

# Penn State **Extension**

## ***Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program Junior Horse Project and Junior Horse Championship Horse Show***

***Updated January 9, 2014***

***Beginning in 2014, the previous structure of the 4-H Horse Production Program, which utilized regional production shows and participation at the State 4-H Horse Show in Harrisburg will be replaced by the Junior Horse Project and the Junior Horse Championship Show. Qualifying regional production shows and production classes at the State Show in Harrisburg have been eliminated. The new Junior Horse Championship Show will include preliminary and championship classes and additional opportunities for youth with young horses.***

The Junior Horse Project will offer expanded classes and activities including In Hand and Futurity classes, along with new classes that will demonstrate the 4-H members' ability to train, handle and exhibit their project animals. ***The Junior Horse Championship Show will be held on July 26-27, 2014 at the Centre County Grange Fairgrounds in Centre Hall.*** Indoor and outdoor arenas, overnight stabling, and camping facilities will be available to show participants. More show information will be provided prior to the show.

A 4-H member may *enroll* any project animal through 5 years of age in the Junior Horse Project; however, *only* horses that are yearlings through 5 years of age are eligible to be *shown*. The previous requirement that horses be enrolled by their 3 year old year has been eliminated. There is no limit to the number of horses a 4-H member may *enroll* as a project; however, a 4-H member is limited to *showing* three project animals at the Junior Horse Championship Show with only one entry per class.

All youth enrolled in a Junior Horse Project are eligible to participate at the Junior Horse Championship Show. During the Championship Show, exhibitors will have the opportunity to progress through preliminary classes to championship classes with the awarding of State Champions.

Additional skills related classes will also be offered. Preliminary classes will be judged by the merit system, and all blue merit winners will then progress to the Championship classes. This show will also continue the tradition of the Master Showman awards, with all Master Showmen award winners advancing to compete for the Champion Showman award.

Halter, or "in hand" classes will be offered for horses yearling through 5 years of age. ***There will no longer be classes offered for weanlings at the Junior Horse Championship Show.*** As with the previous Production Show structure, classes will be divided by breed, age, and sex.

In addition to halter, or "in hand" classes, the following *new* classes will be offered:

- Walk/Trot Western and English Futurity classes for 2 & 3 year olds
- Walk/Trot/Canter Western and English Futurity classes for 3, 4, & 5 year olds
- Barrel Race Futurities for 4 & 5 year olds
- Miniature Horse Driving Futurity classes for 3, 4, and 5 year olds
- Draft Horse Driving Futurity classes for 3, 4, and 5 year olds
- Walk/Trot Performance Skills classes for 2 & 3 year olds
- Walk/Trot/Canter Performance Skills classes for 3, 4, & 5 year olds
- In-Hand Trail classes for yearlings & 2 year old horses and ponies
- In-Hand Trail classes for yearling through 5 year old miniature horses

The Performance Skills classes will be designed to showcase the horse and rider's mastery of basic horsemanship skills. The Walk/Trot Performance Skills classes will feature a pattern with skills found in the Level 1 Horsemanship Skills test. The Walk/Trot/Canter Performance Skills classes will utilize skills from both Level 1 and Level 2 of the Horsemanship skills test.

All 4-H members should be able to safely and confidently control and handle their junior horse project animal(s) prior to the Junior Horse Championship Show. Judges may excuse any exhibitor due to concerns for the safety or welfare of any participant or horse. **It is highly recommended that all youth are proficient in all Level I 4-H Horsemanship Skills (handling and/or riding/driving skills as appropriate) with their project animal prior to showing. All driving exhibitors will have a mandatory safety and equipment check at the Junior Horse Championship Show.**

Protective headgear is required for *all* Junior Horse Championship Show classes, *including* in-hand classes. Additional safety equipment may be used without judging discrimination as noted in current rules. *See current 4-H Horse Show Rule Book for details regarding protective headgear requirements and use of safety equipment.*

We hope you share our excitement about this "new and improved" Junior Horse Project! Watch for more information to come soon. More information will be distributed as it becomes available to county offices of Penn State Extension and posted on the 4-H Horse Program website.

Complete rules, details and descriptions will be included in the 2014 Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Show Rulebook. The new rulebook will be available in early 2014.

Please check the 4-H Horse Program website periodically for updates and additional information as it becomes available.

[animalscience.psu.edu](http://animalscience.psu.edu) – Youth 4-H programs, horses

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