

- 1431 - Junior Doe, 6 months of age and younger.
- 1432 - Champion Crossbred Doe. (TR)
- 1433 - Reserve Champion Crossbred Doe. (TR)
- 1434 - Senior Buck, 7 months of age or older.
- 1435 - Junior Buck, 6 months of age and younger.
- 1436 - Champion Crossbred Buck. (TR)
- 1437 - Reserve Champion Crossbred Buck. (TR)
- 1438 - Grand Champion Crossbred Rabbit. (BR)
- 1439 - Reserve Grand Champion Crossbred Rabbit. (BR)

- 2. Exhibit two (2) 11" x 14" posters with six (6) 4" x 6" photographs and captions of the following: one photograph each of housing facility, buck, and doe. Three photographs showing the progress and growth of litter. (Poster board available at St. Joseph County MSU Extension office.)

Class

- 1460 - Exhibit completed 4-H Market Rabbit Kindling Report and 11" x 14" poster containing six photographs
- 1461 - Best-of-Show Mkt. Rabbit Kindling Report. (TR)

Department 16 - Horses & Ponies

Rebecca Houk, Superintendent
Julie Bruce, Assistant Superintendent

General Rules and Information

1. Horse Project members and their parents/guardians are responsible for knowing and obeying the rules governing the exhibition of horses and ponies in the youth Horse Department at the fair including the [Michigan 4-H Horse and Pony Project Show Rules & Regulations](#). Members may be disciplined by loss of privileges including, but not limited to, loss of fair premium monies and awards; dismissal from a given class(es), and removal of project animal(s) from the fairgrounds. For current year horse project rules and patterns see www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_horse_and_pony.
2. All project animals must be registered in the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office by May 1 of the current project year. All exhibitors may only show animals signed up in exhibitor's name at the St. Joseph County fair. Members are responsible for supplying the following information, on registration forms, regarding each project animal: name, sex, age, breed, **3 1/2" x 2 1/2" FULL BODY sideview color photo**.
3. Exhibitors may register and show up to six project animals at the fair.
4. **Exhibitors may enter only one exhibit per class.**
Attention: If you choose to show a given 4-H project animal in BOTH a Fitting & Showmanship class and a Horsemanship class, the animal must be shown in the same type of Fitting & Showmanship and Horsemanship classes (i.e., a horse shown in a Gymkhana Fitting & Showmanship class would need to be shown in the corresponding (based on exhibitor age) Gymkhana Horsemanship class, etc.)
5. Exhibitors will not be allowed to enter or exhibit in this species department if exhibited at another county fair during the current year.
6. Stallions may not be shown/exhibited at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair.
7. A pony is any animal 56" and under. A miniature is any animal 38" and under. The pony/minature must be measured and registered with a St. Joseph County Pony ID number. See current pony measurement list at www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_horse_and_pony.
8. The exhibitor must wear appropriate footwear (i.e., riding boots or approved riding shoes with heels) whenever he/she is mounted on a horse. Exhibitor must also wear an approved ASTM-SEI helmet for the following disciplines: Ridden Gymkhana classes and Hunter classes (including any classes where the exhibitor rides "hunt style"), Saddle

Divisions G and H - Purebred Breeding Stock Rabbits
(Placing premium table = 102)

1. All breeding stock rabbits must be in exhibitor's possession, identified by a legible tattoo in the left ear and registered in the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office by **August 12** of the current project year. Exhibitors may tattoo **only six** breeding stock rabbits.
2. Purebred rabbits must meet American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) breed standards to be eligible. No papers required.
3. Consult American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) "Standard of Perfection" guide to determine which class (Junior or Senior) a given rabbit should be entered in.
4. **BREEDING STOCK RABBITS MUST BE PICKED UP ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026, BY 8:00 A.M.**

Division G - Fancy Breeding Stock Rabbits
(Placing premium table = 102)

Class

- 1440 - Senior Doe, 7 months of age or older.
- 1441 - Junior Doe, 6 months of age and younger.
- 1442 - Champion Fancy Purebred Doe. (TR)
- 1443 - Reserve Champion Fancy Purebred Doe. (TR)
- 1444 - Senior Buck, 7 months of age or older.
- 1445 - Junior Buck, 6 months of age and younger.
- 1446 - Champion Fancy Purebred Buck. (TR)
- 1447 - Reserve Champion Fancy Purebred Buck. (TR)
- 1448 - Grand Champion Fancy Purebred Rabbit. (BR)
- 1449 - Reserve Grand Champion Fancy Purebred Rabbit. (BR)

Division H - Commercial Breeding Stock Rabbits
(Placing premium table = 102)

Class

- 1450 - Senior Doe, 7 months of age or older.
- 1451 - Junior Doe, 6 months of age and younger.
- 1452 - Champion Commercial Purebred Doe. (TR)
- 1453 - Reserve Champion Commercial Purebred Doe. (TR)
- 1454 - Senior Buck, 7 months of age or older.
- 1455 - Junior Buck, 6 months of age and younger.
- 1456 - Champion Commercial Purebred Buck. (TR)
- 1457 - Reserve Champion Commercial Purebred Buck. (TR)
- 1458 - Grand Champion Commercial Purebred Rabbit. (BR)
- 1459 - Res. Grand Champion Commercial Purebred Rabbit. (BR)

Division I - Market Rabbit Kindling Report
(A, B, C premium table = 2)

Educational Objective: To show knowledge gained throughout Kindling Project.

1. This Division is optional and open to exhibitors who kindled their pen of 4-H market rabbits from their own breeding stock (see Division D).

Seat, Competitive Trail, Jumping, Classical Dressage, Bareback and at **all** practice events. The helmets **must** meet the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) testing standards, **must** be manufactured and distributed by a participant in the certification program of the Safety Equipment Institute (SEI) and **must** bear the SEI certification label. (See 4-H Bulletin "[Michigan 4-H Horse and Pony Project Rules and Regulations](#)".)

9. All exhibitors **are required** to wear the number assigned by 4-H Horse Council (HC) for each corresponding horse/exhibitor combination while being judged in any 4-H class at the St. Joseph County Fair.
10. **All animals must be checked in by exhibitor or immediate family member unless prior arrangements are made in writing and filed at the MSU Extension office 24 hours in advance of check in times at the fair.**
11. All horses and ponies **must** be checked-in and stalled at the fairgrounds **by 5:00 p.m. Saturday, September 19, 2026.** HC Executive Board will do a walk through from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Horses must remain in their stalls during this time. Horses and ponies may arrive **Friday, September 18, 2026 per leader permission.**
12. All requests for trailering in are to be made in writing to the 4-H Horse/Pony Project Superintendent, or in their absence to the Assistant Superintendent. For a copy of the form see www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_horse_and_pony#Forms.
13. Each club member will be responsible for filling at least one stall at fair. Equine to be stalled must be on file in the county registration book and have a negative Coggins.

Health Requirements

14. See www.michigan.gov/mdard/animals/exhibitions.
15. Michigan law requires that all equine entered in exhibitions, expositions or fairs must test **negative** to an official Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) test (**Coggins Test**) within the calendar year, or the previous 30 days, and be able to present proof in the form of an official EIA laboratory report (Coggins Test Report). Proof of testing will be required as follows:
 - A. A **copy** of the Coggins Test Report for each horse/pony to be exhibited at fair **must** be attached to the exhibitor's Horse Fair Entry Form.
 - B. The exhibitor **must** have the **original** Coggins Test Report **on-site** at the fairgrounds and **must** be prepared to produce the test report upon request.
16. All 4-H project animals intended for exhibition at fair **must** be physically able to be stalled at the fair for the **entire week**.
17. Exhibitors who remove their project animal(s) from the fairgrounds without approval will forfeit their related premiums and will not be allowed to exhibit in any remaining fair classes. Once removed, project animal will not be allowed on fairgrounds the remainder of the week. See your leader or Horse Council Board member if removal is needed, as a vet check may be required. Fee for the veterinarian is only assessed if care is provided.
18. All horses and ponies **must** be fed, watered, and exercised daily.

Fair Rules and Information

19. Exhibitors must stable a 4-H project animal in the 4-H Barns on the fairgrounds unless approved by the HC Board.
20. A given exhibitor in this division may receive premiums for no more than five classes.
21. Classes may be divided at the discretion of the 4-H Horse Project Superintendent and/or MSU Extension. **Note:** Classes may be combined/dropped due to low entry numbers.

22. An **award** will be awarded in each class provided there is a **worthy** exhibitor as determined by the judge.
23. Horses and ponies must be ridden using a bridle, hackamore, or bosal.
24. Horses and ponies may **not** be ridden/driven in the barns or in any of the areas where campers are parked.
25. Horses and ponies may only be led out of the **east** end of the barns.
26. All stalls **must** be cleaned daily.
27. Horses and ponies must be returned to **their** stall each night by **9:45 p.m.**
28. Horses and ponies may only be washed in the **designated** wash areas.
29. Horses and ponies may **not** be tied to any practice ring or show arena **fence** at any time.
30. **Horses and ponies, when tied, must be properly and safely secured with a halter and lead rope or trailer tie. Bridles must be removed. No neck tying. Failure to follow this safety rule could result in dismissal.**
31. All **breed standard** grooming techniques (including extensions) are allowed.
32. Exercising of 4-H horses and ponies: 4-H horses and ponies **must** be on lead while going to and from the designated exercise areas.

Horse Sharing Rules and Information

33. Primary and Secondary participants may not enter the same class, with the exception of one-at-a-time, set patterned classes. (examples: dressage tests, gymkhana pattern classes, in-hand jumping classes, trail, any class that does not require that both the primary and secondary participant be exhibiting in the arena at the same time, etc.)
34. Both members hereby agree to meet any guidelines established by the St. Joseph County 4-H Horse Council, Program Coordinator, and/or specialty leaders.
35. Horse/pony/mini must be registered in both primary and secondary 4-H members' names with photo/Coggin's on file.
36. Members must attend minimum number of workouts as established by specialty area leader(s) to be able to show the shared animal at 4-H shows and/or St. Joseph County Grange Fair in Centreville, MI.

Horse Science: Department 69 - Sciences: Division E. Some awards are attached to the completion of this project that is judged and exhibited with the still projects.

English High Point Award Rules:

- A. The award will be for Grand and Reserve Champion English High Point.
- B. Points will be awarded from placing in English classes (all dressage classes, all jumping classes, all saddle seat pleasure classes, all saddle seat equitation classes, all hunter under saddle classes, all hunt seat equitation classes, all dressage suitability classes, all dressage seat equitation classes, all English pleasure classes, all English equitation classes, all English riding classes) at the Horse Council sponsored shows and/or at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair.
- C. Points will be awarded as follows: up to 6 placings for Horse Council sponsored shows and up to 8 placings at fair. **Points are not pro-rated.**
- D. In the case of a tie, the winner will be determined based on the highest total accumulated points in the jumping and dressage classes.

- E. Grand Champion to be won once per horse/rider combination no more than once every 2 years.
- F. Walk/Trot classes are eligible for this award.

The Horse with the Most Heart Award Rules:

- A. Points are accumulated at Horse Council sponsored shows and/or fair based on the number of entries, one point per entry, up to six points at Horse Council sponsored shows and up to eight points at fair. **Points are pro-rated.**
- B. Tiebreaker is the horse and rider team with the most 1st places.
- C. Every 4-H speed event will count for points including gymkhana showmanship and gymkhana horsemanship, but points will be awarded in only one class per show. You may accumulate points for more than one horse/rider combination.
- D. First place can be won repeatedly, but only once with the same horse and rider combination.

Driving High Point Award Rules:

- A. Members must be enrolled and participate in the driving program and must show at the St. Joseph County Fair. Points for this award are accumulated at the St. Joseph County Fair only.
- B. Points will be awarded from the placings in the following five (5) classes: Working Pleasure, Reinsmanship, Drive & Showmanship, Driven Obstacle and highest Driven Dressage points. If a 4-H member is enrolled in more than one dressage class with the same horse, pony or miniature the points will be taken only from the highest placing.
- C. **Points will be pro-rated** by the number of participants in the class.
- D. Exhibitors showing more than one equine will accumulate points on each animal or pair of animals separately; points are on a one-horse/one-driver basis or pair horses/one-driver basis.
- E. This award can be won repeatedly, but only once with the same horse/driver combination.
- F. In case of a tie: The winner will be determined by the exhibitor who beats the most drivers in Driving Reinsmanship. If the tie remains, then the exhibitor who beats the most drivers in working pleasure class will win the award. If a third breaker is required, the exhibitor who beats the most drivers in obstacles will win.

Megan Holt All Around Award

- A. Belt buckles: Buckles to be awarded to the overall Champion and Reserve Champion with the most points earned from 11 show bill classes at the St. Joseph County Fair and Horse Science.
- B. Based on the following show bill classes: showmanship, Western pleasure, English pleasure, bareback, trail, reining, poles, barrels, flags, keyhole, and speed and action.
- C. Walk/Trot classes **do not** count for this award.
- D. To be eligible for this award the exhibitor must attend and qualify in the gymkhana program and show a minimum of 9 show bill classes at the fair.
- E. Members that complete the Horse Science project at the fair will earn 10 points.
- F. Points are tabulated as follows: Eight points for first place, seven points for second place, six points for third place, five points for fourth place, four points for fifth place, three points for sixth place, two points for seventh place and one point for eighth place.

- G. Points will be counted regardless of the number of entries in the class. **Points are not pro-rated.**
- H. Points will be counted by the HC tabulation/point committee.
- I. Exhibitors showing more than one horse or pony will accumulate points on each animal separately.
- J. This award may be won multiple times but only once with the same horse/rider combination.
- K. Tiebreaker will be the fastest time in speed and action.
- L. The second tiebreaker will be the number of horses beaten in showmanship class.

Prairie Ponies High Point In-Hand Award Rules:

- A. The purpose of the award is to recognize excellence in four (4) in-hand miniature horse and pony classes in the St. Joseph County 4-H Horse Program project area.
- B. The award will be based on the performance of the team of one horse/pony and one handler. All horses/ponies must be 46" and under.
- C. A member may compete with more than one horse/pony combination. The winner will be the horse/pony and handler combination with the highest number of points. The award will not be granted to the same team two years in a row.
- D. This award is to be presented at the 4-H Horse awards event at the St Joseph County Grange Fair on the last weekend of the fair.
- E. The award is a Plaque stating the name of the award and \$50 to enhance the recipient's 4-H experience or toward horse related items/tack.
- F. The recipient will present their intentions to the 4-H Horse Council at a Horse Council meeting where the check will be presented to the recipient.
- G. Points will be accumulated from Horse Council sponsored shows and/or Fair Driving/In-Hand Show.
- H. The four (4) classes eligible for points are: in-hand hunter, in-hand jumping, in-hand trail and showmanship.
- I. Not all classes need to be entered to qualify.
- J. Points will be tabulated as stated and the number of entries in the class does not affect the outcome of points: up to 6 placings at Horse Council sponsored shows and 8 placings at fair. **Points are not pro-rated.**
- K. The Horse Council points committee will tabulate the points. If there is a tie, the In-Hand Jumper class at the fair will be the tie breaker.
- L. All participants' points will be tabulated.

St. Joseph County 4-H Pleasure High Point Awards Rules:

- A. Will be awarded for a Champion and Reserve Champion, plus additional Top 3 (Top 5 total) in the following age groups: 13-19 and 8-12.
- B. Fair and/or Horse Council sponsored show classes are counted for this award. Top five (5) placings in the following classes per show will count for the award. Classes are bareback, Western horsemanship, hunt seat equitation, hunt seat pleasure, showmanship, saddle seat equitation, saddle seat pleasure, trail, Western pleasure, and Western/English riding.
- C. Points are tabulated as follows: up to 6 placings for Horse Council sponsored shows and up to 8 placings for fair. **Points are not pro-rated.**
- D. In the event of a tie, the committee will count the number of 1st places received. If a tie remains, 2nd place will be counted and so on.

- E. Points will be counted by the 4-H Horse Council tabulation/point committee. 4-H Horse Council President will confirm all tallied points.
- F. Walk/Trot classes do not count toward this award.

Walk/Trot Award

- A. An award will be given for Grand and Reserve Champion in each age division (8-12 and 13-19 years old) with the most points earned at Horse Council sponsored shows and/or the St. Joseph County Fair in the walk/trot classes.
- B. Classes eligible for points are: Western Horsemanship, Pleasure, English Equitation, English Pleasure, Bareback and Trail, English Dressage Test, Western Dressage Test Rail Dressage Classes.
- C. Not all classes need to be entered to qualify.
- D. **Points are pro-rated based** upon the class size of those that compete in the class.
- E. Points will be counted by the Horse Council tabulation/point committee based on the top six placings.
- F. Tie breaker will be the Walk/Trot Western Horsemanship class.
- G. Award may only be won once per rider/horse combination per age division.

In-Hand Gymkhana Award

- A. 4-H Youth must be enrolled in and participate in the in-hand miniature horse/pony gymkhana classes at the St. Joseph County Fair.
- B. Points for this award are accumulated at the St. Joseph County Fair only.
- C. Every in-hand gymkhana speed class will count toward the award, excluding in-hand jumping and in-hand hunter.
- D. The purpose of this award is to recognize excellence in the in-hand miniature horse and pony classes of the St. Joseph County 4-H Horse Program project area.
- E. All miniature horses/ponies must be 46 inches and under.
- F. The award will be based on the performance of the team (project animal and youth), per age division.
- G. Youth may show more than one miniature horse/pony and will accumulate points on each animal separately.
- H. The award will be presented at the 4-H Horse Awards ceremony at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair or at an alternative scheduled place/time of Horse Council's choosing.
- I. Classes will be timed with placings per class based on fastest time with the least amount of errors/faults.
- J. Points will be awarded based on placing in all the in-hand miniature horse/pony gymkhana classes.
- K. Points will be tabulated as follows: eight points for first place, seven points for second place, six points for third place, five points for fourth place, four points for fifth place, three points for sixth place, two points for seventh place and one point for eighth place. **Points are not pro-rated.**
- L. In the case of a tie, the winner will be determined by the fastest time in the in-hand cloverleaf class.
- M. Award can only be won by horse/youth combination one time.

St. Joseph County Western High Point Award

- A. Award will be for Grand and Reserve Grand Champion.
- B. Points will be awarded based on placing in Bareback Horsemanship, Western Horsemanship, Western Pleasure, Reining, Ranchmanship, Ranch Pleasure, and all Western Dressage tests at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair.
- C. Not all classes need to be entered to qualify.

- D. Points will be tabulated as follows: eight points for first place, seven points for second place, six points for third place, five points for fourth place, four points for fifth place, three points for sixth place, two points for seventh place and one point for eighth place. **Points are not pro-rated.**
- E. In the case of a tie, the winner will be determined based on the highest score in Ranchmanship.
- F. Award may only be won once per rider/horse combination no more than once every 2 years.
- G. Walk/Trot classes **are not** eligible for this award.

Competitive Trail Award

- A. Exhibitor/Horse combination must attend at least two (2) qualifying trail rides before the official judged ride. See horse project rule book.
- B. Trail Ride is completed prior to fair, written test is completed at fair.
- C. Up to 8 placings will be awarded based on the overall ride. Points based on the competitive trail scoring requirements.
- D. In case of a tie, the winner will be determined by the horse with the lowest pulse & respiration.
- E. Competitive Trail Scoring Information:
 - a. 60% trail ride, vet scoring on horses, health & condition of horse, trail equitation & handling of obstacles
 - b. 20% test score and saddle bag of required items, grooming of horse & cleanliness of tack
 - c. 20% based on ground handling/behavior and interaction between horse/exhibitor
 - d. Comments from vet and outrider

Division A - Fitting & Showmanship (Placing premium table = 102)

1. **Attention:** If you choose to show a given 4-H project animal in **BOTH** a Fitting & Showmanship class and a Horsemanship class, the animal must be show in the same type of Fitting & Showmanship and Horsemanship classes (*i.e., a horse shown in a Gymkhana Fitting & Showmanship class would need to be shown in the corresponding Gymkhana Horsemanship class, etc.*)
2. **Attention:** To participate in a Gymkhana Showmanship class, horse/rider combination must compete in a minimum of three gymkhana performance classes.
3. Only one (1) showmanship class will be allowed per horse/rider combination.
4. There will be a Grand & Reserve Grand Champion plus additional Top 3 (Top 5 total), exhibitors 13-19 and 8-12.
5. First place 12-19 year old showman will have the option to compete as the Horse Project representative in the Sweepstakes Showmanship Contest.

Class

- 1601 - Horse/ Pony Showmanship, over 52", exhibitors 15-19
- 1602 - Pony/Mini Horse Showmanship, ponies 52" & under, exhibitors 15-19
- 1603 - Pony Showmanship, over 38" to 56", exhibitors 12-14
- 1604 - Pony Showmanship, over 38" to 56", exhibitors 8-11
- 1605 - Mini-Horse Showmanship, 38" & under, exhibitors 12-14
- 1606 - Mini-Horse Showmanship, 38" & under, exhibitors 8-11
- 1607 - Horse Showmanship, exhibitors 12-14
- 1608 - Horse Showmanship, exhibitors 8-11
- 1609 - Gymkhana Showmanship Horse/Pony, exhibitors 15-19
- 1610 - Gymkhana Showmanship Horse/Pony, exhibitors 12-14

- 1611 - Gymkhana Showmanship Horse/Pony, exhibitors, 8-11
 1612 - Champion Senior Showman (**Special TR**)
Top horse exhibitor 15-19 years old will compete as the Horse Project representative in the Sweepstakes Showmanship Contest.
 1613 - Res. Champion Senior Showman. (**Special R**) 15-19
 1614 - Champion Junior Showman. (**Special TR**) 8-14
 1615 - Res. Champion Junior Showman. (**Special R**) 8-14

Division B - Western Horsemanship
(Placing premium table = 102)

- Attention:** If you choose to show a given 4-H project animal in **BOTH** a Fitting & Showmanship class and a Horsemanship class, the animal must be shown in the same type of Fitting & Showmanship and Horsemanship classes (*i.e., a horse shown in a Gymkhana Fitting & Showmanship class would need to be shown in the corresponding Gymkhana Horsemanship class, etc.*) **Once this requirement has been met, additional horsemanship classes can be completed. See rule 2.**
- Attention:** In order to participate in a Gymkhana Horsemanship class, horse/rider combination must compete in a minimum of three gymkhana performance classes. **Note: There was an updated Gymkhana Horsemanship Pattern starting in 2023. See the pattern in the St. Joseph County Project rule book: www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_horse_and_pony**
- Walk Only class participants cannot enter any other riding classes.

Class

- 1616 - Horse & Pony Walk Only Horsemanship, All Ages, All Disciplines
 1617 - Pony Horsemanship, all ponies, exhibitors All Ages
 1618 - Horse Horsemanship, all horses, exhibitors 13-19
 1619 - Horse Horsemanship, all horses, exhibitors 8-12
 1620 - Gymkhana Horsemanship, Horse/Pony, exhibitors 13-19
 1621 - Gymkhana Horsemanship, Horse/Pony, exhibitors 8-12

Division C - Bareback Horsemanship
(Placing premium table = 102)

Class

- 1622 - Pony Bareback, all ponies, exhibitors All Ages
 1623 - Horse Bareback Horsemanship, all horses, exhibitors 13-19
 1624 - Horse Bareback Horsemanship, all horses, exhibitors 8-12

Division D - English Equitation
(Placing premium table = 102)

Class

- 1625 - Horse Equitation, Hunt Seat, exhibitors 13-19
 1626 - Horse Equitation, Hunt Seat, exhibitors 8-12
 1627 - Pony Equitation, Hunt Seat, exhibitors All Ages

Division E - Western Pleasure
(A, B, C premium table = 2)

Class

- 1628 - Horse & Pony Walk Only Pleasure, All Ages, All disciplines
 1629 - Pony Western Pleasure, all ponies, exhibitors All Ages
 1630 - Horse Western Pleasure, all horses, exhibitors 13-19

- 1631 - Horse Western Pleasure, all horses, exhibitors 8-12

Division F - English Pleasure
(A, B, C premium table = 2)

Class

- 1632 - Horse English Pleasure, Hunt Seat, exhibitors 13-19
 1633 - Horse English Pleasure, Hunt Seat, exhibitors 8-12
 1634 - Pony English Pleasure, Hunt Seat, exhibitors All Ages

Division G - Saddleseat
(Placing premium table = 102)

- For appropriate appointments of horse and rider see current 4-H Horse and Pony Show Rules & Regulations.
- See General Rule No. 8 above.

Class

- 1635 - Saddleseat Equitation- exhibitors All Ages
 1636 - Saddleseat Pleasure- exhibitors All Ages

Division J - Gymkhana
(A, B, C premium table = 2)

- Exhibitor must participate in a minimum of two approved workouts, **and/or** gymkhana coordinator approval will be required to participate in any gymkhana event at the fair.
- A breast collar must be used when exhibiting in this Division.
- Horse/pony appointments:** All snaffle bits (including "O" rings "D" rings, egg butts), draw bits, gag bits, and hackamore combinations are acceptable in gymkhana classes.
- Exhibitor must show in at least three gymkhana classes at the St. Joseph County Fair on Saturday to be eligible to exhibit in gymkhana horsemanship and showmanship classes on Sunday.
- A 5-second penalty will be assessed for knocking over a barrel, pole, cone or pattern marker.
- Speed and Action Class: Spinning to a stop more than 90 degrees in the box, as determined by the judge, may result in disqualification.
- While mounted, horse/pony may be led into the show area no more than one horse length past the gate in any class in this Division.
- The pattern that will be used for the flag race classes will be the Indiana flag race.
- Horse/riders will have one minute to enter the arena. Time starts when horse/rider is called.
- Blindfolding a horse to get into the arena is not acceptable and will result in immediate disqualification.
- The Champion and Reserve Champion will be determined with a run-off. The Run-off will be based on the top point earner at fair per age division, for horse and for pony (2 horse, 2 pony). The pattern will be Stakes Race on Even Years and Barrels/Cloverleaf on Odd Years.**
- Refer to the current St. Joseph Country 4-H Horse Project Rule Book for additional rules. www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_horse_and_pony#County

Class

- 1637 - Horse Speed & Action, exhibitors 13-19
 1638 - Horse Speed & Action, exhibitors 8-12
 1639 - Pony Speed & Action, exhibitors 13-19
 1640 - Pony Speed & Action, exhibitors 8-12
 1641 - Horse Pole Bending, exhibitors 13-19

- 1642 - Horse Pole Bending, exhibitors 8-12
- 1643 - Pony Pole Bending, exhibitors 13-19
- 1644 - Pony Pole Bending, exhibitors 8-12
- 1645 - Horse Cloverleaf, exhibitors 13-19
- 1646 - Horse Cloverleaf, exhibitors 8-12
- 1647 - Pony Cloverleaf, exhibitors 13-19
- 1648 - Pony Cloverleaf, exhibitors 8-12
- 1649 - Horse Flag Race, exhibitors 13-19
- 1650 - Horse Flag Race, exhibitors 8-12
- 1651 - Pony Flag Race, exhibitors 13-19
- 1652 - Pony Flag Race, exhibitors 8-12
- 1653 - Horse Keyhole, exhibitors 13-19
- 1654 - Horse Keyhole, exhibitors 8-12
- 1655 - Pony Keyhole, exhibitors 13-19
- 1656 - Pony Keyhole, exhibitors 8-12
- 1657 - Horse Down & Back, exhibitors 13-19
- 1658 - Horse Down & Back, exhibitors 8-12
- 1659 - Pony Down & Back, exhibitors 13-19
- 1660 - Pony Down & Back, exhibitors 8-12
- 1661 - Champion Gymkhana Horse Exhibitor.

(Special TR and Award)

- 1662 - Reserve Champion Gymkhana Horse Exhibitor.

(Special TR and Award)

- 1663 - Champion Gymkhana Pony Exhibitor.

(Special TR and Award)

- 1664 - Reserve Champion Gymkhana Pony Exhibitor.

(Special TR and Award)

Division K - Green Western/English Pattern

(A, B, C premium table = 2)

1. Flying lead changes will be weighted more over simple lead changes. Simple lead changes will not be disqualified.
2. Pattern 1 will be used for odd years; 2 for even. Pattern is located in Horse Project Rule Book: www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_horse_and_pony

Class

- 1665 - Green Western or English Pattern, exhibitors All Ages

Division L - Trail

(A, B, C premium table = 2)

1. Classes will take place after Champion Showmanship.

Class

- 1666 - Trail, Horse/Pony, exhibitors 13-19
- 1667 - Trail, Horse/Pony, exhibitors 8-12
- 1668 - Trail, Horse/Pony, W/T only, exhibitors All Ages.
- 1669 - In-Hand Trail/Obstacles, Horse/Pony 46" & under, exhibitors 13-19
- 1670 - In-Hand Trail/Obstacles, Horse/Pony 46" & under, exhibitors 8-12

Division M - Costume

(A, B, C premium table = 2)

Educational Objective: To show creativity and original work encompassing a central theme for you and your horse.

1. Class to be divided as Individual (1-2 people/1 horse), or as a group (2 people or more/1 horse or more).
2. If shown as a group, the class is determined by the **oldest** member within that group.
3. To be shown at a walk one way from the arena and lined up in the middle of the arena for final judging.

4. Costume entries must be led, ridden or driven. All youth must wear protective headgear (certified ASTM/SEI helmet) when riding or driving. Harness must be secured and properly fitted, if riding or driving their entry and may utilize one or more of the handlers or horses.
5. The costume must be considered safe.
6. Class is to be judged 75% on originality of costume and 25% on presentation.
7. The 2026 theme is "**Celebration**".
8. Brief, legibly written narration describing costume not to exceed 2 minutes is due in the Show Office no later than Monday, September 21, 2026.

Class

- 1671 - Costume Class, horse/pony, 8-11 In-Hand
- 1672 - Costume Class, horse/pony, 12-14 In-Hand
- 1673 - Costume Class, horse/pony, 15-19 In-Hand
- 1674 - Costume Class, horse/pony, 8-11 Ridden
- 1675 - Costume Class, horse/pony, 12-14 Ridden
- 1676 - Costume Class, horse/pony, 15-19 Ridden
- 1677 - Champion Senior Costume, 12-19 **(Special TR)**
- 1678 - Res. Champion Senior Costume, 12-19 **(Special R)**
- 1679 - Champion Junior Costume, 8-11 **(Special TR)**
- 1680 - Res. Champion Junior Costume, 8-11 **(Special R)**

Division N - Driving

1. Exhibitors must participate in at least two approved driving workouts during the current project year unless otherwise approved by the driving coordinators. Participation must be "hands-on" and include project animal and cart.
2. Exhibitors are eligible to compete in the pair classes their first year of 4-H only with the approval of the 4-H Driving Coordinators.
3. In 4-H pair driving classes only, a given 4-H member may utilize a 4-H horse/pony project animal registered in another St. Joseph County 4-H member's name as the second animal in his/her pair. The resulting pair may only be trained and exhibited by the 4-H member in question.
4. Refer to the current project year rules. www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_horse_and_pony

Performance Classes

(A, B, C premium table = 2)

Class

- 1681 - Single Light Horse/Pony Working Pleasure 38" & over- exhibitors All Ages.
- 1682 - Single Draft Horse/Draft Pony Working Pleasure, exhibitors All Ages.
- 1683 - Single Mini-Horse Working Pleasure, under 38", exhibitors 13-19.
- 1684 - Single Mini-Horse Working Pleasure, under 38", exhibitors 8-12.
- 1685 - Pair of Draft Horses/Draft Ponies Working Pleasure, exhibitors All Ages.
- 1686 - Pair of Light Horses/Ponies/Mini Horses Working Pleasure, exhibitors All Ages
- 1687 - Versatility (Drive/Show/Jump) 46" & under, exhibitors All ages.
- 1688 - Drive & Showmanship, Horse/Pony 38" & over, exhibitors All Ages
- 1689 - Drive & Showmanship, Draft Horse/Draft Pony, exhibitors All Ages
- 1690 - Drive & Showmanship Mini Horse, under 38", exhibitors 13-19.

- 1691 - Drive & Showmanship, Mini Horse, under 38", exhibitors 8-12.
- 1692 - Obstacle, Single Miniature, under 38", exhibitors All Ages.
- 1693 - Obstacle, Single Horse/Draft/Pony 38" & over, exhibitors All Ages.
- 1694 - Obstacle, Pairs, exhibitors All Ages.

**Reinsmanship Classes
(Placing premium table = 102)**

Class

- 1695 - Single Light Horse/Pony Reinsmanship, 38" & over, exhibitors All Ages.
- 1696 - Single Draft Horse/Draft Pony Reinsmanship, exhibitors All Ages
- 1697 - Single Mini-Horse, Reinsmanship, under 38", exhibitors 13-19.
- 1698 - Single Mini-Horse, Reinsmanship, under 38", exhibitors 8-12.
- 1699 - Pair of Draft Horses/Draft Ponies Reinsmanship, exhibitors All Ages.
- 1700 - Pair of Light Horses/ Ponies /Mini Horses Reinsmanship, exhibitors All Ages.
- 1701 - Grand Champion Driver Draft Single/Pair. **(TR)**
- 1702 - Grand Champion Driver Light Horse/Ponies, Single/Pairs. **(TR)**
- 1703 - Grand Champion Driver Mini Horse Single/Pairs. **(TR)**

**In-Hand Classes
(Placing premium table = 102)**

1. Horse/exhibitor must attend a minimum of two (2) workouts unless approved by the in-hand/driving coordinators.

Class

- 1704 - In-Hand Jumping, under 46", exhibitors 15-19
- 1705 - In-Hand Jumping, under 46", exhibitors 12-14
- 1706 - In-Hand Jumping, under 46", exhibitors 8-11
- 1707 - In-Hand Hunter, under 46", exhibitors 15-19
- 1708 - In-Hand Hunter, under 46", exhibitors 12-14
- 1709 - In-Hand Hunter, under 46", exhibitors 8-11
- 1710 - In-Hand Cloverleaf, 46" and under, exhibitors 15-19
- 1711 - In-Hand Cloverleaf, 46" & under, exhibitors 12-14
- 1712 - In-Hand Cloverleaf, 46" & under, exhibitors 8-11
- 1713 - In-Hand Poles, 46" and under, exhibitors 15-19
- 1714 - In-Hand Poles, 46" & under, exhibitors 12-14
- 1715 - In-Hand Poles, 46" & under, exhibitors 8-11
- 1716 - In-Hand Scurry, 46" & under, exhibitors 15-19
- 1717 - In-Hand Scurry, 46" & under, exhibitors 12-14
- 1718 - In-Hand Scurry, 46" & under, exhibitors 8-11
- 1719 - In-Hand Down & Back, 46" & under, exhibitors 15-19
- 1720 - In-Hand Down & Back, 46" & under, exhibitors 12-14
- 1721 - In-Hand Down & Back, 46" & under, exhibitors 8-11

**Driven Dressage Classes
(No premiums in any of these classes)**

1. Each Driven Dressage level is divided into "A" & "B" classes.
2. Entry is limited to two (2) consecutive Dressage test levels. Consult with driving coordinator about test levels.
3. Dressage Test Patterns are located on the 4-H website: www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_horse_and_pony#Forms

Class

- 1722 - Training Level A.

- 1723 - Training Level B.
- 1724 - Preliminary A.

Division P - Walk/Trot

1. Any project animal/exhibitor combination exhibiting in this Division may not sign-up/enter any class that requires a canter/lope.
2. Horse/Rider walk/trot combination may show up to 2 consecutive years.
3. To continue showing after 2 years in walk/trot per horse/rider combination a veterinarian note or Horse Council approval is required.

**Horsemanship/Equitation
(Placing premium table = 102)**

Class

- 1725 - Walk/Trot Western Horsemanship Horse/Pony, exhibitors 13-19
- 1726 - Walk/Trot Western Horsemanship Horse/Pony, exhibitors 8 -12
- 1727 - Walk/Trot English Equitation, Horse/Pony, exhibitors 13-19
- 1728 - Walk/Trot English Equitation, Horse/Pony, exhibitors 8-12
- 1729 - Walk/Trot Bareback Horse/Pony, exhibitors 13-19
- 1730 - Walk/Trot Bareback Horse/Pony, exhibitors 8-12

Pleasure

(A, B, C premium table = 2)

- 1731 - Walk/Trot Western Pleasure, Horse/Pony, exhibitors 13-19
- 1732 - Walk/Trot Western Pleasure, Horse/Pony, exhibitors 8-12
- 1733 - Walk/Trot English Pleasure, Horse/Pony, exhibitors 13-19
- 1734 - Walk/Trot English Pleasure, Horse/Pony, exhibitors 8-12

**Division Q - Competitive Trail Ride
(Placing premium table = 102)**

1. Trail ride is to be done at a walk/trot and is open to walk/trot and walk/trot/canter exhibitors.
2. Contact the trail coordinator to determine training requirements and eligibility requirements.
3. Exhibitor must have participated in appropriate number of 4-H instructional clinics/trail rides as set forth in the project rules in order to be eligible to participate in this Division (with the number dependent on both the exhibitor's and the project animal's 4-H trail ride training experience).
4. Eight placings will be awarded based on the overall ride.
5. Points are based on: Grooming, horsemanship skills, cleanliness of tack, horse care, trail equitation, obstacle management. (see website for scoring information: www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_horse_and_pony)
6. In case of a tie, the winner will be determined by the horse with the lowest pulse and respiration at the end of the ride, compared to pulse/respiration at start of ride.
7. The judged Competitive Trail Ride will consist of the following:
 - A. Date of Judged Trail Ride will be announced by Competitive Trail Specialty Leader(s) and held prior to fair.

- B. **Written test to be taken at Fair.**
- C. Best score of all ages will be the champion. In case of a tie, the horse with the lowest P/R wins.
- D. Overall champions cannot win 2 consecutive years with the same horse/rider combo.

Class

- 1735 - Horse/pony, exhibitors 13-19.
- 1736 - Horse/pony, exhibitors 8-12.
- 1737 - Champion Trail Ride Horse/Pony.

**Division R - Ranchmanship
(A, B, C premium table = 2)**

Pattern 1 will be used for odd years, pattern 2 will be used for even years. Patterns available in the Horse Project rule book: www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_horse_and_pony

Class

- 1738 - Ranchmanship Pattern, exhibitors All Ages.
- 1739 - Ranch Pleasure, exhibitors All Ages.

Division S - Hunter Over Fences

1. Coordinator approval is required for entry in each class.
2. "4-H Jumping Safety Guidelines/Class Requirements" are available for viewing/download at www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_horse_and_pony regarding jumping equipment requirements, class rules, and number of required "hands-on" 4-H jumping clinics that must be attended in order to be eligible to exhibit in this Division.
3. No "Schooling" over jumps at the fairgrounds unless 4-H Jumping Program Coordinator is present to supervise. Schooling may only be done with proper attire and tack.
4. Cross-pole classes may be executed at the trot.

**Performance Classes:
(A, B, C premium table = 2)**

Class

- 1740 - Jump to Jazz, exhibitors All Ages.

**Equitation Classes:
(Placing premium table = 102)**

Class

- 1741 - Baby Green Over Fences, exhibitors All ages - trot only.
- 1742 - Hunter Hack, exhibitors All Ages.
- 1743 - Working Hunter over Fences, exhibitors All Ages.

**Division T - Ridden Dressage
(No premiums)**

1. To enter any Dressage flat classes, Dressage Seat Equitation, and/or Suitable for Dressage at Fair you must do at least one Dressage Test.
2. Entry is limited to two consecutive Dressage test levels.
3. Entry is limited to two consecutive Western Dressage test levels.
4. Dressage Test Patterns are located on the 4-H website: www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_horse_and_pony#Forms

Class

- 1744 - Walk/Trot Dressage Seat Equitation, All Ages.

- 1745 - Walk/Trot Suitable for Dressage (Pleasure), All Ages
- 1746 - Dressage Seat Equitation, exhibitors All Ages.
- 1747 - Suitable for Dressage (Pleasure), exhibitors All Ages
- 1748 - Intro to Dressage, W/T, Test A, exhibitors All Ages
- 1749 - Intro to Dressage, W/T, Test B, exhibitors All Ages
- 1750 - Intro to Dressage, W/T or W/T/C, Test C, exhibitors All Ages
- 1751 - Dressage Training Level - Test I, W/T/C, exhibitors All Ages
- 1752 - Dressage Training Level - Test II, W/T/C, exhibitors All Ages
- 1753 - Dressage Training Level - Test III, W/T/C, exhibitors All Ages
- 1754 - Musical Freestyle, exhibitors All Ages
- 1755 - Western Intro, Test I, W/T, exhibitors All Ages
- 1756 - Western Intro, Test II, W/T exhibitors All Ages
- 1757 - Western Basic, Test I, W/T/C, exhibitors All Ages
- 1758 - Western Basic - Test II, W/T/C, exhibitors All Ages

**Division U - Reining
(Placing premium table = 102)**

1. Pattern 1 will be used for odd years, pattern 2 will be used for even years. Patterns available in the Horse Project rule book: www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_horse_and_pony

Class

- 1759 - Reining Pattern, exhibitors All Ages

**Division V - Horse Judging
(A, B, C premium table = 2)**

Educational Objective: To show knowledge gained throughout Horse Judging this year.

1. Exhibit poster (11" x 14") that illustrates what has been learned about a single aspect of horse judging.

Class

- 1760 - Horse Judging, exhibitors 8-11 years old.
- 1761 - Best Exhibit in class 91901. (R)
- 1762 - Horse Judging, exhibitors 12-14 years old.
- 1763 - Best Exhibit in class 91903. (R)
- 1764 - Horse Judging, exhibitors 15-19 years old.
- 1765 - Best Exhibit in class 91905. (R)

Department 22 - Cats & Cat Care

Sandy Summey, Superintendent

General Rules and Information

1. A cat is a feline over one year of age as of the show date. A kitten is any feline four months to one year of age as of the show date.
2. Pregnant cats and kittens less than four months of age are ineligible to show.
3. Exhibitors will not be allowed to enter an exhibit in this species department if exhibited at another county fair during the current year.
4. For Divisions D & E exhibitor is NOT required to exhibit a feline for show.