

NDSU

Head Tosser

Summer Issue

May

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NDSU Horse Events a Huge Success



The NDSU Equine Club and NDSU Equine Department recently hosted two very successful horse related events.

A showmanship clinic was presented by the Equine Club on March 10th. This clinic covered everything from grooming and show preparation to putting the finishing touches on a winning showmanship pattern.

The other recent event hosted by the NDSU Equine Department was a “Wish I Had a Horse Camp.” This camp gave kids who do not own a horse, but have a passion for horses, the opportunity to interact with some of the NDSU Loaner Horses. This camp was hosted at the NDSU Equine Center on April 21st and maxed out the available spots in both age groups. At this camp participants learned about grooming and caring for horses, handling and safety, colors and breeds, saddling and bridling, and for the finale

the participants got to show off their riding skills.

Due to the high demand and success of these events, the NDSU Equine Department will be looking at hosting similar events next year.



Special points of interest:

- Update on NDSU events
- Legal tack for the show season
- Horsemanship Clinic
- Upcoming events

Call For Training, Boarding, and Lesson

Within the last couple of months there has been an influx of calls inquiring about barns that offer boarding, training, and lessons. I would like to compile an up to date list of barns throughout the state, what services they offer, and the cost of each service. As of right

now there is not a current list, and in order to better serve the equine community a list like this is a necessity. If you own, operate, or know of a barn that offers any of these services, I urge you to forward the information on to me so we can get the information

out to the public. I would like to get this list compiled and on the NDSU webpage soon, so if you have information you would like included please e-mail it to:

tara.swanson@ndsu.edu

Kicking off the Show Season: What is Legal and What Is Not.

For those of you who plan on showing your horses this summer the time has come to break out the clippers and get out the riding equipment. Some may be pros at the show world, while others are just getting introduced to all the fun and work that comes with showing horses. This article is meant to give those newcomers a helping hand when it comes to picking out tack that is legal and appropriate for your individual horses.

The first thing that needs to be understood is there are different rules on what is legal and what isn't for performance classes as opposed to gaming classes. Also, there are differences in legal equipment and riding of junior horses (horses that are 5 years old and younger) and senior horses (horses that are 6 years old and older).

From here on out western performance classes refer to: pleasure, horsemanship, reining, trail, and western riding.

Age and Bits

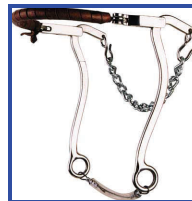
Starting with junior horses, these young horses are the only ones who may be ridden two handed in western performance classes. These horses may be ridden in a snaffle bit or a bosal.

A bosal is made from a rawhide noseband, with no mouthpiece and usually mecate reins are used with the noseband. Many times this is referred to as a hackamore, which causes a lot of confusion because there are many types of hackamores, some legal and others not for performance classes. The following picture is a legal bosal for showing a junior horse.

Example of a bosal:



Not a bosal:



The picture above is referred to as a mechanical hackamore, which is not legal in western performance classes.

A snaffle bit refers to a smooth bit, which is broken in the middle and has no shanks. This bit should be at least 3/8 inch in diameter. When using a snaffle bit a flat leather or nylon curb strap may be loosely attached below the reins, however a chain chin strap is illegal.

Example of a snaffle bit:



Not a snaffle bit:

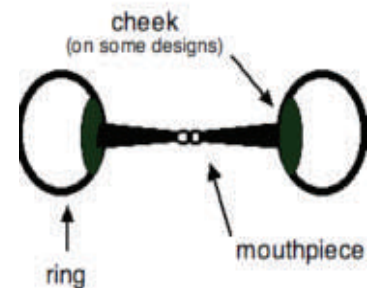


The previous bit causes a lot of problems for many exhibitors because the name of this bit is Tom Thumb Snaffle Bit, however this is not a snaffle bit. Therefore, if using this bit the exhibitor must ride with only one hand on the reins.

One thing that separates these bits is the presence of shanks. These bits affect different pressure points in the horses mouth and exert different forces.

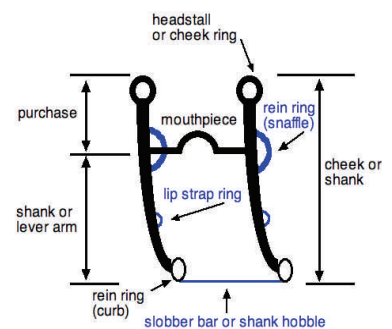
The following pictures break down the parts of a snaffle bit and a curb, sometimes called a shank bit, so you can see the differences between them.

Parts of a snaffle bit



Parts of a curb bit

Elements in blue are not seen on all bits



One thing to point out is that a curb bit can have a broken or a solid mouthpiece. As you look at these two pictures you can see that the curb bit has shanks that run on both sides of the mouthpiece. These shanks

Kicking off the Show Season: What is Legal and What Is Not Continued

change the bit from a non-leverage bit, the amount of pressure applied to the rein is the amount felt by the horse, to a leverage bit, meaning the pressure applied by the rider is amplified to the horse depending on several bit factors. Some factors that affect bit severity are diameter, shank length, and port height. Pictured are examples of shank bits. Notice the mouthpieces are all different one broken, one ported and broken, and one ported and solid. When using these bits a chin strap is required. The chin strap may be flat leather, nylon, or flat chain as long as it is over 1/2 inch wide.

Examples of shank bits:



There are several bits, including the mechanical hackamore that are illegal in western performance classes. A few examples are shown below.



As you can see the mouthpiece on these bits slides when pressure is applied. These type of bits referred to as gag bits and are not permissible in western performance classes.

Keep in mind whenever a shanked bit is used an exhibitor must show using only one hand on the reins, with only one finger between the reins, one exception to this rule is when using a romal, the rein hand should be wrapped around the reins with no fingers between. The ends of the reins must fall on the same side as the rein hand. In addition riders are not to change hands on the reins. The only time it is permissible to change hands on the reins is when negotiating an obstacle in trail.

In any western classes, split reins are required, the only exception is the closed mecate reins with the bosal on a junior horse and the romal reins.

Other tack which is prohibited in all performance classes includes roping reins, bats or crops of any kind, and tie downs. In pleasure, horsemanship, and trail the use of leg wraps are prohibited.

In timed events only, mechanical hackamore and gag bits are permitted, along with the bits allowed in performance classes. Roping reins may be used with any bit or hackamore. Tie downs, martingales, and crops are allowed. Over and under ropes are not permitted. Leg wraps are allowed in timed events and also in reining, western riding, and equitation over fences.

English tack that is appropriate for equitation includes regulation snaffles, kimberwicks, pelhams, and full bridles.

Example of a full bridle:



Example of a snaffle:



Example of a Pelham:



Example of a kimberwick:



Standing and running martingales and leg boots can be used in the over fences class, but are not permissible in any flat class. Any English saddle may be used in the English performance classes.

This is a general list of legal and illegal equipment for competition. If you have any question as to whether your tack is legal for showing contact your local 4-H specialist prior to your first show. Good luck to everyone this show season.

If your not sure about something ask!

Clinic Highlights

- ◆ Using correct aids to get the desired response from your horse
- ◆ Use of body language and how it affects the horse
- ◆ Correct body position, use of hands, and feet
- ◆ Pattern precision
- ◆ Proper equipment
- ◆ Balance and control

WEDNESDAY JUNE 27TH 2007- BEGINNER

THURSDAY JUNE 28TH 2007- ADVANCED

**EACH SESSION WILL RUN 1:00-5 :00 P.M
SESSIONS ARE LIMITED TO 15 PARTICIPANTS
PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
BY JUNE 22 CONTACT INFORMATION BELOW
COST: \$ 30.00**

NDSU Horsemanship Clinics

- ◆ Participants must provide their own horse
- ◆ Negative Coggins is required at check-in
- ◆ **Check-in will begin 30 minutes prior to the start time**
- ◆ Horses should be saddled and ready to go at 1:00 p.m.

For more information or to register contact:

Tara Swanson

178 Hultz Hall

Fargo, ND 58105

Phone: 701-231-8865

E-mail: tara.swanson@ndsu.edu

Located at the NDSU Equine Center (Horse Park)

3 miles west of I-29 on 19th Ave. N
Fargo, ND 58102





NDSU Equine Studies

For more information or to register contact:

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Fargo, ND 58105

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NDSU



We're on the Web

www.ag.ndsu.edu/ars/equine_studies/resources/headtossers.htm

Quiz– Test Your Horse Knowledge

1. T/F When putting on a western saddle you should tighten the rear cinch first?
2. T/F The cue for lope or canter is squeezing with the foot on the inside of the circle?
3. T/F Heels should be down and feet parallel to the horse when riding?
4. T/F When tying your horse up the lead rope should be attached to the bridle?
5. T/F You should water your horse right after you have worked them hard?



Mark your Calendars

Calendar of Events

May

- **26th**– FM Posse Show, Red River Fairgrounds, Contact: info@fmmountedposse.com
- **30th**– Pre-registration due for Cass Co. 4-H Show, Red River Fairgrounds, contact: Maxine Nordick @ 701-241-5700
- **31st-June 3rd**– QH Show, Red Horse Ranch, Fergus Falls, MN, contact Jean Fredrich @ 701-725-4420
- **9th-10th**– QH All Novice Show, Red River Fairgrounds, contact Jean Fredrich @ 701-725-4420
- **16th-17th**– FM Posse Show, Red River Fairgrounds, contact info@fmmountedposse.com
- **20th**– Cass Co. 4-H Show, Red River Fairgrounds, contact Maxine Nordick @ 701-241-5700
- **27th-28th**– NDSU Horsemanship Clinic, NDSU Equine Center, contact Tara Swanson @ tara.swanson@ndsu.edu

June

- **3rd**– Pinto Show, Jamestown, ND, contact Teresa Visser @ Teresa.Visser@sendit.nodak.edu

July

- **7th**– Pinto Show, Fargo, ND, contact Teresa Visser @

August

- **18th**– FM Posse Show, Red River Fairgrounds, Contact: info@fmmountedposse.com

Teresa.Visser@sendit.nodak.edu

- **19th-21st**– Minot State Fair QH, contact Jean Fredrich @ 701-725-4420
- **23rd-25th**– State Fair 4-H Show,
- **29th**– FM Posse Show, Red River Fairgrounds, Contact: info@fmmountedposse.com

Answers to Quiz:

1. False– If the horse spooks the saddle may slide underneath the horse and cause more problems
2. False- You should use the outside foot, closest to the rail to cue for the inside lead
3. True- This will give you the most balanced ride
4. False- If the horse pulls back the bridle could cause problems to the mouth or it may break
5. False- Giving a hot horse a lot of cold water could lead to colic, cool the horse down and then offer small amounts of water