

STEUBEN COUNTY

4-H HORSE SHOW RULES

EXHIBITOR ELIGIBILITY:

1. All exhibitors must be members of Steuben County 4-H by **MONDAY, MAY 1** of the current 4-H year **AND PARTICIPATE IN ONE COUNTY LEVEL OR BEYOND HORSE EDUCATIONAL EVENT** (i.e. Public Presentations, Quiz Bowl, Hippology, Horse Judging) to be eligible to participate in any Steuben County 4-H Horse Show, including 4-H Showcase. Age as of January 1 of the current 4-H year will determine the exhibitor's age and division status. Specifically, a member must do one of the following: a county level or beyond public presentation on a horse topic (Impromptu presentations must be on the Regional level or above), participate in at least 3 Horse Quiz Bowl/Hippology practices, participate in Hippology at the Regional level or above, participate in Regional Horse Judging. **The Horse Program Committee will also accept attendance at alternate educational events (i.e. Animal Crackers, seminars) in lieu of the above-mentioned events. The 4-H member must do a one-page written report on what they saw and learned at the educational event. Club Level Presentations on a HORSE topic with a copy of the score sheet and a review of the presentation (i.e. outline, summary, etc) will be accepted as well.** Please see your leaders for specific details on the requirements of the educational paper. ALL Educational Requirements must be completed/turned in by **May 31st**.

All exhibitors must be supervised by their parent(s)/guardian(s) or a designated adult. Adult supervision must be maintained throughout the show, including arrival, warm-up and departure activities. **All exhibitors must have the parent's/guardian's signature on the Horse Show Entry Blank.**

A horse/exhibitor combination must show at one of two qualifying shows to be eligible for Year-End Highpoint

2. Six class levels will be offered at each of the Qualifying Shows and 4-H Showcase. The levels are as follows:

Cloverbud - LEADLINE: is open to Cloverbud members 5-7 years old as of January 1st. These classes will be offered at Qualifying Shows & 4-H Showcase. (See Cloverbud Rules for specifics.)

Cloverbud - WALK/TROT-WALK/JOG: is open to Cloverbud members 5-7 years old as of January 1st with a header based on the outcome of the riding evaluations of the horse/rider combination. These classes will be offered at the Qualifying Shows & 4-H Showcase. (See Cloverbud Rules for specifics.)

WALK-TROT: is open to youth 8 years old or older as of January 1st of the current year with **little or no previous showing experience** based on the outcome of the riding evaluations. Exceptions will be made at the discretion of the Horse Leaders Advisory Committee when safety of the rider is a factor. These riders will not be required to canter/lope, and may not enter in any class requiring a canter/lope. Awards will be made using the Danish system.

NOVICE: is open to youth 8 years old or older as of January 1st of the current year in their **first** year of showing, or their **first** year of showing in classes that require a canter/lope. Exceptions will be made at the outcome of the riding evaluations when safety of the rider is a factor. The rider must be able to canter/lope in a group. Leads to count.

JUNIOR: is open to all exhibitors age 8-13 as of January 1 of the current year. To show W/T/C

SENIOR: is open to all exhibitors age 14-18 as of January 1 of the current year. To show W/T/C

*Per State Rules, a horse and rider combination may only enter classes in one level per show.

*Leadline, Cloverbud Walk/Trot-Walk/Jog, Walk-Trot and Novice Riders will not be eligible to go on to Regional and State Fair Horse Shows.

*Riders can move up levels **from show to show** (not during a show) depending on the outcome of the re-evaluation, but may not move down a level, except at a leader's discretion, when safety is a factor. Example: Walk/Trot riders may move up to Novice, but Novice cannot move down to Walk/Trot.

3. Six divisions will be offered (i.e. Huntseat, Western, Dressage, Gymkhana, Driving, and Miniature). 4-H members may exhibit 1 equine per division per show with the maximum of 3 project equines. Other divisions (Saddle Seat, English Games, etc.) can be added as there is interest.

4. Completed horse records are due on Monday, September 16, 2024 or you will not receive Premium Money for your horse project. Your ability to show in 2025 will not be affected.

HORSE ELIGIBILITY:

5. **All horses must be registered with the Steuben County 4-H office by 4:30 p.m. on May 24th, 2024 by completion of the State 4-H Horse Certificate to be eligible to compete at the Steuben County 4-H Horse Shows.** A copy of the current Coggins test papers and a Rabies Vaccination Certificate must be included with the 4-H Horse Certificate. These will not be returned. Coggins tests dated 2023 or 2024 are valid. Only rabies vaccinations dated 2024 are valid. All animals must be free of contagious disease. Examples of contagious disease includes ringworm, pink eye, warts, mange, respiratory infection and contagious hoof infections. Any horse exhibited must be clean and well groomed. The decision to exclude an animal from competition will be made by the show chairperson, 4-H staff, and judge. A veterinarian may be called at the owner's expense.

6. All horses must be three years old or older on January 1 of the current year. A Junior horse is 5 years and under. Jr. Horses may be shown in a snaffle bit in any division or in a bosal in the western division. No stallions will be allowed.

7. **4-H members are encouraged to register multiple project equines with the county. A 4-H member may show a maximum of two project equines at any one show.** A member may bring one additional owned or non-owned project equine for driving/miniature as long as it is registered with the county. **4-H Leaders can also register potential animals that might be shown as a borrowed equine.** Non-owned equines must be registered with the county. Three categories of horses will be eligible to compete in the horse shows:

OWNED: Any personally or family owned equine. Family will be defined as the legal guardian, as well as husband, wife, parent, step parent, step child, sister, brother, half brother or sister, grandmother and grandfather and in-laws of the same relation.

NON-OWNED/LEASED: Any equine not owned by the family as listed above, but designated by the 4-H member as a project equine. Non-owned equines must be designated by May 24, 2024, by completion of the State 4-H Horse Certificate. Non-owned equines will be eligible to show at county and state events. (Refer to Rule #38.) Exhibitor may exhibit only 1 non-owned/leased equine.

BORROWED: An equine not owned by the family of and not registered to the 4-Her intending to show it, but who is registered as a 4-H equine in Steuben County. The use of a borrowed equine is intended for 4-H members whose horse dies or is disabled. A veterinarian's certificate stating the type and duration of the disability may be required. All substitutions must be approved by the county 4-H Agent. The substitute equine will not be eligible to accumulate award points. Borrowed equines are not eligible for state or

regional events.

8. **PONY:** is open to an exhibitor age 8-18 as of January 1 of the current year. The equine must measure 14.2 hands or under. All equines entered as ponies may be measured at their first show at a designated flat area at check-in. This measurement will supersede all previous measurements and will be the sole basis for determination of status for the rest of the season at Steuben County shows. One equine and rider combination may not cross-enter between Pony and the corresponding Junior or Senior divisions at each show.

9. Each horse and exhibitor combination must show at 1 of 2 qualifying shows to be eligible for Year-End High Point Awards. The only exception allowed will be the use of a borrowed horse in the event of death or disability of a project animal.

10. Any horse not officially entered in the horse show will not be allowed on the show grounds.

11. **No canines or bicycles are allowed on the showgrounds. *THIS POLICY WILL BE ENFORCED!***

12. The use of drugs, alcoholic beverages, or tobacco is not permitted at Steuben County 4-H activities.

SAFETY

13. All youth participating in Steuben County 4-H sponsored horse activities must wear a properly fitted and secured, officially approved (ASTM F-1163/SEI) protective helmet at all times including Fitting & Showmanship classes, when mounted or driving an equine. The rider, or parent or guardian of the rider is responsible for seeing that the helmet fits, is properly secured, and ensuring that it is not damaged. It is recommended that the helmet is not over 5 years old. If someone falls and hits their head, it is recommended that the helmet be replaced. There will be no discrimination for the style or color of approved protective helmets worn by the participants. (See enclosed chart of Required, Optional and Prohibited Dress and/or Equipment.)

14. Riding evaluations are required for all 4-H members who have not shown in a Steuben County 4-H Qualifying Show and all 4-H members who wish to move up a riding level (i.e. from leadline to walk/stop, from walk/stop to walk/trot, from walk/trot to novice, from novice to junior/senior/pony). Riding evaluations are based on the rider, and not the horse. Riders do not have to be re-evaluated with new or green horses.

15. Any entry inclined to kick will be identified by a red ribbon tied to the tail.

16. Horses entering the show ring must be ridden at a walk or slow trot. Mounting and dismounting in the ring shall always be from the near side. For game classes, horses must be lead or ridden into the ring at a walk under the control of the contestant. Assistance may be given to Novice and Walk/Trot riders. Upon entering the ring and being **recognized by the timekeeper or judge**, the contestant will then run the course, **stop at a designated spot in the arena, and exit the arena under control (dismounting optional but can be requested by show management).**

17. Exhibitors must confine their horses to a designated area. Any schooling will be permitted only under the supervision of a designated 4-H leader or responsible adult. **Riding outside the show ring should be at a controlled walk except for the practice rings and trail course.**

18. The Judge and/or County 4-H Staff, or Show Chairpeople are responsible for promptly dismissing an exhibitor who is in immediate danger of injury to himself, his horse or fellow exhibitors.

19. **4-H members must have their equines safely secured at all times when not in use. Leaving horses unattended at trailers is done so at the exhibitor's own risk.**

DIVISION/CLASS RULES

***Please see the division definitions in the exhibitor eligibility section.**

21. If a class has 15 or more riders, it may, at the show chair or judge's discretion, be divided randomly into 2 sections. Each section will be judged alike with the judge determining a number, not less than four from each group to be brought back in for a final placing. Ribbons will be awarded in the final run. At the show chair or judges' discretion, classes may be combined due to limited entries, but will be pinned separately.

22. At 4-H Showcase, exhibitors **must** participate in both a Showmanship In Hand and Equitation on the flat/Reinsmanship class. In special instances, showing in the Equitation class will be at the discretion of the County 4-H Agent.

23. At 4-H Showcase or Qualifying Shows, an exhibitor has the option of showing English or Western in Showmanship in Hand and Trail class. Any person showing two horses in the same level (different seats) will be allowed to show one horse at the beginning of the class and show the other horse at the end of the class to be scored for Showmanship in Hand. The horse tack should be appropriate to the rider attire. Exhibitors showing Western Showmanship in Hand will not be penalized for showing a braided horse. Awards for Walk/Trot and Novice Showmanship in Hand classes will be by the Danish System. Standards are as follows:

Novice and Walk Trot:

Blue:	Scores greater than or equal to 85
Red:	Scores between 75 and 84
White:	Scores less than or equal to 74

24. Only one hand will be allowed on the reins in Western Classes including Western Trail unless a junior horse is being shown (Refer to Rule #5). Rider's hands shall be clear of saddle while performing. In the game classes, it is permissible to grip the saddle horn and use two hands on the reins. *EXCEPTION: Cloverbud, W/T & Novice Riders MAY use two hands, but one is preferred*

25. Ponies (equines 14.2 hands and under) may be ridden in the Walk/Trot, Novice, Junior or Senior divisions, instead of the pony division. One horse and rider combination may not cross-enter between Pony and the corresponding Junior or Senior divisions at each show.

26. The Driving Classes include horses and ponies, junior and senior members. An adult is strongly encouraged to be in the cart at all times when the horse or pony is driven. Approved protective helmets are required for the driver. The accompanying adult is strongly advised to wear a protective helmet. Adult headers are required for driving classes (in addition to any adult who may or may not be riding in the cart).

27. There will be no striking of a horse with the reins in 4-H competition. In classes where a crop is allowed, the crop must be used properly and with great discretion. Exhibitors may be **disqualified** for improper use of a crop.

28. Exhibitors should determine the classes they wish and are competent to enter in advance of the show day. Scratching classes at Qualifying Shows is strongly discouraged. **No monetary refund will be made for classes scratched at Qualifying Shows.**

29. In classes in which horses compete collectively, exhibitors will have a maximum of 5 minutes after ribbons are awarded in the previous class to enter the show ring. A warning will be issued, and the gates will be closed. When a tack change is required between classes, the tack should be waiting at the entrance or exit gate of the show ring.

30. Game scoring and disqualification will follow State rules refer to "NYS 4-H Gymkhana and Mounted Games". **Exhibitors in Walk/Trot games should ride the course at a walk or trot. If more than three consecutive strides are cantered, a 30-second penalty will be awarded per infraction.**

CONDUCT

31. Exhibitors are responsible for the humane treatment and well being of any horse in their care. Horses are to be treated humanely and with dignity and respect. Showing competitively is of secondary importance. **Improper behavior will be grounds for dismissal from the class/show.**

32. Dismissal for unsportsmanlike conduct, rail coaching, or any other act not consistent with 4-H policy, will be at the discretion of the judge, County 4-H Staff and/or the show chairpeople.

33. If a rider is excused from a class/show due to improper behavior they will not be eligible for high point awards for that day and any points earned that day will not go towards year end points or state fair qualification.

34. Two warnings will be given on any rule infraction. The third infraction will result in being excused from the fairgrounds for that day.

35. Each 4-H member has primary responsibility for the preparation and schooling of their horse(s). Parents, leaders, trainers, and other adults may participate in the preparation/schooling only to protect the safety of a 4-H member.

ETHICS

36. The use of substances forbidden by AHSA standards or surgical alteration which would affect the performance of the equine is prohibited and will result in dismissal from the show. A forbidden substance is any substance (or any metabolite and/or analogue thereof) other than a normal nutrient, including but not limited to substances acting on the nervous system, the cardiovascular system, the respiratory system, the digestive system, the urinary system, the reproductive system, the musculoskeletal system, the skin, the blood system, the immune system (other than licensed vaccines), the endocrine system or antipyretics, analgesics, anti-inflammatory substances or cytotoxic substances. A forbidden substance is any stimulant, depressant, tranquilizer, local anesthetic, psychotropic (mood and/or behavior altering) substance, or drug which might affect the performance of a horse/pony. Any nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (**for example, bute and banamine**) in excess of two percent in the plasma or urine of the horse/pony is forbidden. Disciplinary action will be taken at the discretion of the 4-H Horse Advisory Committee. You may be asked to submit to a drug test at the owner's expense.

STATE FAIR COMPETITION

38. Exhibitors intending to show at State Fair must exhibit at the 4-H Showcase horse show. A 4-H member who qualifies for State Fair must promptly indicate his/her commitment to participate in State Fair. **Failure to fulfill a stated commitment to participate in State Fair will make the 4-H member ineligible for the following year's State Fair horse show.** Exceptions will be granted for extenuating circumstances only and the 4-H member must promptly notify the 4-H office of any circumstances which would prevent State Fair participation.

39. You can only exhibit one non-owned or two owned equines at State Fair. No more than one equine may be entered in any one division and no more than two equines can be stalled in the pole barns at the same time.

TACK

40. Steuben County follows the rules of the NYS 4-H Horse Program. **It is the EXHIBITORS responsibility to know what tack is permissible.** If an exhibitor's tack/appointments are called into question, the horse show committee (made up of 2-3 knowledgeable horse people at the show) will refer to the state rules and their interpretation of this rule will be final. The exhibitor will be allowed to switch to tack that is allowed. If you'd like a copy or to review the NYS 4-H Horse Show Rules please contact the CCE/4-H Office. ***Cloverbud,**

W/T, Novice may use snaffle & 2 hands for western.

INTERPRETATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Interpretation and enforcement of all rules is at the discretion of the 4-H Horse Leaders Advisory Committee.

Note: Members advancing to the regional and state levels are responsible for requesting a copy of the regional/state rules and for reviewing them.