

Custer County 4-H Horse County Rules - 2023

All horses must be listed with the Extension Office by June 1 on the 4-H Horse Identification Form (F 2-97-77). 4-H entries must be made according to the printed 2023 Custer County Fair Premium Book and entered online by June 30. Instructions for online entries will be emailed to 4-H families on approximately May 15. FFA members will need to notify the Extension Office of the classes they are entering and the number of horses they will be bringing for stall assignments. All classes will follow rules in the Nebraska 4-H Horse Show & Judging Guide, 4-H 373, revised in 2021, unless specified by 4-H Council approved county rules. District and state 4-H horse show rules continue to stand on their own. Following are the county rules:

1. County fair high point award will be tabulated from all county fair horse 4-H show events entered, except halter classes. To receive points for fair high point, placing must be red ribbon or higher.
2. Exhibitors are limited to entering three (3) horses. However, exhibitors are not limited in the number of events entered. (Mare and foal would be one unit of three horses allowed to exhibit. If the mare and foal were shown in separate classes, exhibitor would then be limited to one other horse. Mare and foal may check in on show day and be released the same day.)
3. On roping events, more than one 4-H member in an immediate family will be allowed to use the same properly identified horse.
4. Western riding is a level 2 event.
5. The 4-H Council has required that those participating in Custer County 4-H roping events must successfully pass a roping proficiency check. A group of more than two individuals/roping skills recommended by the horse committee will administer the check which is to assure that participants have adequate roping skills to have a reasonable assurance of safety. Ropers will be required to pass this proficiency check prior to entering any county roping events including the county fair.
6. 4-H member can enter horsemanship and advanced horsemanship but must designate which class they want premium for.
7. Only mares and geldings may be shown at halter and under saddle (weanling studs permitted at halter).
8. No loose foals will be allowed in the show ring.
9. Goat tying rules: Goat tying is considered a speed event following Nebraska 4-H horse rules. The two second hat rule will apply. Specific goat tying rules as follows:
 - a. The contestant will use a pigging string of leather, nylon or rope to cross and tie any three legs.
 - b. The horse cannot touch the rope or the goat at any time until a qualified time is given.
 - c. The top of the stake will be flush with the ground and the rope is stretched perpendicular to the starting line.
 - d. The goat must stay tied down for 6 seconds.
 - e. Once the goat is tied and contestant signals tie, he/she cannot touch goat. Breaking these rules will result in disqualification.
 - f. Time Limit: Contestant must tie goat within 2 minutes to receive a time.
10. **To encourage safe handling of horses, all 4-H members enrolled in the horse project that will be riding will have passed at least Level I (Horse Project Advancement Levels) before July 17 to be eligible to show in the 2022 Custer County Fair. 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.**
11. For safety reasons, if a mare is showing, the foal must remain at the trailer or in a stall.
12. In order to substitute an unidentified horse for a horse that has been properly identified, an affidavit of unsoundness, sickness, or death signed by a veterinarian, must be submitted to the Horse Committee for approval.
13. During halter and showmanship classes, the exhibitor must have control of the horse at all times, and shall not release hold of the lead at any time, except for safety reasons.
14. Ropers must complete legal catch within the time limit to receive points either for time or score at the summer shows. At county fair, the horse score will be kept in the event that no one has a legal catch.
15. Pre-junior youth exhibitors will not be allowed to show the same horse in walk-trot pleasure or walk-trot horsemanship classes after they have exhibited in a walk, trot, lope pleasure or horsemanship class in any Custer County sponsored 4-H horse show.
16. For safety reasons, snaffle bit riders should have passed Level 3 **OR** be at least 12 years old January 1 that calendar year and have passed Level 1.
17. Any formal complaints of rule violations need to be submitted to the horse show superintendent.
18. A parent may team rope with their child. The horse used by the parent cannot be ridden by the 4-H'er.
19. It is requested that any scratches for the Wednesday events be given to the superintendent by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday.