

PRODUCTION DIVISION

Production classes are designed to give a youth valuable experience raising and training his or her own animal. For a safe and rewarding experience, these rules apply to all production classes:

1. Stallions may only be shown during the calendar year in which they are born.
2. Production classes are limited to youth who have passed their 13th birthday and have not passed their 19th birthday as of January 1 of the current year.
3. The horse must be used only by the 4-H member. Parents, trainers, or any other people may not train or shown the horse after January 1 of its yearling year. Thereafter, the horse may only be shown in 4-H, open, or breed shows by the youth who owns the project. Starting January 1 of the horse's yearling year, youth may get advice from others, but no one else may actually ride or drive the horse, or handle the horse at halter to train or show it.
4. The horse must be raised or purchased before January 1 of its yearling year. Leasing an animal for a production project is not allowed. The mare to produce the production animal may be leased.
5. Production Western, Hunter, and Saddle Seat riding classes are snaffle or hackamore classes. All riders must ride with two hands.
6. Equipment
 - A. Hackamore or snaffle bit – See rules for these bits under acceptable western and English bits and equipment.
 - B. Prior to a production class, a horse must be warmed up by riding with the same equipment required by the production class.
 - C. Riding production horses in the classes in the Performance Division of the regular 4-H show using equipment and the showing style required there does not make that horse ineligible to continue showing in the Production Division. However, the rider must use the same bit as is used for the Production Division.
 - D. All western horses must be shown with light contact. See Figure 4 for correct and incorrect contact.
 - E. Western reins are to be held near the pommel and not more than 4" from the saddlehorn. Hands are to be steady and visible to the judge at all times. Incorrect hand position is to be severely penalized. See Figures 5 and 6 for proper and improper hand positions. The tails of the reins must be crossed on the opposite side of the neck when riding with two hands on split reins.
 - F. Easy-gaited horses may be ridden with a curb bit (maximum shank length equals 5"), and two-year-olds are not cantered.
7. Tack and attire for halter classes are the same as showmanship (except English horses are not shown in a curb bit). Riding classes use the same tack and attire as the corresponding horsemanship (Equitation) class except that a snaffle bit or a hackamore is required in riding classes. (For the definition of a legal western or English snaffle, see pages 21-24). Draft or harness horses use the same attire and tack as listed under the appropriate driving class.
8. Classes may be divided by type, age, sex, or any other reasonable division based on the number of horses.

9. Halter classes are judged 90% on conformation of the horse and 10% on showmanship ability. In halter classes, the horses should be moved to, away from, and at a side view to the judge.
10. Production performance classes are run the same as the same class listed in the Performance Division with exceptions as indicated previously.
11. Animals may be shown in both production and nonproduction classes at a show if they meet the class requirements.
12. If a youth is in both FFA and 4-H with horse projects, the youth must have a production animal in one organization and a nonproduction animal in the other organization.
13. To attend the state fair, a youth must enter through the local Extension office or agriculture instructor, and the entry must be at the state horse specialist's office by June 20 of the year of the show. The classes are open to FFA and 4-H members meeting the requirements listed previously. If a youth enters the Production Show at the state fair and then does not attend, the youth is ineligible to show at the state fair the following year (Exceptions: If the youth has a letter from a veterinarian stating that the horse is injured or unable to attend, or the youth has a doctor's excuse saying the youth is unable to attend. The letter/excuse must be sent to the state horse specialist no later than two weeks after the end of the State Fair Junior Horse Show.)
14. You may show your animal every year at the state fair, but if you wish to skip a year, you may still return until the animal is no longer eligible for production classes.
15. No weanlings are shown at the state fair in production classes.
16. Only one production animal per exhibitor may be shown at the state fair in one year. A production animal may show in only one halter class and in one performance class in the State Fair Productions Show. Yearlings may show in one Halter class and in one of the following yearling classes: Longe Line, Ground Driving, or Trail in Hand. Two-year-olds show in one Halter and either a Pleasure or a Driving class.
17. At the start of the project year, a contract is supplied by the local Extension representative or agriculture instructor and must be signed and filed with them. The contract binds the youth to the rules as set forth in this division.

PRODUCTION YEARLING LONGE LINE

1. This class is available only to production horses. At the state fair. It may be offered at the county level for any horses one year old or older.
2. The Longe Line class is to reward the quality of movement and manners of the yearling horse. Although appropriate levels of training are recognized, these horses are not expected to demonstrate behavior or performance beyond that necessary for a reasonable presentation to the judge.
3. Equipment: Horses are to be shown in a halter; a regular flat nylon, rope halter, or show-type halter are acceptable. For the longeing demonstration, the only attachment allowed to the halter is the longe line. The longe line should be 25 to 30 feet in length and may have a chain and snap or just a snap, and only the snap attaches to the halter. The longe line must hang free from the halter without touching any part of the horse. A longe whip is permissible. No other equipment is allowed on the horse during the class. Mechanical or retractable longe lines are not allowed.
4. Attire: Needs to correspond to the type of horse, i.e., western for stock type, hunter for hunt type, or saddle seat for saddle-type horses. This includes a suitable hat or properly fitted ASTM/SEI approved safety headgear with the chin harness securely fastened at all times. See page 9, #1 for approved safety headgear guidelines.
5. Gaits: To be judged according to the rules for the gaits for pleasure classes for type of animal. Includes walk, jog/trot/show gait, and canter (only if the horse jogs or trots).
6. Judging: Judge(s) are outside the longeing circle. The exhibitor enters the arena and awaits the start whistle. When the whistle is blown, the exhibitor is allowed 90 seconds to present the horse. At the end of the 90 seconds, the whistle blows again to signify the end of the run. Show management has the option of adding a "half-way" whistle.
7. It is suggested that the horse walk, jog (long trot or show gait), and lope (canter) in each direction as the horse is scored each way. The exhibitor may begin work in the direction of his/her choice (counter or clockwise).
8. At the end of the 90 seconds, the whistle is blown, and the exhibitor shall, at the request of the show management, either retire from the longeing area and line up at the end of the arena or leave the ring and wait nearby to be called back for conformation judging and placing. If the exhibitor stays in the arena, the horse should stand quietly while other horses are being judged. For the conformation judging, the exhibitor may place a chain over or under the horse's nose, but this is allowed only for that portion of the class.
9. Judges should give a preliminary performance conformation score as the horse is performing. After judging the longeing competition, the horses are lined up for conformation judging. Judges may not discriminate for or against bulk, but rather look for a total picture, emphasizing balance and athletic capability. Judges should use this opportunity to review their preliminary score.
10. If a horse's nose, mouth, or jaw area shows signs of broken skin, rawness, or bleeding, the horse is disqualified and eliminated from competition.
11. If the horse plays on the longe line, it shall not count against the horse. The horse should be judged as though the pleasure prospect was playing in the fields. Judges may, at their discretion, penalize the horse for excessive bucking or running off or displaying attitudes that are uncomplimentary to pleasure horses, such as excessive ear pinning or tail wringing.

12. Exhibitors are encouraged to exhibit their horses by making full use of a 25-foot-radius circle because they are scored on it. During the training of longe line horses, it is recommended to not work them more than 30 minutes per day and to not spend more than five minutes cantering each direction each day, because excessive longeing may damage the joints of young horses.
13. Horses should be exhibited according to type as they would be in a showmanship class.
14. Scoring (113 points is the maximum score)
 - A. Walk. The walk is scored on a scale of 0-4 in each direction, with 2 being average. The horse must be walked long enough for the judge to have sufficient time to evaluate and score the walk. The change of direction turnaround at the walk may count for the second walk score on the official score sheet. Lower gait scores should reflect stumbling in the gait. (*See **Circle scoring** for rewarding or penalizing use of the circle*).
 - B. Jog/trot/easy gait. The jog/trot/easy gait is scored on a scale of 0-16 in each direction, with 8 being average. Using a 25-foot radius, the horse should jog (or trot/easy gait) a minimum of $\frac{1}{2}$ circle both direction of the ring. Lower gait scores should reflect stumbling in the gait. (*See **Circle scoring** for rewarding or penalizing use of the circle*).
 - C. Lope/canter. The lope/canter is scored on a scale of 0-20 in each direction, with 10 being average. Using a 25-foot radius, the horse should lope or canter a minimum of one full circle both direction of the ring. Furthermore, any entry that fails to demonstrate the correct lead for one full circle cannot be placed over another entry that has demonstrated the correct lead in its entirety. Lower gait scores should reflect stumbling in the gait. (*See **Circle scoring** for rewarding or penalizing use of the circle*).
 - D. Use of circle. Scores for all gaits in both directions should reflect positive, consistent use of the 25-foot radius of the circle. Extra credit is given for full, extended use of the circle on a slightly loose line. Lower gaits scores should reflect lack of full use of the circle. (*See **Circle scoring** for rewarding or penalizing use of the circle*).
 - E. Manners/expression/attitude. Manners/expression/attitude count for up to 10 points of the total score. The horse is judged on manners, expression, and attitude on a scale of 0-10, with 5 being average. Horses are penalized for obvious signs of overwork and sourness such as ear-pinning, head-throwing, striking, tail-wringing, or a dull, lethargic manner of going. They are also penalized for dangerous behavior such as excessive bucking, cutting into the circle, or running off. Additionally, incidental touching the horse with the whip, cross-cantering, balking, backing up on the longe line, and excessive urging from the exhibitor should be penalized accordingly.
 - F. Conformation. Conformation counts for up to 20 points of the total score. Performance conformation is judged on a scale of 0-20, with 10 being average. The horse is judged on conformation suitable to future performance as a Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle, or Saddle-seat/Easy-gaited competitor. The judges should look for a total picture emphasizing balance, structural correctness, and athletic capability.

G. Circle scoring. Consideration is given to how well or how poorly the horse/exhibitor team uses the 25-foot radius of the longeing circle. A separate box on the scorecard is available to indicate an overall score (from 0-3 points) for use of the circle. As described earlier, a 25-foot radius circle is the approximate radius of a circle in which to show a longe line horse. It is the judge's responsibility to evaluate the circles and incorporate use of the circle in the gait scores based on the following scale:

1. +3 points (Good to excellent use of the circle). Horse consistently stays on the perimeter of the circle with slight looseness in the line. Horse turns around on the circle perimeter.
2. +2 points (Average use of the circle). Horse is only slightly inconsistent in using the 25-foot radius of the circle.
3. +1 point (Adequate use of the circle). Horse is shown in a circle radius of less than 25 feet.
4. 0 points (General use of the circle). Potentially dangerous slack in the line. Horse pulls exhibitor out of the circle.

H. Penalties and disqualifications

Five (5)-point penalties: Failure to demonstrate the correct lead, jog, or trot (easy gait) for an adequate distance to allow for proper evaluation of the gait.

Disqualifications:

1. Evidence of lameness – judge immediately excuses horse from arena.
 2. Blatant striking horse with the whip during longeing demonstration that causes forward or lateral movement.
 3. Horse falls – A horse is considered to have fallen when it is on its side and all four legs are extended in the same direction.
 4. Horse steps over or becomes entangled in the longe line.
 5. Failure to show at all three gaits (two for easy-gaited horses) in both directions.
 6. Loss of control of the horse to the point that the horse is loose in the arena.
 7. Improper equipment, evidence of abuse to the horse, and disrespect towards the judge(s) by the exhibitor.
15. Easy-gaited horses that do not canter cannot be shown with horses that do canter. Their maximum score would be 73 points, since they would receive no score for cantering.
16. The judge may break any ties at his/her discretion.

PRODUCTION GROUND DRIVING

1. This class is for project animals that are yearlings or older. If the class is offered, yearlings and horses not being shown under saddle should be in a class separate from older horse.
2. The driver is on foot and must maintain at least a six-foot space from the horse's rear legs at all times for safety.
3. Tack can be either a halter, leather hackamore, or open bridle with snaffle bit (no shanks on the bit; no metal curb straps or metal of any kind over the nose³ or under the jaw). A surcingle may be used through which the driving lines pass. A saddle with stirrups positioned and secured and then used to pass the lines through may be used instead of a surcingle. Lines may be leather, rope, or web without chains. The lines must not be connected together and need to be at least 25 feet long in order to perform the required maneuvers.
4. Attire of the exhibitor is the same as required for any of the showmanship classes. This includes a suitable hat or properly fitted ASTM/SEI approved safety headgear with the chin harness securely fastened at all times. See page 9, #1 for approved safety headgear guidelines.
5. Class routine includes any or all of the following:
 - A. Longe the horse at a walk and a trot/show gait in a circle, demonstrating control and ability to reverse.
 - B. Walk and/or trot (or show gait) in a straight line demonstrating control, transition of gait, stopping, and backing.
 - C. Demonstrate ability to maneuver through an obstacle course such as going over logs or bridges; weaving around or through obstacles; backing around, in, or out of obstacles.
6. Scoring of this class is based on the following:
 - A. Safety during the class – 20 points
 - B. Control, smoothness of handling, and ability to negotiate the course – 80 points. Points are divided equally between different maneuvers required for the pattern.