

Important Items and Changes for 4-H Horse Project Members

1) **May 1st** is the absolute deadline for a 4-Her to **validate** a 4-H horse or horses. This applies to all 4-Hers who intend to go to the District and/or State 4-H Horse Shows. Validation takes place via the County Extension office. There is a \$10 fee for each horse validated. **4-Hers who miss this May 1 deadline cannot exhibit a non-validated horse at either District or State.** (Siblings sharing validated horses – A horse may be ridden by only one 4-Her in a single Qualifying Division and by only one 4-Her in a single Open Division. In other words, siblings may both show the same validated horse as long as the horse is shown in a division by only one 4-Her, and is not shown in an individual class more than once.) Validation procedures are on page 6 of the 2008 revised Rulebook.

2) **Qualification procedures** at District Horse Shows are significantly different from prior years. There are now a total of **5 Qualifying divisions** and a 4-Her must show in at least one class in a division at District in order to be eligible for all classes in that division at the State Show. These qualifying divisions are Halter, Western Judged, Western Speed Events, Hunter-flat and Futurity. Western Judged Trail has been added to the Western Judged division and is now offered at all 12 District shows. Trail is no longer an Open class. **A 4-Her can show a different horse in each division, but only 1 horse per division.** Halter is now in a division by itself. See pages 7,8,12,13 & 14 of the Rulebook.

3) **Open division classes (14 classes across 4 divisions)** continue to be open and do not require participation at District. These include the 4 over-Fence classes (Hunter over Fence Division), 3 Roping classes (Roping Division), Reining, Working Cow Horse, Team Penning, Cutting and a new Stock Horse Trail class (Stock Horse Division), and Drill/Precision Riding Division. Some Districts do offer some of these classes, and if your District does offer them, 4-Hers are strongly encouraged to enter and show in these open classes at those District shows that do offer them. These divisions are on page 14 of the Rulebook.

4) Any 4-Her not planning to attend the District 4-H Horse Show, yet planning to enter Open Division classes at the State Show, should get with their County Extension Agent and complete state entries prior to the District Horse Show. **In District 7, open division entries must be made at the District 7 4-H Horse Show in Sweetwater.**

5) **Hunter Showmanship, Hunter under Saddle and Hunt Seat Equitation** are now Qualifying Classes at all 12 District 4-H Horse Shows. In past years, a 4-Her could enter these classes at the State 4-H Horse Show, whether they went to the District 4-H Horse Show or not. **In 2008, to be eligible to enter any of these classes at State, the 4-Her must enter and show in at least one of these 3 classes at the District Horse Show in order to be eligible to enter those classes at the State Show.**

6) Futurity project horses must be entered and shown in their respective futurity class at the District 4-H Horse Show in order to be eligible to enter and show in that futurity class at State. So, for 4-Hers with Futurity projects, the two steps are 1) nominate and validate a futurity project on or before May 1st and 2) enter and show in the futurity class at

District. Completion of those two steps and adherence to the futurity rules will make a futurity project eligible to be entered and shown at the State Show. All 12 Districts now offer Yearling Futurity halter gelding and halter filly classes, Yearling Futurity Longe Line, Two-Year-Old Futurity Western Pleasure and Three-Year-old Stock Horse classes.

7) **Schedule changes** at the State 4-H Horse Show need to be reviewed carefully. The **Hunter over fence classes** have moved to **Sunday afternoon, July 20**, in the large Covered Outdoor Arena. This is a day earlier than in past years, and in a different arena. **Hunter Showmanship, Hunter under Saddle and Hunt Seat Equitation** classes are now held on **Monday, July 21**, in the Coliseum. This is a day earlier than in past years, and in a different arena.

8) **Reining prelims and finals** are now both held in the Coliseum arena.

9) **Stock Horse Trail class** is a new class that was designed to fit in the Stock Horse division and cater to those youth with horses suited to classes such as reining, cutting, cow horse, team penning and roping. **This new class will be held at the State Show on Tuesday, July 22.** It is open to those 4-Hers with horses that are not entered in the regular western Trail class. The guidelines for this new class are found in the rulebook on page 62. It has been designed for those 4-Hers with well mannered, broke horses that would also be useful in a ranch-type setting. If possible, obstacles will differ slightly from regular western Trail obstacles in order to better simulate certain conditions routinely experienced in ranch and nature trail settings.

10) The 2008 Texas 4-H Horse Show Rules and Regulations contain all the changes, with important revisions in red type. All 4-Hers and families should be familiar with the revised rules. They can be found at <http://animalscience.tamu.edu> by clicking on 'Livestock' first, then 'Horses', then the '4-H Horse Projects' banner across the top of that page.