

Western All Around Class

The purpose of this class is to promote the versatility of the 4-H horse that is being ridden western. This is **NOT** strictly an equitation class, pleasure class or halter class but a combination that will showcase the horse that is trail ridden, show pen ridden, gamed or used as a family or lesson mount. This class is not breed specific but is **WESTERN** specific. No registration papers are required for this class.

Tack/Equipment/ Attire

All tack shall be clean, and in serviceable condition. Saddles should fit the horse and rider. Tack used shall comply with the rules in the Western division. Attire shall be as set forth in the Western division.

Class Routine

A true family 4-H horse is easy to handle, quiet, usually easy gaited and does not show undesirable mannerisms. His overall performance should be smooth, consistent and obedient.

1. All horses enter the ring in a counter-clockwise direction. All horses will be asked to walk, jog and lope both ways of the ring. Horses will be asked to back. Excessive speed or excessive slowness may be penalized.
2. The first way of the ring, equitation will be the focus. The scoring will be evaluated on the horse's response to the rider including the rider's ability to maintain optimal position and provide maximum performance. This will show the willingness of the horse to work with the rider to obtain peak horsemanship and performance.
3. The second way of the ring, pleasure will be the focus. The scoring will be evaluated on the horse's suitability as a pleasure mount and not necessarily only for the rider performing in the class.
4. Once horses have gone both ways of the ring, they will be asked to come to the center, they will then be stripped of their tack and a halter placed on the horse for a halter line up and review.

Judging/Scoring

Equitation ability: The horse's reaction to the rider's ability to effectively control his/her horse and maintain his/her basic position while doing so. Consideration will be on rider's position, use of aids and cues and control of the horse, and the horse's response to those cues. **To be judged 40% on this portion.**

Pleasure ability: To be judged on manners, and performance and suitability of the horse as a pleasure mount. The smoothness, obedience and consistency of the performance will be considered as well as soundness, way of moving, general balance and patience with the rider. **To be judged 40% on this portion.**

Halter ability: A halter class is defined as a class where the horse is judged based upon its conformation. Selection should be of individuals in the order of their resemblance to the breed ideal represented and that are the most positive combination of balance, structural correctness, and movement with appropriate breed and sex characteristics and adequate muscling. Additionally, the horse and handler pair should be cooperatively working together to best show the horse's desirable halter characteristics. The condition of the horse also is considered. At the discretion of the judge, a horse may be penalized or eliminated from the class "if the horse appears sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly tired." **To be judged 20% on this portion.**