



**HORSE DEPARTMENT RULES**  
**CARRIE O'MEARA – Superintendent**  
**SHANNON FIEDLER and YANETT FIEDLER - Co-Superintendents**

**Part 1: 4-Her Eligibility**

1. This show is NOT a qualifier for State Fair. See your Club Leader for State Fair entry rules.
2. This show is open ONLY to 4-H members who:
  - Are enrolled and a member in good standing of a Baltimore County 4-H Club.
  - Are enrolled by May 1 of the current year, in either:
    - The Horse and Pony Project (must own or lease the horse)
    - The Horse Lover's Project (doesn't own or lease the horse)
  - Have a pony card (owned or leased), lease agreement (leased) or horse lovers' agreement (borrowed) on file with the Baltimore County 4-H Office by June 1<sup>st</sup>. **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS THIS YEAR.**
  - Have completed appropriate Horsemanship Standards/Performance levels. Contact Carrie O'Meara for details.
  - Have ridden in at least one show with their project animal.
3. Supervision: each child must have a parent/guardian, or designated UME volunteer chaperone on site at all times. If the parent/guardian leaves, they must designate and alert a UME volunteer that will be responsible for their child. ALL parents must remain accessible at all times when they are away from the Fairgrounds in the event of an emergency.
4. Exhibitors are required to attend the ethics meeting held by the County 4-H Office prior to the fair.
5. Therapeutic Riding is only for riders who ride in an approved Therapeutic Riding Program. Exhibitors must be accompanied by program-approved handlers.

**Part 2: Project Animal**

Note: all entries are subject to **Health Regulations for Livestock Exhibited in Maryland.**

1. **A negative coggins must be provided at check in. PLEASE NOTE- Even if you mail in your coggins, you will need to have a coggins available when your animal arrives at the fairgrounds-even if you are not hauling your own animal.**
2. **All horse exhibitors must complete a Self Certification of Horse Health Form prior to loading animals and shall present it upon request to the designated fair and show representative.**
3. In the event that a project animal becomes un-usable prior to the fair, PLEASE contact Carrie O'Meara AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to discuss possible arrangements on a case-by-case basis. Substitutions are not guaranteed.
4. No Stallions over one year old are allowed on the grounds.
5. No companion animals are allowed on the grounds, unless they are a mare for an entry in a young animal class.

**Part 3: Sharing of animals:**

1. Only immediate family (siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, step and half siblings) may share project animals that are owned or leased in non-horse lover divisions.
2. Horse lovers may share a horse with any 4-Her, as long as the owner/lease is showing in a non-horse lover division.
3. Any questions should be directed to Carrie O'Meara as early as possible, PRIOR TO REGISTRATION.

**Part 4: Entries**

1. Fitting and Showing are free, other classes cost \$2.00 each. **THESE NON-REFUNDABLE FEES MUST BE MAILED TO Valerie Harlan by June 1<sup>st</sup>.**
2. Exhibitors may only enter one animal per class.
3. Cross Entering:
  - a. Cross entering between English and Western is allowed.
  - b. Cross entering between Hunter and Pleasure is allowed.
  - c. Horse Lovers are the only entries allowed in Horse Lovers Division.
    - Junior and Senior divisions are not divided by ages. Junior Horse Lovers is a Walk Trot Division; Senior Horse Lovers is a Walk, Trot, Canter Division.
    - See note in Grooming and Showmanship and Confirmation for additional rules.
  - d. Protected divisions are Green Horse, Walk Trot and Short Stirrups. Exhibitors in Walk Trot Jog and Short Stirrups may not enter any other riding divisions, even on a different animal. An animal may be considered Green for English, but not for Western.
    - Green horse is for a horse in its 1st or 2nd year of showing.
    - Walk Trot Jog are for riders 12 and under who are not regularly cantering/loping.
  - e. Short Stirrups are for riders 12 and under who are regularly cantering.

**Part 5: General Rules**

1. This show is governed by the MD 4-H Horse and Pony Rule Book, 4H226. If there is a clarification needed that the 4-H rule Book doesn't cover, then the AQHA Rule Book will be consulted. Please see the show steward if you need to consult a rulebook during the show. Note, fence heights are not rules and will be set at a level appropriate for county fair competition. For classes where multiple heights are offered, the exhibitor has the option to select their height at the beginning of the class.

2. Only designated individuals are allowed in the ring.
3. The Steward may measure and re-classify entries.
4. The Judge may dismiss any entry that they feel is out of control or a danger.
5. Classes may be combined, divided or eliminated at the discretion of show officials. **All under saddle classes must have 3 entries to fill a class.**
6. Classes will be run in numerical order.
7. Tie Breaking: In the event of a tie, for English, the entry who placed higher in a jumping call will win the tie. For Western, a coin toss will be held. Show management reserves the right to hold a coin toss for English if necessary.
8. Questions about placings or points: all questions should be directed to one of the superintendents. Only show management can direct questions to the scorekeeper.
9. Neither the Baltimore County 4-H Fair Association nor its show staff will be responsible for damages or injury to horses, riders, spectators or equipment.
10. Exhibitors are responsible for feed and bedding. Stalls must be stripped and checked out prior to leaving the fairgrounds.
11. See fair schedule for stall availability schedule. If you have a conflict, please contact Carrie O'Meara.
12. Any complaints or concerns must be addressed to one of the Superintendents. Protests must be accompanied by a \$100 check. The fee will be returned if the decision is in favor of the complainant. The decision of the Fair Board will be final.

**Division Specific Rules:**

Grooming and Showmanship and Confirmation

1. Horse Lovers may only enter in the Horse Lovers Grooming and Showmanship if the owner/lease is not entered in non-horse lover grooming and showmanship.
2. All grooming to be done outside of the ring prior to the class.
3. English to be shown in bridle, Western to be shown in a halter, or breed appropriate tack.
4. Open to Horse Lovers and Non-Horse Lovers. Each horse may be entered only once. If the horse has been entered twice in one class, show management will default to the owner/lease.

**Speed**

1. UME volunteer Adult assistance is allowed entering and exiting the ring for speed classes.

PROPOSED PREMIUM: \$16 per animal. May be withheld by show officials for rules violations, such as leaving dirty stalls.