

BENTON COUNTY 4-H HORSE CONTEST OUTLINE

Revised November 2007

The following requirements and procedures will be adhered to for county-wide 4-H Horse events and contests held in Benton County, unless otherwise noted. Except for these special county rules, State rules will be followed. Therefore, members must be familiar with the Oregon 4-H Horse Contest Guide (4-H 1301) and all other support manuals.

A. GENERAL

1. In addition to the regular classifications of Junior (grades 4, 5, 6), Intermediate (grades 7, 8, 9), and Senior (grades 10, 11, 12), there will be an additional classification of Novice. Novice is an optional choice for members in their first year of showing (as of September 1) of the 4-H year. The decision as to whether or not a member will ride as a Novice will be made by the leader, member and parent. Novice riders are not eligible for all classes, nor are they eligible for State competitions or High Point awards (with the exception of High Point Novice).
2. Members may compete in only one of the classifications listed in #1 above. Exceptions include Judging Contest, Horse Bowl, and Presentations.
3. Ties in classes and for awards will be broken by the contestant's showmanship scores. The second tie breaker will be the records score and the third tie breaker will be the judging score.
4. Classes will be combined as necessary. Individual pattern classes of 10 or more will be split.
5. All leaders have the right and responsibility to enforce rules, regulations, and safety guidelines.
6. Contestants not having their animals under sufficient control may be dismissed from the ring and may be disqualified from the class.
7. Coaching from the audience will not be allowed during competition in the show ring. Concerns on this issue should be handled directly with the person(s) involved if possible, but may be taken to the Superintendents.
8. Any exceptions or deviations from these rules must be approved prior to the event (clinic, Prefair, Fair, etc.). Members may petition for a variance by applying to a committee made up of the Superintendents and the County Extension Agent. Decisions made by this committee are final.

9. The County Agent, with the advice of the Superintendents, has the authority to select alternates for all events when the need arises.

B. VARIANCES

Any time a member wishes to deviate from any of the county or state rules or guidelines, the variance process must be used. These are the steps that must be followed:

1. The member must fill out a variance request form. These are available at the County Extension Office. Only the member may ask for a variance.
2. The variance request form must be turned into the County Extension Office by the stated due date. For Pre-Fair, requests are due by the May leader's meeting. For Fair, requests are due by the June leader's meeting. Other events may have different due dates. In the event of an emergency situation arising after the due date, the variance request should be turned in as soon as possible.
3. The variance request is given to the Superintendents.
4. In most cases, the Superintendents will arrange a meeting for the member to present the request in person. The member may bring a parent or leader to this meeting if desired.
5. The Superintendents will discuss the request and make a decision. The decision will be written on the variance request form as well as given verbally to the member.

There are three possible outcomes for variance requests. The request can be denied, approved, or approved with conditions. An example of approval with conditions would be allowing the member to show at County Fair, but not at State Fair and not being eligible for high point awards. Decisions reached by the Superintendents are final.

C. MEMBER

1. Member must be enrolled in 4-H 90 days prior to County Horse Fair in order to be eligible to show at County Horse Fair..
2. Two or more members may use the same horse as long as they do not compete against each other in the same class. The Superintendents should be advised of this situation to prevent possible conflicts.

3. Attendance records will go with the 4-H member when transferring to another club.
4. The Superintendents and/or the County Extension Agent may require a doctor's written permission for a member to participate in a 4-H event.

D. HORSE

1. All horses exhibited at Prefair and County Horse Fair must be the member's project horse(s). Records on all horses shown must be submitted.
2. The same project horse must be used in showmanship, equitation, and trail classes. Other project horses may be shown in other classes.
3. Project horse(s) must be in possession of 4-H member by 90 days prior to County Horse Fair. Members leasing horses for a 4-H project horse must have a lease agreement stating all conditions for the care and use of the horse and stating all parties involved will abide by 4-H, county, and state regulations. One copy of this agreement must be recorded with the Extension Office by 90 days prior to County Horse Fair, and one copy must be kept as part of the member's records. If project horse is owned by the 4-H member or their immediate family, proof of ownership must be documented and included as part of the member's records. Proof of ownership would include at least one of the following: photocopy of breed registration papers, a complete bill of sale, brand inspection, or written proof of ownership that is approved by the superintendents prior to the records due date.
4. No one except the 4-H member may ride a 4-H project horse with the intent to train 90 days prior to County Horse Fair.
5. The Superintendents and/or County Extension Agent may require a Veterinarian's written permission for a horse to be shown in a 4-H event.

E. CLOTHING

1. Boots are required at all times.

F. EQUIPMENT

1. Horses must be ridden with bridles. No halters are allowed.
2. Splint boots and other types of leg protection are allowed only in Hunt Equitation Over Fences, Ground Training, First Year Under Saddle, and

Western Gaming. In all other classes, they are allowed for medical reasons as certified by a letter from a veterinarian.

G. COUNTY FAIR PARTICIPATION

1. In order to participate at County Fair with a horse, members must fulfill the following criteria:
 - a. Members must have completed the following advancement steps when records are turned in:

Step 1 - Juniors and Novices
Steps 1 and 2 - Intermediates
Steps 1, 2, and 3 - Seniors

The 4-H club leader must verify completion of the appropriate steps.

- b. Horse records must be turned in with fair entries.
 - c. A Fair entry form must be submitted by the June Horse leaders meeting, held on the 3rd Wednesday.

H. STATE FAIR SELECTION

1. In order to be selected for a State Fair team, members must fulfill the applicable participation requirement:
 - a. For clubs that meet more than 10 times during the year, members must attend 75% of the club meetings and two county-wide activities.
 - b. For clubs that meet 10 times a year or fewer, members must attend 75% of club meetings and three county-wide events. Riding lessons do not count as club meetings. 4-H club riding meetings do count as meetings.

The following are examples of events that do not qualify as county-wide activities: All horse shows including Western Gaming, Tack Sale, Judging Contest, Presentations, Horse Bowl, Prefair, and Fair.

2. Any behavior deemed inappropriate during the current year will result in a review of the member's eligibility for State Fair.
3. Selection for State Fair teams will be based on the combined scores of Showmanship and Equitation. All combined scores above 170 will be

considered, with the exception of Western Gaming, which follows state set times. A minimum score of 80 is needed for showmanship & the highest equitation score is also required.

4. 4-H members may ride in both English and Western Equitation classes at County Fair. The highest Equitation score will be used to tabulate points for State Fair selection. If selected for State Fair, members may choose which seat they will ride in as long as they received a blue ribbon in both.
5. Participants going to State Fair must use the same horse they qualified on at County Fair.
6. Members qualifying for State Fair may attend three years in each division (Intermediate and Senior).

I. SHOWMANSHIP

1. All members are required to do showmanship.
2. Individual patterns will be determined by the judge.

J. EQUITATION

1. Judged on combined rail work and individual patterns.
2. Patterns will be determined by the judge.
3. All English Equitation riders will be combined unless there are enough Saddle Seat riders (3 or more) to constitute a full class.
4. All Western Equitation riders will be combined.

K. HUNT SEAT EQUITATION OVER FENCES

1. Horses under 5 years of age are not eligible.
2. A knowledgeable person appointed by the horse leaders advisory must approve each entrant prior to the show.
3. To compete in this class, the member must have completed Horse Advancement Steps I, II, and III (except for the personal development options).
4. First Year Under Saddle horses are only eligible for the trot course and they must have prior approval from the Superintendents by May 1.

5. A rider/horse combination earning a score of 90 or higher in trot-a-course or beginning jumping MUST move to the next level.

L. MOUNTED TRAIL

1. Chaps are allowed but are not required.
2. At State Fair, member need not ride the same seat as the equitation seat qualified in at County Fair.

M. GROUND TRAINING

1. There are three divisions of Ground Training:
 - a. Foals (current as of January 1). Foals are not eligible for State Fair.
 - b. Yearlings (born last year as of January 1). Colts must be gelded if over 12 calendar months of age. Yearlings are eligible for State Fair.
 - c. Two-year-olds (born two years ago as of January 1). Eligible for State Fair.
2. Animals entered in this class may NOT be entered in any equitation class except a mare shown in the Wet Mare and Foal class may be shown in other classes provided such showing does not cause any undo disturbances. (Note: A wet mare cannot be shown at State Fair.)
3. No specific steps are required.
4. The highest blue ribbon winner in Ground Training Intermediate and Senior divisions will be considered for State Fair.
5. To be eligible for State Fair, all training must have been done by the 4-H member from the time of the horse's birth. (Halter breaking is not considered training.) At county fair you may show a horse that has had other training as long as the steps you exhibit are ones that you have trained the horse to do.
6. Novice members are NOT eligible for this class.
7. To compete in this class, members must have completed Advancement Steps 1, 2, and 3 and the first seven steps of 4B.

N. WESTERN GAMING

1. Excessive whipping or spurring is not allowed and will result in disqualification from that event.
2. Team members for the Western Gaming Finals will be selected by meeting blue ribbon times at the County Horse Fair.
3. Mecate reins are prohibited in gaming (for safety reasons).
4. If at any time the judge believes that progress towards completion of pattern is not being made the rider may be excused.

O. 4-H DRIVING

1. Highest blue ribbon winner in Intermediate and Senior divisions will be considered for State Fair.
2. Novice members and First Year Under Saddle horses are eligible for this class only with prior approval by the Superintendents by 90 days prior to County Horse Fair.

P. FIRST YEAR UNDER SADDLE

1. Horse may any age over two years, but must not have been ridden more than 12 months prior to County Horse Fair.
2. Contestants will do individual work made up from any of the 4-H Advancement steps.
3. Contestants must give the judge a filled-out First Year Under Saddle Score-sheet (obtained from the show office) at the time they enter the arena. This scoresheet will contain the list of exercises to be attempted and the order in which they will be done. The member must also indicate the length of time training has taken place.
4. Horse may be ridden in regular equitation classes and shown in Showmanship.
5. Horse should have been worked and ridden mainly by the 4-H member, exceptions being initial training of horse by a skilled professional or adult, or if safety is a major concern. 4-H leader should be consulted and/or notified. Judge will take into account the amount of professional training.
6. Cavessons, protective leg wear, and running martingales are allowed.

7. A time limit of 10 minutes maximum will be allowed each contestant.
8. Novice members are NOT eligible for this class.
9. To compete in this class, member must have completed Advancement Steps 1, 2, and 3.

Q. IN-HAND TRAIL

The In-Hand Trail class is an in-hand test of horse control and of the handler's ability to guide the horse through a series of obstacles. It is judged on the performance of the equine over obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the handler and quality of movement.

1. Attire, Tack & Equipment

- a) The handler may show in English or western attire. An approved helmet or hat is required.
- b) A halter of leather, nylon, or rope (with a throatlatch) and a lead made of an appropriate material are required. Bridles are not allowed. A correctly attached stud chain may be used (see showmanship guidelines in the 4-H Horse Contest Guide).
- c) Whips and/or crops are not allowed.
- d) Boots and/or bandages are not allowed on the horse.

2. Disqualifications

- a) Horse escapes from handler.
- b) Failure of member to wear a correct number in a visible manner.
- c) Any physical abuse of the horse.
- d) Excessive schooling or training.
- e) Improper attire.
- f) Leading on the incorrect side of the horse.
- g) Loss of control or extreme disobedience that endangers others to include, but not limited to: biting, pawing, rearing, kicking out, or continuously circling the exhibitor.

3. Additional Rules

- a) No cross entrees of horse and member combination with mounted trail. Member may only show one horse in the In-Hand Trail class
- b) In-Hand Trail is NOT a State Fair qualifying event.
- c) In-Hand Trail does NOT count as a trail score for high point awards.
- d) In-Hand Trail DOES count as a specialty class in computing All-Around awards.

R. HORSE PSYCHOLOGY

1. Only Junior, Novice, and Horseless members may enter this class.

2. Maximum time limit is 15 minutes.

S. MARKETING

1. Only Intermediate and Senior members may enter this class.
2. Maximum time limit is 15 minutes.

T. DAD POTTER

1. 4-H members must obtain a Dad Potter form from the show office, get it signed by their leader, and bring it completely filled out to the judge.
2. Benton County 4-H members may participate in Dad Potter in other counties.
3. To try out for Dad Potter, the member must have completed Horse Advancement Steps 1, 2, and 3.

U. HERDSMANSHIP

1. Every club will be judged every day, regardless of whether or not anyone is showing.
2. Judged periodically during the day between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
3. Work must be done by the 4-H members, not leaders or parents, except for safety reasons.
4. Set times will be designated for decorating stalls, and all work must be completed during that time.

V. HORSELESS PROGRAM

1. The 4-H Horseless Program was designed as an introduction to the horse project for youth who do not have and have not had horses. This program gives members the opportunity to learn about horses and to determine if having a horse is something they would like to pursue.
2. Members may be enrolled in a completely horseless club or they may be a member of a horse club.

3. Horseless members may not own, lease, or rent a horse and they cannot have done so in the past.
4. Once a member has owned, leased, or shown a horse mounted (even if it was not their own horse) they are no longer eligible for horseless classes.
5. Horseless members may ride a borrowed horse during 4-H ride meetings and they are encouraged to take lessons outside of 4-H.
6. In order to show a borrowed horse at any show, the horseless member must have worked with the horse at least five times with proper supervision.
7. Horseless members can only show at Pre-Fair and/or Fair in these classes: showmanship, horse psychology or marketing, & Equine Art.
8. Horseless members are eligible for the Brenda Steward Horseless Member Award

W. RECORDS

1. RECORDS TO BE JUDGED FOR HORSE MEMBERS (Horseless members refer to the Brenda Steward Award)
 1. Permanent Record
 2. My 4-H Notes (required for records to be judged, optional for qualifying records)
 3. Horse Record
 4. Advancement Record
 5. Scrapbook (limited to 10 single-sided or 5 double-sided pages) (required for records to be judged, optional for qualifying records)
2. Records must be signed by the leader.
3. 4-H members having multiple 4-H projects may have all records in the notebook with labeled dividers identifying project areas. Areas other than horse will not be judged by the horse record judging committee.
4. Personal Development Options must be completed by the member's last year in each age division.
5. Dates for records begin October 1 or when a new member joins and end on September 30 (or when records are turned in) of the current 4-H year.
6. All records must be in member's handwriting or typed.

7. 4-H Notes need not be done completely on My 4-H Notes forms. Notes may be typed, handwritten, or done on a computer as long as it is clear the notes were done by the member.

X. JUDGING CONTEST

1. All enrolled horse and horseless members may participate.
2. Participants must attend the contest in neat and appropriate attire. Boots must be worn.
3. The judging score will count towards awards only if the member judges in the same division they show in.
4. Selection for Spring Horse Classic
 - a. Teams will be made from the top five scores of Intermediates and Seniors at the County Judging Contest.
 - b. To qualify, members must have attended 75% of their club meetings and attended at least one county-wide activity by the time registration for the Spring Horse Classic is due.
 - c. Team members are expected to attend practices and other functions related to the Spring Horse Classic. If a team member chooses not to participate in such functions, coaches have the authority to use alternates.
 - d. If a member of the judging team is not present at the State Judging Contest and an alternate is not available, the chaperones and/or coach have the authorization to choose a qualified replacement.

Y. HORSE BOWL

1. All enrolled horse and horseless members are eligible to participate.
2. Teams are formed at the county competition by drawing names.
3. Horse Bowl questions can be checked out of the Extension Office to study from ONLY by leaders or coaches for clubs and teams to use for practice.

4. Horse Bowl questions will be taken from the following sources according to age divisions:

Juniors: 4-H Horse Project (4-H 130)
 4-H Horse Contest Guide (4-H 1301)
 4-H Horse Record
 4-H Advancement Record

Intermediates
& Seniors: All of the above plus:
 4-H Colt & Horse Training Manual (4-H 1303)
 4-H Hunt Seat & Jumper Manual (PNW 488)
 4-H Dressage Manual (4-H 1311)
 4-H Driving Manual (4-H 1321)

5. Selection for Spring Horse Classic
 - a. Teams will be made from the top scores of Intermediates and Seniors at the County Horse Bowl Contest.
 - b. Five members (one is an alternate) will be selected for each team.
 - c. To qualify, members must have attended 75% of their club meetings and attended at least one county-wide activity by the time registration for the Spring Horse Classic is due.
 - d. Team members are expected to attend practices and other functions related to the Spring Horse Classic. If a team member chooses not to participate in such functions, coaches have the authority to use alternates.

Z. PRESENTATIONS

1. All enrolled horse and horseless members are eligible to participate in the County Presentation Day.
2. Members may participate individually or as a team of two. Team members must be in the same age division if they want to qualify for State Fair.
3. In order to be eligible for a Horse Fair Award, the presentation must be on a horse-related topic.

