

# CHOUTEAU COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM MANUAL

The purpose of this manual is to help answer questions regarding the 4-H Horse program. Any information not included herein may be obtained by contacting the county or state Extension offices or other 4-H horse project leaders. A variety of resources are available through these offices.

## PURPOSES OF THE 4-H HORSE PROGRAM

**The purposes of the Chouteau County 4-H Horse Program are to help members to:**

- Develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship, and other desirable character traits.
- Experience the pride and responsibility of having a horse and of receiving training in its care, feeding, management, and related costs.
- Appreciate horseback riding as a healthy and wholesome form of recreation.
- Gain skills in horsemanship, patience, and understanding in handling horses.

## POLICY RULES

### **General**

- The 4-H Name and Emblem are copyrighted so any projects, which are called 4-H projects, are limited to 4-H members and must have the Extension Service approval.
- The county is not liable for any accident, damage, or loss of personal property of livestock or person including travel to and from the fair or horse show.
- Rules and policies are intended to reflect the purposes and tradition of the Montana 4-H program. County Extension agents and/or show management reserves the right to interpret the rules as necessary for issues not clearly defined herein. The American Horse Show Association (AHSA) Rule Book will serve as the reference rule book.

### **ENROLLMENT**

- Age of the 4-H member will be determined as of **October 1** of the current 4-H project year.
- Members must have their enrollment through [www.mt.4honline.com](http://www.mt.4honline.com) into the county office with designated horse projects and project levels by **November 1**, with no members being enrolled after **county add/drop date in June** (unless transferring from another club out-of-county).
- Send completed Horse and Colt Project Identification Card (provided by Extension office) to the Extension office by **April 1**, even if it is the same horse from a previous year.
- Age classification of project horse will be determined as of **January 1** of the year foaled.
- Member must complete Horsemanship Levels I, II, and III before enrolling in any other project
- A project horse is defined as any horse that is registered with the county Extension office, with a completed identification form on file, by the county deadline and enrolled in one or more of the following projects:
  - Western Horsemanship Levels I-VII
  - English Horsemanship Levels I-VII
  - Colt to Maturity
  - Green Horse

# CHOUTEAU COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM MANUAL

- Ranch Horse
  - Packing
  - Driving
  - Horse Showing
- Once the horse becomes a project animal it may not receive professional training unless the member is involved in that training. The member should be the primary handler of the horse unless the member would be endangered doing so.
  - The member should be assessed in the current year in the declared project(s). Assessment should be conducted before enrolling in a new level by the horse project leader or at the county level by the county horse superintendent. Assessment criteria are included in the project manuals.
  - Members-At-Large are required to complete a Members-At-Large Project Book before being allowed to show their project at the fair. Members-At-Large are also required to be assessed before enrolling in a higher project level. This project book is available through the county Extension office,

## OWNERSHIP

- Any horse shown by the member must be owned by the member, in partnership with his/her immediate family; or the member must have access to the horse and the horse must be in the continual care of the member from **April 1** through the county 4-H horse show.
- Any horse in the Colt to Maturity project must be owned by the member, in partnership with his/her immediate family; or the member must have access to the horse and the horse must be in the continual care of the member from **April 1** of the yearling year *through the completion* of the five-year project.
- Stallions over 1 year old may NOT be shown in any class at the county 4-H horse show.
- Animals carried as a 4-H project, may be shown by only one member, in any one year.

## SHOWING

- It is recommended that all horses be fully vaccinated two weeks prior to the fair. Consult your veterinarian for necessary vaccines.
- The administration of any drug affecting the central nervous system (stimulant or depressant) of a horse shown in any 4-H class is strictly prohibited.
- Members may only exhibit one horse per class and show at the highest level completed.
- Members may use the same horse for Western Horsemanship and English Horsemanship. Horses may not be cross-entered in Horsemanship and Colt-to-Maturity projects.
- Members may ride at only one level either Western or English. If riding both Western and English, levels ridden can be the same, or only one level above or below.
- Members must be in Horsemanship Level II or higher to compete in Trail or Bareback class.
- Exhibitor's number must be clearly visible.
- Breaking pattern is considered a fault and not disqualification in Colt-To-Maturity, Green Horse, and Horsemanship Level classes.
- No person other than the exhibitors and show officials will be allowed in the ring while the show is in progress.
- Adults ARE NOT to be warming up, grooming, or training horses at any time.
- Unsportsman-like conduct, or abusive language or actions and/or abuse to any animal on the part of any 4-H exhibitor, parent, family member, or leader may result in being

# CHOUTEAU COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM MANUAL

penalized by forfeiture of any award received and/or elimination from further competition of the 4-H member or those culpable.

- The judge and/or ringmaster will dismiss from the ring any entry that is unruly or not in sufficient control to ensure the safety of handler and other exhibitors.
- All judging in the county 4-H Horse Show is based on the member's ability to show his/her horse. The judge is encouraged to give constructive criticism and suggestions for improvement as well as point out superior performance to exhibitors whenever possible. Judges scores on all classes are available for viewing after the show. This is up to Judge's discretion.
- The judge's decision in all classes shall be final.
- The State Horse Events Committee highly recommends a qualification system at the county level to select those who go to state. It is further recommended that selection include up-to-date record books, feed journals, and adequate performances of all maneuvers for that level.
- When entering the State 4-H Horse Show, the 4-H member must have shown in that same class at the county level if the class is offered.
- Green Horse animals can show in the respective Colt-To-Maturity age classes; i.e. a four-year-old Green Horse shows with four-year-old Colt-to-Maturity horses, regardless of the Green Horse level it is enrolled in. The criteria used at the State 4-H Horse Show will be the same as the Colt-to-Maturity project.
- A horse in the fifth year of Colt-to-Maturity may cross enter into Horsemanship VII if member has been assessed out of Horsemanship VI.
- A rider must complete assessment of Horsemanship III at the county level to enter barrels, poles, and jumping at the State 4-H Horse Show.
- At the State 4-H Horse Show, any 4-H project horse, including Green Horse, may enter classes such as showmanship, Western/English pleasure, bareback equitation, trail, etc. Members are encouraged to study **Proper Showing Procedure & Etiquette** book. **(replace with 4-H Every Time, Every Ride DVD.**

## SAFETY

- Western boots must be worn when riding. Pull-on boots are recommended over lace-up boots. Riding shoes are NOT acceptable at 4-H shows.
- Horses must be ridden with bridles – NO halters
- Riding double is prohibited.
- Horse must enter the arena at a walk and in a controlled manner.
- Run irons on English saddles.
- Horses must be walked in all areas other than designated warm-up areas.

Member are encouraged to watch the DVD 4-H Every Time, Every Ride

## HELMETS

A certified equestrian helmet with safety harness fastened is required in over fence classes and gymkhana events, activities and practice sessions. Participants in the 4-H Horse Project are required to attend a helmet education workshop and/or view the video "Every Time, Every Ride" once as a junior 4-H member (8-13) and once as a senior 4-H member (14 and up). It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian of the 4-H member to see that headgear complies with standards and is in good condition. The Montana 4-H Center for Youth Development encourages the use of ASTM certified/SEI approved safety helmets in all equine events. Protective headgear may be used in all classes and shall not be discriminated against. Helmet use is required for all Chouteau County 4-H Horse events and workshops.

# CHOUTEAU COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM MANUAL

## SUGGESTED DRESS CODE FOR ALL CLASSES

### **Western (and Showmanship/Halter and Yearlings at Halter)**

- Subtle, solid colored western shirt with no reflective neon
- Black western pants.
- Western boots required
- Helmet or Western hat (straw or felt) required
- Black tie or bolo
- Vests, jackets, gloves, and chaps are optional
- Spurs are optional unless otherwise prohibited
- Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be contained in a net or braided.
- Protective headgear is required.

### **English Hunt Type**

- Hunt coat (red, pink, or scarlet coats are prohibited unless exhibitor has earned them as a member of a recognized hunt).
- Breeches
- English style blouse or shirt
- Hunt boots
- Hard-hat meeting ASTM and SEI standards with harness that is hooked properly
- Stocks, chokers, or ties required
- Gloves, unrowelled spurs, and crop or bat are optional
- Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be contained in a hair net or braid.

### **English Saddle Seat**

- Solid colored jacket and jodhpurs are required.
- Derby, soft hat, or top hat
- Jodhpur boots
- Gloves, stock, chokers, or ties are required
- Unrowelled spurs and crop are optional
- Hair that is should length or longer must be contained in a net or braid.

### **Bareback Equitation**

- Western or English attire is allowed. Chaps, spurs, crops, and bats are prohibited.

# CHOUTEAU COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM MANUAL

## JUDGING CRITERIA

The following criteria are taken from the State 4-H Horse Show premium book.

### **SHOWMANSHIP**

#### **CRITERIA:**

- Showing the Horse 50%
- Appearance of the Horse 40%
- The Exhibitor 10%

**EXHIBITOR:** The member must be neat and clean in appearance and approximately dressed in Western attire.

**EQUIPMENT:** All horses will be shown with a properly adjusted halter. Lead shanks with chains may be used but the use of the chain over the nose or under the jaw or in any way having contact with the horse will be prohibited. Whips or bridles **will not** be allowed.

**APPEARANCE OF THE HORSE:** The hair coat should be clean, well brushed, and free of dust, dandruff, manure stains, and bots (fly eggs). The hair coat should have a natural luster so excessive oils contracted from spray cans and other market products will be counted down. Trimming should accentuate quality about the head and legs. Breed standards for exhibition should be followed. The hooves should be clean and properly trimmed and shaped. No preferences will be shown for hoof dressing or coloring. Tack should be neat, clean and properly dressed and adjusted. Tack should complement, not detract, from the horse.

**SHOWING THE HORSE:** All contestants will enter the ring on the rail. Work calmly and quietly and be alert for instructions from the judge or steward. Patterns will be posted 1 hour before class.

Lead from the left side of the horse with the lead shank held in the right hand about 4 to 8 inches from the halter. Hold the excess shank, coiled in a figure 8, with the left hand. Walk briskly and in a businesslike manner.

The horse should be moved in a brisk, ground covering fashion. He should be trained to carry his head alertly and appear brilliant and proud.

The horse should move readily and freely with the exhibitor at the near Side of the horses' neck and in front of the shoulder. The horse should neither be ahead of the exhibitor nor should he have to be dragged along.

Finalists will return to perform a pattern. In exhibiting the action and way of going of the horse, the pattern and direction will be provided by the judge; regardless of the pattern, the horse should be moved in a straight line away from the judge, stop at the designated position in the arena and pause the horse, turn to the right and head straight back to the judge and set the horse. This affords the judge the best view of action possible. Failure to lead straight away from or toward the judge is a major fault. When returning back to the position in line, always go beyond the line before turning the horse around. This avoids disturbing other exhibitors in the line. The horse should set up quickly, and move forward or backward freely. The position of his head and legs should be according to the standards for the breed shown. The exhibitor must

# CHOUTEAU COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM MANUAL

never obstruct the judge's view of the horse. This means the exhibitor must position his body either to the front left or front right of the horse, using the quarter system. Handlers may touch their horses if asked to perform a turn on the forehand or sidepass. Handlers should switch hands on the lead strap if asked to back.

The exhibitor may be asked to pick up any or all feet of his/her horse and know the parts of their horse.

## **COLT TO MATURITY: YEARLING AT HALTER**

There will be a halter class for yearlings in the Yearling to Maturity Project. Emphasis will be on performance over confirmation.

- Exhibitor must be a minimum of 12 years old during project year and must have graduated out of Horsemanship Level III.
- Exhibitor may only show one horse.
- Refer to Bulletin 5336, "Training Horses – "Yearling to Five Year Olds"
- Two trail obstacles may be added.

### **CRITERIA:**

- |                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| ➤ Performance and Manners of Horse  | 50% |
| ➤ Soundness and Body Confirmation   | 25% |
| ➤ Appearance of Horse and Exhibitor | 15% |
| ➤ Project knowledge                 | 10% |

As to the exhibitor's dress, horse appearance, patterns, equipment, etc., pertaining to this class, refer to the explanations listed under showmanship classes. The same rules shall apply.

## **COLT TO MATURITY/GREEN HORSE: WESTERN**

### **CRITERIA:**

- |                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| ➤ Performance and Manners of Horse | 55% |
| ➤ Equitation                       | 25% |
| ➤ Appearance                       | 10% |
| ➤ Project Knowledge                | 10% |

### **WALK:**

Good – ground covering, flat footed, good attitude

Minor Faults – slow, disinterested, not attentive

Major Faults – nervous, jiggling, not walking

### **JOG:**

Good – easy riding, good motion, consistent, steady

Minor Faults – too slow, too fast

Major Faults – not performing a two beat jog, failing to jog

### **LOPE: - (cannot extend)**

Good – easy riding, good motion, consistent, steady

Major Faults – too slow, too fast

Minor Faults – wrong lead, pulling, trotting behind, hard or rough riding, not under control.

# CHOUTEAU COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM MANUAL

## **EXTENDED JOG:**

Good – easy riding, good motion, smooth, consistent

Minor Faults – inconsistent speed

Major Faults – breaking gaits, pulling, hard or rough riding, no increase in stride.

## **BACK**

Good – proper flexation, readily responsive, back in a straight line

Minor Faults – hesitant, not backing straight

Major Faults – throwing head, gaping, pulling, not backing, rearing

## **GENERAL**

Good – smooth, steady, easy riding, proper flexation and balance, good attitude

Minor Faults – over or under flexation, sour ears, switching tail, inconsistent speed, out of balance, poll too high or too low to throw horse out of balance, improper or incomplete appointments.

Major Faults – throwing head, bad mouth, constant bumping the bit, gaping, evidence of altered tail carriage, obvious schooling, breaking pattern.

## **TWO YEAR OLD UNDER SADDLE - WESTERN**

Open only to two-year old fillies and gelding. Animal will show with a ring snaffle bit or a rawhide hackamore (bosal). The use of running martingale or German Olympic martingale is permissible, but not mandatory. Other martingales, tie downs, and bits are not permitted. (Shank bits are not permitted). For other equipment, refer to “WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP CLASSES”.

It is suggested that any time a martingale is used with a snaffle bit, martingale stops should be used.

Horses will be judged at walk, trot, and lope both directions on the rail. Change of gait will be progressive. Horses will be direct reined only (rein held in each hand).

Other tasks the contestant may be asked to perform are:

- Halt (not sliding stop) from the walk
- Dismount and mount
- Unsaddle and saddle up
- Back while mounted
- Perform individual task

## **THREE YEAR OLD UNDER SADDLE – WESTERN**

Open only to three-year-old mares and geldings. You may use the same bit as the two year olds. Horses may be neck reined or direct reined. Either method is acceptable; no additional credit will be given for neck reining. Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may also be judged on the rail. Pattern will be designed by the judge and posted at the arena prior to class time. Spurs cannot be used forward of the cinch.

Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may be judged at the walk, jog, lope on the rail both directions, and lengthen and reduce each gait as directed by the judge. Riders must sit the jog and extended jog.

# CHOUTEAU COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM MANUAL

## **FOUR YEAR OLD UNDER SADDLE – WESTERN**

Open to four-year-old mares and geldings. If a contestant desires to use a curb bit, one hand must be used. Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may also be judged on the rail. Pattern will be designed by the judge and posted at the arena prior to class time.

The use of a German Olympic martingale or running martingale may be used when using a ring snaffle only, but it is not mandatory. However, other martingales and tie downs are not permitted. For other equipment, refer to “WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP CLASSES”.

It is suggested that any time a martingale is used with a snaffle bit, martingale stops should be used.

Horses may be neck reined or direct reined when using a snaffle bit. Either method is acceptable and no additional credit will be given for neck reining.

Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may be judged at the walk, jog, lope, on the rail both directions, and lengthen and reduce each gait as directed by the judge. Riders must sit the jog and extended jog.

## **FIVE YEAR OLD UNDER SADDLE – WESTERN**

Open to five-year-old mares and geldings. Horses will be neck reined and shown in a curb bit only, using one hand. Skid boots are optional. For other equipment, refer to “WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP CLASSES”.

Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may be judged at the walk, jog, lope on the rail both directions, and lengthen and reduce each gait as directed by the judge. Riders must sit the jog and extended jog.

## **WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP: I-VII**

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS: A horse entered in Western Horsemanship, can be shown in only one level per family member. Horses may not be cross entered in Colt to Maturity Level classes or Green Horse.

Horses must be shown in a stock saddle. Tie-downs, martingales and mechanical hackamores of any type are prohibited unless otherwise indicated in class description. Flat chain(s) or leather chin straps ½ inch or wider are allowed. Split or Romal reins are permissible, but roping reins are not allowed. Splint boots, bell boots and skid boots are optional.

Spurs are optional except in bareback where they are **not** permitted. Spurs should not be used forward of the cinch. In all classes the judge has the option of requesting one or all contestants to perform individually.

Horses under four (4) years of age in Horsemanship and Trail Classes may be ridden with curb bits, snaffles, or bosals. Snaffle bits and bosals must be ridden two handed except opening and closing gates. **It is mandatory that horses five (5) and over be ridden in a curb bit;** Curb or



# CHOUTEAU COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM MANUAL

shank bits **must** be ridden one handed. Flat chain(s) or flat leather chin straps ½ inch or wider are required with a curb or shank bit of any kind.

## **To be acceptable bits must meet AHSA requirements.**

- (A) Snaffle Bit – A standard snaffle bit is defined as a center jointed single, rounded, unwrapped smooth mouthpiece of 3/8" to ¾" diameter metal. Non-jointed bar type snaffle bits are not recommended. The rings may be from 2" to 4" outside diameter of either the loose type, eggbutt, dee or center mounted without cheeks. If an optional curb strap is used it must be attached below the reins.
- (B) A curb bit is one that may have a solid or broken mouthpiece, has shanks and acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical device and should be considered a standard Western bit. A standard Western bit is defined as having a shank with a maximum length overall of 8/1/2". Shanks may be fixed or loose. The mouthpiece will consist of a smooth round metal bar 3/8" to ¾" diameter. They may be inlaid, but smooth or latex wrapped. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar), such as extensions or prongs on solid mouthpieces. The port must be no higher than 3" maximum, with rollers and covers acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, half-breeds, and spades are standard. Slip or gag bits, and donut and flat mouthpieces are prohibited. Roping bits with both reins connected to a single ring at center of cross bar shall not be used. Reins must be attached to each shank. A curb strap must be used with a curb bit.
- (C) A braided rawhide or leather bosal may be used in lieu of a snaffle bit, no longer than ¾" (three-quarter inch) diameter at the cheek; must be a minimum of a 1-finger space (approximately ¾") between the bosal and nose; absolutely no metal under the jaw or relative to the horse's size and confirmation.
- (D) Horses shall not be shown with artificial appliances that would tend to alter their performance.

## **CRITERIA:**

➤ Seat and Hands	35%
➤ Performance of Pattern	35%
➤ Project Knowledge	15%
➤ Appointments	10%

## **POSITION:**

**General** – Rider will be judged on seat and hands and performance of horse. Results as shown by the performance of the horse are NOT to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them. Breaking of pattern is considered a major fault.

**Basic Position** – The rider should be seated so that from the side view a vertical line could be drawn from the center of his head down through his shoulder and seat to the back of his heel. The eyes should be lower than toes. Body always should appear comfortable, relaxed and flexible. Feet should be placed in the stirrups with weight on ball of the foot. Consideration, however, should be given to the width of the stirrups, which vary on Western saddles. If stirrups are wide, the foot may have the appearance of being "home" when, in reality the weight is being properly carried on the ball of the foot.

# CHOUTEAU COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM MANUAL

Arms are in a straight line with the body, the one holding reins bent at elbow. When a curb bit is used only one hand is to be used for reining and hands shall not be changed. Hand is to be around reins. When ends of split reins fall on near side, one finger between reins is permitted. When using romal or when ends of split reins are held in hand not used for reining, no finger between reins is allowed. The position of the hand not being used for reining is straight at all times. Rider can hold romal or end of split reins to keep from swinging and to adjust the position of the reins, provided it is held at least 16 inches from the reining hand. Hand to be above horn and as near to it as possible. Bracing against horn is penalized.

**Position in Motion** – Rider should sit to jog and not post. At the lope, rider should be close to saddle. All movements of horse should be governed by the use of imperceptible aids and shifting of rider's weight in NOT desirable.

**Mounting and Dismounting** – To mount, take up reins in left hand and place hand on withers. Grasp stirrup leather with right hand and insert left foot in stirrup, toe in girth and mount. To dismount, rider may either step down or slide down. The size of rider must be taken into consideration.

## **WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP LEVEL I**

### **MOUNTED ABILITIES REQUIRED:**

- Demonstrate how to check tack before mounting and explain the reasons for doing so
- Safely mount; safely dismount
- Sit in saddle and hold reins
- At a walk, turn left and right
- Walk in a straight line, halt, turn right about and return in a straight line, halt, turn left about and return in a straight line
- Move from a walk to a trot, both directions of the arena
- Slow from a trot to a walk, then to a halt
- Walk in figure 8. Trot a figure 8. Back horse from the ground.

## **WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP LEVEL II**

### **MOUNTED ABILITIES REQUIRED**

- Move from a walk to a trot to a lope (canter), back to a trot, then a walk, both directions of the arena
- While riding at a lope (canter), identify what lead the horse is in.
- Trot in a straight line, halt, turn right about and return at a trot, halt, turn left about and return at a trot
- Back up horse, while mounted, six steps
- Lope (canter) in a small circle, both directions
- Demonstrate direct reining
- Demonstrate indirect reining

## **WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP LEVEL III**

### **MOUNTED ABILITIES REQUIRED**

- Move from a walk to a trot to a lope (canter), back to a trot, then to a walk, both directions of the arena. When moving the horse to a lope (canter), the rider should cue the horse to take the correct lead. If the horse fails to take the correct lead, rider should slow horse to trot and attempt again to get correct lead.
- Trot horse in straight line, turn around a pylon and return in a straight line

# CHOUTEAU COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM MANUAL

- Lope (canter) horse in a straight line, turn around a pylon, without breaking gait and return in a straight line
- Back up horse, while mounted, ten steps
- Demonstrate what one would do if one's horse were running away with one.

## **WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP IV**

### **MOUNTED ABILITIES REQUIRED**

- Execute a proper left lead in a left circle; execute a proper right lead in a right circle
- Demonstrate a drop to trot lead change while riding in a figure 8 pattern
- Execute right and left turn on hindquarters (90 degrees)
- Recognize and execute proper diagonals while mounted
- Demonstrate proper leg yielding in place (90 degree turns, left and right on the forehand)
- Execute a pattern consisting of above maneuvers

## **WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP V**

### **MOUNTED ABILITIES REQUIRED**

- Execute a proper left lead in a left circle; execute a proper right lead in a right circle
- Demonstrate a lead change in a straight line (drop to trot change)
- Execute right and left 180 degree hindquarter turns
- Execute proper leg yielding in place (180 degree turns left and right on the forehand)
- Demonstrate how to change diagonals using a serpentine pattern
- Drop stirrups/irons and ride as instructed
- Execute a sidepass a minimum of 10 feet both to the left and to the right
- Demonstrate how to extend the trot
- Demonstrate a half halt
- Execute a pattern consisting of above maneuvers
- Demonstrate skills required in Level IV

## **WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP VI**

### **MOUNTED ABILITIES REQUIRED**

- Demonstrate a lope (canter) from stop with designated leads
- Explain and demonstrate how to lengthen a stride
- Execute a 360 degree spin
- Ride and demonstrate a hand gallop
- Demonstrate how to counter canter
- Demonstrate left and right two-track pass at a trot
- Execute a rollback
- Execute a flying lead change
- Demonstrate skills required in Level IV and V
- Ride and execute a pattern consisting of above maneuvers

# CHOUTEAU COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM MANUAL

## **WESTERN HOREMANSHIP VII**

Rider to execute pattern using skills from required mounted abilities for Level VI. Pattern to be developed by rider and submitted with registration and entry. It will then be provided to Judge before class begins. Pattern may be choreographed to music.

- Single exhibitor and horse to perform pattern
- Setup time, performance of pattern, and teardown time not to exceed 5 minutes

## **WESTERN PLEASURE**

Class will be judged on the performance, condition and conformation of the horse, however a maximum of 20 percent of the judging shall be based on condition and conformation.

Horses must work both ways of the ring at all three gait to demonstrate their ability with different leads. At the option of the Judge, horses may be asked to extend the walk, jog or lope, one or both ways of the ring. The judge may ask all or just the finalists to extend a gait; however, never more than the top 12 horses may be asked at the lope at one time. Riders should sit at the extended jog. Horses are required to back easily and stand quietly.

Horses are to be reversed to the inside, away from the rail. They may be required to reverse at the walk or jog at the discretion of the judge, but shall not be asked to reverse at the lope.

Judge may ask for additional work of the same nature from any horse. Judge is not to ask for work other than that listed above.

Rider shall not be required to dismount except in the event judge wishes to check equipment.

Horses to be shown at a walk, jog and lope on a reasonably loose rein or light contract without undue restraint.

A good pleasure horse has a free flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with his conformation. He should cover a reasonable amount of ground with little effort. He should have a balanced, flowing motion. He should be responsive, yet smooth, in transitions when called for. When asked to extend, he should move out with the same flowing motion. Maximum credit should be given to the flowing, balanced and willing horse, which gives the appearance of being fit and a pleasure to ride.

## **TRAIL**

Another judge will judge the Trail Classes separately from the other classes. There will be separate courses for each trail class levels II-III and Levels IV-VII. Exhibitors will go through their Trail Class course according to the posted schedule when they have a break in other classes. Members can only participate once.

Western or English Tack may be used.

This class will be judged on the performance of the horse in maneuvering the obstacles. The horse should work with a reasonably loose rein without undue restraint.

Horses five and older must be ridden one handed in a curb bit unless ridden English.

# CHOUTEAU COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM MANUAL

Six or more obstacles will be used, of which three will be mandatory and others selected from an approved list. The distance between obstacles shall be at the discretion of the judge.

## **Mandatory Obstacles:**

- Opening, passing through and closing gate. (Use a gate, which will not endanger horse or rider. Gate constructed with a minimum of 50 inches from the top of the gate to the ground and a minimum width of 4 feet)
- Ride over a wooden bridge. (Bridge should be of sturdy construction with a minimum width of 36 inches and with non-slip ramp approach).
- Back through elevated poles "L" shaped course at least 30 inches in width or back a triangle pattern through three oil drums.

## **Optional Obstacles:**

- Ride over at least four (4) logs
- Walk over single pole (obstacles not less than 12 inches high or not more than 18 inches high)
- Carry object from one part of arena to another (Only objects which reasonably might be carried on a trail ride may be used)
- Put on and remove slicker
- Dismount and lead horse over obstacles not less than 12 inches in height or over 18 inches in height
- Remove and replace material from mailbox
- Side pass
- Obstacle consisting of four logs or rails each 5 to 6 feet long, laid in a square. Each contestant will enter the square by stepping over the log or rail at the designated side. When all four feet are inside the square, the rider will execute a 360 degree turn (right or left), pause and depart by stepping over the log or rail immediately opposite the side of entry.
- Ground tying (dismount, walk about 10 to 15 feet and return and mount)
- Also to be judged on dismounting and mounting
- NO bales of hay or straw will be used in a trail class because of danger of catching feet or shoes in string or wire
- NO tires will be used in a trail class because of danger of catching feet in tires

While horse is in motion, rider's hands shall be clear of horse to avoid cueing. Horses to be penalized by an unnecessary delay while approaching obstacle. Judges are encouraged to advance on to the next obstacle any horse taking excessive time at an obstacle.

## **COLT TO MATURITY: ENGLISH**

### **CRITERIA:**

- |                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| ➤ Performance and Manners of Horse | 55% |
| ➤ Equitation                       | 25% |
| ➤ Appearance                       | 10% |
| ➤ Project Knowledge                | 10% |

# CHOUTEAU COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM MANUAL

## **WALK:**

Good – brisk, flat footed, good attitude

Minor Faults – slow, disinterested, not attentive

Major Faults – nervous, jiggling, not walking

## **TROT:**

Good – balanced, free moving, consistent, steady

Minor Faults – too slow, too fast

Major Faults – not performing a two beat trot, failing to trot both front and back, hard or rough riding, constant breaking

## **CANTER:**

Good – smooth, unhurried, consistent, steady

Minor Faults – too slow, too fast

Major Faults – wrong lead, pulling, trotting behind, hard or rough riding, not riding under control

## **EXTENDED TROT/CANTER:**

Good – strong, ground covering, smooth, consistent

Minor Faults – inconsistent speed

Major Faults – breaking gaits, pulling, hard or rough riding, uncontrolled, no increase in stride

## **BACK:**

Good – proper flexion, readily responsive, back in straight line

Minor Faults – hesitant, not backing straight

Major Faults – throwing head, gaping, pulling, not backing, rearing

## **GENERAL:**

Good - smooth, steady, proper flexion and balance, good attitude

Minor Faults – over or under flexion, sour ears, switching tail, inconsistent speed, out of balance, pol to high or too low to throw horse out of balance, improper or incomplete appointments

Major Faults – throwing head, bad mouth, constant bumping the bit, gaping, evidence of altered tail carriage, obvious schooling, breaking of pattern.

## **TWO YEAR OLD UNDER SADDLE – ENGLISH**

Open only to two-year-old fillies and geldings, animal will show with a D or O ring snaffle bit. The use of running martingale or German Olympic martingale is permissible, but not mandatory. Other martingales, tie downs, and bites are not permitted. (Shank bits are not permitted). For other equipment, refer to “**ENGLISH HORSEMANSHIP CLASSES**”.

Horses will be judged at walk, trot, and canter both directions on the rail. Change of gait will be progressive. Horses will be direct reined only (rein held in each hand).

Other tasks the contestant may be asked to perform are:

- Halt (not sliding stop) from the walk
- Dismount and mount
- Unsaddle and saddle up
- Back while mounted
- Perform individual task

# CHOUTEAU COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM MANUAL

## **THREE YEAR OLD UNDER SADDLE – ENGLISH**

Open only to three-year-old mares and geldings. Horses will be shown in a D or O ring snaffle bit. The use of a German Olympic martingale or running martingale may be used when using a ring snaffle only, but it is not mandatory. However, other martingales and tie downs are not permitted. Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may also be judged on the rail. Pattern will be designed by the judge and posted at the arena prior to class time. Spurs cannot be used forward of the cinch.

## **FOUR YEAR OLD UNDER SADDLE – ENGLISH**

Open to four-year-old mares and geldings. Horses will be shown in a D or O ring snaffle bit or Kimberwick. Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may also be judged on the rail. Pattern will be designed by the judge and posted at the arena prior to class time. The use of a German Olympic martingale or running martingale may be used when using a ring snaffle only, but it is not mandatory. However, other martingales and tie downs are not permitted. For other equipment, refer to “**ENGLISH HORSEMANSHIP CLASSES**”.

## **FIVE YEAR OLD UNDER SADDLE – ENGLISH**

Open to five-year-old mares and geldings. Horses will be shown in a Pelham, Weymouth, or Kimberwick bit or English snaffle. For other equipment, refer to “**ENGLISH HORSEMANSHIP CLASSES**”. Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may be judged at the walk, jog, lope on the rail both directions, and length and reduce each gait as directed by the judge. Pattern will be designed by the judge and posted at the arena prior to class time.

## **ENGLISH HORSEMANSHIP**

A horse entered in English Horsemanship, can be shown in only one level per family member. Horses may not be cross entered in English Colt to Maturity Project Classes/Green Horse.

Entries must be shown hunt or saddle seat. Spurs and crop are optional.

When riding hunt seat only, only regulation snaffles, pelhams, Kimberwicks, and full bridles, all with cavesson nosebands are allowed.

In saddle seat classes, entries must be shown in snaffles, pelhams, or full bridles (curb and snaffle).

### **CRITERIA:**

- |                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| ➤ Seat and Hands          | 35% |
| ➤ Performance and Pattern | 35% |
| ➤ Project Knowledge       | 20% |
| ➤ Appointments            | 10% |

# CHOUTEAU COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM MANUAL

## HUNTER TYPE POSITION:

GENERAL – Rider should have workmanlike appearance, seat and hands light and supple, conveying the impression of complete control should any emergency arise. Breaking of pattern is considered a major fault.

HANDS – Hands should be over and in front of horse's withers, knuckles thirty degrees inside the vertical, hands slightly apart and making a straight line from horse's mouth to rider's elbow. Method of holding reins is optional and bight of reins may fall on either side. However, all reins must be picked up at the same time.

BASIC POSITION – The eyes should be up and shoulders back. Toes should be at an angle best suited to rider's confirmation; ankles flexed in, heels down, calf leg in contact with horse and slightly behind girth. Iron should be on the ball of the foot and must not be tied to girth.

POSITION IN MOTION – At the walk, sitting trot and canter, body should be a couple of degrees in front of the vertical; rising trot, inclined forward; galloping and jumping, some inclination as the rising trot.

MOUNTING AND DISMOUNTING – To mount, take up reins in left hand and place hand on withers. Grasp stirrup leather with right hand and insert left foot in stirrup, toe in girth and mount. To dismount, rider may either step down or slide down. The size of the rider must be taken into consideration

## SADDLE SEAT POSITION:

GENERAL – Judges should note that the required Equitation Seat should in no way be exaggerated but be thoroughly efficient and most comfortable for riding the type of horse call for at any gait and for any length of time. When riding saddle seat in the horsemanship classes, riders should convey impression of effective and easy control. To show a horse well, he should show himself to the best advantage. Breaking of pattern is considered a major fault.

HANDS – Hands should be held in an easy position, neither perpendicular nor horizontal to the saddle and should show sympathy, adaptability, and control. The height the hands are held above the horse's withers is a matter of how and where the horse carries his head. The method of holding the reins is optional, however both hands must be used and all reins must be picked up at one time. The bight of reins should fall on offside.

BASIC POSITION – The eyes should be up and shoulders back. To obtain the proper position, rider should place himself comfortable in the saddle and find his center of gravity by sitting with a slight bend at the knees but without use of irons. While in this position adjust leathers to fit. Irons should be placed under ball of foot (not toe nor "home") with even pressure on entire width of sole and venter of iron. Foot position should be natural (neither extremely in nor out).

## POSITION IN MOTION –

Walk: Slight motion in saddle

Trot: Slight elevation in saddle rising, hips under body. Not mechanical up-and-down or swinging forward and backward.

Canter: Close seat, going with horse



# CHOUTEAU COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM MANUAL

**MOUNTING AND DISMOUNTING** – To mount, take up reins in left hand and place hand on withers. Grasp stirrup leather with right hand and insert left foot in stirrup, toe in girth and mount. To dismount, rider may either step down or slide down. The size of rider must be taken into consideration. \*\*For mounted abilities required, please refer to corresponding “**WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP CLASS**”.

## **ENGLISH PLEASURE**

Class will be judged on performance, condition and confirmation. Maximum credit shall be given to the flowing, balanced, willing horse. A minimum of 20 percent of judging shall be based on condition and conformation.

Horses to be shown at a walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring. Horses to be reversed to the inside, away from the rail. Horses should back easily and stand quietly. Horses to be shown under saddle, NOT TO JUMP.

Horses may be asked to change to canter from the flat-footed walk or trot, at the judge's discretion.

At the option of the judge, horses may be asked to extend the walk, trot or canter one or both ways of the ring. All or just the finalist horses may be asked to extend gaits; however, never more than 12 horses may be asked to hand gallop at one time. At the hand gallop, the judge may ask the group to halt and stand quietly on a free rein (loosened rein).

## **BAREBACK EQUITATION**

Class to be judged at a walk, trot, and lope/canter both ways of the ring. One or all contestants may be asked to back and /or perform individual pattern at discretion of Judge. Riders will be judged on seat, feet, hands, and the ability to control the horse. No chaps or spurs are allowed. Members 14 & over may be asked to dismount and mount. English or Western attire may be worn.

## **WORKING RANCH HORSE**

This project prepares you and your horse for general ranch work. Horses in this project may have completed the colt to maturity or green horse project.

All levels of the Ranch Horse Project will compete in one class, completing basically the same pattern, with possible modifications, if the number of entries warrants. The pattern will consist of 3 trail obstacles, basic reining pattern, and will be asked to rope a dummy. The Judge may ask questions pertaining to the project.

The pattern will be taken from the criteria found in Montana Ranch Horse Manual (5250). No cattle will be used.

# CHOUTEAU COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM MANUAL

## FAIR EQUIPMENT

These are some things you will need to make your stay at the fair with your horse easier:

- ✓ Garden cart or wheelbarrow
- ✓ Sawdust pitchfork
- ✓ Grass rake
- ✓ Hose with spray nozzle
- ✓ Clippers with extra blades and oil
- ✓ Extension cord
- ✓ Hammer and nails
- ✓ Twine and/or wire
- ✓ Knife
- ✓ Saddle rack
- ✓ Grooming supplies
- ✓ Shampoo and conditioner
- ✓ Wash bucket
- ✓ Show Sheen and hoof black (optional)
- ✓ Dust and wash rags
- ✓ Hay net
- ✓ Feed and water buckets
- ✓ Hay and grain
- ✓ Project sign
- ✓ Padlock for tack room
- ✓ Fly Spray

# CHOUTEAU COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM MANUAL

## HORSE PROJECT AWARDS

The following awards are presented at the Chouteau County Fair:

**An Embroidered Award** is awarded to: Grand Champion Senior Showman  
Reserve Champion Senior Showman  
Senior Best Fitted Horse  
Junior Best Fitted Horse

**A Trophy** is awarded to: Grand Champion Novice Showman  
Novice Best Fitted Horse

These above awards are based on the decisions of the Horse Show Judge in the ring during the show.

**A Trophy** is awarded for: 4-H Horse Herdsmanship  
Criteria is based on a 4-H club's effort to keep their barn area neat, organized, and decorated throughout the fair. A project poster is required for each animal exhibited.

**A Brass Plate** awarded for 4-H Horse Pitchfork  
Criteria is based on a 4-H Horse member who goes above and beyond of helping with the barn, other members, and the superintendent.

**A Buckle** is awarded to: Senior High Point Horseman  
Junior High Point Horseman  
Criteria is based on points accrued from the 4-H Horse Show **and** the Chouteau County Open Horse Show (providing there is an Open Horse Show). Points will be awarded only for events in which the member rides or shows his/her enrolled project horses(s).

At the Junior Level, points will be awarded based on the following classes: Showmanship, Western Horsemanship, English Horsemanship, Bareback Equitation, and Trail with members showing a single project horse.

At the Senior Level, points will be based on all classes entered with all project horses exhibited.

A **Year-End Award Application** for horse projects is encouraged, but not required. The application is submitted to the 4-H Leaders Council for judging at the second council meeting following the fair. Check with the Extension office for that date. This application process is a good way for the member to summarize his/her 4-H year experience.

