

COW SMART

COW SKILLS SELF-ASSESSMENT 3.0

Hi!

When a horse is "cow smart," it refers to his ability to focus on a cow, anticipate its behavior, and respond accurately and confidently to the task at hand – all the while in sync with the rider.

In horses, a lot of natural talent (like how a 'bird dog' has a genetic predisposition for interest in birds) can be cultivated through confidence-building training methods. Horses with less 'cow' can also be trained and be confident working a cow.

In people, it's a skill that needs to be understood, practiced, and developed.

And no matter your experience, your ability to read and work cattle will always be a work in progress.

I've attached a personal assessment for ***COW SMART Skills 3.0***.

I hope you enjoy thinking about how you would execute these actions in situations with your horse.

It doesn't matter if you're a beginning or a world champion; it's always essential to take stock of our fundamental skills – and build from there. That's forever!

Celebrate your strengths and methodically work on the skills you need to build.

What follows is meant to be fun and get you thinking. It will also give you a visual representation of your strengths and where you have opportunities to learn how to read and work a cow even better.

Scores are from 1-10:

Ten is "I'm confident."

0 being, "I have no idea!"

1-9 is the area in between!

Enjoy,

Barb

Cow Skill Considerations:

I am clear about my job when I work a cow.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

I can describe an individual cow and remember it myself or discuss it with others.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

COW SMART

I can recognize a cow in a herd after 'studying' the group.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

I can predict how a cow will act with good accuracy by observing its behavior.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

I can read cattle well on the move and at most speeds.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

I know how to help my horse rate a cow moving across the pen.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

I can help my horse influence a cow's behavior (when the cow can be influenced) by exerting or releasing pressure on the cow along with taking just the right angles.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

I can use my seat effectively to help my horse slow down, stop and turn with a cow.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

I can use my legs and feet effectively to help my horse 'stay on the line' or get a good angle.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

I understand the proper form and rhythm a horse needs for a beautiful, rhythmic and correct cow turn.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

I can feel my horse about to make a mistake before they make it and then I can use my seat and legs to help them stay correct if they're about to make a mistake.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

I feel very connected to the cow when I work it.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

COW SMART

I can feel when my horse is connected to the cow (or not) as he works it.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

I love to work cattle and I have a blast no matter how it turns out. (-;

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

I understand that reading and working a cow is a 'soft skill' developed over time in the saddle - but there are things I can do on my own to help myself learn.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

NOW – Interpret your results:

You have experience and super-star strengths (scores 8-10).

You have experience, strengths & opportunities to learn (scores 4-7).

You have solid opportunities to learn (scores 3-0).

What I feel awesome about!

Note where you will focus your next efforts and then rank them according to what you will focus on first.