



Are you ready for the Kansas State Fair?

For all events, be sure to read the most recent version of the rulebook. Make sure all your tack and equipment are legal and you know what maneuvers the judge may ask you to perform. Be sure you know how to hold the lead shank (halter, showmanship) or reins. Learn what faults will get you disqualified in the events you plan to enter so that you can avoid making those mistakes.

Practice sample patterns at home. There are many examples of patterns available on the internet and some patterns are given in the rulebook.

Seek help. If you have questions, ask your project leader or seek help from a knowledgeable horseman/woman. Watch others by attending horse shows and/or watching horse shows online.

For all events, horses must be sound (not lame), should appear healthy, and should be in good body condition.

Below are some skills that you should try to master to be competitive in each event at the state 4-H horse show.

SHOWMANSHIP AT HALTER

- Horse will willingly lead forward at the walk and trot, even when approaching a person
- Horse will willingly stop and stand still
- Horse will set up reasonably quickly (without the exhibitor touching the horse or using the left hand on the lead shank/chain)
- 4-Her knows how to properly hold the lead shank/chain
- 4-Her can use the quarter system correctly when the judge walks around the horse
- Horse will willingly back in a straight line with light pressure on the lead shank/chain (and exhibitor does not position him/herself directly in front of the horse)
- Exhibitor can execute a pattern with reasonable accuracy, quickness, and confidence
- Horse moves forward and navigates turns easily, moving in response to the 4-Her's body position (at the throatlatch) rather

than being pulled around with a lead shank/chain

- Horse can execute a turn on the hindquarters to the right, holding a stationary pivot foot and crossing over with its front feet as it turns.
- Horse is in good body condition, appears healthy, and its hooves are trimmed/shod appropriately
- Horse is well-groomed (clean, excess hair clipped from head and/or legs, mane and tail combed, mane may be banded or braided)

HALTER

- Horse is in good body condition (not too fat or too thin), appears healthy, and its hooves are trimmed/shod appropriately
- Horse is well-groomed (clean, excess hair clipped from head and/or legs, mane and tail combed, mane may be banded or braided)

- Horse will willingly lead forward at the walk and trot, even when approaching a person or while navigating a turn to the left
- Horse will willingly stop and stand still, even with other horses and distractions in the ring
- Horse will set up reasonably quickly
- Lead chain is used correctly (do not run the chain over the horse's nose or through the horse's mouth)
- Horse is sound (not lame)

TRAIL

- Horse should walk, jog/trot, and lope/canter on the correct lead easily
- Horse should guide easily at all 3 gaits
- Make sure you can complete the mandatory obstacles.
- Open, pass through, close gate.
- Ride over at least 4 logs/poles. (Practice at the walk, jog/trot, and lope/canter. See rulebook for log spacing and possible configurations.)
- Back through/around obstacles (poles, cones, etc.)
- Rider should be able to pick up and carry a rain slicker/coat
- Horse should be easily guided through a serpentine at a jog/trot
- Horse should be willingly ridden across a wooden bridge
- Rider should be able to easily remove mail from a mailbox
- Horse should willingly sidepass in both directions over a pole
- Be able to ride into a box (6'-7' on each side), turn 360 degrees either direction, and ride out

WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP

- Horse should willingly back, walk, jog, and lope on the correct lead, and rider should know if s/he is on the correct lead (Ideally the rider can identify which lead s/he is on without looking down at the horse.)
- Horse should guide easily and stop readily from all 3 gaits

- Be able to ride circles of varying sizes that are round and symmetrical
- Be able to ride lines that are straight
- Be able to perform transitions (changes of gait) at specified points (usually a cone)
- Be able to execute a smooth lead change (All contestants should be able to execute a simple lead change. It is unlikely a judge will require a flying lead change, but it might be optional and riders who can execute a flying lead change well will have an advantage.)
- Be able to perform a reasonably quick pivot on the hindquarters in either direction
- Be able to counter canter (lope a circle on the "wrong" lead)
- Be able to lope off from a standstill in a specified lead
- Be able to maintain control over the horse and proper body position while extending any of the gaits
- Be able to sidepass both directions

WESTERN PLEASURE

- Horse should willingly walk, jog, and lope on the correct lead without breaking gait while at a relaxed and calm pace
- Horse should guide easily at all 3 gaits
- Horse should be able to show a lengthening of stride when asked for the extended walk or extended jog
- Horse and rider should be comfortable navigating through traffic. Always leave 1 horse length of space between your horse and the front, side and back of other horses in the class. Be sure you and your horse can complete the class without interfering with another horse and rider.
- Horse should perform smooth transitions from one gait to another
- Horse should back willingly
- Pleasure pairs: horses should travel at a similar pace to each other and should be comfortable travelling in close proximity to each other

REINING

- Be able to ride large, fast circles on the correct lead that are symmetrical and close at the center of the arena
- Be able to lope smaller, slower circles on the correct lead that are symmetrical and close at the center of the arena
- Be able to show a speed difference when going from fast to slow, or slow to fast
- Be able to perform a correct flying lead change at the center of the arena (horse should not charge forward or drop its shoulder as it changes leads)
- Be able to spin with reasonable quickness in either direction (Horse should maintain a stationary hind leg and cross over with its front legs)
- Be able to perform a correct stop on the hindquarters while remaining soft in the bridle (this will always be done from a lope)
- Horse should back willingly without pushing against the bit
- Be able to lope, stop, rollback either direction, and lope out

RANCH HORSE RAIL

- Horse should willingly walk, jog, and lope on the correct lead without breaking gait (This will be a more ground covering pace than Western pleasure.)
- Horse should guide easily at all 3 gaits
- Horse should be able to show a lengthening of stride when asked for the extended walk, extended jog, or extended lope (Rider should remain comfortable at all 3 gaits and may hold the saddle horn at the extended gaits.)
- Horse and rider should be comfortable navigating through traffic. Always leave 1 horse length of space between your horse and the front, side and back of other horses in the class. Be sure you and your horse can complete the class without interfering with another horse and rider.
- Horse should perform smooth transitions from one gait to another
- Horse should back willingly

RANCH HORSE PATTERN

- Horse should be comfortable being in the arena by itself
- Horse should willingly walk, jog, and lope on the correct lead without breaking gait (This will be a more ground covering pace than Western pleasure.)
- Horse should guide easily at all 3 gaits
- Horse should be able to show a lengthening of stride when asked for the extended walk, extended jog, or extended lope (Rider should remain comfortable at all 3 gaits and may hold the saddle horn at the extended gaits.)
- Horse should perform smooth transitions from one gait to another
- Horse should back willingly
- Be able to perform transitions (changes of gait) at specified points
- Be able to execute a smooth lead change (All contestants should be able to execute a simple lead change. Flying lead changes are usually optional and riders who can execute a flying lead change well will have an advantage.)
- Horse should readily sidepass either direction
- Horse should readily cross 4 logs at the walk, jog, and extended trot (See rulebook for spacing)
- Be able to spin with reasonable quickness in either direction (Horse should maintain a stationary hind leg and cross over with its front legs)
- Be able to perform a correct stop on the hindquarters while remaining soft in the bridle

RANCH HORSE TRAIL

- Horse should willingly walk, jog, and lope on the correct lead without breaking gait (This will be a more ground covering pace than Western pleasure.)
- Horse should guide easily at all 3 gaits
- Horse should be able to show a lengthening of stride when asked for the extended walk, extended jog, or extended lope (Rider should remain comfortable at

all 3 gaits and may hold the saddle horn at the extended gaits.)

- Horse should perform smooth transitions at specified points from one gait to another
- Make sure you can complete the mandatory obstacles.
- Open, pass through, close gate.
- Ride over at least 4 logs/poles. (Practice at the walk, jog, extended trot, and lope. See rulebook for log spacing and configurations.)
- Back through/around obstacles (poles, cones, etc.)
- Rider should be able to pick up and carry a rain slicker/coat
- Horse should be easily guided through a serpentine at a jog/trot
- Horse should be willingly ridden across a wooden bridge
- Rider should be able to easily remove mail from a mailbox
- Horse should willingly sidepass in both directions over a pole
- Be able to ride into a box (6'-7' on each side), turn 360 degrees either direction, and ride out
- Be able to dismount and open gate
- Be able to rope a dummy (do not have to catch, but need to know how to build a loop, swing rope, and throw; horse should remain still and relaxed)
- Be able to ground tie
- Be able to pick up horse's feet
- Be able to lead horse at walk or trot with bridle
- Be able to drag a log (seniors only)
- Be able to unbridle and rebridle horse (seniors only)

ENGLISH EQUITATION

- Horse should willingly back, walk, trot, and canter on the correct lead, and rider should know if s/he is on the correct lead (Ideally the rider can identify which lead s/he is on without looking down at the horse.)
- Horse should guide easily and stop readily from all 3 gaits
- Be able to ride circles of varying sizes that are round and symmetrical

- Be able to ride lines that are straight
- Be able to perform transitions (changes of gait) at specified points (usually a cone)
- Be able to execute a smooth lead change (All contestants should be able to execute a simple lead change. It is unlikely a judge will require a flying lead change, but it might be optional and riders who can execute a flying lead change well will have an advantage.)
- Be able to perform a reasonably quick pivot on the forehand in either direction
- Be able to counter canter (canter a circle on the "wrong" lead)
- Be able to canter off from a standstill in a specified lead
- Be able to maintain control over the horse and proper body position while extending any of the gaits
- Be able to sidepass both directions
- Rider should be able pick up and maintain the correct diagonal at the trot.

ENGLISH PLEASURE

- Horse should willingly walk, trot, and canter on the correct lead without breaking gait while at a relaxed, calm pace with forward motion
- Horse should guide easily at all 3 gaits
- Horse should be able to show a lengthening of stride when asked for the extended walk or extended trot
- Horse and rider should be comfortable navigating through traffic. Always leave 1 horse length of space between your horse and the front, side and back of other horses in the class. Be sure you and your horse can complete the class without interfering with another horse and rider.
- Horse should perform smooth transitions from one gait to another
- Horse should back willingly

HUNTER HACK

- The horse and rider must be able to pass the safety check prior to exhibiting in the class
- Horse should willingly walk, trot, and canter on the correct lead without breaking gait while at a relaxed and calm pace
- Horse should be able to safely perform a pattern that requires jumping over two fences
- Horse should guide easily at all 3 gaits
- Horse should be able to show a lengthening of stride when asked for the extended walk, extended trot or hand gallop
- Horse and rider should be comfortable navigating through traffic. Always leave 1 horse length of space between your horse and the front, side and back of other horses in the class. Be sure you and your horse can complete the class without interfering with another horse and rider.
- Horse should perform smooth transitions from one gait to another
- Horse should back willingly

SPEED EVENTS- BARRELS, POLES, FLAG RACE

- Rider is able to control the horse throughout the class
- Complete the pattern correctly for the specific event
- Complete the pattern at a run or sprint. Horses that jog or lope the pattern should not be exhibited in speed events at the State Fair.
- Outside the show arena
- Lunge in designated areas at designated times. Do not lunge in the holding area during the show. When lunging, be courteous and choose a position that allows others to lunge or ride by on the rail.
- Be courteous in the holding area. If you are standing with your horse, stand close to a fence to leave space for those warming up. If you are warming up, make sure your horse is under control and watch out for other exhibitors. Always leave 1 horse length of space between your horse and the front, side and back of other horses in the holding area.
- Clean up after your horse in the barn aisles, wash rack, and holding area

