

Washington State 4-H Fair

PO Box 1225 ❖ Puyallup, WA 98371

Fair Time (Aug 29-Sept 21): 253-770-5265

Email: st4hfair@wsu.edu

Website: <http://extension.wsu.edu/4h/fairs/state-4-h-fair/>



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TO: 4-H EQUINE SHOW PARTICIPANTS

FROM: Washington State 4-H Fair

SUBJECT: State 4-H Fair Participation Information - 2025

CONGRATULATIONS! WE ARE PLEASED TO INVITE YOU TO EXHIBIT YOUR 4-H EQUINE PROJECT AT THE STATE 4-H FAIR IN SEPTEMBER. You will be representing all the 4-H'ers in Washington State! In the following pages you will find information that will help you prepare for your State 4-H Fair visit.

You might find that your county's herdsman standards are very different from those you will follow during your stay with us. That's because approximately 1.2 million people will visit the Puyallup Fair this year. A few will watch events in the arena, but most will walk through the 4-H horse exhibit. Some of these will be people with limited mobility, physical challenges, or small children. Almost all of them will know little about horses and how they are cared for, or the safety rules you learn in 4-H that help you work with and enjoy your horses safely.

Fair is an excellent opportunity to educate the public about horses and safety, but it is even better for showing our barn visitors that you love your horses and take the best possible care of them. We want them to know that the partnership between horse and human is beneficial to all involved! The public is becoming more concerned about and more critical of the care given to domesticated animals. For many people this is their only opportunity to see horses in a horse show atmosphere. There will be additional focus on herdsman in the State 4-H Fair Equine Exhibit this year.

You may discover that because the Fair is a busy place, filled with people during the daytime, unusual limitations have been placed on your ability to enjoy your horse as you would if you were home. Some of these limitations are found in the herdsman standards, and the rest will be explained to you at the orientation meeting the night you arrive at Fair. All of them are based on maintaining the safest possible situation for people and horses. Cooperating with all of these guidelines is not optional, but a condition of your participation in the State 4-H Fair.

Only you will decide, by your own attitude, if you have a good time at Fair. Your acceptance of this invitation is strictly voluntary, but once you have arrived on the fairgrounds, compliance with any standards or requests from fair management is not.

EQUINE SECTIONS SCHEDULE

Harness and Small Equine (Int and Senior)	In: Sept 13....5 – 7 p.m.	Out: Sept 15 by 5 p.m.
Senior Dressage	In: Sept 3 5 – 7 p.m.	Out: Sept 6 2 p.m.
Senior Performance	In: Sept. 4 5 – 7 p.m.	Out: Sept. 8 2 p.m.
Senior Western Games	In: Sept. 10 5 – 7 p.m.	Out: Sept. 13 2 p.m.
Intermediate Performance/Dressage	In: Sept. 16 1 – 3 p.m.	Out: Sept. 18 2 p.m.
Intermediate Western Games	In: Sept. 18 5- 7 p.m.	Out: Sept. 21 4 p.m. – Zone E 5 p.m. – Zone D 6 p.m. – Zone C 7 p.m. – Zone B 8 p.m. – Zone A

We share facilities with the draft horses. When they leave their barn to hitch up and when they unhitch after their evening show, we are unable to bring horses across the street from the vet check area to the barn. It is a very brief delay for us.

1. BEFORE YOU ARRIVE AT FAIR: Make sure you have current knowledge of all applicable rules concerning your project. **Information in this letter will be printed in bold if it is new for this year.** The State 4-H Fair Exhibitor Guide also contains valuable information and standards that will be important for you to know. It is online at <http://extension.wsu.edu/4h/fairs/state-4-h-fair/>. Please read all information related to your participation prior to coming to State 4-H Fair. Exhibitor guide information is not duplicated here.

If you can't participate, please call either the coordinator for your county's State team, your County Extension Office, or the State 4-H Fair office at (253) 770-5265.

Please call (253) 770-5265 if you have an emergency and know you could be arriving late. We will make arrangements for your late gate access, and notify the dorm if you plan to stay there. Vets will not be available to check-in your equine that night.

Horses that do not pass vet check will need to be hauled home immediately; there is no place to house them at the fair. Anticipate this situation, particularly if you are hauling multiple horses in one trailer.

You will need to make arrangements for a place to stay while you are exhibiting at State 4-H Fair. Information concerning RV reservations arrangements is available in WS4HF/1.10m. Get a copy from your county office, if it is not included with this letter. Motels are available in the area and can be found in a basic internet search.

You must register at <https://Washington-state-4H.fairentry.com> to participate in the State Fair. If you are unable to register online then please complete WS4HF/1.01m and mailed to the State 4-H Fair office in time to be received prior to your arrival date. This will allow you to get passes for additional days if you are staying off of the grounds. The form is available from your County Extension Office.

Please do not bring other animals with you; they are not allowed in the horse barns. Only valid exhibit animals are allowed on the fairgrounds. If animals are found in your area in the barn, you and/or your entire county team will lose premium points and may be sent home immediately.

Equine for the State 4-H Judging Contest and Groom Squad Contest will be selected from those animals being shown in the Senior Performance section. Senior Performance exhibitors should be prepared to show or ride their equine in the judging contest if they are asked to, and to provide their horse for Groom Squad competition, unless there's an acceptable reason for refusal.

2. ARRIVAL DAY: Due to increased security at the fair, vehicles and containers may be inspected prior to admittance. Allow extra time in your entry plans to accommodate this. Because of tight schedules, we need to complete the entry and vet check of 94 horses in two hours. Please plan to arrive at the fairgrounds a little before the posted entry times. Traffic in the vicinity of the

fair grounds can be very heavy. You want to be finished with all move-in activities before the exhibitor meeting at 8 p.m. on the night you arrive.

If you have never been to the Puyallup Fair, there are directions available in the exhibitor guide. For your convenience, you are encouraged to get appropriate information before you leave home.

From 15th Ave. SW, turn right onto Fairview Way. You will then come into the back of the parking lot for the green gate. You will be directed to the trailer unloading area. Parking attendants will show you where to unload your horses. You may be asked to move to another location to unload tack or equipment. Trams will transport your tack and equipment to the barns. Mark your equipment clearly. Cooperation with the parking attendants and entry volunteers is crucial. After you have finished unloading, you will be shown to a permanent parking space. There will be a 4-H volunteer at the unloading area with livestock parking passes, necessary to store your hauling vehicle in the parking lot.

You will be directed to the vet check area in the parking lot. If your horse is wearing a hood, blanket, or leg wraps, please remove before vet check. Do not leave the area with your horse until it has been vet checked, you have received your stall card, and you have been instructed to go to the barn. (Your horse cannot enter the barn until it has been successfully vet checked.)

Because of the distance to the fair entry gates, we move the horses from vet check to the barns in groups. Barn assignment information will be available at the vet check area and at the back of the barns. If you will pay attention to information and instructions offered by check-in volunteers, you will have an uneventful check-in.

Fair passes be taken care of at the State 4-H Fair office before 8 p.m. on equine entry nights. The office is located on the other side of the draft horse barn from the 4-H barns. Parents or chaperones may obtain passes for exhibitors if the completed WS4HF/1.01m is already available at the pass counter. Otherwise, both the exhibitor and parent/guardian will have to appear at the pass counter for check-in.

If you have want to make a public presentation at the State 4-H Fair, please let the equine barn superintendent know on check-in night. For your convenience, you are encouraged to make your public presentation during the time you are at the fair with your horse.

3. STALL BEDDING, BARN DECORATIONS AND TACK BOXES: Non-exhibitors may assist you with bedding your stall the first time, and putting up your decorations. Washington State Fair provides bedding and hay; please use it economically.

All decorations and educational material must be in place by 10 a.m. the morning following your arrival. Some tools and masking tape are available in the horse barn office, but we suggest bringing your own and marking your supplies clearly. Hammering and drilling are not allowed. Use only masking tape; other types leave unacceptable

residue. Your county 4-H office has more information about approved decorations.

Animal educational displays may either be sent to the fair with other still life exhibits (Aug 29-30) or brought when animals are brought in. If delivered at the earlier time, the educational displays will have already been processed, and you may pick them up at the 4-H Exhibit Building to put into your display immediately. A table in the stall adjacent to the horse barn office will have supplies for you to use to enter your educational display the first evening of your section, if not delivered Aug 29-30. Posters will not be judged. Instead, all posters will receive a special ribbon and a flat number of premium points. All educational displays are released when animals are released. Someone from the same county should pick up any educational displays remaining at the end of each section.

Tack boxes placed in the barn must not exceed 4' in width, and 3' in depth. Doors must open completely parallel to the front of the box, or fold back along the sides of the box; they cannot stick out into the aisle way. Folding chairs will not be allowed if, (a) when in use, the occupant is situated to extend more than 3' from stall front out into aisle way, or (b) if tack boxes are the maximum width of 4'. Chairs are discouraged, due to congestion in barns and safety of humans and horses.

Food and beverages may not be consumed in the barns, either by exhibitors or parents/chaperones, due to WWF concerns about biological safety for exhibitors and barn visitors. Wash your hands frequently when handling animals, and especially before handling food.

4. VETERINARY CARE WHILE YOU ARE AT FAIR:

The fair will provide veterinarians for scheduled vet check-in inspection only. They will also conduct unscheduled morning and evening rounds. If you find you need emergency services during your stay, please go to the horse barn office; know your stall number. The equine barn superintendent will help you arrange for a locally based veterinarian to visit your animal if you feel you cannot wait for the fair veterinarian's next fairgrounds rounds. All veterinarian service will be billed to the exhibitor at local rates, and must be paid at the time of the service.

5. PROPER ANIMAL CARE: Exhibiting an animal at the State 4-H Fair implies your acceptance of the Animal Project Exhibitor Commitment to Quality Animal Care agreement. A copy is in this letter. Please read it carefully. We also encourage you to feed your animals carefully, being careful not to overfeed them.

6. BARN HOURS: The barns will close every night when the Fair closes, usually 10 p.m. (11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights). No one will be allowed in the barn after closing, including exhibitors. The barns will re-open at 5:30 a.m. Any changes will be announced in the barns.

7. HERDSMANSHIP: Herdsmanship is considered a team activity. All herdsman evaluations will be done by team or county. Each member of the team will receive the same placing. Teamwork and cooperation with other team members is essential. Herdsman evaluations will begin each day at 10 a.m. Your stall and animal should be ready for the public at that time, and should be

maintained at a healthy and attractive level the rest of the day. You are responsible for the care and feeding of your own horse and cleaning your own stall. Non-exhibitors may not assist with herdsman, grooming, or saddling. Herdsman will be judged twice a day. **No announcement will be made when judging begins.**

Team/county herdsman schedules during the day will help everyone in your county team have the best possible experience. State 4-H Fair officials assign stalls so smaller county groups are adjacent to each other, to facilitate cooperative herdsman efforts between counties.

Your county team must furnish the equipment necessary for feeding and herdsman of the county exhibit. Space for tack and herdsman tools is very limited.

8. EXERCISE PERIODS: State 4-H Fair management takes every opportunity available to offer exercise areas and times for 4-H equine. It will be necessary for you to pay attention to exercise announcements. Warm-up periods for arena events will be announced as part of the show schedule.

9. SHOW SCHEDULE: New gate opening and ticket sales times require that additional family members, beyond the exhibitor and one chaperone, pre-purchase tickets if they plan to enter the fairgrounds before 10 a.m. For more information see WS4HF/1.10m or go online to www.thefair.com.

Your class lots will be posted on the bulletin board outside the horse barn office. If you need to scratch a class or make a change in your lot number, please come to the barn office. You must complete one riding class in addition to your fitting and showmanship class to qualify for *any* premiums. Unusual situations may necessitate your request for elimination from all riding classes. The equine assistant manager must be consulted and must give an official excuse in order for you to retain premiums.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES (tentative)

Intermediate & Senior Harness and Small Equine

Sun, Sept 14

9 am - Fit/Show, followed by Harness Driving Classes

5 pm - Harness Driving Classes

Mon, Sept 15

8 am - Small Equine Classes

Senior Performance/Dressage Section

Thurs, Sept 4

7 am - Dressage Tests

4:30pm - Dressage Seat Equitation

Fri, Sept 5

7 am - Fit/Show

4:30 pm - Hunt Seat, Saddle Seat

Sat, Sept 6

8 am - Equine Judging Contest

2 pm - Groom Squad Written Test

4:30 pm - Groom Squad

6:30 pm - Stock Seat

Sun, Sept 7

7 am - Trail

4:30 pm - Disciplined Rail, Bareback

Mon, Sept 8

8 am - Reining

Senior Western Games Section

Thurs, Sept 11

8 am - Fit/Show

4:30 pm - Gaming Events

Fri, Sept 12

8 am - Gaming Events

4:30 pm - Gaming Events

Sat, Sept 13

8 am - Gaming Events

Intermediate Performance/Dressage Section

Tues, Sept 16

6 pm - Trail

Wed, Sept 17

7 am - Fit/Show, followed by Performance Classes

4:30 pm - Performance Classes -

Thurs, Sept 18

7 am - Dressage, Dressage Seat Equitation

Intermediate Western Games Section

Fri, Sept 19

7 am - Fit/Show

4:30 pm - Gaming Events

Sat, Sept 20

8 am - Gaming Events

4:30 pm - Gaming Events

Sun, Sept 21

8 am - Gaming Events

10. The name of the judges for your section, and any patterns that will be used in your class, will be posted on the bulletin board. Scratch paper and pencils will be available.

11. Each refer to the State 4-H Fair Exhibitor Guide as to how many riding events will be allowed in each section. It is always possible that one or more arena event will have to be canceled, due to lack of arena time for completion of our entire show. Please see information in the premium book regarding this possibility.

Non-exhibitors will not be allowed into the paddock areas unless they have volunteered to assist with the show in

those areas. A complete description of off-limits areas for non-exhibitors is given in the premium book.

While it is not an infraction for a 4-H member to receive instruction from a professional, it is a breach of ethics for them to receive any type of coaching during a 4-H event. We encourage exhibitors to invite supporters to watch the performances, however **it is not appropriate to have coaching in any fashion during show hours.** Equine exhibitors receiving coaching instruction or inappropriate assistance at any time during show hours are considered to be in non-compliance with State 4-H Fair and Washington State 4-H equine program guidelines, and will be appropriately disciplined.

12. STATE 4-H FAIR EQUINE DRESS CODE: We will be following the dress code as printed in the PNW Horse Contest Guide, with the exception that chaps are not allowed in any class.

13. DISMISSAL TIMES: On dismissal day for each section, the barns will officially close when announced. **Exhibitors may not begin stripping their stalls and all decorations and educational material must remain in place, until the barn closure has been announced.** We encourage you to remove extra tack and unnecessary herdsman equipment early in the day. Non-exhibitors may help clean stalls and take down decorations once the barn is closed.

If decorations and tack boxes need to remain for later sections, please discuss that with the assistant manager or barn office superintendent. Each county organization is responsible for its' own equipment; have a plan!

Trams will begin ferrying tack and equipment out to the parking lot as soon as the barn is closed. All stalls must be stripped and all horses must leave the barns as soon after closing as possible, so that maintenance crews can begin disinfecting the stalls for the next section. Your horse cannot be left unattended in the barns after closing. If you have a serious problem because of schedule conflicts, please see the equine assistant manager. Arrangements for temporary stabling *may* be available, but is *not* guaranteed.

ANIMAL PROJECT EXHIBITOR COMMITMENT TO QUALITY ANIMAL CARE

This is an agreement, formal or implied, between 4-H participants and the management of the State 4-H Fair. Its purpose is:

- To encourage ethical decisions and activities by 4-H youth
- To ensure the overall well-being of all 4-H animals on exhibit
- To ensure the use of commonly accepted practices in preparing and exhibiting animals for show
- To maintain a safe and wholesome food supply
- To maintain the intent and integrity of animal competitions and displays for future generations

1. The purpose of my participation in the Washington 4-H Animal Sciences Program is to strengthen my own knowledge, ability, and skill as a feeder, manager, trainer, caregiver, and exhibitor of animals and to develop my sense of responsibility and good character. If my project includes food production

animals, my goal is to produce safe and wholesome food.

2. I will do my own project work to the best of my ability.

3. I will not use or allow abusive, fraudulent, or illegal practices or products to be used in the feeding, care, fitting, training, and showing of my animals.
4. I will not misrepresent my animals or myself in any way.
5. I will read, understand, and follow the rules, without exception, of animal shows in which I am a participant and ask that my parents and my 4-H leader do the same.
6. My animal project is an example of how to accept what life has to offer, both good and bad, and how to live with the outcome. I will treat other people's animals with the same respect and care I give my own animals.
7. I realize that I am responsible for the proper care and safe, humane treatment of my animals. I realize that I am also responsible for demonstrating strong moral fiber and good character as an example to others.
8. I will voice any objections to events related to my participation by using the protest policy described in the premium book. I will not directly interfere with the judge, show management, or other exhibitors before, during, or after the event.
9. I accept that failure to uphold this commitment could result in forfeiture of my right to participate in the 4-H Animal Sciences Program.

IN LIGHT OF RECENT CONCERNS OVER ANIMAL HEALTH ISSUES, WE ARE SHARING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM THE STATE VETERINARIAN'S OFFICE:

BIOSECURITY CHECKLIST FOR ALL LIVESTOCK EXHIBITORS

Before and During the Fair:

- Prohibit visitors to your animals and farm especially if they have traveled outside of the country within the past week.
- Make sure all veterinary health inspections and certificates of veterinary inspection are current for all the animals you will take to the fair.
- Follow the fair vaccination guidelines and give recommended vaccination at least 10 days before the event.
- Disinfect all equipment, such as buckets, shovels, wheelbarrows, manure baskets, lead ropes, blankets, snares, clippers, brushes, showbox, and so forth before entering the fairgrounds.
- Don't share equipment with other exhibitors unless it has been cleaned and disinfected before and after use.
- Avoid entering the pens/stalls and coming in contact with animals from other farms.
- Contact the fair veterinarian or superintendent when animals are in need of attention. If you must come in contact with animals other than your own, properly wash your hands and thoroughly clean and disinfect your boots and clothing before returning to your animals.
- Eliminate traffic between exhibitors of different species. If it is not possible to eliminate this traffic, change clothing and disinfect hands before handling a different species.
- As much as possible, minimize feed and water changes from home to fair.
- Keep unused equipment and feed bagged or covered to reduce the risk of contamination.
- Vehicles and trailers used to transport animals to and from the fair should be well cleaned and disinfected, inside and out, between uses.
- Do not mix species in the same trailer (especially sheep/goats and cattle). Avoid commercial haulers with multiple animals from multiple farms.
- Clean and disinfect all items at the end of the fair before taking them home.
- Properly dispose of unused bedding, hay, and feed after the fair. Do not bring it home.
- Minimize stress by keep animals cool, well bedded, and comfortable.
- Carefully consider whether exhibition animals should return home after the fair, and what risk that presents to other animals at home.
- If an animal becomes ill at the exhibit, consult the fair veterinarian and isolate the animal.

After the fair:

- The safest way to transport your animals is in your own vehicle. Do not haul animals from other farms.
- Keep fair animals isolated from other animals and pets for at least 20 days.
- Check these isolated animals every day for any signs of illness.
- Care for isolated animals separately, then shower, change your clothes, and clean and disinfect your boots before going to other areas of the farm.

The person caring for animals at the fair should not perform animal-related chores at home during the fair. If the same person must do both, chores at home should be done first. Do not wear the same clothes, hats, and shoes to care for the animals at home at the fair animals. Garments should be cleaned and disinfected between each trip to the fairgrounds and barn/pasture. It is also a good idea to shower between trips.

- Horse taken to the fair should be isolated from livestock and pets for at least 30 days after returning to the fair. Although horses don't get many of the livestock diseases, they could carry disease back to the farm.
- Contact a veterinarian as soon as you see any unusual symptoms in any animal. Many diseases can look similar to a foreign animal disease, only a veterinarian can tell for sure.

These biosecurity practices are a good idea no matter what disease might be of concern. The goals are to keep every animal healthy and to safeguard the Washington livestock industry.

TOP FIVE DISEASE PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Segregation – prevent contact of your livestock with other animals.
- Restrict use of feed, equipment, and trailers to our animals and disinfect after use.;
- What happens at the fair stays at the fair. This includes equipment (unless cleaned and disinfected), feed and bedding.
- Notify a veterinarian immediately if an animal becomes sick.
- Isolate animals returning home for 30 days.

To parents accompanying exhibitors to the State 4-H Fair:

The State 4-H Fair and the staff of the equine exhibit would like to welcome you to Puyallup. We know that your young person has worked hard to earn an invitation to participate at the Fair, but we want to also recognize the contributions made by those who are not exhibiting while at Fair.

We strongly encourage you to read all the material we have prepared for your young person's participation at State 4-H Fair, so that you can discuss it with your family. Collecting a premium book for their use would be helpful, too. Unfortunate events often happen when expectations of the managing group are overlooked by exhibitors. We try really hard to share all our concerns and hints with you before you arrive, but because we can't speak with each family individually, we have to use the printed page to talk.

The purpose of this letter, besides letting you know that we're glad to welcome you, is to explain how parents and other non-exhibitors can participate in the Fair. You will notice that there are several places in the printed material where do's and don'ts for non-exhibitors are mentioned. While the term "non-exhibitor" may seem unfriendly, it's meant to imply that we understand that 4-H'ers receive both practical and theoretical support from many people in their lives in addition to parents. And it's a lot more to the point than saying "All parents, step-parents, adopted parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, cousins, good friends, riding instructors..." Well, you understand!

The support of parents, family, and all of those described under the umbrella "non-exhibitors", is very important in the lives of children and young adults. By giving them our support, we help establish a strong base for self-worth, regardless and exclusive of any awards or ribbons they may receive while they are exhibiting here. That's why it may seem strange that there are so many don'ts attached to non-exhibitors at the State 4-H Fair. We are asking you to provide a different kind of support to your exhibitor, while they are at Fair, than you normally might if they were at another horse show.

As the world has become a more complex place for children to grow up in, the role of 4-H has had to undergo some subtle and not so subtle changes, too. 4-H not only tries to teach horsemanship and sportsmanship, but also life skills that kids can use later on to help themselves in many ways. Demonstrations can help kids *become more comfortable with speaking in public*, and teaches them to *organize their thoughts*. Keeping record books helps them *learn discipline and organization*. Herdsmanship helps them *learn to share, work as a team member and accept responsibility*.

What role does exhibiting in a horse show or western games show have in teaching life skills? In a practical sense, think about having an important job interview. A horse show is more or less based on the same principle. An interviewer (*a judge*) is looking for someone who fits the job description (*shows the qualities that best illustrate the standards for that seat*). Those who have prepared both mentally and physically and can present themselves well will most likely receive the job offer (*the award they desire*).

As in western games, part of the application process for many jobs is testing, both physical and mental. Participation in western games teaches 4-H'ers that while preparation is very important, they must learn to think quickly and plan ahead while on the move.

This is the highest level in 4-H horsemanship project work. Part of what kids are asked to exhibit, along with their abilities and horses, are the life skills they have learned while in 4-H. Most of all, State 4-H Fair is about what kids have learned to do, not about what we can assist them in doing. Most parents and non-exhibitors, by the time that magic "arrival day" rolls around, have done enough to help children get here, and can retire... *While you might give your child a ride to that job interview, you certainly would not accompany them into it.*

So, your role in this Fair is that of giving support, during their most - and least - successful moments ... and to let your 4-H youth do the work they've been preparing to do!

Here are some practical tips to make *your* Fair attendance more comfortable:

- ✓ Cushions, extra blankets, and a thermos of hot drinks will contribute to your comfort in the grandstands. (It can get really cold during that early morning "job interview".)
- ✓ The WSF is the 6th largest in the nation! Visit some of it while you have the opportunity.
- ✓ If you're feeling like you really want something to do, come over to the barn office. We take volunteers of all kinds – and we really can make use of your talents.
- ✓ Encourage your exhibitor to get lots of rest. It's hard to shine in an "interview" if you're half asleep.
- ✓ Bring healthy food for you and your exhibitor to enjoy - outside the barn.

There's just one more thing we want to explain, before you get here. You may notice mention of volunteer adult barn monitors, and that we will ask that there be an adult around your county exhibit at all times while the Fair is open to the public. People will try to touch horses whether or not we post "Don't Touch" signs. It's in our best interest to discourage them. It will be much easier for us to say, "I'm sorry, but please don't put your hand between the bars" than it is to deal with the unpleasant aftermath of an accident. Your help is needed and appreciated.

We look forward with excitement to welcoming you to the Fair this year!