*****ENTRIES ARE DUE BY JULY 31, 2026*****

*****Questions on entries: Weekdays between 9:00 am - 5:00 pm*****

Hunter Liles, Extension Youth Animal Science Associate, huntl97@vt.edu or 540-231-6345
Katherine Carter, Extension Youth Animal Science Specialist, carterke@vt.edu or 540-231-2257
Lauren McCroskey, Extension Youth Animal Science Associate, lkopp@vt.edu or 540-231-1716

This publication serves as the Virginia State 4-H Horse Show Rulebook and Class Catalog. In general, **MODIFIED** USEF and AQHA rules for class specifications have been applied to appropriate classes.

Submission of entry indicates compliance and acceptance with all rules and the show personnel/judge's final decisions without oral or written protest.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services, or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Hunter Liles at 540-231-6345 during business hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations by July 18th (or as soon as possible after this date). *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

This show is an educational event centered around positive youth development. Anyone in attendance is expected to maintain the behavior standards set by show management. Anyone not meeting those standards will be subject to removal from the event.

SHOW PERSONNEL

Show Manager: Hunter Liles, Extension Youth Animal Science Program Associate
Co-Superintendents: Bob & Julie Williamson, Reva, VA
Show Communications Manager: Thomas Agnew, Mechanicsville
EMT Coordinator: Janet Smith, Bridgewater, VA

Division Managers

Hunter Pleasure Manager: Caitlin Knicely
Hunter O/F Manager: Julie Williamson, Reva, VA: Beth Jones, Mascot, VA
Ranch Manager: Hannah McDonald, Cross Junction, VA
Western Manager: Hannah McDonald, Cross Junction, VA
Saddle Seat Manager: Beka Powers, Hubert, NC
Dressage Manager: Leslie Prillaman, Ext. Agent, Roanoke, VA, Tammy Nichols, Blue Ridge, VA
Gymkhana Manager: Carrie Swanson, Ext. Agent, Charlottesville, VA
Mini Manager: Pinky Dowdy, Richmond, VA, Jen Dowdy-Panten, Henrico, VA, Lisa Powers, Hanover, VA
Trail Manager: Hannah McDonald, Cross Junction, VA

Show Secretary: Katherine Carter, Extension Youth Animal Science Specialist
Points Secretary: Bertha Durbin & Jen Daly, Free Union, VA

Judges:

Gymkhana: T B D
Western: Tim Jedra
Ranch: Tim Jedra
Saddle Seat: Duane Stutzman,
Hunter: Emma Lane, DeDe Bache Shumate
Jr. and Sr. Hunter Showmanship: 4-H Judging Team Alumni
Trail: Tim Jedra
Stable Management: VT Graduate Students
Dressage: Annmari Lewellen
Dressage Showmanship: 4-H Judging Team Alumni
Miniature Division: Duane Stutzman

Announcers:

Julie Williamson, Reva, VA
Robin Wood, Ruckersville
Rose McDonald, Cross Junction
Celeste Crisman, Blacksburg, VA
Lisa Powers, Hanover, VA

Course Designer: Robin Wood
Jump Crew: Beth Jones and crew, Mascot, VA
Farrier: Rex Brown, Roanoke, VA
Show Photographer: Amanda Lelia
Art Show & Photography Contest: Kylie Hoffman, Ext Agent Louisa; Elizabeth Walker Ext. Agent Culpeper
Project Book and Portfolio Competition: Bridgitte Groome, Ext. Agent Hanover
Awards Committee: Kelly Mallory, Ext Agent Madison; Erin Berkery, Ext. Orange, VA
Hospitality: Kendell and Donald Kniseley, Unionville, VA
TIP Program: Kim Mayo, Ext. Agent Fluvanna
Silent Auction: Rose McDonald, Cross Junction, VA and Frederick County Golden Horseshoe 4-H Club

2026 State 4-H Horse Show Steering Committee

Co-Chair: Katherine Carter, Ext Youth Animal Science Specialist
Co-Chair: Hunter Liles, Ext Youth Animal Science Associate
Co-Chair: Lauren McCroskey, Ext. Youth Animal Science Associate

Thomas Agnew, Mechanicsville, VA
Erin Berkery, Orange County, VA
Jennifer Daly, Free Union, VA
Pinky Dowdy, Richmond, VA
Bertha Durbin, Free Union, VA
Beth Jones, Mascot, VA
John Jones, Mascot VA
Kendell Kniseley, Unionville, VA
Kelly Mallory, Ext. Agent, Madison, VA
Kim Mayo, Ext. Agent, Fluvanna, VA
Hannah McDonald, Cross Junction, VA
Rose McDonald, Cross Junction, VA
Jen Panten-Dowdy, Henrico, VA
Beka Powers, Hubert, NC
Lisa Powers, Hanover, VA
Leslie Prillaman, Ext. Agent, Roanoke, VA
Janet Smith, Bridgewater, VA
Carrie Swanson, Ext. Agent, Charlottesville, VA
Reanna Willey, Christiansburg, VA
Julie Williamson, Reva, VA
Sam Leech, Ext. Agent Albemarle, VA
Bridgitte Groome, Ext. Agent Hanover, VA
Kylie Hoffman, Ext. Louisa, VA
Elizabeth Walker, Ext. Culpeper, VA

2026 State 4-H Equine Advisory Council

STATE OFFICE
Katherine Carter, Youth Animal Science Extension Specialist, Blacksburg
Hunter Liles, Ext Program Associate, Youth Animal Science, Blacksburg
Lauren McCroskey, Ext Program Associate, Youth Animal Science, Blacksburg

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT
Leslie Prillaman, VCE Agent
Tammy Bishop-Sparks, VCE Agent
Sandy Norman, Tazewell
Melissa Large, Roanoke
Reanna Willey, Montgomery

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT
Jocelyn Pearson, VCE Agent
Isaiah Morton, VCE Agent
Sylvia Hofmann-Cole, Chesapeake
Jaimee Clary, Dinwiddie
Kerri Land Mandras, Virginia Beach

NORTHEAST DISTRICT
Victoria Salmon, VCE Agent
Lori Clark, VCE Agent
Lisa Powers, Caroline
Sandra “Pinky” Dowdy, Henrico
Michelle Smith, Gloucester

NORTHWEST DISTRICT
Carrie Swanson, VCE Agent
Kim Mayo, VCE Agent
Julie Williamson, Culpeper
Hannah McDonald, Frederick
Bertha Durbin, Albemarle

CENTRAL DISTRICT
Linda Eanes, VCE Agent
Beth Bailey, Halifax
Whitney Judge, Amherst
Della Roberts, Appomattox

AT LARGE
Sam Leech, VCE Agent
Chris Russ, Fluvanna
Rose McDonald, Frederick

Exhibitor and Horse Qualifications

VCE Agents, 4-H Leaders and Volunteers, Enrolled 4-H Members, and Parents; please read the rules herein carefully. Failure to comply with the rules and regulations set forth in this guide will result in disqualification as well as removal from classes entered. Disqualification will be determined by Youth Animal Science Extension Faculty.

This event is open to any enrolled 4-H member meeting the qualifications outlined below. Submission of entry indicates compliance with rules and show staff decisions without oral or written protest.

Qualifications per Year

1. Member must be enrolled in 4H Online in the unit from which entered by February 1 of the show year.

2. **4-H Age Qualifications**.
    a. Junior exhibitors are ages 9-13 as of September 30 of the show year.
    b. Senior exhibitors are ages 14-18 as of September 30 of the show year, with some 19 year olds being eligible. Virginia 4-H membership terminates December 31 of the calendar year the member has his/her 19th birthday.

3. **Eligibility/Declaration:** Members MUST complete the online declaration for their project animal(s) through their account at v2.4honline.com no later than July 1 of the current horse show year. Youth should declare ANY horse that they MAY show at the State Horse Show no later than **July 1.**

4. Must submit an up to date Virginia Horse Project: Horse Management Record Book [publication 4H694P (junior) or 4H837P (senior)]. This will be verified by the club leader and/or Unit VCE Agent at the time of entry for the State 4-H Horse Show or other unit-approved time.

5. Members must have passed levels 1 & 2 of the Horsemanship Skills if they have not previously shown at the State 4-H Horse Show. This is member specific, and members do not have to re-test if they obtain a new project animal. More information here: https://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/horse/events/horsemanship-skills.html

6. Exhibitors must participate in a unit, district, or state level 4-H event other than the District Qualifying Show in the same 4-H year.

7. Must qualify at a horse show or clinic by exhibiting any horse you MAY wish to show at the State 4-H Horse Show in a class at a horse show without removal, disqualification, or excusal during the current 4-H program year. Youth may utilize District Horse Council approved qualifying shows or clinics, as well as Outside Qualifying Shows.

    a. A senior 4-H member, 18 years or older, who will be going into active military duty or basic training, such that the 4-Her is unable to attend an official qualifying event will be allowed to enter the state show. Contact the show manager for details.

8. Exhibitors must have an accident-medical insurance policy. The policy number and name should be listed on the Health History Form. The show will not provide insurance.

Exhibitor and Project Animal Guidelines

4-H Member Rules

1. **The Virginia 4-H Code of Conduct/Standards of Behavior, of which all members have signed, will be in effect for the show's duration.**

2. Parents, guardians, members and/or representatives agree to all rules and legal show decisions without appeal or legal action upon entry. Responsibility for preparation and safe participation in any class is the responsibility of the parent, guardian and/or representative and members.

3. Horse Show participants are expected to dress appropriately keeping with general 4-H expectations at all times. Anyone with the probability of riding or handling a horse should dress with safety in mind. When riding, long pants are required, as well as a helmet and closed toed shoes with a heel. No open toed shoes, sandals, or flip flops are allowed when handling or around horses.
    a. When showing, appropriate attire is required based on division rules. Please see show division sections for rules on general attire. All show personnel have the authority to enforce dress code policy.

Horse Rules

1. Project animals may be owned, leased, or rented.

2. The State 4-H Horse Show is open to all breeds and types of horses, ponies, mules, and donkeys at least one year of age, with the exception of stallions. No intact males (stallions) will be allowed on show grounds.

3. All equines must be healthy and serviceably sound. All horses are subject to veterinary inspection. Soundness will be determined by the judges of their respective divisions, and may be removed from classes at their discretion.

    a. Animal deemed to have a present health issue may be subject to additional inspection and removed from the grounds. All exhibitors should work with their own veterinarian in advance of the show for recommendations to protect their horses at the show.

4. Equines must have a negative Coggins Test for EIA within 12 months of the State Horse Show. Coggins forms must be uploaded with the horse declaration form in 4H Online. If the Coggins test should expire between July 1 and the show date, the updated copy should be emailed to Hunter Liles at huntl97@vt.edu.

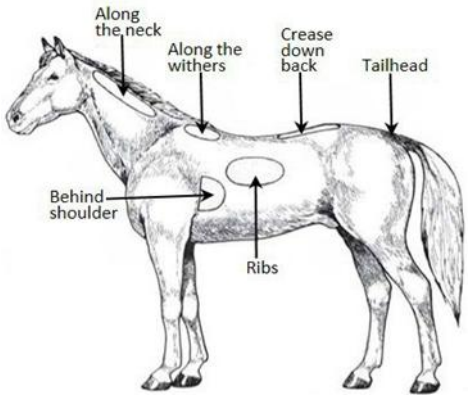
    a. Bring two copies of your Coggins test to the show. You will be asked to turn one copy into show management at the time of check in.

5. Certificates of Veterinary Inspection are only required for animals coming from out of state to show. These certificates must be dated within 30 days of the show.

6. It is strongly suggested that horses entering the show grounds be vaccinated in the last 6 months with the Flu/Rhino vaccine. Show management reserves the right to mandate proof of vaccination in the event of a disease outbreak.

7. Two members may show one animal, but this animal must be their declared 4-H Horse Project animal, qualified by both exhibitors, and may be shown only one time in each class for which it is eligible. All entry, payment, qualifying, and declaration rules apply for each exhibitor. No more than two 4-H members may share a horse/pony at the State Show. It is up to the participants to enter and register for classes and manage class conflicts.

8. Research has shown that health complications such as heat stress, stress of traveling, and showing can be exacerbated at low body condition scores. Due to concerns for animal welfare and the objective of 4-H to educate and promote quality animal husbandry; horses, ponies and/or mules shall not be shown at the Virginia 4-H Horse Program State Show and/or Virginia 4-H State Fair Horse Show with a body condition score of less than 4 based on the Henneke scale (ribs easily discernible, tops of spinous process easily discernible, tail-head prominent with hook bones easily discernible, withers accentuated and neck obviously thin). If you have questions about the body condition score of your horse or if you are not sure your horse will pass inspection, please contact Hunter Liles at 540-231-6345. Virginia 4-H Horse Program staff and/or Official Veterinarians will assess animals in question. If there is a thin animal, the committee will make a final decision whether or not to disqualify the animal.



Horse Body Condition Scores and Descriptions *(Adapted from Henneke et al., 1983)*	
Score	Condition Description
1 - Poor	Animal extremely emaciated. Spinal vertebrae, ribs, tailhead, and point of hip and point of buttocks project 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 the base of spinal vertebrae; transverse processes of the lumbar vertebrae feel rounded; spinous processes, ribs, tailhead, and point of hip and point of buttocks prominent; withers, shoulders, and neck structures faintly
3 - Thin	Fat built up about halfway on the spinal vertebrae; 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; point of buttocks appear rounded but easily discernible; point of hip not distinguishable; withers, shoulders, and neckaccentuated.
4 - Moderately Thin	Slight ridge along back; faint outline of ribs discernible; tailhead prominence depends on conformation, but fat can be felt around it; point of hip 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 spinal vertebrae; shoulders and neck blend smoothly into body.
6 - Moderate to Fleshy	May be 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 the sides
7 - Fleshy	May have crease down back; individual ribs can be felt, but there is noticeable fat between ribs; fat around tailhead soft; fat deposited along withers, behind shoulders, and along
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 cause them to rub together; flank filled with fat.

Entry Procedure

Entry System

1. Exhibitors will make entries using the v2.4honline.com login on the FairEntry website here: fairentry.com. Exhibitors who are not enrolled members of Virginia 4-H in 4HOnline will be unable to enter.

2. Exhibitors should utilize the FairEntry Worksheet found within before making their entries in the FairEntry System. Use the entry worksheet, alongside the published FairEntry Tutorial Video on the Virginia 4-H Horse Program website to review entries with your Unit VCE Agent and/or Club Leader. **Entries made in the FairEntry System, once approved, will be final. Any additions/changes made to entries will have to be made at the Show via the Scratch/Add System, and may incur fees.**

3. If entering into a Trail or Jumper Class, you will be asked to submit the required Qualifying Form(s) into the entry system. Trail forms are only required for those that have NOT competed in Trail previously at the show, while Jumper forms are required annually.

4. Walk/Jog/Trot is its own division, with Championship Awards provided if donors are able. All qualification rules remain the same for exhibitors in these classes. There will be no Walk/Jog/Trot Classics classes. Those entering in Walk/Jog/Trot are not eligible to enter into any Walk/Jog/Lope or Walk/Trot/Canter Classes. As such, these exhibitors may only bring one horse, with the exception being that they may bring a miniature horse in addition to a riding animal.

5. Youth exhibiting two horses:
    a. Both horses must have met all entry qualifications (declarations, qualifying shows)
    b. Youth may NOT show two horses in the same class, as riders may only show one time per class they are entered in. The only exception is made for exhibitors showing 2 miniature horses in the same class.
    c. If an exhibitor qualifies two horses for the same Classics class, they may only show one animal.
    d. Class Conflicts will be the exhibitor's responsibility.
        i. Please communicate with your division management should you foresee a class conflict. Division managers will do their best if notified in advance to manage those conflicts, but classes cannot be held.

6. Entries are not considered complete until FULL payment has been received by the State YAS Extension Office and the Orientation Report Form has been submitted by the Unit VCE Agent or Club Leader.

7. **Entries and Orientation Report Forms must be submitted no later than JULY 31. No late entries will be accepted.**

8. Full payment must be postmarked no later than **August 10th.** If paying via Journal Transfer, payment paperwork must be submitted to Hunter Liles no later than August 10th.

Mail to:
Virginia 4-H State Horse Show
ATTN: Hunter Liles
175 W Campus Drive 388 Litton Reaves Hall Blacksburg, VA 24061

9. Entries should be reviewed by parents, club leaders, and/or Unit VCE Agents to ensure horses/riders are entered into appropriate classes. Upon receipt of entries, if a horse or rider is thought to be in an incorrect class, YAS Staff will reach out to the exhibitor via email to correct prior to approving entries.

10. There will be no refunds for classes dropped after entries are approved. There is no fee for Classic entries or changes made by division management.

11. Classes with large numbers of entries may be split at the discretion of show management. Class splits will be determined by show management, and making the final call-back for a split class is at the judge's discretion and non-protestable.

12. If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services, or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Hunter Liles at 540-231-6345 during business hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations by July 18th (or as soon as possible after this date). *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

Entry Responsibility

1. Unit VCE Agents and/or Club Leaders are responsible for orientation meetings and an explanation of rules. Submission of the orientation report form by the club leader/Agent indicates that all exhibitors have been through the orientation meeting.

2. Exhibitors must log in through their family 4HOnline account to complete entry. Thus, the entry and confirmation of rules, etc. with State YAS Staff, VCE Faculty, or Club Volunteers is the responsibility of the youth and their family.

3. Exhibitors may check the status of their entry online via FairEntry. As entries are approved, invoices available, and payment is received, this will be indicated in each FairEntry account.

Entry Fees

1. A $75.00 office fee will be collected per horse/rider combination. An exhibitor bringing two horses will incur two separate office fees. Class fees will be incurred at a rate of $25.00/class.
    a. Exhibitors may enter into any class regardless of division. No rider may show in the same class twice.
    b. Classes will not be held for any reason. As entries are made, exhibitors should utilize the published show schedule to ascertain the possibility of showing in multiple divisions.

2. Office and class fees are not inclusive of stabling.
    a. Stall fees are $25.00/stall/night.
        i. This is the price for both horse stalls and tack stalls.
    b. There will be NO free tack stalls for Units. Exhibitors may share tack stalls at their own choosing, but are responsible for determining how that cost will be split and ensuring it is listed on one exhibitor's entry.
    c. Requests for Club Tack Stalls can also be made through the "Club/Unit Tack Stall" Department in the FairEntry System, by an enrolled Club Leader or VCE Agent ONLY.

3. Entry fee payment can be made via one check per exhibitor/family, one check per club, or via journal transfer from the Unit.

4. Entry checks will be cashed promptly upon receipt. Checks returned will be subject to a $50.00 charge.

5. **Entry fees are non-refundable unless request is approved and scratch received by show management by August 20, 2026. All scratches must be made by August 20, 2026 at 5:00 PM. Refunds should be requested to Hunter Liles at huntl97@vt.edu. All scratches and no shows after this deadline will automatically forfeit entry fees (regardless of reason).**

6. Entries made prior to the deadline of July 31, 2026 will be accepted without question, pending approval of qualifying requirements.

7. 600 Entries will be accepted on a Statewide basis. If there is a waiting list, and a child must cancel prior to the show, their spot will be offered to the next oldest 4-Her. Parents and leaders should inform show staff if they become aware of

scratched entries.

Horse Substitution Rule

The animal shown at the qualifying show or clinic must be the one shown at state.

After entries are submitted, exhibitors may substitute one qualified horse for another horse **they declared by the July 1st deadline** which must have also met all other qualification criteria, including being qualified at a qualifying show/clinic.

There is no deadline for Horse Substitution, however, the Show Manager must verify the reason for substitution and the request must be accompanied by a $50.00 substitution fee, to make the change.

Horse Show Hero

4-Hers may solicit "Horse Show Heroes" to help sponsor the State Show.

Funds Raised	Scholarship Awarded
$300+	$100 Scholarship towards Entry Fees
$400+	$200 Scholarship towards Entry Fees
$800+	$400 Scholarship towards Entry Fees

The Horse Show Hero District Challenge will allow 4-Hers to work together as a group within their district to raise funds for the State 4-H Horse Show.

The top ten INDIVIDUAL fundraisers will receive personalized plaques to adorn their stalls as well as coupons for State Horse Show Shirts during the State 4-H Horse Show and recognize them as Horse Show Heroes!

All Hero money must be sent with the Orientation Report Form and/or received prior to the entry deadline to count towards the district challenge. Each 4-Her must summarize their Hero dollars in the provided Excel form to include the name and Unit of the 4-Her along with the Hero name and amount given, with a summary total. See the 4-H Horse Program Website for more information and forms. If a 4-Her with Hero sponsorships is unable to attend, Hero funds can be "transferred" to another 4-Her if done so before the scratch deadline. After the scratch deadline, Hero sponsorships can still be accepted but there will be no refunds of Horse Show Hero Monies. Hero checks are cashed upon receipt and are not refundable if the 4-Her is unable to attend the horse show. Horse Show Hero Sponsorships are NOT tax deductible, and that information should be shared with potential sponsors. Should an individual or business wish to make a tax deductible donation, please have them contact Hunter Liles at huntl97@vt.edu.

General Horse Show Rules

1. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor and parents/guardians to read and understand the rules for the classes in which they are exhibiting in. In general, modified USEF and AQHA rules have been applied. **Above all, the judge's decision is FINAL.**

2. **EXHIBITOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR GUESTS:** Please remember that the exhibitor is ultimately responsible for the behavior of any and all guests - not only their understanding of the State 4-H Horse Show Rules– but their support of these rules. Each exhibitor acknowledged during the Entry Process that they have read and agree to abide by all the rules of the State 4-H Horse Show. **If a parent, friend, family member, trainer, or guest of any type breeches the rules, policies, or guidelines of the State 4-H Horse Show the exhibitor or exhibitors who invited that individual will be held responsible. Please make certain that those assisting you in any way are aware of and uphold the rules that you have agreed to abide by.**

3. Sportsmanship is the 4-H way. Any discourtesy to show management or judges by an exhibitor, parent, or leader may results in disqualification of that exhibitor and forfeiture of ribbons/prizes awarded.

    a. Questions about a class should be discussed with the Division Manager and/or Show Manager by the exhibitor. Following submission of a question or concern, judges may be approached by way of the Division Manager, if the judge is accepting.

4. It is the responsibility of exhibitors to be ready at the ring when their class is called. No classes will be held due to tardiness.

5. Apart from horses, no animals will be permitted in the coliseum, barns, or in/around show and schooling rings.
    a. Service animals covered by the ADA are welcome. Due to safety risks associated with dogs being in close proximity to horses, service dogs may be restricted to certain areas inside and beside rings and inside of the horse barns.
    b. Service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless either the Handler is unable because of disability to use a leash, or the use of a leash would interfere with the Service Animal's safe, effective performance of required work.
    c. Restrictions can be evaluated on a case by case basis and service dog handlers have the opportunity to apply for additional accommodations through the following questionnaire: https://tinyurl.com/Accommodations26

6. Guns of any kind are NOT allowed on show grounds, concealed or otherwise.

7. Care and custody of all participants lies within that exhibitor's parent/guardian/chaperone. Show management is not responsible for chaperoning any exhibitors.

8. Awards must be picked up at the show. Exhibitors winning monetary awards or premiums must submit a signed W9 to the awards office prior to the conclusion of the show. Payments will be processed after the show and mailed to the address on the W9.

9. On show grounds, care of the horse is the primary responsibility of the exhibitor, with minimal assistance from others.

10. **Only the exhibitor of the horse entered in the show may mount and ride the horse during the duration of the show. If another 4-Her, parent, trainer, or leader mounts a horse for schooling for any length of time, the exhibitor will be disqualified from further participation at the show. No electronic devices may be used by a mounted rider during competition or schooling.**

11. Parking and camping procedures will be handled and enforced by Virginia Horse Center Personnel and Show Staff. Vehicles parked unsafely may be towed.

a. Vehicles must be parked in designated areas.
b. No vehicles are allowed in the barns. Vehicles may only be parked along barn aisles and roadways to load/unload and must be returned to a designated parking area following.

12. No smoking in or near any buildings, rest rooms, show rings, schooling rings, or barns.

13. Only licensed vehicles and operators are permitted on the Virginia Horse Center Roadways.

    a. Golf carts and mopeds must be operated by a licensed driver, who must be over the age of 18.
    b. Bicycles, skateboards, rollerblades, etc. operated by minors under the age of 16 must also wear protective headgear.
    c. Wheeled vehicles (scooters, hoverboards, bicycles, etc.) are NOT permitted in the barns, coliseum, arenas, or any posted "No Vehicle" areas.

Stabling and Check In Regulations

Check In and Stabling Procedure

1. Available beginning after 5:00 PM on Wednesday.
    a. Riding is not allowed until the show office opens at 9:00 AM on Thursday and EMTs are announced on the grounds.
    b. Youth must designate the Wednesday night check in in FairEntry and will be subject to the $25.00/night stalling fee.

2. Stalls will be assigned by random draw per size and fit of contingent. This is a non-protestable assignment. Unit VCE Agents will be given a stabling chart to assign placement of horses and tack stalls within their unit block. This will be returned to Hunter Liles at huntl97@vt.edu by August 20, 2026. Any changes to assignments must be approved by show management prior to any changes.
    a. Requests for specific stalling assignments may be made via the Google form linked here: https://tinyurl.com/26StablingRequest prior to July 31, 2026. There is no guarantee that stabling requests can be upheld due to stall numbers, etc.

Stabling Rules

1. 4-Hers are required to strip their stalls prior to check out and leaving the grounds. Violations of this rule will be charged $100.00 to the exhibitor assigned to any stall not cleaned before departure from the grounds.

2. Security and mechanics of stabling are the responsibility of the exhibitor. Buckets and decorations must be hung with ties or cords that can be easily removed and are safe. No nails, screws, or staples can be used to attach items to stalls at the Virginia Horse Center.

3. Exhibitors must attach a local show address (Hotel name, Lodging Location) and phone number to the stall door using the stall card provided at check in.

4. The Virginia Horse Center provides special containers for medical waste disposal in each barn for exhibitors use. Medical waste (needles, syringes) must not be discarded in stalls, manure pits, garbage cans or on the grounds. Needles, syringes and other medical supplies must be placed in the appropriate containers located in each barn. The Virginia Horse Center will inform show management of any abuse of this policy during and after the event. The show is charged if exhibitors are found to abuse this policy and this fee will be passed on to those found in violation.

5. All electrical cords must be 12 gauge, 3 wire, and prong negative ground type.

6. Manure and shavings removed from stalls and trailers must be placed in specific areas, not in garbage cans.

7. Gas, electric, or propane heaters are not permitted in the stall/barn area.

8. Only horses participating in the show are permitted on the grounds.

9. One equine will be allowed per stall. Horses must have an assigned stall to be eligible to show, and cannot leave the show grounds once entering. Any horse who has left the show grounds will not be permitted to return.

10. Horses are not to be exercised or ridden in stable areas, walkways, or barn aisles.

11. Bedding can be purchased on the grounds. Shavings orders can e made directly to the Virginia Horse Center Stabling Office prior to your arrival at the show. You will need your stall assignment prior to ordering shavings.

12. **Stalls from canceled entries revert to control of show management. Empty stalls within barns are NOT permitted for use – individuals found utilizing stalls that have not been assigned to them will incur fines for stall utilization.**

13. Once a horse is removed from the show grounds, it will not be permitted to return.

Schooling Arena Rules

1. Ring monitors will be present and visible near the practice arenas to maintain safety. Respect must be given to these volunteers when requests are made.

2. Longing should take place in designated arenas only. Lunging arenas will be posted at the show office and announced on the BAND App.

3. When schooling
    a. Riders must wear protective headgear
    b. Exhibitor number must be visible on horse or rider whenever horse is out of stall.
    c. Horses must be saddled and bridled when being ridden. Bareback riding, double riding, etc. are prohibited at all times.

4. A parent/guardian/chaperone from the exhibitor's unit must be present with youth while mounted at all times.

5. Horses and ponies are not to be led or ridden outside of the horse show area or past the flags on the cross country course.

6. Schooling rings will be announced as they are opened. Show rings may also be open for schooling at certain times, and will be announced when open.

7. Ultimate responsibility for safety in the schooling arenas is up to the exhibitor and parent/guardian/chaperone. If an arena is too crowded, etc. do not use the arena.

8. ***No 4-Her should be mounted for any reason if EMTS are not on the grounds. Riders may only be mounted once it is announced that EMT personnel is on the grounds.***

Measurement and Shoeing Regulations

Measurement

Permanent United States Equestrian Federation and 4-H Measurement Green Cards will be accepted to verify height of horses or ponies. Green 4-H measurement cards can be completed by an official 4-H Measurer, a veterinarian, or a licensed official for another horse show organization. No animal will be measured at the show unless the height is questioned. Ultimate responsibility rests with the exhibitor. Miniatures are classified as 40" or less and cannot be ridden.

An exhibitor only may question the height of any animal in the same class being shown but prior to the pinning of the champions and/or within one hour of the conclusion of the class. This is to be directed in writing (signed) to the Division Manager or show manager. This statement will be shown to the exhibitor in question, the animal measured and the awards and points to be assigned per current United States Equestrian Federation Rules. No champions may be challenged after the awards are made.

Shoeing

Any question about shoeing and pads should be directed to the Show Management or the Division Manager in writing and signed by the party concerned. Show Staff may then check the entry and present the written question to the other party concerned. Pads and shoes may be checked by Show Management and/or the DQP for English Pleasure Horses and gaited horses by DQP or at the in-gate prior to the class. Compliance is the sole responsibility of the exhibitor. Pads and Shoes cannot be questioned after a class is in progress except upon the initiation of the agent on duty and/or judge and cannot be questioned by anyone after the ribbon placing.

Changes made to current federal laws and/or regulations regarding shoeing or pads placed into effect prior to the show date will be enforced. If there are changes to this section of the rules, exhibitors will be made aware via email and announcements prior to the show.

Safety and Headgear

1. Horse work and use is a potentially dangerous activity and assumption of some risk is inherent. Safety is the responsibility of all participants.

2. Neither the show nor sponsors will be responsible for any accident or injury to the person or property of any exhibitor, spectator, attendant, or other person. The exhibitor agrees to indemnify the show and any sponsor against any claim or liability for damage caused by exhibitor or animal.

3. Any exhibitor involved in any activity endangering horse, rider, or spectator is subject to expulsion from the show. Riding double, bareback or without a bridle is not allowed!

4. Accidents should be reported immediately to the rescue squad and/or first aid (medical records), Agents on Duty, and the horse show office.

Safety Headgear

Effective January 1, 2000, protective headgear is required for youth of 4-H age and younger in all mounted equine activities sponsored by VA Cooperative Extension. American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) certified protective headgear for equestrian activities is **required**. Headgear must have a properly fitted and secured harness.

Stable Management

Awards will be presented for excellence in stable management. Please see the Supplemental Sheet on Stable Management herein. Judging will be conducted by officials and all stalls will be judged.

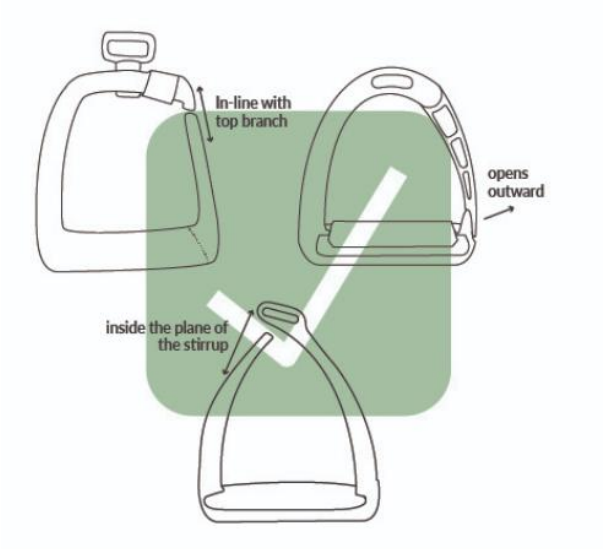
Photography

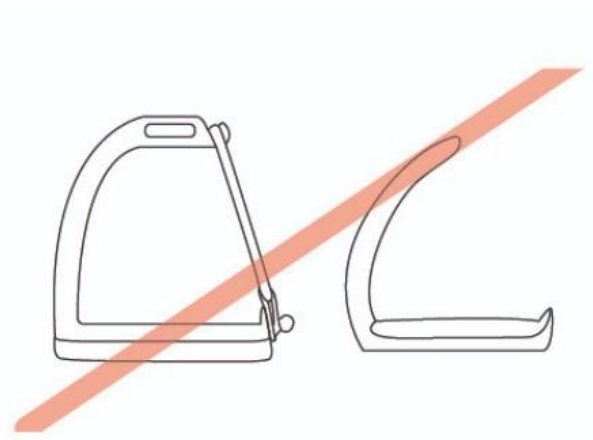
A commercial photographer (listed under show personnel) will be available for photography throughout the show. Arrangements and payment are between the exhibitor and photographer. Group photographs may be available and it is suggested that arrangements be made in advance of the show directly with the photographer.

General Class Tack and Attire Regulations

In 2026 and Beyond – the USEF "Peacock Stirrup Rule will be strictly enforced.

- Effective starting in 2026 – Virginia 4-H will utilize the USEF ban on Peacock Stirrups in an effort to enhance rider safety.
    - **No piece of equipment shall be attached to a saddle that has a rigid, upward pointing projection, hook, or similar object capable of catching a rider's clothing or person when dismounting, including stirrups."**
    - Considerations when evaluating a stirrup for use:
        - When the release mechanism is not activated, the safety stirrup must have closed branches, or an outside branch with a gap, not to exceed 1.5 cm, that fully aligns with the outside plane of the stirrup, or
        - If the safety stirrup, when the release mechanism is not activated, has an outside branch that is not closed and has a gap, that branch must lie inside the plane of the stirrup
- Example photos are included below:





Hunter/Hunter Pleasure

Tack General Rules

- Saddles are huntseat/close contact saddles
- Bridles should be bitted, of the snaffle and pelham family only
- Breast Plates optional.
- Boots and Bandages prohibited, with the exception of Equitation over Fences
- Draw Reins Prohibited
- Martingales prohibited in all flat classes (Pleasure/Under Saddle)
    - Only Standing Martingales are permitted in Over Fences classes Only
- Riders are not to tie the stirrup, leather, or foot to any part of the horse or tack

Attire General Rules

- Clothing should be clean, neat and appropriate
- General Attire
    - Traditional, Dark Color Coats
    - Britches of traditional shades of buff, gray, rust, beige, or canary
    - Dress Boots and/or Jodphur Boots
    - ASTM Certified Helmet
- Spurs (unroweled), crops, and bats are optional
- Hair must be neat and contained in a net or braid.
- Gloves preferred

Western

Tack General Rules

- Horses 5 years and younger are junior horses and are permitted to be shown in a snaffle, hackamore, curb bit, half breed, or spade bit.
    - Snaffle Bits
        - Conventional O Ring, egg butt, D ring with a ring no larger than 4” and no smaller than 2”.
        - Inside circumference must be free of rein, curb, or headstall attachments which provide leverage.
        - Mouthpiece should be round, oval or egg shaped. Smooth and free of wire. It may be inlaid, but smooth or latex wrapped. The bars must be a minimum of 5/16” in diameter, measured at 1” in from the cheek.
        - Optional curb strap is acceptable, curb chains are prohibited
- Horses 6 years and older are considered senior horses and may only be shown in a curb bit, half breed, or spade bit.
    - References to curb, half-breed, or spade means the use of a curb bit that has a solid or broken mouthpiece, has shanks, and acts with leverage
        - Must be free of mechanical device and should be considered a standard western bit. Maximum 8 ½” Shank which may be fixed or loose.
        - Concerning mouthpieces, bars must be round, oval or egg-shaped, smooth and free of wire of 5/16” to 3/4” in diameter, measured 1” from the cheek. They may be inlaid, but must be smooth or latex wrapped. Nothing may protrude more than 1/8” below the mouthpiece (bar).

    - The port must be no higher than 3 1/2” maximum, with rollers and covers acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, half-breeds, and spades are standard.
    - When a curb bit is used, a curb strap or curb chain is required, which must be at least 1/2” in width, lie flat against the jaw, and be free of barbs, wire, and/or twists.
- Except for Snaffle Bit and Freestyle Classes, only one hand may be used on the reins, and the hand must not be changed. The hand is to be around the reins; index finger only between split reins is permitted. Violation of this rule results in a penalty score of zero (0).
    - Romal Reins - the Romal is held in one hand with no fingers between the individual reins. The end of the Romal may be held in the hand not used for reining to keep the Romal from swinging and to adjust the position of the rein. The reins must be held so that there is at least 16” of rein between the hands.
- Prohibited Equipment:
    - Jerk Lines – tie down with metal contact with head
    - Cavesson type nosebands
    - Tack Collars
    - Mechanical Hackamores
    - Slip or gag bits, donuts, or flat polo mouthpieces
- Protective boots allowed only in gymkhana events
- Ranch Division
    - No protective boots, mechanical hackamores, crops or whips, or gymkhana style reins are permitted.
        - Reins must be split or Romal type.

Attire General Rules

- Pants (slacks, trousers, jeans, etc)
- Long Sleeved, Collared Shirt (band, standup, tuxedo, etc)
- Western Hat (showmanship) or ASTM Approved Helmet (riding)
- Western Style Boots
- Spurs and Chaps optional

Fair Entry Show Departments

A. Equitation
B. Showmanship
C. Adaptive Rider
D. Dressage
E. English Pleasure
F. Gymkhana
G. Working Hunter
H. Hunter Pleasure
I. Miniature
J. Ranch
K. Walk/Jog/Trot
L. Western
M. Miscellaneous

A. Equitation

Riders may enter into more than one Equitation and/or Horsemanship class. Riders shall use appropriate tack and attire for their respective division. Riders may be separated into Juniors and Seniors dependent upon their age, respective to age eligibility rules herein. Riders may only compete in a single class one time and may NOT enter two different horses into the same class.

Division A1 – Dressage Equitation

Exhibitors will show at a medium walk, working trot, and canter both ways of the ring. Movements shall be performed by the exhibitors simultaneously; however, the judge may ask for independent execution of certain tests. The rider's position, seat and specifically the correct use and effects of the aids required by the Training and First Level Dressage tests are to be judged. No change of horse by exhibitors.

Riders may be asked to exhibit the following at the judge's discretion: free walk, transitions from all gaits exhibited in Training and First Level Test, change direction across the diagonal, across the arena, or half circle, sitting trot, extended/lengthened gaits, and halt, work with or without stirrups, leg yield, "stretching" on a 20 meter circle at the trot, serpentine at the trot, and shallow loop serpentine with counter canter.

Please refer to the Dressage Division section for equipment rules and regulations.

Class No.
41 – Dressage Equitation – Senior Rider
42 – Dressage Equitation – Junior Rider

195 – Walk/Trot Dressage Equitation (not eligible for classic)

205 – Dressage Equitation Classic – Top fourteen scores from classes 41 and 42 are eligible to show in the classic. This is top scores of juniors and seniors combined. Entries made at show for no additional charge.

Division A2 – Gaited Equitation

Eligible entries include horses shown in Ambling, Racking, or Walking Horse and Pony Pleasure. Shoeing regulations will follow the rules previously set forth by those classes listed and will be in accordance with standard shoeing regulations set forth by the current WHOA rulebook.

Class Routine – Tests will be individually administered first, followed by rail work as a group. At the judge's discretion, further tests may be given verbally on the rail. Horses will be asked to both perform a walk and a pleasure gait on the rail.

- Possible tests on the rail include, but are not limited to, addressing the reins, backing, riding without stirrups, dropping and picking up stirrups in motion or stopped, perform figure eights, serpentines, or circles of various size.

Position –

- Seat: Rider's seat should be a natural, coordinated and comfortable riding position and should in no way be rigid or exaggerated. A rider should convey the impression of effective and easy control, with the general appearance of being able to ride for a considerable length of time with pleasure. Ring generalship shall be taken into consideration by the judge. The appearance, presentation and alertness of the rider and mount make the overall picture of utmost importance.
- Hands: The hands should be held in any easy position; waist or elbow high, over pommel, with palms downward, slightly turned toward body, wrist rounded slightly. The hands should be in unison with the horse's mouth, showing adaptability as well as control. How and where the horse carries his head determines the height the hands are held above the horse's withers. Hands and wrists should be flexible and not held extremely separated. (From the rider's view, then hands should be in a V shape, close enough for thumbs to touch.) The fingers should be closed firmly over reins, but not rigid. Pressure between thumb and index fingers is used to secure. Closed (or crossed) reins shall be used, with both hands on the reins, and the bight of the rein should be on the off-side.
  Upper arms should fall naturally from the shoulders toward the hipbones and should be flexible. Elbows should not clutch the body, be extended forward or spread away from the body. Hands should be in comfortable waist-level position, depending on how and where the horse carries its head. The use of hands should be smooth and gradual without jerking or pumping at any of the gaits, or in the parked position.
- To obtain proper position, the rider should sit comfortably in the middle of the saddle and find the center of gravity by sitting with a slight bend at the knees without use of the stirrups. While in this position, have stirrup leathers adjusted to fit so that irons will be under ball of foot with even pressure on entire width of sole and center of iron.
  The foot position will be natural and comfortable if the knee and thigh are rolled inward and the heel is slightly lower than the toes. From the front or rear view, the lower leg will be held naturally away from the horse, depending on the anatomy of the rider and the size of the horse. Knee should rest against the saddle.
- In Motion: The position in motion should be natural, coordinated and graceful, attained only with practice. From the side view a straight line can be drawn perpendicular to the ground through the rider's head, neck, shoulder, hip and ankle. The rider's toe should never be anymore forward than the knee, thereby keeping the center of balance directly above the feet and ankles. This basic recommended position should be maintained at all gaits.

Suggested Scoring –

Scoring may be on a basis on 0-100 with 1/2 point increments acceptable, an approximate breakdown follows:
90-100:Excellent equitation including body position and use of aids. Pattern is performed promptly, precisely and smoothly.

80-89:Generally excellent performance with one minor fault in appearance and position of exhibitor or execution of pattern.

70-79:Generally good pattern execution and equitation with one minor fault in precision or execution of pattern (performance), or appearance and position of exhibitor.

60-69:Average pattern that lacks quickness or precision, or rider has obvious equitation flaws that prevent effective equitation, or commits two or three minor faults in the performance or appearance and position of exhibitor.

50-59:One major fault or several minor faults in the performance and/or appearance and position of exhibitor that precludes effective communication with the horses.

40-49:Two major faults or many minor faults in the performance or appearance and position of exhibitor.

30-39:Several major faults or one severe fault in the performance, or appearance and position of exhibitor. Exhibitor demonstrates a complete lack of riding ability or commits a severe fault in the performance or appearance and position of exhibitor.

20-29:Exhibitor commits one or more severe faults in the performance or appearance and position of exhibitor, but does complete the class and avoids disqualification.

Class No
17 – Gaited Equitation – Junior Rider
18 – Gaited Equitation – Senior Rider

202- Gaited Equitation Classic – Top seven ribbon winners from classes 17 and 18 are eligible for class 202. Entries made at show with no additional charge.

Division A3 – Huntseat Equitation on the Flat

Rider should have a workmanlike appearance, seat and hands light and supple, conveying the impression of complete control. The eyes should be up and shoulders back. Heels should be down, calf of leg in contact with the horse and slightly behind the girth. Hands should be over and in front of the horse's withers and slightly apart making a straight line from mouth to elbow.

Horses not to jump. Flat class with an optional pattern for the Classic to be used at the judge's discretion. Horse and Riders may be asked to walk, trot (rising or sitting), canter, halt, and other tests at discretion including but not limited to, simple change of lead, counter canter, two point, hand gallop, work without stirrups, etc.

Class No.
30 – Huntseat Equitation on the Flat – Large Horse Senior Rider
32- Huntseat Equitation on the Flat – Large Horse Junior Rider
33 - Huntseat Equitation on the Flat – Small Horse Senior Rider
35 - Huntseat Equitation on the Flat – Small Horse Junior Rider

36 - Huntseat Equitation on the Flat – Large Pony Senior Rider
38 - Huntseat Equitation on the Flat – Large Pony Junior Rider
39 - Huntseat Equitation on the Flat -Small/Medium Pony Senior Rider
40 - Huntseat Equitation on the Flat – Small/Medium Pony Junior Rider

187 – Walk/Trot Huntseat Equitation on the Flat – Horse (not eligible for classic)
188 – Walk/Trot Huntseat Equitation on the Flat – Pony (not eligible for classic)

203 – Huntseat Equitation Pony Classic – Entries made at show for no additional charge.
204 – Huntseat Equitation Horse Classic – Entries made at show for no additional charge.

**First and Second place winners from each Huntseat Equitation on the Flat and Over Fences class will compete.

Division A4 – Huntseat Equitation Over Fences

Rider should have a workmanlike appearance, seat and hands light and supple, conveying the impression of complete control. The eyes should be up and shoulders back. Heels should be down, calf of leg in contact with the horse and slightly behind the girth. Hands should be over and in front of the horse's withers and slightly apart making a straight line from horse's mouth to the riders elbow.

Horses to jump six fences. Judge may (not required) select the top riders to show at a walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring. May be asked to dismount and mount. Equitation only to count, jumping faults not to count. Fences will be set at about 2'6", 2'9", or 3' feet for Seniors riding horses, about 2'6" or 2'9" for Juniors riding horses, 2'6" for large ponies, and 2'0" for medium and small ponies.

Class No
21 – Equitation Over Fences (2'6", 2'9", or 3') Horse, Senior Rider
23 – Equitation Over Fences (2'6", 2'9") Horse, Junior Rider
24 – Equitation Over Fences (2'6") Large Pony, Senior Rider
26 – Equitation Over Fences (2'6") Large Pony, Junior Rider
27 – Equitation Over Fences (2") Medium/Small Pony, Senior Rider
28 - Equitation Over Fences (2") Medium/Small Pony, Junior Rider

203 – Huntseat Equitation Pony Classic – Entries made at show for no additional charge.
204 – Huntseat Equitation Horse Classic – Entries made at show for no additional charge.

**First and Second place winners from each Huntseat Equitation on the Flat and Over Fences class will compete.

Division A5 – Ranch Horsemanship

Individual patterns will be used in all Ranch Horsemanship classes. Riders may be asked to back and stand for mounting/dismounting. Horses and ponies to be ridden at a walk, jog, lope at least one way of the ring. The pattern will be posted at least one hour prior to start of class.

Class Routine

- The judge must first ask each exhibitor to work individually using a designated pattern. The pattern may include any maneuvers that are normally required in any stock horse class, such as figure eights and square stops. Individual pattern work must include all three gaits. Exhibitors must also be required to back in a straight line. It must be remembered that, above all, a stock horse is expected to respond instantly and smoothly to all aids.
- After each exhibitor has been worked individually, the judge may recall all exhibitors or finalists to work on the rail, or the class may be placed.
- Exhibitors recalled for rail work shall enter the arena at a walk and be judged on the rail at a walk, jog, and lope. They shall be worked both ways of the ring and should always be on the correct lead at the lope. The reverse is to be executed by turning away from the rail. The horse should be in perfect balance at all times, working entirely off of its haunches. The head and neck should be in a direct line with the body, with the mouth closed and the head at a natural height for the horse's conformation.

Position

- Exhibitor will be judged on seat, hands, ability to control and show horse, and suitability of horse to rider. Results as shown by performance of horse are not to be considered more important than the method used by the rider to obtain them.
- Upper arms to be in a straight line with body; hand(s) holding reins should be bent at the elbow. Only one hand on the reins may be used on horses shown in a curb bit. If showing a horse (5 years of age or younger) in a snaffle or bosal, two hands may be used to hold the reins.
- Exhibitor should sit in the saddle either with legs hanging straight and slightly forward to the stirrups or with knees bent slightly and weight directly over the balls of the feet. In either position the stirrups should be just short enough to allow the heels to be lower than the toes. Body should always appear comfortable, with heels relaxed and flexible. Feet should be placed in stirrups with weight on the balls of the feet. Consideration should be given to width of stirrups, which may vary on Western saddles. If stirrups are wide, foot may give the appearance of being "home" when in reality the weight is being carried properly on the ball of the foot.

Show management and the judge reserve the right to place only those individuals with "qualifying rounds" or that complete the pattern without disqualification. This is at the discretion of the judge and management.

Class No.
229 – Junior Ranch Horsemanship
230 – Senior Ranch Horsemanship

218 – Ranch Horsemanship Classic – Top 7 riders from 229 and 230 will be eligible to ride in the classic. Entries made at show for no additional charge.

Division A6 – Saddle Seat Equitation

Horse and ponies must be shown in proper English tack and attire according to the current USEF rule book. Academy riders are permitted to follow Academy attire rules of the following: dark pants, long sleeve shirt with collar, tie, gloves, vest (sweater permissible in very cold weather). Riding suits and jackets, chaps, western hats, and roweled spurs are prohibited for Academy riders. Academy attire will not be discredited against full attire. Martingales are prohibited, unless the horse or pony is being shown by an Academy rider.

Entries shall be plain shod as for trail and pleasure riding, ¼" pad permitted. Pads should not exceed ¼" anywhere measured and no extra lead is allowed.

Class Routine

- Test will be individually administered first, followed by rail work as a group. At the judge's discretion, further tests may be verbally given by the judge on the rail. During the rail work portion of the class, horses will be asked to perform a walk, trot, and canter in order to check maneuverability, ring etiquette, and sportsmanship.
- Possible tests on the rail include, but are not limited to, the following: Addressing the reins, backing on the rail, riding without stirrups, dropping and picking up stirrups either in motion or stopped, perform figure eights, serpentines, or circles of various size and speed.

Position

- Seat - The required Equitation Seat should in no way be exaggerated but be thoroughly efficient and most comfortable for riding the type of horse called for at any gait and for any length of time. In Saddle Seat Equitation classes, riders should convey the impression of effective and easy control. To show a horse well, they should show themselves to the best advantage. Ring generalship must be taken into consideration by the judges. A complete picture of the whole is of major importance.
- Hands - Hands should be held in an easy position, neither perpendicular nor horizontal to the saddle and should show sympathy, adaptability and control. The height the hands are held above the horse's withers is a matter of how and where the horse carries its head. The method of holding the reins is optional however both hands must be used and all reins must be picked up at one time. Bight of rein shall be on the off (right) side. According to tradition, the "on side" is the side on which you mount and therefore, the "off side" is the opposite side. Riders shall be penalized for switching or carrying at any time the bight of the rein to the ("on" side) left side.
- Position - To obtain proper position, rider should place themselves comfortably in the saddle and find their center of gravity by sitting with a slight bend at the knees but without use of irons. While in this position adjust leathers to fit. The rider should not be sliding off the back of the saddle nor should there be excessive space in the seat behind the rider's back. Irons should be placed under ball of foot (not toe nor "home") with even pressure on entire width of sole and center of iron. Foot position should be natural (neither extremely in nor out) with heels down.
- Position in Motion - Walk: slight motion in saddle. b. Trot: slight elevation in saddle when posting; hips under body not mechanical up-and-down nor swinging forward and backward. c. rocking. d. Slow Gait: steady in saddle, no slap nor twist; legs straight down, intermittent calf pressure permissible; hands slightly raised, flexible contact, no sawing. e. Rack: seat smooth in saddle; legs down and slightly back, not thrust forward; hands low in motion with gait, not sawing but placement optional to individual rider and horse.

Suggested Scoring

Scoring may be on a basis on 0-100 with 1/2 point increments acceptable, an approximate breakdown follows:

90-100:Excellent equitation including body position and use of aids. Pattern is performed promptly, precisely and smoothly.

80-89:Generally excellent performance with one minor fault in appearance and position of exhibitor or execution of pattern.

70-79:Generally good pattern execution and equitation with one minor fault in precision or execution of pattern (performance), or appearance and position of exhibitor.

60-69: Average pattern that lacks quickness or precision, or rider has obvious equitation flaws that prevent effective equitation, or commits two or three minor faults in the performance or appearance and position of exhibitor.

50-59:One major fault or several minor faults in the performance and/or appearance and position of exhibitor that precludes effective communication with the horses.

40-49:Two major faults or many minor faults in the performance or appearance and position of exhibitor.

30-39: Several major faults or one severe fault in the performance, or appearance and position of exhibitor. Exhibitor demonstrates a complete lack of riding ability or commits a severe fault in the performance or appearance and position of exhibitor.

20-29:Exhibitor commits one or more severe faults in the performance or appearance and position of exhibitor, but does complete the class and avoids disqualification.

Class No
15 – Saddle Seat Equitation – Senior Rider
16 – Saddle Seat Equitation – Junior Rider

193 – Walk/Trot Saddleseat Equitation

201 – Saddle Seat Equitation Trotting Classic – Top seven ribbon winners from classes 15 and 16 will show in 201. Entries made at show for no additional charge.

Division A7 – Western Horsemanship

Western Horsemanship is designed to evaluate the rider's ability to execute a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence and maintaining a balanced and functional correct body position. The ideal horsemanship pattern is extremely precise with the rider and horse working in complete unison. The horse's head and neck should be carried in a relaxed, natural position with the poll level with or slightly above the withers.

The exhibitor should appear natural in the seat and ride with a balanced, functional and correct position regardless of the maneuver or gait being performed. Riders should sit in the center of the saddle with the legs hanging to form a straight line from the ear, shoulder and hip. The heels should be lower than the toes with a slight bend in the knee. The riders back should be flat and relaxed. The shoulders should be back, level and square. Both hands and arms should be held in a relaxed, easy manner. The free hand and arm may be carried bent at the elbow in a similar position as the hand holding the reins or straight down at the rider's side. The reins should be adjusted so that the rider has light contact with the horse's mouth. Excessively tight or loose reins will be penalized.

Scoring –
Exhibitors are to be scored from 0 to infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance.Patterns will be divided into 6 to 10 maneuvers, as sp ecified by the judge, and each maneuver will be scored from +3 to - 3 with 1/2 point increments acceptable that will be added or subtracted from 70.

Maneuver scores should be determined independent of penalties, and should reflect equal consideration of both performance of the exhibitor's pattern and the horsemanship form and effectiveness of the exhibitor to result in the following scores: +3 Excellent, +2 Very Good, +1 Good, 0 Average or Correct, -1 Poor, -2 Very Poor, -3 Extremely Poor.

Exhibitors overall horsemanship form and effectiveness should also be scored from 0 to 5 with 0 to 2 Average, 3 Good, 4 Very Good, 5 Excellent. Exhibitors should also be judged on the rail, and their pattern score and/or ranking may be adjusted as appropriate.

Penalties

Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently. The following penalties will be applied for each occurrence and will be deducted from the final score:

Three (3) points:

- Break of gait at the walk or jog up to 2 strides
- Over or under turn from 1/8 to 1/4 turn
- Tick or hit of cone
- Obviously looking down to check leads

Five (5) points

- Not performing the specific gait or not stopping within 10 feet (3 meters) of designated location
- Incorrect lead or break of gait at the lope (except when cor-ecting an incorrect lead)
- Break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides
- Loss of stirrup
- Bottom of boot not touching pad of stirrup at all gaits including backup
- Head carried too low and/or clearly behind the vertical while the horse is in motion, showing the appearance of intimidation

Ten (10) points

- Loss of rein
- Use of either hand to instill fear or praise while on pattern or during rail work
- Holding saddle with either hand
- Cueing with the end of the romal
- Spurring in front of the cinch

Disqualifications (should not be placed) including:

- Failure to display correct number
- Abuse of horse or schooling
- Fall by horse or exhibitor
- Illegal equipment or illegal use of hands on reins
- Use of prohibited equipment

Off pattern, including: knocking over or wrong side of cone or marker; never performing designated gait or lead; over or under turning more than 1/4 turn

The judge and show management reserve the right to place only those individuals that complete the horsemanship pattern without disqualification. This is at the discretion of the judge and division manager.

Class No

9 – Western Horsemanship – Senior Rider
10 – Western Horsemanship – Junior Rider

191 – Walk/Jog Western Horsemanship (not eligible for classic)

200 – Western Horsemanship Classic – Top seven riders from classes 9 and 13 will be eligible to compete in the classic. Show management reserves the right to go beyond the top 7 to fill available spots. Entries made at show with no additional charge.

B. Showmanship Division

Class Selection – Individuals may show in multiple showmanship classes. However, a single participant may not compete in the same class twice or enter two horses into the same class. Each exhibitor may only compete in a single class a single time.

Tack and Attire

- Western Division
  - Tack – Leather Show Halter and leather shank or any fitted halter with shank. Silver on halters will not be an advantage
  - Exhibitor – Dressed in western suit or western slacks and jacket/vest with long sleeve shirt. No chaps. Hat and western boots are required. No whips or crops permitted.
- Hunter Division
  - Tack – Bridle is required. Snaffles, pelhams, all with cavesson nosebands are recommended. A judge may penalize non-conventional types of bits or nosebands. **In junior classes, braiding is option but does enhance the turn out. In senior classes, mane and tail should be braided.**
  - Exhibitor – Hunt attire, including ASTM approved helmet should be worn. Whips/Crops are optional.
- Saddleseat/Gaited Division
  - Tack – Suitable halter or bridle. Ribbons optional either clipped or braided into mane.
  - Exhibitor – Saddle suit or coat with jodphurs with tie, gloves, and hat or helmet or appropriate western attire of long sleeve shirt, jeans, boots, western hat/helmet and optional jacket.
- Dressage
  - Tack – Bridle is required. Regulation snaffles with cavesson nosebands are recommended. A judge may penalize non-conventional nosebands. **In junior classes, braiding is option but does enhance the turn out. In senior classes, mane should be braided.**
  - Exhibitor – Short riding coat of conservative color, choker or stock tie, breeches or jodphurs, boots and a properly fastened ASTM approved safety helmet. Gloves of a conservative color are recommended. Whips/Crops optional.
- Miniature
  - Tack – Appropriate western, English, or hunter tack
  - Exhibitor – Proper western, English, or hunter attire.

Showmanship Systems

Everyone is expected to show their horse on the "Quarter Method" where the horse is "divided" down the midline of the vertebrae and at the withers. The judge's position in the respective quadrant of the horse influences where the showman should stand to present the horse.

Quarter Method:

- The showman must always have an unobstructed view of the judge, must always be presenting the horse and must always know what his horse is doing.
- If the judge is standing at the rear quarters of the horse, the showman must be on the same side of the horse as the judge.
- If the judge is standing at the front quarters of the horse, the showman is on the opposite side of the horse as the judge.
- In either case, the showman must keep the judge within his field of vision at all times and should never stand directly in front of the horse.

- The exhibitor should not crowd other exhibitors when setting up side-by-side or head-to-tail.
- When moving around the horse, the exhibitor should change sides in front of the horse with minimal steps and should assume the same position on the right side of the horse that they had on the left side.

Regardless of where the judge stands in the ring for traveling the horses to and away from him, the following principles shall apply: When moving the horse at a walk, jog, or favorite gait or turning, the handler should always be on the horses left (near) side. All turns greater than 90 degrees must be to the right so that the horse is moving away from the handler.

Exhibitors should be poised, confident, courteous and genuinely sportsmanlike at all times, quickly recognizing and correcting faults in the positioning of the horse. The exhibitor should continue showing the horse until the class has been placed or they have been excused, unless otherwise instructed by the judge. The exhibitor should appear business-like, stand and move in a straight, natural and upright manner, and avoid excessive, unnatural or animated body positions.

Methods of Showing:

The exhibitor should perform the work accurately, precisely, smoothly, and with a reasonable amount of speed. Increasing speed of the work increases the degree of difficulty, however, accuracy and precision should not be sacrificed for speed. The horse should lead, stop, back, turn and setup willingly, briskly and readily with minimal visible or audible cueing.

Leading, backing, turning and initiating the set-up should be performed from the left side of the horse. At no time should the exhibitor ever stand directly in front of the horse. When moving, keep your horse's neck, head and body in a straight line and maintain precise control.

The stop should be straight, prompt, smooth and responsive with the horse's body remaining straight.

The exhibitor should not touch the horse with their hands or feet, or visibly cue the horse by pointing their feet at the horse during the set-up.

On turns greater than 90 degrees the ideal turn consists of the horse pivoting on the right hind leg while stepping across and in front of the right front leg with the left front leg.

When leading, the exhibitor should be positioned between the eye and the mid-point of the horse's neck referred to as the leading position. Both arms should be bent at the elbow with the elbows held close to the exhibitor's side and the forearms held in a natural position. Height of the arms may vary depending on the size of the horse and exhibitor, but the arms should never be held straight out with the elbows locked.
The position of the exhibitor when executing a turn to the right is the same as the leading position except that the exhibitor should turn and face toward the horse's head and have the horse move away from them to the right.

When executing a back, the exhibitor should turn from the leading position to face toward the rear of the horse with the right hand extended in front of the exhibitor's chest still maintaining slight bend in the elbow and walk forward. The ideal position is for the exhibitor's left shoulder to be in alignment with the horse's left front leg.

When setting the horse up for inspection, the exhibitor should stand angled toward the horse in a position between the horse's eye and muzzle, and should never leave the head of the horse.

Scoring:

Exhibitors are to be scored from 0 to infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Patterns will be divided into 6 to 10 maneuvers, as specified by the judge, and each maneuver will be scored from +3 to - 3 with ½ point increments acceptable that will be added or subtracted from 70.

Maneuver scores should be determined independent of penalties, and should reflect equal consideration of both performance of the exhibitor's pattern and the form and effectiveness of the exhibitor and presentation of horse to result in the following scores: +3 Excellent, +2 Very Good, +1 Good, 0 Average or Correct, -1 Poor, -2 Very Poor, -3 Extremely Poor.

Exhibitors overall form and effectiveness should also be scored from 0 to 5 with 0 to 2 Average, 3 Good, 4 Very Good, 5 Excellent.

Showmanship Penalties

Three Point Penalties (- 3 points for every time they happen)

- Break of gait at the walk or trot up to 2 strides
- Over or under turning up to 1/8 of a turn
- Ticking or hitting the cone
- Sliding a pivot foot
- Lifting a pivot foot during a pivot and replacing it in the same place
- Lifting a foot in a set up and replacing it in the same place after presentation

Five Point Penalties (-5 points for every time they happen)

- Not performing the specific gait or not stopping within 10 feet of designated location
- Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides
- Splitting the cone (cone between the horse and exhibitor)
- Horse stepping out of or moving the hind end significantly during a pivot or turn
- Horse stepping out of set-up after presentation
- Horse resting a foot or hips in a set-up
- Over or under turning 1/8 to ¼ turn

Ten Point Penalties (-10 points every time they happen)

- Exhibitor is not in the required position during inspection
- Exhibitor touching the horse or kicking or pointing their feet at the horse's feet during the set-up
- Standing directly in front of the horse
- Loss of lead shank
- Holding chain or two hands on shank
- Blatant disobedience including:
    - Biting
    - Kicking
    - Rearing
    - Pawing

- Horse continually circling exhibitor4

Disqualifications (This horse receives a 0 and should not be placed)

- Loss of control of horse that endangers exhibitor, other horses or judge
- Horse becomes separated from exhibitor
- Failure to display correct number
- Willful abuse
- Excessive schooling or training
- Use of artificial aids
- Illegal equipment
- Off Pattern including:
    - Knocking over or wrong side of cone or marker
    - Never performing designated gait
    - Over or under turning more than ¼ turn

Class Procedure

Each exhibitor will individually enter the ring and perform the pattern as shown in the show program. Exhibitors will work in the order of go that is posted and confirmed by the paddock master. The following maneuvers are considered acceptable: leading the horse at a walk, jog, trot or extended trot or favorite gait, or back in a straight or curved line, or a combination of straight and curved lines; stop; and turn 90 (1/4), 180 (1/2), 270 (3/4), 360 (full turn) degrees or any combination or multiple of these turns. The pull turn is an unacceptable maneuver. Exhibitors must also set the horse up squarely for inspection or hind feet offset in Hunter or Dressage Showmanship.

Be sure to check in with the paddock master prior to your class. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to be on time for their go. If you miss your go in order you will not be allowed to go at the end of class. Special cases will be considered if arrangements are made at least one hour prior to the class.

Awards

Once placings have been awarded, the top 5 exhibitors from each split will return for a final pattern where Champion and Reserve Champion will be placed. Scores from the first run are not to count.

The single Champion in each Junior and Senior Showmanship division will receive a $150.00 award. Reserve Champion for each age bracket will receive a $75.00 award. A W-9 form and monetary award form will be given out at the show and should be returned to the awards office during the show. If mailed after the show, then the original signature, and completed forms must be postmarked by October 1 in order for the awards to be processed to the winner.

Division B1 – Adaptive Handler Showmanship

The 4-H member will be judged based on knowledge of basic control and safe handling of their horse at the walk. Handler should be able to halt, walk, circle, turn and back. Additional elements may be added at the discretion of the judge and with approval of show management. Entry into any class must be carefully considered by the parent, leader, county selection committee and agent. Safety is the primary consideration; Adaptive handlers are required to wear Safety Headgear. Attire should follow the standards for the respective discipline showmanship classes.

Class No
162 – Adaptive Handler Showmanship

Division B2 – Dressage Showmanship

Class No
7 – Senior Dressage Showmanship
8 – Junior Dressage Showmanship

Division B3 – Hunter Showmanship

Class No
1 – Senior Hunter Showmanship
2 – Junior Hunter Showmanship

Division B4 – Miniature Showmanship

Class No
163 – Junior Miniature Showmanship
164 – Senior Miniature Showmanship

Division B5 – Ranch Ground Handling

This class tests the handler's ability to communicate with the horse from the ground by judging a series of maneuvers that require the horse to yield to pressure – forward, backward, and laterally. Maneuvers are selected to be realistic in their application to everyday training. Exhibitor movements should be workmanlike and efficient, and the horse should be obedient and cooperative. Evaluating safe and effective ground handling will take priority to the quality of attire or tack.

Exhibitors may be asked to work from both the left and right side of the horse during any of the listed maneuvers (switching hands on the lead is permitted). Exhibitors may touch the horse to initiate any lateral movement and when asked to lower the horse's head. The judge will recognize added degree of difficulty of not touching the horse and this will be reflected in the maneuver score.

Tack and Attire
Personal appearance of 4-H member: neat, clean, well-groomed, attentive, and courteous. Shirts with collar and long sleeves are required, along with western boots and western hat or approved helmet.

Halters only. Halters and leads may be rope, nylon, or plain leather (no silver). Lead ropes may not have chain. No training sticks or aids are permitted.

Pattern
Each exhibitor will perform a pattern that will consist of no less than seven (7) of the maneuvers listed below. Exhibitors may be asked to work from both the left and right side of the horse during any of the listed maneuvers (switching hands on the lead is permitted).

- Square horse for inspection; judge will only walk in front of the horse.
- Lead the horse at a walk, jog/trot (or favorite gait for gaited horses only), or back in a straight or curved* line, or a combination of straight and curved* lines.
- Extension of walk or trot.
- Stop
- Answer questions from the judge
- Pivots, moving the forehand up to 270°
- Move the hindquarters, up to 270° (turn on forehand)
- Step away from the horse to the end of the lead while horse remains still
- Lower the horse's head (pulling down on the lead or pressure on the poll)
- Demonstrate a sidepass
- Back the horse while handler remains stationary
- Send horse in a circle (either direction), around a marker, or over a pole.

(*Curve = any non-straight line including, but not limited to: any change of direction from gradual turns to distinct turns, circles or portions of circles, or multiple curves to create a shape.)

Poles, barrels, and cones may be used as markers to define maneuver locations and/or parameters. However, the pattern should not take on the appearance of an "In-hand Trail" class. Hitting/touching/moving these objects will not be scored as penalties, but taken into account when scoring the handler's abilities.

<u>Scoring</u>
Scoring will be on the basis of 0 to 100 with 70 denoting an average performance. Judges will assess each maneuver on a scale from -3 to +3 with ½ point increments in between. In addition to the maneuver score, exhibitors can incur penalty points as listed below.
Penalties
A. One-half (½) point
- Break of gait (walk or trot) up to 1 full stride

B.One (1) point
- Touching horse other than when allowed. It is acceptable to touch the horse to sidepass, move the hindquarters, and lower the head.
- Horse moving 1 step during any portion when it should be standing still

C.Two (2) points
- Freeze up: complete loss of forward, backward or lateral movement within a maneuver
- Break of gait (walk or trot) for more than 1 full stride
- Horse moving more than 1 step during any portion when it should be standing still
- Stepping out of obstacle or over any unintended pole (or other obstacle marker) with one foot, accruing with each additional step
- Use of hand on halter in any manner
- Touching horse with lead (first offense)
- Incorrect or incomplete answer to the judge's question
- Artificial or overdone showing

D.Five (5) points
- Inappropriate Body condition score: Clearly below a 4 or clearly above a 7
- Balking, continued spooking, kicking, biting, rearing, striking
- Failure to complete a maneuver
- Touching horse with end of lead (second offense)

E.Zero (0) score

- Off pattern
- Consistent lameness
- Illegal attire
- Illegal tack
- Abuse
- Off Pattern

Class No
227 – Junior Ranch Ground Handling
228 – Senior Ranch Ground Handling

Division B6 – Saddle Seat Trotting/Gaited Showmanship

Class No
5 – Senior Saddle Seat Trotting/Gaited Showmanship
6 – Junior Saddle Seat Trotting/ Gaited Showmanship

Division B7 – Western Showmanship

Class No
3 – Senior Western Showmanship
4 – Junior Western Showmanship

C. Adaptive Rider

To qualify for this division the participant must meet all 4-H project requirements, seizures must be under control, a doctor's certificate is required that indicates participant has none of the following medical/health problems: (a) no disk problems, (b) not be a hemophiliac, (c) not be severe osteoporotic, (d) must have head control and (e) must have some trunk control.

Classes to be performed while mounted with the assistance of a leader and sidewalker(s). The course will consist of maneuvers through a prescribed pattern marked with cones. The 4-H member will be judged based on knowledge of the basic riding position he/she is striving for and an ability to maintain position at the halt and walk. Rider should be able to halt, walk on, circle, turn and reverse. Additional elements may be added at the discretion of the judge and with approval of show management. Properly fitted headgear is required while riding in designated schooling and exercise areas, the show ring and while riding anywhere on the show grounds. All riders must wear appropriate safety headgear.

Entry into any class must be carefully considered by the parent, leader, county selection committee and agent. Safety is the primary consideration; disabled riders are required to wear safety headgear. Unsafe tack, equipment or actions on the part of any rider or handler is grounds for elimination from any event. The judge’s decision is final.

Class No
29 – Adaptive Huntseat or English
105 – Adaptive Stockseat
113 – Adaptive Open

D. Dressage

Attire

The dress code for all Dressage tests and classes is a short riding coat of conservative color, with tie, choker, stock tie or integrated stand-up collar, white or light-colored breeches or jodhpurs, boots or jodhpur boots, and ASTM approved protective headgear. Riders may wear half-chaps, gaiters or leggings in solid black or brown, without fringe, matching the color of their boots, and made of smooth leather or leather-like material. Gloves of conservative color are recommended. Only English-style spurs are permitted, must be made of metal, and the shank must be either curved or straight pointing directly back from the center of the spur when on the rider's boot. If shank is curved it must be directed downward.

General Principles

1. The object of dressage is the development of the horse into a happy athlete through harmonious education. As a result, it makes the horse calm, supple, loose and flexible, but also confident, attentive and keen, thus achieving perfect understanding with the rider.
2. These qualities are demonstrated by:
    a. The freedom and regularity of the gaits;
    b. The harmony, lightness and ease of the movements;
    c. The lightness of the forehand and the engagement of the hindquarters, originating from a lively impulsion;
    d. The acceptance of the bit, with submissiveness/thoroughness without any tension or resistance.
3. The horse thus gives the impression of doing, of its own accord, what is required. Confident and attentive, submitting generously to the control of the rider, remaining absolutely straight in any movement on a straight line and bending accordingly when moving on curved lines.
4. The walk is regular, free and unconstrained. The trot is free, supple, regular and active. The canter is united, light and balanced. The hindquarters are never inactive or sluggish. The horse responds to the slightest indication of the rider and thereby gives life and spirit to all the rest of its body.
5. By virtue of a lively impulsion and the suppleness of the joints, free from the paralyzing effects of resistance, the horse obeys willingly and without hesitation and responds to the various aids calmly and with precision, displaying a natural and harmonious balance both physically and mentally.
6. In all the work, even at the halt, the horse must be "on the bit." A horse is said to be "on the bit" when the neck is more or less raised and arched according to the stage of training and the extension or collection of the gait, accepting the bridle with a light and consistent soft submissive contact. The head should remain in a steady position, as a rule slightly in front of the vertical, with a supple poll as the highest point of the neck, and no resistance should be offered to the rider.
7. Cadence is shown in trot and canter and is the result of the proper harmony that a horse shows when it moves with well-marked regularity, impulsion and balance. Cadence must be maintained in all the different trot or canter exercises and in all the variations of these gaits.
8. The regularity of the gaits is fundamental to dressage.

Position and Aids of Rider

1. All the movements should be obtained with imperceptible aids and without apparent effort of the rider. The rider should be well-balanced, elastic, sitting deep in the center of the saddle, smoothly absorbing the movement of the horse with his loins and hips, supple thighs with the

legs steady and stretched well down. The heels should be the lowest point. The upper part of the body should be tall and supple. The contact should be independent from the rider's seat. The hands should be carried steadily close together, with the thumb as the highest point and a straight line from the supple elbow through the hand to the horse's mouth. The elbows should be close to the body. All of these criteria enable the rider to follow the movements of the horse smoothly and freely.

2. Not only are the aids of the hands and the legs but also of the seat of great importance in dressage. Only the rider who understands how to contract and relax his loin muscles at the right moment is able to influence his horse correctly.
3. The effectiveness of the rider's aids determines the precise fulfillment of the required movements of the tests. There shall always be the impression of a harmonious cooperation between horse and rider.
4. Riding with both hands is obligatory.
5. The use of the voice in any way whatsoever or clicking the tongue once or repeatedly is a serious fault involving the deduction of at least 2 marks from those that would otherwise have been awarded for the movement where this occurred.
6. When rising trot is permitted in a test or class, the rider should change the diagonal when changing directions except during a lengthening. The correct diagonal is considered to be when the rider is sitting when the outside front foot and inside hind foot are on the ground. In general, rising on the outside diagonal correctly influences the horse's balance in movements other than straight lines. A change of direction in rising trot implies a change of diagonal, but it is up to the rider to determine where that change should occur. If no change is made, there is no error and no deduction is made unless the balance of the horse is adversely affected, as it might be, for example, in a turn, circle or leg yield. In that case, the movement is judged accordingly and the collective marks for "Submission" and "Effective Use of the Aids" could be negatively impacted.

<u>Tack, Turnout, and Equipment</u>

1. An English type saddle with stirrups is compulsory for all tests. Stirrups must have closed branches. An English type saddle may be constructed with or without a tree but cannot have a horn, swell, gallerie, or open gullet. Australian, Baroque, Endurance, McClellan, Spanish, Stock, or Western saddles are not permitted nor are modified versions of these saddles. A Dressage saddle which must be close to the horse and have long, near-vertical flaps and stirrups. Saddle pads are optional, but should be white or of conservative color. English-style stirrups, without attachments, or safety stirrups are compulsory. Safety stirrups must have closed branches of metal or other breakaway material.
2. For Training, First and Second Level tests, a plain snaffle bridle is required with a regular cavesson, a dropped noseband, a flash noseband (a combination of a cavesson noseband and a dropped noseband attachment) or a crossed noseband. A crescent noseband is also permitted. Except for the crescent noseband, buckles and a small disk of sheepskin, which may be used in the intersection of the two leather straps of a crossed noseband, the headstall and cavesson/noseband of the bridle, must be made entirely of leather or leather-like material. A padded cavesson/noseband and crownpiece are allowed. A browband is required, and except for the parts that attach to the crownpiece or headstall, is not required to be made of leather or leather-like material. A throatlatch is required except when the combined noseband or Micklem bridles are used.

    a. Snaffle bits must be smooth with a solid surface. Twisted and wire bits are prohibited. A mouthpiece with more than one rolling part is prohibited. Bits may be made with a rubber or plastic covering, but the bit may not be modified by adding latex or other material. Bits with mouthpieces made of synthetic material are permitted. Flexible rubber or synthetic mouthpieces are permitted. A double jointed bit or snaffle with rotating mouthpiece may be shaped to allow tongue relief.
    b. The mouthpiece of a snaffle may have up to two joints. The surface of the center piece must be solid with no moveable parts and may be tilted in a different orientation from the mouthpiece but must have rounded edges.
3. Martingales, bit guards, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running, balancing reins, nasal strips, tongue tied down, etc.), any kind of boots (including "easy-boots") or bandages (including tail bandages) and any form of blinkers, earmuffs or plugs, nose covers, seat covers, hoods are, under penalty of elimination, are strictly forbidden in the show ring.
4. Fly hoods (ear covers) are permitted for all classes in order to protect horses from insects. The fly hoods should be discreet in color and design and should not cover the horse's eyes.
5. A breastplate and/or crupper may be used.
6. A rein is a continuous, uninterrupted strap or line from the bridle bit to the hand. Rein additions or attachments are not permitted. Each bit must be attached to a separate rein and reins may only be attached to bits.
7. Any decoration of the horse with extravagant items, such as ribbons or flowers, etc. in the mane, tail, etc., is strictly forbidden. Braiding of the horse's mane and tail, however, is permitted. False tails are permitted and if used may not contain any metal parts.
8. Running martingales (only with snaffle rein of plain snaffle bridle), boots and bandages (without magnets) **are permitted in warm-up**. A running martingale consists of a divided strap attached to the girth or breastplate (at the front of the horse's chest); the extension of each strap must be connected from the point of division only to the rein on the same side and must be free to slide.
9. One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm), including lash, may be carried by the rider when mounted.

Scoring

Refer to each USEF dressage test to know about its purpose and movement requirements. Each movement is scored according to its stated directive on a scale of zero (0) to ten (10). Half marks from 0.5-9.5 may be used both for movements and collective marks. The rider must enter the arena within 45 seconds of the sound of the bell and if not, may result in elimination. Using voice during the test may result in a deduction of two points. The judge will sound the bell at an "error of the course" and instruct the rider where to pick up the test again. An error incurs a two point penalty. Fall of a rider or horse results in elimination. If the horse leaves the arena with or without the rider (all four feet outside the fence or line marking the arena perimeter) between the beginning and end of the test, the competitor is eliminated. The judge may eliminate a rider if the horse is resistant for more than 20 seconds or if it determined to be endangering the rider, horse, judges or the public for safety reasons. Lameness may also result in elimination as determined by the judge.

Awards

- Dressage Champion High Score Award: awarded to the high score of the day. Awarded at the beginning of the evening program on Friday. Perpetual Award sponsored by Fox Den Equine.
- Dressage Senior Champion: awarded to the Senior Dressage horse/rider combination who earns the most points through placings in both dressage classes and the dressage equitation class. Audrey Howard Perpetual Trophy sponsored by friends of 4-H.
- Dressage Junior Champion: awarded to the Junior Dressage horse/rider combination who earns the most points

through placing in both dressage classes and the dressage equitation class. Audrey Howard Perpetual Trophy sponsored by friends of 4-H.

Dressage tests may be obtained through the USEF Website at www.usef.org . Tests may also be obtained by contacting your local Dressage Association or emailing Leslie Prillaman at lesliep@vt.edu.

Ride times will be released approximately 1 week prior to the show. Entry changes that need to be made after September 1, 2024 must be made Friday at the Dressage Arena on the Hill.

Youth may select 2 Dressage Tests per horse/rider combination. Youth may not enter into a single class more than once. Tests may be read to riders by an appointed reader.

Division D1 – Junior Dressage

Class No
142 – Junior Intro Test C
143 – Junior Training Level Test 1 (Required for entry into the CT Championship, Class 241)
144 – Junior Training Level Test 2
145 – Junior Training Level Test 3
151 – Junior Test of Choice*

Division D2 – Senior Dressage

Class No
146 – Senior Training Level Test 1 (Required for entry into the CT Championship, Class 241)
147 – Senior Training Level Test 2
148 – Senior Training Level Test 3
149 – Senior First Level Test 1
150 – Senior Test of Choice*

**Test of Choice – Riders must choose to ride a test that is different than tests offered in the classes above. Riders must specify which test they will be riding in the supplemental dressage entry form.

E. English Pleasure (Gaited/SS)

For All Gaited Horses:

All tack, bits, equipment, shoeing regulations and attire that are accepted in the respective breed association

and/or USEF will be permitted.

ALL GAITED (Non-trotting) entries in this division MUST pass inspection with the show DQP prior to competing in each mounted class. All 1st place winners must pass inspection with the show DQP after each mounted class's conclusion. THIS SHOW WILL FOLLOW THE CURRENT WALKING HORSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION (WHOA) GUIDELINES FOR SHOEING AND INSPECTION. As such:

- **Hoof bands are prohibited in all classes.**
- **The maximum hoof toe length will be five inches, exclusive of the shoe, measured from the coronet band, at the center of the hoof along the front of the hoof wall to the bottom of the hoof.**
- **The maximum shoe size is 1 ½" x ½" (classic park shoe) for any class.**
- **Tungsten metal (in whole or in part) is prohibited.**

If there is a change in federal law or regulation between the publishing of this rulebook and the show date, those changes will be communicated with those who are entered.

Division E1 – English Pleasure

Horse and ponies must be shown in proper English tack and attire according to the current USEF rule book. Academy riders are permitted to follow Academy attire rules of the following: dark pants, long sleeve shirt with collar, tie, gloves, vest (sweater permissible in very cold weather). Riding suits and jackets, chaps, western hats, and roweled spurs are prohibited for Academy riders. Academy attire will not be discredited against full attire. Martingales are prohibited, unless the horse or pony is being shown by an Academy rider.

Entries shall be plain shod as for trail and pleasure riding, ¼" pad permitted. Pads should not exceed ¼" anywhere measured and no extra lead is allowed.

The judge will call for the walk, trot, and canter both directions of the ring. Horses and Ponies need to stand quietly and back readily. English Pleasure Horses and Ponies should give the distinct impression of being a pleasure to ride with easy, ground-covering action desired. Whips/Crops are optional.

Class No
91 – English Pleasure 1st Go
98 – English Pleasure 2nd Go

214 – English Pleasure Horse and Pony Classic – Top Highest Scoring Riders in First and Second Go Combined. Entries made at show at no additional charge.

Division E2 – Ambling Pleasure

This division will include but is not limited to non-trotting breeds such as the Rocky Mountain Horse, Missouri Fox Trotter, Paso Fino, Standardbred, etc. who perform a gait other than a walking or racking gait. Please refer to your breed's specific rulebook for guidelines for appropriate tack and attire, English, western, or period. Horses in this class may not cross enter into the Walking or Racking Pleasure classes.

- Horses shall be shown at the walk and pleasure gait as appropriate for the breed
- Entries should be the paramount of a pleasure horse and shall have a smooth, comfortable way of going.
- Horses must back easily and stand quietly
- Horses will be judged on manners, suitability, and performance

- Horses reverse at the walk
- Form should not be sacrificed for speed

Class No
93 – Ambling Pleasure – 1st Go
100 – Ambling Pleasure – 2nd Go

209 – Ambling Pleasure Classic – Top Seven Highest riders from first and second go combined. Entries made at the show for no additional charge.

Division E3 – Racking Pleasure

Open to any suitable racking type mount, horses or ponies. Please refer to your breed's specific rulebook for guidelines for appropriate tack and attire, English, western, or period. Horses in this class may not cross enter in to Walking or Ambling Pleasure classes.

- Horses shall be show at the walk, slow rack, and trail/fast rack.
- Horses must back easily and stand quietly. The Judge may call for the halt on the rail at his/her discretion.
- Horses will be judged on manners, suitability and performance.
- Form should not be sacrificed for speed.

Class No
94 – Racking Pleasure – 1st Go
101 – Racking Pleasure – 2nd Go

210 – Racking Pleasure Classic - Top Seven Highest riders from first and second go combined. Entries made at the show for no additional charge.

Division E4 – Three Gaited Non-Trotting

All horses must pass inspection before entering the ring to be judged. Failure to do so will result in disqualification. All first place horses must return to inspection following class completion.

Any breed appropriate tack and attire, English, Western or Period. Please refer to your specific rulebook for guidelines. Severe bits are discouraged and shanks in excess of 9 ½ inches and gag bits with no shanks are prohibited.

Open to any shoe, however the shoe must not exceed 1 ½ inch in width, ½ inch in thickness and the caulk must not exceed a 1-inch turnback. The shoe must not extend more than ¼ inch beyond the hoof at the toe.

Horses will enter the ring at the walk. The judge will call for the walk, pleasure gait, and canter. Horses will be judged as a pleasure horse and on quality of movement. The canter should be smooth and straight on both leads and any exaggerated pumping of the horse by the exhibitor shall not be considered good form.

Whips/Crops are optional

Class No
158 – Three Gaited Non-Trotting (Canter) – 1st Go
160 – Three Gaited Non-Trotting (Canter) – 2nd Go

219 – Three Gaited Non-Trotting Classic - Top Seven Highest riders from first and second go combined. Entries made at the show for no additional charge.

Division E5 – Walking Horse and Pony Pleasure

This class is limited to horses who perform the flat walk and running walk. All horses must be shown in accordance with standard shoeing, tack, and attire regulations, as set forth by the current WHOA rulebook. Horses in this class may not cross enter in to the Ambling or Racking class.

- Horses shall be required to perform 2 gaits: flat walk and running walk as appropriate for breed.
- Horses must back easily and stand quietly.
- Horses will be judged on manners, suitability and performance.
- Form should not be sacrificed for speed. Horses and ponies shall be a pleasure to ride and show a true, four beat walking gait with a cadenced head nod/shake.
- Whips/Crops are optional

Class No
93 – Walking Horse and Pony Pleasure – 1st Go
103 – Walking Horse and Pony Pleasure – 2nd Go

212 – Walking Horse and Pony Pleasure Classic - Top Seven Highest riders from first and second go combined. Entries made at the show for no additional charge.

F. Gymkhana

All Gymkhana riders must wear properly fitted protective and secured headgear (passing or surpassing current ASTM standards) at all times while mounted. It is the responsibility of the rider, or the parent or guardian of the exhibitor to see to it that the headgear worn complies with appropriate safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrian use.

These are timed events. Horses and ponies shall be of any breed or combination of breeds, serviceably sound and in good condition. Ponies must be suitable to rider.

If there is a failure of the electronic timer, contestant shall have the option of performing a re-run at the end of the class.

Tack and Attire

To be ridden and shown with stock-type tack and attire. Proper attire consists of collared, long sleeve, button/snap down shirts with jeans, boots and fastened safety helmet. Belts, chaps, tapaderos and spurs are optional. Split or closed reins may be used with one or two hands on the reins. Rider may hold onto saddle with hands. Tie downs and standing martingales are optional, but there may be no bare metal in contact with the horse's head. **Whipping is allowed only by the use of a bat, crop, whip or rope and the judge at his discretion, may disqualify a contestant for excessive use of either (especially in front of the cinch). Whipping with reins, hands, etc. is prohibited.** Stock-type saddle and bridle is required. The use of a hackamore (including mechanical hackamores) or other types of bridles is the optional choice of the rider, however, the judge may prohibit the use of bits of equipment he may consider severe. **Tying of feet to stirrups with any material is prohibited.**

General Rules

The judge will inspect mounts in the ring before running and may disqualify or prohibit any entry with unduly severe type equipment or for unsoundness. If during or after running, an equipment or attire violation is identified, the Division Manager or Show Staff may bring it to the attention of the Judge for possible disqualification. During and after running the judge and only the judge may disqualify any entry for unduly severe treatment (no time penalty, just disqualification). There is no appeal upon decisions in regard to disqualification.

If a rider falls off their horse at any point during a run, they are disqualified. To include, but not limited to, the holding pen before a run, during the run and after the run.

Off course constitutes elimination. Knocking over a barrel race barrel or a pole will not result in elimination but will constitute a (5) second penalty. Touching a barrel, bucket, or pole by the hand of the rider shall not cause a disqualification or penalty. There will be no time-outs or re-runs in case of broken equipment, thrown shoes, etc. All timing will be done by the average of two stop watches and/or electric timer and exact ties will be re-run one time or until broken in like manner. Cutting the timer by circling wide while on course may result in no time. Timing will be supervised by the judge. Standard distances will be observed but management reserves the right to vary the distances if necessary. The general rules in this catalog also apply, however, no rules except these listed in this division shall apply in gymkhana events.

Arena Set Up

The arena will be set up so that riders will enter the arena and start and finish their run in the arena. Panels will be set up in one end of the arena with two holding pens. Riders will enter the arena into the primary holding pen in a small group and wait until their number is called. Horses may be led or ridden into this primary holding pen by the exhibitor

only. Horses must remain under control in the holding pen. No one is allowed to stay in the holding pen except the riders and horses. **See diagram within this rulebook.**

Once it is a rider's turn, they will enter the opposite holding pen alone and wait until the gate to the alley way is opened and they are given the go ahead from the show personnel to run. Once it is opened, the rider must proceed directly to the course. Riders who take an excessive amount of time (> 3 minutes) to enter the arena will be disqualified at the discretion of the judge and committee. Riders may run up the alleyway into the pattern. Once the run is over, riders must stop and dismount their horses in the arena and lead them out. Show Management reserves the right to change the arena set up as deemed necessary.

Pole bending poles will be set at 21' for horse and pony classes. Stake Race: The start and finish line is 20 feet wide and marked by 2 cones, each 10 feet from the center line. The poles marking the center line are each 40 feet from the start and finish line, making them 80 feet apart. Exhibitors will run a figure 8 pattern, starting from either the right or left of the center line as shown in the following pattern.

Awards

Championships determined by points earned in three classes: 1st place, 10 points; 2nd, 9 points; 3rd, 8 points; 4th, 7 points; 5th, 6 point; 6th, 5 points; 7th, 4 points; 8th, 3 points; 9th, 2 points; 10th, 1 point. All ties on points will be broken first by fastest time on barrels, (if still tied - go to fastest time on poles).

- High Point Gymkhana Champion, Large Pony: Awarded after all Gymkhana Classes. Perpetual Award donated by Virginia Farm Bureau and by Mt. Trails 4-H, Mike Talbert, Pulaski County.
- High Point Gymkhana Champion - Small Pony: Awarded after all Gymkhana Classes. Perpetual Award sponsored by the Bevins Family, Single Tree Farm, Abington, VA.
- High Point Gymkhana Champion Horse, Senior Rider: Awarded after all Gymkhana Classes. Challenge Award sponsored by the Melton Family, Gloucester
- High Point Gymkhana Champion Horse, Junior Rider: Awarded after all Gymkhana Classes. Perpetual Award sponsored by TNT Livestock, Mike Talbert/Talbert Family, Pulaski Co.
- Fastest Pole Bending Pony Trophy in Memory of Prince
- Fastest Pole Bending Horse Perpetual Award
- Fastest Pony Barrel Race Remington Perpetual Award
- Fastest Barrel Race Overall Perpetual Award
- Fastest Overall Stake Race in memory of Showdown Perpetual Award

Champion and Reserve Champion Gymkhana (Do not enter)

1. Pony – Junior Rider
2. Pony – Senior Rider
3. Horse - Junior Rider
4. Horse - Senior Rider

Division F1 – Cloverleaf Barrel Race

Class No

123 - Cloverleaf Barrel Race - Pony, Junior Rider
124 - Cloverleaf Barrel Race – Pony, Senior Rider
125 - Cloverleaf Barrel Race – Horse, Junior Rider
126 - Cloverleaf Barrel Race – Horse, Senior Rider

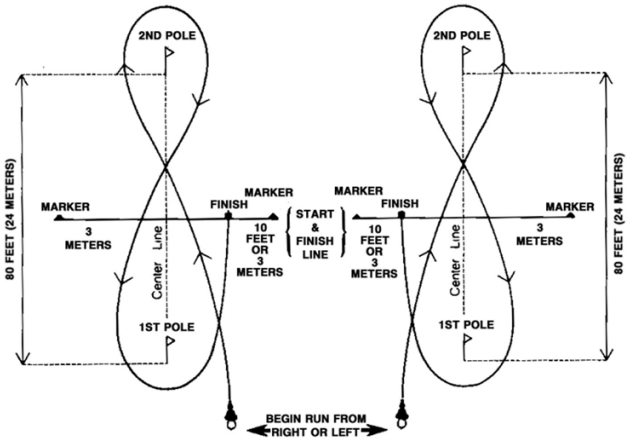
Division F2 – Pole Bending

Class No
127 - Pole Bending - Pony, Junior Rider
128 - Pole Bending - Pony, Senior Rider
129 - Pole Bending – Horse, Junior Rider
130 - Pole Bending – Horse, Senior Rider

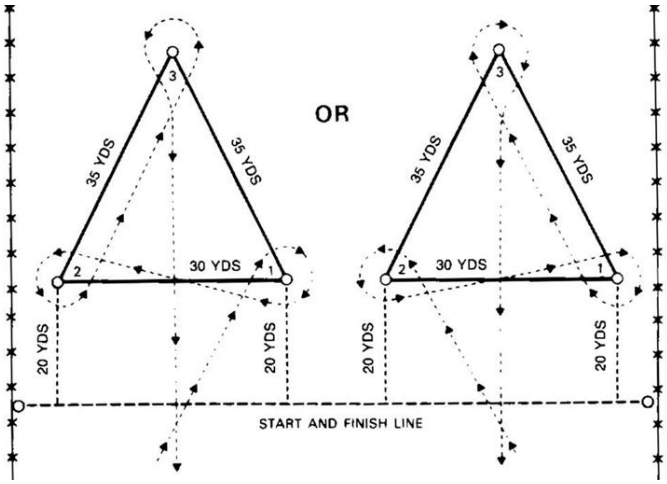
Division F3 – Stake Race

Class No
131 - Stake Race - Pony, Junior Rider
132 - Stake Race – Pony, Senior Rider
133 - Stake Race – Horse, Junior Rider
134 - Stake Race – Horse, Senior Rider

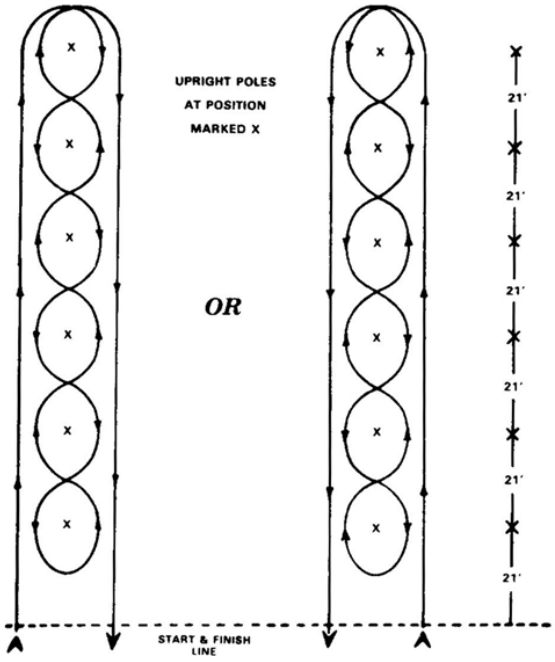
Stake Race Pattern



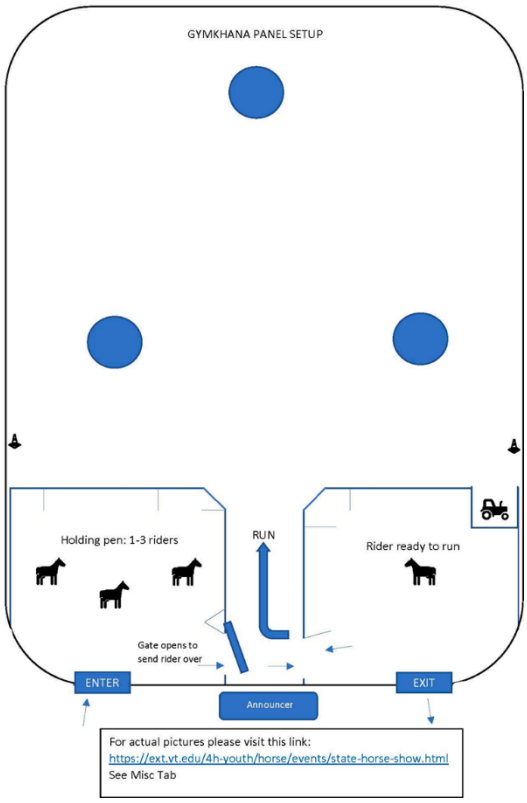
Barrel Racing Pattern



Pole Bending Pattern



Arena Set Up



G. Working Hunter

Hunter type horses and ponies are to be shown in proper hunter tack and attire according to the rules outlined on herein. No sidesaddle attire or tack allowed in the hunter division. Approved safety headgear (fastened) is required for all classes. Proper soundness required. Conformation not considered.

Classes judged on manners, suitability, performance, and way of going. In Under Saddle Classes (on the flat) horses are to be shown at the walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Horses may be asked to hand gallop one direction of the ring and may also be asked to back. Light contact with the horse's mouth is required and horses should be obedient, alert, responsive and move freely.

Obstacles in jumping courses may consist of brush, gates, pickets, aikens, post and rail, and white board fences.

Classes are not split by rider age eligibility (JR/SR). Show management reserves the right to split classes as needed based on entry numbers.

Awards
Championship trophies will be awarded to regular hunter horses over 14.2 hands, intermediate hunter horses over 14.2, large hunter ponies over 13.2 hands and not exceeding 14.2 hands and jointly to small (not to exceed 12.2 hands) and medium ponies (over 12.2 and not exceeding 13.2 hands). Each horse/rider combination may enter in only one section with no cross-entering between sections. For horse sections, the choice is entirely up to the exhibitor.
The Points system that will be used: 1st place, 10 points; 2nd, 9 points; 3rd, 8 points; 4th, 7 points; 5th, 6 point; 6th, 5 points; 7th, 4 points; 8th, 3 points; 9th, 2 points; 10th, 1 point. In the Hunter O/F Division, only the four horses with the most points over fences are eligible for the champion and reserve awards.

- High Point Hunter Award- Senior: to include points from Hunter Showmanship, Equitation (Only points from one Hunter Equitation class will count, if multiple are entered. The equitation class entered with the highest placing will be counted toward this award.), and Hunter Classes. Awarded after all Hunter Classes are completed on Sunday after Class 63. Patrick Powers Perpetual Award sponsored by the Joe Powers Family.
- High Point Hunter Award – Junior: to include points from Hunter Showmanship, Equitation (Only points from one Hunter Equitation (O/F, US) class will count, if multiple are entered. The equitation class entered with the highest placing will be counted toward this award.), and Hunter Classes. Awarded after all Hunter Classes are completed on Sunday after Class 63. Velvet Moon Perpetual Award sponsored by Betty and David Dye.

Division G1 – Regular Hunter Horses (2'9" – 3'0")

Class No
45 – Regular Hunters – Course A (2'9" – 3'0")
46 – Regular Hunters – Course B (2'9" – 3'0")
58 – Regular Hunter Horse Under Saddle (Flat)

Division G2 – Intermediate Hunter Horses (2'6")

Class No
47 – Intermediate Hunters – Course A (2'6")
48 – Intermediate Hunters – Course B (2'6")
59 – Intermediate Hunter Horse Under Saddle (Flat)

Division G3 – Large Hunter Ponies (2’6”)

Class No
51 – Large Hunter Ponies – Course A (2’6”)
52 – Large Hunter Ponies – Course B (2’6”)
61 – Large Hunter Ponies Under Saddle (Flat)

Division G4 – Medium (2’3”) & Small (2’0”) Hunter Ponies

Class No
55 – Medium (2’3”)/Small (2’0”) Hunter Ponies – Course A
56 – Medium (2’3”)/Small (2’0”) Hunter Ponies – Course B (2’6”)
63 – Medium/Small Hunter Ponies Under Saddle (Flat)

Division G5 – Limit Hunter Horses and Ponies (2’0”)

Class No
64 – Limit Hunter Horses and Ponies – Course A (2’0”)
65 – Limit Hunter Horses and Ponies – Course B (2’0”)
62 – Limit Hunter Horses and Ponies Under Saddle (Flat)
Classes in the Limit Division will not count towards the High Point Hunter Awards

H. Hunter Pleasure

Horse must be shown in proper hunter tack and attire according to the guidelines addressed on page 32. (No English tack and attire permitted). To be shown at a free walk, easy trot, long striding easy canter both ways of ring and may be asked to stand quietly and back readily. To be judged on manners, performance, quality and suitability to rider. Approved ASTM safety headgear (fastened) is required in all classes and when mounted.

Division H1 – Large Hunter Pleasure Horse

Class No
72 – Large Hunter Pleasure Horse – Junior Rider – 1st Go
73 - Large Hunter Pleasure Horse – Senior Rider – 1st Go
80 - Large Hunter Pleasure Horse – Senior Rider – 2nd Go
82 - Large Hunter Pleasure Horse – Junior Rider – 2nd Go

Division H2 – Small Hunter Pleasure Horse

Class No
69 – Small Hunter Pleasure Horse – Junior Rider – 1st Go
70 - Small Hunter Pleasure Horse – Senior Rider – 1st Go
83 - Small Hunter Pleasure Horse – Senior Rider – 2nd Go
85 - Small Hunter Pleasure Horse – Junior Rider – 2nd Go

207 – Hunter Pleasure Horse Classic – Top 3 High Point riders per division from each age bracket will compete in class 207. Entries made at show for no additional charge.

Division H3 – Large Hunter Pleasure Pony

Class No
77 – Large Hunter Pleasure Pony – Junior Rider – 1st Go
78 - Large Hunter Pleasure Pony – Senior Rider – 1st Go
86 - Large Hunter Pleasure Pony – Senior Rider – 2nd Go
88 - Large Hunter Pleasure Pony – Junior Rider – 2nd Go

Division H4 – Small/Medium Hunter Pleasure Pony

Class No
75 – Small/Medium Hunter Pleasure Pony – Junior Rider – 1st Go
76 - Small/Medium Hunter Pleasure Pony – Senior Rider – 1st Go
89 - Small/Medium Hunter Pleasure Pony – Senior Rider – 2nd Go
90 - Small/Medium Hunter Pleasure Pony – Junior Rider – 2nd Go

208 – Hunter Pleasure Pony Classic – Top 3 High Point riders per division from each age bracket will compete in class 207. Entries made at show for no additional charge.

I. Miniature Horse (40” and under)

Miniature horses are to be shown in proper tack and attired: this can be Western, English or Hunter. Approved ASTM safety headgear (fastened) is required for all classes; Western Hats are allowed to be worn in Showmanship classes. Soundness is required. Conformation is not considered. Classes judged on manners, suitability, performance and way of going. These rules are combination of several miniature horse associations and 4-H rules. Classes are open to any miniature horse meeting the height requirement, regardless of registration status.

Horses must be not less than two (2) years of age for obstacle, hunter and versatility classes. Horses under two (2) years of age can do Miniature Showmanship. Miniature horses cannot be ridden or shown in other (non-miniature) classes.

Awards

Champion & Reserve for minis will be awarded in both the Junior and Senior divisions. The mini showmanship class will have perpetual trophies for the winning Junior and Senior but will not be included in the division points.
The classes that determine the Division Champion and Reserve are obstacle, hunter and versatility classes.
Championships determined by points earned in four classes: 1st place – 10 points; 2nd – 9 points; 3rd – 8 points; 4th – 7 points; 5th – 6 points; 6th – 5 points; 7th – 4 points; 8th – 3 points; 9th – 2 points; 10th– 1 point.

- Mini Senior Division Champion: Horse/Exhibitor combo with most points to include points from all classes except driving. Awarded after all Miniature Classes are completed, on Saturday after Class 135. Sponsored by DBR Creations.
- Mini Senior Reserve Division Champion: Horse/Exhibitor combo with most points to include points from all classes except driving. Awarded after all Miniature Classes are completed, on Saturday after Class 135. Sponsored by DBR Creations.
- Mini Junior Division Champion: Horse/Exhibitor combo with most points to include points from all classes except driving. Awarded after all Miniature Classes are completed, on Saturday after Class 135. Sponsored by Dowdy’s Well and Septic Service, Inc.
- Mini Junior Reserve Division Champion: Horse/Exhibitor combo with most points to include points from all classes except driving. Awarded after all Miniature Classes are completed, on Saturday after Class 135. Sponsored by Dowdy’s Well and Septic Service.

Division I1 – Miniature Hunter

Hunters are not scored mathematically by faults nor by time. Hunters are judged on style and form over fences, manners, way of going and pace in that order. Judge must penalize unsafe jumping (i.e. charging, refusals) and poor form over fences. Circling once upon entering the ring and once upon leaving the ring is permissible.

The following faults are minor faults and are scored by the judges based on severity: light touches against an obstacle, hesitation before jumping (not a refusal), excessively slow or fast pace, changes of gait for 1–2 strides, kicking, spooking or shying.

The following faults are major faults: circling while on course, knockdown of any part of an obstacle, and refusals. Horses with major faults are not to be placed above horses with clean rounds or minor faults only. Causes for Elimination in Hunter Classes • Three (3) Total Refusals or Two Refusals Per Fence • Off Course • Fall of horse or exhibitor • Jumping of obstacle by exhibitor • Carrying a whip

All jumps will be set based on the course provided, jumps will be set a minimum of 20 feet apart. Jumps will be set at a height no greater than 24" at the discretion of the judge and management based on ring conditions. Exhibitors will be allowed to wear tennis shoes in this class due to footing in the ring for safety reasons

Class No
165 – Junior Miniature Hunter
166 – Senior Miniature Hunter

Division I2 – Miniature Obstacle

The obstacle class will require horses to navigate through 5-8 obstacles. It can include backing, jumping and walking over tarps, etc.

Any type of halter can be used, either leather or nylon.

Class to be judged on performance and way of going with emphasis on manners throughout course. Entries will be evaluated on responsiveness and willingness, plus general attitude.

The handler can use two (2) hands to help the horse negotiate an obstacle, but would not receive as much credit as a handler that only used one (1) hand. No disqualification for use of two (2) hands.

Maximum time 60 seconds per obstacle, judges are encouraged to advance on to the next obstacle any horse taking excessive time at an obstacle. Horse s to be penalized for any unnecessary delay or excessive time at an object. Refusals do not constitute class disqualifications.

Horses will be required to walk and or trot

The following will result in the exhibitor being excused from the course and disqualified from the class:

- Carrying a whip or crop
- Refusals of three (3) obstacles
- Parents or attendants interfering with the performance of the individual or equine.
- Off course or horse leaving the obstacle course. Off course is defined as: Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction, Negotiating an obstacle from the wrong side, Skipping an obstacle unless directed by the judge, Negotiating obstacles in the wrong sequence, Off pattern.

<u>Obstacle Requirements and Guidelines</u>

- Must be a minimum of five (5) obstacles and a maximum of eight (8).
- Care must be used to avoid setting any obstacle in a way so as to be hazardous to the horse or exhibitor.
- Tires and stair steps are prohibited.
- Jumps, if used, must be a maximum of twelve (12) inches high and minimum length of five (5) feet.
- Jumps must use ground poles.

The course designer will be readily available to answer questions regarding the course and be available for a walk through the course with exhibitors as well as the judge.
Judge shall walk course with designer and exhibitors. Judge has the right to alter the course for time and/or safety.

Ingenuity and originality in adapting and combining various obstacles both to demonstrate a horse's willingness and ability to please exhibitors and audience are encouraged. However, unnatural or "horror" obstacles should be avoided and all obstacles should be safe for exhibitors as well as horses.

Obstacles may range from backing up, jumps, bridges, 360-degree box, side passing, use of hula hoop, serpentine, umbrellas, or any other obstacles the course designer deems appropriate.

Class No
197 – Junior Miniature Obstacle
198 – Senior Miniature Obstacle

Division I3 – Miniature Versatility

Versatility will consist of jumps and obstacle. It can include any of above obstacles and jumps. Will be judged the same as hunter and obstacle.

Class No
225 – Junior Miniature Versatility
226 – Senior Miniature Versatility

J. Ranch

Tack and Attire
Working Western attire required for all classes: long-sleeved shirt, helmet, and boots. Chaps and spurs are optional. Exhibitors must wear properly fitting ASTM/SEI approved riding helmets at all times when mounted. Helmets WILL NOT be discriminated against in ANY class.

Plain attire suitable for ranch work is desired; flashy show-type attire is discouraged and will be penalized by the judge.

Western working tack should be used. Silver conches are accepted, but excessive silver on tack is discouraged and will be penalized by the judge.

IN PATTERN BASED CLASSES: The judge and show management reserve the right to place only those individuals that complete the pattern without disqualification. This is at the discretion of the judge and division manager.

Awards:

High Point Junior & Senior Ranch Exhibitor: High point horse and rider combination with most points in Ranch classes to include points from Ranch Ground Handling, Ranch Horsemanship, and Ranch Riding. Awards Sponsored by Jody & Richard Toms.

Division J1 – Ranch Rail

The Ranch Rail class measures the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride and should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse should be well-broke, relaxed, quiet, soft, and cadenced at all gaits. The movement of the ranch rail horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations. Maximum credit should be given to the horse that has a natural flowing stride and consistent, ground covering gaits. Transitions should be performed when requested, with smoothness and responsiveness. The ideal ranch rail horse should have a natural head carriage at each gait. The horse should be ridden on a relatively loose rein with light contact and without requiring undue restraint while being responsive to the rider and making timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner. The horse should be soft in the bridle, yield to contact and shall not be shown on a full drape of rein. Riders are encouraged to use adequate space given the extension of gaits required. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working pace while under control by the rider. The horse shall be balanced and appear willing and a pleasure to ride in a group situation.

Class Requirements:
1. All exhibitors will work as a group. Individuals working off the rail will not be penalized and passing is permissible.
2. Horses must work both ways of the ring at the walk, trot, and lope. Horses must work at least one way of the ring at the extended trot. At the option of the judge, horses may be asked to extend at the walk and lope.
3. There is an emphasis on forward, free-flowing, and ground-covering movement.
4. At the extended trot and lope, the exhibitor may post or stand in the stirrups.
5. Touching or holding the saddle horn during any extended gait is acceptable.
6. Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away from the rail). They may be required to reverse at the walk or trot at the discretion of the judge but shall not be asked to reverse at the lope.

7. Horses are required to back easily and stand quietly. Horses may be brought to the center or backed on the rail.
8. The rider shall not be required to dismount except in the event the judge wishes to check equipment

Faults scored according to severity:

1. Too slow (any gait) Excessive speed (any gait) Over-bridled (nose behind the vertical)
2. Head carried too low such that the poll is below the withers
3. Out of frame
4. Head carried too high
5. Break of gait
6. Wrong lead or out of lead
7. Failure to take the appropriate gait when called
8. Opening mouth excessively
9. Draped reins
10. Use of spurs forward of the cinch
11. Canted at the lope
12. Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.)

Faults which will be cause for disqualification: Head carried too low and/or clearly behind the vertical excessively and consistently while the horse is in motion, or otherwise showing the appearance of intimidation.

Class No
233 – Junior Ranch Rail
234 – Senior Ranch Rail

251 – Ranch Rail Classic – Top 7 riders from classes 233 and 234 are eligible. Entries made at show for no additional charge.

Division J2 – Ranch Riding

The purpose of the ranch riding class is to measure the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from performing one ranch task to another. The horse should reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of a working ranch horse riding outside the confines of an arena. The horse should be well-trained, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The ideal ranch horse will travel with forward movement and demonstrate an obvious lengthening of stride at extended gaits. The horse can be ridden with light contact or on a relatively loose rein without requiring undue restraint, but not shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the ranch riding horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement are of primary considerations.

One of the 15 American Quarter Horse Association approved patterns will be selected. Some patterns include walking through, near, or around a pen of live cattle.

Ranch Riding Gaits: In all gaits, movement of the ranch riding horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse. The following terminology shall apply:

- Walk-The walk is a natural, flat footed, four-beat gait. The gait is rhythmic and ground-covering. As in all gaits, the horse should display a level, or slightly above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.
- Trot - The trot is a natural two-beat gait demonstrating more forward motion than the western jog.

- Extended Trot- The extended trot is an obvious lengthening of the stride with a definite increase in pace. The horse should be moving in a manner as if it were covering a large area on a ranch with an above level topline. Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable at the Extended Trot.
- Natural Gait and Extended Natural Gait – Non-trotting horses should perform their natural gait where a trot is indicated and show a distinctive difference in speed of that gait where an extended trot is asked. The natural gait should be smooth and appear effortless for riding long distances.
- Lope- The lope is a three-beat gait. The lope should be relaxed and smooth with a natural, forward moving stride.
- Extended Lope- The extended lope is not a run or a race but should be an obvious lengthening of the stride, demonstrating a forward, working speed. The horse should display an above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.
- Extended Walk – The extended walk is an obvious lengthening of stride that will naturally increase the pace. The horse should move in a natural manner (not a running walk) as if it were moving across an open pasture.

Sitting the regular trot and lope is recommended; though standing in the stirrups at the extended trot and extended lope, or posting the extended trot is acceptable.

Scoring will be on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance. The individual maneuvers are scored in ½ point increments from a low of -1½ to a high of +1½ with a score of 0 denoting a maneuver that is correct with no degree of difficulty. Class consists of pattern work that is ridden individually. For each maneuver the horse is judged on quality of gaits, response to the rider, manners and disposition.
Penalty points and/or certain maneuvers will be designated as tie breakers and shall be selected prior to the beginning of the competition.

A. One (1) point penalties:
   Too slow (per gait)
   Over-bridled (per maneuver)
   Out of frame (per maneuver)
   Break of gait at walk or trot for 2 strides or less
B. Three (3) point penalties:
   Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides
   Break of gait at lope
   Wrong lead or out of lead
   Draped reins (per maneuver)
   Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads
   Trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change
   Severe disturbance of any obstacle
C. Five (5) point penalties:
   Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.) for each refusal
D. Ten (10) point penalty,
   Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver)
E. (OP) Placed below horses performing all maneuvers;
   Eliminates maneuver
   Incomplete maneuver
   Repeated blatant disobedience
   Use of two hands (except junior and level 1 horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore)
F. Zero (0) score:
   Illegal equipment

Willful abuse.

Class No
231 – Junior Ranch Riding
232 – Senior Ranch Riding

K. Walk/Trot/Jog

Walk/Jog/Trot will be its own division and Championship Awards provided if there are donors. All qualification rules will remain the same for exhibitors in these classes. Youth are able to enter the showmanship. Championships will include walk/jog/trot trail, horsemanship/equitation, 1st and 2nd go pleasure, and showmanship. There are NO Classic classes for Walk/Jog/Trot. Division Managers may combine juniors and seniors if entries warrant. Walk/Jog/Trot exhibitors may only bring one horse.

Youth may not cross enter into gymkhana and/or any Walk/Trot/Canter or Lope classes.

Please see the rules and regulations for show procedures and/or tack/attire for each division that corresponds with the Walk/Trot/Jog Division

Walk/Trot/Jog Equitation Classes are also offered in the following divisions. Please see Division A. Equitation for those offerings

- English Pleasure
- Dressage
- Hunter Pleasure
- Western

Division K1 – Dressage Walk/Trot

Class No
183 – Intro Level Test A
185 – Intro Level Test B

Division K2 – English Pleasure Walk/Trot

Class No
179 – Walk/Trot English Pleasure – 1st Go
180 – Walk/Trot English Pleasure – 2nd Go

Division K3 – Hunter Pleasure Walk/Trot

Class No
167 – Walk/Trot Hunter Pleasure Horse – 1st Go
168 – Walk/Trot Hunter Pleasure Horse – 2nd Go
169 – Walk/Trot Hunter Pleasure Pony – 1st Go
170 – Walk/Trot Hunter Pleasure Pony – 2nd Go

Division K4 – Western Pleasure Walk/Trot

Class No
175 – Walk/Jog Western Pleasure – 1st Go
176 – Walk/Jog Western Pleasure – 2nd Go

Division K6 – Trail Walk/Trot/Jog

Class No
242 – Walk/Trot English Trail
243 – Walk/Trot Hunter Trail
244 – Walk/Jog Western Trail

L. Western

Horses and ponies shall be of any breed or combination of breeds, serviceably sound, in good condition and of stock horse type. Ponies must be suitable to rider. It is suggested that participants have a number on each side of their horse when showing. The general tack and attire rules are listed herein.

All Western Pleasure classes are to be shown at a walk, jog, and lope both ways of the ring on a reasonably loose rein without undue restraint. The judge may ask for extended gaits. To be judged on performance, smoothness of gaits, manners and overall ability of the horse to perform.

Awards

- High Point Western Award - Junior or Senior: Horse and rider combination earning the most points in the following classes: Western Showmanship, Western Horsemanship, Working Western, Pleasure Events, and Classic Classes. Points from Trail or Side Saddle are not included. Award sponsored by Harris Leather
- High Point Senior Western Exhibitor: Horse/rider combination earning the most points in the following classes: Western Showmanship, Western Horsemanship, Working Western, Western Pleasure and Trail. Award sponsored by Integrity Home Mortgage- Faye Strickler
- Reserve High Point Senior Western Exhibitor: Horse/rider combination earning the most points in the following classes: Western Showmanship, Horsemanship, Working Western, Western Pleasure and Trail. Award sponsored by Integrity Home Mortgage- Faye Strickler
- High Point Junior Western Exhibitor: Horse/rider combination earning the most points in the following classes: Pleasure and Trail. Award sponsored by Integrity Home Mortgage- Faye Strickler
- Reserve High Point Junior Western Exhibitor: Horse/rider combination earning the most points in the following classes: Western Showmanship, Western Horsemanship, Working Western, Western Pleasure and Trail. Award sponsored by Integrity Home Mortgage- Faye Strickler

Division L1 – Western Pleasure

Class No
108 – Western Pleasure – Senior Rider – 1st Go
112 – Western Pleasure – Junior Rider – 1st Go
116 – Western Pleasure – Senior Rider – 2nd Go
120 – Western Pleasure – Junior Rider – 2nd Go

216 – Western Pleasure Classic – Top Seven Highest Riders in each age bracket – first and second go combined score – are eligible. Entries made at show for no additional charge.

M. Miscellaneous

Division M1 - California Warm Up

Unjudged and for Hunter Over Fences Division ONLY

Class No
240 – California Warm Up

Division M2 - Combined Test

Exhibitors must participate in the appropriate Training Level Test 1 and the Jumper Class for their age division

Combined Test Championship for Junior and Senior Riders that combine the Training Level Test 1 class with the Jumper Class. Participants must have qualified for the Jumper Class and submit the Jumper Qualifying Form at the time of Entry. Only pre-entries allowed. No additions of this class at the show. ***Participants must also enter either class 143 or 146 AND 221 or 222.

Class No
241 – Combined Test (Requires Entry in Classes 143 or 146 and 221)

Division M3 Driving and Reinsmanship

Reinsmanship
Reinsmanship is to be judged on the ability and skill of driver. A pattern will be used. To be judged 75% on handling of reins and whip, control, posture, and overall impression of driver; 25% on the condition of harness and vehicle and neatness of attire. Drivers should follow their breed rules regarding the use of side or overchecks.

Miniature Driving
Miniature Driving will be shown in an easy entry or a pleasure cart. Approved ASTM safety headgear (fastened) is required for all classes. Horses will be shown at the walk, collected trot and the working trot, going in both directions of the ring. May also be asked to back and perform other tasks as asked by the judge. Horse will be judged on the way of going, manners, and presence. Conformation WILL NOT BE JUDGED. Handler to be judged on attire, tack should be clean, cart should be in good repair, and horse should be well groomed.

Proper attire includes: long-sleeve shirt or blouse, show pants, driving skirt, dress, driving apron, gloves, boots, and safety helmet. Driving whip optional. Drivers should follow their breed rules regarding the use of side or over checks.

Pleasure Driving
Pleasure Driving is to be shown to any suitable vehicle (wooden wheels or bicycle type). Approved ASTM safety headgear (fastened) is required for all classes. To be shown at a walk, slow trot/slow pleasure gait, working trot/intermediate pleasure gait and extended trot/fast pleasure gait and may be asked to halt and stand quietly, to back up. Judged on manners and performance. For safety reasons headers will be allowed in the ring during the lineup, but should not touch the horse unless there is a safety issue. An experienced adult may ride as a passenger, for safety

reasons; however they may not talk to or give instructions to the driver while in the ring. All exhibitors should carry a whip, wear gloves and wear an apron. Drivers should follow their breed rules regarding the use of side or over checks.

Pleasure Pony Driving Champion Perpetual Trophy sponsored by Powerhouse Sportponies

Class No
102 – Junior Miniature Reinsmanship
104 – Senior Miniature Reinsmanship
157 – Reinsmanship, Horse and Pony (no Miniatures)

155 – Junior Miniature Driving
159 – Senior Miniature Driving

220 – Miniature Driving Classic – Top 5 entries in classes 102, 104, 155, 159 are eligible. Entries made at show for no additional charge.

64 – Pleasure Horse Driving
65 – Pleasure Pony Driving (Not eligible for Miniatures)

206 – Pleasure Horse and Pony Driving Classic – Top 5 entries in classes 64 and 65 eligible. Entries made at show for no additional charge.

Jumpers

Jumper Champion Perpetual Trophy donated by Janet Quaintance.

Riders wishing to compete in this class must successfully complete a similar class in a showjumping event (examples: VHSA, BHSA, USEF, USEA, CDCTA, BREA, SWVHJA). Proof of this must be submitted with entry into the show through the Jumper Qualifying Form found in this rulebook This form must be fully filled out and signed by the show manager.
Successful completion is defined as a horse and rider that completes all jumping efforts without disqualification in the class for any reason. This qualifying form applies to those youth that are entering the Jumper Classes annually. This form is not required for youth solely entered in Hunter Classes.

If either class in this section has less than 8 entries, the classes will be combined and run as one class.

Schooling for youth in this class (and not another hunter class) will take place on Thursday in East Arena. Schooling will NOT be allowed on Friday for exhibitors in the class. There will be warm up fences but no other schooling other than the time outlined above.

Tack and Attire
Riders shall wear formal attire for showjumping

Tack can include ear bonnet and square show pad. Figure 8 nosebands and martingales are allowed.

Class Rules

1. Jumpers are scored and placed on a mathematical basis and penalty faults, which includes

disobediences, falls and knock-downs.

2. **Horses and ponies will compete in the same class.**
3. Both a starting line at least 12 feet in front of the first obstacle and a finish line at least 24 feet beyond the last obstacle must be indicated by markers (at least 12 feet apart) at each end of the lines. Time shall be taken from the instant the horse's chest reaches the starting line until it reaches the finish line. Time shall be taken out while a knocked down jump is being replaced - that is, from the moment the rider gets his mount in a position to retake the jump until the proper authority signals that the jump has been replaced. It shall be the rider's responsibility to be ready to continue the course when the signal is given.
4. **Class Procedure**:
   A. Class will be scored as written in Table II, section 2(b) of the USEF Rules for Jumpers.
   B. The first round and first jump-off, if any, are decided by adding together the faults incurred over the course and any penalties for exceeding the Time Allowed. If a competitor has gone clean in the first round, the competitor will, without leaving the ring, upon an audible signal, commence the designated jump-off course. A competitor with a clear round may dismount, and with assistance if necessary, adjust tack and/or equipment; however, upon the audible signal to begin his/her round, the competitor is responsible to adhering to the 45 seconds rule. A competitor who leaves the arena after a clear round (before or after the tone) will be considered to have retired from the jump-off. If there are no clean rounds and a tie exists for first place, there will be one jump-off in which time will decide in the event of equality of faults.
   C. All class entries will participate over the posted course.
   D. Fences will be set at a **minimum of 2'6" and a maximum of 2'11"**. Fences must be set at the required height indicated, within a two-inch variance.
5. **Jumper Courses:**
   A. All courses must be set according to USEF standards.
   B. Obstacles should be attractive, varied and appropriate to their setting. They and/or their components must be capable of being knocked down and should be neither so light or poorly supported that they fall at a slight touch, nor so heavy or firmly supported that they can hardly be dislodged.
   C. All suspended elements (i.e., gates, panels, etc) must be hung not more than 4" from their top edges.
   D. At least 3 out of the first 10 efforts must be spreads.
   E. There must be at least one change of direction in every course, including jump-off courses.
6. **Scoring:**
   A. Jumpers are scored on penalties incurred between the starting line and finish line. A competitor, after receiving the signal to begin his/her round, is not being scored until crossing the starting line in the proper manner.
   B. Penalty faults include disobediences, falls, knockdowns, touches and time penalties.
   C. In cases of broken equipment or loss of shoe, the rider must continue if he wishes to avoid penalty, or may retire.

D. If a competitor jumps an obstacle that has not been reset, or has been reset improperly, due to it being downed by a previous competitor, the weather, or some other factor, the competitor receives no penalty. However, if the competitor knocks down the obstacle he will be penalized accordingly.

E. Failing to complete-A competitor failing to complete a particular round shall have the reason recorded as follows:

(1) Withdrew (WD) or did not start (DNS) indicated that the competitor failed to enter the arena within one minute of being called. The time for entering the ring must be enforced by management. To prevent unfairness to an exhibitor, management may extend the time for entering the ring.

(2) Retired (RT) indicates the competitor voluntarily retired prior to completing the round.

(3) Eliminated (E or EL) indicates that during his/her round the competitor was eliminated by the judge for any of the various reasons indicated in these rules.

7. Starting and Finishing: In order to receive a score other than "Withdrew (Did not start)", "Retired", or "Eliminated":

A. The horse must cross the start line between the markers in the proper direction with the rider mounted. Passing through the starting markers in the improper direction before starting does not incur penalty.

B. The horse must cross the finish line between the markers in the proper direction and with the rider mounted.

C. The horse must jump all of the required fences between the start and finish markers.

D. The horse must not resist for 45 consecutive seconds or take more than 45 seconds to jump the first obstacle after the time of the round has begun or take more than 45 seconds to jump the next obstacle on course.

8. Entering the Arena: Failure to enter the arena within one minute of being called incurs elimination. The time limit for entering the ring must be enforced by management. Management may extend the time limit for entering the ring.

9. Time to Start: An exhibitor will have 45 seconds from the time the judge(s) sound an audible signal to cross between the start markers in the proper direction and start on course. If a competitor does not cross through the start line within the allotted time, the time on course will start when the allotted time expires.

10. Use of Audible Signal: An audible signal (bell, horn, whistle, gong or buzzer) is sounded for the following purposes:

A. To give the signal to start

B. To stop a competitor in the event of an unforeseen incident

C. To interrupt the 45-second period which a rider has to begin the course in the event of an unforeseen incident

D. To indicate that an obstacle has to be reset before being retaken after it has been knocked down during a refusal

E. To give the signal for a competitor to continue his/her round after an interruption

F. To indicate by repeated and prolonged ringing that the exhibitor has been eliminated

11. **Timing**

A. Starting and Stopping-time is taken from the instant the horse's chest reaches the start line, or upon the expiration of 45 seconds following the sounding of the audible tone, until it reaches the finish line. The judge may interrupt the 45-second countdown if unforeseen circumstances occur. Disobediences, falls, etc., occurring between the signal to start and the moment the competitor crosses the starting line in the correct direction are not penalized.

B. Time out-If as a result of a disobedience a competitor knocks down or dislodges an obstacle or a flag marking the limits of an obstacle, the clock is stopped immediately and remains stopped while the obstacle or flag marking the limits of an obstacle is rebuilt. Regardless of which fence on the course this occurs at, a penalty of four seconds will be added to the time the horse takes to complete the course.

C. Time out at combinations-If a competitor knocks down or dislodges one of the parts of a combination or a flag marking the limits of an obstacle, and then refuses or runs out at the next park without knocking it down, the clock is stopped as for a knockdown resulting from a disobedience. Regardless of at which fence on the course this occurs, and for each time it occurs on the course, a penalty of four seconds will be added to the time the horse takes to complete the course. Elements knocked down preventing a horse from jumping the next obstacle must be removed.

D. Time Faults-One (1) time fault will be charged for each commenced second by which the time allowed is exceeded in any class for which time is a factor in scoring.

E. Exceeding the time limit-Any competitor whose time including penalty seconds which might have been assessed for time-out(s), as described above, exceeds the time limit is eliminated. The time limit is defined as double the time allowed.

12. Disobediences:

A. Refusal: Stopping in front of an obstacle to be jumped, whether or not the horse knocks it down or displaces it, is penalized as a disobedience. Stopping at an obstacle without knocking it down and without backing, followed immediately by jumping from a standstill, is not penalized. However, if the halt continues, or if the horse backs even a single step or circles to retake the course, a refusal is incurred.

B. Run-out: Evading or passing the obstacle to be jumped or the finish line or jumping an obstacle outside its limiting markers is penalized as a disobedience.

C. Resuming the Course: After a run-out or refusal, the competitor must, before proceeding on course, re-jump the obstacle at which the disobedience occurred or be eliminated. If the flag, standard, wing, or obstacle has not been reset when the competitor is ready to jump, he/she must await the signal to start or be eliminated.

D. Loss of Forward Movement: Halting or stepping backward after crossing the start line will be penalized as a disobedience.

E. Circling on Course: Any form of circle or circles whereby the horse crosses its original track between two consecutive obstacles (start and finish included), or stops advancing toward or turns at least 180 degrees away from the next fence, or finish line, except to retake an obstacle after a disobedience, is considered a disobedience. This is a judgment call.

13. **Falls:**
    A. The first fall of horse or rider results in elimination.
    B. A rider is considered to have fallen when he/she is separated from this horse, which has not fallen, in such a way as to necessitate remounting or vaulting into the saddle.
    C. A horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and haunch on the same side have touched the ground or an obstacle and the ground.
    D. A courtesy fence is not permitted following the fall of the horse or rider.
14. Knockdowns: An obstacle is considered knocked down when in jumping an obstacle, a horse or rider by contact:
    A. Changes any part thereof which establishes the height of the obstacle or the height of any element of a spread obstacle, even when the falling part is arrested in its fall by some other portion of the obstacle, OR
    B. Moves any part thereof which establishes the height of the obstacle so that it rests on a different support from the one on which it was originally placed.

15. Off Course: A competitor is considered off course when he deviates from the course as shown by the diagram and jumps an obstacle prior to rectifying the deviation.
16. Table of Jumping Faults
    1. Knockdown of obstacle or standard with any portion of the horse, rider or equipment, when jumping an obstacle .....4 faults
    2. Knockdown of automatic timing equipment, other designated markers on start and finish lines, or flags standing alone marking the limits of banks, ditches and water jumps.....4 faults
    3. First disobedience (anywhere on course).....4 faults
    4. Second cumulative disobedience (anywhere on course)..... Elimination
    5. Exceeding time allowed (for each second over time allowed)..... 1 Fault
    6. A horse resisting for 45 seconds, taking more than 45 seconds to jump the first obstacle after the time of the round has begun, or taking more than 45 seconds to jump the next obstacle on course.....Elimination7. Fall of the horse and/or rider ..... Elimination
    8. Jumping obstacle before it is reset or without waiting for signal to proceed ..... Elimination
    9. Starting before judge's audible signal to precede ..... Elimination
    10. Jumping an obstacle before crossing the start line unless said obstacle is designated as a practice obstacle or after crossing the finish line, whether forming part of the course or not Elimination
    11. Off course ..... Elimination
    12. Leaving the enclosure of a closed obstacle incorrectly ..... Elimination
    13. Rider and/or horse leaving the arena before finishing the course ..... Elimination
    14. Any competitor at the end of his/her round who does not leave the arena through the designated gate

…..... Elimination

15. Actions against a horse deemed excessive (for example: excessive use of whip or spurs at any time within the arena)
Elimination

Class No
221 – Jumpers

Side Saddle

A 4-H Horse and Rider combination may show only in side saddle classes that are appropriate for their type of horse and equipment. Side Saddle attire and tack is not permitted in any other division or class except for the ones listed. This class is judged on manners and performance.

Class No
66 – Western Side Saddle
67 – Hunter Side Saddle
68 – English Side Saddle – Only split into Trotting and Non-Trotting if entries warrant.

Western Dressage

The following rules are based upon USEF and WDAA rules. Please see the USEF Rulebook (www.usef.org) and the Western Dressage Association of America (https://westerndressageassociation.org/) for further explanations of the general principals of Western Dressage competition and the correct gaits and movements.

<u>The Western Dressage Test will be Basic Level Test 1</u>

<u>Tack and Attire</u>
All exhibitors are required to wear boots and a properly fitted ASTM/SEI approved equestrian helmet with a fastened harness the entire time the exhibitor is in the arena. Shirts with a collar and long sleeves are required. Spurs are optional and may be of Western style, with or without blunt tines, or English Dressage style. Other optional attire includes: chaps, gloves, neck tie or similar tie/pin, vest, jacket, coat, or sweater.

Exceptions/Exemptions Include:
- Western Cavesson on the bridle (braided or plain) with space for two fingers between the cavesson and horse's jowl. No metal, studs, or rigid material may be part of the cavesson. No flash, figure 8, or dropped nosebands.
- Bits/Bridles that may be used on any age of horse:
  - Snaffle bit (defined in western tack)
  - Hackamore (defined in western tack)
  - Bitless Bridle. Must be western style and made of leather or leather like materials
- Breastplate and/or crupper
- One whip no longer than 47.2 inches including lash
- Reins

    - With snaffle: loop/connected reins, split reins, buckled reins, mecate reins, or Romal reins without a popper; two hands must be used with any of these combinations.
    - With Hackamore: Horsehair, rope reins and mecate reins; two hands must be used. The mecate can be tied to the saddle horn or held by the rider.
    - With Curb: Romal reins or Split reins. When using a curb with Romal reins, only one hand is allowed; when using split reins, one or two hands are allowed.
- Hand Position on Reins
    - At the end of the Free Walk or Free Jog, riders using split reins held in one hand may use the free or offhand to pull the reins back to the desired length. Riders using Romal reins may use the hand using the Romal to alter the tension or length of the reins from the bridle to the reining hand.

The following Tack/Appointments are prohibited:

- Full cheeks, half cheeks, kimberwicks, roping bits with both reins attached to a single ring, or any type of rein or attachment which increases the effective length of the bit's shank or creates additional leverage.
- Round, rolled, braided, or rawhide curb straps.
- Martingales, bit guards, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running, balancing reins, nasal strips, tongue tied down, etc.), any kind of boots (including "easy-boots," splint/hock/bell boots, etc.), tail bandages, any form of blinkers, ear muffs or plugs, and nose covers.
-

The above restrictions apply to warm-up and other training areas; however, running martingales (only with snaffle rein or plain snaffle bridle), boots, and bandages (without magnets) are permitted.

Execution and Judging of Tests

Western Dressage integrates the historically validated principles of dressage with the best of western stock horse tradition, with the purpose of enjoying a safe, pleasurable, versatile, and useful working horse. The hallmarks of the Western Dressage Horse are usefulness, rideability, willingness, safety, pure gaits, lightness, calmness, and steadiness. A Western Dressage Rider should use clear, effective, subtle aids coupled with a confident seat and light, responsive hands in communication with the horse.

A Western Dressage Partnership should exhibit impulsion originating from deeply engaged hindquarters transmitted without resistance through a supple topline to a light, soft contact with the rider's hand(s). The horse should move freely forward via a willingness to work off the hindquarters which enables the western horse to be a useful working partner.

Class No

223 – Western Dressage

N. Drill Team Freestyle Showcase

For 2026 – this is not a judged event. This will be an exhibition ONLY.

Coaches must submit the separate entry form found within this rulebook, designating all riders for the team. Substitution riders are allowed as designated by the coach after the entry deadline, so long as the rider has already been entered in the show by the entry deadline. Music must be emailed as soon as possible to huntl97@vt.edu but no later than Thursday of the show, or hand deliver a thumb drive to the show office by Thursday of the show.

Teams of riders (may be juniors and seniors combined) will execute a creative presentation utilizing drill maneuvers. There will not be a required number or type of elements for this drill. However, teams are encouraged to utilize a variety of drill maneuvers which display different degrees of difficulty. The drill will be executed at a trot/jog/pleasure gait only. Teams will be judged on creativity, costumes, execution of drill and audience appeal. Teams must consist of at least 6 members and no more than 16.

Drill Team Requirements:

1.Size of team: Minimum of 6, maximum of 16.
2.Time: Minimum of 5 minutes and a maximum of 7 minutes.
3.Music: Music of choice. Must be 4-H age appropriate, Teams must provide music: by email to huntl97@vt.edu by August 31 in .mp3, or .wav file format or club leader provides flash drive (USB thumb drive) at check-in at the state show office. No other music should be on the flash drive.
4. Maneuvers: Emphasis on safety and appropriate to ability of drill riders and horses.
5.Class team fee is $150.
6.There is no limit to the number of teams from each District. Teams may be comprised of mixed Units. **Team entry form must be submitted via email to Hunter Liles no later than July 31, 2024, along with directions for who should be invoiced for the entry fee. Sponsorship of teams is encouraged and will cover drill team fee if amount donated is over $200. Please include the sponsorship form with a check payable to Treasurer, Virginia Tech with State 4-H Horse Show in the "For" Section.**
7.All rider/horse combinations must be entered in this State Show in order to participate in this Showcase Event even if this is the only class in which they ride and are required to pay the office fee of $75 and stabling fees of $25/night. They will also be assigned a stall. Riders will designate their intention to ride with the drill team on the entry form.
8.Teams must enter full team using entry form in this rulebook.
9.See scorecard below. All participants will receive Drill Team Recognition Awards with perpetual trophy going to the top team as determined by the judges. Judge's decision is final.

Trail

Each horse/rider combination is eligible to compete in a trail class, provided they have qualified as required and submitted the required Trail Qualifying Form. A single rider may only compete in a single trail class one time and may not enter two horses into the same class with the same rider.

Open to all horses and ponies in the show. Riders must participate in a trail class prior to the state show entry deadline. This is to be verified with use of the Trail Pre-Qualifying Form found in this rulebook. Standard tack and proper show attire per respective division that is appropriate for a trail class. For Ranch Trail rules and scoring, refer to the Ranch section (Department J). Two hands may be used on the reins when riding in a snaffle or bosal only for Western horses 5 years and younger (No tied split reins are permitted). Other disciplines may use both hands on all appropriate bits and reins as outlined on page 32-33.

All entries will work individually, no rail work. Credits will be given to those horses negotiating the obstacles cleanly, smoothly, and alertly with style in prompt response of the rider's cues, providing carefulness is not sacrificed. Horses shall be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching or negotiating the obstacles. Horses with artificial appearance over the obstacles should be penalized.

Scoring is on a basis of 0-infinity with 70 denoting an average score. Each obstacle will receive an obstacle score that should be added and subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted. Each obstacle will be scored from -1 ½ to + 1 ½ with -1 ½ being extremely poor, -1 very poor, - ½ poor, 0 correct, + ½ good, +1 very good and +1 ½ being excellent.

Penalties:

½ pt. penalty: each tick or contact of a log, pole, cone, plant or any component of an obstacle

1 pt. penalty: hit, bit or stepping on a log, pole, cone, plant or any component of an obstacle, incorrect or break of gait at a walk or jog for two strides or less, both front or hind feet in a single stride slot or space at walk or jog, split pole in lope over, incorrect number of strides if specified

3 pt. penalty: incorrect or break of gate at the walk or jog for more than 2 strides, out of lead or break of gait at lope, knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel, plant, obstacle or severely disturbing an obstacle, falling or jumping off or out of a bridge with one foot, stepping outside the confines of an obstacle with designated boundaries (back through, box, side pass), missing or evading a pole with one foot

5 pt. penalty: dropping an object required to be carried on course, 1st or 2nd cumulative refusal, letting go or dropping rope gait, falling or jumping off of bridge with more than one foot, stepping outside the confines of an obstacle with more than one foot, missing or evading a pole with more than one foot, blatant disobedience (bucking, rearing, striking, kicking out)

Disqualified: use of two hands (except in snaffle or hackamore), switching hands except when working an obstacle that requires the switch of hands, performing obstacle incorrectly or other than in specified order, no attempt to perform obstacle, equipment failure, excessively or repeatedly touching the horse on the neck to lower the head, exiting or entering obstacles from the incorrect side or direction, over turn of more than ¼, 3 cumulative refusals, failure to ever demonstrate correct lead and/or gait as designated, failure to follow correct line of travel between obstacles, excessive schooling, pulling, turning, stepping or backing anywhere on course.

At least six obstacles are to be used. Mandatory obstacles include opening, passing through, and closing a gate; walk, trot, and/or lope over four poles; and backing around cones or between poles. Other obstacles may include combinations of walking over a bridge, put on/remove raincoat, mailbox, side pass, carrying an object, and serpentine obstacles at a walk, trot/jog (pleasure gait), and or canter/lope between obstacles. Course will be posted at the show.

If the judge imposes a time limit for the course, the time limit will be announced. If time is called during the course, the entry is excused and their score to that point will stand or count. Finishing within the time limit is not necessarily a criterion for placing; however an entry that does not complete the course within the time limit cannot place over an entry that completed the entire course correctly. The judge may, at his/her discretion, ask the entry to proceed or bypass any obstacle not negotiated promptly or properly. The judge has the discretion to excuse an entry for any combination of three refusals, balks, evading an obstacle, and/or blatant disobedience (kicking out, backing, rearing, and striking) anywhere on course. Once excused, that entry will immediately leave the arena.

The judge and show management reserve the right to place only those individuals that complete the trail pattern without disqualification. This is at the discretion of the judge and division manager.

Trail Practice will be held for all classes with the exception of Ranch Trail. Participation will require sign up and a fee of $5.00 for a 10 minute practice slot.

English Trail

Class No
138 – English Trail – Senior
140 – English Trail – Junior

Hunter Trail

Class No
136 - Hunter Trail – Senior
139 - Hunter Trail – Junior
Dressage division trail entries should enter the Hunter Trail class*

Western Trail

Class No
137 - Western Trail – Senior
140 – Western Trail – Junior

Ranch Trail

This class is designed to show the horse's ability to navigate and cope with the various situations and obstacles encountered in everyday ranch work. It is designed to show a horse's ability to perform these obstacles with a willing

attitude. The horse is judged on cleanness and promptness with which the obstacles are negotiated, ability to negotiate obstacles correctly, and attitude and mannerisms exhibited by the horse while negotiating the course.

Whenever possible, realistic or natural obstacles should be used. The course can be laid outside of the arena using natural terrain. However, if a ground tie is specified in the course, the course must be set up in an enclosed arena.

The judge must walk the course and has the right and duty to alter the course in any manner. The judge may remove or change any obstacle he deems unsafe or non-negotiable prior to the start of the class. If at any time a trail obstacle is deemed to be unsafe by the judge, it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If it cannot be repaired and horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all previous works for that class.
At least two or three obstacles and/or penalty points will be designated as tie breakers and shall be selected prior to the beginning of the competition. One of the mandatory obstacles should be used as the first tie breaker.

Live Cattle will not be used at this show.

The horse will be shown at a ground-covering walk, trot (or natural gait), and lope between the obstacles and credit will be given for performing these gaits on the correct lead with an alert attitude. The walk may be judged as part of an obstacle. Between obstacles, at least 30 feet should be allowed for the trot, and at least 50 feet for the lope. Gaits between obstacles will be scored as part of the next obstacle.

Extending the trot or natural gait may also be asked. The extended trot may be ridden with the rider either posting or standing in the stirrups to the front of the saddle. Holding the saddle horn is permissible, at this gait, as might be done in open terrain. No additional credit will be given for additional maneuvers (sidepassing to/from an obstacle).

Judges may excuse a rider from the arena after 2nd obstacle with 3 refusals. The judge may ask a rider to move on to the next obstacle if the horse/rider is unable to complete the maneuver in a reasonable amount of time or in an unsafe situation. This will result in a 15 point deduction.

Tack and Attire
Wearing gloves, leather or fabric, is optional. Roping gloves may be worn for the duration of the class or may be worn only for the roping and log drag obstacles.

Roping reins or reins with romal are permitted, but must be used with a snap attachment if a ground tie is in the course.

Use of hands: Only one hand may be used on reins and hands must not be changed, except to work with an obstacle. Reins may be held in any manner. Two hands may be used when using a snaffle bit or bosal on a horse or pony 5 years of age or younger.

Scoring
Scoring will be on the basis of 0-infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each obstacle will receive an obstacle score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted. Each obstacle will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 ½: -1 ½ extremely poor, -1 very poor, -½ needs improvement, 0 correct, +½ good, +1 very good, +1 ½ excellent. Obstacle scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points. Penalties should be assessed per occurrence as follows:

A.1 Point Penalties:

- over-bridled (per maneuver)
- out of frame (per maneuver)
- each hit, bite or stepping on a log, cone, plant or any component of the obstacle
- incorrect or break of gait at walk or trot for two (2) strides or less
- both front or hind feet in a single-stride slot or space at a walk or trot
- skipping over or failing to step into required space
- split pole in lope-over
- incorrect number of strides, if specified
- one to two steps on mount/dismount or ground tie except shifting to balance

B. 3 Point Penalties:
- wrong lead or out of lead
- draped reins
- break of gait at lope, except when correcting an incorrect lead
- break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides
- three to four steps on mount/dismount on ground tie

C. 5 Point Penalties:
- Spurring in front of cinch
- blatant disobedience
- use of either hand to instill fear/praise
- knocking over, stepping out of or falling off an obstacle
- dropping an object required to be carried
- Each refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing.
- letting go of gate
- five or more steps on mount/dismount or ground tie

D. 10 point Penalty:
- Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver)

E. 15 point Penalty:
- Failure to complete an obstacle once attempted.

F. Off-Pattern (OP) - exhibitors cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly
- Breaking pattern (including performing the obstacle or essential element incorrectly or other than in specified order, and incorrect line of travel)
- Incomplete, eliminating, or adding a maneuver
- Repeated blatant disobedience
- Use of two hands (except for Junior shown in snaffle bit/hackamore)
- Failure to open and shut gate, or failure to complete gate

G. Disqualified 0 – Score
- 2nd Occurrence of failing to complete an obstacle (a judge may excuse a rider from the arena after 2nd obstacle with three refusals)
- Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern.
- lameness
- abuse
- leaving working area before pattern is complete
- illegal equipment
- disrespect or misconduct
- fall of horse/rider

<u>Obstacles</u>

1. Mandatory Obstacles
    a. Opening, passing through, and closing a gate. This gate may not be a rope gate.
    b. Log Drag – Horse must be willing to drag a log for a short distance in a straight line or a curve to the right. The curve may range from a gradual curve to a complete circle or portion of a circle. Rider to pick up rope while mounted at point A, and drop rope at point B. Rope may not be tied hard and fast to the saddle horn; dallying is optional. Log size should be roughly the size of a small fence post, suggested maximum weight ~30 lbs. Rope should be securely attached to one end of the post by either drilling a hole through the post and tying a bowline (or other non-slip knot), or attaching an O-ring and tying a non-slip knot through the ring.
    c. Stationary Steer – This obstacle is used to show the willingness of the horse to have a rope thrown from its back. The judge will give credit to the horse that stands quietly while the contestant makes the swing and throw at the stationary steer. Shying from the rope will be penalized, but missing the stationary steer will not be penalized. Rider must provide the rope for this obstacle; rope may be carried in hand, over saddle horn, or affixed to saddle. At the completion of this obstacle, contestant may coil rope and keep for remainder of class, or drop rope at obstacle without penalty.
2. Optional
    a. Mailbox – Rider will open and close a mailbox when mounted.
    b. Bridge – Horse should walk willingly over a bridge. The bridge may be stationary or “teeter- totter” with a 4” maximum rocker pole.
    c. Slicker – The rider shall show the ability to handle the horse while simulating putting on a slicker. The rider may also be asked to carry the slicker from point A to point B.
    d. Walk-over log-L obstacle – Walk over 90° log “L”. Log should be no less than 6” and no more than 12” in diameter. Riders should negotiate this obstacle in a straight line.
    e. Step-overs at a walk, trot, or lope – Natural branches, logs, fence posts, etc. which are laid out in seemingly random angles and distances. Distances should be measured only so the set-up is repeatable, but not for uniform spacing or stride length. Obstacles may not be raised and the maximum height of any step-over is 18”.
    f. Water hazard – The horse should enter and exit the water hazard in a quiet manner.
    g. Back through obstacle – Straight, “L”, or into/out of a marked location.
    h. Sidepass – Straight, one direction, may or may not be elevated.
    i. Ground Tie – Rider must be able to dismount and walk a minimum of 5 paces away with the horse in a designated spot. If used, this must be the last obstacle of the course (no remount) and class must be held in an enclosed arena. If a rider is using a one-piece rein (romal, roping rein, etc.), it should be unsnapped from the bit on one side while ground-tying.
    j. Pick up front feet – The rider must be able to dismount and pick up both front feet in an easy, time efficient manner. If used, this must be the last obstacle of the course (no remount). May be used in succession with ground tie so rider only dismounts once per course.
    k. Live cattle – walk through, near, or around pen of live cattle. The use of cattle could be any degree from a cattle pen set up as a presence on the course to an interactive obstacle.
    l. Any other safe and negotiable obstacle which could reasonably be found in everyday ranch work and meets the approval of the judge.
3. If disrupted, course shall be reset. In the case that an obstacle is used in combination, the obstacle cannot be reset until the contestant finishes the entire combination.

Class No
233 – Junior Ranch Trail
234 – Senior Ranch Trai

Other Opportunities

Thoroughbred Incentive Program

New for 2026 – The State 4-H Horse Show is a T.I.P. approved horse show.

The purpose of the Thoroughbred Incentive Program is to recognize and reward Thoroughbreds in a second career.

Eligibility

1. A "Thoroughbred" is defined as any horse that has been registered with The Jockey Club or a foreign Thoroughbred Stud Book recognized by The Jockey Club. Unregistered horses are ineligible.

T.I.P Numbers

To participate, owners and riders must obtain a T.I.P. Number. To apply for a number, please visit tjctip.com and click on "My Account." You will need an Interactive Registration account to apply. This is a FREE service designed for the use of thoroughbred owners and breeders to transact business. T.I.P. numbers are free. The T.I.P. number card should be provided to participating horse shows as proof of eligibility.

- T.I.P. numbers are horse/owner specific. If you purchase a horse with a number, you will need to get a new number for the horse under your own account.
- All riders must be listed on the T.I.P. number – to add a rider, log into your account and click "Add Rider."

Awards at the State 4-H Horse Show

At the 2026 State 4-H Horse Show, the following awards have been approved. Awards provided by the Thoroughbred Incentive Program.

- High Point Dressage Thoroughbred
- High Score Dressage Thoroughbred
- Western Dressage High Point Thoroughbred
- High Point English Pleasure Thoroughbred
- High Point Hunter Thoroughbred
- High Point Jumper Thoroughbred
- High Point Gymkhana Thoroughbred
- High Point Thoroughbred (All Divisions/Disciplines)

Other Programs Available for You with the Thoroughbred Incentive Program

- Performance Awards – Year-end self reported Thoroughbred Points Program
- Recreational Riding Program – Recognize and reward owners that enjoy recreational riding beginning at 25 hours.
- Championships
- Young Rider and Non-Competitive Programs
- See more at tjctip.com

4-H ALUMNI SHOWMANSHIP FUNDRAISER CLASS

Rules & Entry Form

1. Must be a 4-H horse project alumni, parent/guardian, VCE Agent, or club leader
2. Entry fee $50 separate check payable to "Treasurer, Virginia Tech" with Alumni Showmanship in memo line. Make entry at show prior to Saturday night closing ceremony at the show office, using this form.
3. Fund raising is highly encouraged and must be collected separate of the entry fee and must be submitted Saturday night closing ceremony at the show office, using this form.
4. Horse used for this class must already be on the show grounds with a participating 4-H member.
5. Show clothes are encouraged but not required. Boots are required.
6. Class will be judged by state show rules and will use a pattern posted prior to the start of the class.
7. Submit entry form, equine waiver, and media release, if not already on file with your Unit.

Awards:

1st through 10th place ribbons
Most Outstanding (judged on creativeness of outfit and pattern)

Alumni Exhibitor: _____ Horse name / owner: _____

Alumni from what club / Unit: _____

Alumni Address: _____Mobile Phone: _____

Alumni email: _____

List sponsorships and amounts

_____

_____

_____

Checks (beyond the entry fee) in the amount of $50 or greater will receive a donation acknowledgement only to the name and address on the check. Cash entry fees are accepted however, donation acknowledgements cannot be processed. Please put on check memo "Alumni Showmanship". Make checks payable to "Treasurer, Virginia Tech".

VIRGINIA STATE 4-H HORSE SHOW DISTRICT HORSE CHALLENGE

The District Horse Challenge is a competition designed to encourage and reward excellence in the Horse Knowledge Competitions at the State 4-H Horse Show. Through the competition we hope to generate awareness of individual accomplishments and foster enthusiasm and cooperation of 4-Hers within each district. During the State 4-H Horse Show the four districts will be awarded points in three competition areas. In addition, 5 points is added to the District that provides the largest collection in their designated District Silent Auction Tub (due by Thursday, Show Office). Points earned for these activities will count toward the awarding of the District Challenge Trophy. The name of the winning district will be engraved on the trophy which will go home to the winning District Office where it will reside until the next State 4-H Horse Show. Contest age is as of January 1.

COMPETITION AREAS AND POINT AWARDS

A.Horse Bowl: 10 points will be awarded to the district of each of the top 10 junior and top 10 senior individuals. It is not necessary to come as a team. Contestants will be seated for play as soon as we have the necessary number of juniors or seniors signing in to play. In the case that more than one game is played, the individual's highest score will count.

B.Hippology: The top 10 individuals in both the Junior and Senior contests will earn 10 points for their district. Test will consist of Multiple Choice and Matching questions, True False, Grain and Equipment ID's, Breeds, Colors & Markings, Anatomy, and a picture horse judging class.

C.Horse Judging: Four classes, either picture or video will be presented for judging. The top 10 junior and the top 10 senior individuals will earn 10 points each for their district.

Winners will be recognized over the Band App and posted on the Bulletin Board outside of the show office. Youth participants may pick up their ribbons from the ribbon office.

The knowledge competitions will be open to any 4-Her presenting an eligibility or membership card regardless of whether they are showing or not.

STALL DECORATION COMPETITION

Units/Clubs are invited to decorate their stalls and compete for awards. A Unit (Official 4-H County or Independent City) may decorate their stalls all together, or as separate clubs within that unit. In order to compete as a unit, all clubs and individuals in that unit must utilize the same decoration style or format. A “Lonestar” or “Individual Participant” from a Unit is eligible to compete in the Small Division Unit with either one or two stalls, depending on the number of horses entered.

Safety and workability around the stall decorations must be taken into consideration by the competitors and judges. No electrical devices (including lights) should be used because of the fire hazards, and no decorations should hang over the alley ways.

Your size is determined by the number of horse stalls decorated by your Unit/Club.

Small: 1-5 Stalls
Medium: 6-11 stalls
Large: 12+ stalls

Judging of the stall decorations will take place on Saturday at approximately 10:00 AM. Units/Clubs must declare their desire to be judged by Friday evening at 5:00 PM. A signup sheet on the bulletin board outside the show office will be provided for competitors to designate their stalls and division of competition

Leg Up Award

First awarded in 2002, the VA State 4-H Horse Show is proud to offer the Leg Up Award annually. The Show Committee is committed to bringing recognition to an outstanding and inspirational 4-Her in the horse project that attends the 2024 State 4-H Horse Show.

What makes an outstanding candidate for this award? Qualities such as dedication, leadership, high personal standards, and the internal drive to make themselves and their horse the best they can be. Equally important are their demonstrated efforts to help others "make the best better". Perhaps this person has faced challenges in life and risen above the hardships in an admirable fashion. Their involvement in the horse project is important but they do not have to have an extensive show record. The committee seeks to honor a 4-Her who has become a role model among their peers and betters everyone around them.

Each unit may nominate one 4-Her they feel is a deserving individual. The nominee does not have to have a horse showing on the grounds but should be on the grounds serving in some capacity. Complete this form by August 31, 2024.

Nomination form due Online by August 31, 2026

Link: https://tinyurl.com/26LegUpAward

Past Winners

2001	Alysa Bolton, Craig County
2002	Celeste Coulter, Roanoke County
2003	Paige Hardy, Pittsylvania County
2004	Kelly Smith, Warren County
2005	Torey Lockwood, Clarke County
2006	Charles Trible, Highland County
2007	Victoria Grey, Henry County
2008	Brittany Nicole Carr, Dinwiddie County
2009	T Daniel Odum, Hanover County
2010	MacKenzie Bise, Smyth County
2011	Susan Johnson, Hanover County
2012	Cortney Mcdonald, Shenandoah County
2013	Michelle Wright, Hanover County
2014	Gretchen Ashauer, Hanover County
2015	Elana Marie Wilson, Northumberland County
2016	Colleen Chaplin, Fauquier County
2017	Kacy Goodson, Chesapeake
2018	Maggie Kelley, Chesapeake
2019	Emily Sears, Albemarle County
2020	Lainey Butler, Albemarle County
2021	Mattie DeBord, Washington County
2022	Sydney Waldrop, Hanover County
2024	Brayden Jones, Fluvanna County
2025	Zoe Bowman, King George County

SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDE

Judging Virginia State 4-H

Stable Management

Competition (These are guides and rules)

The Virginia State 4-H Horse Show and other 4-H activities offer awards for excellence in Stable Management. The exhibitor should bear in mind that *competition on this level demands more than what would normally be considered good day-to-day stable management*. With hundreds of 4-Hers competing for these awards, and the majority seriously competing, the winners will always be those who maintain an "inspection-ready" stable 24 hours a day during competition. This demands a great deal of plain hard work, organization, cooperation, and pre-planning. It also requires a keen spirit of competition in order to maintain such a demanding level of stable management.

Exhibitors will be judged between 7am and 5pm on both Friday and Saturday. Judges will leave a score card on each stall that marks areas of deficiency (comments may also be left). These marks do not denote what your final score is- judges also keep a score card with point values. If you have a mark, then you have automatically lost at least one point. More points may be taken off depending on the level of the deficiency (i.e. a mark next to dirty bedding may lose 1 point if you only need to pick, while it may lose 3 points if it is obvious you have not yet cleaned your stall). The amount of points deducted is left to the judges' discretion; however, any item may have a maximum of 4 penalty points. Judges' scores will be totaled and the sum used to determine blue (top prize), red (second prize) and white (participation) ribbon winners. Therefore, all participants will be awarded a ribbon; with the exception that *any horse found without water will automatically disqualify that participant* from the stable management competition unless a written explanation is posted for judge on the stall door.

Bearing this "general philosophy" in mind, let's go over the general elements of individual stall inspection: organization of the stall front area, safety, and cleanliness of the stall. Additionally, the health and condition of your horse will be assessed, but because it is impossible to track down every horse that is not in its stall at the time of inspection only comments will be left unless the judges have a serious concern about the health and safety of the animal- judges reserve the right to disqualify any participant from the stable management competition that endangers or neglects their animal.

A. Stall front areas should be kept neat and well organized.

The entire area in front of the stall should be kept clean and neat at all times, equipment should be well organized and nothing should be directly in front of the stall door- thus the door should be able to slide completely open and have nothing in front of the open area. The ground in front of the stall should be raked or swept clean of shavings. You will not be judged on the type, size, or color of the equipment that you use but instead on the functional usefulness and the neatness with which they are maintained. There are several options for keeping equipment neat and out of the way when not in use: you may use a tack box, saddle rack, and/or utilize an extra stall as a tack room.

Tack Boxes: Tack boxes are almost a necessity owing to the nearly nonexistent storage space. Real tack or harness boxes or trunks are very expensive to buy. However, old army trunks, forgotten camp trunks, foot lockers, etc., make very useful and efficient tack boxes. You must consider the size and type of your saddle before acquiring such a trunk. Western saddles require much larger trunks than do English. If the trunk is the proper size, it will accommodate your saddle, bridles, girths, blankets, halters, leads, etc., in the bottom portion, and grooming tools, etc., in the upper tray. Besides keeping your equipment safe during transportation, it also provides an excellent means of storage during the show and a place in which you can lock up your equipment at night. No one can easily sneak away with a loaded tack trunk. For added security, the trunk may be chained to the stall if desired. A tack box is not required, however if this option is not utilized it is still imperative that all saddles, bridles, and blankets be neatly organized and stowed out of the way.

Saddle Racks: If tack boxes are used, saddle racks are not necessary although they make tack more readily accessible and lend much to the appearance of the stable. Saddle racks and tack boxes are best, but under no circumstances, can a saddle rack replace a tack box on your priority list. Manufactured or homemade racks may be used. The latter are much less expensive and, with a

little applied ingenuity, are frequently better than manufactured racks. Saddle racks can be either attached to the outside of the stall wall or free standing. If a saddle rack is free standing it should not be in the aisle way and needs to fit in the area directly in front of the stall (but not in the way of the door).

B. **Stalls must be maintained for the safety of the animals and people.**

You are being judged on your ability to maintain a safe environment for your horse as well as for the people interacting with your horse. The components of this section include buckets, hay nets and other equipment, tying of the horse, and appropriate stall identification.

Water and grain buckets. Water and grain buckets should be hung high enough to eliminate, as much as possible, the chances of your horse putting a hoof in such containers or leaving droppings in these buckets and containers. These are simply safety and health hazards which good management should avoid. If you feed on the ground, a reasonably high-sided, flat-bottomed feed container is needed. This will help keep the horse from nosing the grain out and turning the container over. If for some reason, buckets must be hung lower or not kept in the stall (horse cribs or plays with buckets) then a note must be posted to this effect, and it should include how often the horse is offered water. Horses must also have at least one quarter bucket of water available at all times. Points will be deducted for horses found with less than that (even in empty stalls- your stall should be prepared for you return) and disqualification from the stable management competition will occur if a horse is found without water.

Lightweight plastic and metal household utility buckets should be avoided. Even if the lightweight materials survive, the handles on these buckets are highly prone to snapping off the bucket, thereby creating a safety hazard to your horse. Only heavyweight metal, plastic, or rubber buckets designed for livestock should be used. The initial cost is more but these buckets have a long life and do not create safety hazards. Buckets should not be hung with nails or wire because these materials could easily injure your horse. A three-foot length of clothes line or window sash run through the eye of a swivel snap can be used. Tie the ends of the rope in a non-slip knot so that you have a closed rope loop with a swivel snap hung on it. Place this at the front corner of your stall with the snap hanging down and the top of the loop at the top of the board. Bring the snap up, thread it through the top loop of the rope, and then pull the snap down. You then have a good means of hanging your water bucket. Your bucket is easily snapped in or out for refill and cleaning. You haven't used any nails or wire, it costs little or nothing to make, and it will last you for years.

Hay nets: Hay can either be fed in a pile in a corner of the stall or in a hay net or hay bag. Hay nets, while discouraged, should be hung from a solid structure that cannot be brought down by the horse if pulled on. This can either be the metal grid at the front of the stall or a solid structure at the back of the stall (if available). If a hay net/bag is used it is very important that *they be hung at the appropriate height (3 feet for ponies, 4 feet for horses).* Hay nets hung too low are an invitation for your horse to get his legs hung in them therefore they should be hung at chest height and monitored throughout the day as they can lower as they empty. When empty, hay nets should be removed. Hay nets are not required. They can become a safety hazard. If the stall is kept clean, hay can be fed on the stall floor. Hay nets are discouraged.

Other equipment: Pitchforks, halters and leads, brush boxes, and other equipment *should never be left in a stall* when they are not in use. Pitchforks, shovels, and other cleaning tools left lying in a stall are likely to be stepped on and cause injury to either horse or human. Halters and leads left lying in a stall pose a potential forgetting caught on legs and causing injury. In addition, they should always be stored at the ready in case they are needed. When not in use, the halter and lead, or lead if the halter is being worn, should be hung on the outside of the stall.

Horse tacked in a stall: For safety reasons, horses should be groomed and tacked up in their stalls and not in the aisles. While horses are being groomed or tacked they should be tied. Whenever your horse is tacked and in its stall it should be tied, within easy access to its water. The horse can be tied either with a halter over its bridle or its bridle should be removed. Horses should NEVER be tied using the reins or a lead connected to the bit- serious injury to their mouth can occur if they panic. An approved safety knot should also be used, and the competitor may be asked to demonstrate that the knot is properly tied. Lastly, horses should only be tied to an immoveable object such as the stall wall, and never to something that could remain attached to the lead rope (such as a bucket hung on the stall wall) if they should panic and pull loose.

Stall Identification: This may be as elaborate or simple as the individual or club desires. It should, however, tell the observer the name of the 4-H'er, the name of the horse and the name of the club. Uniformity of design is desirable within club groups. Additionally, emergency contact information- a phone number and (optional) where the exhibitor is staying (camping or hotel) should be posted.

C. Stalls should be clean and well bedded.

You are being judged on your ability to maintain a clean and comfortable stall, 24 hours a day. You should fully clean your stall first thing in the morning and before you leave at night- horses that are kept stalled 24 hours a day need to have their stalls fully cleaned twice a day. Your horse works hard for you and deserves a comfortable place to rest. There is no excuse for a stall still being dirty at the time of the judge's arrival and this may mean arriving extra early if you have early morning schooling.

Level of bedding: Although it should be obvious, it is surprising how many stalls are not sufficiently bedded. In other words, there are patches of uncovered ground; or the bedding is so light that when the horse moves around normally, he pulls what little bedding there is off the ground. Bedding should be deep enough to pad the stall floor sufficiently to accommodate absorption of urine and still provide a dry, comfortable bed for the horse. (Try sleeping in a wet stall with only an inch or two of straw, with no blanket or bed roll, and you'll quickly learn what "sufficient" bedding is.) The stalls at the Virginia Horse Center require the equivalent of a full bale of straw or two bags of shavings at all times to keep them well bedded. Normally, you need to start with a bale and one-half as initial bedding, and replace approximately one-half a bale/one bag each day, depending on the individual animal's stall habits and the weather conditions. Admittedly we are more extravagant with straw and shavings during stable management competition than we would be at home on a day-to-day maintenance basis. But, on the same basis, we do not wear our show ring riding habits at home when we are schooling horses, either. Pre-planning is very important to proper stall cleaning, this means that you should have enough bags of shavings on hand for the next morning. Therefore, the excuse of "the shavings truck hasn't arrived yet" is not accepted.

If a stall has been properly cleaned, it is clean beneath the top layer of straw/shavings as well as clean on top. You cannot go into a stall, pick up the dropping on top of the straw, and call that stall clean. The bedding must be lifted, all wet and dirty straw removed, all covered-up droppings removed, and then the remaining clean bedding "shook-out" over the stall floor. An easy way to clean stalls that are bedded with shavings is to rake all of the dirty shavings into a large pile in the middle of the stall and then remove the entire pile. This will usually leave clean shavings around the edge of the stall that can be raked evenly across the floor of the stall and then a fresh bag added on top. Once this is properly done in the morning, it is easy to step in several times during the day to remove the droppings and possibly shake the straw out again to keep the stall "inspection-ready". If the stall has been properly cleaned, no judge is going to penalize the stall for having obviously fresh droppings or a recent wet spot on the bedding.

Stalls must be stripped before leaving the show grounds or a $25.00 charge will assess to the person the stall was assigned to during the show.

Water and hay: Water buckets must be scrubbed daily and kept clean- it is important to keep water clear of hay and other debris. If your horse dunks its hay, please post a note to that effect, otherwise points may be deducted for dirty water buckets. Hay should also be kept neat and organized and if not in a hay net, must be kept piled neatly in one stall corner. It is important that when you clean your stall you remove any hay from the bedding. A small amount of hay in the bedding will not be penalized, however if it appears that you have not properly cleaned your stall and an excessive amount of hay is in the horse's bedding then points will be deducted.

D. Health and comfort of the animal

No matter what is going on in the ring, your first obligation is to your horse. He should be clean, dry, and brushed-out before you leave him in his stall. If you have not finished grooming your horse and you see the stable judge coming DON'T leave the horse to "get out of the way". Keep right on with your work. The stable judge likes to see the exhibitor properly caring for his animal.

Grooming: Some exhibitors seem to think that they only need to groom their horses in time to prepare for a class they are going to enter. Not so. Horses should be groomed in the morning, regardless of whether or not they are to be entered in a class. In other words, the horses are on exhibit from the time you arrive at the activity in question until you leave. Even when in their stalls, they are on exhibit. Common sense tells you that if your horse is "on exhibit" he must be presented at his best. A horse that hasn't been groomed in the morning and stands in his stall with bedding in his mane and tail, stable stains on his legs and body, hay dust in his face, and manure in his feet, is like a person going to school or work with an unwashed face, unbrushed teeth and uncombed hair. It is downright unattractive in man and beast alike!

Tack: Tack should be cleaned after each using. If it has been properly maintained before coming to Virginia Horse Center and it is put on a clean horse, a simple going over first with a clean soft brush or towel, and then with a good quality leather preparation should keep it in a pleasing condition. If however, tack is used on a dirty horse, or if it is particularly hot and dusty or muddy then a more complete and thorough cleaning will be required. The first things your stable judges will check will be:

a. The bits for evidence of saliva, food particles, and dirt not properly removed;
b. Stirrups with mud or dirt left on them;
c. Buckles with dirt or soap left on them;
d. Undersides of saddles roughened by improper care or careless cleaning;
e. Split, torn or dry-rotten billets, stirrup leathers, girths, reins, etc;
f. Dirty, broken, or improperly fitted halters.

These are the first things the judges check because these are the things that create safety or health hazards to you and your horse. Your tack does not have to be new or particularly expensive, but it must be clean, in good condition, in good repair, and properly fitted.

Some General Guidelines for Consideration

Unlike a military inspection which demands total perfection for a relatively short period of time at a designated time of day, Stable Management competition is just what its name implies. You are being judged on your ability to maintain a high-level management program for three days under distracting circumstances. It is more demanding than a "mustering out" for which you would apply total concentration to all phases of management in order to present your work at a pre-determined time, only to forget it all until the next inspection. After all, who would know if you didn't wipe the bit off between rides, or didn't wait to get the saddle marks off old Beauty because the gang was going swimmin
Stable Management is like a year-end exam -- if you don't study or apply yourself all year, you can't walk in the classroom and get an A, or even a high B. You might be able to stay up all night studying and get a good grade on a six weeks test, but not on an end-of-the-year exam. The same applies here. You might be able to work hard for a few hours and grade-out high on a single, daily, pre-set inspection; but you must apply yourself all day if you expect to be in the blue ribbon group. Your tack, your equipment, your stall, your horse, and you, yourself, are on nearly 24-hour-a-day display.

In regard to equipment, your primary concern should be to have the equipment necessary to maintain the type of high-level stable management we have discussed, keyed to efficient use and safe, attractive display. To totally achieve this, some "special" travel and storage equipment is almost demanded.

Stalls should be closely inspected for nails, wire, loose boards, trash, etc., before your stall is initially bedded and your horse put in the stall. A basic tool kit should be carried in your trailer or car to handle such repairs and corrections.
While some aspects of horse care are not specifically included on the score cards, judges reserve the right to comment on them and deduct penalty points if they feel that a 4-H'er is deficient. These include the condition of your horse -- his weight, the health of his coat, the care of any wounds or injuries he may have, hoof care, or evidence of improperly fitted or cared for equipment, etc. Another area for consideration is sportsmanship and consideration for the safety of others. Anything jeopardizing the health or safety of another rider, horse, or person walking through the barn area, will be penalized. Poor sportsmanship and lack of cooperation will be penalized. Also, if the stable judges have sufficient reason to believe that the 4-Hers stable management is being carried out by his parents, leaders, or any other adult, that 4-Hers stall shall be considered ineligible for competition.

If these guidelines are followed, you will have created a stall which is clean, safe, and properly equipped; a horse that is clean, safe and as happy as his disposition allows; and a stable front which totally, efficiently, neatly and attractively stores and displays all your horse's paraphernalia.

Interaction with Judges

Despite the fact that you are being judged on your performance in stable management, the judges are primarily interested in your education. **The stable judges are always ready to answer questions and offer constructive criticism when politely approached.** Parents and coaches are not to approach the judges with questions or comments. If an exhibitor feels that there is an error in judging they should make their complaint in writing and present it to the show steward.

A stable management score card that may be used in judging stable management programs is shown on the next page.

NOTE: If you have any special reasons or cases in regard to feeding, watering, etc. different from these guides -- leave a note for the judge.

The judge will post individual scores and notes on the stalls on a regular basis. These should not be interpreted as the final score or award. The State Advisory Committee has reviewed extensively this stable scoring system and deems it fair, sensible, and workable. There is thus a moratorium on any discussion or review at any level in regard to this topic. Judging emphasis should be on sensible and practical management and safety.

STABLE MANAGEMENT SCORE CARDS

(Judged anytime between 7 AM Friday and 5 PM Saturday)
Stall Number_____ This is not a final score. Cards left Friday and Saturday.

STALL FRONT

- ▫ Need to organize area
- ▫ Obstacle blocking doorway
- ▫ Rake/sweep front

SAFETY

Stall

- ▫ Buckets not hung at appropriate height
- ▫ Buckets not appropriate type
- ▫ Buckets hung with inappropriate materials (C hooks facing inward)
- ▫ Hay nets hung too low
- ▫ Hay net empty and not removed from stall
- ▫ Equipment left in stall
- ▫ Halter and lead not on stall door (unless being used to tie animal)
- ▫ Twine/nails/staples in reach of horse

Horse

- ▫ Tacked but not tied
- ▫ Horse tied without a safety knot
- ▫ Horse tied to inappropriate object

Stall Identification

- ▫ Name of 4H'er and club
- ▫ Emergency contact information

CLEANLINESS

Feed, Water and Hay

- ▫ Dirty water
- ▫ Buckets not scrubbed
- ▫ Hay in bedding or not neatly piled

Bedding

- ▫ Needs more
- ▫ Dirty
- ▫ Pick
- ▫ Excessive wetness
- ▫ Trash/Yarn/Paper

COMMENTS ON HORSE AND TACK CLEANLINESS

_____

_____

POINTS FOR DISQUALIFICATION

- ▫ NO WATER
- ▫ Other:

OVERALL

- ▫ Poor
- ▫ Fair
- ▫ Good
- ▫ Excellent

COMMENTS:

_____

Code of Conduct and Orientation Meeting Guidelines for VCE Agents

Each youth and parent must sign that they have received and have discussed proper conduct, rules and regulations of the State 4-H Horse Show prior to the entry deadline. Failure to sign the Orientation Report Form will result in entries being returned and the youth will not be allowed to participate in the show for that year. It is also highly recommended that agents and leaders hold a rules and regulations meeting just prior to the State 4-H Horse Show to further impart the necessity of following the stated rules and to answer any questions. The guidance of a horse show orientation committee, comprised of the Extension agent, leaders and senior riders who have had experienced the State Show, is recommended. Concerns about behavior at previous shows have forced us to request this assistance from Extension agents to ensure that all 4-Hers, leaders and parents are aware of and understand the necessity for following the rules and regulations for the State 4-H Horse Show.

Each unit should conduct an orientation meeting to acquaint 4-Hers, leaders and parents with an understanding of the rules as set forth in the rulebook. It should be emphasized that all rules have been developed to teach safety to the 4-Her for themselves and their project animal. All 4-Hers, leaders and parents are representing the Virginia 4-H Horse Program at the Virginia Horse Center, and as such all participants should be encouraged to exemplify the 4-H ideals.

Guidelines

Each unit shall conduct an orientation meeting for 4-H member entry-candidates and their responsible adults. This meeting should be conducted by the Extension agent or at the assignment of a club leader or horse show committee to include the Extension agent. Extension agents are encouraged to seek an experienced 4-H horse project leader to assist with the orientation session. The meeting may be done on an individual basis or in a group setting. Parents of entry-candidates should attend the orientation meeting.

1. **Explain and clarify all rules and regulations of the State Horse Show. Some of the most important rules are:**
    a. No dogs are allowed at the show.
    b. No drivers under the age of 18 are allowed to drive golf carts per Virginia Horse Center rules. Licensed Drivers must drive slowly and safely and no one may lead horses from golf carts. Drivers must adhere to marked areas where golf carts are not allowed at all times!! No golf carts may be driven through the main horse show ring areas and may not be parked near any arena. For the safety of horses and riders, it is paramount that drivers abide by the state show staff requests and signage.
    c. Back numbers and helmets must be worn at all times when mounted or driving horse/pony carts.
    d. No one but the 4-Her may ride their project animal.
    e. No riding after lights have been turned out and EMTs have left the grounds. No riding before EMTs are on site and it has been announced.
2. **Acquaint Entrant with the Code of Conduct**
3. **Motivate Entrant to represent their Unit well. Emphasize:**
    a. Good sportsmanship and safety.
    b. A sense of pride and responsibility in having qualified for entry and participation.
    c. Exemplary representation and conduct at this public venue. Conduct of our 4-Hers both in and out of the show ring creates a public image of 4-H which has great impact on the general public. They must be on their best behavior at all times. Care for their animal is paramount.
4. **Review Entries for Accuracy.**
    a. Fees include a $75 office fee for each horse and rider combination and a $25/class entry fee. Stabling is also designated in FairEntry at a rate of $25/night/horse and tack stalls are $25/stall/night.
    b. The scratch deadline is August 25th. No refunds after the scratch deadline.
5. **Identify/Designate a responsible adult for each 4-Her at the show.**
    Impress upon the adult(s) the extent of their responsibility.
    a. Each 4-Her should be encouraged to be responsible for his/her own conduct; however, ultimately the conduct or misconduct of an individual or club group is the responsibility of the designated adult-in- charge. Each 4-Her must recognize the supervisory authority and responsibility of the adult-in-charge.

b. Adults must recognize that this is a show for youth and each 4-Her has proven through their Horsemanship Skills tests that they are capable of caring for their own horse. Adults may help hold horses and assist their 4-Her as necessary for the youth's safety and physical well-being. Adults are not to be caring for the horses by way of feeding or doing the main preparations, cleaning stalls, etc. If in doubt, please ask show management!

6. **Go Over Expected Dress.**
   a. Exhibitors are expected to be appropriately attired in traditionally accepted riding apparel in the show ring. Neat, workmanlike attire consisting of long pants, hard shoes or boots, and shirts are appropriate in the stable area. Mounted 4-Hers must wear appropriate show attire or stable attire as described herein as well as a safety helmet and boots. A neat well-groomed appearance is desired.
   b. Exhibitors, adults and leaders are expected to dress in conservative, safe attire. Rules include language of no bare feet, sandals, tennis shoes, flipflops, open or soft shoes which are considered unsafe in the stable area or anywhere near horses, and therefore unacceptable for all participants, including parents/guardians. Halter tops, tube tops, shorts, etc. are in poor taste and unworkmanlike stable attire; such attire is therefore strongly discouraged.

Code of Conduct

Each entrant to the State 4-H Horse Show is a representative of the thousands of horse project 4-Hers in the State of Virginia. Each entrant must therefore accept the responsibility of creating a positive image which reflects the 4-H ideals. The Virginia 4-H Code of Conduct applies to all 4-H Events including this one. The following rules will also apply to this event.

Each entrant must extend a courteous and respectful attitude, especially to show officials. Each entrant, leader, parent and participant shall accept the supervision of and attend all sessions planned by the adult-in-charge.
An entrant shall be sent home (at their expense and with no recourse) if involved in any of the following:

- Deliberate destruction of facilities or equipment;
- Deliberate cruelty to animals;
- Possession or use of fireworks or weapons;
- Possession or use of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs;
- Blatant discourtesy to show officials or designated responsible leaders
- Disrespectful, harmful or unacceptable social media posts made about the show, volunteers or Virginia 4-H Horse Program
- Disregard of show official's request to obey Rules and Regulations of State 4-H Horse Show; or
- Unacceptable or dangerous conduct at any time (infractions to be reviewed by the Rules Committee).

If found in violation of rules, show management may decide on some form of punitive measure ranging from elimination of showing in the next class to expulsion from show grounds and forfeiture of all prizes. This extends to the actions of leaders, parents, participants and anyone accompanying any 4-H member involved or acting as a spectator at the show.

Orientation Meeting

Verification and Entry Checklist

Orientation meeting checklist can now be found and completed online by VCE Agents and/or Club Leaders ONLY.

The paper orientation report form may be used as a guide and collected, however the google form is the only item that MUST be completed by the VCE AGENT and/or CLUB LEADER.

The orientation meeting entry checklist should be completed by the VCE agent or Club Leader within 48 hours of entry submission/ orientation meeting. **Entries will NOT be finalized until the orientation checklist form has been received and reviewed.**

Form Available Here:

https://tinyurl.com/26ShowOrientation

Checks must be mailed, in addition to completion of the online orientation checklist.

Agents: If mailing assemble and mail your Unit's entire Group Package in one mailing postmarked on or before August 10, 2026

VA State 4-H Horse Show

Attn: Hunter Liles

Extension Youth Animal Science Associate

175 W. Campus Drive 388 Litton Reaves

Blacksburg, VA 24061

Questions?
Contact: Katherine Carter
Email carterke@vt.edu or call 540-231-2257
Or
Hunter Liles
Email: huntl97@vt.edu or call 540-231-6345
Or
Lauren McCroskey
Email: lkopp@vt.edu

ORIENTATION REPORT FORM

Attach additional copies as necessary.

Agent: _____

Unit: _____

Total $ Amounts are to be summarized on first page

Use second page for additional

	Name – *PLEASE HIGHLIGHT THE SENIOR STAMPEDE ENTRIES*	Signature	Contact Phone Number	Club	Horse Show Hero If yes, list total $ amount raised	Payment will be made via: Individual Check, Journal Transfer (JT) or HokieMart PO	Entry Form Invoice Amount Paid
4-Her					$		$
Parent							
4-Her					$		$
Parent							
4-Her					$		$
Parent							
4-Her					$		$
Parent							
4-Her					$		$
Parent							
4-Her					$		$
Parent							
4-Her					$		$
Parent							

		Total Amount:
Total Amount of Payments Included	#	$
Additional Amount due via Journal Transfer:	#	$
OR—Amount due via Hokie Mart PO ☐	#	$

	Name - ***PLEASE HIGHLIGHT THE SENIOR STAMPEDE ENTRIES***	Signature	Contact Phone Number	Club	Horse Show Hero If yes, list total $ amount raised	Payment will be made via: Check (list #) Journal Transfer (JT) PO	Entry Form Invoice Amount Paid
4-Her					$		$
Parent							
4-Her					$		$
Parent							
4-Her					$		$
Parent							
4-Her					$		$
Parent							
4-Her					$		$
Parent							
4-Her					$		$
Parent							
4-Her					$		$
Parent							
4-Her					$		$
Parent							
4-Her					$		$
Parent							

Extension agent signature _____ Club Leader signature _____

Club Leader Name and Club _____

Entry Worksheet Summary

Rider Name:_____

County:_____ Club:_____

Horse Name:_____

Office Fee: **$75/horse/rider**

Classes Entered **$25/class**
Please enter the number of each class entered per horse/rider combination.

Add-On's

Tack Stall _____ @ $25/Stall/Night $_____

Stabling _____@ $25/Horse/Night $_____

Grand Total: **$_____**

Extra Forms to Submit:

Jumper Qualifying Form
Drill Team - 1/team
Trail Qualifying Form
Horse Show Hero funds & summary
Leg Up nomination

Please do NOT send payment. Entries will be reviewed, rejected or approved and an invoice sent to your Club Leader for review. In FairEntry you will note if payment is to be made by you, the exhibitor, or by the Club.

Entry Form Worksheet and Summary Sheet

All entries must be submitted via FairEntry. Use this worksheet and the Summary Sheet to highlight your classes as a tool and then use this to find you classes upon entering the FairEntry system. Do not turn this in, but share with you club leader to review before entering the FairEntry system to confirm class selection.

2026 State 4-H Horse Show Worksheet | **Exhibitor:** | **Horse:**

	A. EQUITATION
9	Horsemanship, Senior Rider
10	Horsemanship, Junior Rider
15	SS Equitation, Horse & Pony, Sr.
16	SS Equitation, Horse & Pony, Jr.
17	Gaited Equitation, Jr Rider
18	Gaited Equitation, Sr Rider
21	Eq. O/F (2'6,2'9, 3'), Horse, Sr.
23	Eq. O/F (2'6" or 2'9"), Horse, Jr.
24	Eq. O/F (2'6"), Lg. Pony, Sr.
26	Eq. O/F (2'6"), Lg. Pony, Jr. Rider
27	Eq. O/F (2') Med/Sm, Pony, Sr.
28	Eq. O/F (2') Med/Sm Pony, Jr. Rider
30	Eq on the Flat, Lg. Horse, Sr.
32	Eq on the Flat, Lg. Horse, Jr. Rider
33	Eq on the Flat, Sm. Horse, Sr.
35	Eq on the Flat, Sm. Horse, Jr. Rider
36	Eq on the Flat, Lg Pony, Sr.
38	Eq on the Flat, Lg Pony, Jr Rider
39	Eq on the Flat, Sm/Med Pony, Sr
40	Eq on the Flat, Sm/Med Pony, Jr
41	Dressage Equitation, Sr
42	Dressage Equitation, Jr
229	Jr. Ranch Horsemanship
230	Sr. Ranch Horsemanship
	W/T/Jog Equitation
187	W/T Hunter Eq on the Flat -
188	W/T Hunter Eq on the Flat - Pony
191	W/J Horsemanship
193	W/T Saddleseat Equitation
195	W/T Dressage Eq.
	B. SHOWMANSHIP
1	Sr. Hunter Showmanship
2	Jr. Hunter Showmanship
3	Sr. Western Showmanship
4	Jr. Western Showmanship
5	Sr. SS Showmanship
6	Jr. SS Showmanship
7	Sr. Dressage Showmanship
8	Jr. Dressage Showmanship
162	Adaptive Showmanship
163	Jr. Miniature Showmanship
164	Sr. Miniature Showmanship
227	Jr. Ranch Ground Handling
228	Sr. Ranch Ground Handling
	Adaptive Rider
29	Adaptive Hunt Seat or English
105	Adaptive Stock Seat
113	Adaptive Open (Stock Seat & Hunt Seat)

	D. DRESSAGE
142	Jr. Intro Level Test C
143	Jr. Training Level T1
144	Jr. Training Level T2
145	Jr. Training Level T3
146	Sr. Training Level T1
147	Sr. Training Level T2
148	Sr. Training Level T3
149	Sr. First Level T1
150	Sr. Test of Choice
151	Jr. Test of Choice
	E. ENGLISH PLEASURE - GAITED / SS
91	Eng Pleasure 1st Go , Jr and Sr Riders
93	Ambling Pl 1st Go - H & P, Jr &Sr Rider
94	Racking Pl 1st Go - H & P, Jr & Sr Rider
96	Walking Horse and Pony Pl 1st go, Jr
98	Eng Pleasure 2nd Go , Jr and Sr
100	Ambling Pl 2nd Go - H & P, Jr & Sr
101	Racking Pl 2nd Go - H & P, Jr & Sr
103	Walking Horse and Pony Pl 2nd go, Jr
158	Three Gaited Non-Trotting 1st Go, Jr
160	Three Gaited Non-Trotting 2nd Go, Jr
	F. GYMKHANA
123	Cloverleaf Barrel Race, Pony, Jr Rider
124	Cloverleaf Barrel Race, Pony, Sr Rider
125	Cloverleaf Barrel Race, Horse, Jr
126	Cloverleaf Barrel Race, Horse, Sr
127	Pole Bending, Pony, Jr Rider
128	Pole Bending, Pony, Sr Rider
129	Pole Bending, Horse, Jr Rider
130	Pole Bending, Horse, Sr Rider
131	Stakes Race, Pony, Jr Rider
132	Stakes Race, Pony, Sr Rider
133	Stakes Race, Horse, Jr Rider
134	Stakes Race, Horse, Sr Rider
	I. MINIATURE
165	Jr. Minature Hunter
166	Sr. Minature Hunter
197	Jr. Miniature Obstacle
198	Sr. Miniature Obstacle
225	Jr. Miniature Versatility
226	Sr. Miniature Versatility

*Must Qualify and Qualifying Form Uploaded at time of entry - Jumper Qualifier Required Every Year, Trail Qualifier only for Horse/Rider

	G. HUNTER
45	Reg Hunter Horse (3'), Jr. & Sr., Course
46	Reg Hunter Horse (3'), Jr. & Sr., Course
47	Int. Hunter Horse (2'6"), Course A
48	Int. Hunter Horse (2'6"), Course B
51	Lg. Hunter Pony (2'6"), Jr. & Sr., Course
52	Lg. Hunter Pony (2'6"), Jr. & Sr., Course B
55	Sm/MedHunter Pony (2'/2'3"), Jr& Sr, Course
56	Sm/MedHunter Pony (2'/2'3"), Jr& Sr, Course
58	Reg. Hunter Horse U/S, Jr. & Sr.
59	Int. Hunter Horse U/S
61	Lg. Hunter Pony U/S, Jr. & Sr.
63	Sm/Med Hunter Pony U/S, Jr. & Sr.
62	Limit Hunter Horse and Pony U/S (Jr. &
64	Limit Hunter Horse and Pony, Course A
65	Limit Hunter Horse and Pony, Course B
	H. HUNTER PLEASURE
69	Sm HP Horse, Jr. Rider, 1st Go
70	Sm HP Horse, Sr. Rider, 1st Go
72	Lg HP Horse, Jr. Rider, 1st Go
73	Lg HP Horse, Sr. Rider , 1st Go
75	Sm/Med HP Pony Jr. Rider, 1st Go
76	Sm/Med HP Pony Sr. Rider, 1st Go
77	Lg HP Pony Jr. Rider, 1st Go
78	Lg HP Pony Sr. Rider, 1st Go
80	Lg. HP Horse, Sr. Rider, 2nd Go
82	Lg. HP Horse, Jr. Rider, 2nd Go
83	Sm HP Horse, Sr. Rider, 2nd Go
85	Sm HP Horse, Jr. Rider, 2nd Go
86	Lg. HP Pony, Sr. Rider, 2nd Go
88	Lg. HP Pony, Jr. Rider, 2nd Go
89	Sm/Med HP Pony, Sr. Rider, 2nd Go
90	Sm/Med HP Pony, Jr. Rider, 2nd Go
	Trail - One included in Primary Div Entry Fee
136	Hunter Trail – Senior*
137	Western Trail - Senior*
138	English Trail - Senior*
139	Hunter Trail – Junior*
140	Western Trail - Junior*
141	English Trail - Junior*
235	Ranch Trail - Junior*
236	Ranch Trail - Senior*

**For Hunters Over Fences Only

***Requires entry in 143 or 146 and 221 or 2

	K. WALK TROT/JOG
	Dressage W/T
183	Intro Level Test A
185	Jr. Intro Level Test B
	English Pleasure W/T
179	W/T Eng Pleasure 1st Go - Jr
180	W/T Eng Pleasure 2nd Go - Jr
	Hunter Pleasure W/T
167	W/T HP - Horse, 1st Go
169	W/T HP - Pony, 1st Go
168	W/T HP - Horse, 2nd Go
170	W/T HP - Pony, 2nd Go
	Western Pleasure - W/J
175	Western Pleasure - W/J, 1st
176	Jr. Western Pleasure - W/J,
	W/J/T Trail
242	English Trail - W/T*
243	Hunter Trail - W/T*
244	Western Trail - W/J*
	L. WESTERN
108	WP Sr. Rider, 1st Go
112	WP Jr. Rider, 1st Go
116	WP Sr. Rider, 2nd Go
120	WP Jr. Rider, 2nd Go
	M. MISCELLANEOUS $25/class
64	Pleasure Horse Driving
65	Pleasure Pony Driving
66	Side Saddle Western
67	Side Saddle Hunter
68	Side Saddle English
102	Jr. Miniature Reinsmanship
104	Sr. Miniature Reinsmanship
155	Jr. Miniature
157	Driving
159	Sr. Miniature Driving
221	Jumpers *
223	Western Dressage WDAA
240	California Warm-up**
241	Combined Test ***
	N. Drill Team
250	Drill Team - Unjudged Showca
	J. RANCH
231	Jr. Ranch Riding
232	Sr. Ranch Riding
233	Jr. Ranch Rail
234	Sr. Ranch Rail

Drill Team Unjudged Showcase Entry Form

There is no limit to the number of Drill Teams per District. Team may be comprised of riders from mixed Units.

Unit & Club: Coach/Leader: _____

Rider: _____

Rider: _____

Rider: _____

Rider: _____

Rider: _____

Rider: _____

Rider: _____

Rider: _____

Rider: _____

Rider: _____

Rider: _____

Rider: _____

Rider: _____

Rider: _____

Rider: _____

Rider: _____

Theme of Ride:

_____

☐ Entry fee enclosed: $150 per team, payable to Treasurer, Virginia Tech with "State Horse Show – Drill Team" in the memo line. Please include with Unit Orientation form and email form to Hunter at huntl97@vt.edu.

☐ Drill Team Music will be provided by email to huntl97@vt.edu or on a flash drive by Thurs of

☐ the show Our Drill Team is being Sponsored by

Trail Pre-Qualifying Form

Virginia 4-H State Horse Show participants wishing to enter a trail class at the show must participate in a Trail Class or Trail Clinic with the horse that is entered in the State Show. Class participation can be at any open, 4-H, qualifying or breed show. **Placing in the trail class is not necessary but participation is.** Only **NEW Horse/Rider Combinations that have not competed in the State Show trail class** must complete a pre- qualifying form. If a horse/rider combination previously competed in trail at the state show, prequalifying is not necessary.

Deadline: July 31 and must be uploaded to the entry system during the entry process.

Show/Clinic Manager Certification

I, _____ (show manager) hereby certify that _____ (exhibitor) participated with _____ (horse) in a class/clinic at our show.

Show/Clinic: _____

Date: _____ Location: _____

Class/Clinic Name: _____

Show/Clinic Manager Signature: _____

Show Manager Email: _____

Show/Clinic Manger Contact Phone: _____

Jumper Pre-Qualifying Form

Virginia 4-H State Horse Show participants wishing to enter the Jumper classes at the show must participate and successfully complete in a Jumper (**NOT** Hunter style) Class within the 4-H year similar to the one offered at the State Show with the horse that is entered in the State Show. Class participation can be at any recognized show or event. **Placing in the jumper class is not necessary but participation and successful completion is.** Please see rulebook for the definition of successful completion.

Deadline: July 31

Show/Clinic Manager Certification

I, _____ (show manager) hereby

certify that _____ (exhibitor)

participated with _____(horse)

in a jumper class at our show.

Show: _____

Date: _____

Class description and height of fences: _____

Show Manager Signature: _____

Show Manager Email: _____

Show Manager Contact Phone: _____

4-H Exhibitors/Parents/Agents

This form must be uploaded to the entry system when completing entries.. Youth will not be allowed to enter the jumper class without this form. **This is only for classes 221 – Jumpers.** Extension requests may be granted.

Senior Stampede Application

The Senior Stampede is for State Show participants in their final year of showing. It is part of the closing ceremony event on Saturday night, held in the coliseum. Participants may ride or lead their animal once around the arena while their information listed below introduces and celebrates their participation in 4-H. Applicants must submit their information at the time of the State Show entry deadline. If the senior decides at the show, that this will not be their final year, then they may scratch their entry by letting the show office know. All riders must check-in at the designated time which will be announced at the show. It is the participant's responsibility to be on time and know when to check-in with the paddock master. **Application due using this Qualtrics Form by August 31, 2026. Please highlight riders name on the Orientation Report Form.**

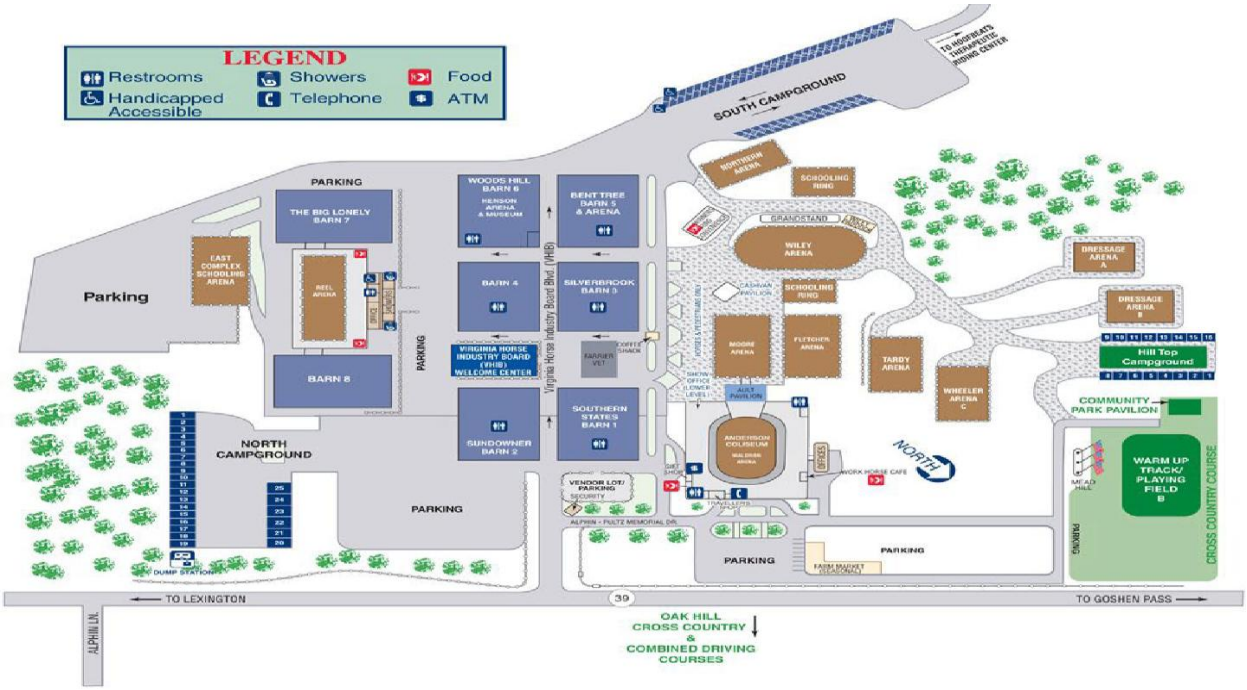
APPLICATION ONLY ONLINE USING THIS Link:
SURVEY DUE BY August 31st.

https://tinyurl.com/26SeniorStampede

Senior Stampede is an opportunity to celebrate our senior, seasoned 4-Hers and state show exhibitors. Responsibility for completing the form linked above lies with each exhibitor – the information provided within the form will be utilized to create the script for the Senior Stampede.

Each exhibitor will get approximately 2 minutes for their Senior Stampede laps.

VIRGINIA HORSE CENTER
487 MAURY RD, LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA 24450



NOTE:
Horse Center showers and bathroom facilities are available to all exhibitors.
Directions:

I-81 North or I-81 South/I-64 West to Exit 191. Proceed on I-64 West to Exit 55. Turn right on Route 11 North, one tenth mile to Route 39 West. Turn left on Route 39 West (Maury Rd.) to the Virginia Horse Center, approximately one mile.

I-64 East to Exit 55. Turn left on Route 11 North, three tenths mile to Route 39 West. Turn left on Route 39 West (Maury Rd.) to the Virginia Horse Center, approximately one mile

Camper Reservations

The Virginia Horse Center now has an online reservation system available for their campgrounds. Exhibitors can make reservations at www.horsecenter.org . The Virginia Horse Center has ~70 Camping Spots with 30/50amp electric and water hookups. Due to the space limitations reservations should be made early and can be made by calling 540-464-2966. http://vahorsecenter.org/plan-your- trip/campgrounds/

PLEASE NOTE THAT
VIRGINIA 4-H RULES SUPERCEDE VIRGINIA HORSE CENTER RULES IN AREAS WHERE 4-H IS GOVERNING