

Hello all,

Today's rain in Seward caused slick arena footing and unsafe riding conditions; hence we cancelled the District Horse Show. Often, even when it rains, we are able to postpone the show for a couple of hours and start later. Given the amount of rain we've had over the past couple of weeks, things just aren't drying as quickly as they might so that wasn't an option. We did look into other indoor venues where we could immediately move the show and none were available. Of course, the safety of youth is our first priority so we made the decision to cancel.

All riders who were signed up for the Seward District Horse Show that did not move or show at a previous District Horse Show will be automatically qualified for the Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Exposition in Grand Island, NE. This was a decision made based on the following considerations:

- The Seward show was the last District Show, so there was not an option to send youth to another already scheduled show.
- We looked at options for rescheduling the Seward show. Given the rain we've been having and the predictions for additional rain, we explored available indoor arena spaces so that we wouldn't be in this same position on the rescheduled date. As you can imagine, these venues are already booked.
- We also considered the hardship to families who may not be able to change their schedules to attend a different show.
- We considered other ways to gauge qualification different from a district show, none of these seemed to be a fit.
- Past data indicate that approximately 60-70% of those participating in the Seward/Southeast Area District Horse Show qualify for State.

Given all of these factors, we made the decision to rule in favor of giving more young people the opportunity to show at State. While we know this will seem unfair to some, we are not declining the opportunity for any youth who would have been able to show at state. It was a difficult decision as you can imagine.

Please let me know if you have questions. We appreciate all of your support of the 4-H Horse Program!

Thank you,

Lena Cottle