

Department J – Horse
Day 1: Superintendent: Tausha Dybdal
Assistants: Courtney Kossow, Charli Meinberg, Christi Arnold
Day 2: Superintendent: Christi Arnold
Assistants: Courtney Kossow, Charli Meinberg, Tausha Dybdal

Make sure to read “General Rules for Livestock” and the National Code of Show Ring Ethics at the beginning of the Department J – Animal Science section.

Level Testing

All exhibitors, excluding walk-trot and 4-H Partners, must pass Horsemanship Level 1 by July 10th, to be eligible to show. If only competing in Showmanship and Halter an in-hand option skills test is available. Contact Cindy Wolverton for testing.

Passage of Horsemanship Level 2 is REQUIRED by July 10th, to exhibit in any Roping Performance class.

General Rules

Entry Guidelines – All 4-H project horses must be identified on appropriate ID affidavits by June 15. Exception: District and State Horse Show affidavits and entries are required by June 1st.

Premium money will be awarded in up to six class entries only, regardless of how many classes a 4-H'er exhibits.

Class Eligibility – A single horse may not be entered or ridden in a class or event by more than one person, even though the horse is jointly owned by two or more members of the same family.

In performance classes (except for Walk-Trot), exhibitors may show no more than one horse per class.

In halter classes, exhibitors may show no more than three horses.

Rule Book – 4H373 Current Nebraska 4-H Horse Show and Judging Guide will be used.

Western Attire – Exhibitors are required to wear a long or short sleeve white shirt/blouse, 4-H armband on the left arm, dark blue jeans, hard-sole boots, and a western hat. See attire rule in the 4-H Horse Show and Judging Guide (page 23). Exception for the Seward County Fair Speed Events—the current year county fair exhibitor t-shirt may be worn in place of the white western shirt.

English Attire – In English events, exhibitors are required to wear shirt or blouse with a ratchet collar, traditional hunter seat style coat, breeches (or Jodhpurs) of traditional color, English boots or paddock boots, safety helmet with a harness. See attire rule in the 4-H Horse Show and Judging Guide (page 25). Exception: For the Seward County Fair, exhibitors may show in approved western attire. Helmet and English tack are required.

Walk-Trot Exhibitors – Walk-Trot (WT) classes are for first-year horse exhibitors. Only WT exhibitors may enter WT performance classes, showmanship, and halter. Once you exhibit as a first-year exhibitor, regardless of what classes you choose to exhibit in, you lose your eligibility as a WT exhibitor the following years. You do not have to enter WT classes as a 1st year exhibitor.

Ranch Pleasure – The same horse cannot be shown in Western Pleasure and Ranch Pleasure.

Horse Barn Rules

Stalls – The Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Mare and Gelding are **REQUIRED** to stall in the Horse Barn for exhibition during the fair. No substitution of horses for Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Mare and Gelding will be allowed, unless released by Horse Superintendent and 4-H staff. The Grand and Reserve Grand Champion monetary award is forfeited if awarded horses are not stalled during fair.

The remaining stalls will be assigned to 4-H clubs and filled. Only horses that have been properly identified by June 15th may be stalled as a 4-H project.

Stalls must be cleaned and picked out three times each day. Stalls must be completely cleaned out at release time, or no premium will be awarded. All horses assigned to the Horse Barn are released after 3:00 p.m., Sunday, August 13.

Horses shall be fed in the stalls.

All horses assigned to the horse barn are released after 3:00 p.m., Sunday, August 13.

Exercising – Horses and ponies may be removed from stalls during the day to be exercised. Riding is not permitted in the livestock building complex area or camping areas. Riding will be permitted in the horse arena and warm-up area when available.

Day 1 Monday August 7th

Check in at 8:30 a.m.

The show starts at 10:00 a.m.

Class order:

Division 60 - Showmanship

Class 1 Senior

Class 2 Intermediate

Class 3 Junior

Class 4 4-H Partners (non-competitive), youth must also register for division 25.

Division 61 Halter Ponies

Class 1 All ponies, Mares and Geldings

Division 61 Halter Fillies and Mares

Class 2 Weanling Fillies (foaled in 2023)

Yearling Fillies

Mares: Two Years Old

Mares: Three Years Old

Class 3 Mares Four to Ten Years Old

Class 4 Mares Eleven years and Older

Division 61 Halter Colts and Geldings

Class 5 Weanling Colts/Geldings (foaled in 2023)

Yearling Geldings

Geldings: Two Years Old

Geldings: Three Years Old

Class 6 Geldings Four to Ten Years Old

Class 7 Geldings Eleven years and Older

Division 62 Performance Classes

Class 1 Barrel Racing, Senior

Class 2 Barrel Racing, Intermediate

Class 3 Barrel Racing, Junior

Class 4 Pole Bending, Senior

Class 5 Pole Bending, Intermediate

Class 6 Pole Bending, Junior

Class 7 Horseshoe Poles, Senior

Class 8 Horseshoe Poles, Intermediate

Class 9 Horseshoe Poles, Junior

Class 10 Key Hole, Senior

Class 11 Key Hole, Intermediate

Class 12 Key Hole, Junior

Day 2 Tuesday August 8th

Check in at 8:00 a.m.

Trail set up 8:00 a.m.

The show starts at 9:00 a.m.

Class order:

Division 62 Performance Classes

Class 13 Trail, Senior

Class 14 Trail, Intermediate

Class 15 Trail, Junior

30 Minute Exhibitor Arena Time/Warm Up following Trail

Work Arena

Class 16 English Pleasure, All Ages

Class 17 English Equitation, All Ages

Class 18 Western/English Pleasure, Walk Trot

Class 19 Western/English Horsemanship, Walk Trot

Class 20 Western Pleasure, Senior

Class 21 Western Pleasure, Intermediate

Class 22 Western Pleasure, Junior

Class 23 Western Horsemanship, Senior

Class 24 Western Horsemanship, Intermediate

Class 25 Western Horsemanship, Junior

Class 26 Ranch Pleasure, Senior

Class 27 Ranch Pleasure, Intermediate

Class 28 Ranch Pleasure, Junior
Class 29 Ranch Riding, Senior
Class 30 Ranch Riding, Intermediate
Class 31 Ranch Riding, Junior

Roping Classes: Ropers will participate in the County Roping Event, Date and Time to be determined. Ropers must catch to receive a purple ribbon, Champion, or reserve Champion. A cattle charge may be assessed at the time of the roping. Participants are required to provide their own roping partner/adult. Official 4-H dress is required.

Must have passed Advanced Horsemanship Level 2 by July 10th to be eligible to exhibit in roping classes.

Division 63 Roping

Class 1 Break-Away Roping, All Ages
Class 2 Dally Steer Roping – Header, All Ages
Class 3 Dally Steer Roping – Heeler, All Ages