

RLF Course: General Description

The course is laid out in a 20-acre field which slopes upwards to a crest of a ridge. The perimeter is fenced with box wire field fencing, 40" high. Physical description of course obstacles and features are listed below.

There are several draws for the sheep on this course. In general, this HRD course tests the ability of the Handler and dog to read the impact of these draws on the sheep and to respond appropriately so that the flock movement, grazing, gathering, holding, and sorting tasks can be completed efficiently.

Orange cones, where specified, will mark the *inside* of all turns on the course. Blue cones will mark the Handler's posts, all levels; "Road" and "Graze" edges on the course are marked by furrows.

Except if otherwise specified by judge, movement on the course is in a counter-clockwise direction around the field on the road.

You don't feed the sheep through their feet. The sheep should move steadily and quietly along the roads, without rushing, lagging, or weaving. **The combination of shortest paths traveled on line, on course, and smoothest, quietest movement of sheep, dog, and Handler should receive the highest score. The dog should do most of the work (except for opening and closing gates).**

Except where otherwise specified in these rules, Handler and dog may take any position necessary relative to the flock throughout the course while moving.

Except where noted, if more than half the flock is 50 yards off course for longer than 5 minutes, if the sheep are being harassed by a dog, or if the judge feels the dog is working out of control without any chance of the Handler regaining control, then the run should be terminated.

For RLF I, the judge may request that an experienced dog and stock handler be positioned discretely on the course for the beginning of the run to help prevent sheep from bolting to the top of the ridge, one of the draws.

The time limits and total approximate distances the sheep travel for each course:

RLF I: 25 minutes, 580 yards

RLF II: 35 minutes, 680 yards

RLF III: 45 minutes, 885 yards (sheep), (plus an extra 490 yards for person and dog to hike back to retrieve the remaining sheep in the Holding Pen back to the Take Pen.)

Physical Description of Course Obstacles and Features:

Take Pen: 32 ft. x 32 ft., fencing 40 inches high, 12-foot gate ("Take Pen" in diagram).

Road One (1): 12 ft. wide; edges marked by furrows, Pen to Inner Road = 182 feet.

Bridge-Footbath: bridge panels approximately 12 ft. wide, 18 ft. long, field floor
Inner Road: 12 ft. wide; edges marked by furrows, total length = 740 feet; sub-length from Road 1 to angle turn = 244 feet.
Traffic Road: 18 ft. wide; edges marked by furrows, total length = 450 feet.
Road 2: 12 ft. wide, edges marked by fence and furrow, and goes back to Take Pen. Road 2 from End of Traffic Road to Pen = 146 feet.
Holding Pen: 16 feet x 16 feet with a 12 foot gate and 48 inch tall fencing.
Sort Sheep: 10 sheep to be sorted in each run, including 3 with ribbons around (II and III) their necks.

Blue cone-- The judge or judge's assistant should carry/move a **blue cone** to mark the **Handler's Post** for the **Gather** at a **Graze exit**.

***Runs will be disqualified** if a gate is not secured and closed by the Handler at the Re-Pen and when leaving the Holding Pen, if the Handler enters the Holding Pen during a Sort, and if any sheep are not penned in their specified pens by the end of the run.*

SCORING for RLF

<u>Name of Exercise</u>	<u>RLF I</u>	<u>RLF II</u>	<u>RLF III</u>
1. <u>Exit from Pen</u>	10	10	10
2. Before Graze: <u>Fetch/Drive & Bridge-Footbath (including II & III: Drive Leg & Hold)</u>	20	15	15
3. <u>Graze (10 min.)</u>	20	20	20
4. <u>Gather</u>	15	15	15
5. After Graze: <u>Fetch/Drive & Flock Halt</u>	15	10	10
6. <u>Sort</u>	--	10	10
7. <u>Re-Pen (Both 1st & 2nd times for III)</u>	10	10	10
8. <u>"Gamblers" 2nd Task Fetch/Drive/Tend</u>	--	--	10
Total Possible Points:	90	90	100
Minimum Points to quality (70%):	63	63	70
Maximum Time of Run (minutes):	25 min.	35 min.	45 min.

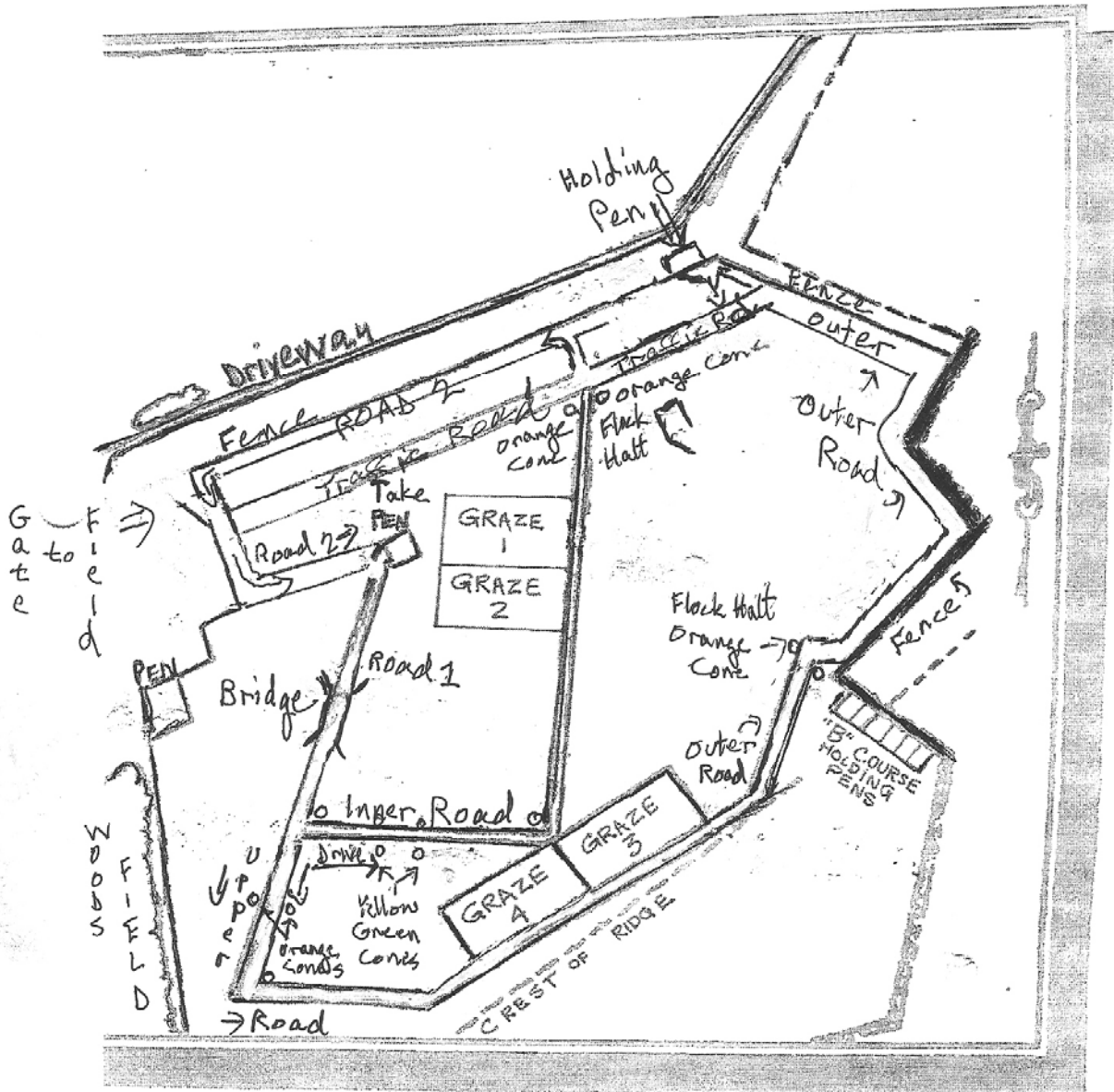
Length of Course:

580 yds. 680 yds. 885 yds.

Ties within classes will be broken on:

- 1) Highest score for **Graze**
- 2) Highest score for **Exit from Pen**

RLF Course Diagram:



RLF I: Step-by-Step Description*

30 sheep minimum; Length—approx. 580 yards; Time—25 minutes.

see “RLF Course: General Description**” (above) for dimensions and description of obstacles and features*

1. **Exit from Pen (10 points) RLF I**

At the Handler’s discretion, the Take Pen gate can remain in an open or closed position after the Exit from the Take Pen.

2. **Fetch/Drive and Bridge-Footbath (20 points) RLF I**

The flock travels along **Road 1** in a counter-clockwise direction around field, traveling through the **Bridge-Footbath**.

Bridge-Footbath: Flock, Handler, and the dog pass through the **Bridge-Footbath**.

Flock continues onto the **Inner Road**, making left turns (at orange cones), and goes to the assigned **Graze** area. The **Graze** area is **Graze 1, 2, 3, or 4** (at judge’s discretion).

3. **Graze (20 points) RLF I**

***RLF I Handlers** may lead the flock into the **Graze** area and move anywhere in the **Graze** area to help position their dog and settle the flock at any time during the **Graze**.*

Time for the **Graze** is **10 minutes**. Handler can bring water on course for the dog.

During the Graze, the dog should demonstrate ability to cover the flock while working away from the handler and hold the flock in the designated graze.

At the **Graze**, the dog may move, stand, sit, or lie down. The dog can move anywhere on the course or in the graze or along the border.

Commands may be given by the Handler to the dog to maintain the flock in the Graze area.

4. **Gather (15 points) RLF I**

For the **RLF I gather** exercise, the Handler and dog must first go to the **blue cone** marking the **Handler’s Post**. The exercise scoring begins when the dog and Handler are **both within 5 feet of the Handler’s Post**.

The flock can be as close as **20 yards** to the Handler’s Post at the start of the Gather for **RLF I**, but if the flock is that close, the dog must start the **Gather** from the **Handler’s Post**. The Handler may take a **position as close as 15 feet to the flock** before the dog starts the **Gather**.

If the flock is **20- 40 (or more) yards** away, the dog then may be taken to a point *halfway between the Handler’s post and the flock*, and the Handler may take a **position as close as 15 feet to the flock** before the dog starts the **Gather**.

The dog gathers and moves the flock to the Handler and past the **Handler's post**.

5. **Fetch/Drive and Flock Halt (15 points) RLF I**

Flock continues traveling in counter-clockwise direction around field on **Inner Road** until reaching "T" intersection with **Traffic Road**, where flock is halted.

At the T-Intersection of **Inner Road** with the **Traffic Road**, dog halts forward progress of flock (at the orange cone) by standing in front of flock and holding it while the Handler moves away from flock and beyond dog (at least 10 ft.) to "look" for traffic on the **Traffic Road**. Handler returns to the flock.

After the Flock Halt, for RLF I, The flock then makes a left turn directly onto the **Traffic Road**. The flock must stay on the road.

The flock stays on the **Traffic Road** until it intersects with **Road 2** at the **Gate to the Field** where the flock makes a left turn onto **Road 2**. **Road 2** leads to the **Take Pen**.

6. **Re-Pen (10 points) RLF I**

If the Handler elected to close the gate at the beginning of the run, the dog will hold the flock quietly and in a stationary position away from the gate so the Handler can open the gate smoothly. The gate is closed at end of run.

If the Handler chose to leave the gate open at the beginning of the run, then the flock can return directly into the **Take Pen**. The gate is closed at end of run.

RLF II: Step-by-Step Description*

30 sheep minimum; Length—680 yards; Time—35 minutes

**see "RLF Course: General Description" (at top, above)
for dimensions and description of obstacles and features*

1. **Exit from Pen (10 points) RLF II**

Same as RLF I.

2. **Fetch/Drive to Bridge-Footbath, Drive Leg, Hold (15 points) RLF II**

Road & Bridge-Footbath—Same as RLF I.

Drive Leg: The **Handler's Post (orange corner cone along edge of Inner Road)** marks the beginning of a **60-foot drive leg** along the **Inner Road**. The Handler must remain on the road behind the **Handler's post** while the dog works, until the flock passes the first **2 orange cones**, marking the end of the drive leg.

Hold: Dog will then hold the flock in the **Square** marked by the **4 orange cones on the Inner Road**, until the Handler reaches and/or passes the **Square** and the flock.

Flock, Handler, and dog continue path on the **Inner Road**, making a left or right turn on road and go to the assigned **Graze** area. The **Graze** area is **Graze 1, 2, 3, or 4** (at judge's discretion).

3. **Graze (20 points) RLF II**

Same as RLF I.

4. **Gather (15 points) RLF II**

Same as RLF I.

The RLF II Handler should be **at least 60 feet** from the flock at the start of the **Gather**.

5. **Fetch/Drive and Flock Halt (10 points) RLF II**

Fetch/Drive and Flock Halt—Same as RLF I.

The RLF II Handler and flock then make a **right turn** onto the **Traffic Road**. The Handler and flock then leave the **Traffic Road** by turning left in front of and heading towards the **Holding Pen** gate. **See Sort Exercise (below)**.

After the Sort Exercise, the 10 sorted sheep and Handler **continue this exercise** by re-entering the **Traffic Road** traveling in a counter-clockwise direction around field. They stay on the **Traffic Road** until it intersects with **Road 2** at the **Gate to the Field** where the flock makes a left turn onto **Road 2**. **Road 2** leads to the **Take Pen**.

6. **Sort (10 points) RLF II**

Judging for the Sort exercise starts when the sheep leave the Traffic Road by turning left directly in front of the **Holding Pen Gate**. The flock is halted and held in position by the dog while the Handler opens the gate to prepare for the Sort. Sheep can be sorted into or out of the pen.

The objective of the Sort is to separate the **3 marked sheep** from the flock plus 7 others (total 10 sheep) and to leave the remainder in the **Holding Pen**. The Handler may not enter the **Holding Pen**. The dog may enter the **Holding Pen** if appropriate.

7. **Re-Pen (10 points) RLF II**

Same as RLF I, but with 10 sheep.

RLF III: Step-by-Step Description

30 Sheep Minimum; Length—885 yards; Time—45 minutes

see “ **Course: General Description” (at top, above)
for dimensions and description of obstacles and features*

1. **Exit from Pen (10 points) RLF III**

Same as RLF I.

2. **Fetch/Drive to Bridge, Drive Leg, Hold (15 points) RLF III**

Same as RLF I.

Flock continues and makes a left turn onto the **Inner Road** (at orange cone).

Drive Leg: The **Handler's Post (orange cone at corner of Road 1 and the Inner Road)** marks the beginning of a **120-foot drive leg** along the **Inner Road**. The Handler must remain on the road behind the **Handler's post** while the dog works, until the flock passes the first **2 yellow-green cones**, marking the end of the drive leg.

Hold: Dog will then hold the flock at the **Square** marked by the **4 yellow-green cones**, until the Handler reaches and/or passes the **Square** and the flock.

3. Graze (20 points) RLF III

Same as RLF I.

4. Gather (15 points) RLF III

Same as RLF I. **The RLF III Handler** should be **at least 120 feet** from the flock at the start of the **Gather**.

5. Fetch/Drive & Flock Halt (10 points) RLF III

Fetch/Drive & Flock Halt—Same as RLF I.

After Flock Halt, follow fetch/drive directions for RLF II.

After the Sort Exercise, follow directions in RLF II 5. second paragraph for the 10 sorted sheep.

6. Sort—Task 1 at Holding Pen (10 points) RLF III

Follow directions for RLF II Sort exercise.

7. Re-Pen at Take Pen— 1st & 2nd (10 points total) RLF III

Follow directions for RLF I Re-Pen.

8. "Gamblers" 2nd Task Fetch/Drive/Tend (10 points total) RLF III

This exercise begins after the Re-pen of the 10 sorted sheep.

After fastening the gate of the Take Pen, the Handler will declare whether he/she opts for "**Drive**" or "**Fetch**" or "**Tend**" to retrieve the remaining sheep back to the Take Pen.

"Drive Option"

1. The Handler and dog return to the Holding Pen so that the Handler can open the gate and allow the sheep to come out. The dog may enter the Holding Pen if necessary to exhaust the sheep. The Handler should stay out of the pen.

2. The Holding Pen gate is re-fastened by the Handler while the dog holds the sheep.

3. Sheep then can be tended, fetched, or driven directly to the Traffic Road.

4. When the sheep are on the Traffic Road, the Handler must assume a moving position behind or alongside the sheep; so, at first, the dog is driving, not fetching, the sheep along the road for at least 120 feet. The remainder of the Traffic Road can be done with the dog and handler in any orientation.

5. When the flock reaches the intersection of Road 2 that leads back to the Take Pen gate, the Handler can assume whatever distance and orientation she/he wants around the flock.

“Tend Option”

1. The Handler and dog return to the Holding Pen so that the Handler can open the gate and allow the sheep to come out. The dog may enter the Holding Pen if necessary to exhaust the sheep. The Handler should stay out of the pen.

2. The Holding Pen gate is re-fastened by the Handler while the dog holds the sheep.

3. Sheep then can be tended, fetched, or driven directly to the Traffic Road.

4. When the sheep are on the Traffic Road, the Handler must assume a moving position either alongside the flock, along a furrow, or in front of the sheep, and the Dog must assume a moving position alongside the sheep, along a furrow or in front of the sheep (handler can ask dog to change sides); so, at first, the dog is tending the sheep along the road for at least 120 feet. The remainder of the Traffic Road can be done with the dog and handler in any orientation.

5. When the flock reaches the intersection of Road 2 that leads back to the Take Pen gate, the Handler can assume whatever distance and orientation she/he wants around the flock.

“Fetch Option”

1. As soon as this option is chosen, the course director or assistant will release the remainder sheep in the Holding Pen into the field.

2. The Handler and dog can then assume any position in the portion of the field in a **“Bermuda triangle”** bound by: 1.) the Traffic Road, 2.) the Inner Road portion running north south on the field, 3.) 12 feet in front of the Take Pen Gate.

3. The dog should be released for an outrun/fetch to gather the sheep back to the Handler and to bring the sheep on the shortest line back to the Take Pen gate.

4. The sheep must be a **minimum of 40 yards away** from the Handler and/or dog at the start of the dog's outrun. The sheep do not have to be in sight. The Handler moves where necessary to help the dog to fetch or drive the sheep back to the Take Pen as efficiently as possible, but cannot leave the “Bermuda Triangle” when helping.

American Herding Breed Association
Ranch Large Flock

Time: _____
 Entry No. _____

Breed _____

Registered Name _____

Sponsor _____ Location _____

RLF I _____ RLF II _____ RLF III _____

_____ Sheep _____ Ducks _____ Goats _____ Cattle (provide number)... _____ Other (provide type and number)

	Possible Score	Deductions	Points Deducted
1. Exit from Pen	10	_____	_____
2. Fetch/Drive & Bridge-Footbath (including II & III: Drive Leg & Hold)	I-20/II, III-15	_____	_____
3. Graze (10 Minutes)	20	_____	_____
4. Gather	15	_____	_____
5. Fetch/Drive & Flock Halt	I-15/II, III-10	_____	_____
Re-Pen (Both 1 st and 2 nd for III)	10	_____	_____
Sort -- 1st Task	II, III -10	_____	_____
“Gamblers” 2nd Task (Fetch, Tend, Drive) III-10		_____	_____
		Total Deducted:	_____
SCORE:	I, II-90/III-100	TOTAL EARNED:	_____

(70% to qualify: minimum score of 63 for RLF I, RLF II; 70 for RLF III): Q___ NQ___

COMMENTS: _____

Judge's signature _____ Date _____