



WESTERN EUROPE WORKING AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB e.V.

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Preliminary rules

Outrun: If all the stock is lost during outrun lift and fetch, the handler has the opportunity to get the stock back either by her/his self or by the help of the stockhandlers. The handler has to inform the judge if she/he wants the help of the stockhandlers.

In the started division the handler gets 0 points for the outrun and can continue gaining points. In advanced division the handler can continue, if she/he wants to, but will be FEO.

In started the handler may positioning his/herself halfway up to the stock, before sending his/her dog. There for 50 % of the points for OLF will be taken away.

Up to two head of stock may be lost during the course by started dogs. Afterwards less points will be achieved in every part of the course and the final points are reduced by 50%. Loosing of stock in the advanced division, with the exception of the outrun, will lead to disqualification. Loosing does not mean the breaking away of some heads of stock, if the dog is capable of bringing it back to the group.

Drive or fetch: what ever the handler considers suitable for this specific part of the course. The judging should just lay strength on the stressfree movement of the stock. In advanced obstacles with handlerlines should be created by the course director, to show the advanced dogs driving abilities.

Obstacles: after at least two attempts the handler can decide to move on and leave the obstacle out, if she/he thinks that no success will be achieved. The judge has to be informed and she/he has to accept, otherwise the contestant has to do another try.

This doesn't count for obstacles, which are mandatory for accomplishing the course; e.g. if the stock has to move through a gate to another field.

The judge can ask the contestant to move on, if she/he doesn't see success at any given point.

Penwork: It is the decision of the handler to send his dog in a pen or not. A dog working alone in the pens should get more points than a dog accompanied by the handler.

Warnings of the course director about the stock should be considered.

At least one situation where dog and stock are in the same pen with a closed gate should be created by the coursedirector

Gripping: Allowed just when challenged and not without reason.

Purpose and Objective

The Farm Trial program provides a variable chore oriented venue in which to display the Australian Shepherd's practical skills as an all around stock dog.

Livestock

Classes of livestock will be cattle, sheep/goats, and/or fowl. Cattle will have the designation (c), sheep/goats will have the designation (s), fowl which includes ducks, chickens, geese and turkeys will have the designation (d).

There must be a minimum of 6 head of stock used in all aspects of the course.

The number of runs allowed per head of stock will be a maximum of 3 per day

After a group of stock has run the course, they are required to rest at least 1 run before being used in any portion of the course again

All dogs, whether competing for certification or not, must enter in the Started Division and progress through Advanced. Titles are earned in a division when two (2) qualifying scores are received under two different judges.

After receiving two (2) qualifying scores in a division, the dog can stay in the class for **1 year**.

Divisions.

The organizer is required to offer the following divisions without priority to any division: WEWASC Started Farm Trial Dog (WSFTD) is for dogs six (6) months of age or older on the day of the event. Any dog that has received two (2) qualifying scores in the Started Division may continue to compete in this division for up to **1 year** after earning the second qualifying score.

Note: In the started divisions, once a dog has earned two (2) qualifying scores in the division you may choose to move up to the next division immediately in that class of stock or you may choose to stay in that division for up to **1 year** and compete for placements and awards. After the **1 year** period has expired, a dog may compete in the division but it must be "For Exhibition Only". The owner or exhibitor must note on the entry form "FEO" and inform the judge they are running "FEO" before the start of their run.

WEWASC Advanced Farm Trial Dog (WAFTD) is for dogs that have qualified for Started Farm Trial Dog for the class being entered. Any dog certified Advanced Farm Trial Dog may continue to compete in the Advanced Farm Trial Dog division for that class.

For Exhibition Only "FEO" - An exhibitor may run in any division at any time, with or without a title, for Exhibition Only. No placements or prizes will be awarded for dogs running "FEO". The owner or exhibitor must note on the entry form "FEO" and inform the judge they are running "FEO" before the start of their run.

The Farm Trial Course

1. Required Tasks

Because of the varying setups of farms around the country, no two farm trial courses will necessarily be the same. Each course should be designed to showcase the working ability of the Australian Shepherd in the day to day tasks that happen on many farms. The course should not be overly complicated and should try to represent practical work type situations where a dog needs to move stock in an efficient and stress-free manner.

The course designer must take into account the increased difficulty for each division (WSFTD, WAFTD) when developing the course. Ways to increase difficulty can include, but are not limited to, length of gather, sorting of marked animals, advanced pen/chute work, handler lines, use of drives, use of task(s) that are specific to a division, etc...

The following are the minimum tasks required for an WEWASC Farm Trial setup.

a. Pen Work: The work will include, but is not limited to, moving the stock from one pen to another before and after sort and/or chute work. The dog should work primarily on its own in the pens.

b. Sorting: At least one sort is required during the course regardless of division. For the Started Division there is at least 1 marked animal and for the Advanced Divisions, a sort of at least 3 marked animals is required. The work required includes the sorting of the animals and moving them to a separate pen and/or holding them in a designated area. The dog and handler may work together during sorting.

Note : There is no sorting of fowl. Instead fowl need to be restricted in a designated area, until the judge tells the contestant to move on. A corner for started, a circle for Advanced.

c. Gather: Minimum area must be large enough for a **20 meter** (Sheep/Cattle) **10 meter** (fowl)gather. This minimum gather is the distance between dog and stock In the Started Class, the handler may help their dog by positioning themselves up to 1/2 the distance between the dog and stock. In the Advance Class, the handler stays at the specified point and the distance will be **50 meters** (sheep/cattle) and **25 meters** (fowl)

d. Location Specific Task(s): Along with the 3 mandatory tasks, 2 other tasks that are specific to the Course location are used.

A list of suggested tasks is listed below. Other tasks, which are not listed below, may be used with approval from the WEWASC Board

- Footbath simulation
- Loading into Trailer
- Barn work - Blind Gather -Natural Obstacles/Bridge
- Hold at designated area
- Removal of halter/ribbon/collar
- Field work (acre or larger)
- Shed

- Maltese Cross

Each required task must be attempted during the course of the trial however, depending on design of the course; there may be situations where the task must be completed in order to continue. These situations must be clearly described in the premium for the trial. During any task, time will be called for overworking stock.

Time:

The minimum time required for a Farm Trial Dog Course is 10 minutes. A Farm Trial Course should mimic real work and be designed to move stock in an easy and efficient manner. There should be adequate time allotted to each course depending on its task, Class and/or Division. When running the course, each handler will be given a 3 minute warning before their time is expired. If the maximum time for the course is 20 minutes or longer a 10 minute warning should also be given.

Judging and Scoring

- 1.- Anybody who has handled 2 WTCH dogs and is a WEWASC member for 3 years
 - Any judge approved by an official herdingbreed club.
 - any person approved by the WEWASC board based on his/her credentials.

2. It is the Judge's responsibility to see that the course complies with the trial sanctioning and the stock meet the minimum requirements needed to put on a quality Farm Trial.

3. Score sheet (see example): are available from the WEWASC secretary.
The total number of points available is 125 for Started/Advanced, broken down as follows:

- Pen Work: 25 points
- Sort Work: 30 points
- Gather Work: 30 of total points
- Location Specific Task: 20 points each

Ties are broken by time.

4. Qualifying Score

Started and Advanced Farm Trial Dogs must earn 88 points in total

5. Judging Criteria -

a. Task: The main objective in ranch and farm work is to get the job done in the most efficient and stress-free manner possible. Moving the stock with little or no weight loss, stress or injury is the purpose of using stockdogs. The bulk of the score earned by the dog should be for the work accomplished during each task.

b. Attitude, Obedience, Power, and Teamwork: All of these are necessary ingredients that go towards making an effective ranch or farm dog and should be considered when scoring each dog.

c. Qualifying Performance: A qualifying score must never be awarded to a dog whose performance has not met the minimum requirements. In deciding whether a dog's performance warrants a qualifying score, the Judge shall consider whether the awarding of any working title would be justified. The Judge must not give a qualifying score for a run if that qualification would not be representative of this sport and was not an example of efficiently handling livestock with a minimal amount of stress.

– Sanctioning Requirements

1. A Farm Trial Course must be approved by the WEWASC board

The sanctioning request must be received by the WEWASC board at least 60 days prior to the trial date.

2. In addition to a completed WEWASC Farm Trial Dog Sanctioning Form, the following is required.

a. A complete description of the course and the order in which the tasks must be performed for each division (WSFTD,WAFTD)

b. A complete diagram of the course which includes the pens, chute, sorting area, gather layout, natural obstacles, and any additional tasks

c. The size of the chutes, pens, gates, and gather areas.

d. A copy of the flyer for the trial. The flyer must contain the following information:

- location and date(s) of trial(s)
- Course Director and Judge(s) name
- Course description for each division
- Diagram of the course

- Maximum time for each division
- Warning times
- Points for each task
- When bitches in heat can run - Maximum number of runs
- When run order is drawn
- Type of stock