

HARTFORD INDEPENDENT FAIR Equine Vaccination Program & Body Condition Scoring Requirement

BASIC JUNIOR FAIR EQUINE REQUIREMENTS:

REQUIRED VACCINATIONS: West Nile Combo, Rhino/Flu, and Equine Rabies

BODY CONDITION SCORE: Minimum Score of 4/9 to Exhibit and Show

Frequently Asked Questions...

Why are we implementing a vaccination program?

The vaccination requirements were implemented for several reasons. First, to ensure the viral protection of the animals that exhibit at the fair and reduce the risk of an "infectious outbreak". Second, Rabies is of human health concern, so to protect the exhibitors and the spectators that come to the fair. Third, allow an expert to inspect the animals prior to exhibition at the fair to ensure the animals are receiving adequate standard of care for their needs along with having a relationship with a veterinarian.

Why were these vaccinations chosen?

These are the current basic core vaccinations as recommended by the American Association of Equine Practitioners. Your individual horse may have additional requirements as recommended by your veterinarian. See http://www.aaep.org/vaccination_guidelines.htm. In addition to Tetanus, Eastern & Western Encephalomyelitis, West Nile Virus, and Rabies; for horses in frequent competition and comingling situations it is recommended to also vaccinate for Rhinopneumonitis (Equine Herpesvirus) and Equine Influenza at least once yearly.

What documentation is needed?

A valid document issued by the veterinarian stated they were appropriately given the required vaccinations as well as body condition scoring on a scale of 1-9. Attached is a copy of a Body Condition Scoring chart from Purina Mills. This is considered a standard amongst equine practitioners.

Do all vaccinations need to be given by a vet? Can I work with my vet to insure that they are all given, but I may give one or two myself – if my vet were willing to sign-off?

It is the veterinarian's liability to ensure the vaccines are given appropriately. Vaccination guarantees against these diseases are only worthy if the vaccines are administered appropriately by a licensed veterinarian. This decision is between you and your veterinarian and is upheld by a valid veterinary-client-patient-relationship. It is important for proper horse husbandry that you have a good relationship with your veterinarian and that an examination or your horses' health is performed at least annually. Again, an affidavit of vaccination and body condition scoring signed by a licensed veterinarian is the requirement for this program.

What if my horse was vaccinated just prior to learning of the vaccination requirements? I don't have documentation from a vet and my horse can't be vaccinated a second time... What should I do?

There is no detrimental effect to re-vaccination of your horse to these core vaccines; in fact, re-vaccination only serves to booster current titers achieved by previous vaccination. To meet the requirements of this program a signed affidavit of vaccination provided by the veterinarian giving these vaccinations is required.

Why are open class horses not required to be vaccinated?

"Rome wasn't built in a day" as they say. The fact that these open class horses are coming on and off of grounds only increases the need for a vaccination program for the horses that are being housed on the grounds all week, the junior fair horses. It is the hope for the future that vaccination is encouraged and eventually required for these open class horses as well. Also, horses housed together increases the risk of spread of disease and outbreak, whereas these open class horses are often hauled in and not housed directly with the junior fair horses.

Does my horse's BCS need to be listed on the vet's documentation of vaccination?

Yes. We prefer a standardized Body Condition Score based on a scale of 1-9. Enclosed is a standard Body Condition Score chart provided by Purina Mills which is viewed by the American Association of Equine Practitioners as standard measurement. A body condition score of 4/9 or greater on this applied scale is required by the 4-H Uniform Rules for exhibition. The fair veterinarian checking in horses on the haul-in day of the fair has the final say should a horse present to the fair with a Body Condition Score of less than 4/9, for that horse to be dismissed. Should your horse have a BCS of <4/9 or close to 4/9 it is recommended that you seek advice from your veterinarian prior to the fair as to the changes to your horses medical care and/or nutrition that can be made.

What if my BCS is scored in April, but my horse loses / gains condition prior to the fair?

It is important to also familiarize yourself with Body Condition Scoring so as to manage the health of your horse. Should you fear that your horses BCS is near or less than 4/9 prior to the fair it is your responsibility to seek the advice of your veterinarian as to the appropriate medical and/or nutritional changes that may be needed to help your horse maintain appropriate BCS.

Is there an upper limit to the appropriate BCS? Being over conditioned is just as bad, right?

The 4-H Uniform Rules require only that a horse be at a BCS of 4/9 or above. The reason for the rule is obvious and to eliminate questions about weight and animal welfare for horses exhibiting in 4-H competition. The rules require no upper limit to BCS, however, an over conditioned horse can indicate various medical conditions. Again, this is also something that requires to be addressed by a discussion and relationship between you, your horse and your veterinarian to best address your horses health.

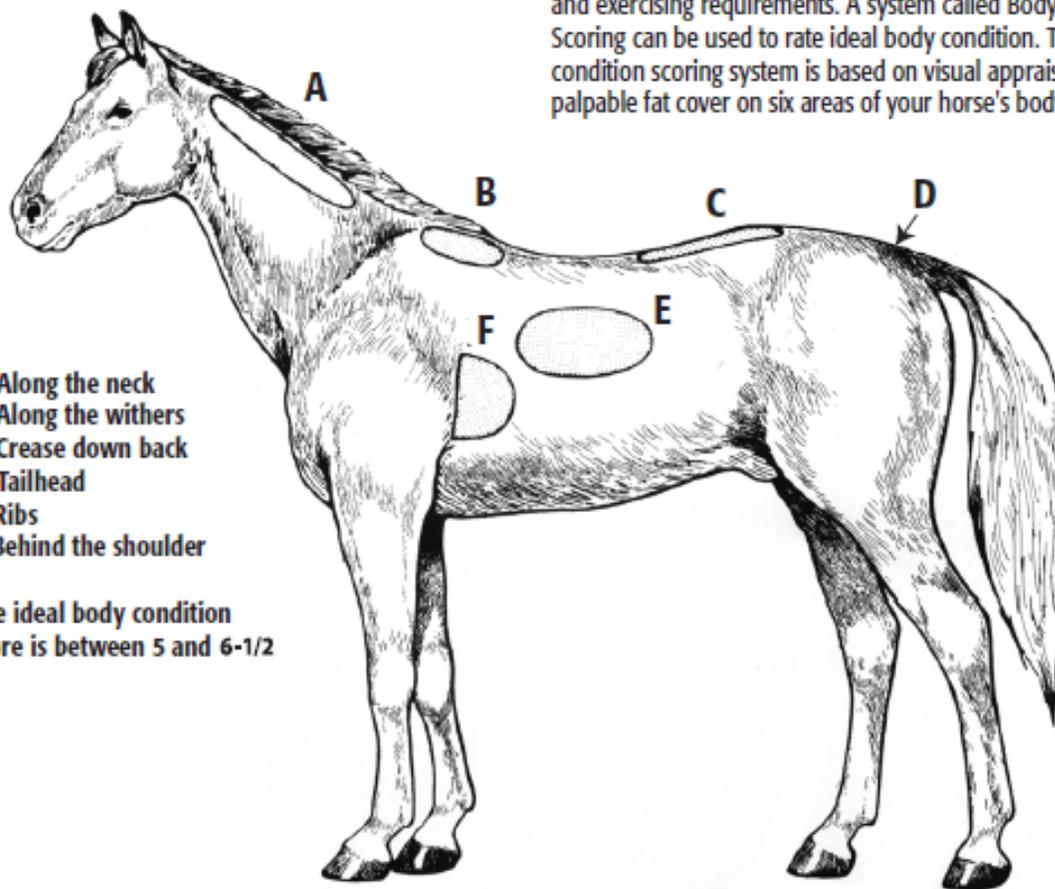
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Est. 04.2012



Purina Mills

Body Condition Scoring

Many physiological functions in horses are influenced by body condition including horse's maintenance, reproductive and exercising requirements. A system called Body Condition Scoring can be used to rate ideal body condition. This condition scoring system is based on visual appraisal and palpable fat cover on six areas of your horse's body.



- A. Along the neck
- B. Along the withers
- C. Crease down back
- D. Tailhead
- E. Ribs
- F. Behind the shoulder

The ideal body condition score is between 5 and 6-1/2

Description of Individual Condition Scores (Score 1-9)

1. Poor: Animal extremely emaciated; spinous processes, ribs, tailhead, tuber coxae (hip joints), and ischia (lower pelvic bones) projecting prominently; bone structure of withers, shoulders and neck easily noticeable; no fatty tissue can be felt.

2. Very Thin: Animal emaciated; slight fat covering over base of spinous processes; transverse processes of lumbar vertebrae feel rounded; spinous processes, ribs, tailhead, tuber coxae (hip joints) and ischia (lower pelvic bones) prominent; withers, shoulders and neck structure faintly discernible.

3. Thin: Fat buildup about halfway on spinous processes; transverse processes cannot be felt; slight fat cover over ribs; spinous processes and ribs easily discernible; tailhead prominent, but individual vertebrae cannot be identified visually; tuber coxae (hip joints) appear rounded but easily discernible; tuber ischia (lower pelvic bones) not distinguishable; withers, shoulders and neck accentuated.

4. Moderately Thin: Slight ridge along back; faint outline of ribs discernible; tailhead prominence depends on conformation, fat can be felt around it; tuber coxae (hips joints) not discernible; withers, shoulders, and neck not obviously thin.

5. Moderate: Back is flat (no crease or ridge); ribs not visually distinguishable but easily felt; fat around tailhead beginning to feel spongy; withers appear rounded over spinous processes; shoulders and neck blend smoothly into body.

6. Moderately Fleshy: May have slight crease down back; fat over ribs spongy; fat around tailhead soft; fat beginning to be deposited along the side of withers, behind shoulders, and along sides of neck.

7. Fleshy: May have crease down back; individual ribs can be felt, but noticeable filling between ribs with fat; fat around tailhead soft; fat deposited along withers, behind shoulders, and along neck.

8. Fat: Crease down back; difficult to feel ribs; fat around tailhead very soft; area along withers filled with fat; area behind shoulder filled with fat; noticeable thickening of neck; fat deposited along inner thighs.

9. Extremely Fat: Obvious crease down back; patchy fat appearing over ribs; bulging fat around tailhead, along withers, behind shoulders, and along neck; fat along inner thighs may rub together; flank filled with fat.