

**29th Annual PARCOURS A LA FRANCAISE**  
French-style Herding Events, RLF-Ranch Large Flock AHBA trials

**October 14-17, 2022 – Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday**

(Geese, Sheep, Goats, Cattle and Mixed-sheep & goats)

**Sponsored by Northern California Shetland Sheepdog Herding Club**  
**Sanctioned by American Herding Breed Association**

**TWO Locations - FOUR Days:**

Trycolor Ranch  
680 Hwy 88, Gardnerville, NV  
AND  
Bitterbrush Herding Facility  
1651 Windmill, Gardnerville, NV

**Judges:**

Joyce Shepard & Linda Rorem

**Stock:**

15 head Buff & Embden X Geese  
10 head Beef X Cattle  
25-40 head Katahdin/Dorper X Sheep  
25 head Boer X Goats

*French Course 2020*  
*Gardnerville, NV*



**Schedule:**

- **Friday, Oct. 14:** RLF Level III only Sheep & Geese – 4 goose & 6 sheep runs @ **Trycolor**  
Level I & II Sheep and All Levels Goats – 18 sheep & 12 goat runs @ **Bitterbrush**
- **Saturday, Oct. 15:** RLF Cattle & Mixed All Levels – 18 mixed & 6 cattle runs @ **Bitterbrush**
- **Sunday, Oct. 16:** RLF Level III only Sheep & Geese – 4 goose & 6 sheep runs @ **Trycolor**  
Level I & II Sheep and All Levels Goats – 18 sheep & 12 goat runs @ **Bitterbrush**
- **Monday, Oct. 17:** RLF Cattle & Mixed All Levels – 18 mixed & 6 cattle runs @ **Bitterbrush**

**Awards:** for each type of stock: Placements 1st-4th, High in Trial, Reserve High in Trial  
(trial days will be combined into one trial)  
and Parcours Certificates for all qualifiers

*Entry requirements:* Because of the limited number of runs, a dog may initially be entered only once on each type of stock. If there are still openings by the date of close of entries on October 7, a dog may be allowed a second run on the same kind of stock (a waiting list will be set up based on date of postmark).

Entry fees for trial: Geese: \$50 Sheep: \$55 Goats: \$55 Cattle \$65 Mixed \$55

**Pre-entries open August 29, 2022 & close October 7, 2022 (postmark date)**

**Day-of entries taken if room allows. Add \$5.00 per run**

Make checks payable to *NCSSHC*

Mail entry with payment to:

**Carrie Dempsey**  
**4935 August Dr.**  
**Carson City, NV 89706**

**For additional information, contact Terrie Van Alen- e-mail: [Rustler43@gmail.com](mailto:Rustler43@gmail.com)  
or Carrie Dempsey - email: [QACARRIE@charter.net](mailto:QACARRIE@charter.net) Cell: 775-720-4025**

The emphasis in the trial is on practical, efficient work in taking the flock from an enclosure, moving through an open-field course and negotiating various obstacles, and returning the flock to a pen. There will be a course walk at the handler's meeting at the beginning of each day. Because the practice in France is to set up the course immediately before the trial, the actual course will not be known until the course walk; the types of exercises that can be expected are described on the attached page "French Herding Trials." Run order for entrants will be announced at the beginning of each day.

**\*\*Handler's meeting each day at 8 AM\*\***

**Directions to Trycolor Ranch, 680 Hwy 88, Gardnerville, NV:**

From Reno: 395 South to Hwy 88 (first signal as you come into Minden). Go right for about 5 miles. Watch for trial signs on right.

From Sacramento (from hwy 88): Left side of Hwy 88 about two miles North of the California/Nevada state line. Watch for trial signs on left.

From So. California: 395 North to first signal at South end of Gardnerville (Pinenut/Riverview). Go left past 7-11 (Riverview). Stay to the right and continue through two stop signs. At third stop sign go right and continue to Highway 88. Go left on 88 and travel about 1.25 miles. Watch for trial signs on right

**Directions to Bitterbrush Herding Facility, 1651 Windmill, Gardnerville, NV:**

Take Hwy 395 to Gardnerville. At the traffic signal at Hwy 395 & Waterloo Lane turn right (if coming from the south) OR turn left (if coming from the north) onto Waterloo Lane. Street names turn into Toler, then Fish Spring Road. Go approx. 5 ½ miles to Windmill Road. Turn Left on Windmill and go ¾ mile to the ranch at the corner of Windmill & Shena Terrace. Turn Right on Shena Terrace. Ranch entrance just past the 1st house on the right. Signs will be posted.

- **Bring your own chair, shade and food**
- **Dogs must be crated or on leash when not working**
- **Pick up after your dog**
- **Water will be available**
- **No smoking on the ranches**

**\*\*\*\*\*VOLUNTEER HELP APPRECIATED\*\*\*\*\***

**Put a note on your entry form if you or a friend are able to time/scribe or help anywhere else**

Information about French trials is available on the web at:

<http://herdingontheweb.com/french.html> and <http://herdingontheweb.com/french-ca.html>

Information about AHBA Herding Trials is available at:

<http://www.ahba-herding.org/MainPage.php?AreaName=Overview>

**Entry Form: PARCOURS A LA FRANCAISE (French-style Herding Trial) – AHBA sanctioned RLF**

Dates: October 14-17, 2022

Location: Gardnerville, NV

Please circle LEVEL:

**FRIDAY**

RLF	Sheep	Level I	Level II	Level III	(\$55)	\$
RLF	Geese	n/a	n/a	Level III	(\$50)	\$
RLF	Goats	Level I	Level II	Level III	(\$55)	\$

**SATURDAY**

RLF	Cattle	Level I	Level II	Level III	(\$65)	\$
RLF	Mixed	Level I	Level II	Level III	(\$55)	\$

**SUNDAY**

RLF	Sheep	Level I	Level II	Level III	(\$55)	\$
RLF	Geese	n/a	n/a	Level III	(\$50)	\$
RLF	Goats	Level I	Level II	Level III	(\$55)	\$

**MONDAY**

RLF	Cattle	Level I	Level II	Level III	(\$65)	\$
RLF	Mixed	Level I	Level II	Level III	(\$55)	\$
					<b>Total</b>	\$

**Make checks payable to: NCSSHC**

**Mail entry with payment to: Carrie Dempsey 4935 August Dr. Carson City, NV 89706**

Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Reg. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Registry & #: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Sire: \_\_\_\_\_ Dam: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Breeder: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail/Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Street or P.O. City State Zip

Name of handler if other than owner: \_\_\_\_\_

**AGREEMENT TO HOLD HARMLESS WAIVER AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK:** (Hereafter, NCSSHC and AHBA refer to all of the officers, directors, agents and members of, respectively, the Northern California Shetland Sheepdog Herding Club and the American Herding Breed Association.)

In consideration for participation in this event, I agree to assume all responsibility for any claim, loss, or damage of whatever kind or nature, whether to person or property, which may be caused at or near this event, either directly or indirectly, by me or the dog(s) I have entered in or brought to this event. I further agree that I will hold NCSSHC, AHBA, De'Lila Welch, Try Color Ranch, Lisa Edwards & Bitterbrush Herding Facility harmless and defend them from any and all liability for any injury, claim, damage, or loss, of whatever kind or nature, whether to person or property, caused at or near this event, whether directly or indirectly by or to myself, family members, guests who may attend or any dog I have entered in or brought to this event. I agree to indemnify NCSSHC, AHBA, De'Lila Welch, Try Color Ranch, Lisa Edwards & Bitterbrush Herding Facility for any loss, cost or expense including attorney's fees and costs, to which NCSSHC, AHBA, De'Lila Welch, and Try Color Ranch might be subject as a result of any claim, suit, loss, or damage caused in any way by any act or negligence on my part or on the part of any dog(s) I have entered in or brought to this event.

I acknowledge that NCSSHC, AHBA, De'Lila Welch, Try Color Ranch, Lisa Edwards & Bitterbrush Herding Facility do not have and do not exercise control over the conduct of the event or those present. I certify and represent that the dog(s) I have entered in or brought to this event is/are not a hazard to other dogs, other animals, or to people. I also agree to be responsible for paying the market value for any animal mortally injured by my dog(s) and for any vet bills incurred on any animals by my dog(s). I understand that attendance at this event is not without risk to myself or my dog(s) because some of the dogs and livestock to which I will be exposed may be difficult to control and may be the cause of injury even when handled with the greatest amount of care.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Entrant

## FRENCH HERDING TRIALS

The emphasis in the trial is on practical, efficient work. The course includes taking the sheep from an enclosure, moving them through the course and negotiating various obstacles (including a vehicle pass in the Level III class), gathering up the flock after a brief graze, sorting the sheep, catching and briefly holding a sheep, and returning the flock to the pen.

Herding trials have been held in France since 1896. There have been some variations in details over the years, but essentials have remained the same. Before 1990 there was one overall type or level of trial, although individual courses could vary considerably. Basic common elements were included and overall guidelines followed. There was an exit from the pen, movement along a road or path, passage near a hedge, embankment or tempting crop, transit over a bridge and through gates or natural barriers, stopping the flock to graze for two or three minutes in a square marked off by four corner flags, settling the flock and catching and briefly holding a sheep, entry onto a road and the meeting or overtaking of the flock by a car, and returning the sheep to the pen. The overall point total was 100. As is still the case, the regulations left it to the judges to establish the course and distribute points according to the characteristics of that course. In the early 1990's, the trials were divided into three levels, and a kind of "instinct test" was added below the level of the trials. The three levels incorporate various aspects of the original one-level trials. They are:

Level I - for novice dogs; the course is limited to the most simple obstacles and tests.

Level II - for more experienced dogs; success at this level allows the dog to obtain his "certificate of work with the flock" (Brevet).

Level III - for advanced dogs; obtaining specified ratings at this level entitles the dog to higher certificates and the opportunity to compete in the National Championship trial.

On the trial course, the shepherd may lead the flock, be at the side, or follow the flock; in actual practice, about half lead, and half follow. When bridges, chutes or other narrow passages are negotiated, this is to be done with the dog showing control of the flock, the shepherd usually standing beside the entrance while the sheep go through. With obstacles such as sorting chutes, the shepherd may help the dog, for instance, by blocking the sheep to help funnel them. The dog may bark or even jump on the backs of the leading sheep to push them forward.

During the grazing section of the trial, the shepherd and dog move the flock into a marked area and settle them. This represents the common French practice of "grazing to the square" by keeping the sheep in a compact group so that the field is thoroughly grazed and manured a section at a time. Sheep are also to be kept from trespassing on adjoining crops. At the conclusion of the graze or at a separate point, the sheep are settled and, while the dog works independently to keep them grouped around the shepherd, the shepherd catches and briefly holds a sheep. The judge gives a signal at the conclusion of the graze and indicates when the catch and hold has been accomplished.

Work at a distance may be required in the Level III class: the sheep are left grazing while the shepherd moves to a handler's post up to 250 yards away, either taking the dog with him, or leaving the dog with the flock and then recalling the dog; then the dog is sent to gather the flock and bring it to the handler. In mountain regions especially sheep graze in a more spread-out fashion, vegetation being sparser, and the dog may need to be sent some distance to gather them.

Course -- The course is laid out over two or three hectares of ground (hectare being 2.47 acres), with a length of about 1200 meters (for the advanced class), where different obstacles are distributed and suit a time of 25 to 30 minutes. The exercises are divided into five main sections: (1) Pen or sheepfold; (2) Difficult passages; (3) Conduct and maneuver; (4) Stops; (5) Intelligence of execution.

### Scoring requirements for qualifying:

For French Course Certificate:		Level III – 150 pts.	Level II – 100 pts.	Level I – 75 pts.
Excellent	80%	120	80	60
Very Good:	65 - 79%	97.5 - 119	65 - 79	48.75 - 84
Good:	55 - 64%	82.5 - 97	55 - 64	41.25 - 48.5
For AHBA Titles:				
RLF:	70%	105	70	52.5
HTCh.	80%	120		