

CMRCHA NEWS FOR 2026 SHOW YEAR

The CMRCHA Board of Directors will again offer the Cow Work Challenge in 2026.

1) **“CMRCHA Cow Work Challenge”** - A 16.5” custom Rancher/Cutter saddle, built by Carol Gessell and Dan Wyatt, will be awarded to the **highest total** Cow Work scores during the 2026 show season. The second **highest total** Cow Work scores will receive a Reserve Cow Horse Challenge Award.

Carol Gessell is a well-known and highly regarded saddle maker. She is also a member of the Traditional Cowboy Artist of America (TSAA). With Dan’s help, this will be her inaugural effort at building a quality using saddle for Cow Horse competition using the skills bringing her many accolades. Her work can be viewed at www.blackhorseleather.com.

RULES of the 2026 “Central Montana Cow Work Challenge” are:

A) “Cow Work” is defined a fence work, box/drive, or box only.

B) Scores must be in the same class. However, multiple classes may be entered. See D) below.

C) Each horse/rider combination will be scored by class. Different rider/same horse and same rider/different horse will be scored separately.

D) **CHANGE IN SCORING METHOD:** Cow work scores will be **totaled** over the scheduled eight shows (4 weekends) to determine the **highest total** Cow Work scores.

Averaging will no longer be used. Cow Work scores in all Horse Show classes, along with Cow Work scores in Spectaculars (Saturday only), will be used when calculating the **highest total** Cow Work scores. Entries made concurrently for Spectaculars and their respective Horse Show classes will only get one score.

TIE BREAKERS: First, highest individual cow score; Second, most shows attended; Third, highest rein/cow work score.

2) CMRCHA is currently working on the awards for **Montana Bred horses**. Awards are planned for both the rider/horse combination **and** to the horse’s Breeder. Scoring and rules will be the same as for the CMRCHA Cow Work Challenge.

These awards are in addition to the year-end class awards presented at the Annual CMRCHA Meeting/Banquet.

Details of all CMRCHA shows can be found at the CMRCHA website and on Facebook.