

DEPARTMENT – L-33 –English Horse & Pony

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Entries must be completed online at www.carrollcountyfair.com. Entry fees need to be paid by credit card only. No late entries will be accepted.

Due to proposed Maryland budgetary constraints that are beyond the control of the Carroll County 4-H/FFA Fair Board, Inc., the Board reserves the right to withhold a portion of premium monies, up to and including all of an exhibitor's earned premium payment, for the Carroll County 4-H/FFA Fair.

- A 4-H or FFA member must be enrolled in a horse or veterinary science project to exhibit in this department at the Fair.
- To exhibit in the 2026 fair, a horse project record had to be turned into the 4-H office by the 2025 deadline. Exception: 4-Hers in their first year of carrying a horse project must complete their project record through July 15th and present it to the show secretary on show day.

RULES AND REGULATIONS – English Horse & Pony

1. All horse exhibitors (English and Western) in their first year of the horse project must attend one of two horse orientations to show at the fair. 2026 Orientations will be held on February 12th & March 23rd at the Carroll County Extension Office.
2. All exhibitors who have not shown their horse at the fair must take their animal to a show, clinic, or organized lesson off of the animal's home farm in 2026, prior to the Carroll County Fair. The horse committee will host an opportunity each year that can be used to meet this requirement. If you have any questions, please contact one of the superintendents.
3. All horse exhibitors are required to help with one of the following clean-up/set-up days for the horse show rings: Clean-up: Saturday, July 25th at 9am or jump/dressage setup Sunday August 2nd (time TBD). If an exhibitor is unable to attend one of these days, they must help tear down jumps following the English show on August 3rd. Failure to attend one of these days may result in premiums being held at the discretion of the department superintendents.
4. All exhibitors should read the General Rules and the Maryland 4-H Horse and Pony Rule Book and be familiar with these rules prior to the Carroll Co. 4-H & FFA Fair's show.
5. Horse and Pony Identification Forms (4-H 117), MD Show Ring Code of Ethics, and horse lease forms (if appropriate), must be placed on file at the Extension Office by June 1st. Horse identification cards or horse lease forms do not qualify as an entry for the Carroll County 4-H/FFA Fair. No late entries will be accepted.
6. Riders requiring accommodations must have a medical release on file at the Carroll County Extension Office (4-H) or a copy must be submitted with entry. They should also contact Superintendents with any requests for accommodations by July 1st.
7. All exhibitors must present a negative coggins test (completed within one year) to the show secretary prior to the start of the English Horse and Pony Show.
8. An Equine Exhibitor's Self-Certification of Equine Health must also be presented to the show secretary on show day.
9. Appropriate Health Certificates are required for out-of-state mounts.

10. All 4-H or FFA members, riding English or Western, must wear headgear passing ASTM standards when mounted. Harnesses must be secured and properly fitted. Headgear must carry the SEI seal. Western riders may wear any style of headgear that has the SEI seal.
11. All headgear and tack is subject to a safety inspection performed prior to mounting. Failure to comply with necessary safety changes will result in disqualification from all mounted classes. Any concerns about unique tack should be addressed with the superintendent prior to July 1st and a veterinarian's note may be required.
12. Exhibitors and their parent/guardian/trainer are responsible for preparing adequately for the divisions entered. Any horse/rider deemed unsafe by the horse committee on show day will be asked to leave the grounds and disqualified from any remaining classes.
13. Exhibitors will be permitted to cross enter in Western and English divisions provided they use the proper attire and tack.
14. English Division – cross-entering of the same horse or pony (horses or ponies) between Pleasure classes and Hunter classes IS NOT permitted.
15. All 4-H or FFA members in college who are still eligible to show at the county fair must be home and working with their horse 30 days prior to the Fair.
16. Any exhibitor showing a horse or pony may only have assistance from an immediate family member or any Carroll Co. 4-H & FFA member in handling their animal on the show grounds. If someone other than the previously mentioned individuals is found to be assisting the exhibitor, the exhibitor may be disqualified. This does not include the actual showing of the animal.
17. Entries are subject to the General rules; horses/ponies exhibiting in the English Show must arrive on August 3rd, prior to 7 AM and leave before 9 PM. Show starts at 8 AM.
18. A Steward will be available to judges, exhibitors and the show committee members during the show to clarify the application of the show rules.
19. Exhibitors may not regress a division, unless exhibiting a new horse or pony.
20. Points will be given toward Champion – English Horse & Pony on 10-7-5-3-2-1 basis for all classes. A tie will be broken with a plus point to the highest scoring rider in the equitation jumping class.
21. For all riders participating in both English and Western Shows- points earned in all classes will be totaled for both horse shows. The overall high point rider will be recognized with a special award. A special award will also be given to the rider exhibiting the high point horse exhibited by the same exhibitor at the English and Western shows.
22. The English Horse and Pony Committee reserve the right to split classes if deemed appropriate following entry deadline.
23. No chain shanks may be used to tie a horse or pony to a trailer.
24. Warm-Up Ring will be available; however, all coaching must be done from outside the ring. An adult may enter the Warm-Up Ring to lower or raise the jump but must return to the rail to coach. All riders will share the ring and give everyone equal opportunities to jump.
25. No exhibitors will be allowed to enter the show ring for schooling purposes prior to/during shows, unless directed by the ring steward. Jumping designated fences in the show ring for schooling purposes may be permissible on show day at the discretion of the fair superintendents.
26. **ABSOLUTELY NO COACHING FROM ANYONE WILL BE PERMITTED WHILE A CLASS IS BEING JUDGED. Coaching from the ringside by any individual will result in the coached exhibitor being disqualified from that class.**

27. Championship Divisions/Classes will be:

- Short Stirrup Champion- Classes 7 - 10
- Long Stirrup Junior Champion- Classes 13 - 16
- Long Stirrup Senior Champion- Classes 19 - 22
- Pleasure Junior Champion- Classes 25 - 29
- Pleasure Senior Champion- Classes 32 - 36
- Hunter Junior Champion- Classes 39 - 43
- Hunter Senior Champion- Classes 46 - 50

28. Premiums – Fitting & Showing - \$5.
All Classes – 1st - \$4; 2nd - \$3.75; 3rd - \$3.50; 4th - \$3.25; all below - \$3

Fitting & Showing:

- Open to all exhibitors.
- Grooming and banding must be completed by the exhibitor prior to entering the ring at 8am.
- Horses and ponies will enter the ring ready to show.
- Previous Fitting and Showing champions may only compete in the Champion class.
- Classes will be judged on appearance and condition of horse or pony, rider, and tack.
- The Novice class will continue to be available for all 1st and 2nd year exhibitors in Western Fitting and Showing.
- Note- Novice exhibitors are NOT eligible for the championship class.
- A Grand Champion will be picked from all first-place winners of the Junior, Intermediate, and Senior class and any previous year Champions. (If a Grand Champion is chosen from any of the first-place winners, then the second-place winner of that age group will then move up with the remaining 1st place winners and previous year Champions to be judged for Reserve Grand Champion.)

Performance – Short Stirrup Division –

- Open to beginner riders ages 8-10
- Classes to be judged 50% on quietness and suitability of mount and 50% on child's hand and seat.
- Riders in this division may not compete in other division except Fitting and Showing and Dressage
- Jumps will be cross rails at 18"

Performance – Long Stirrup Division –

- The Long Stirrup Division will be divided into Junior (Ages 11-13) and Senior (Ages 14- 18) Divisions.
- Open to beginner riders over 10 years of age
- Classes to be judged on manners, performance, suitability, and soundness
- Jumps will be cross rails at 18"
- Riders in this division may not compete in other division except Fitting and Showing and Dressage

Performance – Pleasure Division –

- This division will be judged on the suitability of horse or pony to rider, willingness and ability to give a safe, comfortable ride, with emphasis on manners.
- Equitation to be judged on rider's hands, seat, guidance and control
- Mounts in this division may not compete in any other division except Fitting and Showing and Dressage.

Jumps – Ponies and Horses - 2'0” Performance – Hunter Division –

- To be judged on manners, performance, suitability and soundness
- Equitation to be judged on rider's hands, seat, guidance, and control
- Mounts in this division may not compete in any other division except Fitting and Showing and Dressage

Jumps - Ponies – 2'0”; Horses– 2'6” Performance – Dressage Division – (All tests will be ridden in a small arena.)

- Will run in accordance with the current USEF rulebook.
- Must be ridden in a plain bridle with a plain snaffle bit, as permitted by USEF rulebook (# DR121 page # DR23).
- Martingales, bit guards, side, bearing, running or balancing reins, boots, bandages, ear muffs, nose covers and seat covers are prohibited.
- A whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120cm) including the lash may be carried. Adjustable length whips are not permitted. Blunt spurs are permitted, with shanks directed downwards, unless swan necked.
- A regular cavesson, flash, dropped or crossed nosebands are allowed but should not be so tight as to cause irritation to the skin.
- USDF 2023 Introductory Level, Test B (Walk/Trot) will be used for dressage riders both Junior and Senior who are not yet comfortable cantering a 20 meter circle.
- USDF 2023 Introductory Level, Test C (Walk/Trot/Canter) will be used by Junior riders (8-13 years).
- USEF 2023 Training Level Test #1 will be used by Senior riders (14-18 years) and Junior riders who have won the C H Asmis Memorial Perpetual Trophy.
- Dressage tests are available at the following websites:
 - Introductory Test B:
<https://www.usdf.org/docs/showflash/web/tests/2023/2023%20Intro%20B.pdf?t=4/11/2023%209:59:28%20AM>
 - Introductory Test C:
<https://www.usdf.org/docs/showflash/web/tests/2023/2023%20Intro%20C.pdf?t=4/11/2023%209:59:28%20AM>
 - Training Level Test 1:
<https://www.usdf.org/docs/showflash/web/tests/2023/2023%20Training%201%204.7.pdf?t=4/11/2023%209:59:28%20AM>

Classes:

1. Senior Fitting & Showing (ages 14 – 18)
2. Intermediate Fitting & Showing (ages 11 – 13)
3. Junior Fitting & Showing (Exhibitors Ages 8-10)
4. Novice Showmanship (1st & 2nd Year Exhibitors- NOT eligible for Championship Fitting and Showing)
5. Champion Fitting & Showing (selected from winners of classes 1-3 and champions from previous years)
6. Reserve Champion Fitting & Showing
7. Short Stirrup-Walk (To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk)
8. Short Stirrup- Walk/Trot (To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk and a trot)
9. Short Stirrup- Under Saddle (To be shown both ways of the ring at walk, trot, and canter)
10. Short Stirrup- Over Fences (To be shown over a course of 8 fences at 18" in height)
13. Jr. Long Stirrup- Walk (To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk)
14. Jr. Long Stirrup- Walk/Trot (To be show both ways of the ring at a walk and a trot)
15. Jr. Long Stirrup- Under Saddle (To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, trot, and canter)
16. Jr. Long Stirrup- Over Fences (to be shown over a course of 8 fences at 18" in height)
19. Sr. Long Stirrup- Walk (To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk)
20. Sr. Long Stirrup- Walk/Trot (To be show both ways of the ring at a walk and a trot)
21. Sr. Long Stirrup- Under Saddle (To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, trot, and canter)
22. Sr. Long Stirrup- Over Fences (to be shown over a course of 8 fences at 18" in height)
25. Jr. Pleasure, Seat Equitation Under Saddle (To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, trot, and canter)
26. Jr. Pleasure, Seat Equitation Over Fences (To be shown over a course of 8 fences)
27. Jr. Pleasure, Hack (To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, trot, and canter)
28. Jr. Pleasure, Over Fences (To be shown over a course of 8 fences)

29. Jr. Pleasure, Command (To be judged on the mount's prompt obedience in performing commands called by the judge. Rules must be read by the announcer prior to the class)
32. Sr. Pleasure, Seat Equitation Under Saddle (To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, trot, and canter)
33. Sr. Pleasure, Seat Equitation Over Fences (To be shown over a course of 8 fences)
34. Sr. Pleasure, Hack (To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, trot, and canter)
35. Sr. Pleasure, Over Fences (To be shown over a course of 8 fences)
36. Sr. Pleasure, Command (To be judged on the mount's prompt obedience in performing commands called by the judge. Rules must be read by the announcer prior to the class)
39. Jr. Hunter, Seat Equitation Under Saddle (To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, trot, and canter)
40. Jr. Hunter, Seat Equitation Over Fences (To be shown over a course of 8 fences)
41. Jr. Hunter, Over Fences (To be shown over a course of 8 fences)
42. Jr. Hunter, Working (To be shown over a course of 8 fences)
43. Jr. Hunter, Under Saddle (To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, trot, and canter)
46. Sr. Hunter, Seat Equitation Under Saddle (To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, trot, and canter)
47. Sr. Hunter, Seat Equitation Over Fences (To be shown over a course of 8 fences)
48. Sr. Hunter, Over Fences (To be shown over a course of 8 fences)
49. Sr. Hunter, Working (To be shown over a course of 8 fences)
50. Sr. Hunter, Under Saddle (To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, trot, and canter)
53. Novice Dressage (Jr & Sr's) USDF 2023 Intro Level Test B (Walk/Trot)
54. Junior Dressage (Riders ages 8-13) USDF 2023 Intro Level Test C (Walk/Trot/Canter)
55. Senior Dressage (Riders ages 14-18) USEF 2023 Training Level Test 1