

Inside:

- 2014 Arkansas 4-H State Roping Championship
- Storing Hay Outside

2014 Arkansas 4-H State Horse Show

Mark Russell, Assistant Professor - Equine Extension

More than 100 youths from 26 counties added up to 902 entries, making the 2014 Arkansas 4-H State Horse Show the largest in the last five years.

Ashley, Benton and White counties had the most youths participate in the horse show, with 12 youths from each county. The show was held at the White County Fairgrounds July 14-17.

“The show went very well and was actually better than expected considering the new classes and new exhibitors,” said Mark Russell, assistant professor of equine extension for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

This year’s Arkansas 4-H State Horse Show brought 902 contest entries from just the 4-H’ers. “It’s definitely the highest it’s been in the five years that I’ve been here,” Russell said. “Although last year we had 900 entries,” 100 were participants in a barrel race fundraiser, so the total for 4-H entries in 2013 was 800, he added.

The entries included educational contests such as horse judging, hippology, public speaking, individual demonstration, team demonstration and horse bowl.

The other contests included western dressage, which is a combination of classical dressage and a traditional western riding to train horse and rider work as a team, goat-tying contest, barrel racing, pole bending, keyhole race, stake race, and other agility performances.

The keyhole race, a speed event that tests the quickness in riding and a horse’s turning agility in a “keyhole” shape, had

the highest number of entries with 52 total entries.

“The weather was also fantastic and kept everyone in happy spirits the entire week,” Russell said.

Here is a breakdown of the high point winners (with photos):



High Point Junior Speed and Junior Performance
Shayne Harrell, Faulkner County



High Point Senior Speed
Jordyn Plunkett, Grant County



High Point Senior Performance
Bailee Burchfield, White County



High Point Ranch Horse
Dillon Cox, Independence County

A total of 110 participated in the horse show. Below is the list of 4-H'ers who participated:

Ashley: Allison Campbell, Courtney Carrico, Walker Davis, Danni Dolan, Addison Gray, Ashley Hollis, Grace Johnson, Jessica Mauser, Cami Murphy, Justice Pullin, Taylor Rainbolt, Chelsea Riley

Baxter: Avery Hodges, Quinn Hodges, Michelle Last, Jessica Leach

Benton: Jessica Bookout, Lauren Brock, Megan Crawford, Hannah DeVoe, Hannah Frakes, Bailey Hummel, McKinzie Hummel, Jaydon Jarnagan, Jenna Jarnagan, Jessie Kay Lovell, Bailee Ory, Karadie Ory

Boone: Maria Rubio

Clark: Hannah Helms

Desha: Annabella Day, Mary Mencer

Drew: Ethan Young

Faulkner: Landri Aultman, Shayne Harrell, Lexi Haynie, Austin Lewis, Nicole Lewis, Sierra

Puckett, Kayleigh Rhudy, Reba Rhudy, Sarah Elizabeth Smith, Savanna Woodham

Garland: Carlie Dodd, Aspen Thornton

Grant: Lacey Lively, Jordyn Plunkett, Katie Vermilyea

Greene: Taylor Copeland, Olivia Gardner, Maggie Malone

Hot Spring: Eli Bates, Sarah Beth Bates, Mikayla Moore, Dusty Walters, Witt Walters, Cami Wells

Independence: Dakota Cox, Dillon Cox

Izard: Audra Blevins, Mary Alice Cole, Baylee Hicks, Justin Hicks, Sydney Presley, Avery Stacy

Jackson: Ryan Boyd, Emma Goad, Chancey Grandstaff, Rhett Hunter, Jonathon Poole, Emily Smith, Zoi Smith

Jefferson: Samantha Faulkner, Elizabeth Fults

Lonoke: Maddison Brock, Hayle Cummings

Madison: Katee Johnson

Polk: Simeon Fields

Pope: MaKenzie Bartlett, Katelyn Danzy, Jenna Meimerstorf, Landon Meimerstorf

Prairie: Aleigha Smith

Saline: Ross Harrington

Sebastian: Morgan Davis

Sharp: Kaitlin Coursey, Peyton Landreth, Austin Manning, Kyle Manning, Shaina Manning

St. Francis: Bailey Harris, Taylor Harris, Mikelyn Manues, Molly Pipkin

Stone: Ryann Misenheimer, Ashley Simons

Van Buren: Jasper Burgess

White: Bailee Burchfield, Katlynn Burchfield, Brooklynn Duncan, Laura Henderson, Monica Kidd, Carson McFtridge, Synthia Scott, Lee Thomas, Heiley Wallace, Linzi Wallace, Mary Emma Waymack, Megan B. Woodlee

Yell: Michael Lamb

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service administers the State Horse Show and only youths enrolled in the 4-H Horse program can compete.

To learn more about Extension Horse Programs, visit <http://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/animals-forages/horses/> or <http://arkansaslivestockdotcom.wordpress.com/>.

2014 Arkansas 4-H State Roping Championship

Mark Russell, Assistant Professor - Equine Extension

On May 31, the Arkansas 4-H State Roping Championship was held in Benton at the Saline County Fairgrounds. The event consisted on team roping, tie down roping, breakaway, and goat tying. Here are the high point saddle certificate winners.

Junior Boy: Colt Smith

Junior Girl: Aubrey Lee

Senior Boy: Britt Driggers

Senior Girl: Jessica Rowland

We wish to thank our generous sponsors for helping us put on this event – Sykes, Hope Livestock Auction and Greg's Hay and Straw.



Pictured left to right: **Colt Smith, Jessica Rowland, Britt Driggers and Aubrey Lee**

Storing Hay Outside

Mark Russell, Assistant Professor - Equine Extension

Whether you feed one horse or fifty, mass hay storage can become a necessity for most horse owners. When attempting to maintain the quality of your horse hay, the most important factors affecting the quality of hay are:

- ① Moisture content at baling and time of storage.
- ② Stage of maturity at baling.
- ③ Storage conditions.
- ④ Forage species.

I'd like to discuss the third factor of that list – storage conditions of your horse hay. This time of year, it seems as though one of the most important things we can do as horse owners is to properly store our hay for future use before next season's cutting. Research from Oklahoma State University indicates that you can expect losses after 12 to 18 months to be twice as great as losses after nine months of storage. Research also shows that when hay is stored at lower temperatures, the loss of quality is minimized. Unfortunately, we have little or no control over the temperature at which hay is stored, and controlling moisture may be the best strategy to prevent storage losses. If storing hay inside is not an option, the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture has outlined some tips and helpful suggestions for storing hay outside:

- Always store hay on a well-drained area, and avoid storing on the ground if possible. Store hay on top of pallets, tarps, poles, straw, old tires or coarse gravel. Research has shown that this

method reduces losses between 5 to 15 percent. Always place bales in the direction of prevailing winds.

- Use a minimum of 3 feet between bale rows for air circulation. The more space the better.
- If bales are stored side by side, leave at least 24 inches between bales.
- Avoid storing bales under trees and in the shade of buildings. Water runoff from roofs can highly affect the quality of hay.
- If there is any indoor space available, store the higher-quality bales inside. This should include the hay that is used near the end of the feeding period.
- Cover with tarp or other thick material if possible. Some research shows that loss can be prevented up to 10 percent by covering. If covering with a tarp, slope the tarp so that water can run off smoothly and does not sit in one particular place on top of the hay bale.



- If storing round bales, avoid stacking on top of each other. Research shows that stacking traps moisture and limits drying from sun and wind. If possible, make longer single rows to avoid moisture collection as well as aid in the prevention of fires.



- If you have the option of storing some hay inside and the remaining outside, only store dense bales outside, as they will sag less and have less surface area in contact with the ground. The bales that are

the densest should be stored at the back of the stack and should be held for longer periods of time. Further, flimsy and loose bales should be fed first and stored at the front of each stack so they have less time to accumulate moisture and endure greater damage.

- Attempt to only buy hay with plastic twine or net wrap, as they will resist weathering, insects and rodents better than natural fiber twines.

It is always a good idea to feed lower quality or older hay first. There is no substitute for a well covered and enclosed area to store hay. Ensure that hay is cured prior to stacking it inside or outside. Open a few bales to check for moisture and/or heat inside the bale. If you feel moisture, it is critical to keep space between bales and stacks. Moisture inside the bale can cause the hay to turn moldy and to ferment. Fermentation is the cause of heat buildup that might start a fire. With a well laid plan to store hay, losses can be minimized and save the owner money and wasted hay.