

Instructions and General Information for Participants of the 2026 Michigan 4-H State Horse Show

The State 4-H Horse Show takes place at the Farm Bureau Pavilion at Michigan State University, south of the corner of Farm Lane and Mount Hope Road. This 4-day event includes more than 275 classes of 4-H members and their projects competing on a statewide basis! **The show will go on, rain or shine; be prepared to show in the rain!** The show coordinator is David Lindsay, 4-H Youth Equine Educator at MSU. **Please read this booklet carefully to ensure that you know and understand all of the rules.**

The objectives of the State 4-H Horse Program are:

- To develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship, and other traits of character.
- To experience the pride and responsibility of owning a horse or pony and to learn the care, feeding, management, and health of the horse.
- To develop an appreciation of horseback riding as a healthy and wholesome form of recreation.
- To learn skills in horsemanship and understanding the training of horses.
- To increase knowledge of safety precautions to prevent injury to themselves, others, and their mounts.
- To provide an opportunity to meet 4-H members, leaders, and families from other parts of the state.
- To provide an opportunity to compete on a statewide level.
- To learn skills in horse show management.

The knowledge the member has gained should be emphasized. The State 4-H Horse Show should assist members in evaluating their progress rather than being the major emphasis of their project.

Being selected to attend this show brings with it responsibilities, as well as privileges. You should be “your own best exhibit.” Remember you represent your local 4-H club, your county, and the Michigan 4-H Horse Program. We hope you will learn from the show and have fun while benefiting from it. Cooperation, safety, and good sportsmanship will be emphasized at the show. Members exhibiting poor sportsmanship, those not cooperating with show officials and other members, or those using unsafe methods will be subject to disqualification from competition by show officials.

We are fortunate to have the use of Michigan State University’s campus facilities for this show. Please observe the guidelines to ensure the safety of the show, the use of the facilities for future 4-H programs, and to have a day that will provide memorable experiences!

Each county is required to send **silver or gold level volunteers** to the State 4-H Horse Show to assist with the show. **Entry link will not be available until counties have submitted complete information to meet the requirements of their county volunteer quota.** Please be sure to assist the county staff/coordinator in identifying volunteers. **REMEMBER - no entries will be accepted until the volunteer quota is met.** The State 4-H Horse Show is a large event and depends on volunteers to run successfully.

Counties will be eligible to apply for additional delegate seats, ONLY if the county will fill delegate and alternate numbers. Applications will be due July 1, 2026 to the Equine Educator. Extra seats are NOT guaranteed. You must email youth equine educator for the application. If granted extra delegate seats YOU MUST FURNISH MORE VOLUNTEERS!

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call or write to:

David Lindsay, 4-H Youth Equine Educator | lindsa75@msu.edu | 517-353-1748

The 4-H Staff and 4-H State Horse Show Programming Committee hope that your day is enjoyable and educational. If you have any suggestions that will help to make this experience run smoother, please feel free to submit it in writing to the committee or the 4-H Youth Equine Educator.

Michigan State University Extension nor Michigan State University will not individually, or collectively, be responsible for any loss, damage or injury to person, horses, or property incurred in connection with this show, and upon these conditions only, are entries accepted.

https://www.canr.msu.edu/horses_ponies

This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned.

Conduct Policy

Participants will adhere to the Michigan 4-H Code of conduct. The code of conduct can be found at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/mi-4-h-youth-code-of-conduct>

Farm Bureau Pavilion at Michigan State University

Farm Bureau Pavilion at Michigan State University address:

4301 Farm Lane, East Lansing, MI 48824

Local Hotels: Please note – book hotel rooms early – at least 30 days prior to the 4-H State Horse Show. Hotels are listed as courtesy only. No endorsement is implied. Camping is available at the Pavilion; fees should be paid with entry.

Marriot East Lansing Holiday Inn Express
300 MAC, East Lansing 196 & Okemos Road
(855) 297-1429 (517) 999-8700

Candlewood Suites Comfort Inn
Forest Road, East Lansing 196 & Okemos Rd
(517) 351-8181 (517) 347-6690

MICHIGAN 4-H STATE HORSE SHOW SPORTSMANSHIP RECOGNITION

Throughout this event we will work to recognize the great sportsmanship all around us. Each year, participants and volunteers exemplify great sportsmanship, we will be recognizing those for their outstanding sportsmanship!

The 4-H State Horse Show committee will make any and all reasonable accommodations, to include participants with disabilities. **Accommodation requests must be received in writing 2 weeks prior to start of the event.**

Please email these requests to David Lindsay at lindsa75@msu.edu

Be sure to bring stall cleaning tools with you!

- Pitchfork
- Muck tub or Wheelbarrow
- Shovel
- Broom

A clean stall has been shoveled and swept out.

Failure to clean stall will result in a \$100.00 per stall fee charged to your county and potential for loss of delegates the following year.

At the State 4-H Horse show, no dogs are allowed in the Pavilion, near any of the show arenas, or in the stalling areas.

Anyone with a dog in an area outside the camping area will be asked to leave.

Follow us on Facebook for current information regarding the Michigan 4-H State Horse show as well as live results during the show!

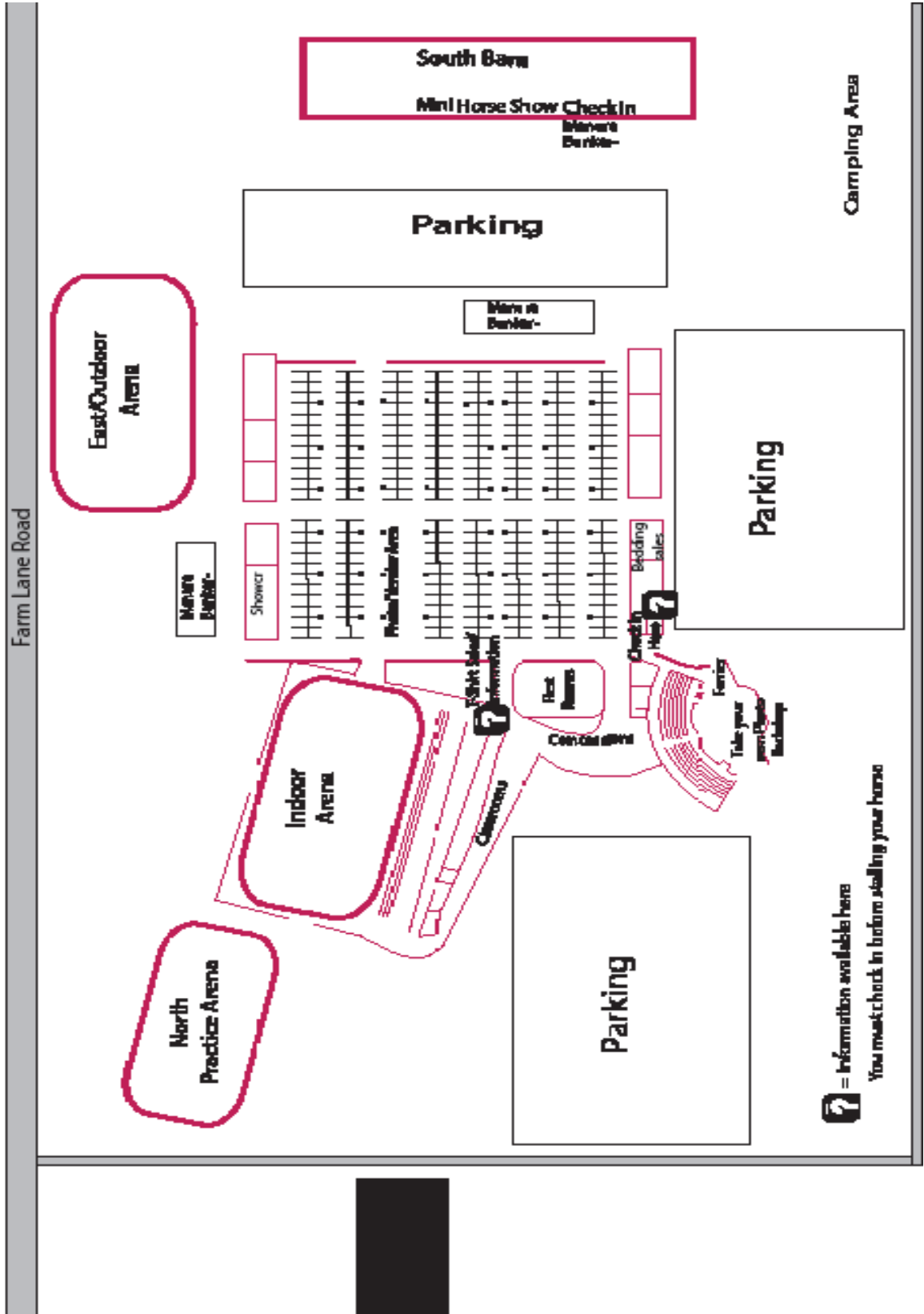
Michigan 4-H Horse Program

Stalls will not be available prior to your check in time. Do not plan to arrive early! Horses may not be stalled until check-in packets have been obtained at the show office. **These packets are only available during posted times!**

State 4-H Horse Show

MSU Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education
 4301 Farm Lane, East Lansing, MI

For layout purposes only - not drawn to scale



North

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, Aug. 12 - Ranch Horses

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Exhibitor Check in Ranch Horse Exhibitors Only

6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Indoor Arena open for warm-up

Thursday, Aug. 13 - Ranch Exhibitors

6:30 – 8:00 a.m. Exhibitor Check in (Symposium entries must be turned in)

7:00 - 8:00 a.m. Indoor Arena open for warm up

8:00 a.m. Indoor Arena for warm-up/closes

8:30 a.m. **Mandatory Exhibitor Meeting - Indoor Arena**

9:00 a.m. Ranch Show begins

EXIT FACILITY 1/2 HR AFTER FINAL CLASS ENDS

7:00-8:30 p.m. Check in (Friday Gymkhana and Miniature Horse arrivals) **Miniature Check in at South Barn**

Indoor Arena open for warm-up

Friday, Aug. 14 – Gymkhana & Miniature Exhibitors

6:30 - 8:00 a.m. Exhibitor Check in (Symposium entries must be turned in at this time)

7:00 - 8:00 a.m. Indoor Arena open for warm up

8:30 a.m. **Mandatory Exhibitor Meeting - Indoor Arena**

9:00 a.m. **Gymkhana Show begins**

9:30 a.m. **Miniature Show begins in South Barn**

EXIT FACILITY 1/2 HR AFTER FINAL CLASS ENDS

7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Check in (Saturday arrivals)

Indoor Arena open for warm-up

Saturday, Aug. 15 – Senior Exhibitors

6:30 - 8:00 a.m. Exhibitor Check in (Symposium entries must be turned in at this time)

7:00 - 8:00 a.m. Indoor Arena open for warm up

8:30 a.m. **Mandatory Exhibitor Meeting - Indoor Arena**

9:00 a.m. **Sr. Exhibitor Show begins**

Showmanship - Indoor Arena

Dressage Rail and Hunter Hack – East Arena

10:00 – 3:00 p.m. Trail & Dressage Test Arenas

12 – 12:30p.m. Dressage/Trail Arena –Lunch

EXIT FACILITY 1/2 HR AFTER FINAL CLASS ENDS

7:00-8:30 p.m. Check in (Sunday Exhibitors)

Sunday, Aug. 16 – Junior & PEP Exhibitors

6:30 - 8:00 a.m. Exhibitor Check in (Symposium entries must be turned in at this time)

7:00 - 8:00 a.m. Indoor Arena open for warm up

8:30 a.m. **Mandatory Exhibitor Meeting - Indoor Arena**

9:00 a.m. **Jr. Exhibitor Show begins**

Showmanship - Indoor Arena

Dressage Rail and Hunter Hack – East Arena

10:00 a.m. P.E.P show begins in the South Barn

10:00 – 3:00 p.m. Trail & Dressage Test Arenas

12 – 12:30p.m. Dressage/Trail Arena –Lunch

EXIT FACILITY 1/2 HR AFTER FINAL CLASS ENDS

Riding in the Main arena will be available on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening after the completion of the scheduled classes. **Lunging is allowed only in the outdoor arenas until 8:00 a.m. before the show starts. The North arena is always open for warm up (but no lunging once the show begins).**

General Rules

1. Good sportsmanship will be emphasized at the show. Members, Parents, or guardians exhibiting poor sportsmanship will be disqualified from further competition by show officials & asked to leave the grounds.

2. You must be 12 years or older in 2026 to participate in the State 4-H Horse Show. Exhibitor age will be determined as of January 1 of the current year. You must be currently enrolled in a 4-H horse project in the county you represent. The Miniature horse exhibitor age is 11 to 19 years.

3. Entry forms must be submitted online by the deadline established by your county 4-H staff. County staff will be reviewing all entries. You will not be allowed to make changes to your entry after it reaches the 4-H Youth Equine Educator.

4. You will not be permitted to show unless you have completed the online entry form by July 15.

5. There is a \$75 entry fee, which includes one stall fee per exhibitor. Your entry fee must accompany your completed entry form. Checks should be payable to Michigan State University. **Card payment is required.** No refunds will be given for any reason. Many classes will be held outdoors, rain or shine so plan accordingly!

6. Any participant needing to stay more than one night before (or after) their show day, must contact the 4-H Youth Equine Educator for approval by July 14. If you are approved for an additional stay, you will be charged an additional \$25 per night/early arrival. **SIBLINGS WILL BE CHARGED**

7. The 4-H State Horse Show committee will make any and all reasonable accommodation, especially to include participants with disabilities. Accommodation requests must be received prior to the start of the event. Please email these requests to David Lindsay at lindsa75@msu.edu.

8. Your horse must have a negative Coggins test drawn on or after 8/13/2025 to participate in the show. You must include a copy of your Coggins Test with your entry. Michigan law also requires that you travel with a copy of the form. It is recommended that your horse have the following vaccinations prior to the show: Eastern and Western Equine Encephalomyelitis, Rhino pneumonitis, Influenza, Tetanus, and Rabies. Your veterinarian may suggest other vaccines as well.

9. Delegates chosen as alternates must complete the online entry form with all other entries from the County. Do not send fees. If a delegate cancels, the County Extension staff must contact the 4-H Youth Equine Educator at 517 353-1748 to coordinate replacement with Alternate.

10. You may only enter 1 show section (i.e., Ranch, Gymkhana, Jr., or Sr.), UNLESS YOU ALSO SHOW A MINI. Exhibitors are allowed to show a Miniature Horse on August 14 and show in the State 4-H Horse Show on the appropriate day. You and your county 4-H staff are responsible for making sure you are in the appropriate classes.

11. Four classes from the show section of classes (rail & leading classes) may be entered as well as any Symposium class.

General Rules

12. Stallions are not allowed at the State 4-H Horse Show. No companion horses or foals are allowed.
13. Only one horse per exhibitor may be entered at the State 4-H Horse Show (with the exception of a Miniature). The horse must be designated as your project animal by the date specified in your county. The horse being exhibited at the State 4-H Horse Show must be the horse you qualified with at the county level.
14. Michigan 4-H Code of Conduct must be followed and can be found at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/mi-4-h-youth-code-of-conduct>
15. Exhibitor Packet: Packets are available when you receive your stall assignment and check in at the show. **Do not unload horses until the exhibitor and/or parent/guardian has checked in at the Stall office and received a stall assignment. Exhibitors cannot arrive earlier than their designated check-in times or stay additional time, because of limited stalling.** Check in is in the northwest corner of the stalling area (see map). **Check-in is available only at the time designated.** Do not plan to arrive at times other than those listed as your horse will have to remain on the trailer until check in time. Do not stall any horse before picking up your exhibitor's packet.
16. Stalling: Because of limited stalls, some counties will share the stalling area (and tack stall) with a second or third county. While we encourage you to show your county spirit with banners and decorations, keep in mind that many counties will not have a specific stalling area dedicated to them for the whole weekend. Be courteous to exhibitors from other counties. It is important that everyone has a good experience at the 4-H State Horse Show.
17. **You must use bedding in the stalls at all times** to absorb urine and ensure a clean stall for the next person who uses it. You are welcome to bring bedding, or it can be purchased at the Pavilion. **You should bring appropriate equipment for cleaning your stalls! (Pitchfork, Mucktub/wheelbarrow, Shovel, and broom)** You are expected to clean up the area around your trailer and completely clean your stall before leaving the show grounds.
18. **Counties are responsible for ensuring stalls are cleaned. If stalls are left dirty a \$100 per stall charge will be sent to your county, as well as losing 2 delegates who can attend the next year!**
19. Fan cords or other electrical cords must be suspended, out of the reach of all horses. Cords may not be taped down on the floor as this creates an electrocution hazard.
20. DOGS: Dogs are allowed in the camping area only – on a leash or secured at all times. DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN STALLING OR ANY SHOWAREAS.
21. Camping will only be allowed in the designated camping area. Camping fees should be sent with entries or paid at check in.
22. Trailer parking is available immediately West and South of the Pavilion, overflow trailer parking is allowed North of the main Pavilion. No horses are to be tied to trailers on the paved parking lot. No horse corrals are allowed. All horses are to be kept in the stalling area when not being ridden.
23. P.A. System: It is the exhibitor's responsibility to be on time for all classes. A P.A. system can be heard in most areas and will be used for announcements and class calls.
24. Tack & Clothing Changes: Will be noted in the schedule at the show.
25. Classes will be judged according to Michigan 4-H standards as outlined in 4-H Horse and Pony Project Show Rules and Regulations (Revised 2022) and the current equine dressage test. Copies of the English dressage tests are available from: www.usef.org. Western dressage tests are available at <https://www.westerndressageassociation.org/wdaa-tests>
26. The judge will select the top eight exhibitors in each class. First and second place winners compete for champion and reserve champion awards in classes where they are offered. All competitors in the championship classes will be eligible to be in the top five. Champions and reserve champions will be photographed for publicity purposes. The show management reserves the right to combine or split classes as needed. You must show in your split.
27. All participants in the hunter hack, hunter under saddle, saddle seat, and gymkhana classes are required to wear (fastened) protective riding helmets while mounted. 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. It is highly recommended that all 4-H members participating in horse shows and practice events wear protective headgear. There will be no discrimination against protective headgear, even if the style does not match the style of riding. Protective headgear is especially important in hunter hack, hunt seat pleasure, hunt seat equitation, saddle seat, and gymkhana classes. Harnesses must be secured and must properly fit the head. A well-fitted helmet should stay on the rider's head when the rider bends over at the waist and shakes his/her head. 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. Show reserves the right to spot check helmets at any time to verify compliance with this rule.
28. Any protests or objections to rules, procedures, or any aspect of the show must be provided in writing to a representative of the State 4-H Horse Show Committee and will be responded to no earlier than 1 hour after its submission. Any individual exhibiting unsportsmanlike or inappropriate conduct of any kind will be dismissed, along with their family/party members, from the grounds.
29. The 4-H Youth Equine Educator & the 4-H State Horse Show Committee reserve the right to make exceptions to the rules where necessary.

30. Judge's decision is final. Placing and/or disqualifications will not be changed or altered after judges' cards have been turned in, nor will they be changed because of video playback, ring side protest, etc. The exhibitor should not approach the Judge for any reason until the show is over. Problems should be brought to the attention of the show manager.

31. Riding on lawn/grass areas around the Pavilion will be discouraged. Anyone disregarding this rule may be disqualified from further competition by show officials. **ABSOLUTELY NO RIDING IN THE STALLING AREA.**

32. The Show will be held **RAIN OR SHINE**. Classes will be held in outdoor arenas during the rain. The Show Committee will review the footing often during rain periods to determine safety. Classes will be stopped in the outdoor arenas during periods of lightning but will continue during periods of rain only. Bring appropriate rain gear!!

33. Only the 4-H member will be allowed to ride/drive the horse. Participants not adhering to this rule may be disqualified

34. If a horse appears visibly ill or not fit to show, while at the 4-H State Horse Show, the management reserves the right to ask the exhibitor to remove the horse from the show grounds.

35. Michigan State University Extension will not, individually or collectively, be responsible for loss, damage, or injury to people, horses or property incurred in connection with the show, and only upon these conditions are entries excepted.

40. Services available during the show: Food & soft drink concessions, tack vendors, farrier, a professional photographer, and an area for self-portraits. A veterinarian will be on the premises at designated times, and on call at all times. (Fees are the responsibility of the exhibitor).

Check in Times for Participants

Wednesday, August 13

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Exhibitor check in: Ranch Horses

Thursday, August 14

6:30 – 8:00 a.m. Exhibitor check in: Ranch Horses

7:00-8:30 p.m. Exhibitor check in: Gymkhana & Miniature Horses

Friday, August 15

6:30 – 8:00 a.m. Exhibitor check-in: Gymkhana & Miniature Horses

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Exhibitor check-in: Saturday - Senior

Saturday, August 16

6:30 – 8:00 a.m. Exhibitor check-in: Senior

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Exhibitor check-in: Sunday - Junior & PEP exhibitors

Sunday, August 17

6:30 – 8:00 a.m. Exhibitor check-in: Junior & PEP exhibitors

EXIT FACILITY 1/2 HR AFTER FINAL CLASS ENDS

The Main Pavilion will be available for riding on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening when the days classes are complete.

Stalls will not be available prior to your check in time. Do not plan to arrive early! Horses may not be stalled until check-in packets have been obtained at the show office. These packets are only available during posted times!

Symposium Section

1. Exhibitors are eligible to enter up to four Show Section classes (rail & leading classes), and one Symposium class (if exhibitors choose to enter, it is not required). The Symposium class must be selected from one of the following areas:

A. Creative Writing – Participants may submit an original piece of horse themed fiction, non-fiction, essay or poetry, not to exceed 10 double-spaced, typed pages in length (not including the Title Page and Bibliography). The Title Page must include name, county, and date of birth. If a piece of non-fiction is submitted, sources used must be listed on a Bibliography page. Creative Writing entries will be judged on creativity and neatness.

B. Michigan 4-H State Horse Show Logo Design – Participants should submit an original design for consideration. Copyrighted characters are not allowed. Designs must be 8 ½ x 11 inches, either horizontal or vertical. All designs should be submitted in a single color – with a recommendation for shirt and design color. Designs must include "Michigan 4-H State Horse Show" and a 4-H Clover. Winning entries will be kept by the State 4-H Horse Show staff for consideration for use for the 2027 State 4-H Horse Show and other Michigan 4-H Horse Program use.

C. Photography Contest - Participants may submit a single photograph (framed or unframed) that includes a horse or horses. Photos must be no smaller than 5x7 inches and no larger than 8x10 inches. Photos must be firmly affixed to photographic mount board, mat board, or Form-Core board. Photo and mount board may be no larger than 11x14 inches. Photos should include name, birthdate, and county of participant on the back. Entries will be judged on technique, creativity, and overall neatness/presentation.

2. Entries will be displayed in the hall/classroom area and should be picked up after judging is completed. Entries can be turned in at check-in and should be picked up at the end of the show. Results will be announced when judging is complete.

Please include on your submissions:

- Full Name***
- County***
- Date of Birth***

**Thursday, August 14, 2026
Ranch Section**

8:30 a.m. Ranch Exhibitor Meeting
9:00 a.m. Ranch Show Begins

**Ranch
Division**

Description:

A superior ranch horse has a free-flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with its conformation and covering a reasonable amount of ground as if the horse and rider were traveling to do a ranch task in a timely fashion. The horse should not be a runaway.

APPOINTMENTS OF HORSE—Polished hoofs, banded manes, and trimmed ears are discouraged, though meeting this guideline may be difficult or impossible, depending on show schedules. Trimming the bridle path, fetlocks, and excessive or long facial hair is allowed. Braided tails and tail extensions are prohibited. Equipment with silver should not count over a good working rig. Excessive silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged. It is suggested that rigs include a breast collar and a rear cinch. Snaffle bits and hackamores are acceptable under the terms of their use in the Western Riding Division of this book. When riding in a snaffle bit, the reins must be bridged with the option of carrying the bight on one side.

https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/michigan_4_h_horse_pony_project_show_rules_regulations

Ranch Exhibitors

Showmanship

- 1001. 18-19 years
- 1002. 16-17 years
- 1003. 14-15 years
- 1004. 12-13 years

**Championship class for each division
(Junior/Senior)**

Ranch Pleasure

- 1005. 18-19 year
- 1006. 16-17 years
- 1007. 14-15 years
- 1008. 12-13 years

**Championship class for each division
(Junior/Senior)**

Ranch Riding

- 1009. 18-19 years
- 1010. 16-17 years
- 1011. 14-15 years
- 1012. 12-13 years

**Championship based on scores in each division
(Junior/Senior)**

Symposium Section

Ranch Participants

State Horse Show Logo Design

- 901. 12 – 15 years
- 902. 16 – 19 years

State Horse Show Photography Contest

- 903. 12 – 15 years
- 904. 16 – 19 years

Creative Writing

- 905. 12 – 15 years
- 906. 16 – 19 years

Reining

- 1013. 18-19 years
- 1014. 16-17 years
- 1015. 14-15 years
- 1016. 12-13 years

**Championship based on scores in each division
(Junior/Senior)**

Ranch Trail

- 1017. 18-19 years
- 1018. 16-17 years
- 1019. 14-15 years
- 1020. 12-13 years

**Championship based on scores in each division
(Junior/Senior)**

Ranch Trail obstacles will appear as what you could expect working on a ranch. Haybales, logs, brush, trees, and other natural appearing pieces may be used.

**Friday, August 15, 2026 Gymkhana
Section**

8:30 a.m. Gymkhana Exhibitor Meeting
9:00 a.m. Gymkhana Show Begins

Junior Exhibitors & All Pony-East Outdoor Arena
Classes will be held rain or shine - please plan accordingly.

GYMKHANA

1. Participants must walk horse into arena (mounted) and dismount & lead horse out of arena. Proper attire must be worn by all riders. Please refer to 4-H Horse and Pony Project Show Rules and Regulations (**Revised 2022**) for all gymkhana classes. [These rules will be followed and may differ slightly from your county rules.]

2. **Champions for timed events will be named based on initial race times, there will not be Championship runs.**

Senior Gymkhana Exhibitors - Indoor Arena

Pole Bending Race – Seniors

- 100. 18-19 years – horse
- 101. 16-17 years – horse
- Pole Bending Champions 16-19 years

Keyhole Race – Seniors

- 103. 18-19 years – horse
- 104. 16-17 years – horse
- Keyhole Race Champions 16-19 years

Speed and Action Race – Seniors

- 106. 18-19 years – horse
- 107. 16-17 years – horse
- Speed & Action Champions 16-19 years

Indiana Flag Race – Seniors

- 109. 18-19 years – horse
- 110. 16-17 years – horse
- Flag Race Champions 16-19 years

Cloverleaf Barrel Race – Seniors

- 112. 18-19 years – horse
- 113. 16-17 years – horse
- Cloverleaf Barrel Race Champions 16-19 years

Down and Back - Seniors *

- 115. 18 – 19 years – horse
- 116. 16 – 17 years – horse
- Down & Back Race Champions 16-19 years

***See Appendix A for rules for this event.**

Creative Writing

- 905. 12 – 15 years
- 906. 16 – 19 years

Pole Bending Race – Juniors

- 118. 14-15 years – horse
- 119. 12-13 years – horse
- 120. 13-19 years – pony
- Pole Bending Race Champions Jr & Pony

Keyhole Race – Juniors & Pony

- 122. 14-15 years – horse
- 123. 12-13 years – horse
- 124. 13-19 years – pony
- Keyhole Race Champions Jr & Pony

Speed & Action – Juniors

- 126. 14-15 years – horse
- 127. 12-13 years – horse
- 128. 13-19 years – pony
- Speed & Actions Champions Jr & Pony

Indiana Flag Race – Juniors & Pony

- 130. 14-15 years – horse
- 131. 12-13 years – horse
- 132. 13-19 years – pony
- Indiana Flag Race Champions Jr & Pony

Cloverleaf Barrel Race – Juniors & Pony

- 134. 14-15 years – horse
- 135. 12-13 years – horse
- 136. 13-19 years – pony
- Cloverleaf Barrel Race Champions Jr & Pony

Down and Back - Juniors & Pony *

- 138. 14-15 years – horse
- 139. 12-13 years – horse
- 140. 13-19 years – pony
- Down & Back Race Champions Jr & Pony

Symposium Section

Gymkhana Participants

State Horse Program Logo Design

- 901. 12 – 15 years
- 902. 16 – 19 years

State Horse Show Photography Contest

- 903. 12 – 15 years
- 904. 16 – 19 years

**Friday, August 15, 2026 Miniature
Horse Show Section South Barn
Arena**

1. It is suggested that counties send the top 10% of their 4-H Miniature Horse project. For example, a county with 20 enrolled Miniature Horse Project members could send 2 delegates to the Miniature section of the State 4-H Horse Show. Miniature horse entries will be accepted in addition to the established horse quota. This show section will be divided into 3 height divisions for many of the classes:

- **Division 1:** 34 inches and under
- **Division 2:** 34.1 to 38 inches
- **Division 3:** 38.1 to 46 inches

Horses must be 3 years of age or older to participate in driving, jumping, or speed classes.

2. Miniature horse exhibitors will be allowed to show a light horse or pony at the State 4-H Horse Show if selected as a county delegate. Miniature horses do not need to be registered with the American Miniature Horse Association to show at the State 4-H Miniature Horse Show.

3. Miniature horses are NOT required to be body clipped.

4. ALL Miniature Horses WILL BE MEASURED!

5. Not all classes in the Miniature Horse show section are eligible for Champion and Reserve Champion. Please refer to the schedule for details.

6. Show driving apparel should be neat and clean. For showmanship, long sleeve shirts, nice pants, boots, and hat must be worn.

7. Patterns for classes will be provided in the information packet when exhibitors check in for the show.

8. Driven pleasure, reinsmanship, and obstacle classes, certified helmets are highly recommended but optional. In all drivenspeed classes, including driven cloverleaf, certified helmets MUST be worn.

9. Headers are required for all driving classes. Headers are required to enter the show ring at the judges/stewards direction, to stand at the horses' head until dismissed.

10. An overcheck or sidecheck is required for all driving classes.

11. A biothane or leather harness is allowed. An overcheck or side check is required for all driving classes. All lines must be buckled or taped at end for safety reasons.

12. Liberty Class: Liberty demonstrates the natural beauty of the miniature horse. Horses are to be judged on style, grace, animation, gaits, presence, and ease of catching. The liberty horse is expected to perform at both a canter and a trot. It is the steward's responsibility to time Liberty classes and to be in possession of a stopwatch. The Steward should be in the same location as the Judge(s) to adjudicate the class. Timing (1 1/2 minutes) will begin when the halter is dropped, not when the music starts. When the 2-minute catch time has elapsed, the show announcer will announce TIME to signal the end of the catch if the animal has not been caught. If the catch is not completed in the 2-minute allotted time frame, the exhibitor is disqualified. Only the exhibitor and one assistant will be allowed in the arena with horse. Whips and shaker bottles are allowed, but touching the horse with aids or hands will result in disqualification. Only the exhibitor can touch the horse during the catch. The horse must be caught and haltered by the

exhibitor only within 2 minutes or be disqualified. The assistant may not touch the horse at any time. There will be "No Baiting" (no use of hay, grain, clickers, etc.) of liberty horses during the catch or horse will be disqualified. **Music should be presented on a device with USB connectability (bring a device with the appropriate cords to connect to a USB speaker).** State 4-H Horse Show does not guarantee that music downloaded from the Internet, bluetooth capability, etc. will be playable. No deliberate interference with the horse from outside the ring. Announcement is to be made prior to the class to specify that no outside assistance is allowed. All horses entered in liberty class must be at least one year old. Exhibitor and assistant should wear appropriate, tasteful attire. A safe costume or theme outfit is allowed for exhibitor and assistant only. The horse must be shown natural, no costume, no glitter, no ribbons. If the entered horse falls during its performance the entry is disqualified. Entry will be disqualified if horse leaves the ring during competition or catch time.

13. Versatility: The horse will be shown in showmanship, as a hunter, and in Single Driving. Exhibitors entered in all three classes will be eligible for the Versatility Championship and Reserve Championship Award. After each class is completed, placings will be entered in the system. The exhibitor with the Top Two Scores will be the Champions. All three divisions to count equally. Horses must complete all three divisions without disqualification to be eligible for an award.

15. Driven Dressage Exhibition: Please refer to rules and information provided by the American Driving Society at: www.americandrivingsociety.org. Training Level Test 2 will be driven.

16. In Hand Hunter. Please review the AMHR Hunter Scoring card for details regarding this class.

Miniature Horse Show Guidelines have been included as an addendum to the MI 4-H Horse & Pony rule book. Check out the website for details:

<https://extension.msu.edu/4Hhorses>

Friday, August 15, 2026
Miniature Horse Show Section
South Barn Arena

10:00 a.m.

Showmanship

200. 16-19 years

201. 13-15 years

202. 11-12 years

Championship Showmanship

Driving Clover Leaf

222. 11-19 years

In Hand Clover Leaf

223. 11-19 years

In Hand Hunter

204. 34 inches and under 11-19 years

205. 34-38 inches 11-19 years

206. 39-46 inches 11-19 years

Championship In Hand Hunter

In Hand Poles

224. 11-19 Years

In Hand Trail

208. 34 inches and under 11-19 years

209. 34-38 inches 11-19 years

210. 39-46 inches 11-19 years

Championship In Hand Trail

Symposium Section
Miniature Horse & Gymkhana

212. Liberty Class

212-01: 11-12 years

212-02: 13-15 years

212-03: 16-19 years

State Horse Show Logo Design

907. 11-12 years

901. 13-15 years

902. 16-19 years

Single Pleasure Driving

214. 34 inches and under 11-19 years

215. 34-38 inches 11-19 years

216. 39-46 inches 11-19 years

Championship Pleasure Driving

Creative Writing

910. 11-12 years

905. 13-15 years

906. 16-19 years

Reinsmanship

218. 11-12 years

219. 13-15 years

220. 16-19 years

Championship Reinsmanship

Photography Contest

913. 11-12 years

903. 13-15 years

904. 16-19 years

Miniature Horse Show Exhibitors who are also showing in one of the other horse show sections (Ranch, Gymkhana, Junior, or Senior), you may only enter the Symposium Section one time.

Saturday, August 16, 2026
Senior Participants (16-19 years old)

8:30 a.m. Senior Participant Exhibitor Meeting
9:00 a.m. Show Begins

After completion of showmanship, dressage rail classes and hunter hack, English Pleasure and the rest of the show schedule will begin in Pavilion (18 & 19 yrs old) and East/Outdoor arena (16 & 17 yrs old). All Championship Classes will be Indoor.

All Showmanship Classes – Inside Arena

9:00 a.m. - North End of Inside Arena

Showmanship
300. 19 years
301. 18 years

9:00 a.m. - South End of Inside Arena

302. 17 years
303. 16 years
Championship Showmanship

Dressage Rail Classes & Hunter Hack - East/Outdoor Arena 9:00 a.m.

Dressage - Rail Classes

1. If you choose the Dressage rail classes you are not allowed to participate in showmanship because they will run at the same time.
2. Entries are required to perform in a smooth snaffle bit. Hunt seat and dressage saddles are acceptable as stated in 4-H Horse and Pony Project show Rules and Regulations (**Revised 2022**).
3. Dressage tests are open to all English seats. When choosing classes be aware that there may be class time conflicts. No classes will be held (i.e. tests may be ridden at the same time as Hunt/Saddle Seat Pleasure).

Dressage Seat Equitation

400. 18-19 years
401. 16-17 years
Championship Dressage Seat Equitation

HUNTER HACK

1. If you choose Hunter hack you are not allowed to participate in showmanship because they will run at the same time.
2. Fence height will not exceed 2'6" for classes for horses. Fences will be straight rails, not crosspoles.
3. Fence height will be adjusted to 2'3" for ponies.
4. DO NOT ENTER THESE CLASSES IF YOU HAVE NOT SUCCESSFULLY COMPETED IN OVER FENCES CLASSES BEFORE THIS SHOW.
5. If exhibitors are unsafe they will be dismissed from these classes.
6. See Hunter Hack section of 4-H Horse & Pony Project Show Rules & Regulations (**Revised 2022**) for complete rules and class procedures.

Hunter Hack

403. 18-19 years
404. 16-17 years
Championship Hunter Hack

Western & English Rail Classes

1. Equitation and Horsemanship classes will be judged on rail work. Only the Championship Equitation/Horsemanship classes will have a pattern.

English Pleasure, Hunt Seat

306. 19 years
307. 18 years
406. 17 years
407. 16 years

English Equitation, Hunt Seat

309. 19 years
310. 18 years
409. 17 years
410. 16 years

Held indoor after all Hunt Seat classes are complete:
Championship Hunt Seat Pleasure
Championship Hunt Seat Equitation

Western Pleasure

312. 19 years
313. 18 years
412. 17 years
413. 16 years

Western Horsemanship

315. 19 years
316. 18 years
415. 17 years
416. 16 years

Held indoor after all Western classes are complete:
Championship Western Pleasure
Championship Western Horsemanship

English Pleasure, Saddle Seat

318. 18-19 years
418. 16-17 years

English Equitation, Saddle Seat

320. 18-19 years
420. 16-17 years

Held indoor after all Saddle Seat classes are complete:
Championship Saddle Seat Pleasure
Championship Saddle Seat Equitation

Trail

1. The trail class pattern will be posted online and included in the registration packets you receive at Exhibitor Check In.
2. The trail arena will be open from 9:00 am. to approximately 4:00 p.m. Closing for lunch from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.
3. Any horse refusing an obstacle three times will be asked to move to the next obstacle and will receive a penalty score of zero for that obstacle. They will not be able to place over a participant who was able to complete all obstacles.
4. Championship will be selected based upon highest pattern scored. Selected obstacles will be used to decide tiebreakers.
5. Awards will be announced at the end of the show and will be available at the T-Shirt sales area.

9:00 a.m. Trail Arena

Trail Class - English or Western

801. 19 years
 802. 18 years
 803. 17 years
 804. 16 years
- Championship Trail (based on original scores)

Symposium Section Senior Exhibitors

State Horse Show Logo Design

909. 16-19 years

Creative Writing

912. 16-19 years

Photography Contest

915. 16-19 years

Dressage Tests

English and Western Dressage Tests will be offered. Please refer to the 4-H Horse and Pony Rule book for appropriate tack as well as the USEF and/or Western Dressage websites.

1. Exhibitors may only show in two dressage TEST classes. (total Western and English)
2. The Dressage arena will open on Saturday and Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and close at approximately 4:00 p.m. Closing for lunch from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.
3. All dressage test classes will be held in a small 20 m by 40 m arena.
4. Please note that current Dressage tests will be used. See USEF or westerndressageassociation.org/wdaa-tests/ for current tests.
5. Awards for test classes will be announced at the end of the show and will be available at the t-shirt sales area. Test scores will be available when awards are distributed.
6. When choosing classes be aware that there may be class time conflicts. No classes will be held. (i.e. tests may be ridden at the same time as Hunt/Saddle Seat Pleasure).
7. Dressage test championship will be determined based on average percentage scores of two tests classes (in the same seat). The Carolyn Van Cise memorial award will be presented to the rider with the highest combined test and equitation scores in English Dressage.

9:00 a.m. Dressage Arena

Dressage Test Classes

806. Training Level - Test I
 807. Training Level - Test II
 808. Training Level - Test III
- English Dressage Test Championship

Western Dressage Test Classes

810. Basic Level - Test I
 811. Basic Level - Test II
 812. Basic Level - Test III
- Western Dressage Test Championship



Sunday, August 17, 2024
Junior Participants
(12-15 years)

8:30 a.m. Participant Exhibitor Meeting
9:00 a.m. Show Begins

All Showmanship Classes Pavilion Arena(Indoor)
9:00 a.m.

Showmanship

503. 15 years
504. 14 years
505. 13 years
506. 12 years
Championship Showmanship Jr Exhibitor

Dressage Rail Classes & Hunter Hack - East Arena
9:00 a.m.

English Dressage - Rail Classes

1. If you choose the Dressage rail classes you are not allowed to participate in showmanship because they will run at the same time.

2. Entries are required to perform in a smooth snaffle bit.
Hunter seat and dressage saddles are acceptable as stated in the 4-H Horse and Pony Project show Rules and Regulations (Revised 2022).

601. Dressage Seat Equitation 15 years
602. Dressage Seat Equitation 14 years
603. Dressage Seat Equitation 13 years
604. Dressage Seat Equitation 12 years
Champion Dressage Seat Equitation

Hunter Hack

1. If you choose Hunter Hack you are not allowed to participate in showmanship because they will run at the same time.

2. Fence height will not exceed 2'6" for all over fences classes for horses. Fences will be straight rails, not crosspoles.

3. Fence height will be adjusted to 2'3" for ponies.

4. DO NOT ENTER THESE CLASSES IF YOU HAVE NOT SUCCESSFULLY COMPETED IN OVER FENCES CLASSES BEFORE THIS SHOW.

5. If exhibitors are unsafe they will be dismissed from these classes.

6. See Hunter Hack section of 4-H Horse & Pony Project Show Rules & Regulations (**Revised 2022**) for complete rules and class procedures.

Hunter Hack

605. 15 years
606. 14 years
607. 13 years
608. 12 years
Championship Hunter Hack Jr. Exhibitor

After completion of showmanship, dressage rail classes and hunter hack the English Pleasure, and the rest of the show schedule will begin in Pavilion (14 and 15 yrs. old) and East/Outdoor arena (12 & 13 yrs old). All Championship Classes will be Indoor.

Western & English Rail Classes

1. English exhibitors may show in both Hunt and Saddle seat classes.
2. Equitation and Horsemanship classes will be judged on rail work. Only the Championship Equitation/Horsemanship classes will have a pattern.

English Pleasure, Hunt Seat

509. 15 years
510. 14 years
610. 13 years
611. 12 years

English Equitation, Hunt Seat

513. 15 years
514. 14 years
614. 13 years
615. 12 years

Held indoor after all Hunt Seat classes are complete:

Championship Hunt Seat Pleasure
Championship Hunt Seat Equitation

Western Pleasure

516. 15 years
517. 14 years
617. 13 years
618. 12 years

Western Horsemanship

520. 15 years
521. 14 years
622. 13 years
623. 12 years

Held indoor after all Western classes are complete:

Championship Western Pleasure
Championship Western Horsemanship

English Pleasure, Saddle Seat

523. 14-15 years

623. 12-13 years

English Equitation, Saddle Seat

526. 14-15 years

626. 12-13 years

Held indoor after all Saddle Seat classes are complete:

Championship Saddle Seat Pleasure

Championship Saddle Seat Equitation

Trail

1. The trail class pattern will be posted the day of the show and included in the registration packets you receive at Exhibitor Check In.

2. The trail arena will be open from 9:00 am. to approximately 4:00 p.m. Closing for lunch from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

3. Any horse refusing an obstacle three times will be asked to move to the next obstacle and will receive a penalty score of zero for that obstacle. They will not be able to place over a participant who was able to complete all obstacles.

4. Championship will be selected based upon highest pattern scored. Selected obstacles will be used to decide tiebreakers.

5. Awards will be announced and will be available at the t-shirt sales area at the end of the day.

9:00 a.m. Trail Arena

Trail Class - English or Western

825. 15 years

826. 14 years

827. 13 years

828. 12 years

Championship Trail - Jr. Exhibitor (based on original scores)

Dressage Tests

1. English and Western Dressage Tests will be offered. Please refer to the 4-H Horse and Pony Rule book for appropriate tack.

2. Exhibitors may only show in two dressage TEST classes (total Western and English).

3. The Dressage arena will open on Saturday and Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and close at approximately 4:00 p.m. Closing for lunch from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

4. All dressage test classes will be held in a small 20 m by 40 m arena.

5. Please note that current Dressage tests will be used. See USEF or <http://westerndressageassociation.org/wdaa-tests/> for current tests.

6. Awards for test classes will be announced at the end of the show and will be available at the t-shirt sales area. Test scores will be posted at the Dressage Arena approximately 30 minutes after your test is completed.

7. When choosing classes be aware that there may be class time conflicts. No classes will be held (i.e. tests may be ridden at the same time as Hunt/Saddle Seat Pleasure).

8. Dressage test championship will be determined based on average percentage scores of two tests classes (in the same seat).

9:00 a.m. Dressage Arena

Dressage Test Classes

814. Training Level - Test I

815. Training Level - Test II

816. Training Level - Test III

Dressage Test Championship

Western Dressage Test Classes

820. Basic Level - Test I

821. Basic Level - Test II

823. Basic Level - Test III

Western Dressage Test Championship

Symposium Section

Junior Exhibitors

Creative Writing

921. 12-15 years

State Horse Program Logo Design

922. 12-15 years

Photography Contest

923. 12-15 years

Sunday, August 17, 2026 Proud Equestrian Program

DESCRIPTIONS & GUIDELINES Proud Equestrian Program Events

Showmanship: Judged on the handler's ability to handle and show the horse in hand through a pattern determined by the judge.

Equitation: Judged on use of aids, control of horse, position of rider.

Horsemanship Challenge: Judged on use of aids; control of the horse and position of the rider during work on the rail and in a pattern determined by the Judge.

Pattern: Judged on accuracy of pattern and performance of horse and rider. Patterns may include: circle, reverse halts, back, straight line, serpentine, and figure eight.

Obstacle Course: Judged on performance of horse and rider. Courses may include; cones, ground poles, cavaletti, object to pick up-carry-replace, barrels, "L" gate, and simulated bridge/water.

Symposium Section: See General Rules #6 and Symposium section description.

Dressage: <https://inside.fei.org/fei/your-role/organisers/p-e-dressage/tests>.

1. Classes will be judged without regard to the age of the riders.
2. Classes will not be divided English/Western.
3. Riders may enter four show/riding section classes and must ride all classes in the same classification: Walk-independent, Walk/Trot – assisted, or Walk/Trot-independent. Participants may enter a fifth class from the Symposium Section.
4. The required pattern for classes HCP 705, 706, 707 and a map of the Obstacle Course for classes 711, 712, 713 will be posted at the ring by 9:30 a.m. on the day of the show. Copies will be available for the instructors at that time.
5. If classes become too large to be judged effectively they may be divided into sections.

Showmanship
700. Assisted
701. Independent

Equitation
702. Walk – Independent
703. Walk/Trot – Assisted
704. Walk/Trot – Independent

Horsemanship Challenge
705. Walk – Independent
706. Walk/Trot – Assisted
707. Walk/Trot – Independent

Pattern
708. Walk – Independent
709. Walk/Trot – Assisted
710. Walk/Trot – Independent

Obstacle Course
711. Walk – Independent
712. Walk/Trot – Assisted
713. Walk/Trot – Independent

Dressage
714. Walk – Independent
715. Walk/Trot – Independent

Dressage classes will be ridden in the Dressage arena.

Symposium Section PEP Exhibitors

Creative Writing
931. PEP Exhibitors

State Horse Program Logo Design
932. PEP Exhibitors

Photography Contest
933. PEP Exhibitors



State 4-H Horse Show Planning Committee

2026 Members:

Chair Becky Hirschman, Gratiot County
 Sue Powell, Calhoun County
 Trisha Kloha, Clinton County
 Michele Goshorn, Branch County
 Ted Goshorn, Branch County
 Kayela Gimenez, Hillsdale County
 Hannah Hansen, Ingham County
 Gwyn Shelle, Ingham County
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 Janelle Stewart, Lenawee County
 Cathy Masters, Lenawee County
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 Cathy McGeen, Oakland County
 Jordan Hewitt, Oakland County
 Ken Tomsa, VanBuren County
 Janet Tripp, VanBuren County
 Amy Harris, Washtenaw County
 Andrea Littlefield, St. Joseph



At the State 4-H Horse show, no dogs are allowed in the Pavilion, near any of the show arenas, or in the stalling areas.

**Anyone with a dog in an area outside the camping area will be asked to leave.
Service Dogs are Welcome.**

Michigan State University Extension Staff:

David Lindsay
4-H Youth Equine Educator
lindsa75@msu.edu
517-353-1748

A Planning Checklist for State Horse Show Participants

- Online entry form is completed and signed by parent/guardian. Up to four riding/in hand classes and 1 symposium class can be selected.
- Rules for each class entered, as well as the schedule of classes have been reviewed by the participant. Please note the **2022 4-H Horse and Pony Rule book** will apply.
- Photocopy of a current coggins test (Drawn after 8/13/25) is included with entry.
- Has an approval number from the 4-H Youth Equine Educator for an "Extra Stay" if applicable. (Only required for participants arriving early or staying longer than their assigned show day.)
- All fees have been paid. (Entry fee - \$75.00, Camping - \$35.00 per night, T-Shirt \$15.00 each, Extra stay - \$25.00 per night).
- Helmets for participants in Gymkhana, Hunt Seat, Saddle Seat, and Dressage and Driving classes are required. Bring your symposium entries to the Check-in area at the appropriate time.

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