

## HORSE CLASS TERMINOLOGY

**Halter:** The equine is judged by its conformation based on the breed standard. Class usually involves walking and trotting your animal to view tracking (the way it moves) and squaring up for the judge to evaluate the horses conformation overall.

**Best-Fit:** Judged on how well the equine has been cleaned up for show. Horses that would place higher would have these qualities, but are not limited to:

- Clipped and trimmed
- Groomed
- No dirt or pee spots
- Bloom of the coat (shiny)
- Braided or banded nicely



**Showmanship:** This class is judged on the handlers ability to show the equine in hand. A pattern is usually involved, and the scoring is mainly done on how well the handler and horse complete the pattern as well as the condition of the horse. Parts of the pattern that are usually done in this class are:

- Squaring up for the judge and completing inspection (squares)
- Trotting and walking
- Pivoting (can vary from 45 degree pivot [quarter turn] on up)
- Backing

**Costume:** Dress up your equine and have fun with this class! Depending on the judge, this class can be placed by creativity, humor, construction, and more.

**Driving Pleasure:** Based on how well the horse drives. They must have a nice gait, with the ideals of the breed in mind, to do well. A lame or naughty horse or pony will not do well in this class because it is not a "pleasure" for the person driving. Not judged on the handlers ability.

**Driving Reinsmanship:** Judged on how well the handler is at driving their horse. A pattern is usually involved as well as working on the rail.

**Walk/Trot:** Similar to other riding classes, except only the walk and trot are done. For our county fair, this class is judged on the ability of the rider and the quality of the horse instead of a separate pleasure and equitation/horsemanship class; also, both English and western riders may compete together (due to class size).

**English Pleasure:** Horse/pony must cover greater ground than a western pleasure horse (not faster, just bigger length of stride), but with poise. Completes three gaits around the ring: walk, trot, canter. Judged on ease of going around, temperament, and quality of gaits.

**English Equitation:** Judged on how well the rider can handle the horse and their balance. A pattern is usually involved.

**Western Pleasure:** Similar to the other pleasure classes as it is judged on the horse, but the horse must move like a western horse (i.e. at a slower rate than in English). The rider must ride with one hand and horse must have a curb bit (unless the horse is under 5; then the horse can be in a snaffle, and the rider may use two hands). Will travel in the ring at both directions and complete the walk, jog, and lope.

**Western Horsemanship:** Judged on how well the rider rides their western horse. The rider must ride with one hand and horse must have a curb bit (unless the horse is under 5; then the horse can be in a snaffle, and the rider may use two hands). Completing a pattern is usually involved to view the effectiveness of a rider handling their horse.

**Trail Undersaddle and In-Hand:** A pattern, complete with obstacles such as a bridge, gate, poles, "L," mailbox, and more, will be completed either under saddle or in hand. Riders will be required to walk, trot and canter or walk, jog, and lope depending on the riders discipline. Handlers on the ground must walk and trot.

**Hunter hack:** A type of English pleasure class where exhibitors in Hunt seat tack and attire perform on the flat at a walk, trot, canter and hand gallop, and then jump two low fences. The desired horse is to resemble a quiet, well-mannered working hunter rather than the more animated American-style show hack.

### **High Point Contest:**

Even though the horse and pony project only requires that each member participates in two clinics at a minimum, everyone is more than welcome to come to as many as they choose. To encourage more participation, the Committee has developed a high-point award system for those who have attended the most clinics. The rules are posted below....be sure to get out there and attend as many clinics as you can! Use the Horse Project Calendar to keep track of the opportunities!

### **RULES:**

There are three divisions that members can participate in, which include:

**Jr. Jr. - Grades 3-5**

**Jr. - Grades 6-8**

**Sr. - Grades 9-13**

Each division will award a Grand Champion High-Point winner based on the number of points that they accumulate during the current project season. Points can be accumulated beginning at the kick off meeting and ending on October 31<sup>st</sup> of each 4-H year.

It is required that members sign the attendance sheet of the clinic that they attended in order for them to receive credit for the point.

One point is rewarded for each event held (i.e. if a single clinic qualifies for a pleasure clinic and horse judging clinic, you can only receive one point that day regardless of which you do).

In the event of a tie, the winner will be randomly drawn.

Winners will be announced and awarded at the Horse & Pony Project Kick-Off meeting of the following year.

Eligible opportunities are found on the Green county 4-H Horse Project calendar. New events that are not posted, but still count for High-Point, will be updated when they are known. Members will be informed at least a month in advance via the Green County Horse Project link on the Extension Office website or in the Alphorn.

