

HORSE AND PONY

OBJECTIVES

Members learn care and responsibility of horses/ponies. They learn appropriate grooming, tack, and show procedures.

RULES FOR EXHIBITION

General rules and animal care

1. Any leader of a Somerset County 4-H horse club has authority to enforce these rules.
 2. Any Somerset County 4-H horse project member **who has completed 4th grade and above** and was officially enrolled by January 1 of this year, may participate in this division at the 4-H Fair, providing they have worked with a 4-H project horse/pony during this 4-H project year. Participation in all events is limited to members of Somerset County 4-H horse clubs.
 3. A \$40.00 fee per member with horse (s) is required to cover the costs of the horse shows and other horse division events at the Fair. The fee is \$30.00 for the second or more members of the same immediate family. This is non-refundable and due to the Division Chairperson before the event along with the rider entry form (sent to all horse leaders and members). Make checks payable to "Somerset County 4-H Association (Horse)". There will be an additional \$25.00 stall cleaning deposit which will be refunded only to individuals who help with set up the Saturday before and clean up the Saturday after the Fair.
 4. **Horses may arrive on Tuesday after 6 p.m.** and must be on the grounds by 10 a.m. on Wednesday.
- All exhibits must be on display from 10 am to 10 pm all three days of the Fair.** No animal may be removed before 11:00 p.m. Friday, without special permission of the Fair Committee.
5. **Members may bring no more than two project animals to the fair, only if space permits.**
 6. All members are expected to help with Fair set-up and clean-up. Club leaders must check out with the Horse Division Chairperson to verify adequate set-up and cleanup.
 7. Each member must provide their own hay, feed, and bedding. Hay, feed and bedding will be stored in the storage tent provided and may not be stored in the horse tent area.
 8. Each member must provide his or her own buckets and snaps and hooks for feed and water.
 9. **No hay nets are allowed in stalls. Hay may not be stored in the horse tents.**
 10. Herdsmen are not responsible for feeding and watering horses in the morning. Each member must make his or her own arrangements for this.
 11. **Each member must do his or her own grooming and care of tack.**
 12. **No dogs are allowed** (not even caged) in the horse area. No exceptions.
 13. No smoking in the tent area. (Look at Fair Policies & Guidelines.)
 14. **Bare feet, flip flops or sandals are prohibited everywhere by every person in the horse area.**
 15. Rest rooms, drinking fountains and fire barrels may not be used for cleaning paint brushes or other equipment. Use buckets and/or washstand.
 16. Rest rooms should not be used for dressing purposes. Dressing facilities will be provided in the horse area.
 17. Only authorized people are allowed in the announcer stand and member horse project areas.

18. No one may stay in the horse area overnight except the registered herdsman and adult chaperones.
19. No tents are allowed in the horse area except those arranged for by the Horse Division Chairperson.
20. Stalls are expected to be kept clean and neat throughout the Fair. Horses are expected to be well-cared for also, and must have water at all times.
21. Halters must be on the horses whenever they are in the stalls. Halters must be either all leather, or nylon with a leather break-away. A lead rope must be hung by the stall door.

HORSE SHOWS

22. All horse shows will be run according to the "NJ State 4-H Horse Show Rule Book", except where stated otherwise in this Exhibitor Guide. 4-H horse leaders and the county 4-H Office have copies.
23. If the following levels of classes are offered in the English and Western shows, they are defined as:
 - Walk-trot: Classes where the rider does not ride faster than trot/jog gait
 - Maiden: No first-place finishes
 - Novice: 1-3 first-place finishes
 - Open: Have previously won more than three first-places

These levels of classes are defined at the start of this year's Fair. For equitation classes, the *rider* is defined. For performance classes, the *horse* is defined. The number of first place finishes is counted from any show (4-H or not) prior to the start of this year's 4-H Fair. No "cross entries" are allowed during the Fair. Whatever level (walk-trot, maiden, novice, or open) the rider (in equitation classes) enters in first, the rider stays in throughout the Fair. The horse stays in one level (for performance classes) also.

24. A member must pass Wednesday's grooming inspection to be eligible to participate in the Horse Show at the Fair. For the grooming inspection, Danish ribbons will be awarded and there will be a minimum acceptable score. If the minimum score is not achieved, the horse must be re-groomed and then be presented for re-judging until an acceptable score is achieved.
25. Braiding or banding of mane or tail is permitted in the grooming inspection, but must be done by a member.
26. Absolutely nothing may be applied to the horses' feet for the grooming inspection.
27. An exhibitor may ride only once in each class and each horse may be ridden only once in each class. However, if one horse is a shared project it may be ridden in individual classes at the Fair, by each member who is sharing it. A horse may compete in a Gymkhana class only once, unless it is a shared project animal.
28. A horse can be shown in either English or Western shows. Classes will not be delayed.
29. No riding is allowed in the tent areas. A member must dismount when going from the ring and schooling areas to the tent area.
30. Horses may not be tied to the porta-john, or fences.
32. In the speed classes or Gymkhana events spurs are optional; however, the rowels must be blunt and turn freely. The use of crops and bats are permitted. **The use of reins as a whip is prohibited.**
33. **Approved helmets (ASTM/SEI equestrian) with chinstraps fastened must be worn in all mounted classes. All Helmets must be within 5 years of manufacture date.** A member must also wear riding boots/shoes whenever riding. A rider in the horse shows must be neatly attired. Jackets are prohibited. All riders, English and Western, will wear collared Polo shirts all three days of the Fair.

34. Proof of negative Coggins Test within 12 months and proof of Eastern and Western Encephalitis, Tetanus, West Nile Virus, and Rabies vaccinations within 1 year of the date of the show. Also In conjunction with USEF rules, the Equine Herpes Virus, and Equine Influenza vaccinations will be required to be within 6 months of the first day of the show. (Strangles vaccination is strongly recommended.) Copies of these should have been turned in to the 4-H Office by June 1, along with the Horse Health Form and should also be brought to the secretary's stand when the horse checks in at the Fair.

GENERAL RULES FOR ENGLISH HORSE SHOW

1. Martingales or tie-downs are prohibited in all classes except over-fence classes.
2. All riders must wear approved helmets (**ASTM/SEI equestrian**) with chin straps fastened whenever mounted. Helmet must be within 5 years of manufacture date.
3. The use of spurs, bats, or crops is optional.

CLASSES - ENGLISH SHOW

The following are general descriptions of classes often held at the 4-H Fair. The actual classes to be offered this year will be determined just before the Fair, based on the numbers and predominant interests/grade levels of members planning on showing at the Fair.

PLEASURE HORSE OR PONY - To be judged at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring on reasonably loose rein. Leads to count. May be asked to back and mount or dismount.

EQUITATION ON THE FLAT - To be judged at a walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring. May be asked to do an individual test at the request of the judge.

EQUITATION OVER FENCES - To be judged over at least 8 fences. Rider only being judged.

COMMAND CLASS - Horse being judged. To execute gaits on command. Leads and diagonals to count. To be excused when a mistake is made.

HUNTER - Horse being judged. To jump 8 fences similar to those found in the hunt field.

BAREBACK HORSEMANSHIP - Rider being judged at a walk, sitting trot, posting trot, and canter. Leads and diagonals to count.

HUNTER HACK - To be shown at a walk, trot, canter, and hand gallop. No more than six entries to gallop at one time. All entries required to jump 2 fences. No martingales.

PAIR CLASS - To be judged on performance of horses as a pair. Similarity of horses or attire secondary.

GENERAL RULES FOR WESTERN HORSE SHOW & GYMKHANA

1. Horses five years old and younger may be ridden with a hackamore or snaffle bridle. Hackamore refers to a rawhide braided, leather braided, or rope bosal. Absolutely no iron will be permitted under the jaws, regardless of how padded or taped. Two hands may be used with a hackamore or snaffle bit with no shanks if used properly.
2. Horses six years old and older must be ridden with a curb bit or will be penalized.
3. Curb chains are permissible but must be at least 1/2 inch in width, laying flat against the jaw of the horse and must meet the approval of the judge.
4. Martingales or tie-downs are prohibited in all classes except speed classes.
5. No rope may be used in any class.
6. **Approved helmets (ASTM/SEI equestrian) with chin straps fastened must be worn whenever mounted. Helmet must be within 5 years of manufacture date.**

CLASSES - WESTERN SHOW

The following are general descriptions of classes often held at the 4-H Fair. The actual classes to be offered this year will be determined just before the Fair, based on the numbers and predominant interests/grade levels of members planning on showing at the Fair.

PLEASURE HORSE OR PONY - To be judged at a walk, jog, and lope both ways of the ring on a reasonably loose rein. Leads to count. May be asked to back and mount or dismount.

REINING - Rider to enter ring and proceed on pattern posted at Secretary's stand. Any horse not following the exact pattern will be penalized. Judged on neatness, dispatch, ease, calmness, and speed with which horse performs pattern.

COMMAND - Horse being judged. To execute gaits on command. Horse to be excused when a mistake is made. Lead to count.

HORSEMANSHIP - To be judged at a walk, jog, and lope both ways of the ring. Rider to be judged on hands, legs, and seat. To be tested individually at the request of the judge. May be asked to change horses. Lead to count.

BAREBACK HORSEMANSHIP - Rider being judged at a walk, jog, and lope. Lead to count.

RIDING - Rider to enter ring and proceed on course posted at Secretary's stand. Horse should be a sensible, well-mannered free and easy moving animal. To be judged on riding quality of gaits and movement, change of leads, response to rider, manners, disposition, and intelligence.

PAIR CLASS - To be judged on performance as a pair. Similarity of horses or attire to be secondary.

POLE BENDING - This is a timed event. The pattern is to be around a series of poles without knocking them down. Penalty of five seconds per pole knocked down.

BARREL RACING - This is a timed event. Three barrels shall be placed in a clover leaf design. Horse must complete pattern without knocking over barrels. Penalty of five seconds per barrel knocked down.

BOW TIE RACE - This is a timed event. The pattern is to be around 4 poles set in a box without knocking any of the poles down. Penalty of five seconds per pole knocked down.

KEG RACE - This is a timed event. The Keg race is to be run around one barrel at the far end of the arena without knocking the barrel over. Penalty of five seconds if the barrel is knocked over.

SPECIAL EVENTS

1. Costume classes by club and individuals. Each entry in the costume classes must involve at least one horse.
3. Stall decoration (not judged)

AWARDS

Rosettes awarded for up to six places in each class in the English and Western shows

Costume classes – Danish Ribbons

Grooming – Danish ribbons

MOUNTED DRILL TEAM OBJECTIVES

A precision riding activity: participants strive to perfect team maneuvers on horseback. The rider synchronizes with the group to execute complex movements and patterns on the field. Both horse and rider must be well conditioned to perform the long drill executed by the team. The Drill Team performs each night at the Fair.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

1. Only enrolled members of Somerset County 4-H may participate.
2. Members must have attended Mounted Drill Team practices on a regular basis.
3. Members must have a horse that is registered in the 4-H horse project, and is sound.
5. Proper safety equipment must be worn; **Approved helmets (ASTM/SEI equestrian) with chin straps fastened must be worn whenever mounted** as well as riding boots/shoes.
6. All other rules of the Horse Division apply.

AWARDS

All participants will receive noncompetitive club ribbons