

NEBRASKA

EQUINE news

The purpose of *Nebraska Equine News* is to educate readers on equine issues and programs available through UNL Extension 4-H and the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, all in the *Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at UNL*. *Nebraska Equine News* provides current educational information important to the equine audience in Nebraska. It also includes updated information concerning the opportunities available through the Equine Science Option in the UNL Department of Animal Science and extracurricular programs.

Connection Between 4-H and UNL

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln is a land-grant university, the mission of which is to share knowledge with all of the people of the state. UNL Extension's mission is to help Nebraskans enhance their lives through research-based education. As a cooperative effort among the United States Department of Agriculture, UNL and local counties, extension reaches statewide, delivering research-based knowledge to people through direct teaching and publications. As the youth development arm of extension, 4-H reaches one in three of Nebraska's eligible young people in efforts to prepare them for the 21st century. Nebraska 4-H often is considered young people's first class at the university.



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Extracurricular Programs — Equestrian Team, Horse Judging, Rodeo Club

by Libby Lugar, UNL Equine Lecturer

Go to class, study. Go to class, study. There's more to life for the UNL student horse enthusiast! Through the animal science department, many extra-curricular activities are available in which students interested in horses can participate.

The UNL Equestrian Team has been very popular and successful. Each fall, tryouts are held for the 30-member team; students of all levels and types of riding experience are needed. The team fields riders in five divisions, from walk-trot riders, who have had less than two years of riding experience; to open division riders, who have competed at a national level in a major breed association. The UNL Equestrian Team competes in the western division of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association. All divisions are judged on horsemanship skill, with riders competing on horses unfamiliar to them as they draw for their competition mount. This style of competition allows all riders to compete on an even basis.

The Horse Judging Team is another out-of-class experience available to UNL students. Team members gain experience and knowledge on current rules and standards in the horse showing

industry. The experience starts in class, and students interested in judging are fortunate to travel to some of the largest breed shows in the country, as well as in Nebraska. The team competes at the All American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio, as well as the American Quarter Horse Association World Championship Show in Oklahoma City. In addition, members visit the American Paint Horse Association World Headquarters when they compete at the APHA Spring Sweepstakes judging contest. Judging team members have the opportunity to travel and see world-class horses, as well as gain decision-making and communication skills so valued in the workplace.

The very active Rodeo Club attracts many students. Rodeo Club members have a place on East Campus to house their horses and opportunities to compete in college rodeos. The team hosts an annual rodeo and travels throughout the Midwest to other college-hosted rodeos.

For more information on these student activities, please refer to the Undergraduate link on the Department of Animal Science Web site at: <http://www.animalscience.unl.edu/index.html> or contact Libby Lugar at llugar2@unl.edu.

New DVDs Available

Two new DVDs have been developed to help educate Horse Project members about the District 4-H Horse shows and the Working Ranch Horse Class.

The District Horse Show Process DVD demonstrates the procedure used at the beginning of the district horse shows for the individual workout followed by the group workouts in English and Western Pleasure, as well as English Equitation and Western Horsemanship. Live footage from a previous District 4-H Horse show helps explain how youth move through the individual rail work and then the group work. One copy of this DVD has been sent to each UNL Extension office.

Additional copies may

be purchased and information can be found at: <http://www.animalscience.unl.edu/extension/equine/4H.html>. (2007 District Shows: June 14, Grant; June 15, Kearney; June 19, Chadron; June 20, Albion; June 21, West Point; June 22, Weeping Water.)

The Working Ranch Horse DVD provides youth and potential Working Horse judges a better understanding of the class. Actual footage helps demonstrate quality runs and poor quality runs. The scoring system also is explained. Contestants, judges and show management all are encouraged to view the DVD. Copies may be purchased at: <http://www.animalscience.unl.edu/extension/equine/4H.html>