

**2023 Ionia Free Fair
Youth Horse & Pony Rules**

**Anetra Whalon, Superintendent (616) 523-2168
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Only youth residents of Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Gratiot, Clinton, Eaton, and Barry Counties are eligible to exhibit at the Ionia Free Fair Youth Horse & Pony show.

1. Exhibitors are allowed to bring 2 horses or ponies. Only one horse/pony can be entered in a class section. All must remain on fairgrounds Saturday 10am thru Thursday midnight.
2. Exhibitors planning to show must enter fair classes, provide proof of current neg Coggins and pay their \$50 entry fee by June 24. Late entries will not be accepted.
3. Ponies will be measured prior to show time. Ponies with shoes will deduct 1/2 inch from their measured height.
4. It is recommended that all horses be immunized against influenza, tetanus and EEE at least 12 weeks prior to the fair. For Potomac Horse Fever, Rhino pneumonitis, and Strep Equi (strangles) follow your veterinarian's recommendations.
5. All horses must have a current negative Coggins test to be exhibited at the Ionia Free Fair. **A copy of the negative test for each horse/pony entered must be attached to the entry form.**
6. The Superintendent reserves the right to split any classes into heats, then choosing eight (8) placings from the group as a whole.
7. All horses being ridden must wear a bridle and riders must wear boots.
8. Exhibitors will show in the age category they will be on January 1 of current fair year.
9. An exhibitor entering as a first year cannot enter an age class in the same section.
10. Walk/Trot winners are not eligible for championship classes.
11. First year classes are reserved for exhibitors showing a horse or pony for the first time at any fair.
12. *Although this is not a 4-H sanctioned show, rules regarding clothing, equipment, and judging of classes will be governed by the most recent edition of 4-H Bulletin #1145: "4-H Horse & Pony Project Show Rules and Regulations."*
13. **No club or exhibitor will be dismissed before Midnight on Thursday from the fairgrounds unless permission is granted by the Horse Superintendent. Any exhibitor leaving early without permission will forfeit any premiums, plaques and awards won and may not bring the horse (or any other) back to the fair. All horses must haul out by Noon on Friday.**
14. A PARENT or authorized adult of a junior exhibitor may ride the exhibitor's horse only in order to resolve safety issues. Junior exhibitor's family, or authorized adult may do groundwork. Senior exhibitors are responsible for performing all groundwork and riding themselves unless permission from the Superintendent is granted.
15. The Horse Superintendent is a volunteer representative and has authority in matters of housing, safety, and parking. All matters regarding enforcement of rules will be at the discretion of the Horse Superintendent. Anyone disregarding the Horse Superintendent's requests, or refusing to follow established rules, will forfeit all awards won, including plaques, and will not be allowed to continue participation in the Ionia Free Fair.
16. Addition of classes at the fair will not be permitted. Participants may reserve the right to scratch from any class that they had entered granted that it is done by 8 pm the day before.
17. Lunch breaks will be at the show committee's discretion and will be announced the day of the show.
18. First and second places qualify for the Grand and Reserve Championship Classes except for Walk/Trot and Gymkhana. Exhibitors need not pre-enter Grand and Reserve classes on their entry forms.

Definitions:

First year The first time a child brings a horse to this (or any other) fair, not including Mentor program. If a child has exhibited in western classes in previous years, they are not eligible for first year English classes.

8-year-old An exhibitor may show as first year OR in their age class.

Walk/Trot An exhibitor is not capable of riding their horse at a canter. If the exhibitor rides in any walk/trot classes, they will not be allowed to exhibit in any other class that requires a canter.

Mentor Program The exhibitor does not currently own a horse and the horse being used by the horseless exhibitor is currently at the fair being shown by another exhibitor. A horseless exhibitor may enter showmanship and 2 other classes approved by show committee.

Gymkhana horsemanship and Gymkhana Trail

An exhibitor entering these classes cannot enter an age class in the same section

Barn Buddies: May participate in walk-trot events with adult volunteers in the ring at all times. Barn Buddies exhibitors must wear ASTM- or SEI-approved helmets for all Barn Buddies horse experiences. Barn Buddies aged 7 may elect to show another exhibitor's horse currently being shown at fair. Horses being shown solely by Barn Buddies may be hauled in for their show days or may be released from exhibition (go home) after the Barn Buddies has completed all their classes.

All participants or representative will be expected to work 2 show jobs during the show week. Jobs like gates, ribbons, announcer helper, ring steward and clean-up crew will be shared on a sign-up sheet with you after we receive your class entry. If you or a representative do not work 2 show jobs, you will not be allowed to show!

We love our sponsors! Let's make sure they know it!

Awards would not happen without our sponsors. Winners must thank them. Grand & Reserve awards will be given in the arena at the end of each championship class when possible. Addressed and stamped sponsor thank-you cards for Grand & Reserve awards must be turned in by Thursday evening. Those winners not turning in thank-you cards for 2023 will forfeit the right to Grand & Reserve awards in 2024. Sponsor addresses will be available at the announcers stand all week. Exhibitors to provide thank-you card, addressed envelope and postage.

Class Entry due by June 24

Current proof of neg Coggins and \$50 Entry Fee due no later than July 1st

***Checks made payable to Ionia County Horse Leaders Mail to: Ionia County Horse Youth Show
Anetra Whalon
8143 Front St Fenwick, MI 48834**

Friday July 14

Horses may haul in anytime on Friday, but all horses must haul in by 10 am Saturday

Day 1 - Saturday July 15 - 10am

Horse must haul in by 10am

Horse Committee Meeting 11am at announcers stand

Mandatory Exhibitor Meeting 11:30am in bleachers

We will draw for teams after this meeting

STICK HORSE SHOW

To start at 3pm in Make-Up Arena

Open to participants aged 7 and under who are not showing a horse at fair.

Fun Classes: to be announced at the exhibitor meeting

Day 2 - ENGLISH Sunday July 16 - 9am

HUNTER HACK

1-8 Place Flat Ribbons

004 Hunter Hack ages 15-20

005 Hunter Hack ages 8-14

OVER FENCES

Working Hunter Over Fences

1-8 Place Flat Ribbons

006 Working Hunter Over Fences ages 15-20

007 Working Hunter Over Fences ages 8-14

Equitation Over Fences

1-8 Place Rosettes

008 Equitation Over Fences ages 15-20

009 Equitation Over Fences ages 8-14

All Ages Grand & Reserve Champion Over Fences

Combination of classes 008, 009, 010 and 011 Judge Selects.

HUNT SEAT/SADDLE SEAT PLEASURE

1-8 Place Flat Ribbons (Barn Buddies not Placed, use Barn Buddy flat ribbon)

010 Horse Hunt Seat/Saddle Seat Pleasure ages 17-20

011 Horse Hunt Seat/Saddle Seat Pleasure ages 15-16

012 Horse Hunt Seat/Saddle Seat Pleasure ages 12-14

013 Horse Hunt Seat/Saddle Seat Pleasure ages 8-11

014 Pony Hunt Seat/Saddle Seat Pleasure ages 8-14

015 Horse Hunt Seat/Saddle Seat Pleasure First Year ages 15-20.

016 Horse & Pony Hunt/Saddle Seat Pleasure First Year ages 8-14

017 Hunt/Saddle Seat Pleasure Walk Trot Horse/Pony ages 15-20

018 Hunt/Saddle Seat Pleasure Walk Trot Horse/Pony ages 8-14

019 Hunt/Saddle Seat Pleasure Walk Trot Barn Buddy age 7

All Ages Grand and Reserve Champion English/Saddle Seat Pleasure

1st and 2nd place participants from classes 010, 011, 012, 013, 014, 015 and 016. Judge Selects.

HUNT SEAT EQUITATION

1-8 Place Rosettes (Barn Buddies not placed, use Barn Buddy rosette)

020 Hunt/Saddle Seat Equitation Walk Trot, Barn Buddy age 7

021 Horse Hunt Seat/Saddle Seat Equitation ages 17-20

022 Horse Hunt Seat/Saddle Seat Equitation ages 15-16

023 Horse Hunt Seat/Saddle Seat Equitation ages 12-14

024 Horse Hunt Seat/Saddle Seat Equitation ages 8-11

025 Pony Hunt Seat/Saddle Seat Equitation ages 8-14

026 Horse Hunt/Saddle Seat Equitation First Year ages 15-20

027 Horse & Pony Hunt/Saddle Seat Equitation First Year ages 8-14

028 Hunt/Saddle Seat Equitation Walk Trot Horse/Pony ages 15-20

029 Hunt/Saddle Seat Equitation Walk Trot Horse/Pony ages 8-14

All Ages Grand and Reserve Champion English/Saddle Seat Equitation

1st and 2nd place participants from classes 021, 022, 023, 024, 025, 026 and 027. Judge Selects.

DRESSAGE

1-8 Place Flat Ribbons

Snaffle bits required. The latest edition of the USEF Dressage tests will be used.

Other tests will not be scored.

030 Dressage Training Level I age 15-20

031 Dressage Training Level I age 8-14

032 Dressage Training Level II age 15-20

033 Dressage Training Level II age 8-14

034 Dressage Training Level III age 15-20

035 Dressage Training Level III age 8-14

All Ages Grand & Reserve Dressage*

**Grand & Reserve will be determined by the highest percentage rides (your score divided by total number of points possible in that test) in all qualifying age divisions. Reserve Champion will go to different rider than Grand.*

036 Green as Grass Dressage, age 15-20

037 Green as Grass Dressage, age 8-14

Participants must be a first-time rider in a Dressage class. The pattern will be a basic pattern provided to exhibitors. Not eligible for levels I through III or Championship classes. Participants may not show in any other Dressage class.

VERSATILITY

1-8 Rosettes

Walk/Trot riders are not eligible for this class.

There is a maximum of three (3) helpers per rider.

Five (5) minute tack change from Showmanship to English in the ring.

Five (5) minute tack change from English to Western in the ring.

Riders will be excused from the ring after Western to prepare for Gymkhana. Senior then Junior Gymkhana Class will be run after Junior Riders complete their Western class.

Four (4) parts in this class:

-Showmanship

-English: 50% Pleasure and 50% Equitation

-Western: 50% Pleasure and 50% Equitation

-Gymkhana: Pattern will be Cloverleaf

038 Versatility Class, ages 15-20

039 Versatility Class, ages 8-14

All Ages Grand & Reserve Versatility*

**All Ages Grand and Reserve Champion Versatility*

Judge Selects.

Day 3 - WESTERN Monday July 17 – 9am

HALTER

1-8 Place Rosettes

040 5 & Under

041 Pony

042 Fine Breeds

043 Stock Type Mares/Geldings

044 Performance Type

045 Color Breed

046 Super Seniors (Horses 15 & Older)

All Ages Grand and Reserve Halter 1st and 2nd place participants from classes 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 and 46. Judge Selects.

SHOWMANSHIP

1-8 Place Rosette (Barn Buddies Not Placed, Use Barn Buddy Rosette)

- 047 Horse & Pony Showmanship Senior ages 15-20
- 048 Horse & Pony Showmanship Intermediate ages 12-14
- 049 Horse & Pony Showmanship Junior ages 8-11
- 050 Horse & Pony Showmanship First year ages 15-20
- 051 Horse & Pony Showmanship First year ages 8-14
- 052 Horse & Pony Showmanship, Barn Buddy age 7

Grand Champion plaques awarded to the winner of Senior, Intermediate, Junior and First Year Classes. The Senior Division Sweepstakes Representative will be chosen by the judge from classes 047 and 050. The Intermediate Representative will be chosen by the judge from class 048 and 051. The Junior Representative will be chosen by the judge from classes 049 and 051.

WESTERN PLEASURE

1-8 Place Flat Ribbons (Barn Buddies Not Placed, Use Barn Buddy Flat Ribbon)

- 053 Horse Western Pleasure ages 17-20
- 054 Horse Western Pleasure ages 15-16
- 055 Horse Western Pleasure ages 12-14
- 056 Horse Western Pleasure ages 8-11
- 057 Pony Western Pleasure ages 8-14
- 058 Horse Western Pleasure First year ages 15-20
- 059 Horse & Pony Western Pleasure First year ages 8-14
- 060 Western Pleasure Walk Trot, Horse & Pony ages 15-20
- 061 Western Pleasure Walk Trot, Horse & Pony ages 8-14
- 062 Western Pleasure Walk Trot, Barn Buddy age 7

All Ages Grand and Reserve Champion Western Pleasure 1st and 2nd place participants from classes 053, 054, 055, 056, 057, 058 and 059. Judge Selects.

DISCIPLINED RAIL

1-8 Place Flat Ribbons

- 063 Disciplined Rail ages 17-20
- 064 Disciplined Rail ages 15-16
- 065 Disciplined Rail ages 12-14
- 066 Disciplined Rail ages 8-11
- 067 Pony Disciplined Rail ages 8-14
- 068 Horse & Pony Disciplined Rail First-Year ages 15-20
- 069 Horse & Pony Disciplined Rail First-Year ages 8-14

All Ages Grand and Reserve Champion Disciplined Rail 1st and 2nd place participants from classes 063, 064, 065, 066, 067, 068 and 609. Judge Selects.

WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP

1-8 Place Rosettes (Barn Buddies Not Placed, Use Barn Buddy Rosette)

- 070 Western Horsemanship Walk Trot, Barn Buddy age 7
- 071 Horse Western Horsemanship ages 17-20
- 072 Horse Western Horsemanship ages 15-16
- 073 Horse Western Horsemanship ages 12-14
- 074 Horse Western Horsemanship ages 8-11
- 075 Pony Western Horsemanship ages 8-14
- 076 Horse Western Horsemanship First Year ages 15-20
- 077 Horse & Pony Western Horsemanship First Year ages 8-14
- 078 Western Horsemanship Walk Trot Horse & Pony ages 15-20
- 079 Western Horsemanship Walk Trot Horse & Pony ages 8-14
- 080 Western Horsemanship for Gymkhana Riders ages 15-20
- 081 Western Horsemanship for Gymkhana Riders ages 8-14

All Ages Grand and Reserve Champion Western Horsemanship 1st and 2nd place participants from classes 071, 072, 073, 074, 075, 076 and 077. Judge Selects.

BAREBACK EQUITATION

1-8 Place Rosettes
SEI Approved Helmets Required

- 082 Bareback Equitation ages 17-20
- 083 Bareback Equitation ages 15-16
- 084 Bareback Equitation ages 12-14
- 085 Bareback Equitation ages 8-11
- 086 Bareback Equitation First Year ages 15-20
- 087 Bareback Equitation First Year ages 8-14

All Ages Grand and Reserve Champion Bareback Equitation 1st and 2nd place participants from classes 082, 083, 084, 085, 086, and 087. Judge Selects.

TEAM COMPETITION

1-8 Special Team Ribbons
Draw for teams during exhibitor meeting.
Each team will consist of four (4) members.
Each team member will compete in one (1) event.

The events are:

- Showmanship
- English Equitation
- Western Horsemanship
- Gymkhana-Down and Back

088 Team Competition, All Ages

Day 4 - FUN CLASS Tuesday July 18 – 1pm

AFTERNOON FUN CLASSES

121 Ride-A-Buck – All Ages

SEI Approved Helmets Required
1-8 Place Flat Ribbons
(splits as needed – award for each split)

Egg & Spoon – All Ages

1-8 Place Flat Ribbons
(Barn Buddies Not Placed, Use Barn Buddy Flat Ribbon)
(splits as needed – award for each split)

122 Egg & Spoon All Ages

123 Egg & Spoon Walk Trot, Barn Buddy age 7

124 Pairs Class – All Ages

1-8 Place Flat Ribbons
(splits as needed – award for each split)

Day 5 - RANCH Wednesday July 19 – 9am

TRAIL

1-8 Place Flat Ribbons (Barn Buddies Not Placed, Use Barn Buddy Flat Ribbon)
Exhibitors may enter only one Trail class.

- 089 Trail ages 17-20
- 090 Trail ages 15-16
- 091 Trail ages 12-14
- 092 Trail ages 8-11
- 093 Trail First Year ages 15-20
- 094 Trail First Year ages 8-14
- 095 Trail Walk Trot ages 15-20
- 096 Trail Walk Trot ages 8-14
- 097 Trail Gymkhana ages 15-20
- 098 Trail Gymkhana ages 8-14
- 099 Trail in Hand ages 15-20
- 100 Trail in Hand ages 8-14

101 Trail Barn Buddy age 7

All Ages Grand and Reserve Champion Trail

Highest scores from classes 089, 090, 091, 092, 093, and 094. Judge Selects.

RANCH RIDING - ALL AGES (Ranchmanship patterns can be found in the latest edition of the ARHA rule book will be used. (Final patterns will be determined prior to Fair.)

1-8 Place Flat Ribbons

102 Ranch Riding ages 15-20

103 Ranch Riding ages 8-14

All Ages Grand & Reserve Ranch Riding*

Highest scores from classes 102 and 103. Judge Selects.

104 Ranch Riding Introductory Level* - All Ages

*Participants must be a first-time rider in a Ranch Riding class. This test is an introduction to the discipline of Ranch Riding. Participants may not show in any other Ranch Riding classes.

WESTERN DRESSAGE - ALL AGES

1-8 Place Flat Ribbons

See 2016 4-H Horse & Pony Project Show Rules & Regulations for this newly offered class.

Western Dressage tests are provided by the Western Dressage Association of America (WDAA). Other tests will not be scored.

105 Basic Level All Ages

All Ages Grand & Reserve Dressage*

**Grand & Reserve will be determined by the highest percentage ride (your score divided by total number of points possible in that test). Reserve Champion will go to the second highest percentage rider.*

Prizes: "Trophy" and "Plaque"

106 Introductory Level* All Ages

*Participants must be a first-time rider in a Western Dressage class.

This **walk/jog** test is an introduction to the discipline of western dressage. Participants may not show in any other Western Dressage class.

WESTERN/ENGLISH RIDING PATTERN

1-8 Place Flat Ribbons

Jr. Pattern – determined before show

Riders may only ride in one Western/English Riding class.

1st and 2nd year members may only ride in Intro Western/English Riding Pattern. Intro Western/English Riding Pattern is for members beginning pattern work. Intro Western/English Riding Pattern exhibitors are not eligible for Championship.

107 Intro Western/English Riding Pattern ages 15-20

108 Intro Western/English Riding Pattern ages 8-14

109 Intro Western/English Riding Pattern, Walk/Trot All Ages

110 Western/English Riding ages 17-20

111 Western/English Riding ages 15-16

112 Western/English Riding ages 12-14

113 Western/English Riding ages 8-11

All Ages Grand and Reserve Champion Western/English Riding. *Highest scores from classes 110, 111, 112 and 113.*

REINING

1-8 Place Flat Ribbons

Jr. Pattern – determined before show

Riders may only ride in one Reining class.

1st and 2nd year members may only ride in Intro Reining Pattern. Intro Reining Pattern is for members beginning pattern work. Intro Reining Pattern exhibitors are not eligible for Reining Championship.

114 Intro Reining Pattern ages 15-20

115 Intro Reining Pattern ages 8-14

116 Reining ages 17-20

117 Reining ages 15-16

118 Reining ages 12-14

119 Reining ages 8-11

All Ages Grand and Reserve Champion Reining.

Highest scores from classes 116, 117, 118 and 119. Judge selects.

120 FREESTYLE REINING - All Ages

1-8 Rosettes

1st & 2nd place awarded gift card

(Freestyle Reining Will Start 30 Minutes After Reining Competition Ends)

Day 6 - SPEED Thursday July 20 at 9am

COSTUME

1-8 Place Flat Ribbons (Buddies Not Placed,

Use Barn Buddies Flat Ribbon)

All costume narratives must be at the announcer stand before 3 p.m.

001 Costume ages 15 - 20

002 Costume ages 8 - 14

003 Costume Barn Buddies age 7

GYMKHANA

1-8 Place Flat Ribbons

125 Horse Kegs ages 17-20

126 Horse Kegs ages 15-16

127 Horse Kegs ages 12-14

128 Horse Kegs ages 8-11

129 Pony Kegs ages 8-14

130 Horse Kegs First Year ages 15-20

131 Horse & Pony Kegs First Year ages 8-14

All Ages Grand and Reserve Champion Kegs.

Best times from classes 125-131.

132 Horse Keyhole ages 17-20

133 Horse Keyhole ages 15-16

134 Horse Keyhole ages 12-14

135 Horse Keyhole ages 8-11

136 Pony Keyhole ages 8-14

137 Horse Keyhole First Year ages 15-20

138 Horse & Pony Keyhole First Year ages 8-14

All Ages Grand and Reserve Champion Keyhole. *Best times from classes 132-138.*

139 Horse Pole Bending ages 17-20

140 Horse Pole Bending ages 15-16

141 Horse Pole Bending ages 12-14

142 Horse Pole Bending ages 8-11

143 Pony Pole Bending ages 8-14

144 Horse Pole Bending First Year ages 15-20

145 Horse & Pony Pole Bending First Year ages 8-14

All Ages Grand and Reserve Champion Pole Bending.

Best times from classes 139-145.

146 Horse Speed & Action ages 17-20

147 Horse Speed & Action ages 15-16

148 Horse Speed & Action ages 12-14

149 Horse Speed & Action ages 8-11

150 Pony Speed & Action ages 8-14

151 Horse Speed & Action First Year ages 15-20

152 Horse & Pony Speed & Action First Year ages 8-14

All Ages Grand and Reserve Champion Speed & Action.

Best times from classes 146-152.

- 153 Horse Cloverleaf ages 17-20
- 154 Horse Cloverleaf ages 15-16
- 155 Horse Cloverleaf ages 12-14
- 156 Horse Cloverleaf ages 8-11
- 157 Pony Cloverleaf ages 8-14
- 158 Horse Cloverleaf First Year ages 15-20
- 159 Horse & Pony Cloverleaf First Year ages 8-14

All Ages Grand & Reserve Champion Cloverleaf

Best times from classes 153-159

- 160 Horse Flag Race ages 17-20
- 161 Horse Flag Race ages 15-16
- 162 Horse Flag Race ages 12-14
- 163 Horse Flag Race ages 8-11
- 164 Pony Flag Race ages 8-14
- 165 Horse Flag Race First Year ages 15-20
- 166 Horse & Pony Flag Race First Year ages 8-14

All Ages Grand & Reserve Champion Flag Race

Best times from classes 160-166

- 167 Horse Down & Back ages 17-20
- 168 Horse Down & Back ages 15-16

- 169 Horse Down & Back ages 12-14
- 170 Horse Down & Back ages 8-11
- 171 Pony Horse Down & Back ages 8-14
- 172 Horse Down & Back First Year ages 15-20
- 173 Horse & Pony Down & Back First Year ages 8-14

All Ages Grand & Reserve Champion Down & Back

Best times from classes 167-173

GENERATION SENSATION

Special Team Ribbons

Ionia County parents or guardians of their participating 4-H member(s) or leaders with 4-H members. These adults may ride for 2 qualifying youth riders only if one is in Junior and one is in Senior division. This class may be split into heats if there are over 24 riders. One rider will be judged on Horsemanship, the other will perform the Cloverleaf pattern. Tiebreaker will be Cloverleaf. ***We will start this class with Horsemanship.***

- 174 Generation Sensation 4-H member ages 15-20
- 175 Generation Sensation 4-H member ages 8-14

Haul out after Midnight on Thursday and before Noon Friday.

Ionia Free Fair is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged articles prior to, during or after the Fair.

Youth must be register for the Fair by June 24th. The classes listed are for informational purposes only. Entry must be made on FairEntry.com.