

**BOULDER COUNTY  
4H HORSE PARTICIPANT YEAR END AWARDS  
POINTS ACCRUAL PROCEDURE  
(revised 1/6/2013)**

In 1998 the Boulder County 4-H Horse leaders Council began a program to award year-end high point awards for each of the achievement levels in the horsemanship program. The awards are intended to increase interest in competing at Boulder County 4-H horse shows. There are two award categories: an individual high point award and a club participation award. All references to "high point award" in this document refer to the Horse Leaders Council high point award, not to other shows or competitions.

**GENERAL RULES**

1. Before the annual Horse Leaders show in March, the Horse Leaders Council will identify which shows are considered eligible for competition in the program during the show season and will appoint a point tracker for the season. It is recommended that show management for each eligible show submit the show schedule to the point tracker for determination of eligible classes before publishing the show schedule. Classes which are eligible for the high point award may be specially marked on the show schedule (underlined, italicized, or marked with an asterisk).
2. Points for all Boulder County 4-H horse project members will be tracked.
3. All eligible shows MUST place all classes to sixth place, or fifth place and a reserve, and must record all six placings on a results sheet. All shows must provide to the point tracker an exhibitor log, listing all exhibitors, their club names, and the classes each exhibitor competed in, as well as the results sheet, within two weeks after the completion of the show. If the show is less than two weeks before the Boulder County Fair 4-H horse show, the results must be provided to the point tracker no less than FOUR DAYS before the beginning of the Fair horse show.
4. Year end awards will be announced during Championship Day at the Fair 4-H horse show.
5. Individual winners may choose prizes from a "prize book" containing numerous prizes. Horse Leaders Council shall set the value of the individual prizes based on the amount of money available to the program and the number of awards to be presented. The reserve high point winners shall be awarded a small prize such as a gift card. The prizes will be presented at the Boulder County 4-H Achievement Night.
6. The point tracker shall use a spreadsheet program, such as Excel, to record and total the points in all categories. The point tracker must also keep the individual records of each show available to that all calculations can be clearly demonstrated. Participants may view the results at any time during the year. A reviewer appointed by the horse Leaders Council shall review the final results before they are announced.
7. A member who wins an individual high point award shall not be eligible to win in succeeding years at the same level and discipline. This rule is intended to encourage members to move into the next level of competition once the high point award has been achieved. Exceptions: Level

IV members will continue to be eligible for Level IV high point awards, and reserve high point winners are eligible in succeeding years at the same level and discipline.

8. Two high point awards will be given for each level: one awarded to the participant with the most points in English and Showmanship, and one awarded to the participant with the most points in Western and Showmanship. In the event there is a tie in the final results, the award will be given to the participant with the higher score on the written test at the Boulder County Fair.
9. Points are accumulated using the rules below and are not influenced by individual shows' high point calculations or other summary awards.

#### INDIVIDUAL LEVEL AWARDS

One high point award will be given for the participant earning the most points in each of the following categories:

- Walk-Trot award (trophy only, no prize from book) – all walk-trot classes and showmanship
- Unrated English and Showmanship
- Unrated Western and Showmanship
- Level I English and Showmanship
- Level I Western and Showmanship
- Level II English and Showmanship
- Level II Western and Showmanship
- Level III/IV Western and Showmanship
- Level III/IV Western and Showmanship

1. An achievement certificate will be awarded to the high point award winner and the reserve high point award winner for each of the above achievement levels.
2. Participants may exhibit any project horse during the season. Points are accumulated solely on the participant. It is expected that the show management of each show will enforce any 4-H rules concerning use of project horses or other horses or participant eligibility. Enforcement of these rule for determination of a horse's or participant's eligibility shall not be the responsibility of the point tracker. Horse Leaders Council will mediate in the event of a dispute.
3. Points will be tracked for classes which do not limit participants to a particular talent or age grouping. For example, classes designated "novice," "senior," "junior," etc. will not qualify for tracking. The class must offer an opportunity for all participants to participate. Exception: because points are accumulated according to 4H level, classes which are open to certain levels ARE eligible for accrual, as long as no further restrictions are imposed (such as allowing only exhibitors of a certain age or with a certain breed of horse). Points will be accumulated for all "common" show classes which are not limited by type of participant or horse. Examples include: Showmanship, English Equitation, English Pleasure, English Control, Show Hack, Western Horsemanship, Western Pleasure, Trail, Reining, Western Riding, etc.
4. Gymkhana or speed events will not be eligible in individual high point awards.

5. Points are awarded on the following basis in accordance with the judge's placing of the class:

First Place	6 points
Second Place	5 points
Third Place	4 points
Fourth Place	3 points
Fifth Place	2 points
Sixth/Reserve	1 point

Points are awarded on the above scale regardless of number of participants in the class. Even if there is only one entrant in the class, the entrant is awarded 6 points if the judge places the entrant in first place.

6. For each participant, the top THREE placings in each eligible class will be counted. For example, if a participant competes in five shows, and places first, third, third, fifth, and second in Showmanship at those five shows, the participant's final points accrual in Showmanship will be 15 points (one first place at 6 points, one second place at 5 points, and one third place at 4 points). This is intended to encourage participants to compete even if they are unable to attend all of the designated shows.
7. Participants will be tracked for the level at which they were competing at the first show. Example: if a participant rides and exhibits at Level II at the time of enrollment for the award, but is advanced to Level III during the show season, the points will be accumulated toward the Level II award. This rule is enforced because if a member changes levels late in the year, most likely due to under-rating and subsequent outstanding performance in the lower level, and brings forward the many points accumulated at the lower level, the participant has an advantage over other participants who have ridden at the higher level for the entire year (and have not had the opportunity to accumulate "easy" points because of being under-rated).
8. If a participant advances to a higher level and elects to compete for the award at the higher level, the participant must notify the point tracker of this intent. From the date of notification, the participant relinquishes all prior points accumulated at the lower level and starts accumulating points the higher level. The election means that the participant is competing at the higher level for the award.
9. If a participant advances levels during the show season, only those classes which are open to the level of the award will be tracked and will count toward this participant's points. Classes which are not available to the lower level and thus not eligible to other participants at that level will not be tracked. Example: if a participant changes from Unrated to Level I, no classes which are not available to Unrated will be tracked, such as Trail, Reining, etc.
10. All participants must register for and take the written test at the Boulder County Fair 4-H Horse Show to be eligible to receive a high point award. All participants must participate in at least three of the eligible shows to receive a high point award.

## CLUB PARTICIPATION AWARD

One club participation award is given to the club whose exhibitors have ridden in the most classes on a “per competing member” basis.

1. For the club participation award, all participants are tracked for all clubs, all eligible shows. The point tracker does not need to track eligibility of individuals.
2. Each club receives one point for each participant in each class, regardless of the class type or rider’s placing. All 4-H classes are eligible for tracking, including gymkhana classes, classes limited by eligibility, horse or rider type, etc. Levels are not tracked.
3. Open classes or non-4-H classes do not count.
4. Points are tallied using the Exhibitor Log. The point tracker will award one point per class that each club member has entered. Example: if a member of Boulder Valley Riders has entered four classes at a show as documented on the Exhibitor Log, the point tracker shall award four points to Boulder Valley Riders.
5. Once the club points from all shows have been totaled, the point tracker shall determine the total number of exhibitors from each club during the course of the year. This is done by counting the number of exhibitors from each club on each show’s Exhibitor Log (not by horse project enrollees or total club enrollees).
6. The point tracker shall divide the total number of points for each club by that club’s number of exhibitors to achieve a “per member” class number. This ensures that all clubs are rated for participation according to the number of classes ridden per member, and does not cause a disadvantage for smaller clubs. Example: if Rocky Mountain Riders members entered a total of 80 classes over five shows, and there were 10 total exhibitors, the “per member” average would be 8.00.
7. The club participation award is presented to the club with the highest “per member” average.