



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

### Introductory Ranch/Cow Horse Competency Test

Limited Ranch/Cow Horse
____ Passed
____ Retest

Rider's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

4-H County: \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Rater's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Rater's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Horse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Coat Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_

Obvious Markings: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** To pass this test, the 4-H member must pass for each section of the test. The test is progressive and must be given in order. The 4-H member must receive Met Expectation or higher on each part of the test. If Rider does not pass a part of this test, the test is over. Each requirement cannot be skipped or given in any other order.

**Excellent (E)** If applied to specific maneuvers, they were consistently executed correctly and fluidly. If applied to an overall impression, it was correct/present during all parts of the test.

**Proficient (P)** If applied to specific maneuvers, they were executed correctly most of the time and generally fluidly with minor flaws. If applied to an overall impression, it was presented correctly and consistently throughout the test with minor lapses.

**Met expectations (ME)** If applied to specific maneuvers, they were executed correctly but may be better on one side than the other, or execution was inconsistent. It's clear that the rider can apply the aids correctly. If applied to an overall impression, the basics are present, but elements may have been briefly incorrect or absent during the test. Rider may have needed prompting (not teaching!) from the rater.

**Not Yet Proficient (NYP)** One or more of these is true to a greater or lesser degree:  
Rider is unable to produce the maneuver in one or both directions. Aids are applied but ineffective at producing the desired maneuver. Horse repeatedly balks or misbehaves. Rider asks rater how to execute a maneuver.

**Rater:** Forms should be filled out the day of the test and submitted to the member's extension office within a week.

**Tack:** There are no horse's age restrictions for the types of bits or bridles used, however all chosen equipment must be used correctly. Saddle shall be of a western type with a double rigging and equipped with a cinch hobble. Exception: A center fire rigging may have a single rig. Horns shall be wrapped and designed for roping, either rubber wrapped or with an additional leather wrap. A breast collar is highly recommended.

	Rating: E, P, ME, NYP	Rater's Comments
<b>Basic Handling</b>		
A. Bridling and saddling; safe and proper adjustment of equipment, wrapped horn, back cinch. (Reference Ranch Class tack requirements in rulebook)		



<b>Riding</b>		
B. Build a loop, swing, and recoil a rope while on the ground.		
C. Quietly walk into and out of a herd of cattle (minimum of 3 head). Horse must remain quiet and under control		
D. Dismount, ground tie or hobble, walk away from horse, wait 1 minute (if hobbled, unhobble), remount.		
E. Demonstrate a safe dally and drag a heavy log weighing 35 lbs or more, in straight line, stop and perform a 180 degree turn on the forehand, undally. (Suggested an 8' post, 6" in diameter)		
F. Box a cow on short end of arena for 50 seconds. Drive down the fence toward opposite end and stop at center.		

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