

Welcome Spectators



September 30th thru October 6th
Belle Grove Plantation, Middletown, VA

Dear Spectators,

We are excited to welcome you to the 2024 USBCHA National Sheepdog Finals at Belle Grove Plantation. Thank you for coming out to witness the top 150 dog handler teams compete to determine the 2024 National Champion.

Sheep herding trials have a rich history dating back to the early days of agriculture. In the 19th century, the first sheepdog trials were held in the United Kingdom, and the tradition soon spread to other countries. Today, these trials showcase the incredible skills of both the dogs and their handlers, who work together to guide a flock of sheep through a series of obstacles.

We are grateful to Belle Grove Plantation for hosting this event. Their beautiful grounds provide the perfect setting for this exciting competition.

So sit back, relax, and enjoy the show! We hope you have a wonderful time at the 2024 USBCHA National Sheepdog Finals.

Best regards,

United States Border Collie Association

The 2024 Finals Host Committee



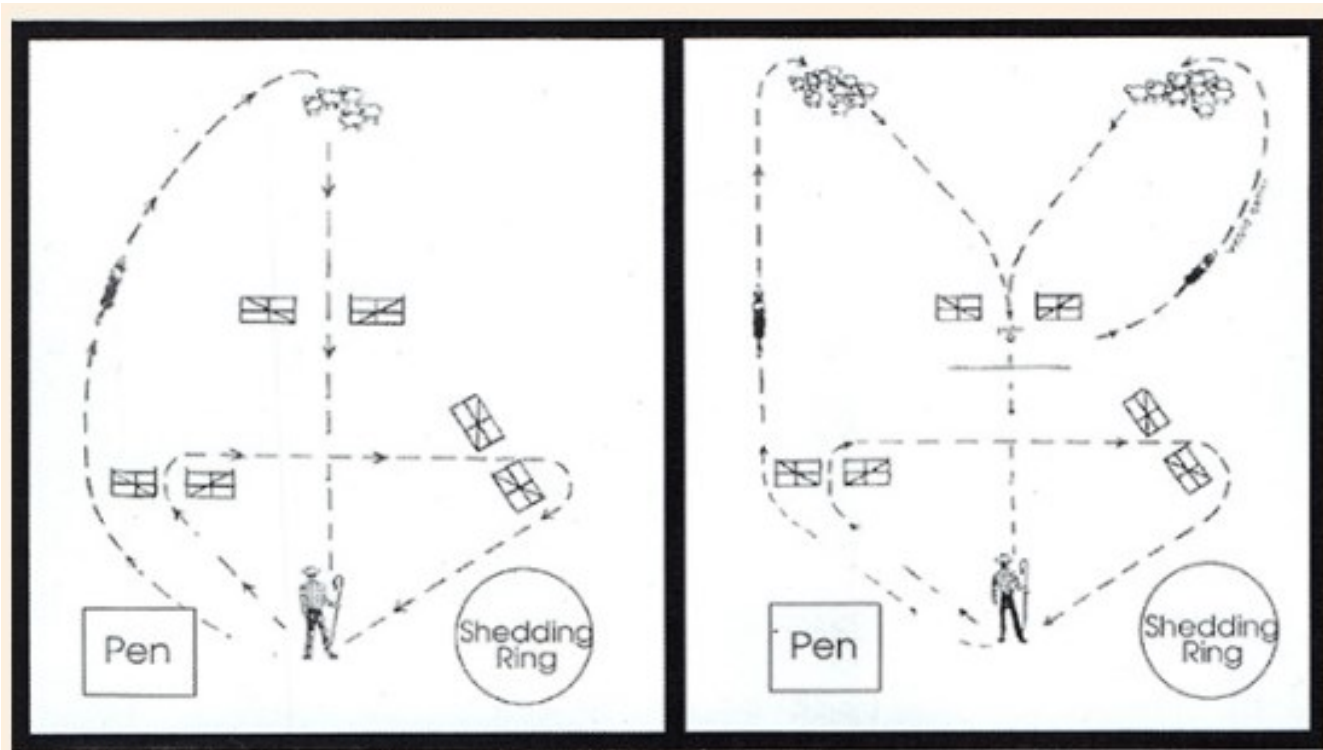
American Border Collie Association

Supporting and Promoting the Working Border Collie

What Is Happening on the Field

Preliminary and Semi-Final Round
Monday Thru Saturday

Championship Round
Sunday



1. **The Outrun (Gather)**

- **What's Happening?** The dog leaves the handler's side and runs in a wide arc around the sheep to get behind them without disturbing them.
- **Scoring:** Dogs should make a clean, smooth outrun with minimal wasted movement. Judges deduct points for any hesitation or if the dog runs too tight and startles the sheep.
- **Goal:** The dog needs to end up quietly behind the sheep, setting them up for a smooth fetch.

2. **The Lift**

- **What's Happening?** The dog approaches the sheep and gently "lifts" them off their spot to start moving them toward the handler.
- **Scoring:** Judges look for a calm and controlled lift. Points are lost if the sheep panic or bolt.
- **Goal:** The sheep should start moving calmly and in the right direction.

3. **The Fetch**

- **What's Happening?** The dog brings the sheep straight to the handler in a controlled manner. The handler usually stands at a post while the dog works.
- **Scoring:** Points are deducted for crooked lines, or if the dog loses control and the sheep scatter.
- **Goal:** The sheep should come in a straight line to the handler.

4. **The Drive**

- **What's Happening?** The dog must take the sheep away from the handler, guiding them through a series of gates or markers on the field.
- **Scoring:** Judges are looking for precise control and straight lines as the sheep pass through the gates. Points are lost if the sheep miss the gates or wander off course.
- **Goal:** Get the sheep through each gate smoothly and with minimal fuss.



5. **The Shed**

- **What's Happening?** This is where the real finesse comes in! The dog and handler work together to separate one or more sheep from the rest of the flock, as directed by the judge.
- **Scoring**: Precision and teamwork are key here. Points are deducted if the wrong sheep are separated, or if the dog loses control.
- **Goal**: Cleanly separate the designated sheep without causing chaos.

6. **The Pen**

- **What's Happening?** The dog must now guide the sheep into a small pen while the handler holds a rope attached to the gate.
- **Scoring**: Penning requires control and calmness. Points are lost if the sheep become skittish or if it takes too long to get them in the pen.
- **Goal**: Gently but confidently get all the sheep inside the pen.

7. **The Single** Only in Semi Finals

- **What's Happening?** The handler and dog must separate a single sheep from the group without letting the others scatter.
- **Scoring**: As with the shed, precision is key. Points are deducted for mistakes in control or separation.
- **Goal**: Cleanly single out one sheep and keep it separate from the others.



Mississippi Stock Dog Association



****Final Points Breakdown**:**

- Outrun: 20
- Lift: 10
- Fetch: 20
- Drive: 30 (10 for each segment)
- Shed: 10
- Pen: 10
- Single 10

Key Terms to Know:

- ****Flank****: The dog moves to one side of the sheep.
- ****Lie Down****: The command to stop or pause.
- ****Come Bye****: The command for the dog to move clockwise around the sheep.
- ****Away to Me****: The command for the dog to move counterclockwise around the sheep.

Tips for Spectators:

- Watch how calm and collected the dog is under pressure! It's all about balance and control.
- Notice the handler's whistle commands – they have to be perfectly in sync with the dog's actions.
- Look for smooth lines and steady movements – that's what the judges want to see!

Enjoy the action, and cheer on your favorite dogs as they work to show off their incredible skills!



East Coast Finals
Fund

Want to Know Who Is On the Field?

Run Orders on <https://sheepdogfinals.com>



Wishing the best of luck to all the handlers and a big thank you to Peg Wilkinson for capturing the essence of our beloved dogs.



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