

4-H Horse Guidelines

Union County

Revised January 2009

The Oregon 4-H Horse Contest Guide will be used as the guide lines unless other wise 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 exhibiting at EOLS, Union County Fair for State Fair. An animal obtained after either of these dates is subject to review by the Guidance Committee as to eligibility. Please contact the 4-H Agent to discuss any special circumstances.
4. Members leasing a horse for 4-H projects must have a written lease agreement between the member and owner with a copy on file with the county Extension office. A copy shall also be kept in the member's record book. The agreement must be updated each year. The 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 EOLS, Union County Fair and/or State Fair.
5. A horse project with a late possession/lease date may compete but will not be considered for championship awards.
6. April 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 – 1st year rider in 4-H – any age. Novice category is an option intended for the inexperienced rider who would present a safety concern for themselves or others in competing in their regular age division. Novice riders will be divided into two classes by age, Junior Novice 4th – 6th grade and Int/Sr Novice 7th-12th grade.
 - Members may compete in only one age division. No cross entry is allowed between Novice and regular classes. Also Novice riders are NOT eligible to compete at State Fair.
 - In the event there are fewer than 5 exhibitors in one age division they may be combined.
 - Champion classes will be offered in each division (Novice Junior, Junior, Intermediate, Seniors and Intermediate/Senior Novice classes).

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.

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 class. 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 or 4-H Agent. Upon the request the Agent or Superintendent will arrange an appointment with the judge at the proper time and place. The Horse Superintendent and /or Agent 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. CONTESTS

1. Showmanship and Equitation contests 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 (not both). A rider with 2 horse projects may show one (colt or mini for example) In-Hand and another horse project mounted. A 4-H proper halter and lead rope will be used for in-hand showing, no bridle or saddles allowed.
6. Junior Horse Equitation Class (previously Green Horse):
 - 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 0 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 placed on each contestant. No Novice members allowed. Assistant must be an appropriately dressed 4-H member.

9. Walk Trot (previously Green Rider): Any exhibitor may enter regardless of age. This class division is intended for the inexperienced rider who does not feel comfortable cantering on any horse. 4-H members may ride in walk/trot classes for more than one year. All ages will compete together in the same class. 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. No cross entry is allowed in any other class requiring a canter.
10. Herdmanship: This contest will be divided into two divisions: Individuals and Clubs with 1-7 members and clubs with 8 and 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. No Novice riders allowed.
12. Member may exhibit more than one project horse in classes with individual pattern and no rail work.
13. Novice Rider is only allowed in the following classes: Showmanship, Western Equitation, English Equitation, Western Pleasure, English Pleasure, In-hand Trail, Trail, Hunter Hack and Walk/Trot (no cross entry).

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 5:00 pm on the Wednesday 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

Qualifying/Eligibility

Contestants must use the same horse in all events except for Ground Training, Driving, and Gaming. In addition, in every event, contestants must use the same horse they qualified with at county fair. Showmanship is required of all contestants, but you can only do showmanship once. If you have any performance horse (equitation, driving, ground training), you must show one horse in the performance showmanship class. Only gaming contestants who had no horses in performance may show in the gaming showmanship class.

Equitation and Showmanship

To qualify for State Fair in showmanship and equitation (hunt seat, saddle seat, or western), contestants must have received a minimum combined score of 170 (in equitation and showmanship) at county fair, and each individual score must be 80 points or higher. In addition, they must have used the same horse in both classes.

For members who ride multiple seats, the highest equitation score must be used to determine eligibility. Then, if members have received blue ribbons in other seats on the same horse, they may ride those seats as well.

There is no maximum or minimum number of contestants a county may send.

Trail

Contestants who qualify for State Fair in equitation/showmanship may also enter Trail if they received a blue ribbon in that event at their county fair using the same horse as used in equitation/showmanship.

Dressage

Contestants who qualify for State Fair in equitation/showmanship may also enter Dressage if they received a score of 58% or higher on a Training Level Test 2-4 or any First Level test at their county fair using the same horse as used in equitation/showmanship.

58% and up Blue ribbon

50 – 57.99% Red ribbon

49.99% and below White ribbon

Riders may ride only one test at State Fair, and it must be the test they rode at their county fair and in which they received the qualifying score. A member who scores 62% or higher at State Fair must

progress up to the next test the following year. (The requirement to move up does not apply to a new horse or in test change years.) The 2007 tests must be used.

The short arena will be used for Training Level tests and the standard arena for all First Level tests.

Hunt Seat Equitation Over Fences

Contestants who qualify for State Fair in equitation/showmanship may also enter Hunt Seat Equitation Over Fences if they received a blue ribbon in that event at their county fair using the same horse as used in equitation/showmanship and if they received the blue ribbon performing over an approved qualifying course. A qualifying course must have a minimum of six different fences with at least three of them at the maximum height and spread. There must be at least one combination jump and one change of direction.

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At State Fair, a selection of warm-up fences will be provided. All contestants must be approved by the onsite official over these warm-up jumps before attempting the full course.

Driving

Contestants may only enter one driving class at the State Fair, and there are two ways to qualify.

Contestants who qualify for State Fair in equitation/showmanship may also enter driving if they received a blue ribbon in that event at their county fair using the same horse or pony as used in equitation/showmanship.

Contestants may also qualify with their non-equitation horse or pony if they received a minimum combined score of 170 (in driving and showmanship) at their county fair. In addition, the showmanship score must be 80 points or higher, and the driving score must be 85 points or higher. If contestants are not showing an equitation animal in showmanship, they must exhibit their driving animal in showmanship.

Ground Training

To qualify for State Fair in Ground Training, contestants must have received a blue ribbon in ground training at their county fair. Each county may enter one yearling and one two-year-old Ground Trainer in

each age division. (The same person may show in both divisions.) If the contestant is not showing an equitation animal in showmanship, they must exhibit their ground training animal in showmanship.

Western Gaming

To qualify for State Fair in Gaming, contestants must have met the blue ribbon qualifying time in each event entered. There is no maximum or minimum number of contestants a county may send. If members are not showing another animal in showmanship, they must exhibit their gaming animal in showmanship. (There will be a showmanship class available on “gaming” day.)

2009 Oregon 4-H State Western Gaming Qualifying Times

	<u>Blue Award</u>	<u>Red Award</u>	<u>White Award</u>
Intermediate Key Race	10.700 or less	10.701-14.500	14.501 or more
Intermediate Barrels	16.600 or less	16.601-18.300	18.301 or more
Intermediate Figure 8	12.000 or less	12.001-12.900	12.901 or more
Intermediate Pole Bending	25.500 or less	25.501-28.900	28.901 or more
Intermediate NSCA Flag Race	9.300 or less	9.301-11.000	11.001 or more
Senior Key Race	10.400 or less	10.401-12.700	12.701 or more
Senior Barrels	16.200 or less	16.201-17.900	17.901 or more
Senior Figure	8 11.500 or less	11.501-12.200	12.201 or more
Senior Pole Bending	25.000 or less	25.001-28.600	28.601 or more
Senior NSCA Flag Race	9.000 or less	9.001-10.500	10.501 or more

State Fair General Information

4-H members must provide water buckets and all feed for their horses.

Box stalls will be provided. Counties will be assigned stalls according to entries. Shavings will be provided for bedding. If straw is needed, contestants will need to provide their own. Stalls must be stripped before contestants leave. Counties will be charged for any stalls left dirty.

Tack and feed stalls will be provided (one of each for up to every five horses in a county delegation).

Watchmen will patrol the barn areas at night.

No hoof polish is to be applied at the State Fair. Hoof polish that was applied before arrival at the State Fairgrounds is acceptable.

Wet mares may not be shown. Foals must be weaned at least 10 days prior to fair.

Every county is required to send an adult chaperone with the county delegation.

Chaperones must sign in at the show office, and they must have a copy of each member's Official 4-H

Union County Fair Awards

1. **Janice and Michael Denning Pursuit of Excellence Horsemanship Award** - for the Intermediate 4-H Horse member.

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 Annual 4-H Recognition Program.

The basis for selection the award winner will be:

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

2. **All Around High Point Junior, Intermediate & Senior Award** – to be selected in each age division of Junior, Intermediate and Senior (Novice does not qualify) 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)

3. **Over All – All Around High Point Award** – to be selected from the winners of the All Around High Point Award winners of each age division. A rotating trophy will be presented to the winner to be returned the following year. A plaque will be given to the member to keep.

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