

The Foundation Quarter Horse Registry



There are a few fundamental points to keep in mind concerning the Foundation Quarter Horse Registry. It is about the horse, the breed and the breeders. The purpose is to preserve, promote and perpetuate the foundation bloodlines of the American Quarter Horse. Although there are several other groups that use the word foundation in their name; the Foundation Quarter Horse Registry was the first, the original and is the most active. Also it is a registry not an association.

Versatility is a main focus at FQHR events. Care has been taken not to allow a fractured and specialized element to control their shows. There are three divisions of classes: open, amateur and youth. It takes two days to have one show so it is not a repetition of the first day. Almost half of the classes offered on a weekend are cattle classes. Cattle cutting, Ranch Cutting, Working Cowhorse, Working Ranch Horse and Breakaway Roping are main events. The working ranch type horse is extended to other classes such as Handy Ranch Horse, Ranch Reining, Ranch Pleasure and Western Riding. Part of the original basis for the American Quarter Horse was $\frac{1}{4}$ mile speed so speed classes are offered as well as conformation classes (which are held on the second day and not at the beginning of the show). The reasoning for this is so the judge can see the horses work before they are judged on conformation. Other classes that can be offered are Calf Roping, Ranch Roping, Team doctoring, Team Sorting and Two Man Feedlot Sorting.

FQHR shows are not about competition, but rather about the horse and the owner's pride to show what their horses are capable of doing. Ranchers used to get together to help each other at certain times of the year such as round up and branding. Inevitably the cowboys would get around to bragging about their horses. That pride led to friendly competition.

Today's demonstration is the FQHR Handy Ranch Horse class. The goal is to show how well their horses can perform the tasks required in a working ranch situation. The obstacles can vary as long as they stay within the perimeters of what may be found in a ranching environment. Mandatory obstacles include;

- Opening, passing through and closing a gate while mounted.
- Roping a stationery steer to show the horse's willingness to allow a rope to be thrown from its back. The rider will not be penalized for missing the steer but the horse will be penalized for shying from the rope.
- Loading into a stock trailer while saddled.
- Optional obstacles can include but are not limited to:
- Dragging an object such as a log, backing around brush, putting on and removing a slicker, loping over a single pole, carrying an object such as mail or a bucket, hobble or ground tie to perform a task on foot.

FQHR shows are unlike most horse shows in both philosophy and structure. Members are eager to help new people become involved. Participants usually hold a potluck after the classes on Saturday. They offer a variety of cattle and Western classes but nothing for English riders.

Three quotes sum up the Foundation Quarter Horse Registry:

"The Greatest Cowhorse to ever look through a bridle." Dillon Shook

"To ride him and to use him is to love him." R.L. Underwood

"Usability, Versatility and Dependability best describe the Foundation Quarter Horse." Dillon Shook

The Foundation Quarter Horse Registry's demonstration of their Handy Ranch Horse Class will take place in the Main Arena on Saturday, March 8, from 5:15 to 6:00 p.m.

Additional information on the FQHR can be found on their website: www.michigan-fqhr.com.