



# MONTANA CUTTING HORSE ASSOCIATION "Never Won a Buckle"

## Meadow Vue Ranch Cutting NWAB Class Winner John Smith– Congratulations!



**When did you start riding?**

I was about 8 years old.

**When did you become interested in cutting?**

When I rode the first horse that made a good move with a cow.

**When did you start competing in cutting?**

This is my first NCHA show. I started showing in the cutting classes at the Grass Roots Cutting club in Twin Falls ID three years ago.

**Have you ever ridden in any other events?**

I have shown in Reined Cow Horse shows, I like them very much also.

**Who has influenced you in cutting?**

Many people have, Mike Zebarth, his patience and helping with what the horse is doing, Lora Roberts and Diane Schaeffer helping me with what I am doing and getting me to relax during my run. Greg Smith, Scott Martin and many others helping me during my runs.

**What do you like best about cutting?**

When it is going good there is nothing else like it, a good run is such a great feeling because it takes so much to get there.

**Tell us about your horse: What is his/her name and how old?**

Her name is "Smooth as a Bunny" she is now 7

**Who is the sire/dam?**

Smooth as a Cat and out of a daughter of Freckles Playboy

**Do you have a nickname for your horse?**

I call her "Bunny" I tried other names but they just didn't stick.

**Is there anything interesting about your horse that you would like to share?**

I went to the Waggener dispersal sale and tried to buy a "Cat". Even with double my original budget I couldn't get one bought and I was just sick. Then I went to the Futurity sales determined to get something good. Bunny was the second horse in the first sale, I got her. Then I could enjoy the rest of the Futurity.

**Who trained your horse?**

She was originally trained by Bill Riddle and Clint Allen.

Mike Zebarth rode her for two months this spring and helped her a lot. Mike's horses are really quite and patience.

**Are you riding with a trainer?**

I ride with Mike whenever I can. I have learned something from every trainer that I have ridden with.

**Do you have any advice for beginning cutters?**

Get a good trainer that can coach you. Even when they don't have your horse in training keep going back for lessons. Find good friends to practice with that will help you. Always be looking for a better horse, you have got to be well mounted.

**Tell us about you: Where do you live now?**

I live south of Rupert, Idaho. I have been in that area most of my life.

**Do you have a job and what do you do?**

I sell Ag equipment (fertilizer and spraying equipment)

I have a small farm and also invest in real estate.

**Do you have any other hobbies?**

This takes 24 hours a day

**Do you have a family?**

My wife Renee and I have 3 grown children and 4 grandchildren.

**Do they ride also?**

Renee has a team and buggy. We enjoy taking friends in that.

The kids ride a little. As for the grand kids, I make sure they can ride every time they come to visit, they all have hats, belts, boots and spurs and do very well for their age.

**Is there anything else you would like to mention?**

I would like to thank everyone that has helped me in any way.

All of the herd help who sit out there and help cutter after cutter.

Everyone who puts the shows on, it's a lot of work, thank you!

I am so fortunate to show my good horse "Bunny" I just get her to the show and try to help. She is the one that can win a class.