

# THE COLT TO COW CONNECTION

Bonina Event Center, Eltopia, WA

March 8, 9, 10, 2018

The ability to create a special cutting horse is an art that horsemen all over the world envy. But how? What are the basics? What are the tricks and techniques? Trainers will step on a colt that has been ridden for two months. Trainer will start the connection, getting acquainted through dry work. A flag is available as an optional training tool. Demonstrate how smart and capable young cutting horses are. Show the progress that can be made in a few days.

The COLT TO COW CONNECTION will not only bring people to cutting, it will benefit those already involved. Trainers will enjoy national exposure via video. Horsemen from other disciplines will learn about training a cutting horse.

**COLTS** Two-year olds will have had 60 days riding – will not have been ridden by any participant in the event. Will not have been started on cattle previously, although may have been used for ranch work.

**JUDGING** by the NCHA show judge is based on improvement from day 1 of contest to finals. To be judged on methods used and success of those methods. Contest winner to be the colt showing most improvement in three rides combined with ability to work a cow.

**TRAINERS** Selection committee to screen and select applicants. Number of participants based on number of colts available. Trainer to be interviewed on video.

**COLTS** 2016 colts with cutting pedigrees.

## LENGTH OF EVENT

First Go Round: 25 minutes on Thursday, March 8, 2018

Second Go Round: 20 minutes after the show on Friday, March 9, 2018

FINALS: 15 minutes after the show on Saturday night, March 10, 2018 - top three colts.

**COMPETITION** Flag and cattle provided. Each colt will have up to 5 head to work individually or in a herd. Trainer may change cattle at any time. Trainer has option of engaging a horseback helper.

**EQUIPMENT** Trainer to provide his own equipment including bridle, bosal, blanket and saddle. Martingales allowed. No wire or chain touching the skin. No whips.

**SPONSORS** To be recognized during the event and on the videos sold after.

**CATALOG** Pedigrees of contest colts to be available.

**SALES** At conclusion of contest, some colts may be offered for sale by owner. Private Treaty negotiations are between owner and prospective buyer.

# TRAINER GUIDELINES

NCHA Excessive Training rules to be followed. Zero tolerance for excessive training.

## COLT DRAW:

1. As of January 1, 2018, there are 8 colts in training for this contest.
2. All colts will be demonstrated for the trainers and the judge prior to the Colt Draw.  
Colts to be numbered. When trainer draws, he takes the colt number and stands by the colt.
3. After the draw, trainers may ask colt starter for any tips on the colts, but cannot ride until their Go.
4. Rider to use own equipment including saddle, pad, bridle or bosal. Martingales may be used. No wire or chain touching colt. No whips.
5. If unable to be present, trainer may have a Stand-In for the draw.
6. There will be a draw for Order of Go. If Stand-In draws colt for trainer, that trainer will be last in order of go.  
Colt to be saddled and ready to ride immediately before the go.
7. Colt to be ridden only during designated competition time.
8. Entry fee           \$200 payable March 10, 2018.
9. Buckle to           COLT TO COW CONNECTION CHAMPION.
10. Payout            To all finalists.

## TRAINER JUDGED ON:

1. Ability to teach new cues through any colt issues of fear, refusal or temper
2. Teach colt to connect with the cow.
3. Show ability to control a cow.

## 1<sup>st</sup> GO      Up to 25 minutes (on Thursday, March 8, 2018)

1. Trainer tacks up colt with his own equipment but does not mount, flex or train on colt in advance of his go. May have helper hold colt for tacking up.
2. Teach dry work
3. Flag is available – use is optional
4. Cow work. Trainer calls for a cow. Work one cow at time or up to five at a time during the Go. May have horseback helper if desired.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> GO      All contestants advance to second Go.

Time allotted: Up to 20 minutes (after show, Friday March 9, 2018)

1. Repeat above steps. Acquaint colt with markers to be used in finals.

## FINALS      Three highest cumulative two-day scores.

Time allotted:      UP TO 15 MINUTES (after show, Saturday, March 10)

1. Cow work – up to five cows
  - a. Show ability to read, stop and turn with a cow.
  - b. Drive cow one at a time in designated pattern through cones.