points for Individuals.

In addition to the team points, individual bonus points will be awarded to each team member in the following three areas:

1. **HORSEMANSHIP.** The horsemanship score will be comprised of 10 points possible in:
 - Willing Submission. When a request is made, the horse willingly performs the task requiring little to no pressure. **It is the horse's idea.** After initial contact the horse performs the task on a **loose rein** and with **no leg pressure.** If it is truly the horse's idea we should not have to drive them to do the job.
Points assigned: (1-10)
 - 1 = Displayed 10% of the time during the ride.
 - 5 = Displayed 50% of the time during the ride.
 - 10 = Displayed 100% of the time during the ride.
 - Good Communication. Ability to read, feel, and understand what the horse is saying in response to our request (Communication involves two individuals, what is the horse saying?). We communicate through the horse's driving and underlying factors along with feel, timing, and balance.
 - ⇒ **Driving** – Comfort, Companionship, Self-preservation;
 - ⇒ **Underlying** – Confidence, Energy;
 - ⇒ **Head Height** (Confidence Indicator) – Shows how confident and relaxed the horse is while doing a job. Head height reflects the level of communication. When the rider shows the horse where to put their feet, head height reflects the horse's understanding of where their feet are supposed to be while doing the job. Head Height reveals the intensity of job and consistency of head in relation to how many rides the horse has.
Points assigned: (1-10)
 - 1 = No confidence, poor communication, high head height, self-preservation and looking for comfort and companionship away from the rider and the job. Not sure of where to put their feet, and not experiencing feel, timing, and balance with the rider.
 - 10 = Total confidence in the rider and job, great communication, low or collected head set, confident in where to put their feet while doing the job, experiencing comfort in the job, companionship with the rider, and being ridden with feel, timing, and balance.
2. **STOCKMANSHIP** is the ability to read *flight zone* and *balance point* to influence the direction of an animal. *Flight Zone* is the area around an animal which sets off their self-preservation (fight or flight) when a person comes into it. *Balance Point* is the point on animal which stops them from moving forward or backward. If the person is ahead of the balance point, the animal will go backward, if a person is behind the balance point the animal will go forward.
Points assigned: (1-10)
 - 1 = Inefficient in reading flight zone and balance point to shape up animal
 - 10 = Very efficient in reading flight zone and balance point to shape up animal.
3. **ROPING.** Degree of Difficulty (How fancy was the shot?) **Points assigned: (1-10)**
Efficiency (Ability to catch the animal with the first loop) **Points assigned: (1-10)**

The individual Ranch Rodear Sorting score will be used to determine the Top Hand buckle.

In order to participate, the Ranch Horse Qualifier Sheet and any required cattle fee MUST be submitted by July 15. Qualifier Sheets are available in this book, at the Extension Office, or on our web site at <http://owyheecounty.net/extension> or at the Extension Office.



RANCH HORSE CLASSES & AWARDS

Dummy Roping on Foot (Cloverbuds and non-members 7 years and under), participation ribbons

Levels 1, 2, 3, Rosettes for 1st through 6th places will be awarded in each of the classes, including Ranch Calf Roping and Ranch Rodear Sorting

Any ties for the Top Hand buckle (for all Levels) shall be decided by the higher Horsemanship score.

Level 1 Top Hand Buckle will be awarded to the participant (**Junior 1 OR Junior 2**) with the highest combined scores from the following classes:

Level 1 Boxing

Level 1 Ranch Calf Roping on Foot

Level 1 Ranch Rodear Sorting

Level 2 Top Hand Buckle will be awarded to **any qualified** participant with the highest combined scores from the following classes:

Level 2 Boxing

Level 2 Ranch Calf Roping

Level 2 Ranch Rodear Sorting

Level 3 Top Hand Buckle will be awarded to **any qualified** participant with the highest combined scores from the following classes:

Level 3 Cow Work

Level 3 Ranch Calf Roping

Level 3 Ranch Rodear Sorting

NOTE: ANY MEMBER DISQUALIFIED FROM ANY REQUIRED CLASS FOR SAFETY REASONS IS INELIGIBLE FOR THE TOP HAND BUCKLE AWARD.

ALL CLASSES WILL USE THE FOLLOWING PLACING POINTS TO DETERMINE TOP HAND BUCKLE:
1st = 12; 2nd = 11; 3rd = 10; 4th = 9; 5th = 8; 6th = 7. All other participants will receive 1 point toward the Top hand score.

Ranch Horse
Qualifier Sheet

To our Approved Qualifiers *

Thank you for your time and talent to qualify our 4-H members to compete in our Ranch Horse contests. We are always concerned for the safety and well-being of our members and their animals. Please use your experience and judgment to decide if each member (and their animal) is safe to compete in our Owyhee County 4-H Horse Fair Ranch Horse advanced classes.

Qualifiers shall not sign off any member who cannot demonstrate safe handling and control of their horse. Only members who can demonstrate understanding and safe handling of their rope shall be approved to participate in any Level of Ranch Style Calf Roping. ALL LEVELS WILL USE A BREAK AWAY HONDOO.

Only members who can demonstrate basic knowledge and safe handling of cattle shall be approved to participate in any Level of Ranch Sorting.

Only Level 2 or Level 3 members (and any adult partner) who can demonstrate advanced knowledge and safe cattle handling skills shall be allowed to participate in the exhibition-only Ranch Style Team Branding.

Name of Member _____ (Please Print)

Name of Project Horse _____ (Please Print)

Name of Spare Horse (only if seen by Qualifier) _____ (Please Print)

QUALIFIER: Please check the appropriate boxes:

- I approve** this member/project horse to compete in:
- Level 1 Calf Roping *on foot* **OR** Level 2 or Level 3 Calf Roping Any Level Ranch Rodear Sorting
- Level 2 or 3 Team Branding **Name of Approved Partner** _____
- I cannot approve** this member/project horse at this time **I cannot approve** this adult partner at this time

- I approve** this member/SPARE horse to compete in:
- Level 1 Calf Roping *on Foot* **OR** Level 2 or Level 3 Calf Roping Any Level Ranch Rodear Sorting
- Level 2 or 3 Team Branding
- I cannot approve** this spare horse at this time

Qualifier's Signature _____ Date _____

Member's Signature _____ Date _____

Leader's Signature _____ Date _____

1. This signed Qualifier sheet and any required fees must be turned in to the Owyhee County Extension Office no later than July 15 in order for member to be eligible to compete in any Ranch Horse classes at the Fair.
2. The University of Idaho waiver must be signed by all participants.

***Approved Qualifiers:**

Walter Miller, Marsing, 208-941-4027
Tom or Carmen Buckingham, Bruneau
208-845-2310 (H) or 208-599-3611(C)
Aaron Marts, Homedale, 208-880-9665

Wade Black, Homedale, 208-859-3624
Douglas Rutan, Jordan Valley, 208-583-4444
Dan Jolley, Melba, 208-369-3378

Boxing/Cow Work Qualifier Sheet

To our Approved Qualifiers *

Thank you for your time and talent to qualify our 4-H members to compete in our Boxing and Cow Work contests. We are always concerned for the safety and well-being of our members and their animals. Please use your experience and judgment to decide if each member (and their animal) is safe to compete in our Owyhee County 4-H Horse Fair advanced classes. **Level 1 is only for Junior 1 and Junior 2 members. Older members who are new to Boxing may participate, but not compete in Level 1 Boxing.** Level 2 Boxing and Level 3 Cow Work are open to any age, as long as they are qualified to compete.

- Qualifiers may opt not to sign off members who cannot demonstrate knowledge or proper execution of the Level 1 Boxing dry work pattern OR Level 2 Boxing/Level 3 Cow Work dry work pattern.
- Both **Level 1 and 2 BOXING** classes require the member to hold the cow at the end of the arena and turn it back several times on the fence in order to demonstrate control of and attention to the animal.
- The **Level 3 COW WORK** class is more advanced, and requires the member to execute all of the maneuvers of the Boxing class, and additionally the skills to take the cow down the fence and turn it back both directions on the fence, then circle the cow in the arena once each direction.

Member _____ (Please Print)

Project Horse _____ (Please Print)

Spare Horse (only if seen by Qualifier) _____ (Please Print)

Please check the appropriate boxes:

- I **approve** this member and their project horse to compete in: Boxing OR Cow Work
 I cannot approve this member/project horse at this time
- I **approve** this member and their spare horse to compete in: Boxing OR Cow Work
 I cannot approve this spare horse at this time (Leave blank if member did not qualify a spare horse)

Qualifier's Signature _____ Date _____

Member's Signature _____ Date _____

Leader's Signature _____ Date _____

1. The signed Qualifier sheet and any required fees must be turned in to the Owyhee County Extension Office no later than July 15 in order for member to be eligible to compete in Boxing/Cow Work classes at the Fair.
2. The University of Idaho waiver must be signed by all participants.

Approved Qualifiers:

Walter Miller, Marsing, 208-941-4027

Wade Black, Homedale, 208-859-3624

Tom or Carmen Buckingham, Bruneau
208-845-2310 (H) or 208-599-3611(C)

Douglas Rutan, Jordan Valley, 208-583-4444

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