

Merced County Spring Fair – Horse Show 2023

General Rules & Guidelines

- Horse show to be held Saturday April 22nd beginning at 8 a.m. sharp at Merced County Spring Fair Grandstand Arena located at 403 F. Street Los Banos, CA 93635. Check – in to begin at 7 a.m.
- Open to Junior exhibitors residing in a Merced, Madera, Mariposa and Stanislaus County School Districts. Exhibitors to use their age as of December 31, 2022 when determining which class to enter.
- Entries due on or before April 7, 2023
- All class entries are \$4.75 including showmanship. Entries are non-refundable, no exceptions.
- See State Rules Section XI for ownership and lease requirements.
- Exhibitors are responsible for knowing all rules and regulations pertaining to the horse show, including their eligibility for classes entered. Rules prescribed by the West Coast Horse Show Rule Book shall apply provided they do not conflict with any of the rules and regulations prescribed by the Department of Food and Agriculture or the Merced County Spring Fair Horse Show Rules.
- Exhibitors will be ready to show when class is called; if exhibitor is not inside the arena by 3rd call they will be scratched.
- Show management reserves the right to combine or split classes as deemed necessary.
- At the discretion of Horse Show officials, any horse that is determined to be unsafe, unruly or unsound, may be excused from participation. No stallions will be permitted.
- It is mandatory for all riders, regardless of discipline, to wear a properly fitted equestrian helmet which meets ASTM/SEI approval with secured chin harness properly fastened at all times when mounted. Safe and proper equipment needs to be used. If there is a concern, the judge will make the final decision.
- Lead line: Age requirement is 5 to 8 years old and not eligible for any other classes involving a horse. Participant is still eligible for non-horse classes. No cash awards, participation ribbons only. Must be able to sit on horse independently, have feet in stirrups.
- Walk Only (Special Needs): Eligible for placings and division awards. Entry fee is charged and entry requirements are at the discretion of show management.
- Division One exhibitors can only participate in Classes #1, #9, #13 & #20.
- Horse Show Attire: 4-H and FFA uniforms, formal or informal are acceptable in all classes provided a long sleeve shirt with collar is worn. Uniforms are required for showmanship. See local livestock rules for uniform requirements.
- Western Attire: Exhibitors must wear appropriate western attire, including long sleeved shirt with collar and appropriate western boots. Spurs and chaps are optional.
- Classes #1 thru #23 will be used for computation of each division high point. The tie breaker will be the winner of the Equitation class.

- Definition of Novice is as follows: Any exhibitor who has never shown a horse before at any organized show/fair regardless of grade level.
- The four division high point winners will receive a belt buckle that will be presented at the livestock awards ceremony on May 7, 2023 at 11 a.m. in the Arburua Arena. Ribbons will be awarded during the horse show for 1st thru 6th. No premiums will be offered.
- Non – Horse Classes will have three high point divisions. Winner of each division will receive a special award.

Horse Showmanship

- No post entries will be accepted
- Animals shown in showmanship must be owned or leased by the exhibitor and entered by the exhibitor in an appropriate Junior Horse Show class to qualify.
- Showmanship classes are based off of experience and age. Madera, Mariposa and Stanislaus County exhibitors will be eligible to enter horse showmanship with only the highest Merced County 4-H and FFA placing to proceed into Master Showmanship.
- Winner of Beef, Goat, Dairy, Swine, Sheep and Horse representing 4-H and FFA departments are eligible to compete in Master Showmanship on Friday May 5th at 5 p.m. in Arburua Arena. No horse will be used in Master Showmanship.
- Uniform is required for showmanship. Long sleeve shirts required. See local livestock rules for uniform requirements.

Enter your exhibit at <https://merced.fairwire.com>