



LARIMER COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

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2024 Horse Project Information

Attention: Horse Members and Leaders

From: Bailey Schilling, 4-H Youth Development/Livestock Agent

Key Leaders: Britany Bellitt, Marilyn Immeke, & Debbie Dehn

Welcome to another exciting year of the 4-H Horse Project. This letter contains important information about deadlines and completion requirements for the Horse Project. Remember the best source of information is our Larimer County website: <https://www.larimer.gov/extension>. The Fair book can be located by clicking the following link to take you to County Fair information including the schedule. [4-H and Open Class | The Ranch, Larimer County Fairgrounds & Events Complex \(treventscomplex.com\)](#).

From this site you have access to the Clover Connections Newsletter, Master Calendar, Horse Project updates, opportunities, events, shows, important horse health updates and the CSU Extension page.

4-H Project Completion Requirements

To complete the Horse project, members must meet these minimum requirements. Please be aware that some clubs may have additional requirements.

- Participate in a 4-H related (subject matter or audience) demonstration or other speech arts presentation.
- Participate in a 4-H sponsored community service activity.
- Complete county level requirements such as a record book, Club meeting attendance, etc.



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Horse ID

All project horses must have an ID form filled out and up to date, in the [4honline](#) system **by May 1, 2024**. Horse ID's are required for all horses participating in the Larimer County Fair and the Colorado State Fair Horse Shows. **There will be no substitutions for ID'd horses.** Please plan ahead and ID a back up horse if you can.

Animal Care and Housing Form

This form is intended for any members participating in the Livestock or Horse Projects that keep an animal at a location other than the address documented on 4-Honline. This includes any location where the animal may reside for an extended period of time. This form needs to be uploaded under "other documents" to 4-Honline and a hardcopy must be turned into the Extension Office. [Microsoft Word - AnimalCareForm.doc \(colostate.edu\)](#).

Record Books

Record books are available to complete or print, on the Horse page of the website. In order to participate in the Larimer County Fair, your record book must be up to date at the time of the record book check. Exhibitors must have completed a record book check before they check in their project animal. If you wish to enter your Horse project record book in the Record Book Contest, books must be turned in to the Extension Office by September 27, 2024. Individual Clubs may have an earlier deadline.

Round Robin Clinic

This year there will not be a Round Robin Clinic during the county fair but rather a social for the members that have qualified for the Round Robin. This is an opportunity to get information from fellow showmen about the animal they qualified with. A Round Robin Clinic will be hosted on July 10th in the New Community building from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. This will be an opportunity for all members to gain hands-on experience and learn more about each of the species.

Larimer County 4-H Helmet Rule

All participants in 4-H horse activities in Larimer County are required to wear ASTM/SEI approved protective headgear with secured harness while mounted. It is the responsibility of riders and parents or guardians of riders to ensure that the headgear worn complies with ASTM/SEI standards, carries the proper seals and is properly fitted and in good condition. Older and/or damaged helmets should be considered for replacement.



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Colorado 4-H Horse Levels Advancement Program

The Levels Advancement Program is a state-wide riding program for all members enrolled in the 4-H Horse Project. This program is valuable in the education and advancement of the riding skills of our youth. Larimer County is very active in the state program. The Advancement Level chapter in the 4-H Horse Member's Manual serves as a member's guide. This chapter explains the basics of the Level's program.

The classes at the County Fair are divided by ages and riding levels. To be eligible to ride in the Larimer County Fair you must have a Horse Advancement Levels Certificate. If you would like to test up to the next level before the County Fair, you must take and pass your written and riding tests by **June 30, 2024**. You do not need to test if you would like to stay at the same level that you rode in last year.

Please note: Members who have won an All-Around Award at the County Fair for a specific level and age division, are not eligible for the All Around at the same level and age division (Jr., Int., Sr.) again. Exhibitors who show up a level without holding that level card will not be eligible for the All-Around Award for that level. (Example: a level 2 rider showing at level 3 will not be eligible for the level 3 All-Around.)

There is only one written test per level, regardless of discipline. Separate riding tests are required for each discipline, English, Western and Ranch Horse. The same written and riding tests are used statewide. In Larimer County, the written tests are given by State Certified Raters or taken online. Level I Written Test will be used for both Walk/Trot and Level I. The Written Test does not need to be repeated to move from Walk/Trot to Level 1, only the riding test.

When both the written and riding tests have been passed, the Extension Office will issue the member a Levels Certificate. These certificates are required for participation in the Larimer County Fair Horse Show and Colorado State Fair. Please place a copy in your record book.

Instructions for Written Tests

Written Tests: Level 1 written tests can be taken with a Certified Levels Rater or online. Levels 2, 3 and 4 written tests can be taken online. Please study before requesting a written test. The study guides posted online will help you prepare for the test. To request a written test, please contact Diane at dkern@larimer.org. Specify which written level you would like to test. You will see your 4-H Horse level test results upon completion. You may take the test multiple times to achieve a score of 80% or higher. Please plan to complete your written test within a few days.



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Instructions for Riding Tests

Riding Tests can be done by recorded video or in person. Riding test requirements are listed on the website under Horse Levels Testing. You should practice the maneuvers required on the test before requesting a Rater. Please contact Diane at dkern@larimer.org for assistance with scheduling an in person riding test. Remember, a score of 80% is needed to pass, which means you must receive an 8 or above on each maneuver on the test.

Video Tests: After you have practiced and recorded all of the maneuvers on the riding test, please upload your test as an Unlisted YouTube video. For the questions on Levels III and IV, please record the question and then your answer for each of the questions. After uploading your video, copy the URL and send it in an email to Diane at dkern@larimer.org. Please include your name and level you are testing. You will be contacted with your results.

Ranch Horse

Ranch Horse Riding Tests will follow the same guidelines as the Western and English Riding Tests.

Prepare for Fair Riding Clinics

These are open to all 4-H members enrolled in the Horse Project and there are no fees to participate. The clinics are excellent practice for the levels riding examination. You do not need to be planning on competing at the County Fair to take advantage of this instruction.

Prepare for Fair Riding Clinics will be held on Wednesday evenings, May through July, in the Mac Equipment Inc. Indoor Arena when available. **Registration is required.** Please watch the newsletters for more information.

Orientation for the Larimer County Fair Horse Show

Thursday, June 27, 7:00 p.m.
Berthoud/Loveland/Fort Collins Rooms
McKee 4-H Building at The Ranch

All members, parents and horse leaders that will be attending the Fair are requested to attend. The information this evening will cover these topics: rules, record books, entry forms, stalling, check in and check out, vet checks, feeding times, and any other information you may need.



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2024 COLORADO 4-H HORSE SHOW RULE BOOK

This is the rule book we will be using at the 2024 Larimer County Fair.

[HorseShowRuleBook.pdf \(colostate.edu\)](#)

2018 EDITION OF THE COLORADO 4-H HORSE PROJECT MEMBER'S MANUAL

Only new 4-H Horse members will receive a manual this year. Please make sure you are using the 2018 revised edition for your project.

County Fair 4-H Horse Show Information

July 27 – July 31

Vet Checks: Horses that are at a Grade 4 or 5 in a lameness examination at the vet check will not be permitted to enter the County Fair.

Two Hand Rule for Walk/Trot and Level I Riders at the Larimer County Fair

Any horse, regardless of their age, that is shown by a W/T or Level 1 rider may be ridden with one hand and a standard western bit as approved by the 4-H western equipment rules or with two hands and a snaffle bit or bosal as described under 4-H equipment rules. **Two hands may not be used with a curb bit.**

Musical Freestyle Rules

Please refer to the 2024 Larimer County Fair Book. Exhibitors must abide by the riding rules of the 4-H Horse Show. Please note: bareback will be allowed for Level III and IV riders only.

All contestants must supply a digital copy of their music to rwdehn@aol.com by Friday July 12, 2024. Please have your music clearly marked with your name, and the name of your music. Music must be 4-H appropriate.

Round Robin

Qualifiers must show the animal they qualified on or another of the qualified animals under the same participant that had been shown at the fair. For example, a youth member has 2 horses shown at the fair, they could use their other horse if need be. They cannot show another exhibitor's project. **If siblings are sharing the same horse and both qualify for Round Robin, the only one that will be eligible to advance is the one that qualified first.**



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Colorado State Fair

Information about the Colorado State Fair 4-H Horse Show will be available on the CSU Extension Website. The State Fair does not send out premium books and the Larimer County Extension Office will not have entry forms. Please visit their site for all the necessary information.



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