Montgomery County 4-H
HORSE PROJECT PRACTICE SHOW CRITERIA
2026 - 2027

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. It is your responsibility to inform any spectators you invite to the show.

* ONLY eligible horses entering the show are permitted 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.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

GENERAL PROCEDURES:

1. Practice Show entry fees will be $10.00 per class. 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 mmmihalke@ag.tamu.edu

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 events offered, 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.

6. Must compete in at least one class in one 4-H Practice Horse Show OR one of the 4-H Horse clinics, OR one of the Montgomery County Fair Filly/Gelding Clinics OR one of the Adult Horse Committee Schooling Shows to be eligible for the County 4-H Horse Show. In the event injury prevents participating in the show, a 4-H member may assist with running the show or clinic to get credit for participating.

.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, 2027 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, 2027, 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 included with the RSVP. 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 TX4H enrollment system within a Montgomery County 4-H Club, who has paid the $30 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
			OR	
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 2 Year Olds	(Jan.) (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 tagged in a colt (gelding or filly) 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.
**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 August 27, 2026

Activity Dates and Locations

Locations have been confirmed

- All Shows will begin with Performance followed by Speed. Clinics will begin at ~~12:30~~ 2:00 p.m. RSVP at https://agrilife.org/montgomery4h/rsvp/ by Thursday before the event. If you would like to pay electronically ahead of time, there will be a link to Eventbrite link in the RSVP. You may also pay in person or day of with check or cash.

4-H Practice Horse Shows:

Saturday, February 20, 2027	Willis Ag Arena	13551 Rogers Rd, Willis, Texas	9:00 a.m.
Saturday, March 20, 2027	Willis Ag Arena	13551 Rogers Rd, Willis, Texas	9:00 a.m.
Sunday, April 25, 2027	Lone Star Expo (tent)	9255 Airport Rd, Conroe, Texas	1:30 a.m.

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	Location	Topic
September 27, 2026	2:00 p.m.	Lone Star Expo	How to Train Your Colt
October 25, 2026	2:00 p.m.	Magnolia Arena	Desensitization and Costume Contest
November 21, 2026	2:00 p.m.	Magnolia Arena	Play Day Team/Skill building games

Adult Horse Committee Schooling Shows
Held at the Lone Star Expo beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 12, 2027
Tuesday, January 19, 2027
Tuesday, January 26, 2027
Tuesday, February 2, 2027 (Weather Date)

Montgomery County Fair Filly/Gelding
Clinics 6:30 p.m. Lone Star Expo

November 16, 2026
January 11, 2027
February 8, 2027

TAMU Horsemanship School June 12-13, 2027 Lone Star Expo Arena

COUNTY 4-H HORSE SHOW

May 1, 2027 Lone Star Expo 8:30 am

- all Montgomery County 4-H members enrolled in 4-H Horse Project in TX4H 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 22-23, 2027 - 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 2026 - 2027, 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 _____