

# OKLAHOMA 4-H 2-YEAR-OLD HORSE TRAINING PROJECT CLASS GENERAL INFORMATION, RULES AND REGULATIONS AND ENTRY FORM

## Purpose:

This program provides an incentive activity for experienced 4-Hers who have developed an ability to train young horses. The objective is to encourage Oklahoma 4-H Horse Club 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, fitting and training of the project. Advice and instruction from resource personnel such as parents and professionals in the horse industry is encouraged; however, resource people should be used as teachers, not as participants in the actual training and care of the project. It is intended that the youth are responsible for the daily care, fitting and training of project. For the benefit of the learning experience of the youth, the training project is designed for as much hands-on fitting and training by the youth as possible. The following rules for eligibility are minimal standards that are acceptable under the rules of program.

## When and Where:

The Oklahoma 4-H 2-yr-old training class will be held during the State 4-H Horse Show. Date and location for 2025: The State 4-H Horse Show will be held July 10-12 in Chickasha, OK. The 2-year old in training class will be held July 11, with final times to be determined. Horses will need to be at the show mid-day for check-in; more information will be forwarded with specifics as the show time nears.

## Eligibility of Participants:

1. Must be a member of 4-H at time of entry date (April 30<sup>th</sup>), meeting all the membership requirements established by the county program.
2. The horse must be owned solely by the 4-H member, his parents, brother, sister or guardian on or before the time of first nomination. Ownership is defined as registration papers showing ownership by entry date, or a notarized statement of bill of sale for grade horses by the first nomination date. Entry process will require a statement of ownership signed by the 4-H member and parent or guardian.
3. No one, other than enrolled youth, is to show or exhibit the horse after the entry date (April 30).
4. No one is to ride the horse, other than the enrolled youth, after the entry date (April 30).
5. General Rules of Competition for participation at the State 4-H Horse Show as outlined in the 2024 Rules for Oklahoma 4-H District and State Horse Shows will be followed.
6. All youth and parents will be required to sign an affidavit that the eligibility rules will be adhered to; any documented violation will result in loss of payment and removal from the program.

**\*The 2-yr-old training class horse is an addition to the 4-H member's district and state qualifying show horses except where the 4-H member is using the horse as a regular show horse. There is no qualification through district for this activity.**

## Number of Entries Allowed:

Each 4-H member will be allowed to enter one (1) horse. No substitutions or additions will be allowed following the entry deadline. No refunds of entry fees regardless of reason.

## Entry Deadline:

The entry procedure will be composed of a payment due on date indicated on current year entry form. You will receive additional information about the event once materials are completed.

## **Two-Year-Old Combined Rail Class-Showmanship Class Rules and Conditions**

All Breeds: Grade or Registered (NO STALLIONS). Horse must not have turned two years of age before January 1 of the current year. For 2025, horses must have been foaled in the year of 2023.

### **I. Appointments**

#### **A. Personal.**

(Same as described in Western Judged, Hunter and Showmanship classes in the State 4-H Rules for Horse Shows). Youth are strongly encouraged to use ASTM/SEI approved safety helmets while preparing and participating with the 2-yr-old training project.

#### **B. Tack.**

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONTESTANTS TO BRING ANY QUESTIONABLE EQUIPMENT TO THE DESIGNATED EQUIPMENT JUDGE PRIOR TO THE CLASS, AS ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION. General tack requirements as described in Rules for the specific classes, with the following specification: For Riding division: Horses are to be shown in snaffle or hackamore and ridden with two-hands with the following conditions. Horses may be ridden in the style suitable for their type: western pleasure, ranch riding or hunter under saddle and must follow the tack and attire rules specific for those classes. No curb bits are allowed for any riding discipline for the two-year-old training class.

For horses ridden western: Snaffle refers to a smooth ring snaffle bit (conventional O-ring, egg butt, half cheek, full cheek, or D-Ring) with a broken mouthpiece, with ring no larger than 4". The inside of the ring must be free of any attachments that would provide leverage. The mouthpiece should be round, oval or egg-shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal. It may be inlaid, but smooth or latex-wrapped. The bars must be a minimum of 5/16" in diameter, measured one inch in from the cheek with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three-piece, connecting ring of 1 1/4" or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (measured top to bottom, with a maximum length of 2"), which lies flat in the horse's mouth is acceptable. Optional loose curb strap (leather) or curb chain attached below the reins is permissible; reins are to be attached above the curb strap or chain. A hackamore may be used in lieu of a snaffle bit. Hackamore refers to a flexible, braided rawhide or leather, or rope bosal, the core of which may be either rawhide or flexible cable. Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted under the jaws, regardless of how padded or covered. The bosal should be properly fitted relative to the horse's size and conformation. Snaffles are to be ridden with split reins; hackamores may use split reins or closed (mecate) rein. Standard, leather or woven, split reins are mandatory with snaffles; hair reins (mecate) are not permitted with snaffle bits but are with hackamores. All entries must be shown with both hands on reins, maintaining light contact with horse's mouth. The rider's hands should be carried near the pommel and not further than 4" out on either side of the saddle horn. Rider's hands must be steady with very limited movement. Rider's hands should be visible to the judge at all times.

For horses ridden huntseat: In reference to bit mouthpieces, nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar). Broken or solid mouthpieces must be between 5/16" to 3/4" in diameter, measured 1" from the cheek and may have a port no higher than 1 1/2". They may be inlaid, synthetic wrapped, including rubber or plastic or incased. On broken mouthpieces only, connecting rings of 1 1/4" or less in diameter or connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2") and which lie flat in the horse's mouth are acceptable. Snaffle bit rings may be no larger than 4 inches in diameter. No fixed reins are allowed. Smooth round, slow twist, corkscrew, single twisted wire, double twisted wire mouthpieces and straight bar or solid mouthpieces are allowed.

- C. Horses will be shown in a rail class under saddle first, followed by Showmanship at Halter. Horses and contestants should not be allowed to leave the arena until placings are announced. Each contestant will be allowed up to a total of three (3) "helpers". Helpers will be allowed into the arena at the conclusion of the riding portion. These three helpers will consist of up to one (1) adult helper and two (2) or three (3) youth helpers (4-H age). The duties of the helpers are as follows: To help with the removal of riding equipment from the horse and the arena, to bring and remove grooming equipment, and to handle horse while contestant grooms the horse. Helpers must wear long pants and boots. At no time will a "helper" be allowed to "warm-up" a horse for the Showmanship portion of the contest. Wheelbarrows, carts or other mechanical apparatuses are prohibited from entering the ring.

### **2. Class Rules and Routine**

The general routine of the class is as follows: The class will be divided into two divisions: Two-handed Rail Performance Class and Showmanship.

A. State 4-H Rules for Western Pleasure/Hunter Under Saddle and Showmanship apply with the following specifications:

In Rail Performance Class, reins should be held in both hands. This is a two-handed class. In showmanship, all attire and tack will be appropriate for Western/Hunter Division. In Showmanship, judges are to place emphasis on the performance of the horse-contestant team. Consideration will be given for grooming status caused by the exhibition in the Rail Performance Class (i.e. sweat, saddle marks, etc. will be discounted.)

B. All entries are first to be shown in the Rail Performance Class division. Number of heats and the need for finals will depend on the number of horses shown. At the conclusion of the Rail Performance Class division, all horses will be untacked and prepared for showmanship in the show ring. A minimum of 15 minutes will be allowed to prepare horses for the Showmanship division. All horses will then be shown at Showmanship.

3. Placings. Combining rankings in the Rail Performance Class and Showmanship divisions as per the State 4-H Horse Show two-judge system will base Placings. If two judges are used in the class, the overall class placing will be determined by use of the following procedures: a.) The top ten rankings in the Rail Performance Class division will be determined by combining the individual Rail Performance Class placing of the judges as per the State 4-H Horse Show two-judge system, with a pre-assigned tie breaker judge, b.) The top ten rankings of the Showmanship division will be determined by combining the individual Showmanship placing of the judges as per the State 4-H Horse Show two-judge system with a different judge pre-assigned as the tie breaker, c.) The Rail Performance Class division ranking and the Showmanship division ranking will be combined to determine the overall class winners, d.) Those contestants ranking in the top ten on both the Rail Performance division and Showmanship division will place over any contestants ranking in the top ten in only one of the division rankings, e.) Any ties for overall class placing resulting from combining the Rail Performance ranking and Showmanship ranking will be broken on the ranking of the Rail Performance division. (Overall winners = winners in Rail Performance combined placing + winners in Showmanship combined placing.)
4. The judge or designated show official(s) has the authority to excuse from competition any horse deemed unsafe and/or out of control. Any horse receiving inhumane treatment while exhibiting may be dismissed from competition and any exhibitor or associated parties guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct, inhumane treatment or misbehavior may be suspended from participation with conditions as described in the general rules of competition for participation in District and State 4-H Horse Shows.

Name of 4-H Member \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age Jan 1, 2025 \_\_\_\_\_ County of 4-H Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

(One horse per 4-H member; read the attached information for class description and requirements). Receipt of entry will be forwarded via e-mail, so please provide e-mail address and print all information clearly!

NAME OF HORSE \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE OF HORSE \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / 2023

BREED ASSOCIATION/REGISTRATION NUMBER

OWNER OF HORSE/RELATION TO PARTICIPANT

MEMBER MUST SHOW THE HORSE THAT IS ENTERED. NO SUBSTITUTIONS WILL BE PERMITTED.

Entry Fee: A \$30.00 non-refundable entry fee (doesn't include stalling fees at the State 4-H Horse Show) is due by April 30th. You will receive further information about check-in and stalling at the State 4-H Horse show as they become available.

PLEASE PREPARE EARLY: ALL MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY April 30th. Entries with incomplete information (i.e. registration papers, pictures) at that time WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Mail this form with entry payment (Check or money order payable to OKLAHOMA 4-H HORSE PROGRAM) to: Kris Hiney, 201j Animal Science Building, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078.

**SIGNATURES:**

I have filled out the necessary information above. I further understand that I am responsible for following all the rules and regulations of the 2025 Oklahoma 4-H 2-yr-old Training Class as outlined in the information sheet on the 2-yr old program (Should be given at same time you receive this form).

Signature of 4-H Member (date) / Signature of 4-H Member's Parent (date)

**EXTENSION 4-H EDUCATOR:** Your signature below provides acknowledgement that 1. The participant is a member in the county 4-H program, 2. You have reviewed the materials for accuracy and completeness and 3. You believe the 4-H member understands all the requirements of participation.

Signature of County 4-H Extension Educator (date) / County  
(Entrant must be member of your County 4-H)

**CHECKLIST:** Each item **MUST** be enclosed.

Completed nomination form.

Photographs of the horse showing all identifiable markings on head, body and legs.

Proof of Ownership. Papers must show sole ownership by member, his/her parents, grandparents, brother, sister or legal guardian BY MAY 1ST. NO LEASED HORSES ARE ALLOWED IN THE TWO-YEAR OLD TRAINING CLASS.

Payment of nonrefundable fee \$30.00. Make check payable to Oklahoma 4-H Horse Program.

Signature of 4-H member and parent.

Signature of Extension Educator responsible for County 4-H Horse Program.

(Extension Educators: Please keep a copy of this completed form for your records)