

State Fair Sponsored 4-H/FFA Horsemanship Show

The State Fair Sponsored 4-H/FFA Horsemanship show is not a 4-H sponsored show it is an affiliated show which is sponsored by the Department of Agriculture, State Fair Division and open to 4-H/FFA members. 4-H and FFA members are currently the only youth organizations eligible to participate. In 2001, FFA petitioned for participation and it was granted to allow them in to the show in 2002 by the SF Director. 4-H eligibility to show in this opportunity is consistent with current 4-H rules which means they must be in good standing. This includes turning in their horse member enrollment form by May 1 and including a copy of the signed form with their entry. Members can't participate if they are under age 8.

When this show became open to both 4-H and FFA it was decided to use a combination of rules readily available to both organizations, not just the 4-H State guidelines. Those include: those rules listed on page 24 of the State Fair catalog, USA Equestrian for Pony Cart and Saddle Seat, American Quarter Horse Association for Western and Hunt Seat Classes. Additionally they follow the 4-H Showmanship at Halter guide sheet.

While this show does not specifically follow 4-H State horse show guidelines, none are violated.

Show fees paid by exhibitors recover the show expense including staff, judges, ribbons, plaques and facilities. The Department of Ag, SF Division contracts with the show superintendent, judges and staff. The SF also contracts with 3 EMT's to be at the shows in case of personal injury. If animal health issues arise, it's the responsibility of the exhibitor to contact veterinarians and pay for treatment. SF has phone numbers to call for vet services. This animal health policy is consistent for all of the SF shows including the livestock shows held during the fair. While there is often a State Veterinarian on grounds, they inspect animals in a regulatory capacity.

The superintendent has a committee of show assistants that meet annually to review the rules and classes. As a way to obtain feedback for improvement, a suggestion box is available in the show office during the event and suggestions may be emailed or called into the show superintendent any time.