

HORSE & PONY

Light Horse Superintendents:

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Mini Horse Superintendent:

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Judging Time: See Horse Judging Schedule

Project Set Up: Friday @ 6 p.m.

Check in Time: Sunday 4-8 p.m.

Check Out Time: Sunday 6-11 a.m.

Judging Location: Horse Ring A & B

Premiums: A=\$6; B=\$4; C=No premiums.

Premiums Project Record Books: A=\$2; B=\$1.25; C= None.

Exhibitors in the Horse & Pony Project Area may show both a light and a miniature horse.

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 on 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. All riders **MUST** wear boots. Barefoot, sandals, tennis shoes, etc. are not permissible while riding, handling or caring for your horse(s).
6. Aisle ways must be kept clear at all times.
7. Please watch for fire hazards. **NO SMOKING ON THE FAIRGROUNDS!** This is a 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. 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.

14. 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.**
15. Absolutely **NO** rough riding or racing is permitted.
16. There will be designated times for practicing bareback. During these designated times, only bareback riding will be allowed in the designated practice ring. **NO BAREBACK RIDING IS TO EVER TAKE PLACE IN THE SOUTH PRACTICE RING NEAR THE RIVERSIDE PAVILION.**
17. Members must enter classes with proper attire and tack per discipline. Check your state rule book for further details.
18. 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.
19. No lunging of horses other than in designated areas. **No lunging in Ring 1 at any time.**
20. ALL PARTICIPANTS IN HUNTER (BOTH OVER FENCES AND ON THE FLAT) DRESSAGE, BAREBACK, 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 AND MUST BEAR THE SEIT CERTIFICATION LABEL.
21. Application for early release must be on file with the Fair Board per their deadline. Emergency releases must be cleared by the superintendent(s).
22. 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 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.

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GENERAL REQUIREMENTS & RULES

1. It is required that all exhibitors are enrolled in 4-H with a club in St. Clair County. All participants wanting to show in the horse project during fair must be in a registered St. Clair County 4-H club by May 1 of the current year. No exceptions!
2. 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
3. Located in this book is a list of 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.
4. The Fair Superintendent(s) will handle any rule not printed in the Fair or State Rule books. 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.
5. Rules & Regulations listed in the Fair Book by Fair Board shall apply, in addition to these rules & guidelines.
6. 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 and premiums.
7. 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, in designated ring.
8. Overt coaching will be penalized.
9. Stalls:
 - a. The Horse Superintendents must approve all stall changes.
 - b. Each stall may have one fan. No other electrical appliances of any kind are to be placed in stalls.
 - c. No hay bags are to be left in stalls overnight
 - d. No haul-in animals allowed in barns.
 - e. Only 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 horse superintendent.
10. No night riding is allowed. No riding in rings after 9 p.m.
11. 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 certificate program of the Safety Equipment Institute and must bear the SEI certification (SEI F1163 or above). Show official 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. 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. The exhibitor (or his or 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.
12. 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.
13. The project animal's age is determined as of January 1 of the current year.
14. 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. Two Non Sibling members can share a horse. Members sharing horse, limit of two members sharing, must be in opposing Jr. & Sr. age group and cannot show in the same classes.
15. No exhibitor may show in the same animal project in multiple counties.
16. Horses in all classes must be serviceably sound, or they will be excused from the ring at the judge's discretion.
17. Exhibitor should own or have under continual care, as much as possible, their project animal. Feed and care should start no later than May 1st and continue through fair.
18. All horses must have a negative Coggins test to participate in Fair. **The original Coggins must be shown at check in** and a copy must be submitted to have on file. Test must have occurred at least one year from haul-out date of fair.
19. The following is a deadline schedule for turning in required forms, documentations, etc.:

May 1 – Project animal must be registered by this date, by turning in a Fair Horse Photo ID form along with a copy of said animal's current negative Coggins. It must be submitted 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 exhibiting.

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July 1 – Deadline for exhibitors to sign up for fair. All entries must be done online at www.stclaircounty4hfair.org

No late entries accepted after July 1. All horse classes to be competed must be listed in the online entry, including project record book. The online entry will be the final authority on class sign up for exhibitor’s judging, awards and premiums.

July Leaders’ Meeting – Project animals can be changed up to Horse Leaders’ Meeting in July with a vet certificate/letter and/or written letter from leader stating safety concerns or unsound issue. Horse Superintendents and/or 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 1st is not eligible for championship classes or high-point awards.

Check-in – Horses may be checked in between 4 p.m. and 8 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. The exhibitor MUST be wearing boots at time of check in. 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. Minis will be measured and tagged at designated time (promptly after check in has closed), in front of the Quonset Hut. Gymkhana only haul-ins: Check in on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. ONLY in designated area. Horses must be checked out Sunday after Fair starting at 6 a.m. and no later than 11 a.m. A barn manager must check each exhibitor’s stall before horses are removed from grounds. Exceptions will be made only in an extreme emergency. Anyone leaving early without written permission from Fair Board and/or 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

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

# in class	Placing	Points					
		1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
6 or more	Grand Champion	6	5	4	3	2	1
5 entries	Reserve Champion	5	4	3	2	1	
4 entries		4	3	2	1		
3 entries		3	2	1			
2 entries		2	1				
1 entry		1					

- The judge’s decision is final.
- Championship classes:
 - Walk/Trot exhibitors are excluded.
 - Only eligible 1st & 2nd place exhibitors from “age group” classes are eligible.
 - 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 rule book, at the judge’s discretion. NOTE – If an exhibitor 9-12 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.
 - Champions for gymkhana classes will be decided by the fastest times for each division.
 - 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.

Traveling Trophies – All overall & High-Point trophies and the Sportsmanship Trophy are considered designated as 4-H “Traveling Trophies”. These trophies are presented at the presentation parade on the final day of competition. They must be returned prior to the presentation parade of the next year’s fair. Each trophy winner will receive a recognition award.

Overall Fitting & Showing and Equitation

- Walk/trot exhibitors are excluded.
- 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.
- The grand and reserve champions from Overall Showmanship **are required** to participate in Sweepstakes Showmanship on Saturday of fair. If the rider cannot/or will not participate in Sweepstakes Showmanship on Saturday, they will not be allowed to enter the Overall Showmanship class.

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.

- Jr. & Sr. High-Point English: Fitting & Showing; Dressage; English Equitation; English Pleasure; Hunter Hack; Equitation over Fences; Hunter Over Fences; Trail; Bareback; English/Western Riding.

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2. Jr. & Sr. High-Point Gymkhana: Down & Back; Pole Bending, Cloverleaf; Speed & Action; Keyhole; Indiana Flag Race.
3. Jr. & Sr. High-Point Western: Fitting & Showing; Western Pleasure; Western Horsemanship; Trail; Bareback; Reining, Ranch Riding, English/Western Riding, Western Dressage (Class 405 Western Dressage Basic Level Test 1 will count for points for the High-Point Western trophy.)
4. Jr. & Sr. High-Point Walk/Trot: (Classes specified as Walk/Trot) Walk/Trot Fitting & Showing; Walk/Trot English Equitation; Walk/Trot English Pleasure; Walk/Trot Western Horsemanship; Walk/Trot Western Pleasure; Walk/Trot Bareback (English or Western); Walk/Trot Trail; Walk/Trot English Dressage or Western Dressage (only one, they cannot ride both disciplines, will count towards High-Point Walk/Trot trophy).
5. Jr. & Sr. High-Point Miniature Horse: Mini Showmanship; Mini Halter, Mini Pleasure Driving; Mini Obstacle Driving; Mini Ground Obstacle Driving; Mini In-Hand Trail; Mini Hunter; Mini In Hand Jumping; Mini Versatility; Mini In-Hand Cloverleaf; Mini In-Hand Pole Bending; Mini In-Hand Down & Back; Mini In-Hand Bowtie, Mini Liberty.
6. Jr. & Sr. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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 MSUE employee of the Horse Superintendent's choice.

Sportsmanship Award: Voted on by exhibitors during fair week.

CLASS SIGN UP GUIDELINES

1. 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.
2. Walk/Trot riders can only enter classes designated "Walk/Trot".
3. 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 and ready to ride you will be disqualified.

Additional information regarding class sign-up for Light Horses:

4. 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.
5. ENGLISH/WESTERN RIDING:
 - a. Reference your 4-H Horse & Pony Project Show Rules & Regulations for Green & Advanced Rules/Guidelines.
6. HUNTER HACK & OVER FENCES
 - a. 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.
 - b. Baby Green Hunter Hack and Cross poles are classes designated for beginning jumpers.
 - c. Exhibitors showing in any baby green jumping classes cannot show in regular classes.
7. GYMKHANA
 - a. Gymkhana classes are classified as "age group" classes.
 - b. All Walk/Trot and Novice exhibitors are excluded.
8. RANCH RIDING
 - a. Reference your 4-H Horse & Pony Project Show Rules & Regulations for Rules/Guidelines.
 - b. Each horse and rider will work a designated pattern individually. Ranch riding patterns are available in the "Ranchmanship" section of the 2022-2023 America Ranch Horse Association Rule Book (<https://www.americanranchhorse.net/forms.asp> pp.61-65) and in the "Ranch Riding" section of the AQHA website <https://aqha.com/forms-and-resources>. Sitting the regular trot and lope is recommended, though standing in the stirrups or posting the extended trot and standing in the stirrups at the ended lope are acceptable. Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable. The use of natural logs in any pattern is encouraged.
9. RANCH PLEASURE
 - a. Reference your 4-H Horse & Pony Project Show Rules & Regulations for Rules/Guidelines.
 - b. Horses must work both ways of the ring at all three gaits to demonstrate their ability on both leads. At the judge's option, horses may be asked to extend the walk, trot, and lope one or both ways of the ring. The extended trot is an obvious two-beat lengthening of the stride, with a definite increase in pace.

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- c. Cadence, balance and smoothness are more essential than speed. Passing is permissible and should not be penalized if the horse maintains a proper and even cadence and rhythm. Horses are required to back easily and stand quietly.
 - d. 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 will not be asked to reverse at the lope.
 - e. Riders will not be required to dismount unless the judge wishes to check equipment.
 - f. Horses are to be shown at a walk, trot, and lope on a reasonably loose rein or with light contact without undue restraint.
10. 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.
11. WALK/TROT CLASSES
- a. Open to any age rider with horse 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. If a rider chooses to enter ANY Walk/Trot class, that rider is no longer eligible, and CANNOT enter any class that requires three gaits. They MUST enter ONLY classes designated Walk/Trot and are not eligible for championships.
 - e. Once an exhibitor wins the High Point Walk/Trot trophy, they are no longer eligible to win it again.
12. 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 online entry they will not be eligible for championships.
 - c. A mentor and use of the mentor's project animal is required for Class 130.
 - d. A horse I.D. must be submitted at the May 1st turn in meeting.
 - e. The mentor is required to be present in ring during class.
 - f. All Horseless Horse classes will take place on Monday, after the Overall Fitting and Showing class.
 - g. Horseless Horse book interview time and location will be announced during fair set up and Monday during fair.
13. CLOVER SPROUTS/PEEWEE LEADLINE – MINI HORSE/LIGHT
- a. A horse I.D. must be submitted at the May 1st paperwork deadline meeting for both PeeWee and Clover Sprout if the member is doing both.
 - b. The mentor/parent is required to be present in ring during the class.
 - c. For the Clover Sprout Showmanship class a mentor is acceptable.
 - d. For the PeeWee Leadline: A parent is required to be in the ring with the member.
 - e. Age for these classes are 5-7 yrs. old on Jan. 1 of the current Fair year.
 - f. Rider is allowed to trailer in their own horse for these classes with the appropriate horse ID and current Coggins.
14. MINIATURE HORSE CLASSES
- a. The current maximum height for minis is 38 inches. Minis are required to be a minimum age of 3 to show in Driving and Hunter classes.
 - b. Aside from the classes mentioned in the Michigan 4-H Miniature Horse Show Guidelines, AMHR Rules apply to miniature horse classes. The rule books can be found on the St. Clair County 4-H Horse Leaders' website.
www.scc4horseleaders.org/assets/files/Doc_4-H_Minature_Horse_Rules.pdf

CLASSES ARE ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES – ARRANGED BY DAY THAT THEY ARE SHOWN AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS NEEDED.