

Pima County 4-H Horse Project New Member GUIDE



2023



Revised Sept 2023

WELCOME!

Thank you for your interest in the Pima County Horse Project! Within this booklet you will find information on:

- * How the Horse Project is run, Contacts, Website
- * The 4-H Rule Book, Horse Registration
- * Horsemanship Program
- * Show Attire
- * Thoughts from Seasoned 4-H Parents

Appendix:

- * Personal Items for Show Day
- * Show Items to Have for Horse Grooming
- * Trailering Tips
- * Preparing Your Horse to Show
- * Braiding and Banding for Shows

As with anything to do with horses, safety must come first! Before you begin to follow any of the tips or advice in this booklet, if it is brand new to you please ask someone more experienced in your club to come along side you and help instruct or teach you. Stay alert, expect the unexpected and stay safe!

Also, this booklet is not intended to be the authoritative word on the Pima County Horse Project. The official 2020-2023 Pima County 4-H Horse Project Rule Book found on the pimacountyhorse4h website under Forms supercedes any discrepancy you might find between the information contained within and any rules stated elsewhere. Please seek the advice of your club leaders for any questions you may have!

Pima County 4-H Horse Project

The Horse Project is overseen by the County Extension Office Assistant Agent Ashlea Gideon and run by the Horse Advisory Board (HAB). The HAB meets the first Monday of the month in person and by Zoom at 7:00 and all are welcome. Email 4hgiddyup@gmail.com to obtain a link to the meeting.

On the next page is the current list of the Officers and Coordinators of the HAB. This list is also found on the pimacountyhorse4h.weebly.com website under HAB, Officers and Contacts. You can see that it takes a bunch of dedicated volunteers to run this Project! You might also notice that there are three Youth positions listed- these are also elected positions that give the youth a voice in the decisions of the Horse Project along with valuable leadership experience! All of these positions become open annually and are voted on in April of each year. You must be a certified volunteer to hold an office. Youth members must be a senior (14 years old) to run for a HAB youth position.

The Extension office administrative assistant, Madison Ramirez, is a very valuable resource to both 4-H volunteers and Horse Project parents and can be reached at mramirez519@arizona.edu and (520) 308-0744.

A note about age eligibility:

Riders must be between ages 8-19 during the State 4-H year (Oct 1 of the current year to Sept 30 of the following year).

- a. Junior members are those who have reached their 8th birthday but not reached their 14th birthday before January 1 of the 4-H year.
- b. Senior members are those who have reached their 14th birthday, but not their 19th, before January 1 of the 4-H year.

Younger youth (age 5-7) can be a member of the Cloverbud project.

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***Continuing Ed, Horseless Horse,
Team Grooming***
all vacant, Coordinators needed!

Website pimacountyhorse4h.weebly.com

You should become very familiar with this website. This is where various forms for show entries, contact information, directions to arenas, the events calendar, the Rule Book and information and study guides for Continuing Education (CE) Mastership, Horse Handling and Judging are located!

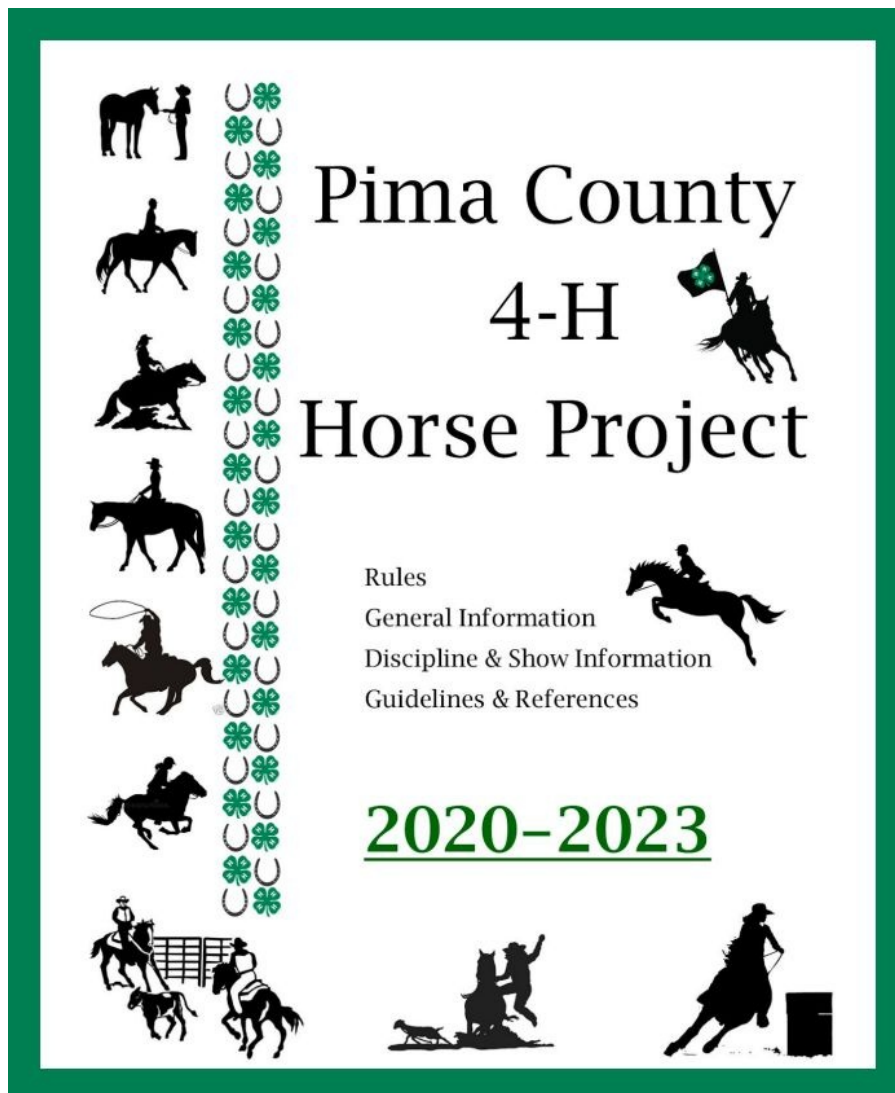


The screenshot shows the homepage of the Pima County 4-H Horse Project website. At the top left is a logo featuring a green four-leaf clover with white 'H's on each leaf, next to the text 'Pima County Horse Project' in a green, stylized font. Below the logo is a navigation menu with links for HOME, CALENDAR, EVENTS, FORMS, CE, HAB, CLUB, and MORE... The main content area features a large heading 'Pima County 4-H Horse Project' and a sub-heading '2023 Western Nationals Horse Judging - CHAMPIONS'. Below this is the tagline 'Making our better the best it can be!' and a green button labeled 'What's Happening NEXT'. To the right of the text is a photograph of five young women in light blue 4-H sweatshirts standing in front of a metal structure, with one woman holding a purple award. At the bottom left, there is a blue box with the text 'Fair 2023' and a link to 'photographs available on Callahan Photography'. At the bottom right, there is a banner with the 4-H logo and the text '4-H Horse Project'.

Rule Book

The Rule book is found online at the pimacountyhorse4H website under Forms and even though it is 63 pages long, don't let that deter you from reading pages 1-15 some time soon! Make sure you understand the rules regarding Horse Registration (three opportunities/year) and rules for showing especially pages 8-11! There is a lot of important information about scoring, stalling at Fair, filing a grievance and the Horsemanship Program in the Appendix starting on page 55 so check that out. Important rules specific to each discipline are also in the middle sections.

Two important sections of the Rule Book will be highlighted here in this booklet: Horse Registration and Horsemanship Program.



Horse Registration

There are many horse shows that members might attend throughout the year however the two so called “point shows” in 4-H are the Winter Point Show held in the beginning of December and Fair in mid April. These are the shows that members at the Intermediate and Advanced levels can accrue points toward qualification for the annual State 4-H show in November. However, for any member to show at any level in these two shows plus State you must have owned or leased your horse 60 days in advance of the show and have filled out the registration form, sent it to the Show Secretary by email or have it postmarked by the dates listed on the current year’s Registration form. For State, the registration deadline is 120 days before the show. ***These are very strict deadlines. Read more about this in the rule book!***

Horsemanship Program

This is a three part program involving testing in three areas: Horse Handling, Judging and Mastership. Information and study guides for these are under the CE (Continuing Education) tab on the main web site. Members study, practice and prepare for all of these areas and



then have an opportunity to take tests (hands-on, oral and written) given periodically over the 4-H year. A 4-H member who has successfully passed all three levels in all three areas has truly demonstrated a breadth and depth of equine knowledge and is rewarded with an embroidered green jacket! All of the information regarding this program is on pages 60-62 of the rule book.

Show Attire

You are referred to the current rule book for English General Attire (page 19) and Western General Attire (page 27).

English: Here are some examples of acceptable show attire and the description from the rule book:



On the right, ➡ the exhibitor is wearing a hunt coat, button down show shirt, optional stock pin, breeches and tall English riding boots.



Above is an example of an exhibitor wearing half chaps over paddock boots.

SECTION II- ENGLISH GENERAL ATTIRE

1. ASTM or SEI approved equestrian protective headgear with three-point harness is required in all classes at all times.
2. May include breeches and tall boots, breeches with half chaps and paddock boots, or jodhpur and paddock boots.
 - a. Skirts and split skirts are allowed if for religious reasons.
3. English shirt or blouse
4. Optional
 - a. Tie (Choker, stock or conventional men's tie)
 - b. Gloves
5. Coats (optional for LL, Walk/Trot and Beginner only)
 - a. May be waived by the Judge or Show Secretary in the event of heat.

Western: Here are some examples of acceptable show attire and the description from the rule book:



◀ On the left, the exhibitor is wearing boot cut jeans and show top.

On the right, ▶ the exhibitor is wearing gloves and chaps which are both optional.

A western cowboy hat is only allowed for Showmanship classes.



SECTION II- WESTERN GENERAL ATTIRE

*The purpose of the dress code is to enforce safety and to allow a simple and affordable means for all exhibitors to dress neatly in good working attire.

1. ASTM or SEI approved equestrian protective headgear with three-point harness is required.
 - a. **EXCEPTION: Standard Western hat may be worn for Showmanship ONLY.**
2. Long sleeved shirt, with collar.
 - a. Shirt tails should be tucked in and sleeves should be rolled down and fastened.
3. Pants
 - a. Should be neat and clean, with no rips/tears/distress.
4. Belts
 - a. Required if pants have belt loops.
5. Western Boots with heel
6. Optional – gloves, chaps or chinks, etc.

More Thoughts

You are to be congratulated on choosing 4-H as an activity for your family- it is indeed a *family* commitment even if you only have one child in the program! It is helpful to remember that there is much more to the Horse Project than just showing and in fact some members choose to focus on other activities such as the Horsemanship Program and some members don't even own a horse. There is now a formal project for those members interested in horses but who do not own or lease a horse: the "Horseless 4H Project" or H4H. Ask your club leader about this new opportunity!

Since the overarching goal of 4-H is youth development, it can be useful to think of the Horse Project as a medium to have an opportunity to expose youth to all sorts of positive life skills such as goal setting, team work, leadership, self motivation, developing poise and confidence and learning how to handle both success and disappointment with equal grace among many other things.

The show experience can definitely provide an opportunity for the development of all of these skills and in the right environment can be a overall positive experience for a youth. However, it can definitely be challenging at times to keep the experience positive due to the nature of the activity being competitive and because it is being judged. Here is where parents along with club leaders can set the tone for realistic expectations and attainable goal setting. By setting goals that are independent of the placing by a judge, such as being on the right diagonal or the right lead or not breaking gait, success can be defined on the youth's terms and progress can be charted regardless of the color of the ribbon.



We wish you all the best as you join in on the Horse Project and hope that everyone can remember to have fun along the way! Please remember that the Leaders, Officers and Coordinators of the Horse Project are all volunteers and are donating their time to make this the best experience possible. The Project needs you also to pitch in and volunteer when called upon!



We hope over your years in 4-H that the members can make lasting friendships and also that the parents can connect and support each other. The 4-H Horse Project is an awesome venue for youth to navigate their youth and teenage years as demonstrated by so many 4-H members that have aged out and gone on to tremendous success and keep coming back to help *Make the Best Better* for the next generation!



Personal Items for Show Day

Here is a partial list of personal items that various Horse Project members put together from their own experience:

Grooming:

1. Appropriate show clothes for your discipline (see 4-H rules and guidelines)
2. Lint roller
3. Towels/rags to wipe off boots
4. Boot cleaning kit (if needed for black English boots)
5. Make up bag that can include some of the following:
 - Hairspray
 - Bobby pins
 - Hair nets, hair bands (large and small)
 - Safety pins
 - Make up: for example, blush, eye shadow, mascara, eye liner
 - Sunscreen
 - Brush/comb
 - Lip gloss or chapstick
6. Showy pins for your hair (if wanted)
7. Sewing kit
8. Black Duct tape (fixes lots of things)
9. Baby wipes
10. Large safety pins or magnets for your number card
11. Earrings

Other:

1. Horse vaccination record
2. First aid kit (human and equine)

Horse Grooming Kit

For show day, pack up all of your grooming tools and organize them in a grooming tote.

You can choose hard sided or soft sided.

Include items described in the Preparing Your Horse to Show section such as razors, baby powder and bathing items that you might not already have in your kit.



Don't forget: fly spray, hay net, water bucket

Don't forget a "Show Bag"! This smaller bag with just the essentials can be invaluable as you need that last minute item but are already far from the barn and waiting near the gate!



Essential items:

Rag

Lipstick

Water

Extra copy of patterns

Show Schedule

Hairspray

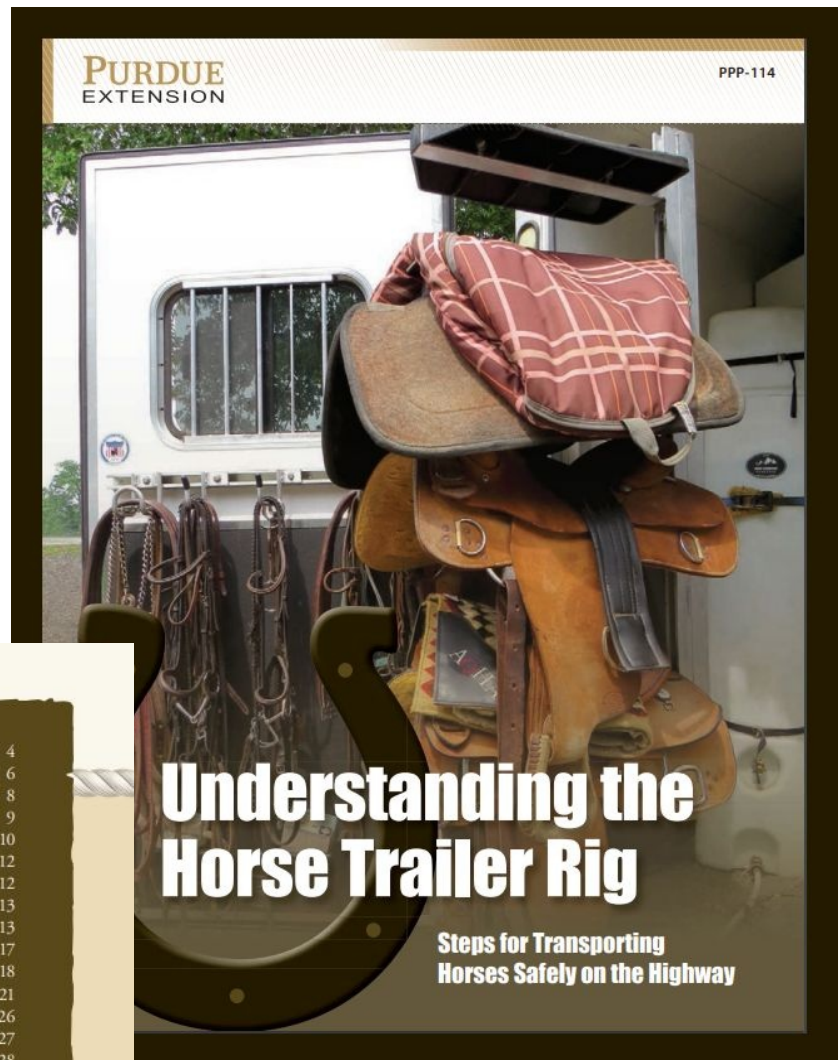
Snack

Safe Trailering

Here is an excellent guide to safe trailering- it is sobering to see how horrific a trailer accident can be however this should encourage all of us to understand and follow the details of safe trailering so that it does not happen to us! You can get a free download of this 56 page booklet at:

<https://edustore.purdue.edu/> Enter "Understanding the Horse Trailer" into the search bar and you will see the booklet for sale or download.

Check it out!



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Preparing Your Horse to Show

Showing is partly about having fun, but your presentation is also very important for both you and your horse. In addition to performing at your best, a clean, polished, well-kept look is essential. Here are a few tips to help you prep your horse to look his best in the show ring. **Note: if you do not own your horse or are leasing, you MUST get permission from the owner before clipping, trimming or cutting the mane, tail or any other hair on the horse!!!**

BATHING

In terms of appearance, the judge will favor a clean horse over a dirty one. This requires bathing your horse. When bathing your horse, be sure to clean EVERYWHERE (especially the legs and under the tail).

- Currycomb your horse prior to washing him. This makes it easier to get all the dirt off.
- Using a sponge to clean the face is easier and less hazardous than spraying your horse in the face with the hose. Only use water to avoid getting soap in his eyes, nose, or ears.
- A more cost efficient alternative to horse shampoo (for those with limited budgets) is Dawn or Joy dish soap.
- For white horses, or horses with chrome (white markings) purple soap (Quic Silver, Net Tex Lavender, Brite Whites) is a life saver. It will restore yellowed spots back to white and really make your horse shine. (Don't leave it on too long though or you'll stain your horse purple!)
- Rinse your horse well so that there is no left over soap residue. It'll make your horse itchy! Vinegar works really well to get soap out.

A few tools to make washing your horse easier include:



AFTER THE BATH

Having worked so hard to get your horse sparkling clean the day before the show, it would be frustrating if your horse rolled and it all went to waste.

- Let your horse completely dry before you move him from the wash rack.
- Protect all the time and effort you spent cleaning your horse by taking measures to prevent him getting dirty again. Some of these measures may include putting on a slinky and sheet, as well as wrapping his legs.
- Also wrapping your horse's tail will keep it neat and tidy.



CLIPPING (CLIPPING SHOULD BE DONE PRIOR TO BATHING!)

Clipping your horse can present a polished off, professional look to you and your horse when showing. Full body clipping is an option, but it can be tricky and time consuming. Furthermore, at walk trot and beginner level it's okay to not do a full body clip. It is perfectly okay if you just clip his face, legs, and ears. **If you are leasing your horse make sure to get permission to clip anywhere on the horse!**

- Have someone with experience clipping help you if you have never clipped before.
- Make sure your horse is clean before you clip him.
- If your horse is not good with clippers, work with him regularly on becoming desensitized. Always reward him, and **never** punish him for being scared. An alternative to clippers (though more tedious) is scissors and/or horse razors.
- For your horse's face, you want to trim his beard and whiskers.
- For a smoother muzzle, you can use a disposable razor (for humans) after cutting the whiskers shorter. Be very careful with this technique! And always make sure to moisturize the shaved area afterwards with conditioner or lotion so his skin doesn't dry out!
- If your horse has white socks, make sure to clip them completely.
- Clipping your horse's feathers (the long hair fringe on the ergot and back of the cannon) without the yucky choppy look can be done by running a comb through the hair and lifting it, then clipping the hair neatly.
- Some horses are not good with their ears being touched, much less touched with clippers or scissors. If this is the case with your horse, work with him regularly on letting you touch and mess with his ears. Reward him for every bit of progress he makes, and again, never punish him for being scared. Eventually he will learn that you aren't trying to hurt him and that it's okay for his ears to be touched.
- Consider carefully if you want to clip your horse's ears. There are two ways to clip your horse's ears. (1) Clip all the hair inside his ear and the edges. With this style, it leaves his ears vulnerable to bugs biting and irritating the inside of his ears. A fly mask with ears can help with this. (2) Fold the edges of the ear together and clip the hair sticking out.
- Don't forget the bridle path! This is an inch or two at your horse's poll (where the halter and bridle sit behind the ears).

It's very important to be patient and careful when clipping your horse. For best results, **take your time**. There are endless Youtube videos on how to clip your horse, so don't be afraid to just spend an hour or two just watching others demonstrate.



THE MANE

Your horse's mane should be even and only on one side of his neck. For most show horses (with the exception of Arabian horses and other breeds whose ideal type has a long mane), a **pulled mane** is a must (*get permission first if you are not the horse owner!! If you own the horse but are inexperienced, get the help and advice of a more experienced person!*). It looks neat and tidy when down, and makes braiding and banding significantly easier, as well as helps complement a horse with an attractive neck, or make a thin neck look thicker. To pull the mane you will need a comb and time. Take an inch-wide section of hair in your left hand and hold it toward the ends. With

the pulling comb in your right hand, rat (or tease) the hair toward your horse's neck, leaving the longer strands in the fingers of your left hand. Take those remaining hairs, wrap them around the comb a couple times and pull straight down to remove them at the roots. Some horses prefer you to pull straight up and some in between. Play around to find what works best for you and your horse.

- Don't forget to take a break every now and then (for you and your horse's sake!)
- If your horse is extra-sensitive, it is essential that you pull his mane on a dry, warm day right after he has been exercised.
- Sometimes pulling in one spot too long can start to sting for the horse. Rubbing a spot you just pulled from can help take the sting out

You may also want to braid or band your horse's mane.

- Braiding is only for English, not Western.
- To save yourself some trouble, you may want to band. Banding is for Western, but is also permissible in English.
- To band the mane, section off a 1 inch lock of hair and secure it with an elastic band.
- Your bands should match the color of your horse's mane, or be a complimentary natural tone like cream. No rainbow colors!
- If you choose to braid, do hunter braids for a short/pulled mane. For long manes, you can do a running braid.
- Don't forget to set your braids or bands with hair spray/gel!



EXTRAS TO MAKE YOUR HORSE SHINE

Once at the show, there's several things you can do to make your horse extra beautiful and professional looking.

1. Baby powder on white spots will hide any stains or discolorations your horse might have acquired, as well as highlight any chrome. Don't forget to set it with hair spray!
2. You can put baby oil or canola oil on your horse's muzzle and around his eyes to darken them (kind of like make-up for your horse). However, if your horse has a bald face, oil will attract dirt and detract from his appearance.
3. You may consider using a fake tail if your horse has a short or thin tail. However, this is not required!!
4. Showsheen will help your horse's coat look shiny.
5. Painting your horse's hooves will look very nice. Sand the hooves with sand paper to make them smooth (make sure to put hoof oil on after sanding them so they don't dry out!). Making sure the hooves are clean and dry, have them stand on a piece of cardboard and apply a layer of hoof paint to them, let dry and add a second coat. If your horse has multi-color hooves use a clear paint. For dark solid hooves, use black paint.
6. Use a damp rag to clear your horse's eyes/cheeks of any tears, his nostrils of any dirt, and his mouth of any food marks.
7. **A RED RIBBON IN THE TAIL MEANS THE HORSE KICKS!** If your horse kicks put in a red ribbon. If you see a horse with a red ribbon in its tail, give it plenty of space.
8. Put electrolytes in your horse's food the day before a show so he is well hydrated for the long day of showing.

Braiding and Banding for Shows

Hunter Braids: These classic braids are sure to show the judge you put time and effort into preparing your horse. While time consuming, these braids display a sleek, professional look to you and your horse.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZ3KR-G6gIY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rSLrBY--MI>



What you'll need: yarn that matches the color of your horse's mane in 24 in strands, rug hook, scissors, comb, hair clip, spray bottle of water, and hair gel/spray.

Step 1: Start with a clean, pulled mane. You want it to be about four inches long, and free of any coat polish/Showsheen (coat polish will make it slippery and difficult to work with).

Step 2: Thoroughly dampen the first third of the mane with the water.

Step 3: Using the comb, make a part about one-inch wide. Each braid needs to be the same width against the top of the horse's crest. Snap the clip on the neighboring hair to hold it out of your way.

Step 4: Begin braiding. Keep even tension on the hair, making sure that you pull down on the mane as you braid. If you pull the hair toward you, the finished braids will stand away from the horse's neck.

Step 5: About half-way to the end of the braid, add a piece of yarn that's folded in half. Split the yarn tails so that they each go in separate sections of the braid.

Step 6: Braid all the way to the end of the hair, then tie off twice.

Step 7: Finish the entire mane in the same manner. There isn't any hard and fast rule about how many braids are required in a mane, but generally speaking, the more, the merrier. And the fancier.

Step 8: Now pull-through by inserting the end of the latch hook through the top of the braid. Once your tool has hold of the yarn tails, gently pull on the end of the braid until it butts up against the horse's crest. Be careful not to pull so hard that the end pokes up through the top of the braid!

Step 9: Take one yarn tail in each hand. Cross the yarn ends under the braid once, then bring the ends back to the top side of the braid about halfway down, where you'll finish off with a double knot.

Step 10: Tie square knot on the underside of the braid. Make a square knot once more on the top, followed by a double square knot on the bottom to finish off the braid.

Step 11: Cut off excess yarn.

Step 12: Set the braids with hair gel/spray to ensure them not to fall out over the course of the day.

Running Braid: An easier braiding option is the running braid. This style braid works best for horses with longer manes that you don't want to cut/pull. Running braids are much less time consuming, but may come out as the horse stretches or extends his neck.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9CKNSlyQtY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H-qaLoDEb4E>



What you'll need: elastic bands that match the natural color of your horse's mane, a comb/brush, and hair gel/spray

Step 1: Start with a clean mane, free from any coat polish/Showsheen (coat polish will make the hair slippery). Comb/brush the hair so it is tangle free.

Step 2: Begin at the top of the mane behind the ears and separate out three equal sized pieces of hair.

Step 3: Take the piece of hair on the right (closest to the ears) and cross it over the middle strand.

Step 4: First, take the piece of hair on the right and cross it over the middle strand.

Step 5: Take the piece on the right and cross it over the middle again.

Step 6: Now cross the piece on the left with a new piece of the mane into the middle.

Step 7: Again, take the piece on the right and cross it over the middle.

Step 8: Repeat the last two steps until you reach the end of the horse's mane. Be sure to stay close to the horse's crest!

Step 9: Secure the end of the braid with an elastic band.

Step 10: Set the braids with hair gel/spray to ensure them not to fall out over the course of the day.

Banding: For Western classes, a banded mane is ideal. A banded mane creates a "finished" or "tailored" look that can tell the judge how serious and/or prepared you are. A banded mane can help your horse's neck look thinner and stay flat even on the windiest day.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ed8k5-TWqBY>

<https://youtu.be/oMbAlORMvYo>



What you'll need: a comb, elastic bands that match or compliment the natural color of your horse', hair clip, and hair gel/spray

Step 1: Use your comb to separate a section, being sure to create a crisp, straight line across the mane as you part the hair. Use a clip to hold back the rest of the mane that you aren't working with. Your goal is to have a consistent amount of hair in each band, not necessarily the same size section across the mane.

Step 2: Hold the section of mane you're working with down and close to the horse's neck as you wrap the band. If you're starting at the top of the neck, make your band close to the base of the mane so that you'll be able to line the bands up in a straight line as you go down the arch of the neck. Make sure the band is tight enough to hold, but not too tight, as that can cause the hair to pucker so that the band won't lie flat. As you wrap the band, stack the wraps next to each other with no overlap to keep the band flat.

Step 3: Once the band is in, take the hair from the bottom of the section, closest to the neck, and pull out on both sides to tighten the band up while keeping it flat against the neck. You can use this technique to straighten out any bands that appear out of line at the end.

Step 4: Set the banded mane with hair gel/spray.

NOTES: