



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Erie County

Programs Available for Horse Project Members

Miscellaneous Clinics

A variety of topics are covered at clinics offered and organized by the EC 4-H Horse Planning committee. 4-Hers can learn about riding, training, health care, nutrition, equine activities, tack, and almost any horse related topic taught by WNY horse professionals.

Mandatory Fair Meeting (zoom)

Clinic offers information on how to successfully participate in the Erie County Fair 4-H Horse Show reviewing the rules and procedures as well as requirements for participating in the Erie County Fair.

Standardbred Day

Standardbred Day is a special miscellaneous clinic offered in the Spring or Fall of each year. It is designed to instruct and give 4-Hers a better understanding of the Standardbred industry in New York State, driving and driving activities. The day usually includes a trip to a local farm to learn and participate in driving activities and an evening of races, a tour of the track, and dinner at an area Standardbred racetrack (Buffalo Raceway – Spring, Batavia Downs – Fall).

Horse Bowl

The primary objective of Horse Bowl is to provide an opportunity for youth enrolled in the 4-H Horse project to demonstrate their knowledge of equine related subject matter in a competitive setting where attitudes of friendliness and fairness prevail. It is also hoped that these contests will provide educational experiences for both the participants and the spectators.

Horse Bowl is a team competition played similar to "Jeopardy". A variety of questions are asked concerning all aspects of equine knowledge. Buzzers are used in systems so that only the quickest participant may answer. Both team and individual points are tabulated.

The top 10 individual scores in each division will qualify for Regional competition.

Two teams at each competitive level (Senior, Junior, and Novice) will be selected for Regional competition. Each team will consist of 4 members and 1 alternate. Novice contestants must be 13 or under as of January 1st of the current year and have not participated in a Regional Horse Bowl competition in the past. Youth 10 or under may participate in Novice for 2 years. Novice regional eligible members may participate in a regional competition more than once with the 4-H leadership committee approval.

Cloverbuds are between the ages of 5-7, once they age out of cloverbud they will move into the Novice division, the duration to which will be determined by the 4-H leadership committee. Cloverbuds cannot be placed and will receive a participation ribbon.

Participation in the county Horse Bowl event fulfills the educational requirement to participate in the Erie County Fair 4-H Horse Show.

Hippology

The primary objective of this program is to provide an opportunity for youth enrolled in the 4-H Horse Project to demonstrate the depth of their knowledge and their reasoning ability in subject matter related to equine use and management in a competitive setting where attitudes of friendliness and fairness prevail. It is hoped that these contests will prove to be educational for both the participants and the spectators.

Team selection for regionals will be based on results of the county competition. The top 10 individual scores at each level will qualify to compete at the Regional level.

Hippology contests consist of four parts:

1. A written exam with fill in the blank, true/false, multiple choices, and matching.
2. Horse Judging
3. Stations of tack and equipment, anatomy, diseases and parasites, feeds and feeding, breeds, usage, colors, etc.
4. Identification of tack, equipment and feeds.

Both team and individual scores are tabulated. Each Region has the option of sending 2 Senior, 2 Junior, and 2 Novice teams consisting of four members and 2 alternates.

Participation in the County Hippology event fulfills the educational requirement to participate in the Erie County Fair 4-H Horse Show.

Horse Communications

County and Regional Horse Communications presentations are held during the winter months. Each county may send 2 individuals, 1 team presentation and 1 public speaker at both the Sr., and Jr. levels to regionals. Participants must have received a blue at the county presentation level to qualify for regionals.

Participation in the county Horse Communications event fulfills the educational requirement to participate in the Erie County Fair 4-H Horse Show.

Inter-County Team Rally

This competition is open to all horse 4-Hers. The competition is typically held over Columbus Day weekend in October at Niagara County 4-H facility. A team consists of five members including both seniors, and juniors. No adult interference is permitted; in fact they are not allowed to be in the barns. The team selects a senior as the barn manager. You are given a list of things you will need to bring, in addition to riding equipment and horses.

During the competition each team is given a problem. Teams have a given amount of time to work out the details of their problem and present their answers. There is a hippology test, and actual riding events that are also a part of the competition. To be a part of this team competition it is recommended that you be at least a Novice level rider. Contact your club leader if you are interested in participating in this event. **All team members will be responsible for their own fees, cost, etc.**

4-H Horse Project Completion Requirements

To be eligible to participate in the Erie County Fair 4-H Horse Show and Year End Awards 4-H Horse Program members must participate in one County sponsored educational event, one miscellaneous clinic, and one mandatory Clinic. Opportunities for fulfillment of these requirements are listed below:

Participation in Horse Communication or Public Presentation

1. Participation in at least one county 4-H club show
2. Participation in at least one educational contest (Horse Bowl, Hippology, Horse Judging)
3. Attend the mandatory annual fair information meeting

Erie County Fair 4-H Horse Show Eligibility

In order for Erie County 4-H members to compete with their horses at the Erie County Fair 4-H Horse Show, members must:

1. Be a member of Erie County 4-H in good standing.
2. Submit their **NYS 4-H Horse Certificate (see Appendix III) and Acknowledgement of Risk form (see Appendix IV)** to the CCE Office by May 31st of the current year.
3. Submit an entry form to the CCE Office by the entry deadline in July. **Erie County Fair entry forms are available on the Erie County Fair Website.**
4. Submit current Coggins and Rabies certificates for each horse they will use for competition to the CCE Office by May 31st.
5. Participation in Horse Communication or Public Presentation
 4. Participation in at least one county 4-H club show
 5. Participation in at least one educational contest (Horse Bowl, Hippology, Horse Judging)
 6. Attend the mandatory annual fair information meeting

Horse Show Rules & Regulations

1. The N.Y.S. 4-H Horse Show Rules and Regulations Handbook is the guide for Erie County 4-H Horse Shows. It is available on line through the Cornell Cooperative Extension website. <http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/4-H/horses/index.html>
2. **New York State Law:** When transporting your horse and participating in any 4-H Horse event, you must have a valid Negative Coggins Certificate and Proof of Rabies Vaccination. The Coggins Certificate **MUST be dated during the current or previous calendar year, Coggins is valid for 2 years.** . The Rabies Certificate **MUST** be dated at least 14 days prior to the event date and is valid for one year. Copies of these certificates **MUST** be presented at each Erie County 4-H Horse Show and to the CCE Office with your Erie County 4-H Horse Certificate by or before May 31st of the current year. Horses should not be transported without these documents and may not be used in 4-H activities without these copies on hand.
3. Ownership of Horse/Pony: Members may designate any or all personally owned or immediate family/legal guardian owned equines as project equines. A member whose horse is not suitable as a 4-H horse project or does not own a horse, may designate one and only one non-owned equine in 4-H horse shows. Questions regarding ownership should be referred to the horse committee. The Youth Horse Leaders committee's decision (s) will be final.
4. Utilization of Horse: A maximum number of classes a horse may participate in any one day is 14. Cloverbud classes do not count.
5. Two members showing the same equine cannot show in the same division. However, gaming is the one exception to this rule and no more than 2 riders may ride a single horse in games. Members may request an exception from the 4-H Leaders Committee. Requests for exceptions must be made in a timely fashion.

Rider Evaluations

Due to Insurance concerns, all new 4-H Horse Program participants must be evaluated to determine their riding ability prior to participation in any riding event. A Rider Evaluation will also be administered when a rider moves from one level to another (excluding Junior to Senior levels) or is riding a new horse since his/her last evaluation. This has been mandated on a statewide basis. Riding evaluations will be performed

by 4-H Horse Committee members at the Mini-Equifest and at the next available evaluation date or designated horse show(s). All riders are encouraged to attend the specific evaluation day. No rider can participate in any NYS 4-H Horse event without a rider evaluation. The rider will be evaluated on ability to safely handle the horse while leading and when mounted. The committee reserves the right to re-evaluate riders as they deem necessary.

Ages of Participants:

- Walk trot: ages 8-19 beginning rider.
- Novice: 9-19 (limited to 2 years or by rider evaluation)
- Junior: at least 9 but under age 14.
- Senior: Age 14-19

Division Levels:

- Walk-Trot: For the beginning rider who is not comfortable loping/cantering. Horses or ponies may be used.
- Novice: for the beginning rider who is able to lope/canter.
- Junior: some advanced level riding abilities
- Senior: advanced level riding abilities

Riding Styles:

- Western
- English
- Hunt/Saddle Seat
- Dressage
- Gymkhana

Safety and Health of the Rider and Equine

Rider:

1. Helmets #1163 ASTM rated or better are required and must be worn while riding an equine. State Fair rules require the helmets also be worn for showmanship classes.
2. Proper English or Western riding boots are required when mounted.
3. Chaps or chinks may be worn during Western classes.
4. Shirts must be tucked in during Gymkhana classes, must have a collar, and be long sleeved.

Equine:

1. An individual horse may only be entered into a maximum of 15 classes in one day; however, for the sake of the equine be selective and humane as to the number of classes you enter. The Horse Committee and/or show stewards reserve the right to intervene if necessary.
2. According to the NYS 4-H Equine Show Rule Book "all equines shown in ridden and driven classes must be 3 years of age and older".
3. *No jumping, games, or driving allowed for equines under the age of 4.
4. Equine age 5 and under are considered Junior Equine and may use a snaffle bit or bosal. Riders may use 2 hands on Junior Horses ridden with a snaffle. (See the 2009 N.Y.S. rule book for further information). The Youth Horse Leaders Committee and/or show stewards reserve the right to check the age of the horse.

5. Equines subject to illness, injury (exhibit lameness), misbehavior (out of control), acting up, kicking, biting will be excused from the ring at the judge's/show steward's discretion. This is for the safety of all. If your equine is categorized in one of the behaviors listed above, please excuse yourself to the center of the ring and dismount until you can be safely excused from the ring.
6. In the event that a member wishes to substitute a horse due to safety concerns and reasons, a request may be made to the Youth Horse Leaders Committee in a timely fashion.
7. In the event that a member's horse is injured, cannot be shown, and the member wishes to substitute another family owned horse or leased horse, a veterinarian certificate with proof of injuries must be presented to the Youth Horse Leaders Committee in a timely fashion (only to substantiate).

Tack:

1. For the safety of the horse and rider, tack will be inspected as necessary at each show to ensure proper fit and that appropriate and safe tack is being used for the event.
2. Gymkhana classes: nosebands can be no less than 5/8" wide on tie-downs.
3. English jumping classes: standing martingales are permitted in jumping classes only.
4. From the NYS Horse Show Chairpersons: Training aids such as forks, draw reins, martingales, leg wraps, bell boots will be allowed in the warm-up rings **only** for all divisions. For Gymkhana classes leg wraps, bell boots and other protective legwear are optional. This will be monitored by the show stewards. If used abusively/inappropriately the show stewards will ask the rider to remove them.
5. Please refer to the New York State 4-H Equine Show Rule Book for further questions or concerns about Tack.

General Information About Safety

- 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.
- No equines permitted in the spectator area, restroom areas, or the snack shack area.

General Information About Horse Shows

1. The Judge, Horse Committee and/or show stewards have the right to combine classes in the ring, with classes being placed separately.
2. Performance classes exceeding fourteen (14) entries may be split at the discretion of the judge.
3. The judge's decision is final. Intentional interference or attempts to unethically alter the judges decision by anyone will not be tolerated and may cause immediate suspension of membership or volunteer status.
4. All horses reverse towards the center of the ring, **EXCEPT** Saddle seat classes, who will reverse towards the rail. Horses may reverse toward the rail at the end of a class.
5. English braiding or banding is preferred but not required, if the mane is braided, tail braiding is optional.
6. Once obstacles are set up in the arena, the area is not to be used for practice.
7. No parents or trainers are permitted to ride a 4-H Member's equine at a horse show. However, it is permitted during the practice evenings if granted permission by the show manager.

Sportsmanship

1. Evidence of poor sportsmanship on the part of a member/parent or bystander can subject the member to dismissal from the ring/event/show at the discretion of the judge and/or show stewards.
2. Mockery, laughing at or making fun of another, boasting, profanity, and unnecessary physical discipline to an equine will not be tolerated.
- 3. Criticism of the Judge or the Judge's decisions by parents, leaders, or members will result in dismissal of the member from the class at the discretion of the judge and/or show stewards.**
4. Coaching from the rail will not be permitted except for safety reasons. Initially a verbal warning will be given followed by disciplinary action.
5. Parents and leader(s) must let the members do their own work based on ability and safety. Show stewards will be randomly monitoring members/parents through the season. Non-compliance can jeopardize achievement awards.
6. No rule changes can be enacted without approval of the Youth Horse Leaders Committee.
7. We encourage 4-Her's to help each other!!

Show Awards

County Horse Show

Each County Horse show will give awards as follows:

1. 1st-6th place ribbons will be awarded in each class with points awarded to these riders based on the placing in the class and number of riders in the class.
2. Division Championships will be awarded in English and Western Walk-trot, Novice, Junior, and Senior, Ranch Junior and Senior, and Games Walk Trot, Novice, Junior and Senior divisions.
3. The tie-breaker for Performance Division Championships will be the higher placing in Showmanship for that division.
4. The tie-breaker for the Games Division Championship will be the higher placing in Cloverleaf barrels or a class designated by the show secretary if Cloverleaf Barrels is not offered.
5. Division awards are based on all classes offered in that division.

Year End Awards Banquet

Divisional Horse Show Awards

- Horse show awards are given at the annual Erie County 4-H Horse Program Year End Awards banquet. Horse show awards are given in the English and Western Walk-trot, Novice, Junior and Senior divisions, Ranch Junior and Senior division, and Games Walk Trot, Novice, Junior, and Senior Divisions.
- Eligibility for these awards are based on the following:
 - Divisional Horse show awards are based on points accumulated by evaluated riders at all Erie County 4-H Horse shows for the current year **including the Training show and Erie County Fair 4-H show.**

- Points are received for each class entered based on the placing in that class and the total number of entrants in the class. The tie-breaker for Divisional Awards at Year end awards will be the higher placing in the Showmanship Division.
- Separate points will be kept for each horse a member rides.

County Achievement Awards

Individuals are recognized for achievement in areas outside the show ring at our annual Year End Awards banquet as follows:

Outstanding All Around 4-Her:

The Erie County 4-H member receiving this award shows exemplary achievement in all areas of the 4-H Horse Program to include Horse Bowl, Hippology, Horse Judging, Horse Communications, and Horse showing.

Walk-Trot Rising Star

The Erie County 4-H member receiving this award shows exemplary achievement in Horse Bowl, Hippology, Horse Judging, and Horse Communications at the Novice level and Horse showing at the Walk-trot level .

Sportsmanship Award

The Erie county 4-H member receiving this award shows outstanding sportsmanship throughout the Horse show season.

Grooms Award

This award can be given to a 4-H member or a non-member. It is awarded to an individual who gives exemplary service, aid, and compassion to a 4-H member(s) during the horse show season.

Friend of 4-H

This award is given to an individual who has been of exemplary service to the Erie County 4-H Horse program and its members. This award can not be given to a 4-H Leader. Selected recipients may be individuals or corporations.

State Fair Selection

Eligible State Fair competitors must participate in at least one County level horse show and the Erie County Fair 4-H Horse show and have achieved a blue or red ribbon in the classes they plan to enter at NYS Fair.

State Fair selection will be based on the following classes:

- **Western:** Showmanship, Equitation, Pleasure, and either Hack or Trail.
- **Ranch:** Showmanship, Pleasure, Riding, Working Ranch Horse, Hack, or Trail.
- **Hunt seat:** Showmanship, Equitation, Pleasure, and either Hack, Equitation over fences or Trail.
- **Saddleseat:** Showmanship, Equitation, Pleasure, and either Road Hack or Trail.
- **Gymkhana:** Gymkhana classes (except Showmanship).
- **Driving:** Showmanship and Driving classes.
- **Dressage:** Dressage Equitation, or English Dressage.

Erie County is allowed a maximum of four participants per division to attend the State Fair. The Alternate will be permitted to participate if the State Fair qualifier in that division is unable to attend.

If you qualify for the State Fair, be sure to check the State Fair Rulebook for more information (available at the 4-H office). The Horse Committee and CCE Staff have the right to not send any participants for a division, if they feel they are not qualified.

If you are selected for the State Fair and you learn that you are not able to participate, it is your responsibility to notify the Horse Committee immediately so that the alternate can be notified.