

Colorado State Fair and Industrial Exposition

2026 AQHA Ranching Heritage Competition

Date: September 1 - September 3, 2026

Show Management

Role	Contact	Phone	Email
Director of Agriculture and Competitive Exhibits	Amber Henker	719-404-2060	amber.henker@state.co.us
Horse Show Coordinator	Lacey Cooper	719-404-2024	cda_csf_horse_show@state.co.us
Event Secretary	Kelsey Coon		
Event Superintendent(s)			

Judges

Classes	Judges
AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge	Mark Guynn Rhonda Replogle Pam Scott

Important Dates

Event	Date and Time
Entry Deadline	August 21, 2026 11:59 p.m.
Stall Reservation Deadline	August 21, 2026 11:59 p.m.
Early Arrival	August 31, 2026 3:00 p.m.
Arrival Deadline	September 1, 2026 8:00 a.m.
Release Date(s)	Following the event each day

General Fee Schedule

Fee	Cost
Office Fee (Per Horse)	\$20.00
AQHA Admin Fee (Per Horse)	\$10.00
Cattle Fee (Fence & B-D-B-D)	\$80
Cattle Fee (Youth & Boxing Per Entry)	\$55
Cattle Fee (Cutting)	\$125
Late Fee (Per Horse)	\$50.00
RMQHA Fee (Per Entry)	\$2.00

Stalling Fees

Stall	Cost
Fair Time Horse Stall Fee (Per Stall)	\$30.00
Fair Time Tack Stall Fee (Per Stall)	\$30.00

Ranching Heritage Cutting, Team Roping, Barrel Race, Working Ranch Horse, and Ranch Riding:

RHC Ranch Cutting will run concurrently with the VRH Ranch Cutting on September 1st. The RHC Team Roping, Barrel Race, and Ranch Trail classes will run on September 2nd. The Ranch Trail will run concurrently with the VRH trail. The Team Roping and Barrel Race will run with the AQHA Special Event Team Roping, Cow Horse and Ranch Riding classes on September 3rd, starting with the Cow Work at 8:00 a.m. See below for competition requirements, fees, added money, and divisions offered.

Cutting will run concurrently with Versatility Cutting Classes on September 1, 2026.

General Information

1. Each exhibitor is expected to read and adhere to the following Colorado State Fair Competition Requirements as adopted by the Colorado State Fair Board of Authority (Board): 2026 General Competition Requirements, 2026 General Horse Show Competition Requirements, 2026 Ranching Heritage Competition Requirements,
2. Each exhibitor must read and adhere to the 2026 American Quarter Horse Association Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations and the 2026 American Quarter Horse Association Ranching Heritage Breeder Rules.
3. Each exhibitor is expected to read and adhere to the 2026 AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge Rules.
4. To verify AQHA Ranching Heritage eligibility, please contact the American Quarter Horse Association at (806) 376-4811.
5. See special class rules for more information on the classes offered at this event.
6. AQHA Breakaway Rule: Legal Catch
 - A legal catch in the breakaway roping is a “bell collar catch” defined as the loop must pass over the calf’s entire head, then secure on the neck with no extremities in the loop and in front of the tail head and then cause the string to break away at the saddle horn.

Entry Information

1. All entry and stall reservation forms are available online only at www.coloradostatefair.com.
2. No payment is required until check-in.
3. Cow Horse Cattle Fees: When cross-entering classes, only pay one cattle fee.
4. Ranch Riding Classes: The Ranching Heritage Ranch Riding classes will run concurrently with the triple-judged AQHA Special Event Ranch Riding on September 3.

Stall Reservations

1. All stalls must be reserved by August 21, 2026, through the online form.
2. If received after August 21st, the Colorado State Fair will charge a \$50.00 late fee per owner.
3. Payments are not due until check-in at the Colorado State Fair.

Awards and Premiums

1. \$23,000 in added premium money.
2. 1st - 6th place will receive ribbons.

Ranching Heritage Event Schedule

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

- Settle at 7:30 a.m.. The show starts at 8:00 a.m.

RHC Ranch Cutting (4-year old & up) Cutting will run concurrently with VRH Cutting

Class No.	Class Name
179600	Open Ranch Cutting
279600	Amateur Ranch Cutting
479600	Youth Ranch Cutting

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

RHC Team Roping, Breakaway, and Steer Stopping (4-year old & up)

- Start time: Will not start before 2:00 p.m.

RHC Team Roping Heading (4-year old & up)	
Class No.	Class Name
179900	RHC Open Heading
279900	RHC Amateur Heading
479900	RHC Youth Heading
RHC Team Roping Heeling (4-year old & up)	
177700	RHC Open Heeling
277700	RHC Amateur Heeling
477700	RHC Youth Heeling
RHC Breakaway Roping (4-year old & up)	
179700	Open Breakaway
179800	Cowboy Breakaway
279700	Amateur Breakaway
479700	Youth Breakaway
RHC Steer Stopping (4-year old & up)	
177900	Open Steer Stopping
177800	Cowboy Steer Stopping
277900	Amateur Steer Stopping
477900	Youth Steer Stopping
RHC Barrel Race	
179300	Open Barrel Race
279300	Amateur Barrel Race
479300	Youth Barrel Race

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Working Ranch Horse - Rein Work and Down the Fence

- Start time: 8:00 a.m.
- VRH & RHC Pattern 3 (all working ranch horse classes)

Class No.	Class Name
178100	RHC Working Ranch Horse - Open 4 yr. old
178200	RHC Working Ranch Horse - Limited Open 4 yr. old *Runs concurrent with Open
178500	RHC Working Ranch Horse - Cowboy 4 yr. old and up
179100	RHC Working Ranch Horse - Open 5 & 6 yr. old
179200	Limited Open 5 & 6 yr. old *Runs concurrent with Open
179500	RHC Working Ranch Horse - Open 7 yr. old & up
278900	RHC Working Ranch Horse - Amateur 4 yr. old & up
478900	RHC Working Ranch Horse - Youth 4 yr. old & up

Limited Working Ranch Horse-Rein Work and Box-Drive-Box-Drive

Class No.	Class Name
279500	RHC Working Ranch Horse - Limited Amateur 4 yr. old & up
479500	RHC Working Ranch Horse - Limited Youth 4 yr. old & up

Rookie Ranch Cow Work - Rein Work and Boxing

Class No.	Class Name
278700	RHC Working Ranch Horse - Rookie Amateur 7 yr. old & up
478700	RHC Working Ranch Horse - Rookie Youth 4 yr. old & up

RHC/AQHA Ranch Riding Pattern: # 12

*This class will run concurrently with the AQHA Special Event Ranch Riding Classes

Class No.	Class Name
178800	RHC Open Ranch Riding 3 yr. old & up
278800	RHC Amateur Ranch Riding 3 yr. old & up
478800	RHC Youth Ranch Riding 3 yr. old & up

Ranching Heritage Challenge Class and Fee List

Category	Fee
(179900) Open Heading 4 yrs old and up - \$500.00 added	
Entry Fee	\$250.00
Jackpotted	\$150.00
Stock Charge	\$20.00
(279900) Amateur Heading 4 yrs old and up - \$500.00 added	
Entry Fee	\$250.00
Jackpotted	\$150.00
Stock Charge	\$20.00
(479900) Youth Heading 4 yrs old and up - Jackpot only	
Entry Fee	\$50.00
Jackpotted	\$25.00
Stock Charge	\$10.00
(177700) Open Heeling 4 yrs old and up - \$500.00 added	
Entry Fee	\$250.00
Jackpotted	\$150.00
Stock Charge	\$20.00
(277700) Amateur Heeling 4 yrs old and up - \$500 added	
Entry Fee	\$250.00
Jackpotted	\$150.00
Stock Charge	\$20.00
(477700) Youth Heeling 4 yrs old and up - Jackpot Only	
Entry Fee	\$50.00
Jackpotted	\$25.00
Stock Charge	\$10.00

Category	Fee
RHC Breakaway	
(179700) Open Breakaway 4 yrs old and up - \$250.00 added	
Entry Fee	\$150.00
Jackpot	\$100.00
Stock Charge	\$20.00
(179800) Cowboy Breakaway 4 yrs old and up - \$150.00 added	
Entry Fee	\$100.00
Jackpot	\$50.00
Stock Charge	\$20.00
(279700) Amateur Breakaway 4 yrs old and up - \$250.00 added	
Entry Fee	\$150.00
Jackpot	\$100.00
Stock Charge	\$20.00
(479700) Youth Breakaway 4 yrs old and up - Jackpot Only	
Entry Fee	\$50.00
Jackpot	\$25.00
Stock Charge	\$10.00

Category	Fee
RHC Steer Stopping	
(177900) Open Steer Stopping 4 yrs old and up - \$250.00 added	
Entry Fee	\$150.00
Jackpot	\$100.00
Stock Charge	\$20.00
(177800) Cowboy Steer Stopping 4 yrs old and up - \$150.00 added	
Entry Fee	\$100.00
Jackpot	\$50.00

Category	Fee
Stock Charge	\$20.00
(277900) Amateur Steer Stopping 4 yrs old and up - \$250.00 added	
Entry Fee	\$150.00
Jackpot	\$100.00
Stock Charge	\$20.00
(477900) Youth Steer Stopping 4 yrs old and up - Jackpot Only	
Entry Fee	\$50.00
Jackpot	\$25.00
Stock Charge	\$10.00

Category	Fee
RHC Barrel Race	
(179300) Open 4 yrs old and up - \$250.00 added	
Entry Fee	\$100.00
Jackpot	\$75.00
(279300) Amateur 4 yrs old and up - \$250.00 added	
Entry Fee	\$100.00
Jackpot	\$75.00
(479300) Youth 4 yrs old and up - Jackpot Only	
Entry Fee	\$35.00
Jackpot	\$20.00

Category	Fee
RHC Ranch Cutting	
(179600) Open 4-year old & up - \$3,5000.00 added	
Entry Fee	\$250.00
Jackpot	\$150.00
Stock Charge	\$100.00
(279600) Amateur 4-year old & up - \$1,600.00 added	
Entry Fee	\$250.00
Jackpot	\$150.00
Stock Charge	\$100.00
(479600) Youth 4-year old & up - Jackpot Only	
Entry Fee	\$100.00
Jackpot	\$50.00
Stock Charge	\$40.00

Category	Fee
RHC Working Ranch Horse	
(178100) Open 4 yrs old and up - \$2,500.00 added	
Entry Fee	\$250.00
Jackpot	\$150.00
Stock Charge	\$65.00
(178200) Limited Open 4 yrs old and up - \$1,500.00 added	
Entry Fee	\$200.00
Jackpot	\$150.00
Stock Charge	\$65.00
(179100) Open 5 & 6 year old - \$2,000.00 added	

Category	Fee
Entry Fee	\$250.00
Jackpot	\$75.00
Stock Charge	\$65.00
(179200) Limited Open 5 & 6 year old - \$1,000.00 added	
Entry Fee	\$150.00
Jackpot	\$75.00
Stock Charge	\$65.00
(179500) Open 7 year old & up - \$500.00 added	
Entry Fee	\$200.00
Jackpot	\$150.00
Stock Charge	\$65.00
(178500) Cowboy 4 yrs old and up - \$1,500.00 added	
Entry Fee	\$250.00
Jackpot	\$150.00
Stock Charge	\$65.00

Category	Fee
(278900) Amateur 4 yrs old and up - \$1,600.00 added	
Entry Fee	\$250.00
Jackpot	\$150.00
Stock Charge	\$65.00
(478900) Youth 4 yrs old and up - Jackpot Only	
Entry Fee	\$50.00
Jackpot	\$25.00

Category	Fee
Stock Charge	\$45.00

Category	Fee
RHC Limited Working Ranch Horse (Box-Drive-Box-Drive)	
(279500) Limited Amateur 4 yrs old and up - \$500.00 added	
Entry Fee	\$100.00
Jackpot	\$50.00
Stock Charge	\$65.00
(479500) Limited Youth 4 yrs old and up - Jackpot Only	
Entry Fee	\$50.00
Jackpot	\$25.00
Stock Charge	\$45.00

Category	Fee
RHC Rookie Working Ranch Horse (Boxing)	
(278700) Rookie Amateur 4 yrs old and up - Jackpot Only	
Entry Fee	\$100.00
Jackpot	\$50.00
Stock Charge	\$45.00
(478700) Rookie Youth 4 yrs old and up - Jackpot Only	
Entry Fee	\$50.00
Jackpot	\$25.00
Stock Charge	\$45.00

Category	Fee
Ranch Riding	
(178800) Open 3 year old & up - \$1,500.00 added	
Entry Fee	\$150.00
Jackpot	\$75.00
(278800) Amateur 3 year old & up - \$1,500.00 added	
Entry Fee	\$150.00
Jackpot	\$75.00
(478800) Youth 3 year old & up - Jackpot Only	
Entry Fee	\$35.00
Jackpot	\$25.00

*Note: Cattle Fees are charged once if exhibitors cross-enter concurrent classes.