

Significant 4-H Horse Project Rule Changes—2008

District Horse Shows to Offer 22 Classes in Qualifying Division

Each District will offer the following **22 classes** in Divisions that make up the Qualifying Category at all 2008 shows. A 4-Her must show in at least one class in each Division in order to 'qualify' for the State 4-H Horse Show. A futurity project horse must be shown at District in order to Qualify for a futurity class at the State Show.

Halter Division (1 horse per 4-Her)

Registered Four-Year-old & Younger Geldings, Registered Five-Year-old & Older Geldings, Grade Geldings, Grand & Reserve Champion Gelding, Registered Four-Year-old & Younger Mares, Registered Five-Yr-Old & Older Mares, Grade Halter Mares and Grand & Reserve Champion Mare

These halter classes have always been held at all District Shows. The only change regarding halter classes is that they are now in a Division and a 4-Her may show a halter horse only. In other words, it does not have to be the same horse that is shown in a performance class, but it could be the same horse.

Judged Western Division (1 horse per 4-Her)

Showmanship, Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship, Western Riding, and Trail

These classes did not change other than Trail will be held at all 12 District 4-H Horse Shows.

Speed Events Division (1 horse per 4-Her)

Barrels, Poles and Stakes

Same 3 speed classes as in past years. Only change is that a 4-Her who shows a horse in some other division can also show a speed horse.

Hunter-Flat Division (1 horse per 4-Her)

Hunter Showmanship, Hunter Under Saddle and Hunt Seat Equitation

Many District Shows already offer these Hunter-Flat classes. All Districts agreed to add them, in many cases it will be the same horse shown in western, but doesn't have to be.

Yearling Halter Gelding Futurity Division (1 horse per 4-Her)

Yearling Halter Filly Futurity Division (1 horse per 4-Her)

Yearling Longe Line Futurity Division (1 horse per 4-Her)

2-Year-Old Western Pleasure Futurity Division (1 horse per 4-Her)

3-Year-Old Stock Horse Futurity Division (1 horse per 4-Her)

All futurity project horses must be shown at District to be eligible for State.

Significant 4-H Horse Project Rule Changes—2008 (con't)

Qualifying for State via District 4-H Horse Shows

For many years, 4-Hers have had to enter Qualifying classes and earn one or more points in order to show in the qualifying category at the State 4-H Horse Show. The 2008 District shows will all offer a more balanced set of Qualifying classes, and a 4-Her must simply **show in at least one class within a division in order to qualify for all the classes in that division** at the State 4-H Horse Show. **They do not have to earn one or more points.**

Number of Horses a 4-Her Can Show at District/State Shows in Qualifying Division

For well over 40 years, a 4-Her could only show one horse at the District show in the Qualifying Division. However, numerous horses could be shown in the Open category. Starting in 2008, they may show one horse in each Division at District Horse Shows, or the same horse in all divisions, provided any/all horse(s) were validated as projects by May 1.

While most 4-Hers will continue to show only one horse, often in two or three divisions, these changes now allow a 4-Her to show a separate horse in halter, in western judged, in hunter-flat and in speed events. They can **only show one horse in each Qualifying Division**. Since the futurity classes involve yearlings, two-year-olds or three-year-old horses, each futurity class is listed as a division, in order to make it simpler for District 4-H Horse Show Management Teams to track.

Futurity Projects Must be Shown at District in Order to Show at State

The 4-H Futurity Program has been in existence for many years. The only change for 2008 is that all District 4-H Horse Shows will offer the 5 futurity classes, and a 4-Her **MUST** show their Futurity Project at District, in order to enter State in the Futurity Division.

4-H Horse Project Validation – May 1 Deadline

May 1 has and continues to be the deadline for a 4-Her to certify a horse. Beginning in 2008, the term '**validation**' will be used for this process. May 1 is the absolute deadline for 4-Hers to validate a horse, which certifies that the project is owned by the 4-Her or their sibling, parent, grandparent or legal guardian. The process validates that the horse is owned and not leased or borrowed. **Horses not validated on or before May 1 are ineligible for District and State 4-H Horse Shows.** Each 4-H horse project validated by a 4-Her must be accompanied by a \$10 fee, of which half will go to the District 4-H Horse Show and half to the State Office. The fee will help offset delivery costs for established 4-H horse activities and management of the statewide validation listing/process. Districts will utilize the fee to help offset District Horse delivery/production costs. At such a point in time that State 4-H Horse Show entries were to become electronic, the ability to have a county/district/state merged validation file for all horses identified as projects will be important. County Extension offices will complete the validation process almost identical to previous years. A certification form has been modified to now be a Validation form. A form must be filled out by the 4-Her for each horse being validated. CEA office personnel will collect those forms and a check from each 4-Her for \$10/horse. **CEA offices have until May 5** to transfer the validation information and fees to the Horse Specialists' office. This transfer will be achieved using the excel spreadsheet. Fees will be mailed. Once all fees are deposited in the Texas 4-H Foundation, 50% of that amount will be transferred to the appropriate Districts. As in past years, CEA offices will keep the Horse Validation Forms on file in their office for one year. Validation forms will be available in the CEA Horse Newsletter.

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Non – Qualifying (Open or Invitational Classes)

Some Districts also offer a variety of Open (Invitational) classes, and whether they are offered or not at a District show, a 4-Her **is not** required to show in the following Open classes, in order to enter those classes at State. They must, however, meet entry deadlines, and for many Districts, that deadline for entering the State 4-H Horse Show is at the close of the District Show.

Listed below are those classes that may or may not be offered at all District Horse Shows. If offered at District, they are Non-Qualifying classes and a 4-Her **does not** have to show in these classes in order to enter them at the State 4-H Horse Show.

Roping Division

Tie-Down Calf Roping, Breakaway Roping and Team Roping

Hunter Over Fence Division

Working Hunter, Equitation Over Fences, Hunter Hack and Open Jumping

Drill/Precision Riding Division

Mounted Drill Teams and Precision Riding Teams

Stock Horse Division

Working Cow Horse (cow work only), Team Penning, Reining, Cutting and Stock Horse Trail (NEW in 2008)

General Open Reminders

There are no changes in these Open Divisions, other than a Stock Horse Trail Class is being added new in 2008, and Working Cow Horse will no longer have a pattern work component.

Rules for determining high points in these Open Divisions are not changed from last year.

Remind 4-H members and families that these 14 Open Classes must be entered according to the timeline set by each individual District. In most cases, all State 4-H Horse Show entries are due to the District office by the end of the District 4-H Horse Show.

What 4-Hers and Families Need to Know—County Extension Offices are asked to make certain that all 4-H horse project members receive all of the above information regarding 1) class offerings at District Horse Shows, 2) requirement to show in at least one class in a Division in order to enter that and other classes in a division at the State Show and 3) May 1 Validation with a \$10 fee/horse. If a 4-Her plans to go to state in any class that is listed above and designated as a class within a Qualifying Division, **they must show at the District 4-H Horse Show**. In some Districts, this will impact 4-Hers who are interested in the Hunter-Flat classes, Trail and Futurity Classes, as not all District Horse Shows have held those classes in past years. All 4-Hers who nominate 4-H Futurity Horse Projects on or before May 1 will have to qualify by showing the futurity horse(s) at the District 4-H Horse Show, in order to be eligible to enter the futurity class(es) at the State 4-H Horse Show. For many 4-H families, there is now more flexibility for a 4-Her to show more than one horse. Most families are familiar with the May 1 deadline, but all 4-Hers must validate horse projects on or before May 1 by completing a Horse Certification Form accompanied by \$10 per horse. CEAs, please be certain to get all of the information to all 4-H members **early** in 2008. Our communication on this is very important.
