

Box Elder County 4-H Horse Program
New Member Packet
2025-2026

We are so excited to welcome you to Box Elder County Horse 4-H. It is an amazing opportunity for your whole family to gain knowledge, and friends, have service opportunities, and be involved in the community. It is a volunteer-based program and we will need your help to keep it running! 4-H is a National non-profit youth development program that focuses on education as its primary goal.

The 4-H Pledge (recited at every practice, event, and show):

I pledge my Head to clearer thinking,
My Heart to greater loyalty,
My Hands to Larger Service,
and my Health to better living,

For my Club, My Community, My Country, and my World.

In order to be part of our county program, there are a few things you must do: You must enroll your child as a participant in Box Elder County 4-H, enroll in and pay the Western Horse Program fee (this is under events), and then enroll yourself and/or your spouse as a 4-H volunteer. All parents need to help volunteer, and all types and levels of knowledge are welcome. This also allows you and your child to begin participating in all activities immediately. While enrolling, you will notice there are 3 age groups: Junior, Intermediate, and Senior. It is based on the grade/age of your child as of September 1 of the current school year (2025-2026).

JUNIOR 3rd-5th grade

INTERMEDIATE 6th - 8th grade

SENIOR 9th-12th grade

The novice group, which any age member can be a part of, is a great way to get started in our horse shows. This group is for beginners and will have easier judging and less competitive grouping. This is not required to compete, but we recommend it for beginners. However, 4-H members can move up to the regular classes when they feel ready. The novice group is also not eligible for Region or State Horse Show Competitions.

<https://4h.zsuite.org/> is the website used for all Utah 4-H enrollment and State/County event registration. You will also want to join a club that will help you learn, practice, and develop. Once you have enrolled and contacted a club in your area, you are now ready to join the fun!

First, to ensure that you are receiving Horse Program emails, make sure that you have selected the Horse/Pony project in your Zsuite profile. This selection is available just after you select a club(s). If you are still not receiving emails from marci.borg@usu.edu, send her an email and let her know! Be aware, all emails are sent to the address provided in your 4h.zsuite.org member profile.

Utah 4-H has a Helmet Policy: anytime you are on a Horse at a 4-H Sponsored event, including 4-H club practices, you are required to have a helmet on.

B.E County Horse Program is based out of the B.E County Fairgrounds. All county events will be held there unless otherwise stated. Events are held on Tuesday, as this is the day the County has granted 4-H the use of the facility for free.

Winter Riding-Small Indoor

Horse Education-Museum room - next to the small indoor

Horse Shows-Big Outdoor Arena

B.E County Events:

Winter Riding: Starts the 2nd Tuesday in February. These are organized ride nights that anyone in the Western Riding program can come to. They are scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday running February- April. Warm-up is from 5-6 pm with organized leader lessons from 6-8. These are led by the Horse Ambassadors and supervised by the Horse council. In May the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays are used as practice horse shows.

Horse Education Nights: These are where we get together without our horses to learn about different equine subjects, perform service, study, and prepare for the horse shows and horse contests. These are so important to the overall knowledge for our participants and their families as well as help build a strong county in Horse 4-H. We encourage you to attend them if at all possible.

Horse Camp: This is generally held the Friday and Saturday that school gets out for the summer. Friday is education, fun, crafts, and speakers-NO HORSES. Saturday is a full day of Horse clinics. This is held at the fairgrounds in Tremonton. You must register for this separately and pay an additional fee to attend.

County Horse Shows:

For those participating in the western show program, we will have 3 horse shows throughout the summer that you may compete in. Each show you must be registered, have your horses up-to-date on all vaccines (biosecurity policy posted on our county website), and pay \$15 per show to help with costs (register on z-suites). These show events close the Tuesday before the show and no late entries will be accepted. The dress code for Box Elder County Horse judged events are long sleeved any Color Solid Shirt with collar and buttons or snaps down the front, Dark Jeans, a western belt, western boots, and the 4-H Patch on the left sleeve. No embroidery or rhinestones. Scarves and ties can be worn. The dress code for speed events is the same except the belt is optional and the long sleeve white shirt can be replaced with a short or long sleeved T-Shirt or western shirt if desired. At the first show, you will be issued a constant number. You will need to keep this number and use it every show.

There are 7 events at each show.

The first event is a test, which is REQUIRED in order to compete in any event. It is online and specific to each age group. The test links are emailed out the Tuesday before the Show and close Friday at 5:00. No late tests are accepted. There are two educational books and the rule book that each participant will be encouraged to study. You can download the volumes or purchase a hard copy of the Horse Study material at the Box Elder Extension office for \$15.00 a Volume. Links for these volumes can be found [Here](#)

The second event is with your horse, called Fitting and Showmanship. It is REQUIRED, and a judged event, where an unmounted participant and their horse perform a simple pattern at a walk or a trot, usually with elements like backup, pivot, and stand squared for inspection. The horse is unsaddled, groomed and cleaned well. No spurs may be worn. Check out the 4-H State rule book for more information.

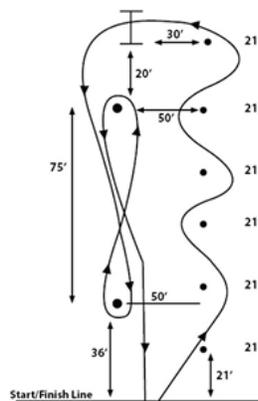
<https://extension.usu.edu/utah4h/files/western-horse-rulebook-2022.pdf>

The third event is Western Rail Work. This is a mounted, judged event, where the participant demonstrates different maneuvers in a class, like a walk, trot, canter, stop, and backup. It is completed on the rail.

The 4th event changes every two years. WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP. This is a pattern class. The routine will contain no more than eight separate maneuvers selected to determine the horsemanship ability of the riders. Markers shall be utilized to indicate changes in gaits or pattern change points.

The 5th event is pole bending. The horse will complete a pattern of 6 poles, weaving through and around them, and cross the finish timer. Each rider will compete individually, alone, for this event. If the pattern is broken, the rider is disqualified. If a pole is knocked over, 5 seconds is added.

The 6th event changes every two years on rotation with GYMKHANA GIG. The rider crosses the starting line, passes the first pole while keeping the pole on their right and starts weaving with second pole. The rider weaves through all the poles, turns to the left to jump the scurry bar. The rider then passes the first barrel keeping the barrel on their left, turns the second barrel to the right, and passes back up to turn the first barrel again to the left (forming a figure eight), and then passes between the barrels and the poles across the finish line.



The 7th event is Barrel Racing. There are 3 barrels in which the horse must run around, in a Cloverleaf pattern, without breaking the pattern or knocking over a barrel (5 seconds added).

Region Horse Shows

Box Elder County is fortunate enough to be able to compete against other counties in a Team Horse Show. The horse show events are the same events as our county horse shows, but they are scored as a team. The Box Elder Region team is determined by the overall placings at the county shows. The top 8 in each age group will form the region team.

State Horse Shows

The state horse show is like our county shows except top youth from across the state are competing in the show. Participation is by qualifications only so the Top 5-7 in each age group are chosen to represent our county at the state horse show.

Horseless Classics Contests

Box Elder County 4-H also participates in Horseless Team and Individual Contests throughout the year. Having access to a horse is not required for participation in these contests. The Horseless Contests are now available for all age groups to participate in and we encourage all youth to get involved in some or all.

Horse Bowl Contest consists of teams of 4 or 5 participants, competing against their age group. They will study and answer questions as a team about basic horse knowledge and can compete on a county, state, or even national level.

Hippology Contest can be entered as an individual or as a 4 man team event, competing against their age group in 4 different areas; Examination, Station Phase, Judging Phase, and Team Problems. This is a unique and fun way to make friends and compete in equine understanding and husbandry.

Horse Judging Contest is an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4 H horse projects to demonstrate deductive reasoning and public speaking skills as they evaluate quality horses and explain their decisions. This is open to all age groups, and teams compete in groups of 3 or 4 or youth can compete individually.

Horse Demonstrations is a competition we hold on the county level. Each participant is encouraged to prepare a timed demonstration, teaching a judge about an aspect of horsemanship that they are interested in. They can use powerpoint, objects, videos, etc. to teach their topic. These are judged and prizes are awarded on the county level. Presentations can be done as an individual event or as a team of 2.

Horse Public Speaking Contest, which is similar to demonstrations except objects and demonstration tools are not allowed. This is an individual only contest.

WOW!

That was a lot of information. And there is still so much more. The purpose of this welcome packet is not to overwhelm you but to encourage you. We are here to help. We encourage you to find a friend from your club to act as a mentor family and to answer questions as they arise. We would love to help answer questions as well. We want you to feel welcome, we want to give you the information you need to participate, volunteer, and gain a love for 4-H.

Please contact us with any questions or concerns! We look forward to getting to know you.

Helpful links:

Instagram: BoxElder4h <https://www.instagram.com/boxelder4h/>

FaceBook: Box Elder County 4-H -<https://www.facebook.com/BoxElder4H>

Box Elder County 4-H website: <https://extension.usu.edu/boxelder/4h/>

Utah State 4-H enrollment and event registration: <https://4h.zsuite.org/>

State 4-H website: <https://extension.usu.edu/utah4h/index>

Utah State 4-H Portfolios: <https://extension.usu.edu/utah4h/more/4-h-portfolios>

Box Elder County Western Horse 4-H is a Private group on Facebook. It is for current members of Box County's western horse program 4-H.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/328859423980181/>