Montgomery County 4-H
HORSE PROJECT PRACTICE SHOW CRITERIA
2020 - 2021

PURPOSE: Montgomery County 4-H Horse Project Clinics and Practice Shows will serve as learning experiences to allow 4-H members to develop style in riding, learn sportsmanship and for self fulfillment. These activities will also assist members preparing for competition in County, District, state, or higher level shows. There will be at least 4 arena meetings/clinics and 4 practice shows. Members must compete in at least two practice shows and attend one additional activity to compete in the county horse show. The third activity may be a clinic, arena meeting or 3rd practice show hosted by the County Horse Project.

AWARDS: Ribbons will be given in individual classes of the practice shows.

JUDGING: Judge’s decision is final. Judges will be asked to make oral and/or written comments to assist riders in improving their skills. These are meant to be constructive in nature and not to hurt the members. Feel free to ask questions, but at all times bear in mind that most of the judges are volunteering their time without pay to help you learn. Show your sportsmanship and thank these individuals for their help.

All shows will begin promptly at 1:30 p.m. on designated days. Performance and Speed events will alternate starting at 1:30 p.m. The second group of events will start at the conclusion of the first set of events. See list for details.

Location will vary to encompass the entire county.

Arena meetings/clinics - Bring your horses to ride, a particular topic will be addressed.

NO dogs will be allowed at the practice shows. This is in consideration for the safety of the riders, the horses and the dogs.

ONLY eligible horses will be on the grounds

ONLY enrolled 4-H members can ride or longe horses at closed 4-H Horse Shows. Adults and Clover Kids are not allowed to ride or longe horses at the 4-H horse shows including practice shows, County 4-H Horse Show, District 4-H Horse Show, etc.
GENERAL PROCEDURES:

1. Practice Show entry fees will be $5.00 per class pre-entered and $6.00 per class the day of show. Pre-
entries will be accepted until the Monday prior to the show. Entry forms available at http://montgomery-
tx.tamu.edu under publications tab 4-H section. There will be a $25.00 returned check fee. Pre entries may be emailed to mocohorsemanshipclub@gmail.com or turned in on the 2nd Thursday at the
Montgomery County Horsemanship Club meetings:

2. Questions: Extension Office (936) 539 - 7823 ext. 3

3. Entries to a class will close when the class before it enters the arena

4. Current (within the past twelve months) original Coggins must be checked at each show and function.
Must be a color copy. If needed, it can be printed at the Extension Office during office hours.

5. Practice shows will be conducted according to skill levels of members to include: Walk/Trot and Regular.
Members will choose which skill level they feel they are qualified for, depending on the event, and
combining the skills of the horse and rider. The Horse Project Committee reserves the right to move a
member to a lower or higher level if they deem appropriate. Members may participate in ONLY ONE
division for the year.

6. Must compete in at least 1 class in two (2) practice shows and one additional activity (clinic, arena
meeting or 3rd practice show) to be eligible for County Horse Show.

7. Must participate at the County 4-H Horse Show to be eligible to advance to District and State. Horses
must be owned by the exhibitor or immediate family by May 1, 2021 to be eligible and must be validated.
Watch for instructions March/April time frame.

8. Appropriate safety attire is mandatory for Western and English riders. This will include heeled riding
shoes or boots for all riders and helmets for English riders. Chuckkas or tennis shoe type boots are not
acceptable.

9. All tack is governed by State 4-H Horse Show Rule Book. Contestants may use schooling equipment
deemed humane prior to January 1st. Judges will comment on incorrect or non-acceptable tack for the
exhibitors information. After January 1, 2021, proper legal tack must be used during the practice shows.
If you have a question of legal tack, please contact the County Extension Agent for State Horse Show
Rules.

10. Contestants may wear informal attire at the practice shows prior to January 1, 2021. Proper show attire is
encouraged and includes: a long sleeve button down shirt that can be tucked into pants, long pants, and
heeled riding shoes.

11. Any horse that the Horse Project Committee feels is unsafe for the rider or others participating will be
excused from the show. Committee members will have the full support of the 4-H office for excusing a
member/horse from the show ring for these purposes!!

12. A judge may excuse any horse they perceived to be in obvious pain. This includes, but not limited to
lameness, respiratory issues etc.

13. A judge may excuse an uncooperative horse. Two attempts to enter a class or approach an obstacle will be allowed, after which the rider will be excused from the ring or asked to move to the next obstacle.

14. Ribbons will be presented to class participants. A high point award will be given in each skill level for Performance and Speed categories. To earn high point of the day, exhibitor must work at least one class at that show. There will be a work sign up sheet posted. A contestant may only win High Point once in the year. If the High Point contestant has previously received High Point, the award will pass to the next member who has not received the award within the year. Colt Showmanship and Longe line are not included. Arena Prizes will be given throughout the show.

15. These are PRACTICE shows, therefore some horses may be green broke. All riders should be conscientious of this fact.

16. All exhibitors must be enrolled 4-H members through 4-H Online system within a Montgomery County 4-H Club, who has paid the $35 enrollment fee.

17. Anyone having financial difficulties, but wishing to participate in these shows should contact the 4-H office. Scholarships may be available due to some circumstances.

18. ALL participants must be accompanied by a parent/adult to participate unless prior approval is made by 4-H Office and Horse Project committee. Approval should be obtained at least two weeks prior to the show.

**CLASSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Showmanship:</th>
<th>Regular</th>
<th>In Hand</th>
<th>(Start in Dec.)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Walk/Trot</td>
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<tr>
<th>Hunter Under Saddle:</th>
<th>Regular</th>
<th>Western</th>
<th>Regular</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Walk/Trot</td>
<td>Pleasure:</td>
<td>Walk/Trot</td>
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<tr>
<th>English Equitation:</th>
<th>Regular</th>
<th>Stock Horse</th>
<th>Regular</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Walk/Trot</td>
<td>Pleasure:</td>
<td>Walk/Trot</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Western Horsemanship:</th>
<th>Regular</th>
<th>Barrels:</th>
<th>Regular</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Walk/Trot</td>
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<td>Walk/Trot</td>
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<tr>
<th>Longe Line:</th>
<th>Yearling (Dec., Jan.)</th>
<th>Poles:</th>
<th>Regular</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Year Olds (Jan.)</td>
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<td>Walk/Trot</td>
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<tr>
<th>Trail</th>
<th>Regular</th>
<th>Stakes:</th>
<th>Regular</th>
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<td>Walk/Trot</td>
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Colt Showmanship: A colt showmanship class will be offered at all practice shows. This class will be open to all 4-H members who have officially entered a colt in the Montgomery County Fair, to
allow those members to practice with these horses, and still allow them to participate in the regular showmanship class. There will be no age or skill divisions. Ribbons will be given. All entrants must enroll in a 4-H club to participate.

Yearling Longe Line: A Yearling Longe Line class will be offered after January 1st of the year.
**Trail:** Will alternate two obstacles per show.
***Barrels, poles and stakes will have two divisions as follows:
- **Regular:** Riders will make their run for time and be critiqued by the judge.
- **Walk/Trot:** Riders will make their run for time and be critiqued by the judge.

Members may participate in ONLY ONE division for the year.

**HORSEMANSHIP SKILL LEVELS**

The skills listed below are the requirements for participating in that level. When moving up into the next experience level, members must be able to complete skills listed.

**Walk/Trot:**
Must be able to:
- Catch, halter, lead and tie a horse safely.
- Groom a horse in preparation for saddling.
- Exhibit proper bridling and saddling procedure.
- Mount and dismount safely.
- Walk, trot, while maintaining correct seat.
- Stop and back up in a straight line.

**Regular:**
Must be able to:
- Know basic position of seat, legs, feet, hands and body.
- Understand what training, direct, bearing, combination reins are and how to use them.
- Perform proper circles at a walk, trot and lope.
- Move horse away from pressure by side passing in a forward motion (two tracking)
- Perform simple lead changes.
- Know what flexing and bending are and how to perform.
- Know how to pass other horse on the rail safely.
- Know proper way to approach gate and open and shut.
- Back through a L
- Do flying lead changes or at least cue properly for change.
- Understand pivot, rollback, extended walk, extended trot and be able to execute these.
- Complete all things “in complete control”.
- Have communication via legs, feet, voice, hands, weight, etc.
- Must perform two tracking and side passing with some proficiency.

Revised September 10, 2020
Activity Dates and Locations
Locations have been confirmed

**Practice Shows**
- All Shows will begin at 1:30 p.m.

October 4, 2020  Lone Star Expo- Performance first
December 6, 2020  Lone Star Expo- Conroe - Speed first
February 28, 2021  Willis Arena- Performance first.
April 11, 2021  Willis Arena - Speed First

The group of events listed will start at 1:30 at that show. The second group of events will start at the conclusion of the first set of events.

**Clinics**
These meetings will be held at the same location as the practice horse show unless otherwise noted.
ADDITIONAL MEETINGS TO BE ANNOUNCED:
Watch your 4-H Newsletter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 4, 2020</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
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**COUNTY 4-H HORSE SHOW**
May ?, 2021  Location TBD  8:30 am
- Must compete in at least one class at 2 Practice Horse Shows and participate in a 3rd event: clinic, arena meeting, practice show.
- Walk/Trot in-hand or riding competitors at the County 4-H Horse Show will not advance to District

**INSTRUCTIONAL HORSE SHOW**
June 15, 2020 - Brazos County Expo - open to any enrolled 4-H member active with the Horse Project.

**DISTRICT 4-H HORSE SHOW**
June 14-16, 2021 - Brazos County Expo
(Must compete in regular classes at County 4-H Horse Show to advance to District 4-H Horse Show. All County 4-H Horse Show Walk/Trot exhibitors will not advance to the District 4-H Horse Show.)

WATCH YOUR 4-H NEWSLETTER FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT CLINICS AND PRACTICE SHOWS.
Please complete one per family and return this page to Practice Horse Show Coordinator immediately.

We have read the Montgomery County 4-H Practice Horse Show Criteria for 2020 - 2021, understand these criteria, and agree to abide by them. Our failure to do so could result in being removed from a show or failure to qualify for the Montgomery County 4-H Horse Show.

Member __________________________ Date __________

Member __________________________ Date __________

Member __________________________ Date __________

Member __________________________ Date __________

Parent __________________________ Date __________

Parent __________________________ Date __________