

GROOM & CLEAN RULES FOR CONTEST

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- The order of events will be run at the discretion of the state or county sponsoring the contest.
- At least two hours before the scheduled start, the "Dirt Demons" will uniformly dirty the horses/ponies.
- The teams are to place their grooming equipment at least 10' behind the horse/pony they are to groom and then stand behind the tools.
- Judges will inspect the horses/ponies and equipment.
- THE TIMED PORTION OF GROOMING BEGINS

GENERAL RULES

- Horses must be at least 13.2 hands or taller.
- Horses must meet a minimum Body Condition Score (BCS) of 4 in order to participate in the Groom and Clean contest.
- Show sheen or products that make it easier for dirt to be removed from the haircoat are strictly prohibited prior to being muddied.
- Grooming of any horse participating in the contest after muddying and prior to the grooming portion of the contest by any person will result in the disqualification of the team associated with that horse.
- Judges have the right to substitute any horse prior to the beginning of the contest.

WRITTEN TEST

- The written test may be given while the judges are doing the evaluation of the groomed horses/ponies or whenever determined to be convenient.
- All three members of each junior and senior team will take a written test covering information from the appropriate 4-H books.
- **Junior Resources:** Basic Horse Management (174) and Horse Safety (191R)
- **Senior Resources:** Basic Horse Management (174), Light Horse Selection (175), Uniform Rules for 4H Horse Shows (179) and Horse Safety (191R) .
- Total time for the test is 15 minutes. Teams are told when 10, 5, and 2 minutes remain. Then STOP.
- SCORING = 30 points (10 points per team member)

CONTEST SCORING:

EQUIPMENT:

1. Placed well behind horses/ponies on ground cloth.
2. Three complete sets are desirable, only one bottle of water, fly spray and chain lead.
3. Tools need not be new, but should not be ratty, dirty, or wet.
4. Tools should be placed on ground cloth with bristles facing up. If hats are worn, they should be removed before grooming and placed with tools.

TEAMWORK:

1. Teams should work smoothly together.
2. Members should look like they know what they are doing.
3. Members should not stop grooming until time is called - unless there is a question of safety.

SAFETY:

1. 4-H rules of safety handling should be observed.
2. Do not kneel or squat.
3. Do not crawl under horse/pony.
4. Do not reach across to other side
5. Do not go under neck.
6. Do not put head or face where it can be kicked.
7. Do not put tools on ground, under or on horse/pony. If tool can't fit in pocket, it should be returned to ground cloth.
8. If tool is dropped, use foot to move it to a safe distance from the horse/pony before picking it up.
9. Someone should stay near the head.
10. If horse/pony is upset, calm it before continuing.
11. If it becomes obvious that a certain procedure cannot be safely completed, such as handling rear legs, notify the judges.
12. Never get into a position that you can't get out of immediately.
13. Don't all bunch up at one end or one side of the horse/pony.
14. When feet are being cleaned, all should be aware. Unless there is a problem, it is not necessary to stop grooming.

METHOD:

1. Do not rush at horse/pony.
2. Groom from front to back and top to bottom.
3. Use tools in proper order - curry first then body and/or bristle, then dandy brush and rag.
4. Do not tear at mane and tail.
5. Use one tool at a time - free hand can steady the horse/pony.
6. Curry - do not use on head or below knees and hocks or on tender parts or on mane and tail.
7. Body brush - Do not use on head.
8. Stiff bristle brush - do not use on head. May use on lower legs, mane and tail.
9. Dandy brush - May use on entire horse/pony except hooves.
10. Hoofpick - may use edge to scrape mud from outside of hooves. Carefully. Pick feet in order, starting with near front, then near rear, off rear, and off front.
11. Water - use on cloth. Do not spray or apply directly on the horse/pony.
12. Fly spray - use with care. If it is absolutely necessary to use while grooming, all grooming should stop. Try to wait to fly spray horse/pony until the ten minute practice time.
13. Cloth - may use on entire horse/pony. Do not shake cloth near horse/pony.
14. NO TRIMMING ALLOWED - Hair will not be clipped or cut.
15. Halter cleaning will be part of the finished animal condition score.

TIMING:

Total time for grooming is 30 minutes. Teams are told by the announcer when only 10, 5 and 2 minutes remain --- then STOP.

Equipment is replaced on the ground cloth.

Teams return to their starting position away from the horse/pony.

SCORING:

Judges then inspect the groomed horse/pony. Scoring is based on the following:

WRITTEN TEST	30 POINTS
EQUIPMENT	5 POINTS
SAFETY	40 POINTS
TEAMWORK AND METHODS	35 POINTS
FINISHED ANIMAL CONDITION	10 POINTS
SHOWMANSHIP	15 POINTS (5 per kid)
TOTAL	135 POINTS

TEAMS:

- For county contests, each 4-H, FFA, or O>H>C> organization may enter as many junior (9-13years) and senior (14-18 years) teams of three (3) members each as permitted by the county. (These ages are to comply with 4-H age rules).
- Teams may use a member from another club if needed to fill a team. A junior can be used on a senior team but you cannot use a senior on a junior team. If a junior fill sin on a senior team, the junior may return to the junior division the following year if the youth still meets the age requirements of that division.
- All team members **MUST WEAR** boots or heavy leather shoes and long pants. Long skirts for religious purposes may be permitted. Safety helmets are permitted throughout the entire competition.
- In order to compete in the State Groom & Clean contest, youth must be currently enrolled in or completed a 4-H/FFA-horse project.
- **Wining teams from county may substitute youth as needed to maintain the team for state competition.**

TEAMS

- For county contests, each 4-H, FFA, or O.H.C. Organization may enter as many junior (9-13 years) and senior (14-18 years) teams of three (3) members each as permitted by that county. (These ages are to comply with the 4-H age rules.) .

- Teams may use a member from another club if needed to fill a team. A junior can be used on a senior team but you can not use a senior on a junior team. If a junior fills in on a senior team, the junior may return to the junior division the following year if the youth still meets the age requirements for that division.
- All team members **MUST WEAR** boots or heavy leather shoes and long pants. Long skirts for religious purposes maybe permitted. Safety helmets are acceptable throughout the entire competition
- **Winning teams from county may substitute youth as needed to maintain the team for state competition.**
- Back numbers that are large enough to be seen from a distance must be worn at all times.
- Clothing cannot be worn that will identify a team or youth by county or club.
- No gloves or coveralls may be worn. Gloves or dust masks may be used while grooming if for medical reasons.
- Each team will provide its own grooming tools (see grooming kit). No electric or battery powered equipment may be used.
- Only one junior and one senior team from each county may compete in the state contest.
- Winning members and teams may return to compete in subsequent years.

SHOWMANSHIP:

- Teams are then given 10 minutes to work with their groomed horse/pony to prepare for showmanship.
- No attire change will be allowed. You must start and finish the competition in the same outfit. Hats may still be optional during showmanship; however, must not be worn during the grooming portion. 4-H rules will apply in showmanship.
- The only equipment change allowed for the showing will be a chain lead strap to replace the tie rope used while grooming. NO halter change.
- All three members will be judged on their ability to show the horse/pony. Each member will show the horse/pony as instructed by the judge. **The team members will decide which one will do each part of the pattern.**
- The showmanship pattern will be determined by the judges and posted one hour prior to the contest.
- Scoring = 15 points, 5 per team member. There is no time limit for this section of the contest.

REQUIRED GROOMING KIT (ONE OF EACH BELOW)**

Equipment does not have to be new but should be clean, dry, and in good condition.

1. Curry comb (hard rubber or plastic)
2. Stiff Bristle brush
3. Body brush (medium stiff bristles)
4. Dandy brush or soft bristle brush
5. Mane and tail comb OR regular hairbrush (not both)
6. Hoof pick (standard type)
7. Grooming cloth (no larger than a hand towel)
8. Quart of water (can be bottle or spray bottle or bucket) (NO GLASS)
9. Ground cloth (use your good judgment on size)
10. Fly spray can be used if needed. (NO SHOW SHEEN OR HORSE FINISH)
11. Chain lead - A chain lead must be displayed on the ground cloth which will be used during the showmanship part of the class. Another chain lead may be used to hold the horse during the grooming.

****This kit should be tripled for numbers 1-7 to give each member his/her own set of equipment to use. However, when these items are tripled they need to be identical in type and appearance.**

HORSE/PONIES

- Each team must provide a safe horse or pony for the contest. The horse/pony does not need to belong to any team member. Each team must bring one safe horse/pony (13.2 HH and taller).
- Horses/ponies may be switched prior to the beginning of the contest, at the discretion of the judges.
- Each horse/pony must arrive wearing a PROPERLY FITTING NYLON OR LEATHER HALTER (No silver show halters allowed) AND TIE ROPE. The horses/ponies should be reasonably groomed. NO show sheen is to be used before mud is applied.
- The horses/ponies should arrive at the contest site at least two hours prior to the contest starting time so that management can uniformly dirty them. Allow more drying time if the weather is damp.
- The horses/ponies will be dirtied using mud (sandy mud does not work). Never put mud in body openings or in cracks or tight places (i.e. between the rear legs).
- A team member may work on a horse/pony provided by his/her team for the contest if it is acceptable with the judges.

HANDLERS

- Handlers will have control of the horses/ponies at all times and line the teams up in numerical order. They will maintain a safe distance between horses/ponies and move horses/ponies (after telling team members) only as needed for safety.
- Handlers will not coach the team members in any way. They will speak to team members only when necessary to maintain safety.

- ANY COACHING from the handler or spectators will result in the disqualification of the team.

JUDGES

- The recommended number of judges for the number of teams participating in the contest is: one (1) judge per six (6) teams
- Judges should have a copy of all current rules and 4-H booklets prior to the contest.
- At least two judges from outside of the county should be secured. No one with a team or who has coached a team in the contest may be a judge.
- At the end of the contest the judges will total the scores of the three contest sections and determine the winners.