

## HORSE DEPARTMENT

Superintendent: Sondra Feldstein  
Assistant Superintendent: Jessica Boor  
Horse Committee: Blake Jaschke, Julie Ramer,  
Melissa Reeves

### GENERAL RULES

1. Entries – See Fair General Rules and Regulations. Check in and measurement will take place between 4:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. Wednesday in the warm up arena. All exhibitors at check in will be asked to verify stall numbers & emergency phone numbers. All equines must be accompanied by a CERTIFICATE OF VETERINARY INSPECTION with individual identification or a description of the individual animal listed and dated within 30 days of the County Fair.
2. An exhibitor meeting will be held in the warm up arena after the crowning of the Polk County Fair King and Queen or 8:00 P.M., whichever is later.
3. Unless otherwise addressed in this rulebook, “Rules and Regulations for 4-H Equine Shows in Iowa” available online at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4hfiles/agriculture/4H511CEquineRulesRegOnline2013.pdf> will be followed. Some of the more important rules are restated in this (county) rulebook, but not all the rules are reprinted here. Exhibitors are advised to consult the state publication for class descriptions, judging standards, code of conduct and legal equipment for both performance and games divisions. Judge’s decision is final.
4. Exhibitors must present equipment for inspection when requested by show officials. Use of illegal equipment may result in dismissal from the show, disqualification and/or forfeiture of premiums, ribbons and other prizes.
5. An exhibitor is limited to entering and showing ONE (1) animal in a class, and may not exhibit more than FOUR (4) animals at the fair.
6. In accordance with state rules, siblings may co-identify multiple horses. However, they may not show the same horse in the same classes regardless of age division; eg. If one sibling shows in junior barrels, the other sibling may not show the same horse in senior barrels.
7. In cases where siblings share only one horse, there is no restriction on which classes they each may enter.
8. NO STALLIONS, WEANLINGS OR FOALS MAY BE SHOWN OR BROUGHT TO THE FAIR.
9. In compliance with State 4-H rules, in order to be eligible to show a horse at halter, the horse must be owned by the 4-H'er or in partnership with a family member such as a mother, father, sister or brother. This rule does not apply to any of the performance, games or showmanship classes.
10. Only exhibitors and members of the immediate family, local club leader, assistant leaders or project leaders may assist with grooming and fitting animals at the show. A 4-H/FFA exhibitor may not be coached by any trainer on the Iowa State Fairgrounds during the Polk County Fair.
11. Only exhibitors may ride horses or ponies on the fairgrounds during the fair. If, for safety reasons, a parent or leader believes an animal needs to be lunged by an adult, please see the superintendent or a horse committee member.
12. NO COACHING OR OTHER ASSISTANCE TO EXHIBITORS IN THE ARENA DURING A CLASS. This includes verbal cues to the horse or pony. There will be ONE (1) warning from show officials. The next violation will be a disqualification for the exhibitor and the animal and forfeit of premiums, ribbons, and other awards.
13. No exhibitor may be tied or fastened in the saddle, in any manner, while on show grounds. Anyone violating this rule will be dismissed from the show and forfeit all ribbons, premiums, and other prizes.
14. No dumping manure in garbage cans. All manure must be carried outside to designated piles.
15. No riding double at any time.
16. No riding in the barn at any time.
17. No loping in the warm up arena. One warning will be given by the superintendents, horse committee or designated show volunteers. A second violation will result in immediate dismissal from the show and forfeiture of all prizes & premiums.
18. All horses and ponies are to be in their stalls at all times except: (1) an exhibitor may exercise horses and ponies in the designated area(s) at the times designated by superintendents; (2) an exhibitor may wash his/her horse or pony at any time with adult supervision; or (3) an exhibitor may tie the horse or pony in the aisle to prepare the horse or pony for the show so long as the exhibitor does not leave the animal unattended.
19. For purposes of classes at this show, all entries will be subject to measurement at check-in. Animals 57 inches or taller will be considered horses. Ponies must be less than 57 inches, or 57 1/2 inches if shod. POA cards will be accepted.
20. Exhibitors riding a pony may choose to enter either the pony division or the appropriate age division for the rider, but must stick with one choice— you can't show as a pony in one class and a horse in another. Exception is games, where only age divisions are provided; exhibitors riding ponies in games should enter the rider's appropriate age division.
21. Exhibitors are required to provide woodshavings or straw for stall bedding. Stalls must be picked clean twice a day.
22. Stall cards must be attached to stall fronts and be filled out completely, including emergency phone numbers on the back of the card. DO NOT LOCK horse stalls. Tack stalls must also be marked and should be locked.
23. Questions about show conduct must be directed to show officials immediately. Once a decision has been reached, it is final.
24. Any exhibitor who needs to administer injections to a horse (eg., allergy medicine) should talk to the superintendent first so there will be no misunderstanding about drug use.
25. STALLS MUST BE CLEANED AND SWEEPED OUT, AND BEDDING MUST BE COMPLETELY REMOVED AND PLACED IN THE AISLE FOUR FEET FROM THE WALL. STALL CLEANING MAY BEGIN AT RELEASE TIME AND STALLS MUST BE INSPECTED BEFORE LEAVING FAIRGROUNDS OR PREMIUMS WILL BE FORFEITED. Leave stall card in place until inspected by a superintendent or horse committee member.

26. ALL EXHIBITORS will be required to help clean the Jacobson arena and empty all trash cans in horse barn following completion of timed games on Sunday.
27. Violations of ANY rule(s) may result in premium & prize forfeiture and/or disqualification. (See General Rules and Regulations.)
28. Animals must remain in place until 4 p.m. Sunday. Any animal that leaves the grounds before that time will forfeit all ribbons, premiums, and prizes, except in cases of medical emergency as determined by a veterinarian and cleared with the superintendent.

#### **ATTIRE**

29. An ASTM/SEI approved headgear with properly fitted harness and chin strap fastened is required at all times while mounted. No caps, hats, or scarves may be worn under the helmet. The Polk County Fair Association and Iowa State University make no representation or warranty, express or implied, about any protective headgear, and caution all riders that death or serious injury may result despite wearing such headgear as all equestrian sports involve inherent dangerous risk and no helmet can protect against all foreseeable injuries.
30. Hard soled boots with heels and an approved helmet must be worn at all times when riding. Boots are recommended at all times. **NO FLIP-FLOPS WHILE HANDLING HORSES.**
31. Dress for exhibitors: Western/Games: long sleeve white or solid colored shirt is preferred, also acceptable are: tuxedo white shirt or FFA jacket. All shirts must be buttoned or snapped, no zippers. Blue jeans only, no chaps. An approved helmet and heeled boots; ties and gloves optional. English: plain white or colored shirt or blouse, riding breeches, field boots and an approved helmet. Paddock boots and half chaps are acceptable. (Jackets, vests, ties, and gloves are optional.) All shirts, English and Western, shall be absent of beading, sequins and other bling. No slip-on spurs.
32. Exhibitors will be issued two numbers. Numbers should be displayed on either side of saddle pad during all riding classes.
33. FFA or 4-H armband worn on the left arm is required for all exhibitors. Failure to properly display armband will result in disqualification from the class. 4-H armbands may be purchased at the Extension Office throughout the year or at the fair. FFA exhibitors, see your advisors for armbands.

#### **HALTER AND SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES**

34. For halter and showmanship classes, either Western or English tack and attire is acceptable. Western exhibitors in halter and showmanship must wear a cowboy hat. No cowgirl crowns. Exhibitors may use either a leather or nylon halter with chain on the lead rope.
35. Exhibitors may win showmanship only once per age group. The Master Showmanship class is open to exhibitors who have already won an age division showmanship class in previous years and are ineligible to compete in that age division again. Current year's showmanship winners in each age division will also compete in Master Showmanship.

#### **PERFORMANCE AND GAME CLASSES**

36. Age divisions are according to last grade completed by exhibitor, as follows:  
Junior: 4th – 6th grade  
  
Intermediate: 7th – 8th grade  
  
Senior: 9th – 12th grade  
  
Pony: animals under 57"  
  
Collegiate FFA: FFA exhibitors who have started college. Separate classes will be provided if there are three or more collegiate FFA exhibitors in a class. Collegiate FFA are not eligible for high point awards.
37. Class sizes for purpose of entries are not limited. The show officials and judge reserve the right to split larger classes into smaller groups or combine classes to facilitate judging.
38. Exhibitors in timed games will mount outside the arena. If absolutely necessary, exhibitors may mount inside the arena but must do so without assistance and the horse must remain under control at all times. Exhibitors will drop stirrups for inspection by designated gate official before entering arena. Once in the arena, exhibitors will wait until the gate is closed and the gate official gives the go order before starting their run. Failure to wait for the go order will result in a five second penalty. Exhibitors must come to a complete stop and dismount before exiting the arena.
39. Only a parent, leader or designated show official may assist the rider up to the gate. Adults may not enter the arena.
40. In all game classes a five second penalty will be assessed for each barrel or pole that is knocked down while riding the course. Touching a barrel or pole is not a disqualification. Holding up or resetting a pole or barrel is not allowed.
41. No do – over's for the game classes, including cases of equipment failure.
42. Exhibitors who are showing sheep or poultry will be accommodated as necessary. Otherwise all exhibitors will run games in the order listed in the show book.
43. Attire for timed events: solid long-sleeve shirt with 4-H/FFA armband, or intact current Polk County Fair t-shirt.

#### **ADDITIONAL CLASS INFORMATION**

44. Exhibitors entered in Novice Walk Trot and/or Novice Walk Trot Horsemanship may not enter any other performance classes except for Trail. They may enter Timed Games classes.
45. Exhibitors wishing to enter bareback classes for the first time must demonstrate to the Horse Committee's satisfaction their ability to stay on and steer their horse safely. Such demonstration will take place during pre-fair clinics or at a designated time at the county fair. Bareback classes will use equitation elements as outlined in "Rules and Regulations for 4-H Equine Shows in Iowa."

46. Ranch Horse Equitation is a pattern class using AQHA Ranch Horse Pleasure Pattern #1 and the judging standards for Ranch Horse Pleasure.
47. All pleasure classes require riders to perform a controlled lope on a loose rein (see description of classes in "Rules and Regulations for 4-H Equine Shows in Iowa" available online at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4hfiles/agriculture/4H511CEquineRulesRegOnline2013.pdf>) . If you and your horse are unable to perform this maneuver, you don't belong in the pleasure classes. Exhibitors displaying excessive speed, passing with insufficient room or otherwise judged to be endangering other riders will be asked to come to the center.

**AWARDS**

48. Premiums will be awarded in all classes (unless otherwise specified) for Blue and Red ribbon groups. Purple ribbons may be given by the judge but will be treated as a blue ribbon for premium awards.
49. High Point/Reserve High Point awards will be given in each of the three age groups (Senior, Intermediate, Junior) for English performance, Western performance, and timed games divisions, and also for Pony Performance. These awards will be given to the exhibitor and horse/pony combination earning the most cumulative points in the division. Only a blue or purple ribbon earns points, regardless of class placing. All riding classes specific to the division and broken by rider's age will count toward high point.
50. The point system will be as follows:

Entries in Class	Points per Class
1	1
2	2-1
3	3-2-1
4	4-3-2-1
5	5-4-3-2-1

Tiebreakers: earned points in greatest number of events; greatest number of first place finishes; highest placing in western horsemanship/English equitation class.

**FUN GAMES (Friday evening)**

**NO PRE-ENTRY REQUIRED.  
NO PREMIUMS. NO POINTS.**

4-H/FFA horse exhibitors only except for boot scramble & stick horse race. Riding attire: jeans, boots, helmet and intact 4-H or FFA t-shirt.

- Boot scramble up to & including 3rd grade
- Horse Parent Olympics
- Egg & Spoon
- Izzy-Dizzy
- TP Race
- Tandem Bareback

**OPEN CLASSES FOR AGES K-3RD GRADE**

1. No Premiums. Entries due July 2 on Clover Kids entry form. See show schedule for class numbers. This is not a 4-H class, so it is not necessary to be a Clover Kids member to enter these classes.

2. Exhibitors must use a horse or pony that is otherwise entered in the current year's Polk County Fair. Specify on entry form name and club of exhibitor whose horse you will be riding.
3. Exhibitors who have completed kindergarten through 3rd grade may enter.
4. 4-H or FFA horse exhibitor must lead the exhibitor in the lead line class.
5. Parent or Guardian must be present during show.
6. Fair Association is not liable for injury. All exhibitors must have a liability waiver signed by parent or guardian.
7. Exhibitors must wear a helmet, jeans and long-sleeved white or solid-colored shirt or current Polk County Fair t-shirt. 4-H/FFA members in lead line class must follow the same rules for attire as in showmanship classes.
8. Exhibitors may enter both classes.
9. Exhibitors in these classes may warm up beginning at 6:00 p.m. Friday. They may not ride at any other time during the fair.

**JUNIOR AND SENIOR COWGIRL QUEEN CONTEST**

1. No Premiums. No points.
2. Exhibitor must be a current 4-H/FFA member in Polk County to compete.
3. Attire is the same as all other Western classes.
4. Age requirements and rules will follow the Iowa State Fair rules for the current year. Junior Cowgirl exhibitors must be 10 to 15 years old as of January 1. Senior Cowgirl exhibitors must be 16 to 21 years of age as of January 1.
5. Winners must represent Polk County 4-H/FFA at the Iowa State Fair Cowgirl Queen Contest in August.
6. Enter appropriate class on regular entry form; see show schedule for class number.

**THURSDAY 2:00 P.M**

1. Halter - Miniature Horse or Donkey, All Ages
2. Halter - Pony Mares, All Ages
3. Halter - Pony Geldings, All Ages
4. Pony/Mini/Donkey Halter Championship
5. Halter - Junior Mares 5 & under
6. Halter - Junior Geldings 5 & under
7. Halter - Senior Mares
8. Halter - Senior Geldings
9. Yearling Lunge Line
10. Halter Championship
11. Senior Showmanship, Western or English
12. Intermediate Showmanship, Western or English
13. Junior Showmanship, Western or English
14. Master Showmanship, Western or English

**FRIDAY 8:30 A.M.**

15. Cart Driving-No Age Division
16. Senior English Walk Trot
17. Intermediate English Walk Trot
18. Junior English Walk Trot
19. Pony English Walk Trot
20. Senior English Pleasure Hunt Seat
21. Intermediate English Pleasure Hunt Seat
22. Junior English Pleasure Hunt Seat
23. Pony English Pleasure Hunt Seat
24. Senior English Equitation Hunt Seat
25. Intermediate English Equitation Hunt Seat
26. Junior English Equitation Hunt Seat
27. Pony English Equitation Hunt Seat
28. Senior Hunter Hack
29. Intermediate Hunter Hack
30. Junior Hunter Hack
31. Pony Hunter Hack
32. Miniature Horse Jumping
33. Senior English Bareback Equitation
34. Intermediate English Bareback Equitation
35. Junior English Bareback Equitation
36. Pony English Bareback Equitation

**BREAK**

37. Senior Western Bareback Equitation
38. Intermediate Western Bareback Equitation
39. Junior Western Bareback Equitation
40. Pony Western Bareback Equitation
41. Novice Walk Trot (1st or 2nd Year exhibitor)
42. 2 & 3 year old Pleasure (English or Western)
43. Novice Walk Trot Horsemanship - Pattern class (1st or 2nd Year exhibitor)
44. Senior Ranch Horse Equitation (AQHA #1)
45. Intermediate Ranch Horse Equitation (AQHA #1)
46. Junior Ranch Horse Equitation (AQHA #1)
47. Pony Ranch Horse Equitation (AQHA #1)

**FRIDAY 7:00 P.M**

48. K-3rd Grade Lead Line
49. K-3rd Grade Walk Trot
50. K-3rd Grade Showmanship

**FUN GAMES (no entry, no fee)**

- Boot scramble up to 3rd grade
- Horse Parent Olympics
- Egg & Spoon
- Izzy-Dizzy
- Toilet Paper Race
- Tandem Bareback

**SATURDAY 8:30 A.M**

51. Miniature Horse, Yearling or Donkey Trail in Hand
52. Senior Western Trail
53. Intermediate Western Trail
54. Junior Western Trail
55. Pony Trail

**BREAK**

56. Senior Western Walk Trot
57. Intermediate Western Walk Trot
58. Junior Western Walk Trot
59. Pony Western Walk Trot
60. Senior Western Pleasure
61. Intermediate Western Pleasure
62. Junior Western Pleasure
63. Pony Western Pleasure
64. Senior Western Horsemanship
65. Intermediate Western Horsemanship
66. Junior Western Horsemanship
67. Pony Western Horsemanship
68. Senior Cowgirl Queen
69. Junior Cowgirl Queen

**SUNDAY 9:00 A.M TIMED GAMES**

70. Senior Pole Bending
71. Intermediate Pole Bending
72. Junior Pole Bending
73. Senior Barrels
74. Intermediate Barrels
75. Junior Barrels
76. Senior Flag Race
77. Intermediate Flag Race
78. Junior Flag Race
79. Senior Figure 8 Barrels
80. Intermediate Figure 8 Barrels
81. Junior Figure 8 Barrels