

Introduction to 4-H Ranch Horse Program

Objective: Provide Utah 4-H Leaders with a basic understanding of 4-H Ranch Horse Programs.

Overview: 4-H Ranch Horse programs are designed to encourage youth to learn the care training and conditioning of horses in a ranch or feedlot setting. They also learn working ranch horse horsemanship skills and demonstrate them in a ranch environment.

Program: 4-H youth are encouraged to complete different levels or units in the Ranch Horse Program. The units start with basic knowledge and care of ranch horses and progress to working their horses with cattle. They are required to keep records books and complete ranks before competing in the next level.

Competition: There are several classes that may be offered in a Ranch Horse Program. We could offer all or some of these types of classes. The roping and working cow horse classes may have more than one level such as a beginner and advanced class. The events may be judged, timed or both.



Dummy Roping 1: This is a beginner class. The youth rope the dummy on the ground. They are judged on handling the rope – making a loop, swing, and coiling. They are also judged on how many heads and heels they catch. They must catch a percentage on the ground before they can move to the next level.

Dummy Roping 2: The youth must have completed Dummy Roping 1 to compete in this class. The youth will rope the dummy from their horse. The same judging criteria will be used. They must catch a percentage of heads and heels before they can move to the next level.

Break Away Roping: The youth must have completed Dummy Roping 1 and 2 to compete in this class. The youth will leave the roping chute, track cattle down the arena, and rope the cow from their horse. They will be using a breakaway hondo. Participants are judged on their ability to control their horse in the rope box, while tracking their cow, and after they rope. They will also be judged on the handling of the rope and for each legal catch they make.

Ranch Roping: The youth must have completed Dummy Roping 1 and 2 to compete in this class. The youth will demonstrate their ability to rope a cow from within a group of cattle. A hazer may be used in this event. They will be using a breakaway hondo. The youth will be judged on handling their horse, being able to separate the cow, handling their rope, and legal catches.

Team Roping: The youth must have completed Dummy Roping 1 and 2 to compete in this class. The youth will demonstrate their ability to rope the heads or the heels of a cow from the roping chute. The youth will be judged on handling their horse, being able to dally, handling their rope, and legal catches.

Single Cow Penning: The youth will demonstrate their ability to sort one cow from the sorting pen and drive it through an alley way into another catch pen. The youth may be judged on handling their horse, handling the cow, and time to pen the cow. There are several patterns

that may be used in this event. The event may be expanded to an arena instead of an alley way.

Single Cow Work: The youth will demonstrate their ability to move one cow through a pattern. This is similar to Single Cow Penning but the youth does not sort the cow at the first. The youth may be judged on handling their horse, handling the cow, and completing the pattern correctly. There are several patterns that may be used in this event.

Team Penning: This is a team event. Cattle are numbered. As the team enters, they are given a number. The youth will demonstrate how to sort their numbered cows from the rest of the cattle. The youth may be judged on handling their horse, handling the cattle, time to complete and penning the cattle.

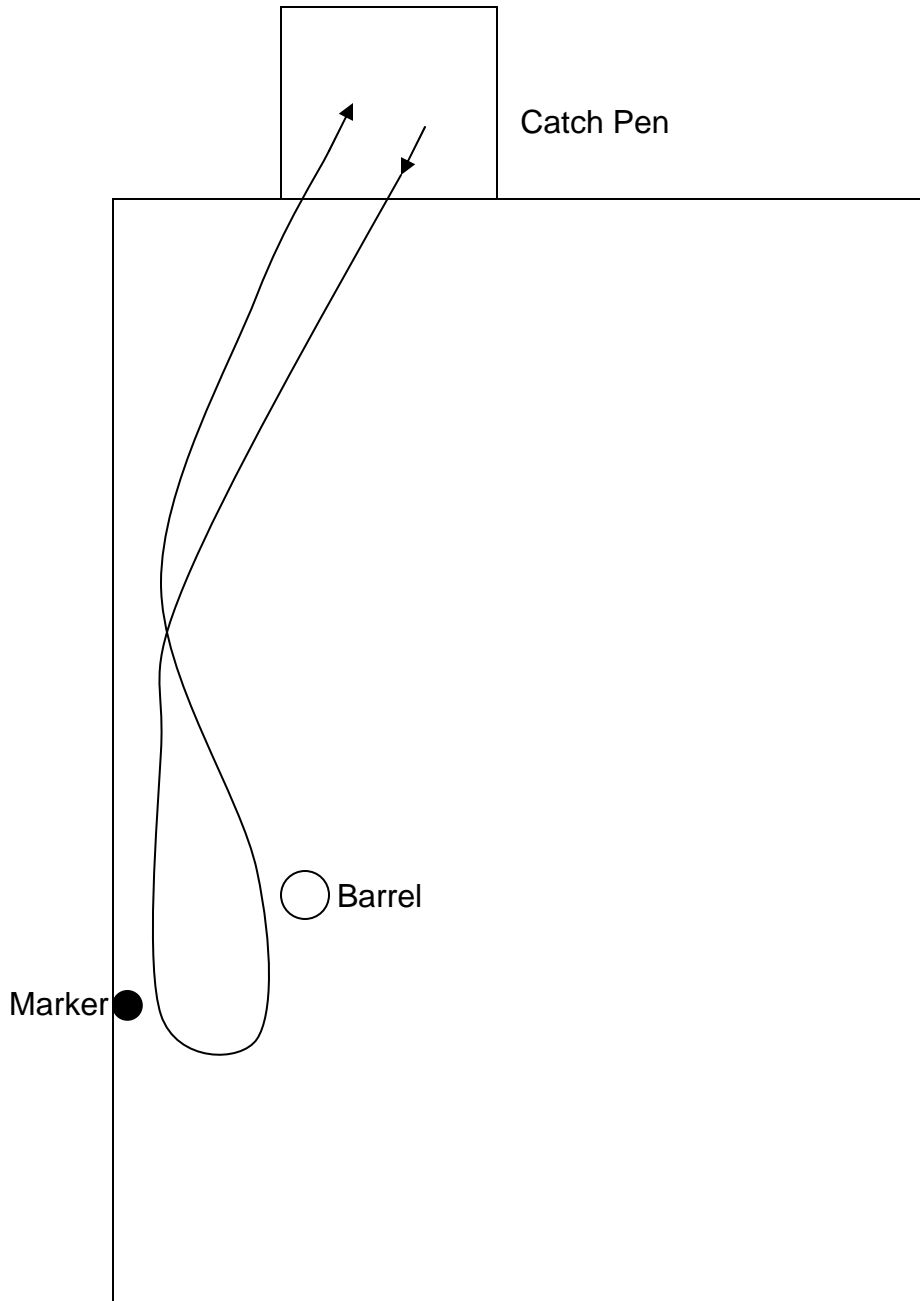
Team Sorting: This is a team event. Cattle are numbered 0-9. As the team enters, they are given a number. The youth will demonstrate how to sort the cows in numerical order from the rest of the cattle. The youth may be judged on handling their horse, handling the cattle, time to complete and penning the cattle.

Horsemanship: This class may be part of a working cow event. The youth will complete a pattern similar to reining. They may be judged on speed, control, maneuvers, and completing the pattern correctly.

Considerations: Before adding a Ranch Horse Program, the cost of the cattle needs to be considered. A new rule book, rank program and record book will need to be created.

Attachments: Sample patterns are attached.

Working Cow Horse Pattern



Single Cow Penning Pattern

