

***Livingston  
County 4-H  
Horse Program  
Policy Guide  
Book  
2012***

Revised January 2012

## **General Program**

The Horse Leaders committee will meet on the first Wednesday of every month. The July Meeting will be held after the Horse Exhibitor Meeting at the Hemlock Fair Grounds and the August Meeting will be announced. The committee meetings will be open to all horse leaders, parents and teens in Livingston County and each club may have one vote on all issues at hand. The Committee will hear reports from the following committees which will do the bulk of the planning and execution for our programs:

- *Horse Bowl*
- *Hippology*
- *Horse Judging*
- *Horse Communications*
- *Horse Saturdays*
- *Benefit Show*
- *English Day Fair*
- *Western Day Fair*
- *WT Novice Day Fair*
- *Dressage Day Fair*
- *Miniature & Driving Day Fair*
- *Qualifying Show*
- *WT Novice Show*
- *Dressage Qualifying Show*
- *Camp*
- *Regional/State Horse Education Committee*

## **Educational Events**

Educational events include Horse Bowl, Hippology, Horse Communications, & Horse Judging. Educational events are open to all 4-H members. 4-H members are at least 8 years of age by January 1 of the current year **AND** in the third grade or higher and have not reached their nineteenth birthday prior to January 1 of the current calendar year.

- *Seniors:* Senior contestants must be at least 14 years of age but not yet 19 years of age by January 1 of the current calendar year.
- *Juniors:* Junior contestants must not have achieved their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to January 1 of the current year.
- *Novices:* Novice contestants must never have previously participated in the educational event.
- *Cloverbuds:* Cloverbuds will be allowed to participate in all the educational events at the county level. Cloverbuds are youth ages 5-8. 5 year olds must turn 5 by January 1 of the current year **AND** must have been enrolled in Kindergarden at the beginning of the school year. In order to be consistent with New York State rules in regards to

Cloverbuds, we will not evaluate them. Instead, they will receive positive, reinforcing feedback and a rainbow participation ribbon to recognize their efforts.

***Horse Bowl***

The county will send as many youth to the regional competition as the region will allow. Currently that is two teams of 6 in the novice, junior and senior divisions. The following individual placings in the county contest will represent Livingston County at the regional Horse Bowl Competition:

<u>Team 1</u>	<u>Team 2</u>
1	2
3	4
5	6
7	8
9	10
11	12

***Hippology***

We will send as many youth to the regional hippology contest as the region will allow. The following individual placings in the county contest will represent Livingston County at the regional Hippology Competition:

<u>Team 1</u>	<u>Team 2</u>
1	5
2	6
3	7
4	8
9	10
11	12

***Horse Communications***

We will send as many youth to the regional horse communications contest as the region will allow:

Individual Presentations	4 Seniors + 2 Alts	4 Juniors + 2 Alts
Team Presentations	4 Seniors + 2 Alts	4 Juniors + 2 Alts
Public Speakers	4 Seniors + 2 Alts	4 Juniors + 2 Alts
Special Programs	2 Seniors + 2 Alts	2 Juniors + 2 Alts
Video Presentations	2 Seniors + 2 Alts	2 Juniors + 2 Alts
Impromptu	2 Seniors + 2 Alts	N/A

## Horseman of the Year

We will award three levels of achievement in the Horseman of the Year Program – Gold, Silver, & Bronze. The 4-H Horse Leaders Committee will advise the 4-H Educator on awarding these levels of achievement based on cumulative points earned. The top 2 members in the Senior, Junior, and Novice Divisions will be awarded plaques. Members receiving Gold, Silver, & Bronze levels of achievement along with the top two in the Senior, Junior, and Novice Divisions will be recognized at 4-H Achievement Day. Novice division members are defined by participation in their first novice educational event (horse bowl, hippology, horse communications, or horse judging) and can only participate once in this division. Novice division members may accumulate a maximum of 80 mounted educational event points. Ties will be broken first by community service, and then by horse communications.

If something is not listed below, it is not a qualified Horseman of the Year event without the approval of the Horse Leader Committee and the Livingston County 4-H Horse Educator.

### **Non-mounted Educational Events**

	<b>Points</b>
Horse Saturdays	5 (each)
Horse Bowl practices	5 (each)
County 4-H Horse Bowl	10
County 4-H Hippology	10
County Horse Communications	15
Horse judging practices	5 (each)
Horse Showmanship Clinic	5
Regional 4-H Horse Bowl	10
Regional 4-H Hippology	10
Regional 4-H Horse Communications	10
State 4-H Horse Bowl	10
State 4-H Horse Communications	10
County Horse Judging	10
State 4-H Hippology	10
Regional Horse Judging	10
State Fair Horse Judging	10
New York State Fair Horse Communication Invitational	10
New York State Fair Horse Bowl Invitational	10
Educational Event Assistant <i>*For members who are not eligible to compete at an event listed above. Required form for submission is available from event chair. Points are equivalent to events listed above.</i>	

### **Mounted Educational Events**

Western Qualifying Horse Show	10
English Qualifying Horse Show	10
WT Novice Horse Show	10
Dressage Qualifying Show	10
4-H Horse Camp	20
Hemlock Fair WT Novice Day	10
Hemlock Fair Dressage Day	10
Hemlock Fair English Day	10
Hemlock Mini and/or Driving Day	10
Hemlock Fair Western Day	10
Master of Showmanship participant at Hemlock	5
Rider for County Horse Judging Competition	10
State Fair Horse Show per Division Ridden (max of 30)	10
Benefit Horse Show – Western Day	10
Benefit Horse Show – English Day	10
Mounted Educational Event Assistant <i>*For members who are not eligible to compete at an event listed above. Required form for submission is available from event chair. Points are equivalent to events listed above.</i>	

### **County Wide Events**

Fall Fundraiser	25
Spring Fundraiser	25
Community service (max of 30)	10
Fair building display Hemlock	15
Fair building display Caledonia	15
Horse project record	15

## Rules for Horse Show Participation

1. **Cloverbud riders** are youth ages 5-8. 5 year olds must turn 5 by January 1 of the current year **AND** must have been enrolled in Kindergarden at the beginning of the school year. Cloverbud riders will receive participation ribbons only. The judge will provide positive, encouraging comments to these members who represent the future of our 4-H program. No premiums can be paid to Cloverbuds. They will not be evaluated, only positively encouraged .
2. **4-H Member riders** are at least 8 years of age by January 1 of the current year **AND** in the third grade or higher and have not reached their nineteenth birthday prior to January 1 of the current year.
3. All horses participating in 4-H Horse shows must meet health requirements including a current Coggins test and Rabies vaccination. Documentation of this, along with your 4-H Horse Certificate for the horse and rider, must be on file with the 4-H office by **MAY 15** of the horse show year.

#### 4. *Substitute Horses:*

After May 15<sup>th</sup> a horse that is not on file may substitute for a horse that is on file **ONLY** under the following conditions:

- Written documentation from a qualified veterinarian is provided to the 4-H Animal Science Educator that the horse on file is unable to show due to health issues.
- The substitute horse/rider combination will participate in the show(s) *as exhibition only* receiving no show points or awards.
- The substitute horse/rider combination is not eligible to qualify for Hi Point Awards or state fair consideration.
- The horse/rider combination will wear exhibitor number 000
- Exhibitors may lease more than one project horse for county events but only one for the New York State Fair 4-H Horse Show.

#### 5. *Certified 4-H Helmets:*

- An approved, properly fitting, ASTM 1163 or ASTM F-1163-04 helmet with SEI certification must be worn at all times while riding on a horse or in a cart.
- Helmets must have a permanent label with the date of manufacturing and ASTM/SEI logo.
- It is highly suggested that helmets five (5) years or older be replaced based on manufacturer's guidelines.

- A helmet must be replaced after it has been involved in a significant head impact.
- A helmet that visibly looks as if has been involved in a significant head impact – cracked, dented, etc. is not an approved helmet.

***It is the responsibility of the rider, and parent or guardian of the exhibitor to see that the head gear worn complies with the appropriate safety standards as set forth in the official 4-H policy. A memo will be sent to all CCE/4-H Offices each year specifying the "official" 4-H Equine Program head gear***

6. All classes will be conducted under the NYS 4-H Rule Book and the Livingston County 4-H Horse Program Policy Guide Book. Both are available on the Livingston County 4-H Program Website: <http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/livingston>.
7. All exhibitors must wear their numbers either on both sides of blanket or rider's back. Numbers must be clearly visible at all times. Game exhibitors may attach their number to the saddle. Driving division numbers are to be attached to the seat of the vehicle.
8. All exhibitors must have a parent or adult guardian present while showing.
9. All exhibitors must have an Acknowledgement of Risk form signed by a parent and on file with the 4-H Office prior to their first show.
10. No coaching from the rail.
11. Only one entry per class, per exhibitor. Where the same animal is used by more than one member, the horse or pony cannot be used in a specific class more than once.
12. In the event of a class cancellation the class will not be rerun. Points for the class will be removed from the total possible points that may be earned for the division.
13. Equine support and protective boots will be allowed in all classes at judge's discretion. (Refer to state rule book for state fair.)
14. For Dressage and Patterned riding, no single test can be judged by 2 different judges within a given show.
15. English Tack will be allowed in gymkayna. (Refer to state rule book for state fair.)

16. Half chaps may be allowed for the English Division as long as they match boots. (Refer to state rule book for state fair.)

***FYI : Exhibitors are not required to participate in shows prior to the county fair show, but are highly encouraged to do so.***

### ***Sportsmanship***

- Sportsman-like conduct is expected by all involved (4-H'ers, parents, and all other adults alike).
- There will be consequence for inhumane and irresponsible treatment of horses at our 4-H shows. Examples include:
  - \* Horses without water all day.
  - \* Excessive use of spurs, crops or reins
- *Consequence:* Not allowed to finish the horse show. This policy will be enforced by the show chair and show committee.
- The committees for each show will be responsible for assigning the duty of Technical Delegate to double check the tack for safety and conformity to the rules as the riders enter the ring. The New York State 4-H Horse Show Rule Book will be used as our guideline. Clip on Spurs are not allowed in our county shows.
- The decisions of the judges are final and represent a non-protestable expression of individual preference, unless a decision is in violation of the 4-H rulebook.
- The judge has the authority to dismiss from any class or the show any horse judged to be unsound.
- The judge or the show day committee has the authority to dismiss any exhibitor from a class or the show for un-sportsman like conduct.
- Serious grievances should be put in writing and passed on to the 4-H Educator.

### ***Riding Divisions and Evaluations***

- Exhibitors will not be allowed to ride in divisions that they have not been evaluated for.
- Exhibitors will show at only one level – Cloverbud Leadline, Cloverbud W/T, W/T, Novice, Junior or Senior.
- Exhibitors may move up a level during the show season if a riding evaluation has been completed for that level. Evaluations will be done at the club level.
- A rider that is deemed unsafe or unable to handle the requirements of the next division in sequence will not be required to move up.

The following members will require an evaluation:

- All first time riders/drivers and riders/drivers who are moving to a new division which requires a change in skill.
- New Cloverbud riders who have never been evaluated
- Any child who is a first time rider/driver in the county program.
- Cloverbuds who rode in Leadline last year and want to ride in walk trot cloverbud
- Cloverbuds who will be moving out of cloverbud and into any division except walk trot. *It is not necessary to re-evaluate a member moving from walk trot cloverbud to regular walk trot.*
- Any child who showed in walk/trot and wants to cantor or lope.
- Cloverbuds are not permitted to drive.

Evaluations must be turned in by the entry date for the shows at which the youth will be riding. Copies of the evaluation can be printed off the web at: <http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/4H/horses/> or contact the 4-H office and we can mail you one.

### ***Cloverbuds***

Cloverbuds who are riding in the walk trot class will not be allowed to participate in the cloverbud lead-line class. New Cloverbud classes will be added to give Cloverbuds more opportunities. The classes will include:

*Cloverbud Walk/Trot Equitation*

*Cloverbud Walk/Trot Horsemanship (Can be ridden English or Western)*

*Cloverbud Walk/Trot Cloverleaf Barrels*

- Cloverbuds **are not** permitted to participate in showmanship halter classes.
- Cloverbuds **are not** permitted to participate in driving or in hand classes.
- Cloverbuds **are not** permitted to participate in miniature classes.

### ***Walk/Trot & Novice Divisions***

Once a rider has achieved a champion or reserve champion at the Walk/Trot or Novice level, regardless of division, he/she may not show at that same level *the following year or in subsequent 4-H years.*

### ***Pony Classes***

- Ponies will be measured at the show they are entering and given a card. They only need to be measured once. If a pony has a USEF card that will be accepted. Two of the four pony committee members must measure the pony together.

- A child may show only one equine in any division at each show. A child may take only one qualified equine in any division to State Fair.
- A child may show their pony in horse classes instead of pony classes if they wish.
- We reserve the right to combine pony classes with horse classes.
- Pony classes will be placed 1st to 6th place. Points for each place will be as follows:

1 = 7 points	2 = 5 points	3 = 4 points
4 = 3 points	5 = 2 points	6 = 1 point

## Danish Ribbon Guidelines

The following are guidelines for all divisions of Livingston County 4-H Horse Shows

	<b>Blue Danish</b>	<b>Red Danish</b>	<b>White Danish</b>
<b>Overall</b>	Generally <i>"Excellent"</i>	Generally <i>"Satisfactory"</i>	Generally <i>"Fair"</i>
<b>Rider's Aids, Seat and Position</b>  <b>Equitation</b>	Rider uses proper aides, is able to maintain consistent balance and has a secure independent seat	Rider lacks precision in use of aids, has some faults in position and position is not consistently balanced	Rider has little ability to perform requirements of a class, position has significant faults and/or lacks a balanced position for the majority of the class
<b>Rider's Control</b>	Rider has complete control of the horses direction, gait, and speed	Rider, at times, lacks control of either directions, gait or speed	Rider is consistently unable to control the direction, gait or speed.
<b>Rider's Presentation</b>	Rider exhibits confidence and shows mount to its best advantage. Tack and attire are appropriate for class, clean and properly adjusted	Rider appears somewhat confident, tack and/or attire are suitable but in need of cleaning, adjustment or attention	Rider appears unsure or lacks confidence, tack and/or attire, is in need of major repair, large adjustments, or significant attention
<b>Horse's Behavior</b>	Horse is willing, well mannered and puts forth a good effort	Horse anticipates, wrings tail, is above the bit, mouths bit or shows other signs of unwillingness	Horse clearly unwilling to complete the rider's requests or shows blatant unsafe behavior
<b>Pattern/Course Completion</b>	Pattern/course completed well and with much precision	Pattern/Course completed with two significant errors or a series of minor mistakes	Pattern/course is incomplete, rider is off course or is disqualified as per 4-H rules
<b>Performance</b>	Performance has no major flaws	Performance has at least one major error or successive minor ones	Several major deficiencies in performance such as repetitive breaks of gait, wrong leads, or lack of forward motion.

## State Fair Qualification

**Objective:** For 4-H youth to have a quality learning experience while challenging themselves as representatives of the Livingston County 4-H Horse Program to develop positive life skills, leadership experience, and good sportsmanship.

**Requirements:** To be eligible for riding in the NY State Fair 4-H Horse Show participants must:

- **Have obtained ten (10) qualifying non-mounted educational points, as specifically outlined in the county rule book, will be required in order to qualify to ride in a mounted event at the state level but NOT at the county level. Approved list of qualifying events with points:**

Horse Saturdays	5 (each)
Horse Bowl practices	5 (each)
County 4-H Horse Bowl	10
County 4-H Hippology	10
County Horse Communications	15
Horse Judging practices	5 (each)
County Horse Judging	10
Horse Showmanship Clinic	5
Horse Camp	20

Mounted Educational Event Assistant *\*For members who are not eligible to compete at an event listed above.*

*Required form for submission is available from event chair.*

*Points are equivalent to events listed above.*

- Show in the county fair or the qualifying show with their designated 4-H project horse which was on file as of **MAY 15** of each show season year.
- Agree to ride in at least 4 classes at the State Fair that they have qualified in (except for dressage which limits riders to 3 classes total)
- Receive a "blue-excellent" award, or its equivalent, in 4 of the 5 classes intended to be entered at the State Fair. Riders may enter one class in which they have received a "red – good" award rating or its equivalent. Consecutive order placing ribbons may be used to determine "blue-excellent" and "red-good" awards. The 4-H leaders group reserves the right to review/override/determine Danish awards through a majority vote on an individual basis. The vote will be reflected in the minutes of the meeting to be valid as well as have the support of the 4-H Educator.
- The 4-H Horse Leaders Committee will review the point totals after the county fair and will review the recommendations for candidates. It is the 4-H Horse Educator who makes final decisions regarding the entries to be

submitted and is the only person who will forward signed entries to the Regional Committee. It is through this discretionary process that the applications to State Fair are made.

- There is an expectation that all 4-H participants should have a parent or guardian volunteer commitment for at least one *County Level* 4-H horse activity throughout the year.

*4-H Horse program participants do not have to gear their activities towards qualifying to go to the State Fair. Some children may wish to focus on Horse Project records, riding without showing, or participating only in horse science or other educational events. Owning/leasing a horse is not a requirement for being a part of the 4-H Horse Program. Have fun learning!*

We are able to send 4 representatives to the New York State Fair for each of the following divisions:

Gymkhana	Dressage
Driving	Hunt Seat
Saddle Seat	Western
Miniatures	

The following individuals will represent Livingston County at the New York State Fair

**Top two Juniors per division by points earned**  
**Top two Seniors per division by points earned**

The higher score from the two shows will be used to determine state fair representatives

*Pointed Classes per divisions are as follows:*

**Gymkhana**

Cloverleaf  
Pole Bending  
Keyhole  
Strait-Line  
Quadrangle

**Driving**

Reinsmanship  
Pleasure  
Obstacle

**Dressage**

Highest combined  
score for Test 1 and  
Test 4

**Hunt Seat**

Working Hunter  
Equitation over Fences  
Equitation on the Flat  
Hunter Under Saddle  
Hunt Pleasure

**Western**

Pleasure  
Equitation  
Horsemanship  
Reining  
Riding

**Miniatures**

Showmanship  
Halter Obstacle  
Hunter  
Jumper

Ties in the hunt seat and western division will be broken by the equitation on the flat class placing. Ties in Games will be broken by cloverleaf barrels.

Alternates to represent the county at the region II state fair selection meeting will be chosen by using their best score from either the qualifying show or the fair. They will be ranked in this order. Rankings combined with Danish awards and committee member's input will be taken into consideration in selection of classes for each Livingston County representative to state fair. Representatives and alternates can petition the committee to ride in a class at state fair even if they have not received a blue Danish ribbon in that class.