

CUTTING FUNDAMENTALS

Definition of Terms

SHORT - When the cow is ahead of the horse.

LONG - When the horse is ahead of the cow; creates a possibility of losing the working advantage.

RIDE TO THE COW - (Or **DRIVE THE COW**) - When the horse is ridden toward the cow, to keep the horse in a good working position.

POSITION ON THE COW - When cutting, your horse should be facing the cow in the middle of the arena. When moving with the cow, generally the horse's shoulder should be even with the cow's shoulder.

BREAKING OFF - After stepping toward the cow, when the cow moves, the horse should counter the movement by reacting in the same direction.

HOLDING YOUR LINE - After committing to a single cow, the horse should not fade back unless necessary, or leak toward the cow.

INSIDE THE COW - The horse stays tighter on his hocks or shorter in relationship to the cow.

STEP TO THE COW - Sometimes it is necessary to step toward the cow to regain your working advantage or to move the cow.

READ THE COW - Watching the cow carefully to determine its temperament or movements.

DROPPING IN - The horse drops his shoulder and gets his weight on his front end by rolling toward the cow when not necessary.

BREAK OFF SQUARE - Turning with the cow to a parallel position.

(THE HORSE) BLANKS - When a horse loses contact or concentration with the cow and doesn't react properly.

HEAD THE COW - Move the horse slightly ahead of the cow to turn the cow or control its movements.

LOOSE ON THE ENDS - The horse doesn't fully stop before turns, or rolls up toward the cow, usually by the fence.

BREAK OFF THE ENDS TOO FAST - When the horse comes off the fence too quickly ahead of the cow, losing the working advantage.

FADING OFF - When the horse veers away from the cow toward the herd, or is legged away by the rider.

FACE OF THE HERD - The front of the herd. The face of the herd is behind the cutter when he's working.

SHAPE - Setting the cow up during the cut in the center of the arena where it is easily separated and cut.

LEAKING - When the horse moves ahead towards the cow *when not asked to* by the rider.