

PRESS RELEASE

8-10-15

For additional information contact:

Cotton Stakes

Gwen Coie, Show Secretary

cshowsec@aol.com

318-512-1596

www.cottonstakescutting.com



Nationally Ranked Cutting Horse Show Returns To West Monroe

West Monroe, LA --- Many of the cutting horse riders and owners that took home the \$649,481 purse from the 2014 Cotton Stakes Cutting will be returning to West Monroe, September 6 through 13. The 2015 Cotton Stakes will be the eighth year for the nationally ranked cutting, held annually at the Ike Hamilton Expo Center. Spectators will be treated to eight days of one of the most popular equine sports and all with free admission.

Promoter/producer Robert Charles Brown has added \$110,000 to this year's cutting along with Klapper Spurs, Bronc Halters, Don Orrell Stirrups and knives by Skyline Silversmith as awards to the winners and finalists in the various classes.

If you've never seen a cutting horse in action, here's your chance. Professionals, novice and amateurs take to the arena in this nationally ranked show, classified among the top 15 of the over 2000 cutting horse shows held annually.

When a rider puts their hand down and feels the rush and momentum, the big moves, the hard stops, it's hard to imagine a horse can do this on its own. It's electrifying and addictive. You just want one more cow! Thousands of people annually experience the thrill and beauty of riding a cutting horse.

The contestant walks slowly into a large group of cattle. Four mounted helpers are present to contain the herd. The contestant calmly separates a number of cattle from the herd without unsettling the rest, and gradually allows all but one to peel off and return to the herd. The horse should remain calm and go about his work quietly. Once a cow is selected and the cut made, the rider then lowers his rein hand, giving sufficient slack to allow the horse to work on his own. The horse must now prevent the cow from returning to the herd. In the Cotton Stakes aged events, a panel of five judges score the 2.5 minute of work. Each entry begins with 70 and can drop to 60 or rise to 80. Penalties such as hot quit, cattle scatter, second hand on reins, failure to make a deep cut, back fence horse quitting a cow, losing a cow, or switching cattle range from 1-5 points and are subtracted from the score. Factors such as herd work, driving a cow, setting up a cow, loose reins, working center of the arena, degree of difficulty, courage, eye appeal and time worked on each cow are regarded and added in the "run content" portion of the score card.

Tallahula native and veteran show producer Robert Charles Brown invites everyone out to the show. Prior to the show you can find out more by calling 318-512-1596 or go on line at www.cottonstakescutting.com.

###

THE ABOVE PHOTO: Sweet Little Cats and \$5 Million Rider Austin Shepard scored a 227 in the finals of the 2014 Cotton Stakes Open Classic to earn a \$11,000 paycheck. The owners, Todd and Elizabeth Quirk's Ten/27 Ranch, are from Denham Springs, Louisiana.