

BENTON COUNTY 4-H HORSE CONTEST OUTLINE

Revised January 2018

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 PNW 4-H Horse Contest Guide (*PNW 574*) and all other support manuals.

A. GENERAL

1. In addition to the regular classifications of Junior, Intermediate and Senior (*see the Oregon 4-H Policy Manual for competitive age requirements*), there will be an additional classification of Novice. Novice is an optional choice for members in their first year of showing in any horse association (*the year begins October 1*). 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.
2. Members may compete in only one of the classifications listed in #1 above. Exceptions include Judging Contest, Horse Bowl, Hippology, Dressage, some Ranch Horse classes, 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. Any exceptions or deviations from these rules must be approved prior to the event (*clinic, Pre-Fair, Fair, etc.*). Members may petition for a variance by applying to a variance committee (*see section B*). Decisions made by this committee are final.
7. The County Agent, with the advice of the Superintendents, has the authority to select alternates for all events when appropriate.

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 variance committee. The variance committee is comprised of the Superintendents. An alternate may be used in cases where a conflict of interest exists.
4. In most cases, the variance committee 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 committee 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 Committee are final.

The variance committee is made up of the three superintendents. Committee members should not listen to variance requests from members of their own club. In such cases, a volunteer from another club should be brought in as an alternate committee member.

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. Attendance records will go with the 4-H member when transferring to another club.
3. 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 Pre-Fair 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, all equitation classes, and trail. Other project horses may be shown in other classes but they might not qualify for State Fair (*see State Fair eligibility rules*).
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. COUNTY FAIR PARTICIPATION

1. In order to participate at County Fair with a horse, members must fulfill the following criteria:
 - a. **By PreFair**, members must have completed the appropriate Advancement steps for all classes in which they desire to exhibit. Benton County follows both the mandatory and recommended guidelines for using the Horse Advancement Program.

The 4-H club leader must verify completion of each level.
 - b. Completed records must be turned in to the Extension office on the specified date before County Fair.
 - c. A Fair entry form must be submitted by the June Horse leaders meeting.
 - d. Leaders may be required to turn in attendance records for their club at the June Leaders meeting.

F. 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, Pre-fair, and Fair. Refer to the yearly schedule for events that do qualify.

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 State Fair eligibility rules. All members must receive a minimum score of 70 in showmanship to participate at State Fair (*some events require a minimum score of 80*).

G. SHOWMANSHIP

1. If competing at Fair, all members are required to do showmanship.
2. Individual patterns will be determined by the judge.

H. EQUITATION

1. Judged on combined rail work and individual patterns.
2. Patterns will be determined by the judge.

I. HUNT SEAT EQUITATION OVER FENCES

1. **Horses under 5 years of age are eligible only for the ground poles class.**
2. A knowledgeable person appointed by the horse leaders committee must approve each entrant prior to the show.
3. First Year Under Saddle horses are only eligible for the trot course and they must have prior approval from the Superintendents by May 1.
4. Novice members are eligible for trot-a-pole and 18" classes only.
5. Riders may enter one class only in jumping (*i.e. the rider may not jump at multiple heights*). Rider may repeat any level from year to year, regardless of score from previous years. Riders are encouraged to progress in levels, but not without considering safety, training, confidence, and/or physical ability.

6. To qualify for State Fair in jumping, the horse ridden must be the same horse shown in showmanship and equitation, AND the horse/rider pair must have earned a blue ribbon over a state-qualifying course for the age division (*see State Fair Handbook for details on state-qualifying courses*).

J. GROUND TRAINING

1. Novice members are NOT eligible for this class.
2. 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.
3. 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.*)
4. Steps performed must be from the list on the ground training scoresheet.

K. 4-H DRIVING

1. 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.

L. FIRST YEAR UNDER SADDLE

1. Horse may be any age over two years, but must not have been ridden more than 12 months prior to County Horse Fair.
2. 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.
3. Horse may be ridden in regular equitation classes and shown in Showmanship, but tack and equipment rules for those regular classes must be followed.

4. 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.
5. Cavessons, protective leg wear, running martingales, sidepulls, and other humane training aides may be used.
6. A time limit of 10 minutes maximum will be allowed each contestant.
7. Novice members are NOT eligible for this class.

M. TRAIL

1. Horse must be the same used in showmanship and equitation.
2. The same horse cannot be shown in both trail and in-hand trail.

N. IN-HAND TRAIL

1. Member may only show one horse in the In-Hand Trail class
2. In-Hand Trail does NOT count as a trail score for high point awards.
3. In-Hand Trail DOES count as a specialty class in computing All-Around awards.

O. HORSE PSYCHOLOGY

1. Only Junior, Novice, and Horseless members may enter this class.
2. Horseless members may use another 4-Her's horse or a leader's horse.
3. Maximum time limit is 15 minutes.
4. Clothing (*English or western*) should follow the general guidelines for showmanship, but need not be as formal.
5. Helmets are required for mounting.
6. Halter and lead must be ones you can safely and securely tie the horse up with (don't use leather show halters).
7. Contestant should bring a saddle, blanket or pad, and bridle. An assistant may help you carry in your tack.

8. The judge will tell you what steps to do when. You do not need to memorize the order (*see scoresheet for actual required steps*).

P. MARKETING

1. Only Intermediate and Senior members (horse or horseless) may enter this class.
2. Horse should be member's project horse. Horseless members may use another 4-Her's horse or a leader's horse.
3. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.
4. Clothing (*English or western*) should follow the general guidelines for showmanship, but need not be as formal.
5. Helmet required if horse is to be mounted.
6. Horse should be well-groomed as if for show.
7. Horse may be shown at halter or under saddle.
8. One properly dressed handler is allowed to show the horse for you.
9. (*see scoresheet for judging criteria*)

Q. 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.

R. 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.

S. 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 compete in these classes: showmanship, horse psychology or marketing, in-hand trail, equine art, dummy roping from the ground, ranch identification and skills test, horse judging, hippology, horse bowl, and presentations.
8. Horseless members must keep a record book that includes My 4-H Resume and My 4-H Notes. If they want to participate in PreFair or Fair, the Knowledge and Ground Work Advancements must be completed for the appropriate age level (plus roping level 1 if member wants to compete in dummy roping from the ground).
9. Horseless members are eligible for the Brenda Steward Horseless Member Award.

T. RECORDS

1. All records for horse members will be scored when records are turned in before fair. Only a score will be received at this time; no comments will be given (*Horseless members refer to the Brenda Steward Award*).
2. Records may also be turned in to be judged in October and comments will be given at this time. Members who turn in records in October are eligible for County Medals and other awards, plus they will earn bonus points for the following year's fair score.
3. Records must be in a binder with all papers secured.

4. 4-H members with multiple projects may have all records in the notebook. Dividers should be used for the different sections. Areas other than horse will not be judged by the horse record scoring committee.
5. Refer to the county publication "*Keeping the Record Straight*" for guidelines on the order of items in your record book.
6. Dates for records begin October 1 or when a new member joins and end on September 30.
7. Returning members must turn in the previous year's completed horse records and notes. All members must turn in the current year's horse records and notes completed up to the time they are submitted.
8. Completed horse records and advancements must be signed by the leader.
9. All records must be in the member's handwriting or typed.

U. JUDGING and HIPPOLOGY CONTESTS

1. All enrolled horse and horseless members may participate. Cloverbuds may participate, but they cannot be in the arena with horses and they are not scored.
2. Participants must attend the contest in neat and appropriate attire. Boots must be worn.
3. Selection for Spring Horse Classic
 - a. Teams will be made from the top four scores of Intermediates and Seniors of each event at the County Judging/Hippology 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.

V. HORSE BOWL

1. All enrolled horse and horseless members are eligible to participate. Cloverbuds may participate, but they are not scored.

2. Teams are formed at the county competition by drawing names.
3. Horse Bowl questions will be taken from the following sources according to age divisions:

Juniors: 4-H Horse Project (*PNW 587*)
4-H Horse Contest Guide (*PNW 574*)

Intermediates
& Seniors: All of the above plus:
4-H Hunt Seat & Jumper Manual (*PNW 488*)
4-H Dressage Manual (*PNW 608*)
4-H Driving Manual (*PNW 229*)
4-H Horse Judging Manual (*PNW 575*)

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.

W. PRESENTATIONS

All participating horse project members can earn points towards the “*All Around Award*” given at the Benton County Horse Fair.

1. In order to receive points for the “*All Around Award*” you must provide a presentation on a horse-related topic. The member must present on a new topic each year.
2. Any of the three types of presentations may be given: demonstration, illustrated talk, and public speech. Members may give more than one type of presentation. Your highest horse presentation score will be used. Impromptu speeches do NOT count towards the “*All Around Award*.” The member must present on a new topic each year.
3. Demonstrations and illustrated talks may be done individually or as a team. Team members must be in the same age division to be eligible for Spring Horse Classic or State Fair.

4. Top presenters may be selected to compete at Spring Horse Classic and/or State Fair. Selected members will be notified.

X. BAREBACK EQUITATION

1. Judged on combined rail work and individual patterns.
2. Patterns to be determined by the judge.
3. Attire and tack must be consistent with seat ridden.
4. Unsafe riders can be excused at the judge's discretion.

Y. RANCH HORSE

1. Ranch Horse classes may be held at another time than county fair but will still count towards fair awards.
2. The same horse must be used for all Ranch Horse classes to be eligible for the High Point Ranch Horse award.
3. A member can compete in only one roping class.
4. To be eligible for the High Point Ranch Horse Award, the member must enter all 6 ranch horse classes: showmanship, working ranch horse, ranch horse trail, roping, cow working, and identification and skills test.

Z. EQUINE ART

1. All enrolled members may enter equine art. This includes any Creative Writing class as well as any Expressive Arts class, but the entry must be equine-related.
2. Members should follow exhibit guidelines in the County Fair Book for the class they are entering.
3. If members wish to exhibit their art at the regular county fair, they need to submit a fair entry form by the designated county date. Their exhibit will be kept after Horse Fair to check in at County Fair.