



EL PASO COUNTY

FAIR



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JULY 11 - 18, 2026 | CALHAN, CO



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

2026 PREMIUM BOOK

MINIATURE HORSE PROJECT

EL PASO COUNTY 4-H/FFA MINIATURE HORSE SHOW PREMIUM

Superintendent: Autumn Haugen
Assistant Superintendent: Kelley Harding & Wyatt Chamblin

Friday June 19, 2026
4:00 PM Written Test
Extension Office

Thursday July 16, 2026
Miniature Horse Show
Owens Arena

NEW FOR 2026- PRE-ENTRY

Pre-entry is required for all 4-H General, 4-H Consumer Science, 4-H Cloverbud and 4-H Animal exhibits.

Pre-entry will be completed at the Written Test, Interview, and Patterns Night on **Friday June 19, 2026**. The extension office will provide a hard copy of the show bill for the entry forms.

Payment will be made by **CHECK ONLY** on **Friday June 19, 2026**.

If special circumstances arise for that interfere with entry and payment deadlines, please reach out to the 4-H Specialist at least a week before Friday June 19, 2026.

There are no late entries or payments, all special circumstances must be arranged prior to June 19, 2026.

Individuals not complying with deadlines will lose privileges and the opportunity for awards. 4-H members who fail to comply with deadlines for ownership, inspection, or exhibition will be prevented from exhibiting project(s) and/or denied any and all premiums or awards for their project.

It is the member's responsibility to check with the Extension office to make sure the entry and payment was completed by the deadline.

**If a 4-H Contest takes place before FairEntry deadlines- all entries and payment must be complete 24 hours before the 4-H Contest.*

Entry Fees & Stalling Fees (No Refunds):

1. \$5 per class including the written test

PROJECT EXHIBIT RULES

1. Ownership or leasing of miniature horse(s) must be in the name of the exhibitor and horse ID form must be uploaded to 4H Online before May 1, 2026. If the miniature horse ID is not on file, members may not participate in fair horse events.
2. All safety testing must be completed by pre-entry deadline, **June 1, 2026**.
3. Exhibitors may enter classes with miniature horses that are identified on the horse ID and in their Horse E-Record book as being part of the individual's 4-H project.
4. An exhibitor may not enter more than one miniature horse per class.
5. If a miniature horse(s) cannot compete for any reason, **no substitutions** will be allowed after the **May 1, 2025** Horse ID deadline (except if they are already approved in 4HOnline).
6. Classes may be dropped, but not added the day of the show. There will be no refunds.
7. Miniature Horse exhibitors are expected to write Thank You Notes to receive their buckle or award.

4-H HORSE DRUG AND MEDICATION RULE

1. No horse may be shown in any class at a 4-H show if it has been administered in any manner a forbidden substance. A forbidden substance is any stimulant, depressant or local anesthetic, which might affect the performance of a horse. Stimulants and depressants are defined as medications, which stimulate or depress the circulatory, respiratory, or central nervous systems.
2. Also prohibited are any drugs, regardless of how harmless or innocuous they might be, which by their very nature might mask or screen the presence of the prohibited drugs or prevent or delay testing procedures. The use of these drugs will be considered physical abuse and the consequences will be enforced according to the general rules and requirements of the Colorado 4-H Horse Book.
3. The full use of modern therapeutic measures including phenylbutazone for the improvement and protection of the health of the horse is permitted, unless the treatment may also stimulate or depress the circulatory, respiratory, or central nervous systems.

HORSE HUMANE POLICY STATEMENT

1. It is the responsibility of every 4-H member to ensure that proper care is taken of their horse according to acceptable methods of good equine husbandry, as set forth by CSU and the Colorado Department of Agriculture. A healthy horse requires sufficient food, water, shelter and correct health care. Cruel and inhumane training methods are not appropriate in the

Colorado 4-H Horse Program. Specific equine husbandry guidelines and humane training methods are provided in the Colorado 4-H Horse Project Manual.

2. The management of the El Paso County Fair reserves the right to withhold premium awards for violation of any rule governing this department, and to disqualify an exhibitor from participation at this Fair and/or future County Fairs.

STALLING & FACILITY INFORMATION

1. Horses will be required to stall the duration of County Fair.
2. All miniature horses will be stalled Friday July 10 from 6 to 8 PM, and animal load out will be Sunday July 19th from 7 AM-9 AM (truck and trailers CANNOT drive onto the main area of the fairgrounds).
3. Exhibitors must supply their own horse feed, water buckets, tack, shavings, and equipment.
4. A horse trailer parking area will be provided. All trailers and vehicles must be parked in the designated area.
5. If an animal is released it will be at the discretion of the extension agent and superintendent.
6. All animals must be picked up no later than 9:00 AM on Sunday.
7. All stalls must be stripped of bedding and manure before the exhibitor and family can leave the fairgrounds.

BARNES

1. Barns open at 6:00 AM and close at 9:00 PM. Barns may close sooner due to night events held by the Fairgrounds. Make sure your animals are cared for before night events as gates will be shut and locked.
2. All animals must be bedded with shavings. No raw ground will be permitted.
3. Stalls must be cleaned at least once a day, and animals fed daily by 9:00 AM before the fair opens to the public. The second cleaning, feeding, and watering must be done by 7:00 PM.
4. Superintendents reserve the right to require additional stall cleaning as needed. All stalls must remain in satisfactory condition.
5. Hay and grain shall be stored in such a manner that they are not accessible to any animals.
6. Grain must be stored in closed plastic or metal containers.
7. **SAFETY NOTE:** Exhibitors are reminded to properly secure and store all equipment (pitchforks, tack, shovels, tack boxes, etc.) in a safe place to prevent injury to livestock and/or people.
8. Sleeping in the barns, outside of open barn hours, is strictly forbidden.
9. Smoking/Tobacco/Alcohol use by anyone is prohibited in the exhibit barns and buildings. Violations of this Fair Board rule or other forms of discourtesy or violations of codes of conduct will be grounds for disciplinary action.

HORSE HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

A horse exhibiting any signs of infectious disease will not be allowed on the fairgrounds at the discretion of the show management. All miniature horses MUST be accompanied by an official Health Certificate issued within 14 days to the start of fair. Each animal must be individually

identified on the certificate.

MEASUREMENTS

1. To compete in County Fair Classes all miniature horses should have passed their safety test and been officially measured by superintendent and extension office staff. The requirements for obtaining measurements will be followed by the AMHR Rulebook.
2. For miniature horses that are under 3 years old they must be remeasured by the Superintendent and extension office staff every year at safety test day.
3. Miniature Horses must not to exceed 38”.
4. If a miniature horse is measured and found to be over 38" the Superintendent shall not allow the horse to show.

SHOW RULES

1. 4-H miniature horse entries, exhibitors, and adults are subject to the 4-H Code of Conduct and the rules published in this document.
2. Miniature horse project members must have shown each project horse they wish to qualify for County Fair in a class and taken the written test at one Horse Advisory Committee sanctioned 4-H miniature horse show during the current 4-H project year.
3. Parents/family members and 4-H leaders may assist with harness changes and minor grooming.
4. The show ring will be under absolute control of the show management. Only authorized persons will be allowed in the show ring during judging.
5. The El Paso County Fair requires all exhibitors to wear proper attire in all horse show classes.
 - a. Proper attire includes a long-sleeved shirt (must be tucked in), long pants, and boots with heel. Except for in-hand speed classes such as barrels, poles, and jumpers' lace up tennis shoes or cleats can be worn instead of boots with a heel. Please see the driving section for more specific dress requirements.
 - b. Dress: It is the tradition of the show ring that handlers and drivers be correctly attired for their classes. T-shirts, shorts, clothes with logos or monograms are not correct attire and will not be allowed in the show ring. Horse and handler must look their best. No farm, individual or horse's names may be displayed on exhibitor.
13. Showmanship is required by all exhibitors.
14. Showmanship will be held as follows: At the county fair horse show showmanship classes will be held by age divisions. It is encouraged for all first and second place exhibitors in each age division to show in Master Showman unless you have qualified with a different species. Miniature horses used in Master Showman must be the horse the 4-H exhibitor has shown at fair. Any horse substitutions are at the discretion of the horse Superintendent for Master Showman.
15. Any behavior that is considered negative on the part of the exhibitor, family members of the exhibitor, or leaders, directed toward any show official, Fair Board member, fair staff, 4-H staff, 4-H exhibitor or their parents will result in disqualification and awards forfeited.
16. All classes must be pre-registered.
17. **All judges' decisions are final.**
18. Exhibitors must display a back-tag number while in the show ring.

19. Any exhibitor may wear protective headgear (Certified ASTM/SEI Equine Helmet) in any division or class without penalty from the judge(s).
20. For safety reasons any unruly horse or unsafe equipment may be excused from the ring by the judge, or Superintendent. An exhibitor cannot protest this action.
21. Excessively large classes may be divided by Superintendent or Judge, as conditions warrant.
22. No entry may leave the ring after judging has begun without the permission of the Judge or Superintendent.
23. A horse must be handled and shown through an entire class by the same person. Should an additional handler be required due to physical limitation or emergency, approval must be obtained from the Show Superintendent.
24. A horse can only be shown by one exhibitor per class.
25. Horse may be shown with full mane or mane with bridle path clipped and full tail.
26. Disqualifications: Height more than 38 inches, and dwarfism.
27. Judges will penalize for unsoundness. The severity of the penalty is at the judge's discretion. Obvious lameness can be cause for dismissal from the class, for the safety of rider and welfare of the horse.
28. All animals must be a year old by January 1 of the current 4-H year for show purposes only. Some classes will have higher age limits.
29. Extension staff and Superintendents have the discretion and reserve the rights to amend rules based on need and circumstance.
30. No video protests will be allowed.
31. Exhibitors must show at the County Fair 4-H Horse show in order to participate in the State Fair 4-H Horse Show.
32. At 4-H events passengers are allowed in the carts if they are senior 4-H member, parent, or volunteer.
33. To ensure the safety of all participants and horses, the following safety test requirements apply to all county-level ground driving and driving classes. Please refer to the El Paso County 4-H Project Manual about safety test requirements.
34. Please refer to the Colorado State Miniature Horse Show Rulebook for more in-depth information about the rules of the show, classes and expectations.

SHOWMANSHIP DIVISION

1. Showmanship at Halter – Showmanship is designed to evaluate the exhibitor's ability to execute, in concert with a well-groomed and conditioned horse, a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence, and maintaining a balanced, functional, and fundamentally correct body position.
2. In Showmanship classes, exhibitors are to show to the presiding (call) Judge only. Only the handler is judged, the horse is merely a prop to show the showmanship ability of the handler.
3. Show management and/or judges define the showmanship pattern.
4. Class Procedures – All exhibitors may enter the ring and then work individually, or each exhibitor may be worked from the gate individually (show and go).
5. Showmanship is required by all exhibitors

IN HAND WORKING PERFORMANCE DIVISION

General Rules

Performance Halter

1. Horses are presented in a relaxed and dignified manner at all times.
2. Weight evenly distributed on their feet; not stretched. Showing in a relaxed manner includes no rocking back to change balance and create intensity.
3. Not to be shown as in showmanship class.
4. Mandatory use of Performance Halter Score Sheet.
5. It is acceptable for handlers to raise their hand or use their hand to get the horse's attention but cannot be intimidating to the horse nor cause an intense reaction from the horse.
6. Exhibitors may wear any clothing appropriate to the show ring that they feel best represents their horse and allows them to show their horse to his/her best advantage. Must still adhere to the dress code listed in the General Rules section.
7. Equipment: a traditional style Arabian show halter, a Western style show halter, draft type halter, or a leather stable halter.
8. Chains through the mouth are not permitted. A chain or leather strap under the chin, or leather pieces connecting the two sides of the halter under the chin, are permitted.
9. The following six (6) attributes will be scored:
 - Athletic Structure
 - Quality, Balance, Substance
 - Neck and Shoulder
 - Back, Loin, and Hip
 - Legs and Feet
 - Movement

All Obstacle, Jumping, Hunter, and Versatility Classes

1. The judge and/or Superintendent have the right to alter the course for safety or to meet rule requirements after the course is set and prior to the beginning of the class. Once the first exhibitor has completed the course, no changes may be made. If the same jump set up is used for different classes, and only jump order and/or heights are changed, the judge and Superintendent only need to walk the course one time.
2. Exhibitors will be allowed to walk the course after it has been set and verified by the judge and Superintendent.
3. A hunter/jumper horse must be 3 years and older.

Halter Obstacle

1. Judging: Entries are to be judged on performance (responsiveness, willingness, general attitude) and manners, in that order. Entries are to demonstrate control, flexibility and calmness. Obstacle classes are to be scored with an eye to the positive aspects of the performance. Each obstacle is scored, and penalty scores applied as appropriate. Scoring will begin at a 70.

Hunter & Jumper in Hand

1. Jumper Courses

- a. Jumper courses should be technically challenging. Jumper courses may consist of lines of fences or single fences, and fences may be placed on straight or curved lines.
- b. Fence Heights for Jumpers are: Minimum height 18" Maximum height 24"
- c. Jumpers Scoring: Jumpers are scored mathematically on accumulated faults, and on time to complete the course in case of ties. There will be one round which will be both scored for faults and timed. Exhibitors will be placed in order of least faults to most faults, with time utilized to break any ties (i.e. scoring by faults and then by time). There will be no additional rounds. Timing starts when the horses nose passes the starting line and finishes when the horses nose passes the finish line.
- d. Tennis shoes and cleats may be worn for this class (still must be closed toed shoes).

2. Hunter Courses

- a. Hunter courses are designed to allow the exhibitor to present the horse to its best advantage. Longer distances and wide corners are utilized to enable a smooth presentation. Exhibitors will not be asked for tight turns. Angled jumps must be approached from the long corner, not the short corners.
- b. Hunter courses consist of two or three straight or gently curved lines of jumps that do not require turns between them, or single jumps, with room for wide corners between lines and jumps.
- c. Fence heights for Hunters are: Minimum height 18" Maximum height 24".
- d. Hunters are not scored mathematically by faults nor by time. Hunters are judged on style and form over fences, manners, way of going and pace in that order. Judge must penalize unsafe jumping (i.e., charging, refusals) and poor form over fences.

Versality

1. The horse will be shown in performance halter, and then as a hunter, in that order.
2. After halter inspections are completed, exhibitors are to follow the Ringmaster and proceed to the hunter course.
3. The hunter requirements for judging are the same as specified under the "Hunter" Rules. The Performance Halter requirements will be judged the same as specified under the Performance Halter Rules.
4. There shall be 2 (two) fences.
5. When all have completed the hunter course, they must trot for soundness before the Judges.
6. Horses do not leave the arena between divisions.
7. All two divisions count equally.
8. Horses must complete all two divisions, without disqualification, to be eligible for a ribbon.
9. No teeth will be checked

GYMKHANA DIVISION

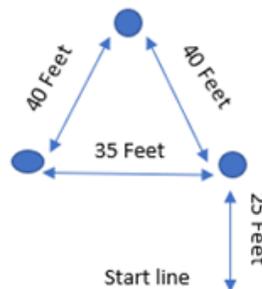
General Rules

1. All gymkhana events will be timed.
2. Horses must be under control at all times.
3. Horses must be at least 1 year old for in-hand.

4. Horses to be shown in a halter with appropriate lead (when in-hand). Chain on lead permitted under the chin. A chain is optional. Western, nylon and draft style halters are permitted. Bridles are not allowed.
5. Horses can trot, canter or gallop for in-hand events.
6. Disqualifications – Any of the following infractions will disqualify an entry.
 - a. Running through the chute or gate to enter the arena.
 - b. Failure to begin the course within 1 minute after the ready signal is given.
 - c. A willful refusal to move forward (loss of forward motion) or 3 steps backwards.
 - d. Off course, which includes negotiating obstacles in other than the specified order or in the wrong direction. This includes circling, backing or reversing the direction of movement.
 - e. Horse is behaving in an unruly manner or out of control.
 - f. Any kind of cruelty to the horse whether or not specifically mentioned in these rules will disqualify the competitor.
 - g. Striking or beating the horse in any manner whatsoever after entering the arena. Touching the horse will not be considered striking or beating the horse.
 - h. Fall of horse or exhibitor while in the arena.
 - i. Carrying a whip.
 - j. Holding or touching the barrels with hands
 - k. Smacking or hitting with leadline or hand once the exhibitor has crossed the timer.
 - l. Contestants are allowed running starts.
 - m. Tennis shoes and cleats may be worn for these classes (still must be closed toed shoes).

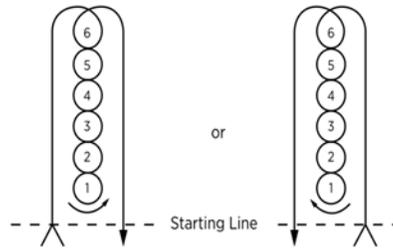
In-Hand Barrel Racing

1. Barrel racing classes can be performed in-hand. These are to be separate classes. Three 55-gallon barrels in safe, usable condition should be used.
2. Knocking Down a barrel will result in a 5 second penalty. Holding or touching the barrels with hands will also result in a 5 second penalty.



In-Hand Pole Bending

1. The pole bending pattern is run around six poles. The poles are placed in a straight line 10 feet apart. The first pole is to be 10 feet from the starting line. Poles are 6 feet high and set on top of the ground, with bases 10 inches to 14 inches in diameter.
2. A 5-second penalty will be assessed for each pole knocked down.



COSTUME CLASS

1. General - Costumes must be considered safe.
2. Costume classes are to be judged 75% on originality of costume and 25% on presentation.
3. To be shown at a walk both ways of the arena and lined up in the middle of the arena for final judging.
4. If exhibitor and horse have passed Mastery Test Two, horses may be driven in costumes. Costumes must be safe for ground driving

GROUND DRIVING DIVISION

General Rules

1. For exhibitors to participate in Ground Driving classes, horses must have passed the Mastery Test Two by June 1, 2026.
2. **Headers Required:** All youth exhibitors in any ground driving class must have a header 14 years or older. Headers are to enter the ring when the line-up is called, may assist in setting up the animal and then step back two-paces where they are to remain, except in an emergency, until the judge's card is turned in.
 - a. Note: Judges are cautioned that this rule in no way negates the requirement in youth classes that animals must display good manners, stand quietly in the line-up and back readily.
3. Horse must be 2 years old or older old by January of the current 4-H year.
4. **Timeout:** The breakage of equipment can be handled in accordance with Current USEF Rule Book, General Rule (GR) 833, which is in part as follows: "An exhibitor is entitled to request suspensions of judging for a period not to exceed five minutes in aggregate (but no more than one time in a class) in order to repair broken equipment, rectify a similar condition." The exhibitor must go to the center of the ring for any such emergency which will constitute a request for time out. Time shall be taken from the moment the exhibitor goes to the center of the ring. If at the expiration of five minutes the repair has not been made, the contestant may proceed as is or be eliminated. The Steward shall be held responsible for timing unless an official timer is present. Any exhibitor not involved in a "timeout" may make minor adjustments that can be performed with the assistance of one of the superintendents and not be charged with a "timeout".

5. During the class, minor adjustments to harness may be made upon permission from the Judge. A superintendent may assist with the adjustment without penalty (a time out). See Current USEF Rule Book, General Rule (GR833).
 - a. The time-out shall be clocked, and the adjustment or repair is not to exceed 5 minutes.
 - b. Only one time-out per class per entry is allowed and must not exceed the 5 minutes allowed.
6. The only person to handle the reins, under penalty of elimination, is the driver. No change of driver is permitted during any class.
7. Drivers will be allowed time to walk the course prior to the start of ground driving reinsmanship, obstacle, and cone class.
8. It is permissible for a driver to talk to a horse in a subdued tone of voice, although a driver should strive to control the horse's movement with a minimum of vocal aids. Talking loud, whistling, or shouting at a horse is not acceptable.
9. Harness must be clean and properly fit to the horse. Exhibitor can be dismissed from the class by the judge or Superintendent if it is not properly fit before entering the arena.
10. The harness must have blinders (round or square) and the check must be hooked.
11. Driving whips are required and must be of suitable style, and the tip of the lash must not reach past the shoulder of the horse.
12. **Dress Code:** Headers and Drivers should be dressed appropriately. Dress in the show ring is to complement the overall appearance of the unit, not take away from the appearance. (Refer to Page 4 Statement 5 for more information)
13. No farm, individual, or animal names may be displayed.
14. Horses must be serviceably sound.
15. Drivers must follow behind horse through obstacles, may not pass over obstacles, split cones, or poles.
16. Equipment
 - a. Cavessons or nosebands are optional in the Driving Division.
 - b. Boots, wraps, etc. of any description are prohibited.
 - c. Breeching is optional with all straps secured.
 - d. Martingales are optional.

Ground Driving Obstacles

The purpose of Ground Driven Obstacle Class is to be judged on performance and way of going with emphasis on manners throughout course. Entries will be evaluated on responsiveness and willingness, plus general attitude. The course will test the skill of the driver and the obedience and handiness of the animal without being hooked to a cart.

Horse to be penalized for any unnecessary delay or excessive time at an object. Judge(s) can advance an exhibitor to the next obstacle if a horse is taking excessive time at an obstacle. Scoring begins at a 70. Cantering must be penalized in Obstacle Driving.

Obstacles should reflect what a horse and driver might experience when driving on a trail. Examples include bridges, mailboxes, tarps, cones, etc. The course should include maneuvers that would be used while hooked to a vehicle such as: Backing, serpentine, figure eights, sharp turns, etc.

Ground Driving Cones

Cones courses are designed to test the ability of both the horse and driver to execute precision movements. It may include obstacles such as "L," serpentine, or "U." A ball is placed on top of

each cone. A penalty of 5 seconds is added to the final time for each ball or obstacle dislodged. Placings then are determined on low total time plus penalty points.

Ground Driving Reinsmanship

This class is a ground driving equitation class designed to test the knowledge and ability of the driver. May be shown at a walk, slow trot (collected), working trot (normal), and strong trot (extended). Competitors enter the ring individually and drive a short course of defined elements in order at prescribed paces.

Specifications

1. To be judged on the driver's skill: use of aids, control of the horse, accuracy, quality of transitions and gaits, with additional consideration of impressions of the driver and miniature horse.
2. Tests – All the entries will complete a number of prescribed elements from memory and in order.
3. Entries must follow the designated track without numbered or lettered markers, such as posts or single cones. Unless otherwise specified, elements begin when the horse's nose reaches the marker.
4. Pattern Components
 - a. Walk
 - b. Slow trot (collected)
 - c. Working trot (normal)
 - d. Strong trot (extended)
 - e. Back

DRIVING DIVISION

General Rules

1. The driving division was founded for the purpose of developing and furthering the art and sport of driving for pleasure. A working knowledge of and compliance with the rules are essential.
2. All driving horses must be at least 3 years old.
3. The only person to handle the reins, under penalty of elimination, is the driver. No change of driver is permitted during any class.
4. Dress Code: Headers and Drivers should be dressed appropriately. The dress in the show ring is to complement the overall appearance of the unit, not take away from the appearance.
5. Hats for drivers are optional, except when in formal attire.
6. No sandals or open toed shoes to be worn by driver or header.

7. No T-shirts or shorts.
8. No farm, individual, or animal names may be displayed.
9. Headers Required: All youth exhibitors in any driving class must have a header 14 years or older. Headers are to enter the ring when the line-up is called, may assist in setting up the animal and then step back two-paces where they are to remain, except in an emergency, until the judge's card is turned in.
10. Note: Judges are cautioned that this rule in no way negates the requirement in youth classes that animals must display good manners, stand quietly in the line-up and back readily.
11. Horses may be shown with a full mane or mane with bridle path clipped and full tail. All headers should be appropriately attired.
12. Driving whips must be of suitable style, and the tip of the lash must not reach past the shoulder of the horse. Driving whips are required for every driving class.
13. Cavessons or nosebands are optional in the Driving Division.
14. All carts must be easy entry carts.
15. Undue noise created by a vehicle will be a reason to excuse the entry from the ring.
16. Boots, wraps, etc. of any description are prohibited.
17. Harness must be: of the light type with breast collars, no full hames allowed, blinders are required, round or square blinders are permissible, side or over-checks are required.
18. Check must be hooked.
19. Breeching is optional.
20. No other appliances may be used on a driving horse (Example: no fly nets on the ears, face, or body).
21. Bits in the pleasure driving division shall be of the snaffle type. No Liverpool bits, curb chains or curb straps are allowed.
22. Martingales and Check Bits are optional.
23. Any exhibitor may wear protective headgear (Certified ASTM/SEI Equine Helmet) in any division or class without penalty from the judge(s). Headgear harness must be secured and properly fitted.
24. Timeout: The breakage of equipment can be handled in accordance with Current USEF Rule Book, General Rule (GR) 833, which is in part as follows: "An exhibitor is entitled to request suspensions of judging for a period not to exceed five minutes in aggregate (but no more than one time in a class) in order to repair broken equipment, rectify a similar condition." The exhibitor must go to the center of the ring for any such emergency which will constitute a request for time out. Time shall be taken from the moment the exhibitor goes to the center of the ring. If at the expiration of five minutes the repair has not been made, the contestant may proceed as is or be eliminated. The Steward shall be held responsible for timing unless an official timer is present. Any exhibitor not involved in a "timeout" may make minor adjustments that can be performed with the assistance of one of the superintendents and not be charged with a "timeout".
25. During the class, minor adjustments to harness may be made upon permission from the Judge. A superintendent may assist with the adjustment without penalty (a time out). See Current USEF Rule Book, General Rule (GR833). The time-out shall be clocked, and the adjustment or repair is not to exceed 5 minutes. Only one time-out per class per entry is allowed and must not exceed the 5 minutes allowed.
26. Drivers will be allowed time to walk the course prior to the start of driving reinsmanship, obstacle, and cone class.
27. It is permissible for a driver to talk to a horse in a subdued tone of voice, although a driver should strive to control the horse's movement with a minimum of vocal aids. Talking loudly, whistling, or shouting at a horse is not acceptable.

28. The harness must be clean and properly fit the horse. An exhibitor can be dismissed from the class by the judge or Superintendent if it is not properly fit before entering the arena.
29. Exhibitors must have passed the Miniature Horse Mastery Test 3 to be eligible for this division.

Country Western Pleasure

1. Ring Procedure: Western Country Pleasure driving horses shall enter the ring counterclockwise (to the right) at a Country Pleasure Trot. To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, country pleasure trot and extended trot. To stand quietly and rein back. To be judged 60% on the horse's performance, manners and way of going, and suitability for assuring a pleasurable drive, 30% on condition, fit and appropriateness of harness and vehicle, and 10% on neatness, appropriateness of attire and overall impression. Over checks or side checks should be slightly loose, not snug. Excessive knee action and speed to be penalized.
 - a. Walk: A free regular and forward moving four beat gait. The horse should walk freely and calmly, with an even determined gait.
 - b. Western Country Pleasure Trot: A balanced, easy going, relaxed two beat gait demonstrating forward movement with a flat knee and little hock flexion.
 - c. Extended Trot: A clear increase in gait and length of stride. Excessive knee or hock action and speed to be severely penalized. The horse should move freely on a taut, but light rein, while maintaining a balanced gait and forward movement with low strides and little flexion of knees and hocks.
2. A Western Country Pleasure Driving horse should carry himself in a natural, balanced position with a relaxed head and neck. The horse will be free moving with straight, low strides that have little flexion of the knees and hocks.
3. The horse shall be severely penalized if his poll is more than 3" above the level of the withers or below the withers; the crest of the neck is bowed or arched; is behind the vertical or over flexed; is excessively nosed out; exhibits excessive knee action and speed; or shows lack of control by the exhibitor.
4. All gaits to be performed in a smooth, relaxed, balanced manner. Consistently showing too far off the rail and excessive noisemaking by exhibitors during the class shall be penalized according to severity. Each horse shall be required to back readily and straight and stand quietly.
5. Western Country Pleasure Driving Attire:
 - a. Drivers should wear jackets and blouses with slacks or skirts or dresses of the Western type. Hats are optional but should be of the Western type if worn. Drivers can also wear Western attire with or without a Western hat.

Driving Obstacle Driving

1. To be judged:
 - a. Judged 100 % on the basis of performance and manners.
 - b. Each entry will work individually through an obstacle course designed to test the performance and manners of a good working animal.
 - c. Each entry will be given a numerical score based on performance at each obstacle and overall manners and gaits.
 - d. The judge will dismiss any unsafe entry whether due to equipment or behavior of the animal.

Driving Reinsmanship

This class is a driving equitation class designed to test the knowledge and ability of the driver. May be shown at a walk, slow trot (collected), working trot (normal), and strong trot (extended). Competitors enter the ring individually and drive a short course of defined elements in order at prescribed paces.

Specifications

1. To be judged on the driver's skill: use of aids, control of the horse, accuracy, quality of transitions and gaits, with additional consideration of impressions of the driver and miniature horse.
2. Tests – All the entries will complete a number of prescribed elements from memory and in order.
3. Entries must follow the designated track without numbered or lettered markers, such as posts or single cones. Unless otherwise specified, elements begin when the horse's nose reaches the marker.
4. Pattern Components
 - Walk
 - Slow trot (collected)
 - Working trot (normal)
 - Strong trot (extended)
 - Back

Driving Cones Driving Timed

1. To be driven over a prescribed course of numbered obstacles (traffic cones with balls to similar objects placed on top). The numbers are to be placed on the right side of the obstacles. The number of obstacles to be proportionate to the dimension of the driver area, no to exceed 10 obstacles.
2. After passing the starting line, the driver shall proceed through each obstacle in order to the designated finish line.
3. Course faults are assessed as penalty seconds and are added to the driver's elapsed time. Placings are determined on a low total time basis. Ties for first will be decided by a drive-off.
4. Obstacle widths are to be set 60 inches (5 feet) apart.
5. Cantering will not be permitted.

LIBERTY DIVISION

Liberty is demonstrating the natural beauty of the horse. Horses are to be judged on style, grace, animation, gaits, presence, and ease of catching. The Liberty animal is expected to perform at both a canter and a trot.

General Rules

1. Horses will be judged beginning when the halter is removed by the exhibitor (the individual wearing the number) and until caught and haltered by the exhibitor. Time of Liberty shall be 1½ minutes; time to catch shall be 2 minutes.
2. Timing will begin when the halter is removed, not when the music starts, and the show announcer will announce TIME when the 1½ minutes performance has ended to signal the exhibitor that they can begin the catch. Continue to time the catch. When the 2-minute catch time has elapsed, the show announcer will announce TIME to signal the end of the catch if the animal has not been caught. If the catch is not completed in the 2-minute allotted time frame, the exhibitor is disqualified.
3. Only the exhibitor can touch the animal during the catch. The horse must be caught and haltered by the exhibitor only within 2 minutes or be disqualified. The assistant may not touch the horse at any time. There will be “No Baiting” (no use of hay, grain, clickers, etc.) of Liberty horses during the catch or it will be disqualified.
4. Music is required. Music must not contain any profanity or reference to material that goes against 4-H guidelines.
5. No deliberate interference with the horse from outside the ring. Announcement should be made prior to the class to specify that no outside assistance is allowed.
6. Exhibitor and assistant should wear appropriate, tasteful attire. A safe costume or theme outfit within the 4-H Dress Code is allowed for the exhibitor and assistant only. Horse will not be allowed to wear anything once the halter has been removed: no costume, ribbons or glitter.
7. If a horse should fall during its performance, the entry is disqualified.
8. Entry will be disqualified if horse leaves the ring during competition or catch time.

POINT SCORING SYSTEM

1. Points per class are figured on a 7-2 scale no matter how many exhibitors are in a class. Example: A child placing 1st in a class of three will receive 7pts, a child placing 2nd would receive 5pts, and so on...

PREMIUMS AND AWARDS:

1. Premiums for 4-H horse classes will be:

<u>Placing</u>	<u>Premiums</u>
1st	\$5
2nd	\$3
3rd	\$1

2. Premiums will be awarded only on those classes listed in the fair book.
3. Ribbons will be given 1st-6th place in each class.
4. If an exhibitor is disqualified, they are not eligible for placing or premiums.

AWARD WINNERS

1. To qualify for Overall In-Hand and Reserve Overall In-Hand in Junior, Intermediate, and Senior age divisions, competitors must take the written test, compete in showmanship, enter one (1) or more classes in their division.
 - a. Overall In-Hand and Reserve Overall In-Hand winners will receive awards.
 - b. Overall In-Hand classes include Written Test, Performance Halter, Halter Obstacle, Showmanship, Pole Bending, Liberty, Costume, Ground Driving Reinsmanship, and Ground Driving Obstacle.
 - c. Showmanship will be used as a tie-breaker.
2. To qualify for the High Point Driving Award in each age division, competitors must take the written test, showmanship, and one (1) or more classes in the driving division.
 - a. High Point Driving Champion and Reserve High Point Driving Champion for each age division will receive awards.
 - b. High Point Driving classes include Written Test, Showmanship, Country Western Pleasure, Driving Cones, and Driving Reinsmanship.
 - c. The written test will be used as a tie-breaker followed by showmanship.

MIGHTIEST MINIATURE HORSE AWARD

1. The Mightiest Miniature Horse Award will be a “high point” award given to a one horse/one handler combination.
2. All contestants are automatically entered for this award if they meet the requirements of the contest outlined below.
3. The more classes entered in each division, the higher the chance the horse has to win this title.
4. To calculate the Mightiest Miniature horse award
 - a. An exhibitor will receive 5 points for every class completed
 - b. The horse with the highest total score wins
 - c. If there is a tie in scores, then the showmanship placings will be used as the tiebreaker
 - d. If still tied, then the score of the written test will be used as the tiebreaker with the highest score determining the winner
 - e. If there is still a tie, then tie breaker questions on the test will be used, and the first exhibitor to miss a tiebreaker question will be moved to second place
5. The winner will receive an award at the Achievement Awards.
6. Little Legend Rescue Recognition will be awarded to the highest placing rescue miniature horse following the above format of the Mightiest Miniature Horse Award at Achievement Awards. Eligibility requirements are outlined below:
 - a. Only rescue horses that were originally acquired or adopted through a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit rescue organization are eligible for participation. Horses that were subsequently sold or transferred to other families remain eligible, provided documentation confirming the miniature horse’s original acquisition through a 501(c)(3) rescue must be supplied upon request.
 - b. Contestants must enter for this award through FairEntry. No late entries will be accepted.

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

This award is created to recognize and encourage sportsmanship in the project area throughout the 4-H year to include 4-H sanctioned events such as clinics, qualifying shows, and the county fair. The focus of this award is to recognize positive acts of encouragement, team building, and sportsmanship. The outline of the process for this award will go as follows:

- The youth will be nominated throughout the year using a google form provided by the extension office. Youth must be nominated by at least three separate exhibitors from different households to be considered.
- <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfJr0xUXEPTe7Rlzca91OeOajQcUUJvw6d9ZLKYtyw0-z8bBw/viewform?usp=dialog>
- 4-H volunteers and adults are also allowed to submit nominations.
- The extension agent will then review the nominations after county fair and group them by contestant, and then remove the contestant's name for unbiased assessment by a panel
- The panel will consist of a HAC committee member, superintendent, and a horse project leader that does not have current enrolled youth in the horse project
- The award will then be given out at Achievement Awards

FAIRBOARD AWARD- MINIATURE HORSE TO TAKE HOME

A selected Fairboard Member by the Extension Specialist will be invited to talk to exhibitors and ask questions about their miniature horse at fair. They will then select one miniature horse they would like to "take home" if they had an option. They do not have to have previous horse knowledge to participate and select the award winner.

PREMIER EXHIBITOR CONTESTS

All exhibitors are encouraged to enter! All entries should be made in Fair Entry as this is a county fair contest. This award will be given to the outstanding 4-H member (ages 8-18) in each age division: junior, intermediate, and senior. The focus of this award is on rewarding excellence in comprehensive areas such as equine science components (written test), life skills (interview), range of disciplines (divisional points), and record keeping (record books). Contestants will be evaluated on five areas:

- a) Division Points (In Hand, Gymkhana, Ground Driving, Liberty, and Costume)
- b) Record book (including detailed health and nutrition records)
- c) Showmanship
- d) Knowledge based test
- e) Interview Youth

The Premier Exhibitor Award will be based on the following criteria and scoring system:

- a) **Class Entries** (0-25 points)- 5 points per division, must enter at least one class in each division. The divisions include In Hand, Gymkhana, Ground Driving, Liberty, and Costume. Entering showmanship does not meet the requirement for competing in a division.
- b) **Record Book** (0-25 points) –points must achieve a Blue award to be eligible.
 - 100=25 points,
 - 99=24 points
 - 98 points=23 points
- c) **Showmanship** (0-25 points) –
 - 1st place = 25 points
 - 2nd = 23 points
 - 3rd = 21 points
- d) **Knowledge Test** (0-25 points) –Score will reflect the points scored on the test i.e., 23 questions correct will earn 23 points.
- e) **Interview** (0-25 points)- Interview times will be assigned prior to the County Fair Miniature Horse Show

An exhibitor will forfeit their eligibility for the Premier Exhibitor Award if it is deemed by Rules Committee that a member exhibited poor sportsmanship or engaged in unethical behavior during the County Fair Horse Show.

Accommodations Section for Miniature Horse Premium:

The El Paso County Fair and Colorado State University 4-H Youth Program through its curriculum, programs, and events, provides a supportive environment for diverse population groups with over-arching respect for individual's personal values and ideas. We take it seriously the responsibility to offer educational programming opportunities equitably to all qualified persons who can be reasonably accommodated.

Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodation. Each youth and event must be evaluated individually, assessing whether the youth is qualified for the event and whether he or she would be able to participate in the event with or without accommodation.

Please send the El Paso County 4-H Accommodations form four weeks prior to County Fair to give adequate time for implementing the accommodation.

4-H MINIATURE HORSE SHOW CLASSES

WRITTEN TEST

Friday June 19, 2026, at the Extension Office starting at 4:00 pm

MINIATURE HORSE SHOW

Thursday July 16, 2026, in the Owens Arena starting at 9:00 am

LIBERTY

1. Senior Liberty
2. Intermediate Liberty
3. Junior Liberty

PERFORMANCE HALTER

4. Performance Halter Mares
5. Performance Halter Geldings

SHOWMANSHIP

6. Senior Showmanship
7. Intermediate Showmanship
8. Junior Showmanship

IN HAND WORKING PERFORMANCE

9. Senior Halter Obstacle
10. Intermediate Halter Obstacle
11. Junior Halter Obstacle
12. Senior In Hand Hunter
13. Intermediate In Hand Hunter
14. Junior In Hand Hunter
15. Senior In Hand Pole Bending
16. Intermediate In Hand Pole Bending
17. Junior In Hand Pole Bending

20 Minute Break

GROUND DRIVING

18. Senior Reinsmanship
19. Intermediate Reinsmanship
20. Senior Obstacle
21. Intermediate Obstacle

30 Minute Break

DRIVING

22. Senior Country Western Driving

23. Intermediate Country Western Driving
24. Senior Reinsmanship
25. Intermediate Reinsmanship
26. Senior Cones Driving
27. Intermediate Cones Driving

30 Minute Break

COSTUME

28. Senior Costume Class
29. Intermediate Costume Class
30. Junior Costume Class

Appendix A

Specialty Master Showman

- Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion junior, intermediate and senior specialty showman will be determined through a Master Showmanship Contest.
- The Champion and Reserve Champion junior, intermediate and senior showmen from each of the specialty divisions (llama/alpaca, miniature equine, pygmy goat, dairy goat and utility/fiber goat) will be eligible to compete for Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion honors.
- A 4-H exhibitor who wins Champion or Reserve Champion in more than one species must select which species they will represent in the Master Showmen Competition by Thursday at 6:00 PM
 - The species which the multiple champions does not select to represent in Master Showmen will then be offered to the third or fourth place overall in that species to compete.
- Separate Master Showmen contests for juniors, intermediates, and seniors will be held.
- Show order will be Senior, Intermediate, and Junior. In addition, it will be posted by 7:00 PM the night before the show.
- Competitors will have 15 minutes to get their animals to the proper location.
- The exhibitor must use the animal they won Grand Champion or Reserve Champion with.
 - If the superintendent determines that showmanship cannot be safely completed, an animal may be substituted prior to the class division starting, and subject to prior approval from the CSU extension agents.