

PNW 4-H Horse Judges Newsletter

Winter 2011



Ranch Horse Publications

- Ranch Horse Publications are now complete and accessible on-line. The Contest Guide and Manual are a must for anyone interested in judging the Oregon 4-H Ranch Horse project. Score sheets, patterns and all the information that you will need are included in these publications.

Judges: Know Your Information!

- There were a few changes made in the current Contest Guide, and it is your responsibility to know those changes. Some of the complaints that we have been hearing is that judges are marking contestants down for not having a tie or pin; this is no longer required. Also, drivers were allowed to show without a breeching or thimbles (one of which is required). Be sure to know the changes and rules.

Standards, Standards, Standards!!!

- It is so important that as judges we keep the standards high. Do NOT change the standard of 4-H and the 4-H Program to fit a county or show. Many counties are asking judges to lower the standards to fit their 4-H program or to allow more riders to qualify for State Fairs. Remember to keep your integrity and the standards high.

NEW Dressage Tests

- Just a reminder that the Dressage Tests are *NEW* for the 2011 year. Competitions will no longer be using the 2007 Tests, so make sure that you have the correct tests.

Jerry Newman Retires

- After 31 years as an active and important member of the Washington 4-H Program, Jerry Newman retired in October, 2010. Jerry was very instrumental in the creation of the PNW 4-H Horse Program and the success of the 4-H Horse Program. We are sad to see him leave but happy that Jerry and his wife, Karen, will be traveling and enjoying their retirement.

Bit Questions

- It is apparent there are many different types of bits being introduced into the horse world. As a judge, it's important to learn how different mouthpieces and bits function and what their uses are. You may be called upon to scrutinize some bits to determine if they are legal in 4-H or not. If you are unsure, it is always best to give the contestant the benefit of the doubt. Educate yourself by looking, learning and becoming acquainted with all the different types of bits you may come across.

There appears to be some confusion about what constitutes a "gag bit". During the last Training, it was mentioned that all bits with a slide in the mouthpiece would be called a Gag bit. There are actually some interchangeable mouthpieces that have a small amount of slide but shouldn't be confused with a Gag bit. This is why it's important to understand the mechanical function of the bit and how it is being used. The confusion will be lessened if judges have a good understanding of all bits and particularly if they understand why some bits are illegal in 4-H and what constitutes this reasoning. Only then can you determine if the bit being ridden or driven in is appropriate or not.

Congratulations!!!

- Welcome new judges to the Regular list moving up from the Apprentice List:
JoAnn Oswald
Tabatha Martin
Tracey Pope
Leila Hanley-Brown
Kim Giglio
- Also, Congratulation's to Susan Turner, who has completed all the necessary components to now be placed on the Evaluator and Dad Potter list. GREAT JOB!!!!!!
- If you have favorable evaluations from a minimum of six county fairs and have been judging at least three years, be sure to check the Criteria for becoming a Senior/Evaluator Judge or a Dad Potter judge. All you may need is two letters of recommendation from current Senior/Evaluator judges to move up the List. Check with Peggy Ashford, the Judges List coordinator, to see if you may qualify.
- A note to all Apprentices and Judges, Please check your information on the refreshed Judge's List for any corrections that need to be made. Don't forget to update any personal information for the Judges Website to pashford@bendcable.com, Judge's List coordinator.
- Make sure you access the judges lists by going through the PNW website. If you try to Google the lists, you will most likely come up with an archived, outdated list.

Evaluations

- Peggy Ashford has just completed contacting all the judges that had evaluations turned in for the past season. If she has not contacted you, she does not have any evaluations for you. If you feel that you should have evaluations from this past show season and you have not heard from her, it is **YOUR** responsibility to contact the shows that you judged to make sure those evaluations are completed and sent in.

- It is mandatory to complete at least two show evaluations between the 2009 Training and the 2012 Training or you may be removed from the Judges List. These evaluations must be from PNW 4-H horse events (**open show evaluations are not accepted**). We have a few judges that have not been keeping up on turning in their evaluations.
- **The next PNW 4-H Horse Judges Training is scheduled for October 5-7, 2012.** It will be held at the Cowlitz County Expo in Longview, Washington. Check the PNW Judges Website for any updates. If you missed attending the 2009 Training, you will need to attend the 2012 Training to remain on the Judges or Apprentice list. Also, to remain on the lists, you will need to take the test associated with this training.

Ground Training

- There seems to be some concerns and confusion about changes made in 2009 regarding scoring Ground Training classes.
- The score/comment sheet was changed along with how Judges score the class. (There is a sample score sheet in the 2009 Training Hand-outs, or you can access it on the 4-H Extension website). Judges do not determine an average item/score anymore. Instead, you compute the score similar to equitation classes. There are 100 points to give; 20 points for the 4-H member, 40 points for performance, and 40 points for safety.
- It is preferred you complete a score for each of the three sections, making general comments about over-all performance with an emphasis on safety and correctness in attempting the maneuvers. Attitude and ability of the 4-H'er is scored under 4-H member.
- The total score will reflect the ribbon placing for the individual. The numerical score will fit in the Danish system of judging. 100 to 85, blue ribbon. 84 to 70 red ribbon. 69 and below, a white ribbon.
- It is important to remember this is a Ground Training class, teaching the young horse to be responsive and the contestant to be safe and exhibit proper handling techniques. **This is not an in-hand trail class.** Emphasis is on how well the maneuvers are completed. Maneuvers can **only include those items listed on the back of the score sheet.** **Movement over obstacles should be penalized or not permitted.** Judges need to be sure contestants are teaching their horses the proper training methods to achieve success in the items listed on the back of the score sheet. Judges should put emphasis on the correctness of each movement and how it is obtained. We still have way too many contestants not understanding a proper haunch turn, forehand turn or even the correct way to

achieve a nice straight back. If we can't get these from the ground, how do we expect the contestant to master it on horseback.

- Become familiar with the new score sheet and how it's scored before you judge. This is a very basic training class where contestants should not feel they need special routines or extra obstacles to receive a good score. Remember, it's not a memory class and contestants can have assistance in the sequence of items attempted. The contestant should be showing you how they work with their colt at home and have a workmanlike appearance. It is not necessary to be wearing showmanship clothing.

If you have any suggestions for the newsletter or know of any areas that need to be addressed, please contact Roberta Lundeberg or Jennifer Leach.

Contacts

		
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<p>PNW Judges Website: http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/pnw-4h-horse-judges-list</p>		

