SC 4-H Horse Record Book Competition

This unique opportunity for 4-H members active in the Horse Project will culminate youth participation in their project horse’s health and management, horse knowledge, horse handling, and horse industry experience. To be eligible to compete in this prestigious event, youth must complete a record book and submit this book to the State Specialist’s office for judging. Record book templates are available online at [http://www.clemson.edu/extension/4h/kids_families/projects/agriculture_and_animals/horses.html](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/4h/kids_families/projects/agriculture_and_animals/horses.html). Youth should complete the appropriate level for their skill and experience. Youth may repeat levels in subsequent years, however, if a youth wins at Level 1, they are no longer eligible for Level 1 competition. Youth competing at Level 2 are no longer eligible for Level 1 competition.

Cloverbuds may complete a record book and participate in the record book program at the State 4-H Horse Show, but will not be considered for competition as per National 4-H regulations. Younger, or beginning, 4-H members within the Horse Project are encouraged to complete the Level 1 record book. Youth with at least two years of past experience in the Horse Project are encouraged to complete the Level 2 record book.

The competition for Level 1 and Level 2 record books include the following:

- Thorough completion of record book and submission to the State Specialist office by **May 1 of the current project year**.
  
  Mail to: **Dr. Kristine Vernon; 135 Poole Agricultural Building; Clemson, SC 29634-0311**

  - These books must be signed by the 4-Her’s club leader and parent prior to submission validating the youth’s accurate completion of the book. [50% of competition]

- At the **State 4-H Horse Show** all record book competitors will also:

  - Compete in a showmanship class (only open to those who previously submitted their record book by the above deadline).
    - The horse that will be utilized for this competition must be declared by the record book submission deadline
    - Showmanship Class – (horse is required – **must have Intent to Show form by March 15 of the current year**) [25% of competition]

  - A horsemanship knowledge test which may include a variety of non-mounted activities such as: **Test will be administered at the State 4-H Horse Show** [25% of competition]
Scoring of the record book will represent 50% of the total points available for the competition and will be based on the following scoring system:

- Thoroughness  
  15 points
- Accuracy  
  20 points
- Neatness/professionalism  
  15 points
- Realistic goal setting  
  10 points
- Record keeping  
  20 points
- 4-H story (grammar/spelling, originality, writing style)  
  15 points
- Photos and additional material and originality  
  5 points

The showmanship class will be judged according to the SC State 4-H rules and regulations. A pattern will be used for this class, and may be exhibited as western, hunter or saddle seat showmanship tack/attire. Youth are encouraged to wear professional attire suitable for the discipline they are affiliated with (show clothes is recommended but not required). Long sleeves, boots with a heel and long pants are required.

A hard copy of the record book should be postmarked no later than May 1 of the project year and sent to:

Dr. Kristine Vernon  
135 Poole Agricultural Building  
Clemson, SC  29634-0311

Any questions regarding this competition can be directed to kvernon@clemson.edu or 864.656.4028.