

Horse Show

1. The horse show will be held on Sunday July 26, 2026. The show office will open at 8:30 am and the show will start at 9:00 am. The horse show will be held at the Rodeo de Santa Fe arena. Entry fee for each class is \$7.00.
2. Although horses are not required to be registered with any breed association, it is recommended that the 4-H or FFA member has documentation verifying the identity and ownership of the horse (e.g., registration certificate, New Mexico brand inspection transport permit, etc.)
3. Santa Fe County Horse Show will follow American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) rules for classes, requirements, and disqualifications with exception (available at <https://www.aqha.com>) to English Discipline Rail which will follow Pinto Horse Association (PtHA) rules (available at <https://pinto.org>). Including disqualifications for treatment of horses considered inhumane or cruel.
4. Classes offered may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Showmanship at Halter (AQHA SHW 310 to 378)
 - b. Hunter Under Saddle (AQHA SHW 601 to 604)
 - c. Hunt Seat Equitation (AQHA SHW 616 to 622)
 - d. English Discipline Rail (PtHA SHW N11)
 - e. Western Pleasure (AQHA SHW 402 to 414)
 - f. Western Horsemanship (AQHA SHW 430 to 438)
 - g. Trail (AQHA SHW 460 to 468)
 - h. Ranch Reining (AQHA SHW 562)
 - i. Ranch Riding (AQHA SHW 416 to 419)
 - j. Ranch Trail (AQHA SHW 420 to 422)

*Rule numbers given in parentheses are subject to change as updates to the AQHA and PtHA Official Handbook are made on an annual basis.
5. For any classes not specifically included in the AQHA rules, the horse show judge is the final authority on how that particular class should be conducted and judged. Furthermore, the horse show judge is the final authority for interpreting AQHA rules as they apply to the conduct of a show. In the event of inclement weather, the horse show judge is the final authority on determining which classes can safely be held. If a class is not conducted due to the judge's ruling, then no points will be awarded for that class.

Age Divisions

1. Participants are separated into divisions:
 - a. **Booster:** Ages 5 through 7. The youth participating must have passed his/her 5th birthday or be 4 years old and in 1st grade but cannot be in the 3rd grade and have passed his/her 8th birthday prior to January 1 of the current year.
 - b. **Novice:** Ages 9 through 11. The youth participating must have passed his/her 9th birthday or be 8 years old and in third grade but cannot be in the 6th grade and have passed his/her 12th birthday prior to January 1 of the current year.
 - c. **Junior:** Ages 12 through 13. The youth participating must have passed his/her 12th birthday or be 11 years old and in the 6th grade but cannot be in 8th grade and have passed his/her 14th birthday prior to January 1 of the current year.

- d. **Senior:** Ages 14 through 18. The youth participating must have passed his/her 14th birthday or be 13 years old and in the 8th grade but cannot have passed his/her 19th birthday by January 1 of the current year.

Horse Show Rules for conduct and safety (supersede any AQHA/PtHA rules):

1. Safety is the foundation of good horsemanship. If the judge or superintendent deems an exhibitor and/or horse is displaying unsafe behavior or lack of control, the judge or superintendent shall notify the exhibitor to refrain from such behavior. If this behavior occurs in the show ring, the judge may “whistle off” the exhibitor to conclude the performance at that point, and the exhibitor will exit the arena. If this behavior occurs outside the arena, the judge or superintendent shall issue a warning to the exhibitor. If repeated occurrences of unsafe behavior continue, the judge or superintendent may excuse them from the show.
2. Positive youth development requires a fair and level playing field and the superintendent should make this a primary consideration for the horse show. Exhibitors expect fair and honest competition when they enter a contest, and all should strive to attain that at each event. If an exhibitor receives external aid (calling out specific maneuvers for a class, yelling out to correct a missed lead, etc. from a parent/guardian, trainer, coach, etc.) while in the competition arena, the judge and/or superintendent shall issue a warning to those involved in the unfair behavior. If the external aid does not cease, the judge shall disqualify entry in the class. If the external aid continues beyond one class, the superintendent may disqualify the exhibitor/horse combination from the show.
3. Any disqualification due to unsafe or unfair behavior forfeits any fees paid for participation in the show. However, any points gained prior to disqualification shall stand.

Awards

There are three different categories for awards for the Santa Fe County Horse Show.

1. **Division Awards:** There are three different division awards. Each division will be awarded a grand and reserve grand champion rosette in each age division.
 - a. **English Award:** The English award is given to those who earned the most points in Hunter Under Saddle, Hunt Seat Equitation, and English Discipline Rail.
 - b. **Western Award:** The Western award is given to those who earned the most points in Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship and Trail.
 - c. **Ranch Horse Award:** The Ranch Horse award is given to those who earned the most points in Ranch Reining, Ranch Riding and Ranch Trail.
2. **Showmanship Award:** The Showmanship award is given to those who earned the most points in the showmanship class. Each age division will be awarded a grand and reserve grand champion buckle.
3. **Overall Championship Award:** The Overall Championship award is given to those who earned the most points throughout the entirety of the Santa Fe County Horse Show. Each age division will be awarded a grand and reserve grand champion buckle.