

Changes to the State 4-H Horse Show for 2016

1. **Create age groups for exhibitors for all classes, EXCEPT Halter, Futurity, Drill/Precision Divisions, and Ranch Sorting.**

Age groups would include: Juniors/Intermediates (3rd – 8th grade)
Seniors (9th – 12th grade)

Justification: Even though competing against more experienced riders is a valuable learning opportunity, age groups might reduce the “intimidation factor” for younger exhibitors competing against older, more mature and skilled exhibitors. This might attract more interest from the younger exhibitors to compete at the show and create an opportunity for them to gain confidence as they mature and develop more skills.

Note: High-Point saddles will only be awarded to Senior Division winners. Junior Division High-Point winners will be recognized with a smaller award. Class Champions and Reserve Champions in both age groups will receive buckles, while 3rd – 10th individuals will receive placing ribbons.

Note: In Ranch Sorting, both exhibitors of winning teams will be given points toward their respective overall high-point awards in the Stock Horse Division. This will allow for teams composed of Jr./Jr., Jr./Sr., or Sr./Sr. exhibitors.

2. **Replace Team Penning with Ranch Sorting in the Stock Horse Division.**

Justification: Team Penning entries continue to decline, and numerous requests to have Ranch Sorting have been made. Popularity of Ranch Sorting continues to rise, and adding it could increase exhibition involvement. Considering the show schedule and cattle use and numbers, it would seem appropriate to remove Team Penning and replace it in the schedule with Ranch Sorting. Since this is an Open Division class, it will be held at the 2016 State 4-H Horse Show but will be held at the **option** of the District 4-H Horse Show Management.

Rules/Requirements for the class: AQHA rules for Ranch Sorting would be adopted. Two member teams sort 10 head of cattle in order from one pen to the next. “Sorter” and gate person can switch positions. There will be a 60 second time limit. Fastest times on the most number of cattle sorted will be the winner. There will be a 1st go and finals.

Note: In Ranch Sorting, both exhibitors of winning teams will be given points toward their respective overall high-point awards in the Stock Horse Division. This will allow for teams composed of Jr./Jr., Jr./Sr., or Sr./Sr. exhibitors.

3. **Add Stock Horse Showmanship to the Stock Horse Division.**

Justification: The State 4-H Horse Show is meant to be an educational event, in addition to a competition. Showing in the Stock Horse Division does not negate the fact that exhibitors should possess and develop correct horsemanship and showmanship skills. Showmanship includes knowledge of how to fit, groom, and show a horse to its full potential, whether that be for competition or for sale; therefore, adding this class would provide an opportunity for Stock

Horse exhibitors to practice and develop their showmanship skills. Since this is an Open Division class, it will be held at the 2016 State 4-H Horse Show but will be held at the **option** of the District 4-H Horse Show Management.

Rules/Requirements for the class: Dress code for this class will be the same as Stock Horse Horsemanship. Emphasis will be on ability to fit and present a well-trained, well-groomed horse to be evaluated through a series of maneuvers.

Horses to be shown in plain, clean and functional, western tack and conservative western attire. Rider attire will be restricted to dark-colored jeans (such as blue, black, dark brown, dark gray) and a light colored (white or buff), button-down (or snapped), undecorated, long-sleeved collared shirt, cowboy boots and a cowboy hat. No chaps, or chinks of any kind will be allowed in this class. A conservative scarf around the neck is allowed but should not detract from the overall conservative appearance of the exhibitor. Tack should be traditional and conservative in appearance and should not display extraordinary silver or other decorations other than normal buckles and connectors. Judge may fault exhibitors who are in violation of the intent of this rule. This dress code is simply to limit the influence of fashion or fads for this class so that the emphasis will remain on the showmanship ability of the exhibitor. No banded or braided manes, or hoof black will be allowed.