

NH State 4-H Horse Show Stable Management Expectations:

Goals of Stable Management Judging:

- 1) All animals will be housed in a safe and sanitary manner in keeping with accepted animal welfare practices.
- 2) After initial unloading and set up, 4-H members will provide all care of all animals. Working cooperatively is encouraged. Adults and visitors are allowed in barn areas but not stalls. Adults are not to hold or handle horses or equipment except to intervene in the interests of safety or as previously arranged to accommodate disability.
- 3) 4-Hers will take pride in their ability to care for their animal and the camaraderie and teamwork involved.

Specific Requirements:

Labelling:

- Each member (including stable managers/teen leaders) shall wear his or her exhibitor number at all times except in camping/sleeping and restroom areas.
- Each stall shall be labelled with horse name, owner name, contact phone number, and member's name and exhibitor number. Include special needs of animal when applicable (vices, allergies, etc.)
- Each tack and equipment storage area shall be labelled with the exhibitor number
- County stabling areas must be labelled with county name(s), which can be decorative at the discretion of the county members.

Animal Husbandry:

- Disinfecting of stalls is encouraged prior to the horse occupying the space.
- A sufficient amount of bedding to absorb liquid waste and manure is required. Two bags of shavings or a similar amount of other product is a suggested starting amount.
- Stalls should be kept picked throughout each day.
- Understanding that some horses have different stall habits than others (e.g. nervous horses, stall walkers), some horses will need additional cleaning and bedding.
- 2-3 piles of manure in a stall is acceptable. A very dirty, wet stall is not acceptable.
- Water should be checked and refilled frequently. Full sized horses often benefit from having two water buckets. Points will be deducted if water bucket is dry or very dirty. Horses should have access to water at all times except during exercise and cooling or as instructed by a veterinarian.
- Animals are to be treated humanely at all times. No rough treatment is allowed.

Required equipment & Proper use of equipment:

Stall Equipment

- Each horse must have a water bucket hung at approximate shoulder height to the horse. 2 water buckets are encouraged, especially in hot weather
- Grain may be fed from a ground feeder or bucket. Empty ground feeders must be removed and safely stored when not in use. Hanging feed buckets may be left in the stall or removed, but must be kept clean.
- A halter and lead for each horse, hung on stall (preferred) or lead hung and a properly fitting halter worn by horse.
- Hay bags are allowed, but if used must be hung high enough to prevent the horse from catching hoof. Hay may be fed from the stall floor without penalty.
- Tie rings are allowed in stalls. Cross ties should be removed after use (may be left in stall when unoccupied)

Tack Room & Feed Room

- Tack must be hung/stored in a manner that keeps it off the ground and neat

- Tack may be covered in a way that prevents it from becoming dusty/dirty but still allows access for inspection (e.g. loosely covered)
- All tack must be safe: stitching in good repair and no cracks or weak areas in straps.
- Unless in use, a saddle and bridle including pad or blanket and girth or cinch is required for each riding horse. Unless in use, a harness and bridle is required for each driving horse. Unless in use, a suitable halter or bridle is required for each in-hand horse.
- Wet pads and girths should be hung in a way to allow air to circulate.
- Bits must be cleaned after use. A small amount of residual saliva or debris is not to be penalized.
- Other equipment, including grooming kits and tack boxes are to be kept neat and tidy.
- Feed and tools may be stored in a feed room or outside the barn. Outside storage areas must not be accessible to animals (e.g. horse trailers are appropriate). Outside storage areas must be kept neat and tidy, but are not inspected unless they appear to be a hazard.
- Pitchforks, rakes and other tools may be leaned against a wall or hung in a way that prevents tripping. Plastic tines may be hung facing the wall or away from the wall. Metal tines must face the wall.

Safety:

- Adult assistance in animal care after initial set up is not allowed except to intervene in the instance of safety or if prior arrangements have been made to accommodate a disability.
- Each county area is required to have a fire extinguisher or water and sand buckets, a first aid kit for humans, and a first aid kit for horses
- Counties with fewer than 4 exhibitors each may share the above resources, provided they are stabled in the same area.
- All animal areas including stalls are to be free of loose tools and sharp objects such as nails.
- Halters are to be properly fitted if left on the horse. Breakaway or leather halters are preferred if left on.
- All “horse clothing” must fit properly and be appropriate for the weather. Surcingles and leg straps must not be loose enough for a horse to put a leg through or become entangled.
- Fans, if used, must be hung on the outside of the stall with cord secured and not draped loosely to cause a tripping hazard. Cords must be fully outside stall. All electrical appliances and cords must be in good condition with absolutely no frayed wiring.
- Shoes that fully enclose the feet must be worn by all exhibitors and volunteers except in camping/sleeping and restroom areas.
- Visitors are allowed in barn areas. No open toed shoes/sandals if horses are present. Non-exhibitor children must be under the direct supervision of an adult at all times when on the grounds.

Cooperation among exhibitors:

- Exhibitors are expected to be polite and helpful and refrain from the use of disrespectful or profane language.
- County members should work together to achieve goals and complete tasks
- Counties are encouraged to work cooperatively with other counties
- It is understood that each exhibitor or teen leader will need some “down time” and not all exhibitors can work together at all times.

What can Adults or Non-exhibitors do?

Adults/non-members are allowed/encouraged to:

- Cheer on all the exhibitors
- Provide nutritious food and beverages for the 4-Hers.
- Help with hair and clothing in the camping areas (not in the barn or holding areas)
- Be supportive; provide encouraging comments

- Intervene if needed for safety
- Volunteer to help in many ways throughout the show (check in with the show office or your county chaperones)
- Participate in silent auction and other fund raisers, participate in games, ice cream social and other activities.
- Provide specific assistance to accommodate a disability when prior arrangements have been made
- Keep an eye on everyone's safety and well-being
- Maintain a sense of humor!

Adults/ non-members are NOT allowed to:

- Groom or tack up horses (even to adjust a horse's braid or wipe boots!)
- Coach in any way other than general encouraging comments
- Help with preparing a horse for a class or untacking after a class
- Hold horses
- Clean stalls, water horses, feed horses, or in any other way care for horses

**NH State 4-H Horse Show
Stable Management Judging**

Score sheet for COUNTY area:

County Name: _____

	Check 1		Check 2		Check 3		Comments - N/I requires comment
	S	N/I	S	N/I	S	N/I	
County members working together safely							
Grounds safe							
Grounds neat							
Tack rooms neat							
Feed rooms neat							

Number of Satisfactory (S) check marks: _____ = **Overall County Score (maximum score = 15)**

Judges please comment on outstanding teamwork you observe. These comments will be used as tiebreakers and will be given to the counties as feedback.

Check 1 – Friday afternoon or evening (after start of opening ceremony)

S = Satisfactory

Check 2 – Saturday AM or PM

N/I = Needs Improvement – any N/I requires a comment

Check 3 – Saturday PM or Sunday AM

Intentionally blank

Exhibitor number: _____ County: _____

	Check 1		Check 2		Check 3		Comments - N/I requires comment
	S	N/I	S	N/I	S	N/I	
Horse safe and comfortable							
Stall safe and sanitary							
Tack safe and clean							

Number of Satisfactory (S) check marks: _____ = **Individual Score (maximum score = 9)**

Judges: Please comment on outstanding animal care here: _____

Exhibitor number: _____ County: _____

	Check 1		Check 2		Check 3		Comments - N/I requires comment
	S	N/I	S	N/I	S	N/I	
Horse safe and comfortable							
Stall safe and sanitary							
Tack safe and clean							

Number of Satisfactory (S) check marks: _____ = **Individual Score (maximum score = 9)**

Judges: Please comment on outstanding animal care here: _____

Horse safe and comfortable – horse has water (mark down only if bucket is dry; some horses drink an entire bucket quickly). . If halter is worn, it is not excessively tight or loose. (e.g. rubbing on face or so loose a hoof could become caught). Horses not to wear excessive blankets/sheets in hot weather.

Stall safe and sanitary -- Stall has bedding and is free from hazards such as sharp objects, baling twine, tools, etc. Stall is not excessively wet or dirty (1-3 manure piles and a wet spot are normal, particularly with nervous horses).

Tack safe and clean – bits have been wiped down reasonably (a small amount of saliva or debris is acceptable). Wet saddle pads and girths hung in a way that allows them to dry. No caked on dirt/sweat. Tack appears safe and in good repair.