

2014 Area & State Horse Show Rulebook

... is online and at the printer! To view or download a pdf version of the rulebook, go to <http://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/youth/horse/showRules.shtml>. For a quick list of changes, that page also has a link to a summary of what is different this year. The printed rulebooks (green cover) will probably be in the mail to counties after the Christmas/New Year break. Counties will receive the same number as last year, which should be enough for any 4-H'ers who might be showing in '14 to have his/her own copy. Agents, please let me know this week if you received too few or too many last year and we can adjust the numbers before they are sent.

Also, a copy of the attached "Rulebook Receipt" form needs to be signed and turned in by everyone who receives a rulebook. These signed forms should be held in County until being included with Area Horse Show entry paperwork.

New "Ground Handling" class to be the "Showmanship" for the Ranch and Speed Events Divisions

We are excited to introduce a new Ground Handling class to fill the Showmanship role in the Speed Events and Ranch Divisions. The 4-H Program continues to believe that the fundamentals taught when working with horses in-hand are important skills for youth to possess. In order to continue to encourage development of these skills in a venue more appropriate for the less 'showy' divisions, we developed a class which emphasizes ground handling and training skills. This "Ground Handling" class will be offered in place of Showmanship for the Speed Events and Ranch Divisions (beginning this year). You will see that many of the basics are the same between the two classes – patterns consisting of walks, trots, turns, backing, etc. Where they diverge is that Showmanship emphasizes really showing the horse to its best advantage for the judge, while Ground Handling emphasizes more maneuvers and actions encountered while training. Neither is easier nor harder than the other as they each have their own levels of difficulty.

Because Ground Handling meets the same requirements as Showmanship, the entry and eligibility rules related to Showmanship now pertain to both Showmanship and Ground Handling. For example:

- If a contestant enters 6 classes, one must be Showmanship or Ground Handling (class number limit was raised from 5 to 6 this year as well).
- A contestant may enter only one Showmanship or Ground Handling class.
- To be eligible to compete in a division's Showmanship or Ground Handling class, exhibitors must show in one other performance (riding) class in that division unless only showing in in-hand classes.

For more details about the new class, see the rulebook link above (beginning on p. 16). Through the winter we will also be adding to the website some sample patterns and videos of the new maneuvers to help give everyone an idea of what to expect. There is also a possibility of UF hosting workshops at the Areas to give more background on the Ranch classes, and the new Ground Handling class in particular (including demonstrations). If your Area is interested in having one of these workshops, please let us know.

If you have any questions about these rules or the Horse program in general, you are always welcome to contact us – your State 4-H Horse Specialist, Dr. Saundra TenBroeck (sht@ufl.edu), and coordinator of Animal Science Youth Programs, Wendy DeVito (wtaylor@ufl.edu).