



Montgomery County 4-H  
HORSE PROJECT PRACTICE SHOW CRITERIA  
2023 - 2024

**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.

**AWARDS:** Ribbons will be given in individual classes of the practice show(s).

**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.

- ☞ See list for times and locations of scheduled events. Watch 4-H Weekly Updates and 4-H Focus Newsletter for additional opportunities
- ☞ Arena meetings/clinics - Bring your horses to ride, a particular topic will be addressed.
- ☞ NO dogs will be allowed at the 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 clinics, practice shows, County 4-H Horse Show, District 4-H Horse Show, etc.

## GENERAL PROCEDURES:

1. Practice Show entry fees will be \$10.00 per class pre-entered and \$12.00 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](mailto:mocohorsemanshipclub@gmail.com) or turned in on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at the Montgomery County Horsemanship Club meetings:
2. Questions: Extension Office (936) 539 - 7823
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 clinic. Must be a color or electronic 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 Practice Show. Walk/Trot participants who qualify for the County 4-H Horse Show may move to regular classes for the County 4-H Horse Show if they feel their skills have sufficiently improved.
7. Must participate in regular classes at the County 4-H Horse Show to be eligible to advance to District. Horses must be owned or leased by the exhibitor or immediate family by May 1, 2024 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. After January 1, 2024, proper legal tack must be used during the practice show. If you have a question of legal tack, please contact the County Extension Agent for State Horse Show Rules.
10. 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 clinic or show. Committee members will have the full support of the 4-H office for excusing a member/horse from the event 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. There will be a work sign up sheet posted. Colt Showmanship and Longe line will be included after January 1st.
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

Showmanship:	Regular Walk/Trot	Western Pleasure:	Regular Walk/Trot
Hunter Under Saddle:	Regular Walk/Trot	Stock Horse Pleasure:	Regular Walk/Trot
English Equitation:	Regular Walk/Trot	Barrels:	Regular Walk/Trot
Western Horsemanship:	Regular Walk/Trot	Poles:	Regular Walk/Trot
Longe Line:	Yearling (Jan.) 2 Year Olds (Jan.)	Stakes:	Regular Walk/Trot
Trail	Regular Walk/Trot In Hand (Jan.)		

Colt Showmanship: A colt showmanship class will be offered at the practice show. 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 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.

\*\*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 October 10, 2023

## Activity Dates and Locations

Locations have been confirmed

### Practice Shows

- **NEW:** All Shows will begin at 1:00 p.m. with Speed followed by Performance will begin after Speed.

February 4, 2024 Lone Star Expo, Conroe

### Clinics - Must RSVP at

<https://agrilife.org/montgomery4h/rsvp/> by Thursday prior to the clinic.

ADDITIONAL MEETINGS TO BE ANNOUNCED:

Watch your 4-H Newsletter

Date	Time	Topic
October 14, 2023 Lone Star Expo	9:00 a.m. English	Stephanie Pullin
November 11, 2023 Koehl Performance	9:00 a.m.	Troy Koehl Reining
December 4, 2023 Lone Star Expo	6:30 p.m.	Colt Project
January 4, 2024 Lone Star Expo	6:30 p.m.	Colt Project
February 10, 2024 Lone Star Expo	(TBD)	Kenny Hall Horsemanship and In Hand
March 19, 2024 Lone Star Expo	6:30 p.m.	Colt Project
April 29, 2024 Lone Star Expo	6:30 p.m.	Colt Project

### COUNTY 4-H HORSE SHOW

May 4, 2023 Willis Arena 8:30 am

- all Montgomery County 4-H members enrolled in 4-H Horse Project in 4-H Online are invited to attend.

- Walk/Trot in-hand or riding competitors at the County 4-H Horse Show WILL NOT advance to District

### DISTRICT 4-H HORSE SHOW

June 17-18, 2023 - 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 2023 - 2024, 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 \_\_\_\_\_