

2021 Van Buren Youth Fair Horse and Pony Rules

Fair Registration

Horse and pony registration forms must be received by the Extension Office by May 1st. All VBYF Fair entry forms and Jumping Consent forms must be received at the Extension Office and/or the Fair Office by June 15th.

Each exhibitor must attend one approved educational class to be eligible to show at fair.

Each exhibitor may register up to two (2) in-hand horses or ponies that are 38" or under and two (2) riding horses or ponies. An exhibitor who chooses to bring two (2) riding horses/ponies must show in different showmanship and equitation/horsemanship classes. An exhibitor will not be able to show both riding horses in the same showmanship class or rail classes. If both horses qualify for the same champion class, the exhibitor will have to choose which horse/pony will be shown in the class. Dual horses/ponies can enter individual pattern classes to include: all In Hand Classes (except for Miniature Horse Driving), Gymkhana Speed Classes, Western Pattern Class, Dressage, Western Dressage, Ground Driving and Trail. Please note it is the exhibitor's responsibility to not cause a delay in the show, the show committee will separate the dual entry horses/ponies order of go to help relieve any delay to the show. Each horse/pony may only enter one showmanship class.

An exhibitor with a mare and foal must choose which he/she will show. A stallion may be exhibited only during the year in which foaled. As a safety factor, proof of gelding may be requested by the superintendent.

A limit of two exhibitors* sharing a horse is permitted, if it does not conflict with classes. Both exhibitors may enter individually run classes, common courtesy would suggest that the exhibitors request changes in the order of go if a tack change is required. *(Clarification: when only 'exhibitor' is used in a sentence, this shall represent both 4-H and Open exhibitors.)

Any youth not affiliated with an organized 4-H club or FFA chapter by April 1 of this year or any youth 6-8 years of age will be considered an Open exhibitor. These Open exhibitors are not eligible for State Show or High Point 4-H trophies or Jessica Branch Memorial Sportsmanship Award, but they are eligible for the Class Awards, other Memorial Awards and the High Point In-Hand Trophy.

Van Buren Youth Fair Horse Committee

The VB Youth Fair Horse Committee was formed as a sub-committee to the VB County Fair Board to organize and manage the horse show during fair week. The members are appointed by the fair board and meetings are the first Thursday at 6:30 p.m. of every month. Usually there are no meetings in December and January. Meetings falling on a school holiday may be moved to another date. Location and time will be posted on Van Buren Horse Committee Facebook page or the Van Buren Youth Fair website.

No rule changes will be made during fair week. Complaints and/or suggestions for changes are to be submitted in writing and brought to Van Buren Youth Fair Board for review. Recommendations for rule changes will be submitted to the Fair Board by November 1st for approval for the change to be effective at the next fair.

The VB Youth Fair Horse Committee rules and guidelines may be obtained by contacting any VB County horse leader, the VB County Youth Fair's website (<http://www.vanburenyouthfair.com/>) or the VB Youth Fair Horse Committee's Facebook page

Fair Rules

The Fair Book Rules (<http://www.vanburenyouthfair.com/>), VBYF Horse and Pony Rules, and MSU 4-H Horse and Pony Project Show Rules and Regulations (https://www.canr.msu.edu/uploads/resources/pdfs/2016horsebk-tall-4x9_2016-04-06v2_web.pdf), and MSU Miniature

(https://www.canr.msu.edu/horses_ponies/uploads/files/Miniature-Horse-Rule-BookFinal2019.pdf?fbclid=IwAR23XNqxnXp8fTh3KpHaYNghfVKKzrF__mNVL71t4kdNB12csktmv64r19A) will be the rules followed for the fair. These rules supersede all previous rules. VBYF rules revised for 2020.

The Code of Conduct from the Fair Board will be enforced. Unsportsmanlike conduct, unfavorable attitude and other objectionable behavior of exhibitors may result in the loss of: all points, State Show selection, class awards, and/or media attention. The judge and/or horse show superintendent will have the option to have the exhibitor removed for the day. Available Executive Members of the Horse Committee, Fair Board Representatives, and Directors of Fair Board will meet to decide if the exhibitor should be removed for the rest of the fair week. The exhibitor has the option to attend this meeting. Time and place of meeting will be announced.

Cruelty to any horse or pony, including the use of illegal tack, by an exhibitor will be handled as stated for unsportsmanlike conduct. Cruelty to any horse or pony inflicted by any other individual should be addressed to the Barn Superintendent or Horse Representative of the Fair Board. This may result in this individual's removal from the Horse Complex.

Entrance/Release

All exhibit horses/ponies, shall be entered and stabled on Sunday, 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. and remain on exhibit until the following Sunday at 6:00 A.M. If any horse and/or pony leaves the fairgrounds before the official release time without Fair Board approval, the earned horse and pony premium money, all trophies, and/or state show privileges may be denied the exhibitor. Haul-In exhibitors please see the Haul-In Rules.

All horse/ponies exhibited at the fair must have an original EIA test (Coggins test) with negative results which is valid thru fair week.

All ponies and miniature horses must be measured each year until age 6. New horses and ponies over 6 will be measured their first year and the record will be kept. Measurements will be done at check-in.

A 3" x 5" index card with exhibitor/parent/owner phone numbers, preferred veterinarian number, medications and supplements, and any other pertinent information will be collected at check-in. This information will be available on site in the case of emergency.

Mandatory Meetings

All exhibitors are required to attend the working set-up meeting during the week prior to fair. During this meeting, exhibitors will turn in a copy of their current Coggins and Emergency cards for all horses and ponies showing at the fair.

Senior rides will be on Sunday at 4:00 P.M. followed by a social gathering. On the Saturday of Fair Week, the Awards Meeting will be held at 12:00 P.M.

Clothing

All helmets must meet the specifications of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), 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 (SEI F1163 or above). The exhibitor (or his or her parent or legal guardian if the exhibitor is a minor) – not the local show officials or judge – is solely responsible for complying with the headgear rule. Show officials reserve the right to spot-check helmets at any time to verify compliance with this rule. (MSU 4-H Horse and Pony Guidelines)

When mounted, a helmet (must meet the specifications as stated above) must be worn by: 1) Lead Line, Pee Wee, and Novice exhibitors, 2) exhibitors in Saddle Seat/Hunt Seat/Jumping disciplines, and 3) exhibitors in speed classes.

Appropriate clothing will be worn by exhibitors while at the horse complex. No strapless tops or skin exposure from chest to mid-thigh for males and females.

In the horse complex, exhibitors riding or handling their horse, including when they are in the stalls, must be wearing boots.

Sanitation

The Michigan Department of Agriculture Health and Sanitation requirements must be met by all horse/pony exhibitors. Please refer to the Health Regulations located in the back of the current year's Fair Book.

Each exhibitor is responsible for cleaning up any manure deposit left by his/her animal. This rule applies to all areas of the horse complex including the wash rack area and the areas around the barns. Manure must be cleaned up around the spreaders at all times. Please: No twine in the spreaders—Thank you! Wheelbarrows should not be left (empty or full) by the spreaders or between the barns.

Exhibitors must help clean barns during fair week.

Barns

Do not damage or deface any structures or plantings on the fairgrounds. No nails or screws allowed into the supporting wood (6" X 6" of the barn.)

A bulletin board (suggested 2' X 3') should be furnished by each 4-H club to be used in the horse barns during fair week.

No horse/pony, tack, or feed is allowed in the aisle-way of the barns. The aisle ways must be passable at all times for safety purposes. Any obstacles, such as chairs, should be placed on the same side of the aisle.

Horses and ponies are to be led and walked at all times near the barns.

No horses or ponies are allowed in the middle barn where the stalls have been removed.

The wash rack and the horse trailers are the only places that an exhibitor may tie their horse or pony.

Water barrels (painted red) are located at each horse shelter and are to be used for fire safety purposes only. 4-H leaders are requested to check them periodically during the week to make certain they are full of water and free from debris.

Horses/Ponies

Exhibitors of horses and/or ponies creating a biting or kicking problem may be asked to voluntarily take their animal home. Premiums earned will be paid. Fair Board decision will be final.

A leader and/or exhibitor may request a change for health or safety reasons first to the Horse Committee and then the Horse Committee will recommend to the Fair Board. A veterinarian's certificate may be required for a health-related change of a horse or pony. Exhibitors will not receive points or be eligible for sweepstakes with their replacement horse or pony

No horses or ponies are allowed between the arenas.

Exercising

Exercise time will be from 6:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. daily as space allows. No horses out of the barns after 10:00 P.M. Pee Wees, Novice, In-Hand, and HRH exhibitors, with permission, may use the North arena for exercise providing they have adult supervision. Please avoid riding on the grass.

Lunging may only be done between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M. in the designated areas. Under normal circumstances only the exhibitor may lunge his/her own animal. Pee Wees must be supervised.

No practicing gymkhana during regular exercise hours. Barn superintendents will announce a special time to practice gymkhana.

When mounted, exhibitor must remain straddling the horse and facing forward.

No riding double or bareback.

No one other than the exhibitor may ride their horse/pony during fair week; the exceptions to this rule would be a Posse horse (Horse Committee shall be notified at or by the May Horse Committee meeting) and groom's class at the fun show.

Divisions for Registration

Class corrections shall be made by Monday of fair week by noon. Classes cannot be added.

Classes of over 18 participants will be split at fair for safety.

Classes that do not receive any points are: Lead Line, Novice, HRH, Ground Driving, Costume, and Versatility.

A lead line is required in Lead Line classes with the exhibitor wearing a helmet*.

Exhibitors are eligible to show as a Novice only if this is their first year at a youth fair in the State of Michigan. Novice exhibitors: 1) may only ride walk/trot, 2) will not receive any points, 3) may not enter any championship classes, 4) may only show in Novice, Ground Driving, and Costume classes, and 5) must wear helmets when mounted.

HRH competitors: 1) may only ride walk/trot, 2) will not receive any points, 3) may not enter any championship classes, 4) may only show in HRH, Ground Driving, and Costume classes, and 5) must wear helmets when mounted.

Pee Wee competitors: 1) may only ride walk/trot, 2) may not enter any championship classes, 3) may only show in Pee Wee, Ground Driving, and Costume classes, and 5) must wear helmets when mounted.

All championship classes are optional. Lead Line, Peewee, HRH, and Novice may not go in any championship classes.

*Clarification: when "helmet" is used in a sentence, this shall represent that the helmet met the guidelines set forth from the MSU Horse and Pony Guidelines located under the *Clothing* section in this document.

Dressage

Exhibitors may choose their entry level. You must ride in hunt seat or dressage appointments for English Dressage and Western appointments for Western Dressage. See MSU 4-H Horse and Pony Guidelines for full appointments.

Gymkhana

Gymkhana classes are designed for the exhibitor who wishes to compete for the High-Point Gymkhana Trophy. The exhibitor must be registered in the Gymkhana Division and have shown in Gymkhana Showmanship, Gymkhana Horsemanship and Gymkhana Pleasure to be in contention of this trophy. All points in the Gymkhana division and all speed classes will count towards this trophy.

In-hand

The horse/pony must be 38" or under. In-hand classes are shown in a halter and lead except for Miniature Horse Driving. Classes offered will be Ground Driving, Costume, Showmanship, Trail, Jumping, Barrels and Poles (regular size pattern), and Miniature Horse Driving. Baiting to encourage an animal to perform one of the obstacles is a disqualification. Miniature horse driving exhibitors 6-9 year of age must have an adult passenger accompany them in the cart. Exhibitors 10-19 years of age may choose to have an adult accompany them in the cart. All youth drivers will need a header (16+ years) to enter the arena with them. Adult passengers must be in proper show attire. The miniature horse driving class will be based on 50% equitation and 50% pleasure.

Jumping

Exhibitors must be 10-19 years of age and have a signed Jumping Release Form from a parent and leader. This form states that the horse and exhibitor have either been seen jumping safely by the leader or had previous schooling in jumping. Exhibitors with an approved horse change may still enter jumping classes with the approved paperwork. This rule does not apply to In-Hand Jumping.

Versatility

Versatility will consist of one of each of the following classes: English, Western, and a Gymkhana speed class. Each class will carry equal weight in determining the overall placements. In case of tie, the Gymkhana placing will be used. The judge will place each class and the show superintendent, or their appointee will then determine overall placement using the point system.

PLACE	POINTS BY NUMBER (#) IN CLASS:									
	10+	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
1 ST	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
2 ND	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
3 RD	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
4 TH	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			
5 TH	6	5	4	3	2	1				
6 TH	5	4	3	2	1					

Point System

For example: If a class has 10 or more exhibitors first place would get 10 points, second would get 9, sixth would get 5. If a class has 8 exhibitors first place would get 8 points, second – 7 points, and sixth – 3 points. If a class has 3 exhibitors first place would get 3 points and third – 1 point

Showing

Placings are 1st through 6th. Ribbons will be awarded 1st through 5th. Refer to the Fair Book for further explanation.

Judges may not judge more than two years in a row regardless of the day.

Adults are to lead in Lead Line Class.

All horse shows will run rain or shine. In the event of lightning or thunder, there will be a delay of 30 minutes after the last observance of either.

It is the exhibitor's responsibility to be at his/her classes on time. Once the gate is closed he/she may not be able to enter the class.

Order of go for the pattern classes will be announced.

All exhibitors and their horse or pony should be in the make-up area for the mandatory inspection (and helmet check if needed) 30 minutes prior to the start of speed classes. Appointments shall not be changed after the inspection is complete. All questions will be addressed with the Judge or Official through the show committee. The Judge or Official's decision is final. The order of go will be announced.

The Western Pattern class will rotate with Western Riding Pattern in odd years and Reining #2 in even years.

Patterns for Western Riding, Reining and Gymkhana classes are in the current State 4-H Horse and Pony Project Show Rules and Regulations book.

Trophies/Awards

As a courtesy, any individual receiving a trophy will be asked to fill out a thank you note upon receiving their trophy. Thank You notes, and stamps will be available at the show booth (except during a show) and at the awards meeting.

All Revolving 4-H Trophies must be returned to the April/May Horse Council meeting. All High Point Revolving Trophies must be returned to the April/May Horse committee meeting.

To be eligible to compete for 4-H high point trophies, an exhibitor must belong to a 4-H club and be showing as a 4-H member at the fair.

With the exception of the Jessica Branch Memorial 4-H Sportsmanship trophy, the remainder of the Memorial High Point Trophies are available to both 4-H and Open exhibitors

High Point trophies are based on calculated points per exhibitor/equine. An exhibitor showing two equines cannot combine total points. Each exhibitor/equine combo earns their separate points.

All championship class points are included.

In the case of a tie the highest points in this order will be used to break the tie: 1) Showmanship 2) Horsemanship/Equitation 3) Pleasure 4) Showmanship Championship

4-H High Point Revolving All Around Horse Trophy

The total points that the 4-H exhibitor earns will count toward this trophy, except for Versatility, Costume and Ground Driving.

4-H High Point Revolving Gymkhana Trophy

The 4-H exhibitor must be registered in the Gymkhana Division and have shown in Gymkhana Showmanship, Gymkhana Horsemanship and Gymkhana Pleasure to be in contention for this trophy. All points in the Gymkhana division and speed classes will count towards this trophy.

4-H High Point Revolving English Horse Trophy

All points accumulated by the 4-H exhibitor are from English Showmanship and English day classes (except Western Dressage).

4-H High Point Revolving Western Horse Trophy

All points accumulated by the 4-H exhibitor are from Western Showmanship, Western day classes, Western Dressage, and Western Pattern Class.

4-H High Point Revolving English Pony Trophy

All points accumulated by the 4-H exhibitor are from Pony Showmanship (English) and English day classes (except Western Dressage).

In-Hand Trophy

This trophy is available to both 4-H and Open Exhibitors. All points earned by a qualifying mini in the In Hand Division Classes will count towards this trophy. The minimum requirements are a showmanship class plus either in-hand trail or in-hand jumping. The overall points will be calculated by all points earned by the qualifying mini.

Abbey Baker Memorial Revolving High Point Western Pony Trophy

All points come from Pony Showmanship (Western), Pony Western Horsemanship, Pony Western Pleasure, Western Dressage, Western Pattern Class and their Championships.

Stephanie Tucker Memorial Revolving Pee Wee Trophy

All points earned by a Pee Wee will count toward this trophy. Tie to be decided with Showmanship class, then the Horsemanship/Equitation, then Pleasure.

Afton Newton Memorial All Round Pony Revolving Trophy

The total points that the exhibitor earned while showing a riding pony will count toward this trophy.

Jessica Branch Memorial 4-H Sportsmanship Award

Each 4-H club nominates one 4-H exhibitor and submits the name to the show superintendent by Friday at noon. All nominated 4-H exhibitors will receive a rosette.

Sweepstakes

The Junior and Senior Champion Showmen will be eligible to compete in the Large Animal Sweepstakes. Information is in the Fair Book and the exhibitors will be given more information from the Show Superintendent. If you would like to offer your horse or pony for use during the sweepstakes, please contact the show superintendent by Wednesday at noon. You would then be required to prepare your horse and to work with the sweepstakes contestants.