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The E. L. "Dad" Potter 4-H Horsemanship Award

Instructions and Application

The "Dad" Potter Award

The E. L. "Dad" Potter 4-H Horsemanship award is sponsored in memory of E. L. Potter, OSU professor and expert horseman, a teacher and developer of 4-H horse projects.

Riders may be Juniors, Intermediates, or Seniors enrolled in Oregon 4-H who have passed Steps 1, 2, and 3 of the Horse Advancement Program. 4-H members must have owned and/or cared for and personally trained the horse used for at least six months.

The trial is a test of finished horsemanship for horse and rider. The horse must be quiet, well mannered, and under full control. The rider must use seat, hands, and leg aids properly.

The horse must be in good condition and well groomed. Equipment and the rider's dress must be suitable, neat, clean, safe, and in good condition. Equipment must be either English or Western. Spurs, if worn, may be removed between movements.

Arrangements

Arrangements for scheduled trials must be made with the approval of an agent of the OSU Extension Service and a 4-H leader. This will include the time, place, and judge. Trials are often held in conjunction with fairs, but this is not necessary. They must be

announced early enough so that all interested members have an opportunity to participate. Members may participate in multicounty tryouts. Spectators should be encouraged to attend.

The area in which the trial is conducted should be a minimum of 50 by 100 feet of smooth level ground with good footing. The judge should inspect this personally and the rider and horse should have time to become acquainted with the area. There should be no distractions. If the judge decides that an error is due to outside distractions, the member should be provided a brief time to calm the horse and may repeat the movement without penalty. The rider may select the sequence for each movement and should indicate when it is being started.

The signed form must be presented to the judge as the test begins. The order of movements must be listed in the column on the left side of the score sheet, as the rider wishes, except Number 10 cannot be done first.

General instructions to the judge

Have a measuring tape or device and a watch with a second hand. Keep in mind this is not a dressage test of finished movements; it is a series of individual tests. Riders should be permitted to relax their mounts briefly between tests—a circle or two or a few steps for better footing or location.

General instructions to the rider

Only one error is allowed and it must be corrected, either at once or later during the trial, as decided by the judge. Any additional error will not permit the 4-H'er to qualify. If all movements are completed with only one error which was corrected, the member will qualify. Contestants who fail are eligible for future trials, but not on the same day.

In case the above requirements are not met to the full satisfaction of the judge, the judge is authorized and instructed to refuse an award.

Second award

If the member is competing for a second "Dad" Potter medal, it must be done with a second horse the member has raised and trained from a foal. All training must be done by the member. The application for the award must be accompanied by a statement that the member has raised and trained the animal from foal to completely trained horse.

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The E. L. "Dad" Potter Horsemanship Award

Three-Step Certificate of Merit

The purpose of the three-step E. L. "Dad" Potter 4-H Certificate of Merit is to provide an incentive to Oregon 4-H members to perfect and attempt movements 1-10 in the Dad Potter Program. This three-step program is optional for the 4-H member.

The certificate of merit is awarded to 4-H members as they perfect and attempt the movements in sequences of three (in any order i.e., 1,5,3; 4,6,8; and 7,2,10). A certificate and 4-H merit emblem is awarded for the first three movements completed. Subsequent movements, completed in increments of three, would be recognized by the

member receiving a 4-H merit emblem for attachment to the certificate. All instructions, arrangements, and requirements that apply to the Dad Potter 4-H Horsemanship Award will apply to the Three-Step Certificate of Merit with the following exceptions:

1. The Three-Step Program is not designed as a consolation award for members attempting the 10 steps as a part of the Dad Potter Horsemanship Award. Members must decide the three specific movements they will attempt prior to the test (e.g., steps 3, 2, and 10 for the certificate).

2. Any three of movements 1 through 10 may be attempted at one time. *No errors will be allowed* during the trial of three movements selected by the 4-H member.

3. Only three steps may be completed on a given day. Movements, once completed by the member, cannot be repeated in future sequences. Members cannot compete for a second certificate unless they use a horse they have raised and trained from a foal.

Once the 4-H member has completed nine steps as designated on the certificate, he or she shall be encouraged to try out for the E. L. "Dad" Potter 4-H Horsemanship Medal which requires the member to accomplish all ten movements at one time.

Judge's Approval & County Summary

I have read the judge's instructions, have scored the 4-H Horseman, and approved the awarding of a "Dad" Potter 4-H Horsemanship Medal or the "Dad" Potter Certificate of Merit (Judge to circle award).

Judge(s) _____

County agent of the OSU Extension Service _____

Date: _____ Location: _____

Number of members *attempting* "Dad" Potter test _____ Three-Step Certificate of Merit _____

Number of members *passing* "Dad" Potter test _____ Three-Step Certificate of Merit _____

Instructions & Application Form must be returned to the State 4-H Office, OSU, immediately following participation in the Dad Potter Tests.

Application Form

Name _____ Date born _____ 19____ Grade _____

Address _____ County _____

has completed the first three steps in the horse advancement program and has owned and/or cared for and personally trained the horse used for at least six months.

4-H Leader's signature _____

The judge must approve the contestant's apparel, equipment, and horse before he or she may proceed to the required movements.

Movements Required For The "Dad" Potter 4-H Horsemanship Award

Rider's Order
of Movements

Approved
Yes No

- 1. Walk forward and backward the exact number of steps indicated by the judge; repeat two more times. The rider must specify the *exact way* the steps will be counted (all four feet or a specific foot). The number of steps requested may vary for each repeat. Do not count the last half step to bring the feet even. The front feet should be approximately within half the hoof's length of being even at the end of each move. An inadvertent half step in the opposite direction is a fault (i.e., a half step forward when collecting the horse to back).
- 2. Side step right and left as requested with at least 12 steps, or six crossovers, in each direction; repeat (one crossover is two steps). The forefoot must cross in front of the stationary foot. The hind foot must cross in front or be placed side by side. Balance the horse before changing directions.
- 3. About on the forehand, *full 360°* one way and then the other; repeat. The horse may be repositioned before repeating. *The movement must be done with forward motion, with no backing around the pivot foot. Pivot foot must be the inside foot. The pivot foot should not move outside of a 24 inch diameter circle from where it started. It may move within that 24 inch range. The rider must not be asked to place the horse in a circle drawn on the ground. The judge will be prepared to measure a questionable distance.*
- 4. About on the haunches, *full 360°* one way and then the other; repeat. Pivot foot must be inside hind foot, kept within 36 inches of its starting point. Keep forward motion.
- 5. Two track at least three times in each direction as requested. The horse's body must be kept straight ahead while tracking at a 45° angle. Forward motion must be combined with side motion in a consistent 45° line of travel. Allowing the horse to lead with its shoulders, then quarters, is not acceptable. The distance each way must be reasonable and not tire the horse. Two steps forward motion are allowed before the horse changes direction. The rider should not be asked for an exact number of steps.
- 6. Start a jog trot from a standing position; repeat two or more times. No walking steps are allowed. The diagonal feet should come up at the same time to start the two-beat trot. Proper collection and impulsion are required for a smooth start. Do not post.
- 7. Post the trot on a straightway, starting on either diagonal, changing diagonals at least three times as requested by the judge; repeat two more times. Demonstrate good equitation and smooth changes with no extra "humps."
- 8. Perform one figure 8 at the posting trot, (change to the correct diagonal trot) then without halting execute a second figure 8 at the canter, using a simple change of lead. Halt. Execute a third figure 8 at the canter, using an interrupted change of lead. Start the canter from the halt, with no walking or trotting steps.
- 9. Execute one figure 8 demonstrating two complete flying changes of lead, continuing on to two circles to the right (or left). Make a third complete flying change and two circles to the left (or right). Halt at starting point. Change of leads may be executed with either the front or rear legs changing first. A delayed half stride in the rear, or disunited change, is not allowed.
- 10. Starting from a walk and at least 20 feet from a wall or fence, pick up a canter immediately. Execute two complete flying changes of lead on the straightway. Maintaining the canter, return to center of the area and halt. Allow the horse to settle and stand for 30 seconds without moving any foot. (Thirty seconds are allowed to settle the horse.) The rider will indicate to the judge when the 30-second count should start, and this will be timed with a watch.

The horse must not be canted, or angled, for the lead changes; only a slight leading of the correct shoulder and haunch is acceptable. Trotting steps, a disunited change, resistance by the horse, charging or unplanned changes are not acceptable.

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