

2024 Pennsylvania State 4-H Junior Horse and Dressage Championship Shows

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PENNSYLVANIA -The 10th annual Pennsylvania State 4-H Junior Horse Championship and 4th annual Pennsylvania State 4-H Dressage Championship Shows were held July 20-21 at the Centre County Grange Fairgrounds in Centre Hall, Pennsylvania. More than 130 4-H members from across Pennsylvania exhibited horses in performance, dressage and in hand classes for the weekend. Additionally, a ground roping competition was added this year for youth to try their skills at roping during the show. An equine skillathon was available for youth to participate in over the weekend and over 20 youth put their equine science knowledge to the test, as well as a Team Challenge event that tallied all scores across different events throughout the weekend for an overall team score. Northampton County had two members participate in the Pennsylvania State 4-H Junior Horse Championship Show.

The Junior Horse Championship Show is the premier competition of the year for most 4-H horse members enrolled in junior horse projects. Events include breed conformation and futurity classes for yearling to 5-year-old horses, as well as barrel and driving futurities. In Hand Trail and Performance Skills classes were also part of the Junior Horse Show. Results from the show are available on the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program website.

All exhibitors competed at a preliminary level in each class for a merit placing. At this level, each entry was evaluated against a standard of excellence and received a blue, red, or yellow merit placing. Blue merit placings then advanced to a championship class, where they competed against all blue merit winners in their division. Winners of all championship classes were awarded a neck sash and a Junior Horse Championship Show jacket. Winners of all In Hand championship classes then advanced to compete for Grand Champion honors.

Julia DiNapoli competed with her mare, "Chrome In Your Pocket," and also a 3 year old mare named "Woodberrys Hot Date," owned by Northampton 4-H alumnus, Claire Smith. Londyn Probus competed with her miniature mare, "Mercedes Bombshell Trick."

Julia received 1st with "Chrome In Your Pocket" in Hunter Type Horse 5 Year Old



Mare, and 2nd in Hunter Horse 5 Year Old Mare Championship. She was 1st with "Woodberrys Hot Date" in Hunter Type Pony 3 Year Old Mare and 1st in Hunter Pony 3 Year Old Mare Championship. She was also 1st with "Woodberrys Hot Date" in the English Pleasure Futurity walk/trot 2&3 year old pony class and 1st in the English Performance Skills walk/trot 3 year old class. She also received 1st with "Chrome In Your Pocket" in English Pleasure Futurity walk/trot/canter 5 year old and 3rd in the English Performance Skills 5 year old class. Julia was second in the English Pleasure walk/trot Futurity Championship with "Woodberrys Hot Date" and second in the English Pleasure Futurity Championship with "Chrome In Your Pocket." Julia was Grand Champion Hunter Pony Mare with "Woodberrys Hot Date." Londyn was 1st with "Mercedes Bombshell Trick" in Miniature Horse 5 Year Old Mare and 1st in the Miniature Horse 5 Year Old Mare Championship. Londyn was also 3rd in Miniature In Hand Trail 5 Year Old with "Mercedes Bombshell Trick" and 3rd in the Miniature Horse Jumping 5 year Old. Londyn was Grand Champion Miniature Horse Mare with "Mercedes Bombshell Trick". Londyn and Julia both received Master Showman and Julia won 3rd in final master showman. Congratulations girls!

The Dressage Championship Show saw another great year. Dressage is derived from the French term meaning "training" and its purpose is to strengthen and supple the horse while maintaining a calm and attentive demeanor. Dressage involves progressively difficult levels incorporating multiple tests within each level. Each test is a series of movements that must be performed by the horse and rider. Each movement is scored by a judge on a scale of 0-10. A classical dressage division was offered as well as a western dressage division.

There are many opportunities for youth participating in 4-H horse projects in Pennsylvania. Programs are designed to develop life skills in youth and knowledge of horse production, use, and management. For additional information on 4-H horse programs in Pennsylvania, contact your county Penn State Cooperative Extension office at extension.psu.edu/counties or visit the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program web site at <https://extension.psu.edu/programs/4-h/opportunities/projects/animal-science/horse>.