



FPSNA's Fell Pony of The Year Awards: Performance Premium and Awards (PPA) Program

FPSNA's Performance Premium and Awards Program is designed to encourage participation by our members and their Fell ponies throughout a wide range of activities all across North America. The program is mirrored primarily after the Fell Pony Society (UK) *Performance Premium Awards Scheme*, and also after the US Equestrian Foundation's *Horse of The Year Awards*, as well as incorporating features of our original (and hereby replaced) *Pony Points Program*. Given the vast size of North America, it is very difficult for rare Fell ponies that are scattered across the continent to get together in sufficient numbers for any meaningful Fell Pony championships. This program will thus allow members to compete locally while at the same time participate in our North American Fell Pony Championships, with an opportunity to win year-end *Fell Pony of the Year Awards*. We hope that our new awards program will continue to help promote the Fell Pony in North America, and also encourage our members to find more opportunities to go out and have fun with their ponies!

The competition year runs from December 1 until November 30 annually. Note that program divisions that are offered may be adjusted and/or expanded in future competition years, including possible adjustment for professional vs. amateur status, depending upon member interest and participation.

I. Divisions For FPSNA Performance Premium and Awards Program

A. Performance Premium Awards Section:

1. **Ridden Division:** For ponies aged Four years old and over, in any class where pony and rider are judged under saddle, other than dressage (which has its own division.)
 - 1.1. **Open Ridden Division:** any Pony/Rider combination; performance includes walk/trot/canter
 - 1.2. **Novice Ridden Division:** Any Pony/Rider combination not ready to canter. Participation in this Division is limited to 2 years only with same pony/rider combination.
 - 1.3. **Junior Ridden Division:** Any Rider under 18 years of age on January 1. Junior Ridden Pony must be mare or gelding only (per FPS rules).

Note: For now (i.e., at least until member participation warrants further expansion of the Ridden division), we will include the three general subdivisions above. Points may be accumulated in virtually any judged ridden class or show, except for dressage. Possible venues include such things as Hunter/Jumper Shows, Schooling Shows, 4 H, FFA, Pony Club, 3-Day Events, Reining Events, Cutting Events, Ranch Horse Events, Extreme Cowboy Race, Judged Parades, Endurance/NATRC/ Ride and Ties, ACTHA, Trail Trials, etc.

2. In-Hand Division:

- 2.1. Foal
- 2.2. Yearling
- 2.3. Two-Year-old
- 2.4. Three-Year- old
- 2.5. Four- Year-old and over

3. **Dressage Division:** One may compete in the Dressage division simultaneously with the FPSNA USDF All-Breeds Awards, but one cannot “successfully compete” at the *same level* with the *same pony/rider combination* for more than one competition year in *either* (or both) program(s) (i.e., one has to move up to the next level to participate in either program the following year). For the purposes of the FPSNA PPA Program, “successfully compete” means “win 1st or 2nd place in Division A.3.1 or A.3.2”. For the purposes of the USDF All-breeds Awards, “successfully compete” means to fulfill the criteria for an award at a specific level.

FPSNA USDF All-Breeds eligibility rules generally apply other than the pony does not need to be declared with the USDF All-Breeds program to compete only in the FPSNA PPA Program. Also, unlike the USDF All-Breeds Program, Introductory Level performance is included in the FPSNA PPA Program.

3.1. **Open Dressage Division:** Any Pony/Rider combination with performance at any level from Introductory Level through Grand Prix

3.2. **Junior Dressage Division:** Any Rider under 18 years of age (on January 1) with performance at any level from Introductory Level through Grand Prix. Junior Dressage Pony must be mare or gelding only.

4. Driving Division:

4.1. **Open Driving Division:** Any Pony (or team of Ponies)/Whip combination

4.2. **Junior Driving Division:** Any Whip 16 years of age or under (on January 1). Junior Driven Pony (or team of Ponies) must be mare(s) or gelding(s) only.

5. **Additional Performance Premium Awards** to be given if there are **minimum total of 3** individual ponies (or teams of ponies) eligible, by each earning points in eligible divisions for each award. Eligible ponies are automatically entered for these awards - no other entry form is required.

5.1. Grand Champion (and Reserve) Ridden Performance Pony

5.1.1. Grand Champion Ridden Performance Pony for 1st place High Point scoring pony in Divisions A.1 (Ridden) and A.3 (Dressage)

5.1.2. Reserve Grand Champion Ridden Performance Pony for 2nd place High Point scoring pony in Divisions A.1 (Ridden) and A.3 (Dressage)

5.2. Grand Champion (and Reserve) Performance Pony (or Ponies, if team) In Harness

5.2.1. Grand Champion Performance Pony In Harness for 1st place High Point scoring pony (or ponies, if winner is team of ponies), in Divisions A.4.1 (Open) and A.4.2 (Junior).

5.2.2. Reserve Grand Champion Performance Pony for 2nd place High Point scoring pony (or ponies, if winner is team of ponies), in Divisions A.4.1 (Open) and A.4.2 (Junior).

6. **Additional Performance Premium Awards** to be given if there are **minimum total of 5** individual ponies (or teams of ponies) eligible, by each earning points in the eligible divisions for each award. Eligible ponies are automatically entered for these awards – no other entry form is required.

6.1. Overall Grand Champion (and Reserve) Performance Pony

6.1.1. Overall Grand Champion Performance Pony for 1st place High Point scoring pony (or ponies, if winner is team of ponies in driving), in Divisions A.5.1 (Grand Champion Ridden Pony) and A.5.2 (Grand Champion Pony In Harness)

6.1.2. Overall Reserve Grand Champion Performance Pony for 2nd place High Point scoring pony (or ponies, if winner is team of ponies in driving), in Divisions A.5.1 (Grand Champion Ridden Pony) and A.5.2 (Grand Champion Pony In Harness)

6.2. Youngstock Champion (and Reserve) Pony

6.2.1. Youngstock Champion Pony for 1st place High Point scoring pony in Divisions A.2.1 - A.2.3 (In-Hand Foal, Yearling, and 2-Year-Old)

6.2.2. Reserve Youngstock Champion Pony for 2nd place High Point scoring pony in Divisions A.2.1 - A.2.3 (In-Hand Foal, Yearling, and 2-Year-Old)

6.3. Grand Champion (and Reserve) In-Hand Pony

6.3.1. Grand Champion In-Hand Pony for 1st place High Point scoring pony in divisions A.2.1 - 2.5 (all In Hand subdivisions)

6.3.2. Reserve Champion In-Hand Pony for 2nd place High Point scoring pony in divisions A.2.1 - 2.5 (all In Hand subdivisions)

6.4. Supreme Champion Pony

6.4.1. Supreme Champion Pony for 1st place High Point scoring pony (or ponies, if winner is team of ponies in driving), in Divisions A.6.1 (Overall Grand Champion Performance Pony) and A.6.3 (Grand Champion In-Hand Pony)

6.4.2. Reserve Supreme Champion Pony for 2nd place High Point scoring pony (or ponies, if winner is team of ponies in driving), in Divisions A.6.1 (Overall Grand Champion Performance Pony) and A.6.3 (Grand Champion In-Hand Pony)

7. Mare and Stallion Progeny Performance Premium Awards

These are similar to Champion “Get of Sire” and “Get of Dam” Performance Awards, based upon offspring performance in this program. Eligible sires and dams do not need to enter the awards program to win their award but only ponies owned or bred by FPSNA members in North America (or previously owned by members if the pony is now deceased) are eligible.

7.1. **Mare Progeny Performance Premium** for High Point eligible dam of all offspring earning points in Divisions A.1 through A.6 (Mare does not compete directly, but points of all eligible offspring are tallied and eligible mare with most points wins the award.)

7.2. **Stallion Progeny Performance Premium** for High Point eligible sire of all offspring earning points in Divisions A.1 through A.6 (Stallion does not compete directly, but points of all eligible offspring are tallied and eligible stallion with most points wins the award.)

8. Born in North America - High Point Performance Champion

Award for the Fell pony born in North America that earned the most total points in any Division or combination of Divisions including A1-4 and/or B1-2. Both the owner/lessee of pony as well as its breeder, if not the same person, receive an award.

B. Handy Pony Awards Section:

The Handy Pony Awards, including the “Ambassador Pony” and “Working Pony” Divisions, replace our “Pony Points Program” for noncompetitive (non-judged) activities. These awards are meant to celebrate and recognize the growing relationships our members have with their Fells, and the impact each of us can have when out in public with our wonderful ponies! The Program allows the chance to earn points each time a member appears with their Fell Pony in a noncompetitive public venue. This can be almost any noncompetitive activity, including Expositions, Parades, Clinics, Public Trail Riding, Carriage Driving, Open House Tours, etc. (Note that these awards section is based on the honor system as participation is not documented by a 3rd party.)

1. Ambassador Pony Division:

For non-judged events in which the Fell Pony is on public display and helping to promote breed awareness, education, etc., either directly (eg., a horse expo with educational

exhibit/breed demonstration) or indirectly (participate in public trail rides, etc.) Ponies used as “working pony” (including for hire) are excluded since they have their own division (see below). Ponies may participate at any public place, or at any private place where the pony may be seen by members of the public, other than at the farm/residence where pony and/or its owner reside.

More Examples: Group Pleasure Rides (one day), Group Horse Camping (Multiple days), Pony Club Rallies, Sale and Stallion Parades, Expo Demonstrations, Non-judged Parades, Wagon Trains, Treasure Hunts, Cross Country Practice Day, etc.

2. **Working Pony Division:**

For non-judged events in which the Fell Pony is used as a working pony (including for hire) at any public place, or at any private place where the pony may be seen by members of the public, other than at the farm/residence where pony and/or its owner reside. Examples, pack pony use, snigging timber, agricultural use, cattle drives, commercial carriage driving service, etc.

II. **Point Values for FPSNA Performance Premium and Awards Program**

A. **Performance Premium Awards Section**

1. In any official* FPSNA sanctioned or sponsored Breed Show, Mountain & Moorland classes, Best of Breed classes, Driving classes, Dressage, or other FPSNA event:

- 1st -120 points
- 2nd - 100 points
- 3rd - 80 points
- 4th - 60 points
- 5th - 40 points
- 6th and below - 20 points for participation
- **Championship** Classes** (to include Supreme Championships)- 60 points
- **Reserve Championship Classes**** (to include Reserve Supreme Championships) - 30 points

*These events or classes must be sponsored and/or approved by FPSNA **BEFORE** the event in order to qualify and must be designated as such on the FPSNA website “Events” page in advance of the event.

**Championship classes are special classes where the 1st & 2nd place winners of a certain class, win a spot in these classes and compete for Championships and Reserve championships.

2. **All Other Shows & Events:** will score HALF the above points for 1st - 5th, or 20 Points for Participation:

- 1st -60 points
- 2nd - 50 points
- 3rd - 40 points
- 4th - 30 points
- 5th and below - 20 points

- **Championship** Classes** (to include Supreme Championships)- 30 points
- **Reserve Championship Classes**** (to include Reserve Supreme Championships) - 15 points

B. Handy Pony Awards Section:

1. **Ambassador Pony Division:** Non judged organized events or informal public displays will score 20 points
2. **Working Pony Division:** Non judged and will score 20 points for working Fells in a public place, or private place other than residence of pony and/or its owner.

III. General Rules

1. All owners and participants must be fully paid individual or family members of the Fell Pony Society of North America (FPSNA). (Exception to membership requirement may be granted for handlers in in-hand classes only, as long as owner is a member and the in-hand class is not a showmanship class (nor any other in-hand class where handler will be judged as well as pony.)
2. All Ponies must be registered in the Main Section of the Fell Pony Society (or recognized daughter society) Stud Book. The Registration number will be used to identify each pony. Foals should either have already been registered in the Main (including Overseas) Section of the FPS Stud Book or of a recognized daughter society, or must have had registration applied for and be fully eligible for registration in one of the aforementioned stud books. In any case, foal must be fully registered no later than the program deadline of November 30, and registration number should be forwarded to the awards program secretary as soon as it is received from FPS. Under no circumstances will year-end awards be given to unregistered ponies, and any foals not registered by the deadline will be disqualified. Leased ponies must have a copy of a lease agreement on file with the FPSNA awards program director no later than the time of enrollment of the pony in the awards program to be eligible. Only one lease is allowed per competition year per pony.
3. The annual competition year is Dec 1 (preceding the current membership year) - Nov 30 (of the current membership year). Owner (or lessee) may enroll pony at any time during competition year. (*Please see membership application to enroll a pony or ponies*). However, points may not begin to be accumulated until pony is enrolled and membership fees are paid. No retroactive points will be honored. Membership must be current throughout the competition year to earn points and be eligible for year-end awards.
4. Any show/event is eligible - see details of points to be awarded.
5. In General, **one PPA Points Sheet is required per pony AND division entered**. If you are competing with the same pony in multiple divisions, a separate Points sheet should be maintained for EACH division with that pony. That is, participants in all Divisions including Ridden, In-Hand, Dressage, Driving, Ambassador and Working Pony Divisions **MUST** use a separate sheet for each of these divisions for each pony entered. A separate sheet should also be used for each pony within a team of ponies in harness, but points will only be counted once per team in any divisions. (Exception: points can count twice toward

Performance Progeny Premium Awards in the case of a team of ½ or full siblings competing in harness.) **For all driving classes or events**, the “Type of Class” must include “single” or “pairs” etc., along with name(s) of additional ponies if performing as a team. The program secretary will merge points as required for all A.5 - A.7 championship awards.

6. **For all Performance Premium Divisions, the PPA Points Sheet must be signed by the organizer/secretary/judge or other person in charge for each class/event and a class sheet/event flyer should also be submitted with the Points Sheet.**

7. For all Handy Pony Divisions, note that points in this section are accumulated based on the honor system as participation is not documented by a 3rd party. Each participant is thus solely responsible for signing the form as a guarantee of authenticity.

8. One may enter more than one division with the same pony, but any points earned in any single activity with a pony may only be applied toward a single type of division (not including special awards). For example, a Junior rider can only enter points in the Junior Division, even if the ride itself also qualifies either as “Novice” or “Open”. Likewise, noncompetitive points earned in the Handy Pony Section can only be applied to one Handy Pony Division, not both.

9. Points may not be earned from any placing and/or championship won in these year-end awards, with the exception of A.5 and A.6, which may be used **ONLY** in the calculation of results for A.7. That is, for this division (Mare/Stallion Progeny Performance Premium), the A.5 and A.6 championships and reserve championships will count toward A.7 award calculations.

10. All PPA Points Sheets must be received by FPSNA no later than November 30 of the current competition year in order to be eligible for year-end Awards. Any Points received after the deadline of November 30 will be disqualified. Please be sure that all required details, including points, are filled in for each class or event and are legible, since failure to do so will mean your sheets are returned to you and may be disqualified if corrected Point sheets are not resubmitted by the deadline. Snail mail Point sheets to René Bender, P.O. Box 31, Lincoln, CA 95648 or e-mail to Rene’ Bender at awards@fpsna.org.

11. Blank entry forms and PPA Point sheets are located within the members only area of the FPSNA website www.fpsna.org for download, or by direct access [here](#).

12. All ponies ages 4-7 must submit a current-year temporary height validation certificate, or a permanent height certificate dated at age 8 or older, to qualify for awards. This must be submitted no later than the deadline on November 30 or the pony will be disqualified from being eligible for any awards through this program. Acceptable height cards/certificates are issued by JMB (UK) or USEF Certificate of Height. An [FPSNA Height Certificate](#), completed by a licensed veterinarian, is also an acceptable substitute. Ponies that have already submitted a permanent height certificate at age 8 or older are generally exempt from this requirement for subsequent competition years. Ponies aged 3 or younger are also generally exempt from this requirement. However a current height certificate from any pony may be requested by the awards program director at his or her discretion if a participating pony of any age is suspected of being over height. All annual height certificates expire on December 31 in the year of measurement, unless the pony is at least 8 years old at the time of measurement. For the purposes of measurement as well as for any competition, the age is calculated from 1st January in the year of its birth.

13. Enrollment in the program costs \$5 per participating pony per year beginning in 2011. All owners (or lessees) of ponies enrolled must be members-in-good-standing with FPSNA throughout the competition year. Pony must be enrolled in the program and membership fees paid before any points can begin to be accumulated for that pony. (Points earned before enrollment are disqualified.)
14. Champion pony (and rider, etc.) of each division will earn the title of “Fell Pony of the Year”/North American Champion in his/her respective division. Additional awards may also be given (as above) depending on member participation. All program participants, and especially potential division and special award winners (1st and 2nd place) should please try to submit photos of the ponies (depicting them actively participating in the program if possible). This should be done by November 1 if possible in order to be included with the overall results in the year-end edition of *The Fell Pony Express*.
15. All awards will be presented to the registered owner or lessee of the pony, unless otherwise requested by owner/lessee. If owner/lessee wishes handler or rider to receive the award instead, he/she should notify FPSNA of this no later than when points are submitted for tallying.
16. [FPS \(UK\) Rules and Regulations](#) apply, as well as [FPS Handbook for Showing and Competing](#), including (but not limited to):
- Foals must be at least 21 days old on day of show
 - Juniors may only show mares, geldings and young stock in hand, and mares or geldings under saddle or in harness (i.e., no stallions)
 - All ponies shown in performance classes under saddle or in harness must be at least 4 years old, with the age calculated from January 1 in the year of birth.
 - Stallions and colts age 3 and over must hold a current stallion license to be eligible for any awards.
 - Any pony exceeding 14 hands high (142.2 cm or 56 inches), not including ½ inch (or 1.27 cm) allowance for shoes (if applicable), may not be shown as a registered Fell pony, and therefore is not eligible for awards in this program.
 - Any pony registered in Section X of the FPS Stud Book may not be shown as a registered Fell Pony, and therefore is not eligible for awards in this program. (Note that Section X ponies include those that are “mismarked” (with white markings on forelimbs and/or on head, other than a star), are over height, or of the “wrong” color (i.e., anything other than black, brown, bay or grey.) Section X was added to the FPS Stud Book in approximately 2006 so there are some “mismarked” ponies that have been “grandfathered” into the Main Stud Book (and are therefore eligible for awards, having been registered there before Section X came into being.)
 - Ponies must be registered and entered, at any show, in the name of the legal owner or lessee.
 - All ponies exhibited **must be entered in the full name under which they have been originally registered** with the Fell Pony Society.
 - Lactating broodmares (suckling foals) may **not** to be shown under saddle or harness.

Summary: How To Participate In This Program: Please review the detailed information and General Rules above prior to enrolling in the program. In summary, to participate one must:

- [Become a member or renew membership](#) with FPSNA.

- Enroll eligible pony in the program ([see membership form](#))
- Maintain a [Program Points Sheet](#) for each pony enrolled and for each division in which the pony is entered. Points may only be accumulated after the pony is enrolled.
- Completed Points Sheets must be received by FPSNA no later than the end of the competition year on November 30. [Height certificate](#) may also be required (see rules for more information.)
- Have fun!

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