

# 4-H Horse Member Book

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## **Mission Statement**

The Orange County 4-H Horse Program aims to provide a fun, youth-centered, educational approach to the delivery of equine science, management, and showmanship. Youth gain hands on experience and equine specific skill-development as it relates to public speaking, career readiness, and safe riding experiences

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## Membership

- A youth age 5-19 is considered a member of the 4-H Horse Program when they have paid their \$50.00 Horse Program membership fee, and their general 4-H program membership fee and submitted enrollment paperwork. The \$50.00 Horse Program membership fee is due paid in full by October 1<sup>st</sup> of the program year. Membership provides opportunities for the youth to participate in several equine educational knowledge, riding, and life skills development programs within the 4-H Horse Program.
- A Horse Club is one that has submitted an annual Club Calendar at the beginning of the year, is on target to meet 75% of the calendar commitments, has 5 or more youth who participate in the 4-H Horse Program riding events, at least two 4-H equine education programs, and at least 2 Horse Program fundraising events.
- Adult membership is for all currently enrolled adult volunteers involved in 4-H horse programming, and non-club resource volunteers active in the work of the 4-H Horse Leaders Association. This includes those volunteers who provide subject matter instructions and sharing of expertise to 4-H youth or adult volunteers in the Horse Program.
- Every member must complete one judgeable project considered to be a unit of learning. Accepted as projects are public presentations with posters, horse record books, and projects submitted at the time of science level testing. Projects must be horse related not including actual horse as project.
  - Example projects are as follows:
    - Breed Book
    - Sign Board
    - Bulletin Board
    - Feed Board
    - Knot Board
    - Forage Board
    - Macramé Lead Rope
    - Horse Head Clock or Lamp
    - Horse Riding Level Testing
    - Horse Science level Testing

It is always the mission of the 4-H Horse Leaders to promote learning and growth for our youth through the use of the horse. At no time shall these requirements be used as a punitive measure for any member. For this reason, we have a grievance committee available at all times and can be conducted through the President of the 4-H Horse Leaders Association.

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## Orange County 4-H Code of Conduct

### ***YOUTH CODE OF CONDUCT***

4-H members participating in or attending club, county, regional, district, state, and national programs, activities, events, shows, and contests sponsored for youth by the 4-H Youth Development Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County are required to conduct themselves according to the following Code of Conduct.

The following are not permitted at 4-H sponsored programs, activities, or events:

- Clothing printed with:
  - Advertisements for tobacco or alcohol
  - Inappropriate, lewd, or suggestive messages
- Revealing clothing such as (but not limited to):
  - Inappropriately short skirts or shorts
- Revealing including midriff-baring tops:
  - Pants worn to show underwear
- Possession, consumption or distribution of alcohol
- Possession, use, or distribution of illegal drugs
- Possession or use of all tobacco products
- Sexual activity
- Boys in girls' dormitory or lodging areas and girls' in boys' dormitory or lodging areas
- Cheating or misrepresenting project work
- Theft, destruction, or abuse of property
- Violation of an established curfew
- Unauthorized absence from program site
- Physical, verbal, emotional, or mental abuse of another person
- Possession or use of a weapon (except as part of an authorized shooting sports event or other staff-authorized use)
- Possession or use of a harmful object with the intent to hurt or intimidate others
- Other conduct deemed inappropriate for the youth development program by Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County staff, or a 4-H volunteer leader

If this code is violated, the following steps may be taken:

- The adult chaperone for the youth involved in the violation (extension staff or 4-H leader) will be made aware of the situation
- The parent(s) may be called and arrangements made for transportation home at the parent's expense
- The 4-H'er may be barred from participating in 4-H
- When a violation occurs at a competitive event, 4-H members may be disqualified from the contest and may be ineligible for any awards. Competition in later contests may also be barred.
- If any laws are violated, the case may be referred to the police

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### **ADULT CODE OF CONDUCT**

Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County Parents/Guardians (of youth involved with CCEOC programs) are expected to accept and adhere to the following standards of behavior when their child(ren) is/are engaged in CCEOC Youth Development Program activities as stated here.

As a CCEOC Parent or Guardian I will:

- Respect and adhere to CCEOC rules, policies and guidelines that relate to specific CCEOC Youth Programs. Conduct myself in an ethical manner.
- Model kindness and compassion for others. Recognize that all young people have skills and talents that can be used to help others and improve the community.
- Teach and model fair-mindedness by being open to ideas, suggestions and opinions of others. This includes the final opinions of judges/evaluators for all Youth Programs.
- Fulfill my parental/guardian duties, including completion of required records or reports, in a timely manner.
- Work cooperatively with CCEOC Extension staff and volunteers.
- Avoid and prevent put-downs, insults, name-calling, yelling and other verbal and non-verbal conduct as well as written items (including social networking, Internet, etc.) likely to offend, hurt or set a bad example.
- Be responsible for my behavior, exhibit good sportsmanship, use appropriate language and uphold exemplary standards of conduct at all CCEOC youth activities
- Respect and uphold the rights and dignity of all staff, other volunteers, and all individuals who participate in CCEOC programs recognizing that people's values, beliefs, customs, and strengths differ.
- Respect individuals of diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives.
- Not possess, sell, offer, consume or use alcohol and/or controlled substances at CCEOC youth events/activities, or attend CCEOC youth activities under the influence of alcohol and/or controlled substances.
- Model the importance of obeying the laws and rules as an obligation of citizenship and commit no illegal or abusive act.
- Provide a safe environment, not carelessly or intentionally harming youth or adults in any way: verbally, mentally, or physically.

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## Sportsmanship Policy

The 4-H educator assigned to the horse program has final say on decisions set forth regarding bad sportsmanship at any 4-H competitive event.

- A 4-H competitive event is one in which 4-H members compete, individually or as a team for recognition, and which uses 4-H in the name of the event and/or the 4-H name and emblem in promoting the event. The term 'event' is used to apply to activities that are exclusively 4-H.
- Events can include but not limited to judging contest, exhibits, sporting competitions, and other performance events.
- All youth, parents, leaders, and volunteers must read, sign, and follow the 4-H Horse Program Sportsmanship Policy.

### **General Policy**

#### **Youth Sportsmanship Code of Conduct**

- Youth will demonstrate good sportsmanship at every 4-H competitive event that they attend, whether as a participant or observer.
- Youth will graciously accept competition results and support those who have won and lost.
- Youth will treat all 4-H youth, volunteers, and others with respect, and will expect to be treated the same.
- Youth will alert leaders or parents of situations where good sportsmanship is not being displayed.

#### **Volunteers, Parents, Legal Guardians, and Others**

- Adults will encourage good sportsmanship by being respectful of judges, leaders, or referees at any competitive event.
- Adults will reject a 'win-at-all-cost' attitude, focusing on broader issues such as life lessons, and overall character development.
- Adults will not support or engage in inappropriate behaviors or language at any 4-H competitive event.
- Adults will ensure that every child treats all 4-H youth, volunteers, and others with respect.
- Adults will gracefully accept competition results and support those who have won or lost.
- Adults will express concerns and suggest alternatives to the appropriate policy makers at designated meetings, not during the event.
- Adults will gracefully accept policies, rules, and procedures, even if they do not agree with all of them.
- Adults will hold others accountable for good sportsmanship and civility.

The 4-H educator assigned to the horse program will follow this procedure when dealing with displays of bad sportsmanship. If the 4-H Educator assigned to the horse program is unable to attend the 4-H event then members of the 4-H Horse Leaders Association present will act in place of 4-H educator, and will consult with 4-H educator first before a final decision is made.

1. A verbal exchange of details and verbal warning will be given to youth/parent/leader/volunteer when first incident is brought up to the attention of the 4-H educator.
2. If behavior continues, a second verbal exchange will be given to youth/parent/leader/volunteer by 4-H educator.
3. If behavior continues the 4-H educator will ask the youth/parent/leader/volunteer to leave the event that is taking place. Will consult with 4-H Horse Leaders Association if further disciplinary action is required.

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4. If youth/parent/leader/volunteer is found to be in violation of sportsmanship rules at more than 2 horse programs or events within a 4-H calendar year (October–September), the 4-H Educator will consult with the 4-H Issue Leader and 4-H Horse Leaders Association and a decision will be made as to if the youth/parent/leader/volunteer is allowed to stay within the 4-H Horse Program in Orange County.
  5. All incidents will be kept on file at the 4-H office for future reference.
- The disciplinary procedure does not have to follow the above subsequent order as deemed by the 4-H Educator depending on the level of improper bad sportsmanship displayed.
  - Evidence of poor sportsmanship on the part of youth/parent/leader/volunteer can be subject to the member dismissal from the program/event/show at the discretion of the 4-H Educator.
  - Parents and leader(s) must let the members do their own work based on ability and safety. No rule changes can be enacted without approval of the 4-H Educator and 4-H Horse Advisory Committee.

### **Horse Show Specific Policy**

- Coaching from the rail will not be permitted for any rider by any adult or youth.
- Mockery, laughing at or making fun of another, boasting, profanity, and unnecessary physical discipline to an equine will not be tolerated.
- Criticism of the Judge or the Judge's decisions by parents, leaders or member will result in dismissal of the member from the class/event at the discretion of the judge/coach and/ or show stewards.

**Cell Phone Use** - Use of a cell phone for calls or text messaging by a 4-H member during any 4-H equine educational or mounted event is prohibited. Cell phones should be turned off during these events and while mounted.

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## Programs Available for Horse Project Members

### **Horse Bowl**

This is a team and individual competition where youth are asked a variety of questions concerning all aspects of equine areas. Buzzers are used in systems so that only the quickest participant may answer. Team selection is based on the results of the county competition and attendance records at practices of the potential team participants. Youth participating in this program have the opportunity to earn spots on a team for county level, regional level, state level and national level.

### **Hippology**

This is a team and individual competition. The hippology contest consist of 4 parts A) a **written exam** with fill in the blank, true/false, multiple choice, and matching; B) **horse judging**; C) **stations** of: tack and equipment, anatomy, diseases and parasites, feeds and feeding, breeds, usage, colors, etc. and D) **identification** of: tack, equipment and feeds. Team selection will be based on results of the county competition and attendance records at practices of the potential team participants. Youth participating in this program have the opportunity to earn spots on a team for county level, regional level, state level and national level.

### **Horse Judging**

This is a team and individual competition. Participants in horse judging will be asked to judge classes consisting of four horses per class performance and halter conformation. Youth must also provide verbal reasons on why they placed their classes the way they did. Team selection will be based on results of the county competition and attendance records of the potential team participants. Youth participating in this program have the opportunity to earn spots on a team for county level, regional level, state level and national level.

### **Horse Communications**

This is a team and individual competition. Participants prepare and present a presentation on horse knowledge. The various presentation styles that youth can choose from include: individual presentation, team presentation, public speaking, video presentation or impromptu. This is an open project and youth do not need to attend practices to participate at the county level. Youth participating in this program have the opportunity to advance to the regional level and state level.

### **Science Level Testing**

In this individual competition youth are quizzed by a panel of judges related to horse knowledge broken down into different levels. Each level is progressively harder as the youth are expected to complete 1 level each year that they are involved in the horse program. This is an Orange County only program.

### **Riding Level Testing**

This is an individual testing process that test the youths riding ability and skill development at different levels. Each level is designed to be progressively more difficult; testing the level of ability of horse and rider. Youth are expected to complete one level each year. This is an Orange County only program.

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### Awards - County Achievement Awards, Scholarships, and Horse Show Awards

#### **General Description of County Achievement Awards/Scholarships & Applying Procedure**

##### **General 4-H Awards**

Orange County 4-H offers the youth involved in the program several different opportunities to earn awards based off of work completed while in 4-H. In order to qualify for these awards youth must demonstrate what they have done during the 4-H year and fill out an application. Please reference the *Orange County 4-H Awards Information Packet* for more details regarding these various awards.

4-H Clubs and Youth have the opportunity to earn awards in:

- 4-H Clubs
- 4-H Members
- Teen Leadership Awards
- Program Specific Medals & Certificates
- General Scholarships
- Other Scholarships and Awards

##### **Procedure for Applying**

- Please reference the *Orange County 4-H Awards Information Packet* for further instructions on applying for these awards.

##### **4-H Leader's Association Agriculture Scholarship - \$500**

- This scholarship will be awarded to an individual between the ages of 17-19 who plans to continue their education after High School Graduation. An individual must be a member for a minimum of five years in 4-H with promotion of agriculture and animal science and may only be awarded this scholarship once. The applicant needs to supply a recommendation from their coordinating leader or 4-H educator.  
**Due: September 30th.**

### **Horse Show Specific Awards**

**Master Showman** - This award is given to the junior and senior exhibitors with the highest score in fitting and showmanship. Ties will be broken at the judge's discretion.

**Royal Brinessa Sportsmanship Award** - This award was established by the Lass Family in memory of Royal Brinessa (1958–1988). "Brinny" was a Half-Arab/American Saddlebred Mare. She was beautiful, intelligent, classy and the epitome of the 4-H family horse. The Lass family donated the annual sportsmanship award in her memory because she taught Bony and Debby how to lose as well as win graciously. Awarded to the exhibitor with the best sportsmanship like attitude. This award is determined by the show secretaries and show judges. This award is only awarded at the July Show.

**Ernie Youngs Award** - This is a perpetual trophy for Juniors or Seniors that was donated by the family of Ernie Young – a dedicated 4-H member who was tragically killed in an accident when still a young man. It is awarded to the high point rider/horse combination. The award includes all classes, including dressage and command, except the costume class. Presented at July State Fair Qualifying Show.

*Championships can only be won when using a designated project horse.*

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**Junior/Senior Hunt Seat Champion/Reserve** – To the horse/rider combination with the most points in the following:

- Fitting and Showmanship
- Trail
- Hunt Seat Equitation
- Hunter Pleasure
- Hunt Seat Equitation over Fences
- Hunter over Fences
- Command

**Junior/ Senior Western Champion/Reserve** - To the horse/rider combination with the most points in the following:

- Fitting and Showmanship
- Trail
- Western Pleasure
- Stock Seat Equitation
- Western Riding (AQHA pattern 1)
- Western Horsemanship (simple 1 min. pattern)
- Command

**Novice Champion/Reserve** - To the horse/rider combination with the most points in the following:

- Hunt Seat: Fitting and Showmanship
  - Trail
  - Hunter under Pleasure
  - Hunt Seat Equitation
  - Hunter over Fences
  - Hunt Seat Equitation over Fences
- Stock Seat: Fitting and Showmanship
  - Trail
  - Stock Horse Pleasure
  - Stock Seat Equitation
  - Western Riding
  - Horsemanship Patterns

**Walk/Trot/Jog Combined Champion/Reserve** - To the horse/rider combination with the most points in the following:

- Fitting and Showmanship
- Walk/Trot/Jog Pleasure
- Walk/Trot/Jog Equitation
- Walk/Trot/Jog Pattern

**Driving Champion/Reserve** - To the horse/driver combination with the most points in at least 3 classes offered in the following:

- Fitting and Showmanship
- Trail (for miniatures and small ponies in hand)
- Pleasure
- Reinsmanship
- Obstacles

**Gymkhana Champion/Reserve** – To the horse/rider combination with the most points earned.

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**High Score in Dressage** – A special award is presented to the rider earning the highest score in the dressage division.

**Club Trophy** - To the club with at least 3 members riding in show with the most points based on a percentage. All classes except costume count.

**Stable Management Trophy** - Awarded to the club with the best overall presentation. Clubs will be judged based on the following categories:

- Exhibit – well coordinated
- Appearance – neat and clean, etc.
- Horse care – clean, NO MANURE, proper handling, etc.
- Safety – helmets, ride in designated areas only, etc.
- Conduct – attitude toward each other, toward the judge and staff (parents, leaders and volunteers included)
- Overall participation – leave stalls and are clean

Judges for this award are a selected committee not known by exhibitors.

When awarding ribbons, the following point system is used:

- Danish Blue Award = 5 points
- Danish Red Award = 3 points
- Danish White Award = 1 point
- Ties will be broken with numerical scores in the following classes in this order:
  - Fitting and Showmanship
  - Trail & Dressage

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## Inclement Weather Policy

### General Policy

- There is no guarantee that a canceled 4-H event will be able to be rescheduled.
- All effort will be made to secure a snow date during winter months (December–March) to ensure the 4-H event can still be run.
- If there is no alternate date available and 4-H event is canceled due to inclement weather the 4-H educator assigned to the horse program will work with the lead volunteer or coach to reschedule.
- 4-H educator assigned to the horse program will make the final decision at the 4-H event to determine who moves on to the next level of competition. If the 4-H Educator assigned to the horse program is unable to attend the 4-H event then members of the 4-H advisory committee present will act in place of 4-H educator. The committee will consult with 4-H educator first before a final decision is made.

### Horse Shows and Outdoor Events

- The 4-H Educator, Show Superintendent and Judge will follow this procedure when inclement weather occurs at an outdoor 4-H event:
  - **Rain** – if the rain is light enough that activity can continue safely the outdoor 4-H event will continue. If rain is too heavy to continue the outdoor 4-H event will be suspended in 30 minute increments. All riders and individuals at the outdoor 4-H event will return to barns immediately and stay there until announcement is made regarding the outdoor 4-H event. After each 30 minute increments a determination by the 4-H Educator, show superintendent and judge will be made if the outdoor 4-H event can continue safely or if further delay is necessary.
  - **Thunder** – if thunder is heard the outdoor 4-H event will be suspended in 30 minute increments. All riders and individuals at the outdoor 4-H event will return to barns immediately and stay there until announcement is made regarding the outdoor 4-H event. After each 30 minute increment a determination by the 4-H Educator, show superintendent and judge will be made if the outdoor 4-H event can continue safely or if further delay is necessary.
  - **Lighting** – if lighting is seen the outdoor 4-H event will be suspended in 30 minute increments. All riders and individuals at show will return to barns immediately and stay there until announcement is made regarding the outdoor 4-H event. After each 30 minute increments a determination by the 4-H Educator, show superintendent and judge will be made if the outdoor 4-H event can continue safely or if further delay is necessary.
- If 4-H horse show is cancelled class points completed before cancellation will be tabulated.
- If a class in which equines compete together is in progress and must be stopped due to a storm, accident or other emergency, it is recommended that the class will be held over in its entirety and no consideration will be given to the performance during the original session.
- If 4-H horse show is cancelled on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of a 2 day or more show all effort will be made to make up the cancelled classes on the subsequent days. The determination on if the classes will be able to run or not will be made by the 4-H educator, show superintendent and judge. There is no guarantee that the classes will be run.
- If classes cannot be rescheduled then scores earned before show was cancelled will be used to determine awards and championships, state fair qualifying and state fair ranking.

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## 4-H Horse Show

### Horse Show Rules & Regulations

#### General Rules

Rules adapted from NYS 4-H Horse Show Rules

*\*Orange County Addendums to NYS 4-H Horse Show Rules*

#### I. RIDER

1. It is the responsibility of the rider, or the parent or guardian of the exhibitor to see to it that the head gear worn complies with the appropriate safety standards as set forth in the official 4-H policy. A memo will be sent to all CCE/4-H offices each year specifying the "official" 4-H Equine Program head gear.
2. Proper equestrian footwear with a distinguishable heel and an approved helmet shall be worn at all times that a rider is mounted on an equine, sitting in a cart or handling an equine in a riding arena (whether on the ground, mounted or seated in a cart) at a 4-H sponsored clinic or show.
3. *Chaps may be worn during Western pleasure and equitation classes at the discretion of the judge.*
4. *Shirts must be tucked in during Gymkhana classes, must have a collar, and be long sleeved.*
5. *Exhibitors are responsible for the humane treatment and wellbeing for any equine in their care. They are to be treated humanely and with dignity and respect. Showing competitively is of secondary importance.*

#### II. EQUINE

- A. All equines must be at least 24 months of age. No intact stallion or jack over 12 months of age may be present at a 4-H event, show, clinic, etc.
- B. All equines shown in ridden and driven classes must be 3 years of age and older.
- C. 1. - *Project animals and exhibitors must be registered by May 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year, with the horse certificate, medical release, acknowledgement of risk, code of conduct (leaders, parents and volunteers) and copies of current coggins and rabies. Exhibitors must have passed Riding Level 1 and Horse Science Level 1, paid their \$50 Horse Program Fee and \$15 annual 4-H enrollment fee due October 1<sup>st</sup> at the start of the new 4-H year.*
  1. *Above mentioned riding levels are available on the NYS web site and must be on file in the 4-H office to compete in mounted events.*
  2. *Cloverbuds must have passed the ground level evaluation and riding evaluation 1 on a leadline and are exempt from the \$50 Horse Program Fee.*
2. - Members may designate all personally or family owned equines as project animals. Family will be defined as the legal guardian, as well as husband, wife, parent, step-parents, step child, brother, sister, half brother and sister, grandmother and grandfather and in-laws of the same relation.

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3. - *Riders with non-owned horses may have a second non-owned horse as a backup. Both must be registered by May 1<sup>st</sup>.*
  4. - A 4-H member who owns or leases a horse or pony may also own or lease a miniature equine and/or a donkey or mule “or driving horse (that is only used for driving)”.
  5. – A horse/pony may be shared with a walk/trot rider or cloverbud rider within the same family.
- D. Each exhibitor shall present to show officials at the time of check-in a copy of the Horse Project Recordbook or its equivalent completely filled out and signed by all parties.
- E. **New York State Law:** When transporting your horse and participating in any 4-H Horse event, you must have a valid Negative Coggins Certificate. The Coggins Certificate **MUST be dated during the calendar year (Jan. – Dec.)**. The Rabies Certificate **MUST** be dated at least **14 days** prior to the event and is valid for one year. Copies of these certificates **MUST** be presented with program registration or before the first event attended with the equine in order to participate. **4-H exhibitors must provide copies of the current negative coggins and rabies with registration, to the 4-H Horse Educator to be kept on file during show season.**
- F. All equines entered as ponies will be measured at check-in. USEF Pony Cards will be accepted. All ponies without USEF Pony Card are required to be measured with the following guidelines. This measurement will supersede all previous measurements and will be the sole basis for determination of status. There is no minimum size for equines entered as horses.
1. For all Divisions, ponies = 14.2 hands or less.
  2. No equine, regardless of the number of exhibitors using that equine, may be shown by one exhibitor as a horse in one division and as a pony by the same or different exhibitor in the same or different division. Where pony classes are sectioned in large and small divisions, small ponies are to be less than 13.0 hands.

### How ponies will be measured

1. A level, flat surface should be used -- preferably a concrete slab or other paved surface or a plywood sheet at least 1" thick. Check the surface for inaccuracies to insure the surface is level. Under no circumstances should animals be measured on dirt or gravel.
2. A maximum of two handlers may present the pony for measurement but they must not interfere with the animal in any way that could influence the measurement, except that they may cover its eyes. There is to be no altering of the pony's position by application of pressure on any part of its body.
3. Check the measuring stick for proper assembly and make sure it is fully extended and locked. It is recommended that the stick be assembled with the ruler facing away from the individual performing the measurement.
4. The pony must stand square. All four legs should be perpendicular to its body and the lead should be in a level position at approximately the same height as the withers. Familiarize the pony with the measurement stick.

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5. Be patient with the pony and give it adequate time to relax. If the pony appears frightened or unruly, let it stand with its attendant until it is comfortable with the situation.
  6. The stick should be placed on the highest point of the pony's withers. (To find the highest point, drop the pony's head below its withers and feel for the point with your hand. Return the pony's head to the level position before measuring.)
  7. Lower the cross-arm so it rests lightly on the withers. Do not apply pressure to the cross-arm.
  8. Check both the levels on the stick to ensure that it is straight.
  9. Only when the stick is properly positioned, should the measurement be read. Note this information on the form.
- G. No more than one (1) equine (a horse or pony) may be entered in any one division with the exception of Dressage, Driving and Gymkhana. For the sake of the equine be selective and humane as to the number of classes you enter. The 4-H Educator, Show Superintendent and 4-H Horse Advisory Committee reserve the right to intervene if necessary.*
- H. Equine subject to illness, injury (exhibit lameness), poor body condition, misbehavior (out of control), acting up, kicking, biting will be excused from the ring at the judge's, 4-H Educator or show superintendent's discretion unless there is an official veterinarian available (approved by 4-H) to make the determination. This is for the safety of all, if your equine is categorized in one of the behaviors listed above, please excuse yourself to center of the ring and dismount until you can be safely excused from the ring.*
- I. In the event that a member wishes to substitute a horse due to safety concerns and reasons, a request may be made to the 4-H Educator and 4-H Horse Advisory Committee in a timely fashion. The substitute horse must be a designated project animal for that year.*
- J. In the event that a member's horse or leased horse is injured, cannot be shown, and they wish to substitute another family owned horse, a veterinarian certificate with proof of injuries/lameness must be presented to the 4-H Educator and 4-H Horse Advisory Committee in a timely fashion. If another owned horse is not suitable to be shown, a horse may be leased.*

### III. EXHIBITOR AND ENTRIES

- A. Exhibitors must meet age and membership requirements as specified by the Orange County 4-H program.*

Junior - Youth who are at least eight years of age by January 1st of the current club year and in the third grade or higher should enroll as a 4-H member. Junior contestants must not have reached their 14th birthday prior to January 1st of the current club year.

Senior - Senior contestants must be at least 14 years of age by January 1st of the current club year. Youth who have reached their 19th birthday before January 1st of the 4-H club year may not enroll as a 4-H member.

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- Novice Division - open to all riders 8 years by January 1<sup>st</sup> of current club year and over who have passed riding level 2. If they win champion or reserve in their 1<sup>st</sup> year they can ride this division a 2<sup>nd</sup> year, but are not eligible for champion and reserve. This division can only be ridden for 2 years.*
- Walk/Trot/  
Jog Division - open to all riders 8 years by January 1<sup>st</sup> of current club year and over who have passed riding level 1 but not Level 2. If youth wins champion or reserve in their 1<sup>st</sup> year they can ride this division a 2<sup>nd</sup> year, but are not eligible for champion or reserve.*
- Cloverbud Division - open to riders 5 to 8 years old who have passed the ground evaluation and riding 1 on a leadline, and assisted by an adult over 18 years of age. Only exhibition ribbons will be awarded in this division.*

- B. Cross entering divisions is not allowed.*
- C. A division shall consist of at least three riders.*
- D. All club members who exhibit must have attended 50% of their club meetings during the 4-H year.*
- E. Independent members must participate in at least 1 horse activity during the 4-H year. Independent leaders must attend 50% of leader's meetings.*

### IV. PROCEDURES

- A. All exhibitors must wear their numbers on their backs or on both sides of the equine on the saddle pad or on the vehicle seat for Driving Division at all times when mounted on the equine show grounds. Numbers must be clearly visible at all times. No handwritten numbers are allowed, commercially prepared number only.
- B. All tack and equipment shall be of appropriate design, well fitted and indicate proper care. Improper, poorly cared for, poorly fitted and unsafe tack or non-standard shoes shall be penalized as prescribed or at the judge's discretion. Broken tack in a class will result in a disqualification from the class. Silver and new equipment shall not count over a good working outfit in good condition.
- C. A judge, 4-H Educator or show superintendent shall have the authority to inspect all tack and equipment and to require the removal, replacement or alteration of any piece of equipment deemed by the judge, 4-H Educator or show superintendent to be unsafe, inappropriate for a 4-H show or which would give the equine or the exhibitor an unfair advantage.
- D. A fall in the arena for whatever reason will result in immediate disqualification. A fall will have occurred when an equine's shoulder touches the ground or when a rider comes in contact with the ground except as in the execution of a required and traditional dismount.
- E. Any equine not following the pattern required in any class, including the specified gaits may be disqualified as specifically prescribed or, in the absence of specific guidelines, at the judge's discretion.
- F. The 4-H Educator, show superintendent or judge may dismiss from any class, the show or the grounds any exhibitor who is cruel and abusive of an equine, fails to follow or obey instruction, cannot maintain control of an unruly or inadequately trained equine, or fails to cooperate with show management or other exhibitors. A kicking equine shall be considered to be unmanageable.

## 4-H Horse Member Book

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- G. The decisions of the judges are final and represent a non-protestable expression of individual preference, unless a decision is alleged to be in violation of rules.
- H. *Intentional interference or attempts to unethically alter the judge's decision by anyone will not be tolerated and may cause for immediate suspension or membership or volunteer status.*
- I. In case of ties, a judge may require additional work, but contestants other than in Gymkhana or Mounted Games cannot be required to repeat an entire performance.
- J. *Protests must be made by an exhibitor or club leader, not by parents, coaches or any outside party. Protests must be confined to the exhibitor or club's own performance or placing, and in no case may a protest be made of another exhibitor's or club's score, placing or performance.*
- K. *Protests are to be lodged with the 4-H Educator and show steward prior to the beginning of the next event or class. 4-H Educator and show superintendent will then determine the necessity of approaching the judge. The name of the 4-H Educator and show superintendent will be posted and/or announced. All protests for final classes and awards must be made before the judge leaves the show grounds.*
- L. *No parent, coach, visitor or exhibitor may approach, question, or direct public comment to or about the judge. Violations will be handled on an individual basis by the 4-H Educator, show superintendent and 4-H Horse Advisory Committee.*
- M. Classes which are larger than the ring can safely accommodate may be split. *Performance classes exceeding 14 entries may be split at the discretion of the judge.*
- N. *Classes in which there are fewer than 3 exhibitors may be combined with other classes as deemed appropriate by the judge, show steward and 4-H Educator. Classes may be sectioned by age of rider.*
- O. No exhibitor shall be asked or permitted to perform any maneuver or execute any part of a class routine on or with an equine other than their own.
- P. Except in those classes where whips and crops are required or permitted, striking the equine with any object, including the hand, shall be caused for immediate disqualification. In classes where whips and crops are permitted or required, exhibitors must use great discretion.
- Q. Delay of classes:
- 1) In classes in which equines compete collectively, a warning is issued and the in gate is closed at the end of the one-minute call.
  - 2) In classes in which equines compete individually, an order of go will be established and one minute will be allowed for an entry to enter the ring. \*Note: In dressage the rider has 45 seconds to enter the ring after the judge blows the whistle. If jump order is used, it must be posted 30 minutes prior to the start of the class.
- R. No patterns or course will be used that will jeopardize the safety of the equine or the exhibitor. All patterns and courses for classes other than those contained in the rule book are to be posted at a reasonable time prior to the start of that class and there is to be no variation from the posted pattern or course.

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- S. *Mounting/Dismounting - Youth may be asked to mount or dismount at the judge's discretion. If a child has special needs, please talk with the 4-H Educator and show superintendent. They will make a decision in these instances. Will consult with 4-H Horse Advisory Committee if need be.*
- T. No bareback classes will be held in any division. No bareback riding will be allowed.

### V. SUPERVISION AND CONDUCT

- A. *Adults are not allowed to care for horses or prepare them for classes. They may assist with handling and saddling when necessary.*
- B. *No one other than exhibitors may ride, school or train an equine entered in the show while on the 4-H show grounds. If a youth is having a problem with an equine, please talk with the 4-H Educator and show superintendent. With their evaluation and approval exceptions may be made. Safety of the youth will always be of primary concern. Will consult with 4-H Horse Advisory Committee if need be.*
- C. *Each exhibitor must have a parent or legal guardian on the show grounds at all times.*
- D. *Conduct unbecoming to a parent, supervisor, or exhibitor will be subject to immediate disciplinary action. 4-H Educator and show superintendent will review case, consult with 4-H Horse Committee and make final decision regarding reason for disciplinary action.*
- E. *Coaching from the ringside during classes is forbidden. No persons will be allowed in the ring during the time of judging, except those with duties to perform. This does not apply to Cloverbuds.*
- F. No exhibitor or other youth will be permitted to sleep in the barns.
- G. *No jogging, trotting, loping or cantering except in designated areas. No riding with halters or lead lines. No double riding will be permitted. Both feet should straddle the horse's sides at all times.*
- H. *No equines permitted in spectator area, restroom areas, or the food areas.*
- I. No smoking, cooking or use of any heat generating device may take place in the barns or immediately adjacent to the barns.
- J. *NO alcoholic beverages will be allowed on the show grounds. If youth or supervising adult is caught drinking while at a 4-H function they will be immediately dismissed from the 4-H horse show and further disciplinary action will follow.*

### VIII. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT HORSE SHOWS

- A. *The judge, show superintendent and 4-H educator have the right to combine classes in the ring, with classes being placed separately.*
- B. *All horses reverse towards the center of the ring, EXCEPT Saddle seat classes, who will reverse towards the rail.*
- C. *English braiding is optional; however, if braiding is preferred both the mane and tail must be braided.*
- D. Fake tails will be allowed.

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- E. Once obstacles are set up in the arena, the area is not to be used for practice.*
- F. Riders are highly recommended to enter fitting and showmanship.*
- G. NO dogs are allowed on the show grounds unless the dog is a service dog. Must show documentation of service.*
- H. All entries to show secretaries by closing date. Any entries turned in after closing date will not be eligible to compete at that show.*

### VI. SPECIFIC COMPETITIVE EVENT RULES

- A. Each specific division is governed by rules developed for that specific event (see rules for each event for details).
- B. The rules developed for each specific division will take precedence over general rules or the seat you may be riding if there is any variation.
- C. Due to the many different breeds, types and quality of animals exhibited by 4-H youth in New York State, as much as possible the NYS 4-H Equine Show rules are patterned after those of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) rules. When this has not been possible, other appropriate rules have been utilized as a guide. Dressage Division will use USEF (United States Equestrian Federation) rules as guidelines.
- D. **PLEASE** remember that the NYS 4-H Equine Program is about youth, NOT about winning!

# 4-H Horse Member Book

## Horse Show Evaluation Procedure

### Danish System

All 4-H shows are judged by the Danish System. Each contestant is judged against a standard – not against the other contestants. The rider/horse is performing to the standard set by the judge. A blue ribbon denotes **EXCELLENT**. A red ribbon denotes **GOOD**. A white ribbon denotes **WORTHY**. The judge has the final say on what ribbons he/she thinks the youth deserve. A judge determines the amount awarded in each category (blue, red and white). There is no standard amount that must be handed out or not handed out. It is the judge's discretion to award or to give no awards.

### Scoring

Points are received by the youth for each class entered based on the placing in the Danish System for that class. The total points received in that class will be used to determine class winners.

Points are based on the following:

Danish Blue Award = 5 points

Danish Red Award = 3 points

Danish White Award = 1 point

**Tie Breaker** – used to determine state fair ranking

If a tie occurs between riders when determining state fair ranking the approved tie breaker system will be used. The tie is broken by awarding points based off of involvement in other 4-H Horse Programs offered to the youth during the 4-H year.

4-H records and the youth's *4-H Horse Record Book* will be checked to verify the youth's participation in these programs.

4-H Activity	Points
<b>Horse Bowl</b> Attend meetings and try out for county team	10
<b>Hippology</b> Attend meetings and try out for county team	10
<b>Horse Communications</b> Must do 1 presentation at the county level	10
<b>Judging</b> Attend meeting and try out for county team	10
<b>Horse Science Level Testing</b> Attempt at least 1 level during the course of the 4-H year	5
<b>Riding Level Testing</b> Attempt at least 1 level during the course of the 4-H year	5
<b>Clinics</b> Must attend at least 1 clinic during the course of the 4-H year	5
<b>Community Service</b> Must demonstrate at least 5 hours	5
<b>Achievement Night</b> Must attend event	5
<b>Other Showcase Entries</b> Must enter a minimum of 3 entries	5
<b>County Public Presentations</b> Must do 1 presentation at the county level	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>75</b>

## 4-H Horse Member Book

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### State Fair Selection

- 2 blue ribbons and 1 red in division qualify a youth for state fair.
- Rank of participants will be based on the scoring system only and if a tie occurs the tie breaker procedure will be used.
- Judge and 4-H Educator assigned to the 4-H Horse Program will have final say on placing.
- The rank of participants list will be used by the 4-H Educator assigned to the 4-H Horse Program to fill the available spots allotted to Orange County and Regional Horse District by the State Fair for each division.
- The 4-H program including the 4-H Educator assigned to the 4-H Horse Program will make the final decision and cut off of youth eligible to go on to the State Fair.
- If 4-Her does qualify for the State Fair and receives the State Fair packet of information from the assigned 4-H Educator they must turn in all necessary paper work found in the information packet by postmarked date. If 4-Her fails to turn in paperwork or contact the 4-H office with explanation on why paperwork is not turned in their spot will be given to next 4-Her on rank of participants list.
- If a 4-Her qualifies for the State Fair but after turning in their paperwork determines that they can no longer attend the show it is the responsibility of the 4-Her to contact the 4-H office immediately and their spot will be given to the next 4-Her on the rank of participants list.

# 4-H Horse Member Book

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## General Class Descriptions

**Fitting and Showmanship** – the ability of the exhibitor to train, care, groom, and present an equine for inspection by a judge. Not based on the equine's conformation.

**Equitation** – the exhibitor is judged on the proper position of the seat, hands and legs, the use of cues, and the ability to perform the required class routine as described by the judge.

**Pleasure** – Emphasis in these classes is placed on the equine's performance and suitability for the style of riding. Snaffle bits are permitted.

**Stock Seat and Stock Horse** – equines shown at a walk, jog, extended jog, lope and extended lope. Similar to Pleasure classes in that gaits should be consistent, relaxed, and performed in a willing manner.

**Hunt Seat and Hunter under Saddle** – equines are shown at the walk, trot, extended trot, and canter. The judge may ask for a controlled hand gallop.

**Hunter Under Saddle** – equines are shown at a walk, trot, extended trot, and canter. The judge may ask for a controlled hand gallop.

**Hunt Seat over Fences** – equines are shown at a walk, trot, extended trot, and canter. After the ring work, the equines will be asked to jump two fences not more than 3 feet high.

**Horsemanship** – the equine and the rider are judged on the ability to execute a pattern selected by the judge.

**Gymkhana** – timed games on horseback with specific patterns and rules.

**Western Riding Pattern** – equines individually perform a pattern. Flying change of leads are required and should be executed smoothly.

**Dressage** – performance of a specific pattern defined as a "test" at the level of training the horse has accomplished. Patterns are copyrighted and must be purchased at the 4-H office. Riders must use a snaffle bit during in this class.

**Driving** – Performance of patterns as designated by the judge while driving a cart with a horse/pony/mini-horse and harness. Judges are looking for control of horse as well as suitability between horse and rider.

**Trail** – trail is a competitive class at horse shows where horses and riders in western-style attire and horse tack navigate a series of obstacles. Contestants ride the course one at a time. *(We make exception for the English riders they may ride in their English attire and tack.)*

# 4-H Horse Member Book

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## Glossary of Terms

**4-H Age** – youth's 4-H age is determined by how old the youth are on January 1 of the current club year. Cloverbuds are between the ages of 5 – 7. A general 4-H Member is at least 8 years old and have not reached their nineteenth birthday prior to January 1 of the current year.

**4-H Calendar Year** – The 4-H organizational year starts on October 1 and runs until September 30.

**4-H Event** – an event in which uses 4-H in the name and/or 4-H emblem in promoting the event. Term 'event' is used to apply to activities or programs that are exclusively 4-H.

**ASTM – SEI** – The American Society for Testing and Materials – Safety Equipment Institute: the organization that sets specifications for safety helmets.

**Bit** – usually a piece of metal attached to a bridle (headstall) and lies in the horse's mouth. Bits are used to signal or control the horse and come in various styles and degrees of severity.

**Bosal** – a braided rawhide or leather noseband used in lieu of a snaffle bit on horses 5 and under.

**Conformation** – the build of the animal; the structure, form, balance and symmetrical arrangement of the anatomical parts.

**Diagonals** – refers to the forefoot of the horse moving in unison with the opposite hind foot at the trot. When posting, the rider should rise as the forefoot on the outside of a turn comes forward.

**Dressage** - a style of riding whose object is the harmonious development of the physical ability of the horse resulting in a calm, supple, flexible animal, both longitudinally and laterally; Evaluated by performing a specific performance test at the level of training the horse has accomplished.

**Fault** – a decrease in points in an over-fences class, due to an error by horse or rider.

**Lead (loping or cantering)** – the foreleg that reaches out the furthest at a lope or canter. When circling to the right, the horse should be in the right lead (the right foreleg should reach out slightly ahead of the left leg).

**Ring Steward** – the judge's assistant; the person who works with the judge, announcer, gate persons and exhibitors to assist in making the horse show run smoothly.

**Saddle Seat** – a style of riding a 3 or 5 gaited horse. "Gaited" horse includes, but it not limited to, American Saddlebred and Walking Horses.

**Show Superintendent** – the individual assigned to help assist the 4-H Educator assigned to the horse program organizes and run a 4-H horse show. They are the lead volunteer and work closely with 4-H Educator.

**Snaffle** – a very mild bit with a jointed mouthpiece that works on direct pressure on the corners of the mouth. It does not have shanks or curb straps.

**State Fair Ranking** – the order that youth are placed based off of overall points earned at the State Fair Qualifying Show. The order ranks youth from most points earned down to the least amount of points earned. The 4-H Educator uses this rank to fill spots designated to Orange County and Regional Level for State Fair.

**Tack** – riding equipment or gear for the horse such as a saddle, bridle, and halter.

# 4-H Horse Member Book

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## Resources

New York State 4-H Horse Program Website - <http://ansci.cornell.edu/4H/horses/>

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orange County Website - <http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/orange/orange.htm>

New York State Agriculture and Markets Website - <http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/>

New York State Fair Website - <http://www.nysfair.org/>