



May 18, 2023

Dear Custer County 4-H Horse Project Members, Leaders, and Parents:

**Welcome to the 2023 4-H Horse Program**

Your 4-H Council 4-H Horse Advisory Committee’s goal is to design a program that centers around positive values, teaches project and people skills, advances members total knowledge of horses and most of all, creates a fun learning environment for all involved.

2023 Custer County Horse Advisory Committee:

- Jake Rosentreader - Chairman & Co. Fair Superintendent
- Elaine Zutavern - Co. Fair Assistant Superintendent
- Tammie Kaelin - Advisor
- Bobbie Summerford - Treasurer
- Tessa Trew
- Sue Stratton
- Josh Berghorst

Please visit with them about any new ideas you’d like to see implemented into the program, any needs or concerns that need to be dealt with, and finally a pat on the back for a job well done when things go right! Committee members know they are not really working with horse projects, they’re working with a 4-H youth project involving horses!

**\*\*New for 2023\*\***

- 1). Custer County Fair will allow contestants showing other species (Swine, Dairy, Sheep, Goats, or Beef) to have the option to stall or not to stall their horses at County Fair without the penalty of losing premium monies. They will have stalls assigned to them and they need to be labeled accordingly. They will need to contact the Horse Superintendent to set up a time to check their horses in before showing.
- 2). Working Ranch Horse - 4-H Working Ranch Horse riders **must** either have 2 people sign-off that the 4-H'er can work cattle safely in a closed environment **OR** have attended a Working Ranch Horse clinic.
- 3). It is requested that any scratches for the County Fair Wednesday Horse events be given to the superintendent by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday.
- 4) Optional Early Release Of 4-H Horses At 5:00 P.M. On Wednesday, August 2. Stalls need to be cleaned and chips/manure put in manure bins, NOT left in the alley or premium money will be forfeited. When leaving the fairgrounds, please exit on the road south of the Grandstands, along the railroad tracks.

**Custer County 2023 4-H Horse Calendar**

- June 1 State 4-H Horse Show Deadline for Online Entries, ID's, and Advancement Levels
- June 1 4-H Horse ID's for county fair horse entries due in Extension Office
- July 15 - 19 State 4-H Horse Show, Fonner Park, Grand Island
- July 17 Level 1 advancement testing must be completed for County Fair
- July 30 – August 3 Custer Co. Fair – Judge: Emily Keiser



### **ID Sheets – Deadlines - Extension Office**

ID's for the State 4-H Horse Show and County Fair are due June 1<sup>st</sup> at the Extension Office for horses as well as all other 4-H Horse ID's for horses for this 4-H year. If you are participating in any shows prior to this deadline you need an ID sheet with you. They need to be reviewed by extension staff prior to their use. Please check with the office if you need ID sheets. **Horses not ID'ed by June 1 are ineligible to use this show season.**

### **State Horse Shows**

State Horse Expo <https://4h.unl.edu/horse-expo>

All required Horsemanship Advancement Levels need to be passed by June 1<sup>st</sup> and the appropriate 4-H Horse ID's need to be turned into the Extension Office by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

To compete a 4-Her must be ages 10-18 as of January 1st of the current year and have passed the appropriate Horsemanship Level(s) for the classes being entered by June 1. Stall assignments for the State Horse Show will be posted on the state-expo website a week prior to the show.

To enter the Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Show, all youth must complete the Horsemanship Advancement Level requirements, horse identification process, and entry process by **5:00 p.m. on June 1**. No late entries will be accepted. No refunds will be given. If youth enter classes for which they are not eligible or if youth decide not to participate, their entry fees will be forfeited. The link for online entry is: (<https://4h.unl.edu/horse-expo-show-entry#entry>)

Before beginning, please review all the State 4-H Horse Show rules

(<https://4h.unl.edu/horse-expo-show>) and the current Nebraska 4-H Horse Show and Judging Guide (<https://marketplace.unl.edu/ne4h/curriculum/animalscience/4h373.html>)

### **Horse Advancement Levels Testing Information**

The four Horsemanship Levels of advancement in the 4-H Horse Project are designed to serve as guides for instruction and evaluation of each member's progress. The correct handling of horses is emphasized from the beginning Level (I) to the most advanced Level (IV). For each Horsemanship Level, be it I, II, III, or IV a club demonstration must be done. Also, written tests are to be taken for Level I, II, and III. A passing grade of 80% must be received on any written test and proficiency demonstrated on all areas on the skills test to receive an Advancement Level certificate and gain eligibility to try for the next Level certification. Once a section of the Level has been passed, it need not be repeated. However, if a member fails to pass a section of the Levels test, that entire section must be repeated. Each section may be repeated as many times as necessary for successful completion. The correct Level for classes must be completed before entering the State Horse Show competition. Leaders who have passed the online certification course can pass 4-Hers for Levels I and II, but someone other than the 4-H member's own club leader who has been **approved** as a Level III and/or IV examiner is required to pass 4-Hers on Levels III and IV respectively. Just because you have been in horse 4-H for one year **does not** mean that you have completed Horsemanship Level I and that goes for the other levels as well. Each Horse 4-H member should have a copy of the book 4-H Horse Project Advancement Levels and the Nebraska 4-H Horse Project Member Manual. Contact your leader or the extension office if you do not have this book. For more information: <http://4h.unl.edu/horse/advancement>

**REMEMBER:** In order to show at the Custer County Fair you must have passed Horsemanship Level I by July 17. If a 4-H member is only going to show in showmanship or halter at County Fair, then they must pass everything in Level I except the "II. Riding" portion of the skills test by the above date.

### Roping Proficiency Testing

The Custer County 4-H Horse Rules read: *For those participating in roping events, a group of **more than two** individuals with roping skills, recommended by the horse committee, will require a proficiency check of 4-H ropers prior to any county roping events to ensure youth have adequate roping skills to have a reasonable assurance of safety.* Thus, anyone wanting to be eligible to rope at the Custer County Fair must have their roping proficiency tested. Once the roping test is passed you need to be sure that the Extension Office has a copy with more than two signatures stating that the individual's roping skills have been checked and that they are adequate.

Keep updated on any 4-H Horse changes at: <https://4h.unl.edu/horse>

### Loup Valley Conference Horse Show Information

If you are interested in the Loup Valley Conference Horse Shows, please go to this website: <http://loupvalleyhorseconference.org/>

### County Fair

July 30 – August 3 - All horse entries must be entered (I.D.'s checked by superintendent). Check-in times are 4:00-6:00 p.m. and 9:00-10:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>. Please see **page 1, #1** for the alternative option. Horses are not required to have an official health certificate at check-in time. **However, the show superintendent has the authority to have any horse that shows any signs or symptoms of illness to be examined by a veterinarian and possibly dismissed from the fair.** Unruly horses can be dismissed from the class at the discretion of the show superintendent and horse committee. Horses cannot leave early unless there are extenuating circumstances and it is approved by the horse committee. Premiums may be withheld if deemed necessary. **Horses will be released at 8:00 a.m. Thursday, August 3 with an Optional Early Release Of 4-H Horses At 5:00 P.M. On Wednesday, August 2 (please see #4 on page 1).**

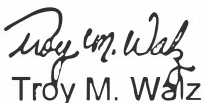
Below is the 2012 Ag Society policy for County Fair:

### USE OF ATV'S,UTV'S,GOLF CARTS & OFF-ROAD MOTORCYCLES ON THE FAIRGROUNDS:

"The private/personal use of ATV'S,UTV'S,GOLF CARTS & OFF-ROAD MOTORCYCLES on the fairgrounds is prohibited during the fair. Exceptions may be granted by the fairgrounds manager for handicapped persons, law enforcement and emergency services personnel. Authorized users must provide a valid proof of insurance certificate and meet all other NE Department of Motor Vehicles requirements."

Stall assignments will be designated by Friday, July 28.

Regards,



Troy M. Walz  
NE Extension Educator