

CHANGES FOR 2025

For edited rules, **bold** = added ~~strikeout~~ = removed.

Class List

- Add Jr. Ranch Rail and Sr. Ranch Rail classes
- A Dressage Division was created. Note that this removes Western, Training Level, and First Level dressage classes from their previous divisions (Western and Hunter) and moves them to the Dressage Division.

General & Contest Rules:

Entry requirement #1 has been edited. "Contestants may show at ~~only their home~~ **any one area show per horse/rider combination.**"

Entry requirement #4 has been edited. "A contestant may show up to two horses at area or state shows. **An exhibitor may enter two horses in the following classes: western trail, ranch riding, ranch trail, ranch reining, ranch roping, working cow horse (boxing only), keyhole, stake race, pole bending, barrel race, working hunter, handy hunter, training level dressage, first level dressage, and western dressage.**"

New qualifying procedures for State have been established and edited. "Number of qualifiers to progress from area to state show will be determined by State Extension Horse Specialist. Number to progress to state show from each area may vary from year to year. ~~This number will be determined by a formula developed by the state office and based on the past 3 years' attendance at the area shows.~~ **An exhibitor/horse combination must receive a minimum of 1 point at one of the three area shows to qualify for state in 2025. Hardship Exemption requests may be submitted to the State Extension Horse Specialist through your county agent for alternative qualifying criteria. Visit the state horse extension website under the 'horse shows' tab to download the request form.**"

Class Rules:

Added new bullet point for western pleasure eligibility: "**7. An exhibitor/horse combination may NOT enter both Western Pleasure and Ranch Rail at the same show.**"

Ranch Rail was added to the class list and will follow the procedures below:

1. **"The ranch rail class measures the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride and should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working ranch horse needing to cover long distances softly and quietly. The horse should be well-broke, relaxed, and cadenced at all gaits. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working pace while under control of the rider. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse and horse's**

quality of movement are primary considerations in judging this class. The horse should be ridden with a natural head carriage on a relatively loose rein with light contact."

2. "All exhibitors will work as a group on the rail. Horses must work both ways of the ring at the walk, trot, and lope. At the option of the judge, horses may work at least one way in the ring at the extended walk, extended trot, and extended lope."
 - a. "Finalists may be asked to back either on the rail or in the center of the arena."
 - b. "It is acceptable for exhibitors to touch or hold the saddle horn during any of the extended gaits."
3. "When showing in a snaffle bit (five years of age or younger), the exhibitor may switch between two hands and one hand on the reins at the extended gaits."
4. "Contestants must use split reins or romal – roping reins are not permitted. Only one finger between reins is permissible."
5. Faults scored according to severity-
 - (1) Too slow or excessive speed at any gait
 - (2) Over-bridled (nose behind the vertical)
 - (3) Head carried too low such that the poll is below the withers
 - (4) Out of frame or head carried too high
 - (5) Break of gait
 - (6) Wrong lead or out of lead
 - (7) Opening mouth excessively
 - (8) Draped reins
 - (9) Use of spurs forward of the cinch
 - (10) Canted at the lope
 - (11) Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.)
6. A horse that consistently and excessively holds its head too low and/or clearly behind the vertical while in motion, showing the appearance of intimidation, can be cause for disqualification.
7. An exhibitor/horse combination may NOT enter both Western Pleasure and Ranch Rail at the same show.

Legal ground handling tack was modified. B. ((3)) – "...Nosebands may not be made of rawhide or be inflexible."

Western Trail maneuver clarification on E. (5) – "No attempt to perform an obstacle **or failure to complete an obstacle.**"

AREA & STATE HORSE SHOW CLASS LIST, 2025

WESTERN DIVISION

1. Stock Type Mares and Geldings, 14.2 hands and under
2. Stock Type Mares, over 14.2 hands
3. Stock Type Geldings, over 14.2 hands

4. Jr. Western Showmanship
5. Sr. Western Showmanship

6. Western Pleasure Pony, 14.2 hands and under
7. Jr. Western Pleasure, over 14.2 hands
8. Sr. Western Pleasure, over 14.2 hands
9. Jr. Western Horsemanship
10. Sr. Western Horsemanship
11. Jr. Western Trail
12. Sr. Western Trail

RANCH DIVISION

13. Jr. Ranch Ground Handling
14. Sr. Ranch Ground Handling

15. Jr. Ranch Riding
16. Sr. Ranch Riding
17. Jr. Ranch Trail
18. Sr. Ranch Trail
19. Ranch Reining
20. Ranch Roping
21. Working Cow Horse, Boxing Only
22. Jr. Ranch Rail
23. Sr. Ranch Rail

SPEED EVENTS DIVISION

24. Jr. Speed Events Ground Handling
25. Sr. Speed Events Ground Handling

26. Jr. Keyhole Race
27. Sr. Keyhole Race
28. Jr. Stake Race
29. Sr. Stake Race
30. Jr. Pole Bending
31. Sr. Pole Bending
32. Jr. Barrel Race
33. Sr. Barrel Race

HUNTER DIVISION

34. Hunter Type Mares and Geldings, 14.2 hands and under
35. Hunter Type Mares, over 14.2 hands
36. Hunter Type Geldings, over 14.2 hands

37. Jr. Hunter Showmanship
38. Sr. Hunter Showmanship

39. Pony Hunter Under Saddle, 14.2 hands and under
40. Jr. Hunter Under Saddle, over 14.2 hands
41. Sr. Hunter Under Saddle, over 14.2 hands
42. Jr. Hunt Seat Equitation
43. Sr. Hunt Seat Equitation

44. Hunter Hack

Low Section: 2'3"

45. Low Working Hunter
46. Low Equitation over Fences
47. Low Handy Hunter

Medium/High Section: 2'6"/2'9"

48. Medium/High Working Hunter
49. Medium/High Equitation over Fences
50. Medium/High Handy Hunter

DRESSAGE DIVISION

51. Jr. Western Dressage, WDAA 2022 Basic, TOC**
52. Sr. Western Dressage, WDAA 2022 Basic, TOC**
53. Jr. Training Level Dressage, USEF 2023, TOC**
54. Sr. Training Level Dressage, USEF 2023, TOC**
55. First Level Dressage, USEF 2023, TOC**

***Medium/High Section**

Entrants will choose their height for each class at time of registration (and may change at gate *before* class starts).

****TOC = Test of Choice**

Dressage entrants may choose any test within the stated level of each class.