



**Entry Fees and Deadlines:**  
\$6 per entry      Due May 1, 2026  
SHOW WILL BE HELD ON **JUNE 6, 2026**

For Questions, please contact: Email: [Livestock@alamedacountyfair.com](mailto:Livestock@alamedacountyfair.com)  
Phone: (509) 619-6260

[Register Here!](#)

## DEPARTMENT 26

### Youth Horse Show

#### **Showmanship Rules**

1. Pre-Enter in Showmanship. All exhibitors not pre-entered will be added.
2. FFA members in Class 1 will automatically be entered in class 6.
3. Only animals owned (or leased for at least 120 consecutive days before the date of event), fitted and properly entered for competition by youth exhibitors are eligible.
4. Exhibitors are to wear official show attire.
5. Exhibitor's birthdate must be on the entry form or entered in the online entry platform.
6. The winner of Junior Master Showmanship from previous years may opt to enter in an older age class and compete for a chance to qualify for Advanced Master Showmanship.

#### **General Rules**

ALL EVENTS: Events will be judged by current USEF, CSHA, and CGA rules/guidelines, which exhibitors are responsible to know, unless other rules/guidelines are specified. 4-H & FFA May Be Required to Show Concurrently.

#### **1. ELIGIBILITY:**

- a. Open to 4-H and FFA members completing Alameda County horse project and in good standing in member's 4-H Club or chapter. 4-H members must have risk agreement form on file at 4-H office.
- b. The member's animal must have been the member's project animal and description/pictures and agreements for all project horses must be on file with the Fair 120 days before the Fair. NO EXCEPTIONS. (4 photos: front view, side view, left side and right side)
  1. Please turn in required information to [rringor@alamedacountyfair.com](mailto:rringor@alamedacountyfair.com) by February 25, 2026.
  2. Photos must be up-to-date with no rider or saddle on horse. Horse must take up entire photo. No far away shots accepted.
  3. Registered animals: Registration papers must be in the member's name, either as a full or part owner, with copy of said paper on file. Please see state rule XI 10 for ownership definition.
  4. Unregistered animals: A picture and description must be on file.
  5. Substitutions permitted ONLY in case of illness or injury of animal with a vet certificate, and substitute animal must be member's eligible project animal (Exhibitor must have submitted substitute horse as the exhibitors' project animal with paperwork due 2/25/26)
- c. 4-H members must qualify according to County Rules.
- d. A member may show a leased horse providing:
  1. The horse has been leased by the member for no less than 120 days prior to the Fair,
  2. The member has responsibility for the care and management of the horse during the period of the lease.
  3. A copy of the lease, signed by the owner and the member, and four photos, one of the front, rear, right side and left side of the horse or some permanent identification is filed at least 120 days prior to the Fair. (NOTE: A leased horse cannot be shown for conformation.)
- e. Members will compete in mount classes according to their age on December 31st of the project year.
- f. 4-H member's birth date must be on entry form next to name.
- g. Registered animals (registered with breeds) must be owned by the junior exhibitor showing the horse or by the junior exhibitors' parents, stepparents, sibling, half-sibling, step-sibling, grandparents, step grand parents, siblings' spouse, half siblings spouse, step siblings spouse, or legal guardian, or owned by the

- institution in which the junior exhibitor is enrolled as a ward.
- h. No post entries.
  - i. Entry forms must include the following for registered animals: Owner's name, breed, animal name, sex, and year of birth. Sire and dam registration numbers may be required per breed club rules.
  - j. Substitutions permitted only in case of illness or injury of animal with a vet certificate, and substitute animal must be member's eligible project animal.

## 2. DEFINITIONS:

- a. HAND: Unit of measure, four inches.
- b. HORSE: Height 14.2 hands or over or as specified by breed association.
- c. PONY: Less than 14.2 hands.

## 3. RESTRICTIONS:

- a. No stallions, with the exception of foal halter classes are permitted.
- b. Suitability of rider to mount, or driver to horse shall be up to the discretion of the judge; judge has the right to dismiss participants on safety or failure to follow the rules; judge's decision is final.
- c. Show attire is required. See Junior Department rules. Exhibitors must also follow USEF rules, which require long sleeves, boots. 4-H members must wear 4-H uniforms with the following exceptions: Breeches or Jodhpurs, light grey, beige or white, are acceptable in all English classes; appropriate boots must be worn. Girls may wear either 4-H scarf or tie. FFA members must wear white long sleeves, white pants, FFA tie or scarf, FFA jacket, appropriate boots, with the following exceptions: Breeches or Jodhpurs, light grey, beige or white, are acceptable in all English classes.
- d. ASTM/SEI approved helmets with harness in place must be worn in ALL classes EXCEPT Halter and Showmanship and at any time when mounted or driving. NO RIDING/DRIVING ON PAVED SURFACES.
- e. Bit and rein rules will be enforced by show management and/or judge. Judge and/or show management has final say on approved equipment Western Classes, only split or Romel reins can be used. Roping reins will not be permitted in pleasure, trail and horsemanship classes.
- f. Management reserves the right to combine or cancel classes with less than 3 entries. 4-H and FFA classes may run concurrently.
- g. Exhibitors must declare any medication when they pick up their numbers. See State Horse Show Health Rules, USEF Drugs and Medications Rules.
- h. Horses entered in Walk/Jog or Walk/Trot classes MAY NOT enter any three-gaited classes including the jumping classes and gymkhana classes unless horse only jogs the course. Rider/horse combination will be eligible to compete in the walk/jog classes for three years only.
- i. Ponies entered in pony classes MAY NOT cross enter in horse classes.
- j. TACK & EQUIPMENT: No mechanical hackamores or mechanical bits will be allowed EXCEPT in Gymkhana. Standing/Running Martingales are acceptable in Equitation Over Fences and Hunter Over Fences. Western horses five years of age and younger may be shown in a standard snaffle (smooth O-ring, D-ring, or Eggbutt) or bosal; two hands will be permitted on reins. Protective boots allowed in Reining and Gymkhana; front legs: shin, bell boots, and/or protective bandages allowed, rear legs: standard sliding or rundown boots allowed.
- k. Additional rules/guidelines/clarifications or other information may be posted on site. IT IS THE PARTICIPANT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO BE AWARE OF ANY POSTED INFORMATION.
- l. Hunter Under Saddle (English Pleasure): Horses will NOT be asked to hand gallop. Hunter Hack: Judge MAY ask horses to Hand Gallop one-way of the arena.
- m. ONLY EXHIBITORS may handle, care for, groom or exercise their horses. Exception: Designated youth handlers may be available to assist. Please refer to Junior Livestock Rules.
- n. High point awards will be based on Horse and rider combination classes. The mare and gelding classes do not count towards high point awards.
- o. In the case of a tie, Showmanship placing will be used to determine highpoint.

## Showmanship

### American System of Judging

Cash Awards for classes 4, 5 and 6

### Special Awards

4-H Champion Mare	Award, Banner, Rosette
4-H Reserve Champion Mare	Award, Banner, Rosette
FFA Champion Mare	Award, Banner, Rosette
FFA Reserve Champion Mare	Award, Banner, Rosette
Grand Champion Mare	Award, Banner, Rosette
Reserve Grand Champion Mare	Award, Banner, Rosette
4-H Champion Gelding	Award, Banner, Rosette
4-H Reserve Champion Gelding	Award, Banner, Rosette
FFA Champion Gelding	Award, Banner, Rosette
FFA Reserve Champion Gelding	Award, Banner, Rosette
Grand Champion Gelding	Award, Banner, Rosette
Reserve Grand Champion Gelding	Award, Banner, Rosette

AWARDS - Showmanship							
1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>
\$30	\$25	\$20	\$18	\$15	\$10	\$7	\$5

## DIVISION

### A. Showmanship

## CLASS

1. FFA First Year Project Members (Ribbon Only)

Open to members exhibiting that species of livestock for the first time ever. If an exhibitor has exhibited the project in another organization, he/she is not eligible for this class. First year project exhibitors may show in class 6 as well.

2. 4-H Beginner (Ribbon Only)  
Open to members 9-10 years old as of December 31, 2025. Top three winners in this class compete in the next age group.
3. 4-H Junior (Ribbon only)  
Open to members 11-13 years old as of December 31, 2025. Winner of class qualifies for Junior Master Showmanship. Previous Junior Master Showmanship winners may show in Intermediate.
4. 4-H Intermediate (Ribbon and Cash Award)  
Open to 4-H members 14-15 years old as of December 31, 2025. Top three winners in this class will compete in the next age group.
5. 4-H Advanced (Ribbon and Cash Award)  
Open to 4-H members 16 and over as of December 31, 2025. Winner of this class qualifies for Master Showmanship.
6. FFA Advanced (Ribbon and Cash Award) Winner of this class qualifies for Master Showmanship.

**Halter-Registered, unregistered, grade, all ages, and all breeds judged together.**

Animals must be OWNED (NOT LEASED) to compete in halter classes.

7. 4-H Mares
8. FFA Mares
9. 4-H Geldings
10. FFA Geldings

## Horse Show

### American Judging System

Rosettes 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>

<b>AWARDS – Per Class</b>				
1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
\$20	\$15	\$10	\$5	\$4

## DIVISION

- B. FFA Horse Show
- C. 4-H Horse Show

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## CLASS

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### English

Hunt Seat Equitation classes follow patterns.

1. English, Hunt Seat Equitation, Pony
2. English, Hunt Seat Equitation, Walk/Trot
3. English, Hunt Seat Equitation, 13 & Under (no FFA)
4. English, Hunt Seat Equitation, 14 & Over
5. English, English Pleasure, Pony

6. English, English Pleasure, Walk/Trot
7. English, English Pleasure, 13 & Under (no FFA)
8. English, English Pleasure, 14 & Over
9. English, Hunter Hack, Pony to 2'
10. English, Hunter Hack, 13 & Under, 2' to 2'6" (no FFA)
11. English, Hunter Hack, 14 & Over, 2' to 2'6"
12. English, Hunter Over Fences, Pony to 2'
13. English, Hunter Over Fences, 2' to 2'6"
14. English, Equitation over Fences, Pony to 2'
15. English, Equitation over Fences, 2' to 2'6"

## **Western**

Patterned Classes for Horsemanship, formerly Equitation

16. Western, Horsemanship, Pony
17. Western, Horsemanship, Walk/Jog
18. Western, Horsemanship, 13 & Under (no FFA)
19. Western, Horsemanship, 14 & Over
20. Western, Pleasure, Pony
21. Western, Pleasure, Walk/Jog
22. Western, Pleasure, 13 & Under (no FFA)
23. Western, Pleasure, 14 & Over
24. Western, Reining, All Ages

## **Trail**

25. Western, Trail, Pony
26. Western, Trail, Walk/Jog
27. Western, Trail, 13 & Under (no FFA)
28. Western, Trail, 14 & Over

## **Gymkhana**

29. California Pole Bending, Horse/Pony (weave up, weave back)
30. Single Stake Race, Horse/Pony
31. Cloverleaf Barrels, Horse/Pony
32. Bi-Rangle Stake Race
33. California Speed Barrel