The new revised rulebooks are now printed and available for purchase from your local extension office. The new books sport a bright orange or brown cover and are $2.00 to purchase. It is very important that anyone showing 4-H this year reviews this book as many new patterns, scoring systems, and rules have been put into place. These books will be used by judges this year and it is the responsibility of the 4-H member to know and understand the new books.

I would like to give everyone a brief overview of the set up of the rulebook, as it is more in-depth then previous editions.

The first pages of the rulebook explain new rules that have been incorporated and some old rules which have been removed.

Following the rules pages you will move into an in-depth explanation of acceptable and unacceptable tack for showmanship, western performance, and english performance.

The remainder of the rulebook is a break down of each class into a brief description of the class, followed by an outline of the class routine and what the class entails. Then a short section on tack and attire, which will usually include optional and prohibited items.

The final section of each class is a new scoring section. This is where you will find a scoring system for each class explaining how the class is judged, what the judge is looking for, faults, considerations, and for most classes a portion that talks about disqualifications or events that will lead to participants receiving a white ribbon.

The final part of the rulebook is a section on horse show operation and judging guidelines, also included in this portion is an explanation of the Danish System.

Again these rulebooks will be implemented this year so please make sure to pick yours up today.

The NDSU Equine Studies Program will be hosting a horse camp at the NDSU Equine Center on June 21st and June 22nd. The camp on the 21st will be geared towards beginners and the camp on the 22nd will focus on intermediate riders. There will be ten available spots in each section and pre-registration is required by June 18th. The camp will focus on 4-Hers or youth who have horses. It will be taught at varying levels based on the participants experience levels. Camp will hit on multiple important aspects of showing and riding, including safety, grooming, bit and tack selection, showmanship, and horsemanship.

Please see page 4 for more information on the camp and a tentative schedule. For any other information please contact Tara Swanson at tara.swanson@ndsu.edu or by phone at 701-231-8865.
Western Riding

Western riding is a class that demands precision, accuracy, and control. This class is a combination class utilizing skills found in horsemanship, reining, and trail. Horses competing in western riding should be proficient at these three classes before tackling western riding.

Western riding is a pattern class and each participant is asked to complete the assigned pattern individually and will receive a score based on their performance of that pattern. Each pattern will include a jog over the log, controlled flying lead changes (both line and cross changes), a lope over the log, a stop and back. This is a class that should demonstrate the brokeness of the horse. Judges are looking for horses who can complete the above steps in a controlled manner. The horses should obey the rider and show no resistance to what is being asked of them. This is a class that is judged on quality of gaits, changes of leads, response to the rider, manners, disposition and intelligence.

Lead Changes

All lead changes that occur in this class should be executed in the middle of each set of cones. The changes should be simultaneous meaning both the front and hind leads are changed at the same time. When completing the lead change horses should remain at a constant speed and should not speed up or break gait to make the lead change. Horses should remain on a relatively loose rein when completing the lead changes and also should remain level across the topline, the line from poll to withers, when completing this class. If horses miss lead changes, have late changes or only change lead either in the front or hind penalties will be incurred.

Head Carriage

The horse’s head carriage should be relaxed and should be responsive to what the rider is asking them to do. The topline should remain level throughout the class and should not greatly fluctuate with the maneuvers being performed. There should be moderate flexion at the poll but the horse should not appear to be resistant nor intimidated by the rider. The horse should be ridden with very light contact or on a loose rein.

Consistency

The horse should remain at a consistent speed throughout the class. The horse should keep a collected frame from start to finish. When jogging and loping over the log the horse should remain at the same pace and disposition as it was prior to crossing the log. Horses will be penalized for not staying composed over the log. This is not a timed event, therefore excessive speed will be penalized.

Scoring System

Western riding is based on a scoring system. The scoring scale ranges from 0-100. Each horse that walks into the performance pen begins with a score of 70. Each maneuver will then receive a maneuver score that will range from +1/2 to −1/2, depending on the correctness of the maneuver. Each maneuver may also incur penalty points for things incorrectly done. There may be more than one penalty per maneuver or none at all. A list of these penalty points is presented on the following page, along with a list of events that will result in a zero score and a white ribbon. At the completion of the class the judge will add or subtract the maneuver score from 70 and then subtract the penalty points for the final score.
**Scoring System**

**Maneuver Scores**
- Excellent +1\(\frac{1}{2}\)
- Very Good +1
- Good +\(\frac{1}{2}\)
- Average 0
- Poor -\(\frac{1}{2}\)
- Very Poor -1
- Extremely Poor -1\(\frac{1}{2}\)

**Credits**
- Simultaneous changes
- Accurate and smooth pattern
- Even pace throughout the pattern
- Easily guided and controlled
- Manners and disposition

**Faults**
- Opening mouth excessively
- Anticipating signals
- Stumbling
- Improper head set or carriage
- Excessive speed

**Penalties**

**1/2 Point Penalty**
- Tick or light touch of log
- Hind legs skipping or coming together during a lead change
- Non-simultaneous change (front to hind or hind to front)

**1 Point Penalty**
- Break of gait at walk/jog up to 2 strides
- Hit/roll log
- Out of lead more than for 1 stride on either side of the center point and between the markers
- Splitting the log (log between the two front or two hind feet) at the lope

**3 Point Penalty**
- Break of gait at lope, simple lead change
- Out of lead prior to or after the marker
- Extra lead change in the pattern (except when correcting an extra change or incorrect lead)
- Not performing gait or stopping within 10 feet of the designated area
- Break of gait at walk/jog for more than 2 strides
- Failure to start the lope within 30 feet after crossing the log at the jog

**5 Point Penalty**
- Out of lead beyond next designated change area (note: failure to change, including cross-cantering. Two consecutive failures to change would result in two 5 point penalties)
- Blatant disobedience (kick out, buck, rear, biting)

**0 Score– Should receive lowest ribbon possible– White Ribbon**
- Illegal equipment
- Willful abuse
- Off course
- Knocking over markers
- Completely missing the log
- Major refusal– stop and back more then two strides
- Major disobedience or schoolings
- Failure to start lope prior to end cone
- Four or more simple lead changes and/or failures to change leads
- Overturn of more than one-quarter turn
- Use of two hands on reins when using a curb bit

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*Example of a western riding pattern*
NDSU Horse Camp

Dates: June 21st- Beginner Camp June 22nd- Intermediate Camp

Purpose and Eligibility:
This camp is meant for 4-Hers or youth who have horses and are capable of riding on their own. The camp is meant to help improve handling and riding skills and also to educate youth on safety, tack, rules and other various topics in the horse world. The camps will vary based on experience level of participants.

Important Information:
- Participants must bring their own horse’s, tack, feed, and necessities
- Waivers must be signed before riding
- All horses must have current (within 1 year) negative Coggins papers
- Pre-registration is required and due by June 18th
- Camp is limited to 10 per session
- Stalls are available for $10/day or $20/night and must be indicated on the registration form
- Spectators welcome- free of charge
- No stallions allowed

Schedule
- 8:30-9:00 a.m. Check-in/paperwork
- 9:00-9:15 a.m. Introduction/orientation
- 9:15-9:45 a.m. Safety/grooming
- 9:45-10:45 a.m. Showmanship
- 10:45-11:30 a.m. Bits demonstration
- 11:30-1:00 p.m. Lunch Break
- 1:00-1:30 p.m. Teaching body control
- 1:30-2:00 p.m. Fundamental horsemanship
- 2:00-3:00 p.m. Basics of horsemanship
- 3:00-4:00 p.m. Patterns & problem solving
- 4:00-4:30 p.m. Conclusion

Location:
NDSU Equine Center
Take 19th Ave N. 3 miles west of I-29

Contact:
Tara Swanson, 178 Hultz Hall Fargo, ND 58105
Phone: 701-231-8865
E-mail: tara.swanson@ndsu.edu

Cost:
Camp: $30.00
Stalls: $10.00/day or $20.00/night
Horse Show Necessities

Now that show season is here and you are preparing for the first show there are things that you can’t be without. It is always a good idea prior to your first show to make a checklist of all the things you may need at a show. Also, this is a good time to oil all of your tack and make sure it is in good working order. Check the tack for cracks or tears which may be hazardous as the season progresses, be sure to replace these items before use. Below you will find a few helpful hints when preparing for a show and also a list of necessities for any show person.

Helpful Hints for Grooming:

- Things to clip at least a week before the show:
  - Fetlocks
  - Ears
  - Muzzle
  - Long hairs under the jaw and around the eyes
  - Bridle path

- Make sure if banding your horse the mane is the same length and the bands lay flat (Hint: use a slinky to help the mane lay)

- Use baby powder on white markings to make them bright

- Make sure the feet are clean and then apply hoof polish to give your horse the show ready look

- Highlight your horses face by using a facial cream (Caution: make sure to wash this off as it may cause white noses to burn)

- Apply Show Sheen or some other hair polish to the coat to make it shine (Caution: do not apply to saddle area as it will cause the saddle to slip)

- Remember to fly spray your horse prior to entering the show pen

Helpful Hints for You:

- Be sure your hat is secure, bobby pins are a great way to prevent loosing your hat during the class

- Make sure your appearance is top notch by:
  - Ironing your clothing
  - Cleaning and polishing your boots
  - Make sure your hair is pulled back and smooth
  - Always tuck your shirt in and wear a belt
  - Be sure your hat is clean and appropriately shaped
  - Wear jewelry or a scarf to give a more finished look (Caution: never wear jewelry that dangles as it will show all movement in your body and will make your horse look rough)

- Be sure your number is pinned straight and in a place the judge can see it (Caution: if you have long hair be sure to pull it up in a bun so it does not cover your number)

- Make sure your attire matches, example boots, belts, pants and chaps should all be the same color as not to draw attention to certain areas while you ride

- Make sure all tack is clean and appropriately fitted to your horse

- When showing remember to present to the judge from the time you enter the arena to the time you leave

- Be polite and courteous to the judge and other competitors

Supplies for Your Horse:

- Feed/hay
- Buckets
- Coggins test/brand inspection/papers/health certificate
- Halter/lead rope
- Show halter
- Saddle
- Saddle pad
- Bridle
- Saddle soap/oil/sponge/rag
- Hoof pick
- Brushes & combs
- Fly spray
- Lunge line
- Rubber bands
- Clippers/razor
- Cleaning supplies
- Show Sheen
- Face cream
- Hoof polish
- Hairspray
- Wraps
- Basic horse first aid supplies
- Sheet
- Slinky
- Tail bag
- Protective leg boots

English Supplies For You:

- Show jacket
- Shirt
- Collar pin
- Breeches
- Belt
- Helmet
- Show boots
- Hair tie/net
- Gloves
- Crop

Western Supplies For You:

- Show shirt
- Pants
- Chaps
- Belt/buckle
- Show boots
- Spurs
- Jewelry
- Hat/helmet
- Hair ties/net
- Bobby pins
Horse Safety

By: Dr. Erika Berg

Being safe around your horse both on the ground and while you are riding is a very important part of horsemanship. In order to be safe around horses it is essential that you understand their behavior. A horse is a prey animal and this means that in the wild other animals hunt and eat horses. The animals that hunt and eat other animals are called predators. Examples of predator species include wolves, bears, mountain lions, dogs, cats, and humans.

When a horse feels scared, their first instinct is to run away from whatever is scaring them. This is always important to remember when working around horses this is because even very gentle and well-trained horses, if something scares them enough and they are fearing for their life, will try to run away and will not matter what or who (including you) is in their way. If a horse feels scared and it cannot run away (your horse is trapped in a corner of an arena or pasture for example), his or her second instinct will be to fight. Horses fight by striking and kicking with their hooves and biting with their teeth. A frightened horse can be very dangerous so it is important to understand their body language because they cannot tell us in words what they are feeling or what they might do next.

The horses’ body language includes what they do with their ears, tail, and body posture, especially their head, neck and legs. The horses’ ears tell us the most about where their attention is focused and how they are feeling. How a horse holds their tail can also tell us if they are scared or excited. Finally, their body posture (how they hold their heads – whether it is up high in the air or low to the ground, how they hold their legs – ready to kick or relaxed) adds to the whole picture of what they are trying to tell us about how they feel and what they are thinking.

When you are working on the ground with your horse they should be tied at or above their withers with a halter and lead rope in a slipknot in a safe place. Safe places to tie a horse may be a tie post, a tie ring bolted into the wall, or an arena post. Places we DO NOT tie horses to include anything that could easily be moved such as gates, stall doors, bleachers, or fence boards. The reason we do not tie horses to an object that could easily be moved is because if they were scared and pulled back, they are so strong that they could pull a gate or stall door off the hinges and that would scare them even more. What is the first thing horses do when they are scared? They run away. So now we would have a scared horse running away and dragging a gate along with him – a very dangerous situation that could hurt the horse as well as people. If you are not sure if something is safe to tie a horse to, it is always best to ask. Another thing to remember is to tie your horse with no more than about 1 ½ feet of rope between the horse’s halter and the tie post. We want the rope to be pretty short so the horse cannot reach his nose to the ground and step over the rope with his leg. If your horse does this and tries to stand up, they will most likely feel trapped and begin fighting to get loose and this is a very dangerous situation. You should get an adult to help you if this happens and not try to free the horse yourself.

When you have a horse tied up, there are two safe ways to get to the other side of the horse. The first is to let the horse know where you are by approaching their shoulder and then facing their tail. To get to the horse’s other side you will keep your hand on the horse’s back and walk close to the horse around to the other side. You would use this way to get around a horse tied in a barn aisle. The second way to safely walk around a horse is to walk at least 10 feet to the side and behind him so that if he does kick, you are completely out of reach in case they kick. It is never safe to walk underneath the horse’s neck or belly to get to the other side because they cannot see you and could easily become scared and strike with their front legs or kick you with their hind legs. Once the horse is safely tied and you know how to safely work around him, you are ready to groom, tack up, and ride your horse.

Everyone who rides should wear a helmet designed for horseback riding. A riding helmet protects your head and brain which could be badly injured in a fall. You are born with only one of each so take good care of the ones you have! You should also check your tack and equipment before you get on your horse to be sure the leather is in good condition (not cracked or badly worn). Carefully check your billet straps and girth to be sure those are in good repair because they are what hold your saddle on. Your girth should be snug but not so tight that you can’t slide a flat hand between the girth and the horse. If you are riding in a Western saddle with a front and back cinch, always tighten up the front cinch first and loosen it last so you are sure the saddle is securely on the horse in case they spook. Finally when you are riding, always pay attention to the horses around you and keep a safe distance (at least one horse’s length) between you and the horse in front of you to keep you and your horse from getting kicked.
Calendar of Events

June
- 8– Wells Co. Open Horse Show, Fessenden, ND, Contact Stephanie Polries 701-984-2503
- 13-15– NDQHA Trail Ride, Williston, ND, Contact John Hovde at 859-4621
- 14-15– FM Posse Horse Show, for more information see http://www.fmmountedposse.com/showing.html
- 16 & 17 - AEER Fair Show ~ Hunters, Dressage, Jumpers, Red River Valley Fairgrounds, Contact Michelle at mwhite@microsoft.com
- 18– Cass Co. 4-H Show, Red River Valley Fairgrounds
- 21 & 22– NDSU Horse Camp, Contact Tara Swanson 231-8865 or tara.swanson@ndsu.edu
- 27 & 28– Richland Co. 4-H Camp Contact: Colleen Svingen at 701-642-7793
- 29– 7E Judged Trail Ride, Contact Mary at 7Eridinginstruction.com or 537-5928

July
- 13- AEER Dressage & Eventing Show, ND Horse Park contact Michelle at mwhite@microsoft.com
- 18-26– North Dakota State Fair, for information see http://www.ndstatefair.com/
- 19-Endurance and Competitive Trail Riding Clinic, for information contact Charlotte Thompson at chart@loretel.net
- 20- FM Posse Horse Show, for more information see http://www.fmmountedposse.com/showing.html

August
- 3-FM Posse Horse Show, for more information see http://www.fmmountedposse.com/showing.html
- 16-FM Posse Horse Show, for more information see http://www.fmmountedposse.com/showing.html
- 17–7E Judged Trail Ride, Contact Mary at 7Eridinginstruction.com or 537-5928
- 28-31 NDQHA Show, Valley City ND, contact Jean Fredrich at 701-725-4420