

MANISTEE COUNTY FAIR 4-H HORSE SHOW RULES

1. The Manistee County Fair Horse Show is open to currently enrolled members in Manistee and Benzie county 4-H clubs.
2. The horse show will be conducted according to the 4-H rules as established in 4-H publication #1145, "4-H Horse & Pony Project Show Rules & Regulations," and any additional rules established and deemed necessary by the 4-H Horse Show Committee and by Extension staff.
3. Register the horse(es) you will be riding in the show on your fair registration cover sheet. If you need to change your show horse(es) after fair registration had ended, you will need to contact the Chairperson of the Horse Show Committee and make a formal request to change. Horse change issues will be reviewed and resolved on an individual basis. Failure to follow this procedure will result in being dismissed from the show.
4. If an exhibitor **DOES want to qualify for Grand and Reserve awards**, they may **only** ride/show **ONE HORSE** during the show (Speed & Action/Gymkhana events are exempt from this). The alternate they have registered may only be used in the event of the death or illness of the primary choice horse, and they would still qualify for the grand/reserve awards.
5. In the event of the **death or illness of a horse** registered by an exhibitor, where a substitution/switch will be necessary, the matter would have to be presented to the Chairperson of the 4-H Horse Show Committee and would have to be properly documented by a veterinarian or verified by a committee member. Exceptions will not be made for reasons such as pregnancy, unsuitable behavior, or the reluctance of the animal to be properly trained.
6. If an exhibitor **DOES NOT intend to** qualify for Grand and Reserve awards, they have the option to use different horses for **Showmanship, Western, English, and Speed & Action** events.
7. **ALL HORSES AND PONIES PARTICIPATING AT THE 4-H HORSE SHOW AND/OR BEING HOUSED IN THE 4-H HORSE BARN MUST HAVE PROOF OF A CURRENT COGGINS TEST TURNED IN TO THE 4-H OFFICE AT THE TIME OF FAIR REGISTRATION. (CURRENT COGGINS ARE NOW VALID FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR IN WHICH THEY WERE ADMINISTERED). ALSO, ALL STANDARD SHOTS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED FOR THE WELL-BEING OF ALL ANIMALS BEING SHOWN AT THE FAIR.**
8. The exhibitor bears the responsibility for the care, feeding, and exercise of his/her own project animal in the Horse Barn. Exhibitors, especially younger ones, may choose to have an assistant (parent, family member, etc.) to help with these duties. But, those who are designated as being on official "**Barn Duty**" are not automatically expected to

do these chores for the exhibitor. If “**Barn Duty**” people, or any others, are concerned about the condition of or lack of care and attention being shown to a particular animal by its exhibitor, they should bring the matter to the attention of a 4-H Horse Show Committee Chair member **immediately**. He/she is designated to resolve any and all barn-related problems, and may choose to have the animal and/or exhibitor removed from the fairgrounds, if necessary.

9. A family horse may be shown by more than one member of that immediate family, if in separate class levels.

10. A contestant’s “4-H age” is the age that he/she will be on January 1 of that fair year (i.e. the age you are on New Year’s Day is the age you are considered for that entire 4-H year).

11. The 4-H Horse Show Committee is currently finding it necessary to request a mandatory \$15.00 fee from each horse show participant to cover show expenses. In return, the exhibitor will receive a 3 ½” x 2 ½” ad of their own choice/design in the Horse Show program. **This fee is due at fair registration and is non-refundable.**

12. Although not mandatory, it is anticipated that each club involved in the Horse Show and/or Speed & Action events will make some effort towards financially assisting the 4-H Horse Show Committee with expenses. Donations are welcome.

13. Horse show classes are divided by ages of exhibitors.

14. Regarding those participating in Cloverbud classes: For 5 – 6 year olds, the parents must have control of the lead line. For 7 – 8 year olds, the parent just needs to be present in the ring and assist where/when needed.

15. “Novice Class” refers to first year showing and refers to the rider only. It does not refer to the horse being used. However, Cloverbuds may participate in Novice Class, even if they have shown in Cloverbud classes previously, as it is the first year they are showing on their own. (They also have the option to choose the Beginner class for their first time showing on their own).

16. “Independent” refers to all youth ages 9 – 26 (by January 1 of the current program year) who are eligible for special education services in their school district.

17. Final registration for the Horse Show will be done at the time of fair registration.

18. All ponies and horses will be shown in the same class.

19. If a class has less than three (3) exhibitors enrolled, it may be combined with other classes at the discretion of the show judge and chairperson.

20. In order to receive fair premiums, show ribbons, and trophies, the horse show

exhibitor **must** complete a stall shift by keeping one of their show horses (used in the show) in the horse barn during fair week. This also includes fulfilling the **Barn Duty** shift they registered for. (4-H members are allowed to have family, friends, and fellow club members fulfill their barn duty obligations). Horses exempt from stall shift would require documented proof that there is a serious physical condition that would make this impossible. Failure to follow requirement #20 will result in being unable to participate in next year's show.

21. FITTING AND SHOWMANSHIP IS MANDATORY FOR ALL 4-H HORSE SHOW EXHIBITORS. THIS INCLUDES THOSE WHO ONLY INTEND TO PARTICIPATE IN SPEED & ACTION (GYMKHANA) CLASSES.

22. In **ALL** riding classes, **ALL RIDERS** must wear an approved SEI helmet or they will be immediately disqualified and excused from the show ring.

23. Display of non-sportsmanship type of conduct (use of obscene language, abuse to animals, rude and inconsiderate behavior towards guests/contestants/show staff, etc.) will result in removal of that exhibitor and their project animal(s) from the horse show and/or fairgrounds.

24. All comments, complaints, and requests for change concerning the 4-H Horse Program and its events (clinics, shows, fair, exhibits, activities, etc.) must be submitted in writing and sent to: MSU Extension/Manistee, Attn: 4-H Horse Show Committee, 8840 Chippewa Hwy., Bear Lake, MI, 49614.

25. 4-H Horse Barn rules will be reviewed each year after fair week/horse show and will be revised as needed.

26. 4-H exhibitors may receive cash premiums in all 4-H Horse Show classes except **Fitting and Showmanship**. Premiums are also paid for **Speed & Action** (Gymkhana) classes, but only to those who receive 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. 4-H Cloverbuds are exempt from receiving premiums and are not actually judged during show events. Ribbon awards will also be given for all events where A, B, C placings apply.

27. State 4-H Horse Show Eligibility: As there is a May 1 project requirement for state show participants, it is the responsibility of the 4-H member to inform the Extension office of their intent to compete in the state 4-H show. By May 1st preceding the show, there is paperwork due regarding the project animal that will be used in the show. (See the Horse Show Committee policy page on this topic for further information).