

# Western Ranch Riding Overview

Snohomish 4-H 2020



## THE RANCH RIDING EXPERIENCE

Snohomish County 4H Horse Program

### What is the Working Ranch Horse Division?

The 4-H Ranch Horse program was established to help preserve the skills and traditions of the ranch horse, from sorting cows to riding down the trail. The Working Ranch Horse is a heritage-based, activity-rich program designed to pass on to today's youth traditional practices of safe livestock handling from horseback.

In ranch riding, the horse is judged on its ability to work at a forward, working speed while performing required and optional maneuvers. The ranch riding horse should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of a working horse.

Like all 4-H projects, Working Ranch Horse members will develop the qualities of leadership and responsibility that come with being engaged in 4-H. In today's world, managing cattle from horseback is a disappearing tradition. Ranches are increasingly automated, using four-wheelers and other machines instead of horses. Many of the skills once learned for necessity are being lost. The 4-H Working Ranch Horse Program is designed to teach and preserve the age-old skills and traditions.

For rules and guidelines see Oregon's manual and contest guide.

[Ranch Horse Manual](#) – link to Oregon 4-H Document

[Ranch Horse Contest Guide](#) – link to Oregon 4-H Document

## RANCH HORSE GUIDELINES...

To participate in Working Ranch Horse classes at the County Fair youth must have attended two pre-approved ranch horse events prior to July Parent/Leader's meeting; with the same horse they are be taking to the County Fair.

- At least one of those events must be for the class they want to participate (ranch riding and/or working horse). Youth may not go to 2 ranch riding events then enter working horse at Fair; they must have attended 1 ranch riding and 1 working horse qualifier. Two event qualifiers are required though, even if they just want to do ranch riding or just working horse.
- The event must be on the Snohomish County 4-H Horse Event Calendar to be considered "approved"

It is the youth's responsibility to complete the "Registration Verification Form" at each event they attend and turn it in prior to July Parent/Leader's meeting. (Instructions are on the form).

- The form requires the event facilitator's signature.

WAHSET competitions will count as qualifying competitions

- Youth must have their WAHSET coach's sign the registration verification form for each meet.

Working Ranch Horse Division offers a Year End High Point. Points from qualifying shows and County Fair will be included to determine winners.

## Show Classes

**Western Ranch Riding:** These classes test the rider on the ability to complete a set of patterns and task where the rider is judged on their ability to complete it affectively. Rider is judged on their transitions through walk, job and lope through a series of patterns and obstacles.

R1 – Western Ranch Riding - Junior

R2 – Western Ranch Riding – Intermediate

R3 – Western Ranch Riding – Senior

Each level of pattern is gradually harder

Estimated time per rider is 2 minutes

**Western Working Horse:** These classes judge the horse on its ability to move out in a traditional fashion of a horse working on a ranch. The rider and horse will be judged on their ability to complete a set of typical ranch activities like moving through cows, opening gates, side pass over logs, lope-stop-turn-lope, roping and more.

R4 – Western Ranch Riding - Junior

R5 – Western Ranch Riding – Intermediate

R6 – Western Ranch Riding – Senior

Each level of pattern is gradually harder

Estimated time per rider is 2 minutes