

CEA Horse Newsletter

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2015 State 4-H Horse Show

ABILENE -- The 53rd annual Texas State 4-H Horse Show will be held July 18-25, 2015 at the Taylor County Expo Center in Abilene, Texas.

Any revisions of the rules and regulations related to the show will be available in early spring and can be viewed by going to <http://horse.tamu.edu> and clicking on State 4-H Horse Show.

As a reminder, horse validation is required for District and State horse shows. It will be available on 4-H Connect March 1 - May 1. May 1 is the absolute deadline.

The State 4-H Horse Show is on Facebook and all participants, supporters and friends are encouraged to like the page. Find it under "Texas State 4-H Horse Show" and keep up-to-date with all things in the Texas 4-H horse program.



Buckle sponsorships needed

Winning a buckle at the Texas State 4-H Show can be a source of pride and joy for many youth. Last year's buckle winner Sidney Dunkel said, "It was a huge accomplishment to win a buckle at State because I had worked so hard to reach that goal. It was also a great encouragement to continue to work hard next year, place higher and win another State buckle."

Buckle sponsorships are needed for 2015. If you are interested in helping provide such an award, please see the sponsorship form at the end of this newsletter. Simply fill out the form and mail it and \$200 to the Texas 4-H Foundation. Other monetary sponsorships are greatly appreciated as well to help purchase awards such as the Champion Horseman's saddles, which cost around \$1,000. Your support is greatly appreciated!



Ashton Dunkel, Sidney's sister, and Boots be Tuff also won a buckle at the 2014 State 4-H Horse Show.

District 4-H Horse Show Dates

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| District 1 – June 19 | District 8 – June 15-16 |
| District 2 – June 16 | District 9 – June 15-17 |
| District 3 – June 17-19 | District 10 – June 16-17 |
| District 4 – June 15-17 | District 11 – June 19-20 |
| District 5 – June 15-17 | District 12 – June 19 |
| District 6 – June 22-23 | |
| District 7 – June 16 | |

Youth Horse Workshops & Camps

Mark your calendar...

■ Equine Ambassador Program

The Texas 4-H Equine Ambassador Program provides a unique opportunity for advanced 4-Hers to develop their leadership skills to become future leaders in their county 4-H horse program and in the horse industry. Opportunities for growth and development through demonstrations, hands-on learning, leadership training, and fun activities are all part of this rewarding experience.

Through the creation of the Equine Ambassador Program a new generation of knowledgeable, educated and well-spoken youth will emerge in Texas to teach other youth and adults the skills of being good stewards, producers and exhibitors of horses. These young people help form a new generation of equine industry professionals.

The program is tentatively scheduled for June 28 - July 2, 2015, and the location is to be determined. Recommendations from county agents will be a part of the application process and will be received online this year.

More information will be available soon and can be found at <http://texasyouthlivestock.com/equine-ambassadors/>. Please contact Jessica Cowan at Jessica.Cowan@ag.tamu.edu with additional questions.

■ Horse Judging Camps

Plan to attend the Texas A&M University Horse Judging Camps to be held in College Station on the campus of Texas A&M. NOTE DATE CHANGE to June 3-5 and June 24-26. Youth stay in dorms over a period of three days and are provided with instruction on judging and giving reasons while having the opportunity to practice the skills they have learned in a mock contest at the end. More information is to come and can be found at <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/horsejudgingcamp/>.

There are many horse judging contests throughout the year for youth to attend:

- Johnson County Contest - Cleburne, Texas - January
- Matagorda County Contest - Bay City, Texas - January
- Ft. Worth Contest - Ft. Worth, Texas - Will Rogers Coliseum - February
- San Antonio Stock Show Contest - San Antonio, Texas - February
- Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Contest - Katy, Texas - Great Southwest Equestrian Center - March
- Multi-District Contest - College Station, Texas - Freeman Arena - April
- State Contest (Round-up) - College Station, Texas - Freeman Arena - June
- Montgomery County Contest - Conroe, Texas - Lone Star Expo - October
- Fort Bend County Contest - Rosenberg, Texas - Fort Bend County Fairgrounds - December

■ Summer Horsemanship School Program

Planning for the
**2015 Summer
Horsemanship School
Program** is underway!

See all the details in
the attached flyer.



Show Horse Preparations Start Now

by Chelsie Huseman

Horse Extension Graduate Assistant

Department of Animal Science, Texas A&M University

Even though the cold winter still lingers outside, you may be breaking ice, blanketing your horses and coming in from the dark around 5:30 p.m., now is the time to begin preparing your horse's condition for the show season.

Many horses experience some weight loss over the winter due to increased energy expenditure to stay warm and no increase in feed to meet those additional needs. The ideal Body Condition Score (BCS) for a working/maintenance stock horse is 5. Some individuals may progressively drop to 4 or worse over the winter months. Now is the time to assess your horse's BCS and begin feeding changes to ensure you have a healthy, vibrant horse come show season. Weight gain and improving fat cover on your horse takes time and cannot be achieved overnight. If you find your horse to be a little underweight, begin changes now by increasing its energy intake either through increasing its roughage (hay being the main roughage this time of year) or concentrate (grain). Your local County Extension Agent can help you modify your feeding program to put condition and weight back on your horse. As always, make sure all health concerns like teeth, internal parasites (worms), and disease have been ruled out to ensure the weight loss is from what we are addressing here.

Now is also the time to begin preparing your horse's haircoat, mane and tail. Grooming regularly along with an adequate diet increases the shine of the haircoat. Sebum is an oily substance that is stimulated by brushing and works to protect the hair follicle and repel water, but also provides the shiny coat we desire in our horse. This too does not happen overnight, but takes consistent, regular grooming. Brushing also helps to lift dirt, debris and loose hair when shedding. Often times, winter is the culprit of a rubbed out mane. Perhaps your horse attempted to eat grass on the other side of the fence and rubbed out a portion of its mane or a certain hay bale ring was used that left bare spots in what was once a long, healthy mane. Regrowth of the mane and tail takes time and should be addressed now if you desire that "show ready" look again. Keeping the mane and tail combed out and applying a conditioning agent can help in the regrowth. Additionally remove the horse from the environments that caused the problem in the first place.

If you take the time now to assess your horse's condition and begin to make changes, you will see a dramatic improvement come show time. Good Luck!

More information can be found at <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/livestock-species/equine/publications/> and select "Feeding the Arena Performance Horse."

Chelsie Huseman is an Extension Graduate Assistant and is pursuing a doctorate in animal science. She received a master's degree in animal science from West Texas A&M University.



Vaccinations are Vital

Dennis Sigler, Ph.D.
Extension Horse Specialist

Department of Animal Science, Texas A&M University

Vaccinations are a vital part of health maintenance for your horse. They provide an active immunity to protect the horse against diseases they are intended for. Giving vaccinations does not keep your horse from getting a disease, but it gives your horse's immune system a head start in fighting off the disease which usually results in less symptoms, if any at all.

The American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) recommends that all horses be vaccinated for a core set of vaccines. They include Eastern and Western Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE and WEE respectively), Rabies, Tetanus, and West Nile Virus. Other vaccines are available and considered to be risked-based depending on the activities of the horse and/or location. For example, horses that are frequently exposed to other horses and/or travel should be vaccinated for Influenza (Flu) and Equine herpesvirus (Rhinopneumonitis), type 1 (EHV-1) and type 4 (EHV-4). Your local veterinarian should be consulted for type and frequency of vaccinations needed for your area and situation.

Each vaccination has specific guidelines although most require an annual booster. Typically those booster vaccinations are administered in the spring before the onset of vector season. Certain horse diseases are spread by vectors such as mosquitos and flies. Vaccinations for diseases that are spread from horse to horse should be timed according to highest exposure or travel

and might require more frequent boosting than annually. Specific AAEP guidelines for each vaccination are available at <http://www.aaep.org/custdocs/AdultVaccinationChart.pdf>.

Most horse owners opt to get their vaccinations from their veterinarian, although some of the core vaccines are also available at feed stores/animal supply stores. In general, you want to purchase vaccinations from a reputable source. Poor handling can lead to ineffective vaccines. Correct administration of vaccines is also paramount and should only be performed by an experienced individual like your veterinarian. Vaccines have become very convenient and are often offered in single doses that include multiple vaccines. A 5-way typically contains EEE, WEE, Tetanus, Flu, and Rhino. A 6-way has the 5-way plus West Nile Virus. Always check the label or ask questions to ensure you are vaccinating for what is recommended. Rabies is not available over the counter and must be administered by a veterinarian in a solitary dose.

Start planning your horse's vaccinations now. Some veterinary practices offer low-cost vaccine clinics in the spring to provide convenience and savings for the horse owner. You'll want to vaccinate at least four weeks in advance of vector season to give your horse optimal protection. For parts of Texas, that could be as early as the beginning of March.

More information about health management, disease control and vaccinations is available at <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/livestock-species/equine/publications/> under "Best Management Practices for Equine Disease Prevention."



Chelsie Huseman Joins Team as New Extension Graduate Assistant

Chelsie Huseman joined Texas A&M University last fall to begin her doctorate in animal science under the direction of Dr. Dennis Sigler. She taught courses during the fall semester and has now joined the equine Extension team as an Extension Graduate Assistant while continuing to pursue her doctorate.

In this position, Huseman works on numerous projects including newsletters, contests and educational seminars.

Huseman is from Miami, Okla., where she taught at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College for four years. While there, she taught a variety of equine courses including reproduction, training management, horsemanship, and health and disease. She also started and coached an IHSA Equestrian Team at NEO.

She received her bachelor's degree in equine business and industry and a master's degree in animal science from West Texas A&M University in Canyon. Huseman currently resides in College Station with her husband Jason.

4-H Horse Publications Available online at AgriLife Bookstore

Many of 4-H horse publications are available for purchase online at the Texas A&M AgriLife Bookstore. Find the bookstore at <http://www.agrilifebookstore.org/Default.asp>. Click on Search and type Horse as the keyword to generate a list of the publications available.

Horse Quiz Bowl - The Texas 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl Supplement (4-H 3-2.031) can be downloaded for free from the bookstore, by clicking on View PDF. For information on resources for the Horse Quiz Bowl, contact Kevin Chilek at KChilek@ag.tamu.edu

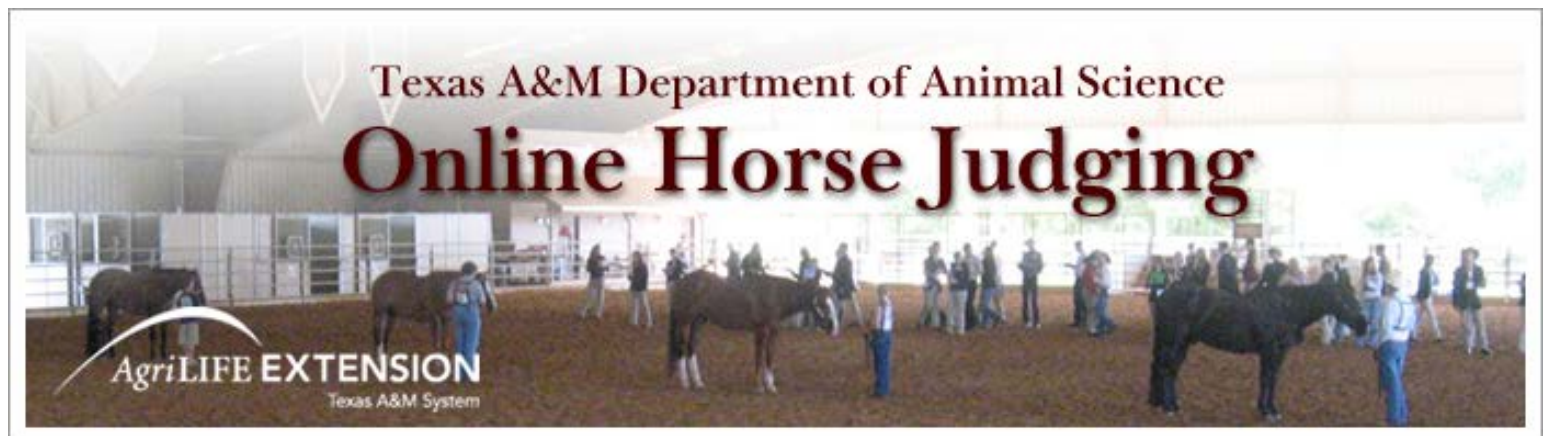
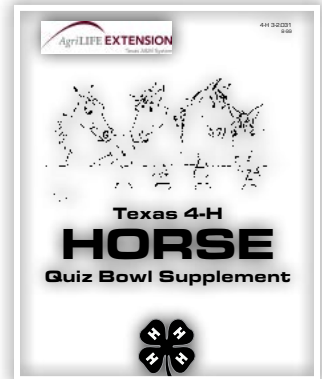
Horse Judging - A leader guide called Youth and Collegiate Horse Judging Leader Guide (AS 1-2.120) is available for \$25 and contains instructional material for teaching youth how to judge halter and performance classes, as well as how to organize and prepare reasons. This leader guide is in a lesson-plan format and has worksheets for the youth to fill out. Also available is a manual called Youth and Collegiate Horse Judging Manual (AS 3-2.051) for \$15 that serves as a smaller supplement and contains helpful information about judging and provides youth with terminology for reasons. The manual is designed for youth to use as an aid. Both of these publications are available in print or on a CD.

In addition to these two publications, a series of online horse judging video presentations is available. Since October 2006, more than 100 video presentations have been created. There are two options to purchase: a yearly subscription for \$200 or a monthly subscription for \$20. Both options include access to all videos. Details and instructions are found online at <http://horse.tamu.edu>. Click on Online Horse Judging.

Horse judging workshops and camps are also offered by Texas A&M. The Aggiefest Horse Judging Workshop is typically held in the fall of each year at Freeman Arena in College Station, and it is conducted in a group setting. Classes typically seen at judging contests are explained and described and then youth are given the opportunity to judge classes for practice. An official placing is given for each practice class as well as further explanation on what happened in the class to lead to the official placing. Instruction on how to give reasons is also given. Information on upcoming events and pricing is available online at <http://horse.tamu.edu>. Click on Workshops.

Horsemanship - The Texas 4-H Horsemanship Leader Guide (AS 3-2.032) is available to help improve the riding skills and abilities of the youth. This guide is well worth the expense. It provides adult leaders with information about basic, intermediate and advanced skills in riding in a lesson-plan format. It also provides graduated levels of each skill, helping to advance the horse and rider to additional degrees of difficulty. Numerous pictures, drills and activities are provided to help enhance the practice sessions. A list of topics is provided at <http://www.agrilifebookstore.org/Default.asp>.

In addition to the publication, counties may chose to host a Summer Horsemanship School Program. In this program, counties can request a 2-day or 3-day school and college-aged student instructors are specifically trained to instruct the youth. The skills participants learn are many of those listed in The Texas 4-H Horsemanship Leader Guide (AS 3-2.032). More information is available in this newsletter.



Calendar of Events

2015		
Jan. 31	Deadline to register for hosting a Summer Horsemanship School (Requests accepted after deadline by approval.)	Teri Antilley <tjantilley@ag.tamu.edu> 979-845-5264
Feb. 7	Fort Worth Youth Horse Judging Contest - Will Rogers Coliseum, Fort Worth	
Feb. 19	San Antonio Stock Show Youth Horse Judging Contest - San Antonio	Stock Show Office 210-225-0575
Feb. 20	San Antonio Stock Show Youth Horse Bowl Contest - San Antonio	Stock Show Office 210-225-0575
Feb. 21	San Antonio Stock Show Youth Horse Skillathon - San Antonio	Stock Show Office 210-225-0575
Mar. 1	First day for Horse Validation on 4-H Contest (\$10 per horse through April 15)	
Mar. 9	Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Youth Horse Judging Contest - Great Southwest Equestrian Center, Katy	
TBD	Last day to apply for Texas 4-H Equine Ambassador Program	
April 11	Multi-District 4-H and Area 3, 7, 10 FFA Horse Judging Contest - Freeman Arena, College Station	
May 1	Last day for Horse Validation (\$20 per horse April 16 - May 1)	
June	Summer Horsemanship Schools - various counties	Teri Antilley <tjantilley@ag.tamu.edu> 979-845-5264
June 10	State 4-H Roundup - Horse Judging Contest - Freeman Arena, College Station	
June 11	State 4-H Roundup - Horse Educational Presentations - Texas A&M Campus, College Station	
June 21-25	Roping School - Stephenville	
June 28-July 2 <i>tentative</i>	Texas 4-H Equine Ambassador Program - location TBD	
July 18-25	Texas State 4-H Horse Show - Taylor County Expo Center, Abilene	Teri Antilley <tjantilley@ag.tamu.edu> Dennis Sigler <dsigler@tamu.edu>



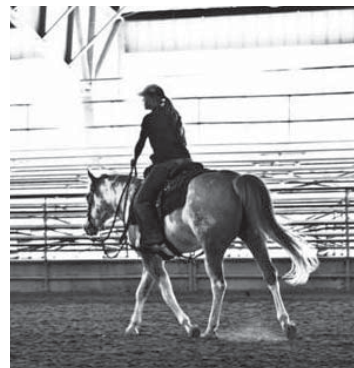
Department of Animal Science Equine Science Extension

Teri Antilley, Horse Program Specialist, tjantilley@ag.tamu.edu, and Dr. Dennis Sigler, Extension Horse Specialist, dsigler@tamu.edu
2471 TAMU - College Station, TX 77843-2471 - <http://animalscience.tamu.edu>

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University Systems, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Summer Horsemanship School Program

A great, affordable, hands-on opportunity for building a strong foundation and advancing your horsemanship skills



The 2015 dates have been determined, and registration is now open for next summer! Register today to host a horsemanship school in your county! Youth, parents, and volunteer leaders are all welcome to join in the fun of riding your own horse, enjoying good fellowship with like-minded people, and learning from the Aggie instructors.

experience

Participants receive instruction on basic, intermediate, and advanced horsemanship skills and maneuvers and have the opportunity to practice them with guided instruction. Topics include the following maneuvers: rein aids, lateral movement (hip-in, side-pass, and two-track), collection, stopping, backing, rollbacks, turn-arounds (spins), speed control, simple lead changes, and flying lead changes, along with other specialized events, short, interactive lectures, and games.

tradition

Over the past 42 years, the program has reached 48,009 youth, parents, and volunteer leaders. A total of 1,383 schools have been conducted, and there have been 244 different college students who have served as instructors in the program.

testimonials

Overall, counties have been very pleased with the schools. Comments made about the schools include the following:

- “I learned so much about solving unexpected problems!”
- “The information was very well presented.”
- “The program is excellent for beginner to advanced riders.”
- “The trainers were very knowledgeable and courteous. I learned much.”

For the amount of instruction given, the horsemanship schools are quite a bargain. More participants translate into a lower cost per rider. Below is a breakdown of the cost:

Two-day school – 16 hours of instruction
30 riders - \$43.33 per rider
20 riders - \$65.00 per rider
10 riders - \$130.00 per rider

Three-day school – 24 hours of instruction
30 riders - \$51.66 per rider
20 riders - \$77.50 per rider
10 riders - \$155.00 per rider

It is highly suggested that counties recover the expense by dividing the fee among participants. Two-day schools are \$1300, and three-day schools are \$1550. A deposit of \$300 will be requested upon registration, and the remaining balance will be due May 15th.

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

To register for hosting a school, please go to the following:

<https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/Horse>

Register by phone: 979-845-2604

Contact: Teri Antilley, Extension Horse Program Specialist, 979-845-5264, tjantilley@ag.tamu.edu

Friends,

This summer will be the 53rd edition of the Texas State 4-H Horse Show. The sheer number of youth and families impacted by this program over the years is phenomenal. Our families look back fondly upon the years our children were competing. To say the show had a significant impact upon our families does not scratch the surface.

Joe Pluhar was a first year 4-H member in 1996, wanting to qualify for "State" more than anything in the world. He was crushed to miss qualifying by just one placing. After much work, he qualified the next year, but did not advance out of the prelims. When we arrived home, Joe would not unload his horse. Instead he wanted to go to the arena and start practicing for next year. Joe went on to win numerous state championships. More importantly, he learned to persevere through disappointment, set goals and find the commitment to see those goals to fruition. In 2013, Joe was at the Texas State 4-H Horse Show once again, as a member of the TAMU Veterinary Equine Field Services crew. He is a 4th year veterinary student, earning his DVM in May. It all began at the Texas State 4-H Horse Show.

Jill Jennings Dunkel grew up successfully showing at the State 4-H Horse Show. Her last year competing there, she met her future husband, Doug. They are now raising their three children through the 4-H program, and the State 4-H Horse Show is a highlight of their summer. Jill and Doug were honored last year with the 4-H Salute to Excellence leadership award. Skills they learned through the 4-H program have contributed to their abilities as leaders and as parents. It all began at the State 4-H Horse Show.

If our two families are any indication, we believe that the Texas State 4-H Horse Show has been an important part of the development of thousands of youth and families throughout Texas. Our families want to give back, to enhance the event that meant so much to us for so many years. To do that, we are leading an effort to get sponsors for the show.

Our summers were structured around the Texas State 4-H Horse Show. It is inspirational to see so many more families growing up with that wonderful experience. We want to make sure the show is financially sound for many years to come. Please consider giving, sponsoring a buckle or a saddle. Remember or honor a special 4-H leader, parent, even a special horse with a donation.

Be a part of the Texas State 4-H Horse Show again!

Jenny Pluhar
806-679-8729
jenny.pluhar@gmail.com

Mavis Jennings
806-679-2646
jmjennings2@suddenlink.net

YES! I want to support the Texas State 4-H Horse Show!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Please specify the amount you would like to donate. Donations can be made in any amount and at a variety of levels.

\$ _____ Diamond Sponsor: \$5,000 and up

\$ _____ Platinum Sponsor: \$1,000 to \$4,999

\$ _____ Gold Sponsor: \$500 to \$999

\$ _____ Silver Sponsor: \$200 to \$499

\$ _____ Bronze Sponsor: \$1 to \$199

Or you may wish to be a saddle or buckle sponsor at the levels below:

Saddle Sponsor @ \$1000 (check below if you wish to sponsor a specific saddle)

_____ Champion Judged Horseman

_____ Champion Timed Horseman

_____ Champion Stock Horseman

_____ Champion Roper

_____ Champion Hunter Flat Horseman

_____ Champion Hunter Fences Horseman

Buckle Sponsor @ \$200

Please indicate class sponsorship desired: _____

(Up to 10 buckles are awarded in each event, depending on the number of entries.)

In honor or memory of (Name): _____

Please make checks payable to:

Texas 4-H Foundation—State 4-H Horse Show and indicate Sponsor in the memo

Please return this form and check to:

Texas 4-H Foundation – P.O. Box 11020, College Station, TX 77842