

DEPARTMENT – L-34 –Western 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 – Western 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 Western 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. 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.
15. 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.
16. Entries are subject to the General rules; horses/ponies exhibiting in the Western Show must arrive on August 5th, prior to 7 AM and leave before 9 PM. Show starts at 8 AM.
17. A Steward will be available to judges, exhibitors and the show committee members during the show to clarify the application of the show rules.
18. Points will be given toward Champion – Western 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 Stock Seat, Trail, or Pole Bending class depending on the division.
19. 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.
20. The Western Horse and Pony Committee reserve the right to split classes if deemed appropriate following entry deadline.
21. Class Order will be posted on day of show. Classes will not be run by division.
22. No chain shanks may be used to tie a horse or pony to a trailer.
23. Warm-Up Ring will be available; however, all coaching must be done from outside the ring. All riders will share the ring.
24. No exhibitors will be allowed to enter the show ring for schooling purposes prior to/during shows, unless directed by the ring steward.

25. **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.**

26. Trail classes will run in the upper ring from 10am-2pm.

27. Championship Divisions/Classes will be:

- Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Fitting and Showing
- Novice Group Performance- Walk, Walk/Jog, Walk/Jog Command, Walk/Jog Stock Seat, Walk/Jog Trail (Classes 7-11)
- Junior Group Performance- Western Pleasure, Horsemanship, Stock Seat, Command (Classes 14-17)
- Senior Group Performance- Western Pleasure, Horsemanship, Stock Seat, Command (Classes 20-23)
- Junior Individual Performance- Western Riding and Trail (Classes 26-28)
- Senior Individual Performance- Western Riding and Trail (Classes 31-33)
- Novice Speed- Barrels, Pole Bending, and Plug (Classes 35-38)
- Junior Speed- Barrels, Pole Bending, and Plug (Classes 41-43)
- Senior Speed- Barrels, Pole Bending, and Plug (Classes 46-48)

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.)

Group Performance- Novice Division (Judged 50% Rider, 50% Horse)

- Riders in Novice Division may enter the Novice classes only.
- 1st and 2nd year riders of any age may participate PROVIDED they have not won the Grand Champion or Reserve in this division.

Group Performance – Junior Division – Open to riders ages 8-13

- All mounts will be asked to walk, jog, and lope. May be asked to back.

Group Performance – Senior Division – Open to riders ages 14-18

- All mounts will be asked to walk, jog, and lope. May be asked to back.

Individual Performance – Junior Division – Open to riders ages 8-13

- All riders in Western Riding must know the patterns prior to show.
- Riders not knowing the patterns will be disqualified.
- Patterns, with the exception of trail, are included in the 4-H Horse and Pony Rule Book.

Individual Performance – Senior Division – Open to riders ages 14-18

- All riders in Western Riding must know the patterns prior to show.
- Riders not knowing the patterns will be disqualified.
- Patterns, with the exception of trail, are included in the 4-H Horse and Pony Rule Book.

Speed– Novice Division – Walk/Jog

- Riders in the Novice Division may enter the Novice classes only.
- 1st and 2nd year riders of any age may participate PROVIDED they have not won Grand Champion or Reserve in this division.
- All riders in Speed must know the patterns prior to show. Riders not knowing the patterns will be disqualified.
- Patterns may not be posted as they are included in the 4-H Horse and Pony Rule Book.

Speed– Junior Division – Open to riders ages 8-13

- All riders in Speed must know the patterns prior to show. Riders not knowing the patterns will be disqualified.
- Patterns may not be posted as they are included in the 4-H Horse and Pony Rule Book.

Speed– Senior Division – Open to riders ages 14-18

- All riders in Speed must know the patterns prior to show. Riders not knowing the patterns will be disqualified.
- Patterns may not be posted as they are included in the 4-H Horse and Pony Rule Book.

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)
7. Novice – Walk
8. Novice – Walk, Jog
9. Novice – Walk / Jog Command
10. Novice – Walk/Jog Stock Seat (To be judged on rider's hands, seat, guidance, and control. Riders may be asked to perform maneuvers [i.e. figure 8's, halt, back]. Patterns available at show)
11. Novice – Trail
14. Junior Western Pleasure (To be judged on suitability of horse or pony to rider; the mount's willingness with emphasis on manners)
15. Junior Western Horsemanship Equitation (To be judged on rider's hands, seat, guidance, and control of all gaits)
16. Junior Western Stock Seat Equitation (To be judged on the riders as in class 15. Riders may be asked to perform individual maneuvers [i.e. figure 8's, dismounting]. Patterns available at show)

17. Junior Western Command (Mounts are judged on their prompt obedience and performance commands called by the judge. A command should be executed by three strides)
20. Senior Western Pleasure (To be judged on suitability of horse or pony to rider; the mount's willingness with emphasis on manners)
21. Senior Western Horsemanship Equitation (To be judged on rider's hands, seat, guidance, and control of all gaits)
22. Senior Western Stock Seat Equitation (To be judged on the riders as in class 15. Riders may be asked to perform individual maneuvers [i.e. figure 8's, dismounting]. Patterns available at show)
23. Senior Western Command (Mounts are judged on their prompt obedience and performance commands called by the judge. A command should be executed by three strides)
26. Junior Western Trail (Mount will be judged on performance over obstacles with emphasis on manners, attitude and response to rider. Pattern will be posted on show day)
27. Junior Western Riding #1 (To be judged on riding qualities of gaits, movements, response to rider, manners, disposition, and apparent intelligence. Pattern #1 in the Maryland 4-H Horse and Pony Rule Book)
28. Junior Western Riding #2- (Pattern #2 as shown in the Maryland 4-H Horse and Pony Rule Book) to be judged on neatness, dispatch accuracy, ease, calmness and accuracy with which it performs the pattern)
31. Senior Western Trail (Mount will be judged on performance over obstacles with emphasis on manners, attitude and response to rider. Pattern will be posted on show day)
32. Senior Western Riding #1 (To be judged on riding qualities of gaits, movements, response to rider, manners, disposition, and apparent intelligence. Pattern #1 in the Maryland 4-H Horse and Pony Rule Book)
33. Senior Western Riding #2- (Pattern #2 as shown in the Maryland 4-H Horse and Pony Rule Book) to be judged on neatness, dispatch accuracy, ease, calmness and accuracy with which it performs the pattern)
36. Novice Barrels- Jog
37. Novice Plug- Jog
38. Novice Pole Bending- Jog
41. Junior Barrels – ages 8-13 (course as shown in the MD 4-H Horse and Pony Rule Book)
42. Junior Plug – ages 8-13 (course as shown in the MD 4-H Horse and Pony Rule Book)
43. Junior Pole Bending – ages 8-13 (course as shown in the MD 4-H Horse and Pony Rule Book)
46. Senior Barrels – ages 14-18 (course as shown in the MD 4-H Horse and Pony Rule Book)
47. Senior Plug – ages 14-18 (course as shown in the MD 4-H Horse and Pony Rule Book)
48. Senior Pole Bending – ages 14-18 (course as shown in the MD 4-H Horse and Pony Rule Book)