

# ST. CLAIR COUNTY 4-H & YOUTH FAIR

## HORSE PROJECT GROUND RULES

1. Leaders and parents are responsible for their members obeying these rules.
2. Authority of the Fair Superintendents is to be respected at all times.
3. Stall cards with member's name, emergency contact number, and club must be visible on the stall of the project animal.
4. No riding or sitting on horses in or around the barns. NOTE: Members may ride in show/practice ring, or other designated areas assigned by superintendents and the Fair Board only.
5. Boots must be worn for stable work. No bare feet in the barns.
6. Aisle ways must be kept clear at all times.
7. Please watch for fire hazards. NO SMOKING IN GOODELLS COUNTY PARK, THIS IS A S.C.C. PARK RULE.
8. Animals are to be bathed in the designated wash area only.
9. NO riding of horses up or down hill. This is a park rule.
10. Members are to lead their horses to and from rings by the proper routes. Stay within fenced areas.
11. No animal is to be taken into parking, camping, or spectator areas at any time. The exception is for those who are showing out of trailers, but they must follow the proper routes to and from show and practice rings.
12. One rider on a horse. NO DOUBLE RIDING.
13. All riders MUST wear boots. Barefoot, sandals, tennis shoes, etc. are not permissible while riding, handling or caring for your horse(s).
14. Use courtesy in the practice ring. Travel in the direction which personnel designate, or direction majority are traveling. Faster moving animals keep to the inside; those at slower speeds keep to the rail. Ring personnel will be obeyed, or you will not be allowed in the practice ring. Keep the gate closed.
15. When you have finished exercising your horse, leave the ring and dismount. If you must adjust your tack, do it outside the ring. NOTE: Your horse must be properly tacked in the practice ring. No riding in halters. It's mandatory that all participants wear protective helmets in the practice ring.
16. Absolutely NO rough riding or racing is permitted.
17. During assigned time for bareback riding in the practice ring, anyone using a saddle will not be permitted to canter/lope.
18. Members must enter classes with proper attire and tack per discipline. Check your state rule book for further details.
19. There will be no grooming or hoof blackening on the blacktop, or on the hill in front of the barns. Grooming may only be done on the grass between, or in back of the barns.
20. No lunging of horses other than in designated areas.
21. ALL PARTICIPANTS IN HUNTER (BOTH OVER FENCES, AND ON THE FLAT) DRESSAGE, BARBACK, SADDLE SEAT AND GYMKHANA CLASSES ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR PROPERLY FITTING PROTECTIVE RIDING HELMETS, WITH THE GUARD SECURED. THE HELMETS MUST MEET THE SPECIFICATIONS OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING AND MATERIALS (ASTM) MUST BE MANUFACTURED AND DISTRIBUTED BY A PARTICIPANT IN THE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM OF THE SAFETY EQUIPMENT INSTITUTE (SEI), AND MUST BEAR THE SEIT CERTIFICATION LABEL.
22. Application for early releases must be on file with the fair board per their deadline. Emergency releases must be cleared by the Fair Board.
23. No coffee makers/pots, microwaves, crock pots or electric kitchen appliances are to be plugged in or maintained in any barns or area surrounding barns.

First rule infraction will result in a verbal warning.

Second infraction of same rule, you are done showing for the day.

Third infraction of same rule, you are done showing for the week. Your project animal will remain on the grounds for the remainder of fair and you are responsible for its care.

## HORSES

Light Horse/Pony Superintendents: Colleen Provost (810) 941-8372; Duke Fields (810) 956-5115; Connie Murray (810) 705-4401, Debbie Block (810) 488-2605.

Miniature Horse Superintendents: Barb Schember (810) 357- 1948  
Email: [bschember04@aol.com](mailto:bschember04@aol.com)

**\*\*EXHIBITORS IN THE HORSE PROJECT AREA MAY SHOW BOTH A LIGHT HORSE AND A MINIATURE HORSE\*\***

Judging: See Light Horse & Miniature Horse Judging Schedule

Set-up: Friday @ 6p.m., Check-in: Sunday 4-8 p.m.

Location: Horse Ring A & B, Practice Ring & Meadow  
SEE LIVESTOCK RULES & REGULATIONS & LIVESTOCK CARE AGREEMENT

Premiums: A=\$6, B=\$4, C=No Premiums, will pay up to 3 "A" ratings.

**Project Requirements:** It is required that all exhibitors complete a Winter Achievement Horse Animal Science poster OR a Horse Project Record book in order to show. The record book must be completed and turned in on the May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Record books are available at the Fair website, SCCHLA website or MSUE office. The Winter Achievement Book and schedule are available on the MSUE website.

**GENERAL FAIR RULES** – If a situation arises that is not specifically covered by these rules, you should refer to the state guidelines, "The Horse and Pony Project Show Rules & Regulations Book" as well as the "Michigan 4-H Miniature Horse Show Guidelines" issued through Michigan State University, and available at the County Extension Office or on the following website:

[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/uploads/234/40261/State\\_Rules.pdf](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/uploads/234/40261/State_Rules.pdf)

Attention Exhibitors: Located in the front of this book is a list of Safety Rules & Regulations for Exhibitors. This information should be read, in addition to the Horse & Pony Rules & Regulations, as well as the Michigan 4-H Miniature Horse Show Guidelines.

All participants wanting to show in the horse project during fair must be in a registered 4-H club by May 1<sup>st</sup> of current year. If not registered in a 4-H club they may show in the Open Horse Show on Saturday. NO EXCEPTIONS!

The Fair Superintendent(s) will handle any rule not printed in the Fair or State Rulebooks.

A. IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT ALL HORSE SUPERINTENDENTS HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO PULL ANY HORSE/RIDER FROM ANY RING AT ANY TIME FOR EXHIBITING UNSAFE CONDITIONS, OR UNSPORTSMAN LIKE CONDUCT! SAFETY RULES MUST BE FOLLOWED AT ALL TIMES.

B. Rules & regulations listed in Fair book, by Fair Board, shall apply, in addition to the following guidelines.

C. Failure to comply with any of the rules, requirements, registration requirements or deadlines, and/or failure to provide stall duties and project sponsor money may result in the ineligibility from any or all of the following: Championship Classes, High Point Awards, and Premium Paybacks.

D. Every club must have an adult representative at the fair at all times. A senior exhibitor is NOT considered an adult representative. A parent, guardian, or leader must supervise practice riding. Bareback practice is limited to the day of showing that class at the designated times.

E. Overt coaching will be penalized.

F. STALLS:

1. The Horse Superintendents must approve all stall changes.
2. Each stall may have one fan. No other electrical appliances of any kind are to be placed in stalls.
3. No hay bags are to be left in stalls overnight.
4. No haul-in animals allowed in barns.
5. Only the exhibitor registered to a project animal is allowed to ride that project animal. (NO ADULTS, TRAINERS, OTHER PARTICIPANTS OR SPECTATORS) In the event of an emergency situation parents or trainers may ride project animal after clearing it with a Light Horse/Pony Superintendent.

G. NO night riding is allowed.

H. Protective Headgear: The helmets must meet the specifications of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), must be manufactured and distributed by a participant in the certification program of the Safety Equipment Institute (SEI) and must bear the SEI certification label (SEI F1163 or above).

1. Show officials reserve the right to spot-check at any time to verify compliance with helmet rule. If the helmet comes off the head while in a class it is an automatic disqualification.
2. Protective headgear – All participants in all hunter (over fences, on the flat and bareback), dressage, bareback, saddle seat and gymkhana classes are required to wear properly secured protective riding helmets whenever they are mounted.
3. The exhibitor (or his/her parent or legal guardian if the exhibitor is a minor) – not the local show officials or judge – is solely responsible for complying with the headgear rule.

I. Back Numbers: Exhibitors must display a visible number(s) in all classes. Any exhibitor failing to display a number(s) or displaying the wrong number(s) is disqualified.

### **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS-EXHIBITORS & ANIMALS**

A. The project animal's age is determined as of January 1st of the current year.

B. Project animals may be shown by siblings, limit two siblings per project animal. They may show in the same division, but NOT in the same class.

C. No exhibitor may show in the same animal project in multiple counties.

D. Horses in all classes must be serviceably sound, or they will be excused from the ring at the judge's discretion.

E. Exhibitor should own or have under continual care, as much as possible, their project animal. Feed and care should start May 1 and continue through fair.

## **REGISTRATION & DEADLINE REQUIREMENTS:**

All horses must have a negative Coggins test to participate in Fair. A copy of the Coggins must be turned in with the photo ID form on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Test must have occurred at least one year from haul-out date of fair.

A. Following is a deadline schedule for turning in required forms, documentation, etc.

May 1<sup>st</sup> – Project record books must be completed and turned in by this date. Project animal must be registered by this date, by turning in a Fair Horse Photo ID form as well as a copy of the animal's negative Coggins. This form is available through Fair website and Horse Leader's Assn. website. It must be turned in with an identifying photo of the project animal. All photos must be clear, bright enough, and show all distinctive markings. There should be no tack or rider in the photo, except for the halter and lead. No other photos will be accepted. Failure to register project animal by these guidelines will disqualify exhibitor from premiums and any championships.

July 1<sup>st</sup> - Deadline for exhibitors to sign-up for fair. All entries must be done online at [www.stclaircounty4hfair.org](http://www.stclaircounty4hfair.org)

B. NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED AFTER DEADLINE.

C. All horse classes to be competed in must be listed on this form including project record book. This document will be the final authority on class sign-up for exhibitors' judging, awards and premiums.

**July Leader's Meeting** - Project animals can be changed up to Horse Leaders meeting in July with a vet certificate and/or written letter from leader stating safety concerns. Horse Superintendents and Fair Board must approve these changes. No classes can be changed or added after July 1 sign up, unless approved by horse superintendents and reflect changes in project animal or safety concerns. Any exhibitor changing their project animal after May 1<sup>st</sup> is not eligible for championship classes or high-point awards.

**Check-In:** Horses may be checked in between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Sunday before Fair. Horses must be unloaded in the parking lot, off the pavement, stop at picnic table under trees for inspection, then lead across the crosswalk, lead behind the red barn, and then up the hill to assigned barn. Original negative Coggins and helmets must be presented for inspection at this time. Once your helmet is inspected, the ID you will be given must be attached at all times to designate that your helmet has been inspected. Ponies and minis will be measured and tagged at designated time (promptly after check in has closed), in front of the Quonset Hut. Gymkhana only haul-in's: Check in Wednesday from 12-1 p.m. ONLY in designated area.

**Check out:** Horses must be checked out Sunday after Fair starting at 6:00 a.m. and no later than 10:00 a.m. NO EXCEPTIONS. Failure to do so will result in the exhibitor forfeiting a stall for the following fair. A barn manager must check each exhibitor's stall before horses are removed from grounds. No stalls will be checked out until all of the Horse Project area has completed tear down. Exceptions will be made only in an extreme emergency. Anyone leaving early without written permission from Fair Board and horse superintendent may not be eligible for premiums the current year or stalls the following year, and may be subject to any further discipline as the Fair Board deems appropriate.

## **AWARDS:**

- A. Ten place ribbons will be awarded in each class.
- B. Each animal in each class will be rated A, B, or C.
- C. Following is the chart of how points will be assigned for placing. These points apply to all participants, for all high points.

Grand Champion	10 points
Reserve Champion	9 points
First place	6 points
Second place	5 points
Third place	4 points
Fourth place	3 points
Fifth place	2 points
Sixth place	1 point

D. The judge's decision is final.

E. Championship Classes:

- 1. Novice and Walk/Trot exhibitors are excluded.
- 2. Only 1st & 2nd place exhibitors from "age group" classes are eligible. Late entries and horse switches are not eligible and will be withheld from all championship classes.
- 3. It is at the discretion of the judge whether there will be a ride off or not. Riders should expect to perform any tests listed in the current rulebook, at the judge's discretion. NOTE - if an exhibitor 8-12 years old qualifies for a championship class, and is riding bareback, where loping or cantering is required, it is parent's/leader's discretion whether the exhibitor is able to enter and ride the class and remain safe.
- 4. Championships for Gymkhana classes will be decided by the fastest times for each division.
- 5. Championships for trail, e/w riding, reining, dressage, hunter over fences and equitation over fences will be determined by individual high points according to judge's scorecards.

F. Traveling Trophies – All Overall & Hi-point trophies and the Sportsmanship Trophy are considered "Traveling Trophies". These trophies are presented at the presentation parade on the final day of competition. They must be returned prior to the parade of the next years' fair. Each trophy winner will receive a recognition award. Any traveling trophy won by the same exhibitor 3 consecutive years is retired to that exhibitor excluding novice and walk/trot divisions.

G. Overall Fitting & Showing and Equitation:

- 1. Novice & walk/trot exhibitors are excluded.
- 2. There is an overall championship class for the Fitting & Showing division, and the Equitation division. All Junior & Senior Grand Champion winners (no Reserves) in these divisions will be eligible to participate in these classes. These points are not included in the high-point youth.
- 3. The grand and reserve champions from Overall Showmanship must participate in Sweepstakes on Saturday of fair.

H. High-Point Trophies: All high-point trophies are awarded to the individual accumulating the most points in that division, excluding horse project record books, according to the following lists of classes.

- 1. High-Point English: Fitting & Showing; Dressage; English Equitation; English Pleasure; Hunter Hack; Equitation over Fences; Hunter Over Fences; Trail; Bareback; English/Western Riding.
- 2. High-Point Gymkhana: Down & Back; Pole Bending; Cloverleaf; Speed & Action; Keyhole; Indiana Flag Race.

3. High-Point Pony: Pony Fitting & Showing; Pony Pleasure; Pony Horsemanship; Pony Bareback; Pony English Equitation; Pony English Pleasure
4. High-Point Western: Fitting & Showing; Western Pleasure; Western Horsemanship; Trail; Bareback; Reining; English/Western Riding.
5. High-Point Novice: (Classes specified as Novice) Novice Fitting & Showing; Novice Western Pleasure; Novice Western Horsemanship; Novice English Pleasure; Novice English Equitation; Novice Bareback; Novice Trail; Novice Dressage.
6. High-Point Walk/Trot: (Classes specified as Walk/Trot) WT Fitting & Showing; WT English Equitation; WT English Pleasure; WT Western Horsemanship; WT Western Pleasure; WT Bareback (English or Western); WT Trail, WT Dressage.
7. High-Point Miniature Horse: Mini Showmanship; Mini Halter; Mini Pleasure Driving; Mini Obstacle Driving; Mini In-Hand Trail; Mini Hunter; Mini Versatility; Mini In-Hand Cloverleaf; Mini In-Hand Pole Bending; Mini Liberty.
8. High-Point Youth: This is awarded to the exhibitor accumulating the most points throughout the fair. This high-point includes all youth, all seats, horse or pony.
9. High-Point Horseless Horse: This is awarded to the Horseless Horse exhibitor accumulating the most points throughout the fair. This high-point includes the Horseless Horse Project Record Book and Monday's Horseless Horse classes.
10. In the event that 2 or more exhibitors accumulate the same total of points a tie breaker will be performed. The tie breaker will consist of an interview and series of questions with a Fair Board Director, 4-H Council Member or MSU employee of the Horse Superintendents' choice.

#### I. SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD:

1. Voted on by exhibitors during fair week.

#### **CLASS SIGN-UP GUIDELINES:**

- A. Exhibitors can select only ONE class in each Division - (Example: All Fitting & Showing is under one Division). Please refer to the guidelines below for further explanations. The division numbers are shown in the Horse Class Schedule.
- B. Novice riders can only enter classes designated "Novice" on the class lists
- C. Walk/Trot riders can only enter classes designated "Walk/Trot".
- D. Classes will not be held for any exhibitor who has not previously requested a tack change. There is a 3-minute allowance from the time the first horse enters the ring until the class is closed. For Gymkhana classes, no class will be stopped or held open. If you are not there, ready to ride, you will be disqualified.

Additional information regarding class sign up for Light Horses:

#### 1. DRESSAGE

- a. Introduction to dressage is a class for beginning "age group" riders.
- b. No "age group" rider should enter Walk/Trot or Novice Dressage.

#### 2. ENGLISH/WESTERN RIDING

Reference your 4-H Horse & Pony Project Show Rules & Regulations for Green & Advanced Rules/Guidelines.

#### 3. HUNTER HACK & OVER FENCES

All horses competing will be lined up at one side of the arena for

instructions prior to start of class. Individual jump patterns to be completed before flat phase. Baby Green Hunter Hack and Crosspoles are classes designated for beginning jumpers. Exhibitors showing in any baby green jumping classes cannot show in regular classes.

#### 4. GYMKHANA

Gymkhana classes are classified as "age group" classes. All walk/trot and novice exhibitors are excluded.

#### 5. BAREBACK EQUITATION

- a. Riders may enter ONE bareback class, either western or English.
- b. Ages 12 & under, all novice, and all walk/trot classes will walk & jog/trot. Only "age group" riders 13 & over will be required to lope or canter.
- c. Helmet required for all classes and in practice ring.

#### 6. PONIES:

Ponies must measure 56 inches or less at the withers. Shod ponies will be allowed 1/2 inch for the thickness of shoes. If you have an animal that falls under this height, and wish to show as a pony exhibitor, you must have your animal measured & tagged at haul-in. If you wish to show in your age group instead of the pony division, you do not need to have your animal measured. However, you are then not eligible to show in the designated pony classes. You will have to show in your age group for all classes. If your project animal does not measure 56 inches or less at time of check in then exhibitor must show in their "age group". No exceptions.

#### 7. WALK/TROT CLASSES:

- a. Open to any age rider with horse/pony who is unable to lope/canter in a class situation.
- b. The same guidelines apply to all walk/trot classes that apply to regular classes, except that, at no time shall a walk/trot rider canter or lope. Doing so could mean a disqualification from that class.
- c. Any Walk/Trot class will be split if there are more than 15 entries. Any Walk/Trot class can be split, or combined, by the fair superintendent. Splits will be done by ages only.
- d. Once an exhibitor wins the High Point walk/trot trophy they are no longer eligible to win it again.

#### 8. NOVICE CLASSES

- a. The Novice classes are for exhibitors competing in their first or second year at the 3rd gait regardless of the animal being shown. Exhibitors choosing to compete as "Novice" may not enter any class that is not designated as "Novice".
- b. Novice exhibitors are not eligible for any Championships.
- c. Once an exhibitor has competed for 2 years in the Novice division, they must move up to their age group the following year.
- d. Once an exhibitor has won the High Point trophy, that exhibitor must move up to their regular age group the following year.

#### 9. HORSELESS HORSE CLASSES

- a. 4-H members ages 8-19 may participate in the Horseless Horse project.
- b. The Horseless Horse Book (Class 133) and The Horseless Horse Project Record Book are BOTH required (Class 900). If both books are not completed and on the exhibitor's premium sheet they will not be eligible for championships.
- c. A mentor and use of the mentor's project animal is required for Class 130.