

# 4-H Horse Guidelines

## Union County

Revised July 2005

The Oregon 4-H Horse Contest Guide will be used as the guide lines unless otherwise noted for county-wide 4-H Horse club contests held in Union County. In addition to these special county rules, remember to become familiar with your Oregon 4-H Horse Project Manual and Colt Training Manual, Oregon 4-H Horse Contest Guide, Oregon Pony Driving Manual, Hunt Seat Over Fences, Dressage Manual, and any other 4-H publication pertaining to your discipline.

**PLEASE NOTE:** 4-H member is responsible for knowing their 4-H Horse project materials and county guidelines. We realize that there are extenuating circumstances in many instances. These rules are a GUIDELINE to follow. Please bring any problems that may occur to your 4-H Horse Advisory Committee (Union Co. 4-H Horse Leaders) for discussion.

### A. GENERAL

1. Members must be enrolled in Union County 4-H project by April 1 to compete at the EOLS (Eastern Oregon Livestock Show) and the Union County Fair.
2. The Guidance Committee will be selected annually and consist of 4-H Agent, Horse Superintendent (EOLS or Fair), and a representative of the 4-H Horse Advisory Committee with an alternate from the 4-H Advisory Committee.
3. Animal must be in possession and care of the member by April 1 for EOLS and May 1 for Union County Fair. An animal obtained after either of these dates is subject to review by the Guidance Committee as to eligibility. Please contact your Guidance committee to discuss any special circumstances.
4. Members leasing a horse for 4-H projects must have a written lease agreement and a copy shall be on file with his/her 4-H record books and in the county Extension office. Horse may not be one currently being ridden by another 4-H'er except family members. The lease agreement must be in the 4-H office by April 1 to compete at the EOLS and by May 1 to compete at the Union County Fair.
5. A horse project with a late possession/lease date may compete but will not be considered for championship awards.
6. May 1 is the final cut-off date for all mounted training by anyone other than the 4-H member on a 4-H project horse. 4-H members may have assistance from the ground by trainers and others. Any exception must be brought before the 4-H Horse Leaders Advisory Committee as a hardship. Leaders may ride project horse in emergency situations as a safety concern.
7. All members participating in any equestrian activity, regardless of riding seat, will wear a properly fitted equestrian helmet which meets the standards imposed by the American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM) F1163 and includes certification and labeling required by the Safety Equipment Institute (SEI). Such headgear will be secured with the harness engaged and be properly fastened when mounted on an equine or in a vehicle (cart, wagon, buggy, etc.) being pulled by one or more equine.

8. Classifications - Based on current or just completed grade as specified in the Oregon 4-H Policies and Procedure guide:
- Junior - Grades 4, 5, 6
  - Intermediate - Grades 7, 8, 9
  - Senior - Grades 10, 11, 12
  - Novice – 1<sup>st</sup> year rider in 4-H – any age. Cannot qualify for State Fair. Champion classes will be offered in each division (Novice Junior, Junior, Intermediate, Seniors and Intermediate/Seniors novice class) All novice classes of 2 entries or less will be combined.

Please consult your 4-H leader, a member of the Horse Guidance Committee or the County Extension Agent if there is any question about eligibility for novice class. Also, in the event there are fewer than 5 exhibitors in one age division they may be combined. No cross entry is allowed between regular classes and novice classes. Members may compete in only one division of the above. Novice classes are not eligible for State Fair.

9. Members may show more than one horse as per the 4-H Horse Contest Guide. Two or more members of the same family may use the same horse as long as they do not compete against each other in the same Showmanship or Equitation section. The Horse Superintendent should be advised of this situation to prevent possible conflict. No stallions over 12 calendar months of age. No suckling colts on the grounds except for colt training. Horses, mules and ponies will compete together. Any horse may be excused at any time for unruly behavior.
10. All members must ride with boots, approved helmets, bridles (no halters) and saddles as per 4-H Horse Contest guide. No riding double allowed.
11. No parent, leader, or spectator shall approach a judge for any reason unless they first obtain permission from the Horse Superintendent. The Horse Superintendent will arrange an appointment with the judge at the proper time and place. The Horse Superintendent will be present at the meeting. Exhibitors may ask the judge to comment on his or her performance after a class is completed provided the judge is not judging a class.
12. All complaints regarding judging, rulings, etc. shall be put in writing and given to the Horse Superintendent. The complaint shall be reviewed by the Horse Guidance Committee at the show should the Horse Superintendent deem it necessary. All minor complaints shall be handled as the Horse Superintendent deems necessary - these shall also be presented in writing for review by the Guidance Committee.
13. If a "gate hold" is necessary for equipment change, request this before the class is called. Unnecessary delays will result in white ribbons.
14. Failure to follow guidelines at 4-H functions can result in loss of premium monies.

## B. CONTEST

1. Showmanship contest will follow the Oregon 4-H Contest Guide.
2. The 4-H Contest Guide will be used with regards to equipment requirements, tack requirements, measurements and timing of 4-H Games, Hunt Seat over Fences, Dressage and Ranch Horse Program.
3. To compete in Hunt Seat over Fences riders must enter and receive a blue in the Hunter Hack Equitation class. No Novices may enter Hunt Seat over Fences.
4. The 4-H Trail Horse Contest to be governed by the 4-H Contests Guide with regards to obstacles, time allowed to negotiate the course, refusals allowed, and equipment requirements. The course must be posted prior to the class.
5. Trail and In-Hand Trail: Each horse project can be shown either In-Hand or Mounted Trail. A rider with 2 horse projects may show one (colt or mini for example) In-Hand and another horse project mounted. A proper 4-H halter and lead rope will be used for in-hand showing, no bridle or saddles allowed.
6. Junior Horse Equitation Class:
  - A. Horses must be ages 2, 3, or 4.
  - B. Two-year-old horses that are being ridden are not eligible for colt training.
  - C. A member who wins a championship in this class may not enter the same horse again.
  - D. Members entering a horse in this class may enter the same horse in regular Western or English classes, but the member must follow the 4-H rules applicable for that particular class. (e.g. training, devices allowed in Junior Horse Equitation Class will not be allowed in the regular classes.)
  - E. It is recommended that the 4-H member do the training. However, the horse need not be one that the member has brought through the 4-H Colt Training Program.
  - F. Upon entering the arena, the 4-H member will present to the judge a completed "master" card showing age of horse, length of training period, contestants number, and list of skills that the horse has been trained to do.
  - G. The following training devices will be acceptable in this class:
    - Common D or O ring snaffle bit (with smooth mouthpiece)
    - Bosal if over 1/2" diameter
    - 2 hands on reins
    - Draw reins
    - Running martingale
    - Cavesson
  - H. The following devices are NOT acceptable:
    - Shank bits
    - Tie Downs
    - Mechanical hackamores
  - I. Excessive improper use of any training aid will result in a lower score.

7. Dressage: Will follow the Oregon 4-H Horse Contest Guide. Please read Dressage manual for details on tack, equipment and tests. There shall be no double entry in tests. (i.e. a member may not show 2 horses in the same test.) It is recommended that any horse/rider who scored at or above 60% on a given test during the previous Union County Fairs, ride in higher tests. (This does not apply to State Fair qualifying tests.) This is in keeping with the State Fair guidelines.
8. Ground training: Projects are to be solely trained by the member without regard to a date. The horse must not have been more than halter trained when the member acquired it. Training by others, makes animal ineligible for class. Maximum time limit of 15 minutes will be place on each contestant. No Novice members allowed. Assistant must be an appropriately dressed 4-H member.
9. Green Rider or Walk Trot: Any exhibitor may enter a age, any year in 4-H. No cross entries to any class that canters. This class is intended for those riders who do not feel comfortable cantering on any horse. 4-H members may ride in walk/trot classes for more than one year. If a 4-H member is Champion or Reserve Champion in a given year they will not be qualified for the championship class in following years. All ages will compete together in Walk Trot. Walk Trot is only intended for inexperienced riders.
10. Herdmanship: This contest will be divided into two divisions: Clubs with 1-3 entries and clubs with 4 or more entries.
11. Advanced Horse: This class is for the advanced horse. The horse and member may be of any age. The class may be ridden either English or Western. This is an individual class. Any questions may be asked prior to the beginning of the class. The test will be 50 points. General impressions of equitation and willingness of horse will be considered while performing specific movements. Patterns will be available at the Extension Office.

# State Fair Eligibility

1. Member's current record books must be in the Extension office by 5 pm the Friday before County Fair starts to be eligible for State Fair.
2. Commitment to compete at State Fair must be conveyed to the Extension office by the Sunday meeting following the Union County Fair.
3. State Fair qualifying classes are:
  - a. Showmanship
  - b. Western & English Equitation
  - c. Trail (mounted)
  - d. Dressage
  - e. Hunt Seat over Fences
  - f. Colt Training (yearlings and 2 year olds)
  - g. Driving
4. Union County may currently send any intermediate (7<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> grade) and senior (10<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grade) 4-H member whose minimum combined qualifying score of 170 in showmanship and their chosen area of equitation (Western or English). Plus each individual score (showmanship and equitation) must be at least an 80. In addition, Union County may send one participant in each Ground Training class (Yearling and Two-year olds) and one participant in each Pony and Harness class. The 4-H member may show one horse and/or colt at State Fair, if qualified.
5. The member must have shown the same horse in showmanship and equitation in the county contest to be eligible for State Fair classes.
6. 4-H members with horses or ponies in ground training or harness classes may enter showmanship at State Fair.
7. State Fair contestants must ride horses they have owned and/or trained since June 1, and must use the same horses they rode at the Union County Fair.
8. Participants may enter only one equitation class, i.e. english or western equitation; based on which class they qualified in at the county level. The participant who has received a blue ribbon at the county level in harness, equitation over fences, trail and dressage may compete in same class at State Fair.
9. In State Fair competition, ground trainers may enter their animals in showmanship, but are not eligible for equitation. Weanlings are not allowed at State Fair competition.
10. To participate in the games you must show the same horse in one other class, i.e. showmanship, equitation, pleasure or trail. Member may have more than one colt-training project. Only one premium money will be given when one member enters more than one colt. Horse or pony drivers wishing to exhibit at the State Fair must participate in showmanship. (May be member's horse other than driving one.)
11. Hunter Hack Equitation is the qualifier for Hunt Seat over Fences. Riders must enter and receive a blue in the Hunter Hack Equitation class. No Novices may enter Hunt Seat over

Fences. Even if the contestant received a blue ribbon at county fair, if the judge does not think they are qualified to enter the class, they will be dismissed from entering the class. THIS IS FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY.

# Union County Fair Awards

## 1. Janice and Michael Denning Pursuit of Excellence Horsemanship Award

This award will be given to the top intermediate horse exhibitor based on their total scores from the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show and Union County Fair. The award will be a personal plaque and a revolving trophy for the successful winner to be given at the Union County Fair.

The basis for selecting the award winner will be:

- Currently enrolled in the Union County 4-H horse project
- Must be in the intermediate class – 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- Total score from western equitation and showmanship
- Placing of western pleasure

## 2. All Around High Point Trophy This award will be given to a junior, intermediate and senior accumulating the highest total points of the following classes:

- Showmanship
- English and western equitation
- Junior horse
- Advanced horse
- Trail
- Ground training
- English and western pleasure
- Harness

**Points are calculated for one horse (same horse)/one rider (same rider)**

# Union County Horse Opportunities

## Presentations:

Eastern Oregon Livestock Show  
Union County Fair  
Horse Classic

## Judging:

Eastern Oregon Livestock Show  
Union County Fair

Combined totals from above are basis for team selection for Horse Classic. Intermediates and seniors only may attend Horse Classic.

## Opportunities:

Dad Potter  
Judging  
Horse Bowl  
Horse Classic  
Horse Camp  
Presentation