

# REDWOOD EMPIRE SHEEP DOG ASSOCIATION (RESDA)

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## what

The Redwood Empire Sheep Dog Association (RESDA) hosts twelve or more Sheep Dog Trials annually in Northern California, in both ranch and fair venues. A variety of settings and sheep flocks tests the mettle of both dog and handler. The dog and handler team scoring the highest number of cumulative points though the year is awarded the annual RESDA High Points Championship.

## why

In 1947, less than two years after World War II ended, a group of Mendocino County sheep ranchers decided friendly competition was the best way to determine who had the best working sheep dog. The ranchers designed a unique course that tested the variety of skills needed on a working sheep ranch and founded RESDA. RESDA Sheep Dog Trials using our unique course have been run each year since then. These trials demonstrate the teamwork required to successfully run a livestock operation.

## WHERE 2023 EVENTS



Trial	Location	Date and Time
Spring Trial • PN	Boonville, CA (PT 1)	April 8, 9:30 AM
Tango Farms • PN	Honcut, CA (PT 2)	April 29, 10 AM
Circle X Ranch Trial	Potter Valley, CA (PT 3)	May 20, 10 AM
Valley Ford Challenge • PN	Valley Ford, CA (PT 4)	June 3, 10 AM
Nor Cal Wool Growers • PN	Red Bluff, CA	June 11, 10 AM
Sonoma-Marin Fair	Petaluma, CA (PT 5)	June 25, 1 PM
Marin County Fair	San Rafael, CA (PT 6)	July 2, 12 PM
Beebe • Johnson Memorial	Boonville, CA (PT 7)	July 22, 9 AM
Sonoma County Fair	Santa Rosa, CA (PT 8)	August 6, 9 AM
Mendocino Co Elim • PN	Boonville, CA (PT 9)	August 19, 9 AM
Potter Valley • PN	Potter Valley, CA (PT 10)	September 9, 10 AM
Mendocino County Fair	Boonville, CA	September 24, 10 AM
Fall Trial	Boonville, CA (PT 11)	October 14, 10 AM
Fall General Membership Meeting	Ukiah, CA	November 11, 2023

**Donna Beebe & Meg,**  
2022 High Point Champions

*A Pro Novice class will be offered at **PN** trials. Junior classes, when identified, will be offered at **JR** trials. The eleven 2023 trials counted toward the Championship are marked (**PT**)*

# got *Border Collie* or other herding dog?

Or just enjoy watching these talented dogs work? Please consider joining the Redwood Empire Sheep Dog Association, or attend our events to cheer on your favorite athletes. Visit our website at [www.resda.com](http://www.resda.com) for more information.

## THE RESDA COURSE

### SCORING

Scoring of the course is divided into seven different areas. At most RESDA trials, each team starts with a maximum of 50 points. At some ranch trials, maximum points for the outrun, lift and fetch are increased to 25, and overall points are increased to 60. A key goal is to minimize exertion on the part of the sheep, so sheep should be moved in a direct line through each part of the course. The line followed by the sheep is an important aspect of the scoring, as well as competent completion of each part of the course.

### OUTRUN, LIFT AND FETCH (UP TO 15 points; 25 for Ranch trials)

After three sheep are let out, the dog is released and runs up the right or left side of the arena to complete "the outrun." At the top of the course, the dog gains control of the sheep in a motion called "the lift," then brings the sheep down the arena and around the pen in either direction to complete "the fetch." Outruns should be wide. The dog should control the sheep as quietly as possible and bring them down the arena in a straight line. All three sheep must go around the pen in the same direction. The handler must remain fully behind the pen and not cross "Line A" (shown on the diagram below) until after all three sheep have crossed it.

### FIRST AND SECOND PANELS (UP TO 5 points each)

The sheep should remain together and under control. They should be moved at a calm and steady pace. All three sheep must pass through the opening between the panels in the forward direction. The handler must be standing on the base next to the panel when the sheep go through or it doesn't count. The fewer unsuccessful attempts at an obstacle the higher the score.

### CHUTE (UP TO 10 points)

Getting the sheep through the chute is one of the most challenging parts of the course and often separates winners from hopefuls. The handler stands on the base next to the chute opening and gives the dog commands to help him or her guide the sheep through the narrow opening. The team must

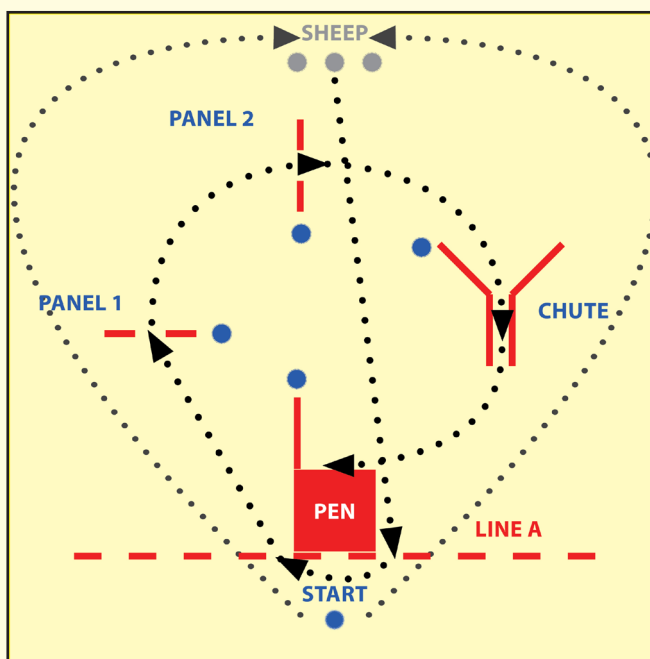
make two attempts at each obstacle (panels and chute) before they can move on to try for the next. Each team must successfully complete two out of the three arena obstacles (panels and chute) before proceeding to the pen.

### PEN (UP TO 15 points)

The handler opens the pen and stands on the base while the dog attempts to guide the sheep into the enclosure. The handler cannot close the gate until all three sheep are completely within the pen (no shoving with the gate.) Any movements by the sheep past or around the pen will result in a loss of points.

### TIME LIMIT

Each dog and handler are allowed a maximum of ten minutes to complete the course. Timing starts when the dog is sent from behind the pen at the beginning of the run.



**RESDA COURSE DIAGRAM**