2019 4-H Horse Barn Rules for Cowlitz County Fair

The purpose of the 4-H barn rules is to make sure that our 4-H members, leaders, families and the public are safe with horses and along with many activities that occur during fair.

Show rules are not included in this document—as they are found in the PNW 4-H Horse Contest Guide, *PNW 574 (October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2018)* found on the WSU 4-H webpage and also on the Cowlitz County 4-H webpage under “horse”.

These are barn rules for the Cowlitz County 4-H horse program as determined by the Cowlitz County 4-H horse *leaders/*project committee and state 4-H program policy and Cowlitz County Fair. *Final interpretation will be under the direction of the County 4-H Educator in consultation if needed, with the Horse Leadership Team and/or the Horse Policy Committee.*

General Horse and Rider Barn Rules

1. Each exhibitor is responsible to inspect his/her stall before putting his/her horse in to make sure it is secure and safe.

2. Every horse must have a halter and lead hung properly on the stall.

3. Do not tie horse in stalls. If there is a problem then discuss and get approval from the Barn Manager

4. Horse may not be left in stall unattended when it is tacked up.

5. Only the exhibitor may ride, school or handle his/her horse (exceptions with Barn Manager Approval).

6. Horse cannot be removed from the stall without permission from the Barn Manager, unless during scheduled exercise or going to warm-up prior to class.

7. All horses should have current vaccinations—*but not required*

8. A visibly ill animal can be dismissed from participation by horse leadership team in consultation with county 4H educator *and in consultation with a licensed veterinarian*. Any further assessment on the condition of the horse must be overseen by a licensed veterinarian

9. Stalls, horses, aisleways, and tack areas must be presentable to the public each day by opening time of fair

Vet Inspection

All horses are required to go through vet check by the official fair veterinarian. The decision of fair veterinarian is final and will receive written documentation from the fair veterinarian that their horse passed vet check

Water and Feed

1. Hay and grain are the responsibility of the exhibitor.

2. Feed in front of the horse all the time is not required. However, a water bucket must be in use and containing water. Water is not required in the stall if the horse is warm. It is strongly recommended to provide salt for your horse.

3. Water buckets are to be kept clean, full and secured so they cannot be tipped over.

4. Hay bags or muck buckets are suggested for feeding hay. Hay nets or any other type of hay feeder that may pose a safety risk are not allowed due to safety issues. Hay bags should be hung properly so when empty the bottom of the hay bag does not hang below the horse's chest. Remove immediately after morning feeding or when bag is empty.

Exercise

1. Exercise will be at designated times in the warm-up arena or 4-H show arena when not being used for showing. Exhibitor must have permission to access exercise arenas at any time other than scheduled time.

2. Each horse is required to be exercised at a minimum of one riding class plus one riding exercise per day. Exhibitors planning to attend evening fair events must participate in the morning exercise. Exhibitors showing only in the afternoon should participate in morning exercise. No exceptions will be made to the policy of one riding class plus one riding exercise per day. [Approved April 14, 2009]

3. Leaders are responsible for their exhibitors meeting this requirement. The Barn Manager is ultimately responsible for overseeing the exercise requirements.

4. Each exhibitor is expected to exercise his/her own horse unless special arrangements are made with the leader or Barn Management.

5. Appropriate tack is required for exercise. No bareback riding for juniors.

*Intermediates and seniors who are not the “walk/trot category” and who have passed the skills checklist for bareback are eligible to do exercise bareback. These riders will be identified for this bareback exercise option. However, if there is a safety concern with the rider and/or conditions—this opportunity can stopped by the horse leadership team and in consultation with 4-H educator (Policy change, March 2017)*

6. No racing or running.

1. Long pants, shirts with sleeves, standard riding boots (no fashion boots), and helmet must be worn by exhibitor during exercise.

8. Horses must be cooled out thoroughly before returning to barn.

9. In case of an emergency and/or unusual circumstances that makes it necessary for a horse to be walked, must have permission of the barn manager and 4H leader [March 10, 2009].

Lunging

Lunging will be allowed at County Fair under the following conditions. It is also understood that lunging is in addition to regular exercise requirements. The Barn Manager is responsible for approval and scheduling lunging requests.

1. Request for lunging at the county fair must have prior approval from barn management this request must be signed by parent and leaders.

2. When a horse is lunged, a responsible adult approved by Barn Manager must be present for each horse.

“Tailers”

1. All horses when leaving or returning to stalls must have a "tailer" follow them.
2. Need to be 4-H horse members, 3rd grade and above who are the “tailers”
3. *It also may* be 4-H horse leaders. 4-H horse parents may “tail” if there are no 4-H members or 4-H leaders available
4. All “tailers” need to have proper attire (long pants, sleeves, sturdy footwear. Sturdy footwear is defined as riding boots, work boots, “heels down shoes, or heavy leather Romeos)
5. **“TAILERS” ARE NOT TO HOLD ON TO THE HORSE’S TAIL**
6. The tailer walks alongside the hip of the horse with one hand on the horse's rump while calling out "Horse coming through." The purpose of having a “tailer” is to prevent the public from following too close.
7. The 4-H exhibitor who is leading their horse is responsible for making sure the aisleways is clear of the public and safe to proceed to their destination.
8. The “tailer” walks along the horse with one hand on the horse’s hip and each horse needs to have their own “tailer”.

Stalls

1. Stalls are assigned on a club basis by the Barn Manager.

2. Assigned stalls can be readied any time after assignments have been made.

3. Bedding is furnished by Cowlitz County Fair and stalls will be clean, odor free and attractive to the public at all times

4. Stalls should be cleaned quickly with proper cleaning tools being used.

5. **Stall door must be secured when not in immediate use nor should the** s**tall door will be left open unless stall is being cleaned so the horse does not escape!!.**

Stall Decorations

Stall decorations, color scheme, and artistic displays are encouraged. Care must be taken to avoid any materials that might be flammable or any plants that may be toxic to animals. Any decorations must be put up before the actual opening of the fair and taken down by the club before check-out is completed for its members.

Each exhibitor must participate in stall decorating in order for the club to be eligible for decorations judging.

1. Clubs will be judged by number of horse exhibitors (4 or fewer members, 5-11 members, and 12 or more members).

2. Decorations must last the duration of the fair and be kept as new and fresh as the first day.

3. No crepe paper streamers or anything that will obscure the view of the horse. Keep decorations on solid bottom part of stall or up above the bars. Clear screen or netting may be placed over the bars for horses with a tendency to bite.

4. All flammable material must be treated with a flame retardant.

5. Provide a proper place to display ribbons. Do not hang them loose on stall bars.

6. Decorations should be placed high enough to not interfere with the public or with horses.

Club Banner and Educational Display

1. Each club shall have at least one educational display and the club needs to be identified with the 4-H club name (i.e club identification must be present).

Exhibit Identification

4-H Stall cards will be furnished to each exhibitor and are required to be displayed on stall doors at all times. A telephone number or a means of reaching the exhibitor during barn closure at night must be written on the back side of the card.

Cleanliness of the Barn Alley

1. Alleyways must be kept clean and picked up of litter.

2. Chips or aisleways covering must be kept smooth and even for safe traveling. If aisleways becomes dusty, water it to hold down the dust.

Tack Boxes and Chairs in Aisleways

Tack boxes and chairs may be placed in front of stall but cannot extend past 30 inches. Tack boxes must be no larger than 30 inches deep, 36 inches high, and 48 inches long to leave sufficient room for aisles to meet current ADA and/or fire codes. Boxes may have to be moved or removed in order to conform to these requirements, *depending on width of aisleways.*

Tack Room

1. Tack rooms will be kept clean, neat and very orderly.

2. All bridles, halters and accessories, if not put away out of sight, should be hung neatly.

3. After cleaning a stall, wheelbarrow will be emptied immediately and stored in tack room along with cleaning tools.

4. Care should be taken to have equipment out of reach or locked up for security purposes.

5. Curtains cannot block view of tack room. [This requirement waived for 2017, not sure for 2018 or 2019]

Fire Protection

1. A fire drill will be reviewed by Show Management at the pre-fair orientation. All exhibitors, leaders and assistants will be notified.

2. The Barn Manager will be in charge of the fire drill.

3. All exhibitors, leaders and families or friends of 4-H exhibitors are encouraged to locate the fire extinguishers that are stationed throughout the horse barn areas. All persons responsible for barn duty are to know where to get help in case of a fire.

A fire in or near the barn would be a catastrophe, but the possibility of a fire in a stable area such as the horse barn is very real and precautions are never too much or too many.

Removing a horse from a fire is a difficult task, therefore, exhibitor recognition and adherence to the fire rules will be greatly appreciated by the Barn Manager [Approved March 10, 2009]

4. State and county laws mandate that smoking, *including e-cigarettes and vaping* *devices*, must be a minimum of 25 feet from public facilities. The 4-H program must adhere to all public laws as related to tobacco use, including e-cigarettes and vaping devices. [Approved March 10, 2009 meeting and Leach additional language December 2012 and July 2017]

Herdsmanship

Each individual exhibitor will be responsible to prepare his/her exhibit for each day prior to the opening time of fair. This includes feeding, watering horse, cleaning stall, cleaning and preparing aisle for the day, and general barn keeping duties as needed.

After fair opening, the exhibitor will check his/her exhibit on an hourly basis performing any of the above duties that are required at the time. If hourly check in cannot be met—then prior arrangements must be made with the club leader. Each exhibitor will be responsible for "bedding down" his/her horse which would include a clean stall, feed and water as needed. Remember, if you enter the stalls, proper barn attire must be worn.

Herdsmanship - General Policies and Regulations

1. Person on duty must be dressed properly: shirt with sleeves; long pants; and boots.

2. One adult per club must be in the 4-H area at all times. Supervision by adult may be replaced by a senior member for a short period of time if Barn Manager is notified prior to change. Small clubs are encouraged to work together to meet requirements.

3. Parents may help exhibitors as needed prior to the opening of fair. Clubs with parents helping after fair opening may lose 50% of their score for the day. However, in the case of an emergency, an adult may assist until the situation is resolved.

4. Herdsmanship will be judged daily during the fair according to the following schedule:

7:00 a.m. – *fair opening* Each member prepares exhibit for the day. *No judging will occur*

*Fair opening to* 10:00 pm: At least one herdsman per club on duty. Smaller clubs may combine to meet this requirement. Each exhibitor responsible for "bedding down" his/her horse.

5. No blanketing horses prior to 8:30 p.m.

6. Between 10 pm and the official fair closing—at least one approved adult per aisle is required.

7. The barn will be closed to all exhibitors and public at fair closing each evening as determined by Cowlitz County Fair Management.

Herdsmanship Judging

1. Judging will be done on a club basis.

2. Herdsmanship Judges - No judge will be an active participant in the 4-H Horse Project. Each will be familiar with horses, their care and barn safety. Each judge will use the criteria set outlined in these policies.

3. Basis for Scoring - Herdsmanship encourages better care and display in the 4-H horse barn. Judges will examine the displays at least once a day, and may judge anytime from fair opening to closing.

**4-H horse exhibitors only** are expected to perform duties of herdsmanship. Herdsmanship performed by non-4-H members, or lack of herdsmanship, can result in forfeit of all awards and premiums and/or removal from the fair for the member/club. The Danish system of judging will be used.

See Cowlitz County 4-H Fair Book and Cowlitz County Fair premium book for herdsmanship judging scoring requirements.

4. Daily scores will be tallied and posted in the horse barn.

5. Awards will be given on the Danish system of judging with ribbons (blue, red or white) given to each exhibitor at the end of fair. The highest and second highest clubs will receive champion and reserve champion rosettes respectively at the end of fair.

**Release of Exhibits**

1. *As per fair management,* all animal exhibits including 4H horse, will be released **Sunday*, July 28th, 2019 beginning* at 6 am** and/or by direction of Cowlitz County Fair management.
2. No portion of the exhibit may be removed prior to fair closing on the last day of fair
3. Tackboxes, tack, and other equipment may be removed after fair closing. However, due to dust and noise, **decorations cannot be removed** until Sunday, ***July 29, 2019***  beginning at 6 am.
4. For orderly release of exhibits, all 4-H members and other adults will follow the directions from the 4-H barn manager
5. All stalls, aisleways, and surrounding areas must be cleaned in accordance to Barn Management directions before exhibitor can be checked out.
6. Any exhibitor leaving before the release time without proper authorization will not be checked out and will therefore forfeit ribbons, premiums, and eligibility for the State Fair.
7. ***All horses and tack must be removed from the fairgrounds by noon on Sunday.***

General 4-H Rules for *Members, Leaders, and Family—All Projects*

1. No dogs allowed as per Cowlitz County Fair policy. *Service animals must adhere to Cowlitz County policies as determined by county legal staff and/or state and federal laws.*
2. Any adult smoking *including e-cigarettes or vaping devices,* must follow state and county laws mandate that smoking must be a minimum of 25 feet from public facilities.
3. *4-H members will follow the WSU 4-H Member Code of Conduct and appropriate consequences as signed in the 4h on line enrollment system under the direction of the county 4-H educator*
4. *4-H leaders will follow the WSU 4-H Volunteer Behavior Guidelines and appropriate consequences as signed in the 4h on line enrollment system under the direction of the 4-H county educator*
5. *All 4-H members, leaders, and families will follow 4-H policies and Fair policies.*

Reviewed by J.Leach, WSU Extension Faculty, 4-H Youth Development July 17, 2015 and July 2017 to reflect changes in state laws, fair opening/closing; or clarification of practices and horse project policy change. The last change to barn rules was done in April 2009 and then March 2017 (bareback policy). Edited and re-formatted by J.Leach 2018. Updated for 2019 to reflect date changes and/or fair or 4-H policies by J.Leach