



PNW 4-H Horse Judges Newsletter

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No flying lead changes in Saddle Seat

One question that has been asked is concerning flying lead changes for Saddle Seat riders. Saddle Seat riders should not be asked to do a flying lead change, and it now states this in the Contest Guide. Overall there are very few Saddle Seat riders, and many times Saddle Seat and Hunt Seat classes are combined. Keep this in mind when planning your patterns!

PNW Judges Training

Mark your calendars now for the 2009 PNW 4-H Horse Judges Training Friday through Sunday, October 2-4. The training will be held in Redmond, Oregon at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds.

A committee is already working to make this training informative and exciting. The format will be slightly different from past trainings with some parts following three tracks: one for judges, one for apprentices, and one for non-judges.

Remember, if you did not attend the last Judges Training in Tri-Cities, Washington, you must attend this training to remain on the judges list.

More information will be coming, but set aside the dates now.

Gaming Clinic

Would you like to learn more about Western Games? Is it one of those areas you would rather not judge if you have a choice? Are you confused about Oregon rules vs Washington rules? Then plan on attending the Western Games Clinic that will be held Saturday and Sunday, October 4-5, 2008 at the Trails End Arena in Olympia, Washington.

While games are addressed at the Judges Trainings each time they are given, this in-depth clinic will give you the necessary skills, knowledge and confidence to judge a fun and exciting area of 4-H.

A lot of time and energy goes into putting on these "specialty clinics," so if this is something that interests you, or if it is something that you might want to judge in the future, plan on attending.

More information may be found on the judges website.





Be sure to check the PNW 4-H Horse Judge's website to make sure all your information is correct. If you need to make changes, contact Roberta Lundeberg.

Ranch Horse

Several counties in Oregon currently have a Ranch Horse program, and there is interest in establishing a program in others. The Oregon Horse Advisory committee decided it would be wise to have state guidelines to bring consistency to the program. A committee is currently working to develop the classes, advancements, and curriculum to support Ranch Horse classes. A draft should be ready in fall of 2008.

Contest Guide Changes

The PNW Management Team and the Advisory Committees for Oregon and Washington have been reviewing the Contest Guide and will be making some changes and corrections. We are happy to report that Idaho is in the process of joining more fully into the PNW horse group, and they gave excellent input to the discussions.

Approved changes will go into effect in October, 2008. The changes will be made to the on-line version of the Contest Guide and will be sent to you (via e-mail). It is **YOUR** responsibility to stay current and know what changes have been made. If you have any concerns about the Contest Guide or changes that you feel need to be made, contact OSU or WSU with your concerns.

Fat Baby Boots

There has been a lot of talk and concern about "Fat Baby" boots. Some judges and show committees feel they are unsafe because they do not allow the foot to come out of the stirrup easily if a rider is dragged or becomes unmounted. The Contest Guide states "the foot must be able to move freely in the stirrup." This can be a gray area depending on what your definition of "moving freely" is. Use your best judgment. This is a good topic to address at a morning judges meeting.



This type of boot is allowed in Showmanship, but is not recommended in riding classes. Some counties or shows have rules against them, and remember that this is their choice. Counties may be more restrictive in their rules than the PNW Contest Guide, but they cannot be less restrictive.

Medals Program

Washington: Good News!!! The Medals program has been under revision and there are some changes and updates. By October of 2008, the State-side medals program with patterns and guidelines will be available in all counties.. This will set a higher standard for the Medals program and help all judges to fairly evaluate 4-H riders and their abilities.

Judge's Evaluations

We all know how important evaluations are to apprentice judges, but do you know that they are important for **ALL** judges? Every judge needs to have at least two evaluations turned in between judges trainings to remain on the list. Whether you have been judging for two months or since the "dawn of time," you need to have committees fill out and send in evaluations.

You might think this is a waste of time and energy, but it really *is* for your benefit. Having evaluations on file helps the committees track judges and their progress. They are also beneficial if there is a problem with a show or committee.

PNW Committees and how to get on

Would you like to be an active contributor to the PNW Horse program? There are four committees that help plan and maintain the PNW 4-H Horse Program. They are Management and Development, Judges Training, Judge's Review, and Publication committees. These committees are made up of PNW judges, volunteers, and extension staff.

Committee descriptions and application forms are available on line at the PNW judges website.

New Judges

At this time, we have no apprentice judges moving up to the PNW 4-H Horse Judges list. We have several that are very close, so keep sending those evaluations in. This is a great time of year to be contacting Evaluator Judges and making plans to apprentice and fulfill your requirements.

We do have a PNW 4-H Horse Judge that is moving up to the Senior/Evaluator list. Congratulations to **Alyssia Puente**.

Revised PNW 4-H Horse Judges Website

If you haven't looked at the PNW Horse Judges website recently, take a look as it has been slightly reorganized. The website is your friend!!! New categories have been added, and you'll find lots of information at one stop.

Check out the updates on the existing 4-H Horse Judge's Criteria. A few changes have been made to make the Criteria more user-friendly.

Please check your personal information on the judges lists. If any corrections need to be made, send in an update form. Remember, it is your responsibility to keep the Judges List Coordinator informed of changes. It is hard for people to contact you if your email or phone number are wrong.

Contacts

Judges Website:

<http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/horsejudges/horse>



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Extended Trot Western

One question that has come up is whether you should sit the extended trot in Western or rise slightly in the stirrups. According to the Horse Project Book, riders should rise slightly in their stirrups. There should also be a definite change of gait from a jog to an extended trot. Check out the full description in the PNW Horse Project book, page 121.

Judges Dress and Professionalism

Unfavorable comments have been coming in on evaluations regarding judge's dress. PNW judges must have a professional appearance. Remember, you are the most watched person at the show. How you represent yourself reflects on the whole 4-H Horse Program. Dress according to the standard set by 4-H: clean, crisp and well-fitted. Always set the example in the ring.



Judging Categories

Under your name on the Judges website, you will find letters that correspond to those areas you are qualified to judge. Almost everyone should have Showmanship, Western Equitation and English Equitation listed as categories. Additional categories are added when a judge's evaluations reflect competency in those areas.

Recent email alert

As most of you know, we recently experienced what we believe to be a series of fraudulent emails sent to people on our judges lists. Thank you to those who forwarded emails and especially to those who alerted us to this situation in the first place. We have been in contact with OSU's legal counsel and computer experts. At this point, we are not sure what effect this will have on how we maintain the PNW judges website and judges lists, but some changes may need to be made.

Our recommendation is that you should not respond to any email requests for information on you or your judging unless the sender will give you a full name, the county, the name of the show, and specific dates. Even then, you might want to contact the county to verify the person's authority to secure judges for that county.

If you ever have any questions about requests you receive or about the use of your information on the website, please contact Roberta Lundeberg. In this day and age, we all need to be vigilant and careful. We will keep you informed whenever we hear anything.

