

Horse Training Project Class – SPECIFIC TO LICKING COUNTY

In an effort to update offerings for those members who are interested in horse training, or may have previously entered Production Classes, there will be Training Level classes included in the Licking County 4-H shows (will not be included in PAS qualifier or the Hartford Fair) beginning in 2018. These classes would allow 4-H members who are interested in making their best better to take the next step in horse ownership and to train a horse for show. Prior to 2018, there has been no place for a true training project in the Licking County 4-H showbill. It is extremely difficult to take a very young or very inexperienced horse in a large class of 14-18 year old riders without causing anxiety for the horse, the rider and the competitors around them. The new Training Classes will be a bit less restrictive than the production classes and allow horses that may perhaps be older than weanling to 3 years old, but are still very much training projects. This class would specifically be geared towards those kids that are enrolled in the *Horse Training Project Book*.

- **NEW CLASS: Horse Training Project Showmanship (Western/English)**
- **NEW CLASS: Horse Training Project Pleasure (Western/English)**

This class update will provide an incentive activity for experienced 4-H'ers who have developed an ability to train a young horse. The objective is to encourage members to enhance their overall horsemanship skills by allowing them to demonstrate their learned ability to train and show young horses. Members are to learn training skills by being responsible for the care and training of the project. Advice and instruction from parents and professionals in the horse industry is encouraged; however, they should be used as teachers, not as participants in the actual training and care of the project. It is intended that the child will be responsible for the daily care and training of project.

The following rules for eligibility are minimal standards that are acceptable under the rules of program.

- Class will be limited to members that have been Intermediate or Advanced Level 4-H'ers for at least 1 year. The member must be 14-18 years old.
- This is specifically a training class that will not be limited by the age of the horse, but by the horse's experience. Horse must be green, or recently under saddle. The horse must never have been shown at a canter at a horse show.
- The class will be walk/trot only. Patterns in showmanship will be similar to the patterns used by the beginning walk/trot riders, although they may be somewhat more complex if the judge chooses however there will be no pivots greater than 90 degrees. Riding will be walk/trot on the rail only. The class will be judged on the horse not the handler.
- Horse may be ridden 2 handed regardless of age and discipline as long as the bit is a plain o-ring or eggbutt snaffle....no shanked bits will be permitted if being ridden 2 handed. Other than that one exception, normal 4-H equipment rules apply.
- This class may only be taken with the approval of the 4-H advisor after discussion with parents to determine member's ability. Member must be enrolled in the Horse Training Project book and an additional form must be submitted with ID papers that specifically outlines the name of the horse (must match ID papers) that will be used, horse's DOB, and experience (OTTB, Mustang, young horse, etc).
- Horse may not be cross entered in any 3 gaited classes, or beginner walk/trot classes. Horse may be shown in ground driving.
- This is a 1-2 year maximum class. After 1-2 years the horse must be shown at the rider's 4-H level (Intermediate or Advanced). If horse is shown at any point in a canter class it must move into the regular 3 gaited classes at rider's 4-H level.