

# Horse Department

Superintendents: Jessica Boor

Assistant: Cody Flatt

Horse Committee: Josh Jensen and Kim Liske

## General Rules

1. **Check-in and measurement will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday 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. Exhibitors will receive their exhibitor numbers at check-in.
2. **A REQUIRED exhibitor meeting will be held in the warm-up arena following horse check-in on Saturday.**
3. Unless otherwise addressed in this rulebook, "Rules and Regulations for 4-H Equine Shows in Iowa" is available online (<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 rules are reprinted here. Exhibitors are advised to consult the state publication for class descriptions, judging standards, code of conduct, and legal equipment for performance and games divisions.
4. The judge's decision is final.
5. Exhibitors must present the equipment for inspection when requested by show officials. Use of illegal equipment may result in dismissal from the show, disqualification, and forfeiture of premiums, ribbons, and other prizes.
6. 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.
7. Under state rules, siblings may co-identify multiple horses. However, if they share more than one horse, they may not show the same horse in the same classes regardless of age division, e.g., if one sibling shows in junior barrels, the other sibling may not show the same horse in senior barrels. In cases where siblings share only one horse, there is no restriction on which classes they may enter.
8. **No** stallions, weanlings, or foals may be shown or brought to the fair.
9. All juniors (those who've completed grades 4-6) and any first-time Polk County horse exhibitor, regardless of age or experience, **MUST** attend THREE Polk County 4-H/FFA clinics (or professionally held and paid for clinics\*) to be eligible to show at the county fair (first-time exhibitors older than grade 6 may be excused from further requirements after coming to one clinic if superintendents are satisfied as to the exhibitor's ability to ride and control their animal). \*Contact must be made to the superintendent(s) prior to clinic to obtain necessary forms for completion by the clinician.
10. Leased horses may be shown in halter at the county fair. **THIS RULE DIFFERS FROM THE STATE SHOW.**
11. Only exhibitors and immediate family members, local club leaders, 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.
12. 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 lunging by an adult, please see the superintendent or a horse committee member.
13. **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 disqualifying the exhibitor and the animal and forfeiting premiums, ribbons, and other awards.
14. 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.
15. No dumping manure in garbage cans. All manure must be carried outside to designated piles.
16. No riding double at any time.
17. No riding in the barn at any time.
18. 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.

19. STANDARD OF CARE: Exhibitors are required to provide wood shavings for stall bedding. ALL equines must be fed and watered each day, and their stalls picked clean, no later than 10 a.m. each day. All equines must be taken out of the stall for exercise at least once a day if not otherwise being shown. Two water buckets must be full at 9 p.m. each night, and stalls picked a second time. Failure to follow this standard of care will result in forfeiture of all premiums, ribbons, and other awards and may result in disqualification from further showing.
20. 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 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.
21. 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.
22. 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. The exception is games, where only age divisions are provided; exhibitors riding ponies in games should enter the rider's appropriate age division.
23. 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.
24. Questions about show conduct must be directed to horse show officials immediately. Once a decision has been reached, it is final.
25. Any exhibitor who needs to administer injections to a horse (e.g., allergy medicine) should talk to the superintendent first to avoid misunderstandings about drug use.
26. ALL EXHIBITORS will be required to help empty trash cans in the horse barn before the horse awards on Thursday.
27. Animals must remain in place until 5:00 PM Thursday. Any animal that leaves the grounds before that time will forfeit all ribbons, premiums, and prizes, except in cases of a medical emergency as determined by a veterinarian and cleared with the superintendent. Stalls must be cleaned and swept out at check-out time, and bedding must be completely removed and placed four feet from the wall in the aisle. 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.
28. Violations of ANY rule(s) may result in premium & prize forfeiture and/or disqualification. (See General Rules and Regulations.)

### **Attire**

1. An ASTM/SEI-approved headgear with a 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.
2. Hard-soled boots with heels and an approved helmet must be always worn when riding. Boots are recommended at all times. NO FLIP-FLOPS WHILE HANDLING HORSES.
3. Dress for exhibitors: western: long sleeve white or solid-colored shirt is preferred, also acceptable are: white tuxedo shirt or FFA jacket. Zip-up shirts are allowed at the county fair, THIS DIFFERS FROM THE STATE SHOW WHICH DOES NOT ALLOW ZIPPERED SHIRTS. Blue jeans only, no chaps. An approved helmet and heeled boots; ties and gloves optional. English: plain white or colored long-sleeved 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.
4. Exhibitors will be issued two numbers. Numbers should be displayed on either side of the saddle pad during all riding classes and on the exhibitor's back during all in-hand and bareback classes. Failure to

properly display the number will result in disqualification from the class.

5. FFA or 4-H armband worn on the left arm is required for all exhibitors. Failure to properly display the 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**

1. For halter and showmanship classes, either Western or English tack 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 a chain on the lead rope.
2. 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. The winner of Master Showmanship (or Senior showmanship, in the event that Master is won by an intermediate or junior exhibitor) will also compete in Supreme Showmanship on Thursday.

### **Performance and Game Classes**

1. Age divisions are according to the last grade completed by the exhibitor, as follows:
  - a. Junior: 4th – 6th grade
  - b. Intermediate: 7th – 8th grade
  - c. Senior: 9th – 12th grade
  - d. Pony: animals under 57"
  - e. 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 is not eligible for high point awards.
2. Class sizes: entries per class are not limited. The show officials and judge reserve the right to split larger classes into smaller groups or combine classes to facilitate judging.
3. Exhibitors in timed games will mount outside the arena. If 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 officials before entering the arena. Once in the arena, exhibitors will wait until the gate is closed and the gate official gives the order before starting their run. Failure to wait for the order will result in a five-second penalty. Exhibitors must come to a complete stop and dismount before exiting the arena. THIS DIFFERS FROM STATE RULES in that we do not limit the number of circles an exhibitor may take before starting their run.
4. Only a parent, leader, or designated show official may assist the rider up to the gate. Adults may not enter the arena.
5. A five-second penalty will be assessed for each barrel or pole knocked down while riding the course in all game classes. Touching a barrel or pole is not a disqualification. Holding up or resetting a pole or barrel is not allowed.
6. No do – overs for the game classes, including cases of equipment failure.
7. Exhibitors who have conflicts will be accommodated as necessary. Otherwise, all exhibitors will run games in the order listed in the show book.
8. Attire for timed events: solid long-sleeve shirt with 4-H/FFA armband, or intact current Polk County Fair t-shirt. THIS DIFFERS FROM STATE FAIR, WHICH DOES NOT ALLOW T-SHIRTS.

### **Additional Class Information**

1. Exhibitors entered in Novice classes may not enter any other performance classes. They may enter Timed Games classes.
2. Exhibitors must choose EITHER Ranch or Western for both Pleasure, Horse Walk/Trot, **Horsemanship/Equitation classes**, not a combination. No silver on tack and no fake tails for Ranch Horse Pleasure and Walk/Trot classes; banded manes are OK.
3. **Exhibitors entering in Trail or Western (Ranch) Bareback Equitation classes, must show in either ranch or western attire. There will NOT be separate placings for Ranch and Western exhibitors entered into the age division classes. The judge will provide only ONE (1) pattern for each age division. Only western based (i.e. no log drag) obstacles will be used for all trail classes.**
4. 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 outlined in "Rules and Regulations for 4-H Equine Shows in Iowa."

5. Ranch Horse Equitation is a pattern class using AQHA ranch riding patterns and the judging standards for Ranch Riding.
6. All pleasure classes (English, Western, and Ranch) 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 \(http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4hfiles/agriculture/4H511CEquineRulesRegOnline2013.pdf\)](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4hfiles/agriculture/4H511CEquineRulesRegOnline2013.pdf)). If you and your horse cannot 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.
7. Exhibitors are advised to consult the state publication for class descriptions, judging standards, code of conduct, and legal equipment for performance and games divisions.

## Awards

1. The judge may award Purple ribbons but will be treated as a blue ribbon for premium awards.
2. High Point/Reserve High Point awards will be given in each of the three age groups (Senior, Intermediate, and Junior) for English performance, Western performance, **Ranch performance** and timed games divisions. These awards will be given to the exhibitor and horse/pony combination, earning the most cumulative points in the division. Classes specific to each age division

### High Point/Reserve High Point Award are:

English Performance: English Walk-Trot, English Pleasure Hunt Seat, English Equitation Hunt Seat, Hunter Hack, and English Bareback Equitation.

Western Performance: Western (Ranch) Trail, Western Walk-Trot, Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship, and Western (Ranch) Bareback Equitation.

Ranch Performance: Western (Ranch) Trail, Ranch Horse Walk-Trot, Ranch Rail Pleasure, Ranch Horse Equitation, and Western (Ranch) Bareback Equitation.

Timed Games: Pole Bending, Barrels, Flag Race, and Figure 8 Barrels.

Novice Division: Novice W/T Trail, Novice Walk-Trot, and Novice W/T Horsemanship

Mini Horse/Yearling In-Hand Division: Mini Horse/Yearling/Donkey In-Hand Trail, ALL Miniature Horse/Yearling or Donkey In-Hand Timed Games.

3. The point system used for ALL classes regardless of class type and class entry numbers, will be as follows:  
First (1st) Place = 5 points  
Second (2nd) Place = 4 points  
Third (3rd) Place = 3 points  
Fourth (4th) Place = 2 points  
Fifth (5th) Place = 1 point
4. Tiebreakers: earned points in greatest number of events; greatest number of first place finishes; greatest number of purple ribbons; highest placing in western horsemanship/English equitation class OR for timed games, lowest total time.

## 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. 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. Runner-up will represent if the winner can not attend.
6. Exhibitors who have already qualified for Cowgirl Queen through another organization are welcome to enter the class and ride as exhibition only; you must pay the fee, but you will not be judged. If you qualify for the state fair AFTER entries are due July 1, you may still go ahead and ride as an exhibition only; you will not be judged.

## Youth Open Class Horse

**Superintendent: Jessica Boor**

**Assistant: Cody Flatt**

1. Open Classes for Ages K-3rd Grade. No Premiums.
2. Entry fees and registration is due by July 1 via FairEntry. Entries after July 1 will have a late fee. See general rules for more information.
3. See the show schedule for class numbers. This is not a 4-H class, so it is unnecessary to be a Clover Kids member to enter these classes.
4. Exhibitors may use a horse or pony that is entered for the Polk County Fair. Specify the name and club of the exhibitor whose horse you will be riding. If an exhibitor brings their own horse for open classes, it must have health papers, and it must arrive no earlier than noon on the day of the show and leave that evening. If the exhibitor puts the animal in a stall, stall must be cleaned completely before leaving.
5. Exhibitors who have completed kindergarten through 3rd grade may enter.
6. 4-H or FFA horse exhibitor must lead the exhibitor in the lead line class.
7. Parent or Guardian must be present during the show.
8. Fair Association is not liable for the injury. All exhibitors must have a liability waiver signed by a parent or guardian.
9. Exhibitors must wear a helmet, jeans, heeled boots, long-sleeved white or solid-colored shirt, or a current Polk County Fair t-shirt. 4-H/FFA members in the lead line class must follow the same rules for attire as in showmanship classes.
10. Exhibitors may enter all three classes.
11. Exhibitors in these classes may warm-up beginning at 5:30 PM Monday. They may not ride at any other time during the fair.
12. A mandatory Open Class Exhibitor Meeting will be held at 5:15 pm Monday. The Exhibitor meeting will go over class, exhibitor and spectator expectations for the Polk County Fair open classes.

### **Class Number and Description**

CK1	K-3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Walk Trot
CK2	K-3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Lead Line
CK3	K-3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Showmanship

## Sunday 3:00 PM

1. Halter - Miniature Horse or Donkey, All Ages
2. Halter - Pony Mares, All Ages
3. Halter - Pony Geldings, All Age  
3C Pony/Mini/Donkey Halter Championship
4. Halter - Junior Mares 5 & under
5. Halter - Junior Geldings 5 & under
6. Halter - Senior Mares
7. Halter - Senior Geldings  
7C Halter Championship
8. Yearling Longe Line
9. Senior Showmanship, Western or English
10. Intermediate Showmanship, Western or English
11. Junior Showmanship, Western or English
12. Master Showmanship, Western or English
13. Miniature Horse, Yearling, or Donkey Trail in Hand
14. Senior Western (Ranch) Trail
15. Intermediate Western (Ranch) Trail
16. Junior Western (Ranch) Trail
17. Novice W/T Trail (1st and 2nd-year exhibitor)

## Monday 1:00 PM

18. Cart Driving-No Age Division
19. Senior English Walk Trot
20. Intermediate English Walk Trot
21. Junior English Walk Trot
22. Senior English Pleasure Hunt Seat
23. Intermediate English Pleasure Hunt Seat
24. Junior English Pleasure Hunt Seat
25. Senior English Equitation Hunt Seat
26. Intermediate English Equitation Hunt Seat
27. Junior English Equitation Hunt Seat
28. Senior Hunter Hack
29. Intermediate Hunter Hack
30. Junior Hunter Hack
31. Miniature Horse Jumping
32. Senior English Bareback Equitation
33. Intermediate English Bareback Equitation
34. Junior English Bareback Equitation
35. Novice Walk-Trot (1st or 2nd Year exhibitor)
36. 2- & 3-year-old Pleasure (English or Western)
37. Novice W/T Horsemanship (1st or 2nd Year exhibitor)
38. Senior Cowgirl Queen
39. Junior Cowgirl Queen

\*Must choose **EITHER** western or ranch for any given horse

## Monday 6:30 PM

- CK1 K-3rd Grade Walk Trot
- CK2 K-3rd Grade Lead Line
- CK3 K-3rd Grade Showmanship

## Fun Games (no pre-entry, no fee)

- Boot scramble up to 3rd grade
- Horse Parent Olympics- Bribe, a Pony
- Fun Games for 4-H/ FFA Exhibitors

## Tuesday 9:00 AM

40. Senior Western Walk-Trot\*
41. Intermediate Western Walk-Trot\*
42. Junior Western Walk-Trot\*
43. Senior Ranch Horse Walk Trot\*
44. Intermediate Ranch Horse Walk Trot\*
45. Junior Western Ranch Horse Walk Trot\*
46. Senior Western Pleasure\*
47. Intermediate Western Pleasure\*
48. Junior Western Pleasure\*
49. Senior Ranch Rail Pleasure\*
50. Intermediate Ranch Rail Pleasure\*
51. Junior Ranch Rail Pleasure\*
52. Senior Western Horsemanship\*
53. Intermediate Western Horsemanship\*
54. Junior Western Horsemanship\*
55. Senior Ranch Horse Equitation\*
56. Intermediate Ranch Horse Equitation\*
57. Junior Ranch Horse Equitation\*
58. Senior Western/Ranch Bareback Equitation
59. Intermediate Western/Ranch Bareback Equitation
60. Junior Western/Ranch Bareback Equitation

## Wednesday 9:00 AM

61. Senior Pole Bending
62. Intermediate Pole Bending
63. Junior Pole Bending
64. Mini Horse/Yearling In-Hand Pole Bending
65. Senior Barrels
66. Intermediate Barrels
67. Junior Barrels
68. Mini Horse/Yearling In-Hand Barrels
69. Senior Flag Race
70. Intermediate Flag Race
71. Junior Flag Race
72. Mini Horse/Yearling In-Hand Flag Race
73. Senior Figure 8 Barrels
74. Intermediate Figure 8 Barrels
75. Junior Figure 8 Barrels
76. Mini Horse/Yearling In-Hand Figure 8 Barrels

## Thursday 11:00 AM

Awards and Recognition