

LIVESTOCK

New ranch horse proves its worth

By JERILYN JOHNSON

RIDING, roping, reining, cutting — skills that prove the versatility of the working stock horse of today — were on display at the KC Ranch Horse Classic. Missouri's inaugural ranch horse versatility event was held Aug. 18 at the D Bar S Equine Facility, Trimble.

The competition and sale drew equine enthusiasts from Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Iowa, Arkansas,



Key Points

- Inaugural ranch horse versatility event held at Trimble.
- Event highlights abilities of working stock horses.
- Contestants judged on trail, reining, cow work and conformation.

Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio.

"Our event highlighted the abilities of ranch and working horses," says Gary Roach, a Quarter Horse breeder from Edgerton. "It showed our audience what good ranch horses can do and just how much trust is built between horse and rider."

The competition featured 25 horses and awarded nearly \$2,000 in cash prizes to the top 10. Wayne Loch, retired University of Missouri Extension

COWBOY TRY: Wes Delaney, 18-year-old cowboy from Gower, earned the *Missouri Ruralist* Top Hand Award. It was given to the contestant who displayed strong work ethic, a courteous manner, and good horsemanship and stockmanship skills.



RANCH RIDER: Tim Schafer, Barnard, guided his mare, Molly's Flying Leonna, to a first-place finish at the KC Ranch Horse Classic at Trimble.

equine specialist, served as judge.

Two horses were neck and neck during the competition. They performed well in ranch trail, reining, cattle work and conformation, scoring an identical top score of 130 points. The tiebreaker was made on cattle work, and the first-place prize went to Molly's Flying Leonna, ridden by Tim Schafer of

Barnard. Schafer bred and trained the 7-year-old Quarter Horse mare.

"This was our first ranch horse versatility contest, so I was a little nervous going in," Schafer says. "But once we got through the gate and my mare got to work, I was able to relax and have fun."

"This event really reflects what we do every day on my family's cattle op-

A winter like 2006-07 can leave you trailing behind all year.

