

Kent County Youth Fair Horse Program

July 29 - August 3, 2024

Welcome to the Kent County Youth Fair!

Entering any class or event in the Horse Program at the 2024 Fair automatically declares agreement on the part of the exhibitor, leader, and parent to the following:

Showing at the Kent County Youth Fair is a privilege and responsibility for those exhibitors who have successfully completed all 2024 Horse Project requirements. Positive conduct, good sportsmanship, integrity, and respect towards others are always priorities from exhibitors, parents and leaders above any class placing or award. All exhibitors and leaders in the horse division are subject to the rules and regulations defined by the Michigan Department of Agriculture, the Kent County Fair Board, and the Kent County Horse Leaders Association.

Any violation may mean forfeiture of points, premiums, and/or awards, in addition to possibly being banned from further competition in the Horse Program and/or all project areas.

Complete Kent County Horse Leaders bylaws, rules and guidelines can be found at:

<https://www.kentcountyhorseleaders.com/>.

Michigan "4-H Horse & Pony Project Show Rules & Regulations" and Kent County Horse Leader Rules are used to conduct horse classes.

The project animal can be owned by the exhibitor or borrowed/leased from someone else as long as the exhibitor has had the major responsibility of caring for and working with the project animal since May 1 of the current project year. The emphasis is on the time and effort the youth put into his/her project animal.

It is required that all project horses have a negative Coggins test on or after September 1, 2023.

It is required that all project horses be immunized against the minimum of Tetanus, Eastern/Western Encephalomyelitis, Rabies and West Nile.

All members and visitors are to be out of the barns at closing time, 10:00 pm each night.

Only Barn Captains, Horse Leader Executive Committee members or Security have authorized access after closing.

Removal of ANY exhibit and/or project animal prior to the published release time of Saturday, August 5 from 5:00pm to 8pm, or after 10pm without prior written permission from the Horse Superintendent, will be fined the amount of premiums; and forfeit ALL ribbons, awards, and trophies in ALL project areas. See the Kent County Youth Fair – Early Release Policy in the Fair Premium book for further detail.

Project animals may only be schooled by the exhibitor unless prior arrangements have been made with the Horse Leader Executive Committee.

Each club is responsible to clean their own area in the horse barn including the aisleway, and stalls at the completion of fair, removing ALL items, trash, debris, bedding and manure. The Fair Board has the right to fine a club the amount of premiums and cost of clean-up if this is not complied with.

No pets (including dogs), bikes or remote-controlled toys/drones are to be used in the areas designated for horses.

No smoking in or around the horse barns, arenas, or tack/feed trailer areas.

The make-up ring is for those waiting for upcoming classes and not for schooling.

Exhibitors using the exercise arena must follow the rules for that arena.

Longeing is allowed in designated fenced-in areas only. No free longeing allowed.

Thank you to our generous sponsors:

Banner Sponsors

Class Sponsors

Guidelines & Requirements

The KCYF uses the Michigan 4-H Horse & Pony Project Show Rules & Regulations, online copy of the rule book is located at:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/michigan_4_h_horse_pony_project_show_rules_regulations

Any exceptions to Michigan 4-H Horse & Pony Project Show Rules and Regulations are noted in this program.

Junior classes - Junior Intermediate and Junior Advanced Horsemaster Levels are combined for Fair horse performance Classes in 2024. All classes and awards that reference "Junior" in this program are a combination of Junior Intermediate and Junior Advanced Levels.

Senior classes - Senior Intermediate and Senior Advanced Horsemaster Levels are combined for Fair horse performance Classes in 2024. All classes and awards that reference "Senior" in this program are a combination of Senior Intermediate and Senior Advanced Levels.

Fair Age - Exhibitors participating in the regular Horse Program must be of 7-21 years of age (as of January 1, 2024).

Patterns can be found at: <https://www.kentcountyhorseleaders.com/>

Explorer and Horseless Division

Exhibitors with a fair age of 7 years may participate in the regular horse program or the Explorer Division.

Horseless Showmanship is a judged class but does NOT qualify for the Grand and Reserve Showmanship Championship Class and will be held in Ring A on Monday afternoon.

Explorers MUST wear the name tag that was placed in their Explorer KEEP books for ALL events.

Explorer mentors must be 18 years or older for events with a horse (showmanship, patterns, and rail classes).

6-year-old Explorers may choose to have a mentor with a lead line attached for showmanship and pattern classes.

Helmets must be worn by all Explorers for classes with horses.

If you are sharing a horse, please let the show manager know.

Explorer Classes:

7 yr. old Showmanship Class - When finished please saddle up for your riding classes.

6 yr. old Showmanship Class - When finished please saddle up for your riding class.

5 yr. old Showmanship Class -Mentor must have a lead line attached to the horse for safety reasons.

7 yr. old Riding Pattern Class - Please come saddled up and ready to ride as soon as your showmanship class is finished. Pattern to be completed one at a time with a mentor in the arena.

7 yr. old Equitation Rail Class - Mentor (1 per Explorer) must be in the arena with the Explorer, however, they do not have to walk right next to them.

6 yr. old Riding Pattern Class – Please come saddled up and ready to ride as soon as your showmanship class is finished. Pattern to be completed one at a time with a mentor in the arena.

7 yr. old Pleasure Rail Class – Mentor (1 per Explorer) must be in the arena with Explorer, however, they do not have to walk right next to them.

Judges - The KCYF has tentatively hired the following judges for the 2024 Horse Program:

Ethics - Judges and exhibitors are expected to adhere to the Michigan State 4-H Judging Ethics outlined on page 7 of the "4-H Horse & Pony Project Show Rules & Regulations". This prohibits certain financial transactions such as horse sales, paid clinics, lesson instruction etc. from occurring between judges and exhibitors (and their immediate family). When in doubt, please contact your club leader for clarification.

Order of Go – There will be Order of Go in Contesting, Jumping, Equitation over Poles, and Dressage. All other classes will run first come, first serve.

Dress Code (applies to all horse project area functions)

The following dress code applies to all exhibitors and their families:

No clothing promoting alcohol, tobacco, drugs, profanity, sex or any other negative connotations.

All undergarments (bras, sports bras, camisoles, underwear, boxers, etc.) must be covered up.

No clothing with excessively large holes/tears (includes shirts, pants/shorts) or shirts torn down the sides.

All shorts must have a minimum of a 3" inseam.

Everyone must wear shirts.

No flip-flops, sandals, open-toed, crocs (or knock-offs) are to be worn in or around the barns or horse traffic areas.

The following footwear code applies to all exhibitors handling/riding an equine:

Exhibitors must always wear boots or shoes designed for horseback riding when handling or riding at all fair events. Handling includes but is not limited to leading, riding, bathing, and cleaning stalls.

Tennis shoes are not acceptable when riding or handling your equine.

Footwear code is a state rule that can be viewed under the Horse and Pony Project Show Rules &

Regulations at:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/michigan_4_h_horse_pony_project_show_rules_regulations

The following consequences will apply:

- 1st violation – a warning will be given to change or cover up.
- 2nd violation – the Kent County Horse Leaders Executive Committee will ask the offender to leave the grounds.

Primary/Secondary Horse

Exhibitor may only enter each class once.

Exhibitor may not take primary horse and secondary horse in the same class.

Only Junior – Horsemaster exhibitors are eligible to bring 2 riding horses to the fair.

Novice and Walk Trot division may bring a Miniature as a secondary project animal.

Junior levels and above may bring any combination of Primary/Secondary/Miniature project animals.

Both horses must stay the entire week.

Dropping & Adding Classes

Please sign the drop list at the Entry Booth for classes you wish to drop as soon as possible.

You may add classes at the Entry Booth by 8:00 pm the night before the class.

Dressage classes must be added OR dropped by noon on Tuesday to give riders an accurate ride time. If the rider drops class, scratches, or does not participate in test after noon deadline on Tuesday, rider must pay \$15 per test that they dropped or scratched and are not allowed to participate in any other classes until paid.

Team Performance must be added or dropped by Wednesday at 8:00 pm.

Class Splits and Levels

Walk trot and Novice classes will be split at 12 riders

Junior-Horsemaster Classes will be split at 14 riders and will be posted on the bulletin boards.

Riders must ride in their posted splits.

Riders are to be divided into splits at random.

Splits are expected in most Walk Trot and Novice Division rail classes and some Junior and Senior rail classes.

Grand and Reserve Showmanship Championship Class

All exhibitors placing 1st through 3rd in a Showmanship class may enter. (Excludes Explorer, and Horseless Classes).

Exhibitors may only show one animal in the Grand and Reserve class, exhibitors notify the show office which animal they are showing.

Eligible exhibitors must show in the discipline they won the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd using the horse they qualified with (i.e. Western, Hunt Seat, Saddle Seat).

Two Showmanship Grand & Reserve Champions (chosen from the levels Nov Intermediate Horsemaster) will be invited to show in the Kent County Youth Fair Showmanship Sweepstakes on Saturday in the Reath Barn. One exhibitor will be fair age 13-15 years and another exhibitor fair age 16-21 years.

Grand & Reserve Equitation Championship Class

Classes qualifying for the corresponding Grand & Reserve class are noted with an * in the program. (Excludes Miniature and Green Horse equitation classes)

Exhibitors may only show one animal in the Grand & Reserve class and must notify the show office which animal they are using.

Exhibitors must show in the discipline they won the 1st or 2nd using the horse they qualified with (i.e. Western, Bareback, Hunt Seat, Equitation Over Fences, Dressage, Saddle Seat, Gymkhana).

This a pattern class with rail work to follow at judge's discretion.

Green Horse Classes

Open to horses in their first full year of walk, trot, canter competition.

Can be a secondary project horse or a primary project horse.

Green horse classes do not count for any Combination Awards or Grand and Reserve Classes with the exception of Grand and Reserve Showmanship.

Green horses may only be shown in Green Horse Classes.

Green horses need to be evaluated similarly to the other horse projects.

Green horses can be shown in any seat: Western, Dressage, Hunt Seat, Saddle Seat.

Jumping Division - includes all Hunter Over Fences, Hunter Hack, Hunter Equitation Over Fences Classes and Walk Trot Equitation Over Poles.

All jumping riders MUST be evaluated by a jumping evaluator for their level, this includes Hunter Hack. Riders moving up to a new level OR showing a new horse need a new evaluation. The rider

must submit their completed jumping evaluation form to the jumping committee by the posted due date to participate in jumping events.

All walk/trot equitation over pole riders MUST be evaluated by a horse leader. (Does not have to be a jumping evaluator.) The rider must submit their completed Walk-Trot Over Poles evaluation form to the jumping committee by the posted due date to participate in ground poles.

KCYF Rule – polo wraps and martingales are prohibited in hunter hack.

Bareback Equitation

All seats are combined for bareback equitation.

ASTM/SEI Helmets are required for all riders regardless of seat.

Riders winning 1st or 2nd in Bareback Equitation may compete in Grand and Reserve equitation.

English Classes - classes listed as “English” can be ridden Saddle Seat, Hunt Seat or Dressage – This pertains to Versatility, Team Performance and Green Horse Divisions.

Horsemaster Freestyle Presentations - ALL Horsemasters must participate (Friday evening) Presentation Applications and Bios are due the same time as Project Books – submitted separately and neatly printed or typed please. Presentations may be up to 7 minutes long including set-up and teardown. Presentations are mandatory.

Western and English Riding Patterns – Patterns potentially changing – pending pattern committee proposal KCYF Rule: Although flying lead changes are encouraged for these classes, KCYF does not disqualify riders doing less than 4 flying lead changes from these classes.

Contesting

See Michigan 4-H Rules and Regulations AND Kent County 4-H Rules and Regulations below for complete horse and rider appointments.

KCYF Rule: Horses shown English or western must have a breast collar that matches the seat ridden.

Classical Dressage

Dressage Goals & Guidelines, Freedom and regularity of gaits, correct appointments (acceptable bits/bridles) can be found in the “4-H Horse & Pony Project Show Rules & Regulations”.

Bits with chains and/or fixed rein slots (with reins in the slots) may not be used and will be a disqualification. Some examples include: Kimberwicks, pelhams, Myler (or Myler type bits) with rein slots in use and/or curb chains used. Double bridles, and bits with leverage, are not permitted in training level classes.

Dressage Seat Equitation

Exhibitors must participate in one Classical Dressage test to participate.

Western Dressage not eligible.

This is a rail class at the KCYF, and due to numbers and arena size, will not be held within a dressage arena. Class may show training level test gaits at the discretion of the judge: walk, working trot, canter, and free walk. Judges may require additional tests of some or all of the riders to help place the class.

Western Dressage

See rules and guidelines in “4-H Horse & Pony Project Show Rules & Regulations”

KCYF Rule: Braids are allowed in Western Dressage due to time constraints.

Gymkhana Equitation

Gymkhana is an Equitation class for dedicated contesting riders only. Horse and rider must show a commitment to the contesting discipline and will be SEVERELY penalized for not representing it. Anyone placing 1st or 2nd in any previous Horsemanship OR Equitation class noted with an asterisk (*) within the program may not compete in Gymkhana Equitation.

Exhibitors must have shown in a minimum of 3 contesting events prior to participating in this class. Appropriate and correct contesting appointments are required according to the "4-H Horse & Pony Project Show Rules & Regulations" and KCYF rules.

Exhibitors Equitation will be judged according to the correct position and aids for contesting.

Bucking, rearing, racing, swapping leads and refusing to go forward and/or stand will be penalized.

Team Performance

Team Performance is for Novice Intermediate through Horsemaster riders only.

Teams of three members will be selected at random from the entries and posted Thursday morning.

Each rider on a team will ride in only one class.

One rider from each team will ride in the following classes:

English Equitation on the rail

Western Equitation on the rail

Speed & Action

Teams should organize a meeting to determine which team member is riding which class as a team.

Teams should promote unity and team spirit and cheer for and support their teammates.

Casual clothing permitted, within KCYF clothing guidelines (seat appropriate riding pants, helmets where required)

NO adds/drops of Team Performance after 8pm Wednesday.

Team scores for each class will be combined to determine the top 10 places by team. (Awards will be presented to the top 6 teams).

Individual scores will NOT be posted.

Versatility

Junior to Horsemaster only - Classes: English Equitation, Western Equitation, Cloverleaf "4-H Horse & Pony Project Show Rules & Regulations" along with KCYF Rules apply to these classes.

Placings from all 3 classes within the exhibitor's division are added together, with the highest score overall placing first in the class. Ties will be broken by the fastest Cloverleaf time.

Exhibitors will have 5 minutes to change from English to Western in the show arena, and must be mounted and ready to show at the end of the 5 minutes.

Safety is important! Unsafe tack changes can be penalized at the judge's discretion. Horses, exhibitors and their pit crew need to adhere to 4-H and KCYF safety and dress code guidelines.

Pit crews may consist of up to two people aged 13+.

Ranch Horse Classes

Rules are found in the AQHA Rule Book:

<https://www.aqha.com/documents/82601/273287534/2024+AQHA+Rulebook.pdf/311e97b6-a3c4-c628-8e2d-63511a51a83f?t=1701443395661>

KCYF RULE: Hoof black, fake tails, braids, clipping of ears/face, silver embellished equipment to NOT penalize the rider.

KCYF RULE: Horses may cross-enter in both Ranch Horse Classes and Western Pleasure.

Costume Class

Exhibitors may ride or lead their horse. Exhibitors riding their horses must be led by a handler aged 13+.

Handlers may choose to participate in exhibitors' costumes, but will not be penalized for plain street clothes adhering to KCYF attire policy.

Miniature Horse Classes

All levels can participate (Walk/Trot-Horsemaster). Age refers to Exhibitors age.

Miniature horses must be 38 inches or less.

Miniature horses may not be ridden on fairgrounds unless participating in the PEP program by PEP participants OR exhibiting as an Explorer.

Minis may not be shown by more than one exhibitor unless being used in the Explorer or PEP Program.

Classes will be judged using the "Michigan 4-H Miniature Horse Show Guidelines":

https://www.canr.msu.edu/horses_ponies/uploads/files/Miniature-Horse-Rule-Book-Final-2019.pdf and the "4-H Horse & Pony Project Show Rules & Regulations".

Note Miniature Hunter Over Fences exhibitors do not have to be evaluated

Proud Equestrian Program – PEP

Designed to provide opportunities to include fair eligible Kent County members with disabilities of a physical, developmental, or emotional nature.

Riders can trailer in a horse for the classes no earlier than 9:30am, or use the horse they declared for the week, or borrow a horse that is already at the fair being used by another exhibitor.

All riders will be required to wear helmets for both riding and groundwork.

Riders should be able to ask their horses to walk forward, halt, turn left, and turn right.

Riders are responsible for providing their own volunteers.

Riders must control the horse- Leader and side walkers are a safety element only.

Riders must be accompanied by their leader or parent/guardian for costume class.

Exhibitors may cross enter between their level classes during the week of fair and the PEP classes.

Classes may be shown in any discipline and with adaptive tack as needed.

Exhibitors must choose to walk only equitation OR walk/trot equitation.

All classes can be entered independently or assisted.

Horses need to be removed within an hour of the conclusion of the Pep Program unless approved by the Superintendent.

Exhibitors may share horses as long as they are not in the same class (Saturday classes only).

Classes will be placed but do not receive points towards KCYF awards, the PEP show is its own individual event.

Must clean up by your trailer before you leave.

More information on the PEP program can be found at:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/proud_equestrians_program/

2024 Awards

Combination Awards

Points – One horse/one rider for all Combination Awards.

A Combination Award will be given in the levels and divisions below.

Horsemaster, Senior, Junior, Novice Advanced, Novice Intermediate and Walk/Trot.

Exhibitors must participate in all point classes (listed below) to be considered eligible for an award.

Equitation classes will be used as the tie breaker (indicated in BOLD).

Points will be given on a 6 points to 1 point basis according to placing, being pro-rated for under six riders. All DQ's and excused riders will count as riders.

Novice combination awards can only be awarded to a rider once at each level. Junior and Senior Combination Awards may be awarded to a rider twice at each level. Horsemaster Combination Awards can be awarded to a rider multiple times.

Versatility, Team Performance, and Grand & Reserve placings do not count towards these awards.

Combination Awards will be based on discipline rather than saddle type. Combination awards will place top 3-5 dependent on level size.

WALK/TROT COMBINATION AWARDS

Western

Western Equitation

Reining

Western Pleasure

Hunt Seat

Hunt Seat Equitation

Equitation Over Poles

Hunt Seat Pleasure

Classical Dressage

Dressage Seat Equitation

Classical Test

Classical Test

Saddleseat

Saddleseat Equitation

Saddleseat Pleasure

Saddleseat Pattern

NOVICE INTERMEDIATE – HORSEMASTER COMBINATION AWARDS

Contesting (Best 4 of 6 placings)

Keyhole

Cloverleaf

Barrel/Pole Bending

Down & Back

Flag Race

Speed & Action

Classical Dressage

Dressage Equitation

Classical Dressage Test

Classical Dressage Test

Hunt Seat

Hunt Seat Equitation

Hunt Seat Equitation Pattern

Hunt Seat Riding Pattern

Western

Western Equitation

Reining

Saddle Seat

Saddle Seat Equitation

Saddle Seat Pattern

Hunter Over Fences

Equitation Over Fences

Hunter Over Fences

All-Around KEEP Level Awards

Points will be combined from the results of the total number of classes entered by the exhibitor (points can accumulate under both the primary and secondary equine combined).

Awarded to the exhibitor who has the most points overall.

All-Around awards will be given to the top 3 competitors in the levels and divisions below.

Horsemaster, Senior, Junior, Novice Advanced, Novice Intermediate, Walk/Trot, Green Horse and Miniature Programs.

Number of classes to qualify:

WTC Riders must enter at least 12 classes to qualify.

WT riders must enter at least 8 classes to qualify.

Green Horse will only place top 3 in division

Classes that do not count for the All-Around Award: "Versatility, Team Performance and Grand and Reserve classes.

Ties will be broken based on overall points from the exhibitor's KEEP Level Project Book.

Miniature all around will be split between 2 ages and only place top 3.

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Nomination forms are located at the Entry Booth.

Parents, Leaders, and exhibitors may nominate multiple people throughout the week.

Leaders may nominate members from their own club.

Nominations will be accepted at the Entry Booth until NOON on Friday.

2024 Kent County Youth Fair Participants

2024 Kent County Youth Fair Schedule

Sunday, July 30, 2024

1:30 PM [Explorer Recognition Event](#)

6:30 PM Opening Ceremonies for the 2024 Kent County Youth Fair – Main Stage
Tent on Midway

7:30 PM **ALL CLUBS** – Set up orange fence practice arenas!