

2025 Equine Rules & Regulations

Shows: Open Horse Show & Open Mule and Donkey Show

General

- 1. Information and rules are subject to change without notice as a result of changing mandates, guidelines, and best practice recommendations.**
- The 2025 Cabarrus County Fair hours **September 5-13** are: Fridays 4:00 pm – Midnight, Saturdays 1:00 pm – Midnight, Sunday 1:00 pm – 10:00 pm, and Monday - Thursday 4:00 pm – 10:00 pm
- Exhibitors are responsible for being familiar with ALL 2025 Rules and Regulations provided in the Fair Book.
- All exhibitors must be registered by the deadlines specified to be eligible for competition.
- Entries and Entry Fees close **Wednesday, August 20 at 12:00 pm** and must be received by the Fair Office no later than Wednesday, **August 20** to be assigned a space. **This is a firm deadline. Late entries will not be accepted.** The Fair does not provide refunds. No exceptions.
- No article or animal shall be entitled to space until proper entry has been made by the deadline herein. Entries must be made **on the official Livestock and Equine Entry Form provided by Fair Management** and must be in full compliance with the printed instructions. Exhibitors should study the list carefully to decide on which classes to enter. Forms should be completed with Code for Entry, Description of Animal, Registration Number and Date of birth. **A completed W-9 is required, no premium will be paid without it.**
- No exhibitor will be permitted to exhibit more than one animal having the same premium number. The same person cannot compete for more than one premium in any one class.
- 8. Entries and W9's are required to be submitted under the name and address of the individual showing and must match.** Social Security number must match the exhibitors legal name and address. Entries and/or W9's submitted by farms and/or animal owners under the farm/owner's name will not be accepted. Exception only for Public Schools.
- Shows may be subject to limits. Completed entries are accepted in the date order they are received. Entries and W9's missing information or incorrectly completed will be considered after complete and accurate entries. In the occurrence that any show becomes limited for any reason, the show will then go to a waiting list. Entries received after the limit is met will be notified by Management and moved onto the waiting list. Completed entries on the waiting list will be considered in the date order they are received with FIRST preference and priority given to Cabarrus County residents.
- 10. Fair Management reserves the right to reject any entries offered.**
- 11. Premiums may be withheld for misrepresentation or failure to comply with the rules.**
- 12. Fair Management reserves the right to amend or add to the rules provided within the Fair Catalog as they deem fit without prior notice to exhibitors.**
- The Fair will not be liable for typographical errors in the Fair Catalog.

Show

- 1. National Code of Show Ring Ethics: The Cabarrus County Fair agrees to abide by the IAFE (International Association of Fairs and Expositions—www.fairsandexpos.com) National Code of Show Ring Ethics shown in the Fair rules and regulations. Exhibitors are responsible for being familiar with this code.**
- Animals over 6 months of age must be accompanied by an official negative test for Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins), issued within 12 months prior to the Cabarrus County Fair. Papers will be checked before show. *Exhibitors coming from outside of North Carolina and those who have traveled outside of the state within 30 days of the show with their animal(s) must have all necessary corresponding health papers.*
- No animal will be entitled to space until a proper entry form and W9 has been submitted and a health certificate has been shown upon arrival. After an animal has been entered for a premium, it cannot be removed until the departure time. **If any person removes an animal, they will forfeit all claims to premiums or awards.**
- 4. Exhibitors may not show under someone else's name/entry for ANY reason. Should an exhibitor enter the Show Ring under someone else's name/entry it will result in an immediate forfeiture of ALL 2024 Fair premiums and ribbons for both parties.**
- Exhibitors involved in any such mistreatment will be barred from exhibition at this Fair, and the International Association of Fairs and Expositions will be notified.
- 6. To compete in any show exhibitors must be able to safely handle the animal exhibited. FOR YOUR SAFETY, NO FOOD OR DRINKS ARE ALLOWED IN THE LIVESTOCK AREA. PARENTS AND GUARDIANS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSISTING MANAGEMENT IN ENFORCING THIS RULE.**

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7. **All exhibitors will be required to wear long pants, collared shirts, and closed toe shoes in the show ring. No inappropriate attire will be allowed.**

Judging

1. It is the discretion of the Fair to select an appropriate judge for each show.
2. Decision of the Judge shall be final.
3. Animals must be shown in the ring to be judged and considered for placement and premium.
4. The Judge, along with Fair Management, reserves the right to reject any unhealthy, unthrifty, or unruly entries.
5. Only first premium animals in individual classes will be eligible for championship classes, unless requested differently by the judge.
6. **Scratching in one class and/or trading to enter another will not be allowed.** It will be left to the discretion and review of the livestock staff and/or judge to allow up to two (2) scratches for first time exhibitors only.
7. **No Substitutions will be allowed.** Exceptions are at the discretion of livestock staff in a limited number of departments. If substitutions are allowed, it will be listed on the department page.
8. The judge's sheets, when completed, will be reviewed for any discrepancies or incomplete or unclear results, and signed by the show judge, then respectfully submitted as the official and final results for the show to the Fair Office.

Conduct

1. **All individuals involved with in any show are expected to demonstrate positive sportsmanship behavior.** Be courteous to all. Know the rules, abide by and respect Management and judges' decisions. **There is zero tolerance for ANY conduct deemed inappropriate by the Fair whether it be in-person, electronically, and/or via telephone** Those demonstrating behavior deemed inappropriate may be required to leave the fairgrounds and risks loss of premiums, future participation and/or any ribbons and trophies.
2. **Exhibitors will forfeit all premiums if stalls and animals are not neat, clean, and well cared for.** No pens are provided. Tie stalls only for sheep and goats.
3. Exhibitors' business cards, posters, banners, pamphlets, circulars, etc. may be distributed/displayed in the barn after judging is complete IF materials have been pre-approved by Fair Management.
4. Drunkenness, quarreling, or the use of profane or obscene language will not be permitted on the grounds. The Fair reserves the right to expel any objectionable person or persons from the grounds without the refund of admission price or entry fee(s).
5. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. 14-208.18(a)(4), It is unlawful for sex offenders, as defined by the Article, to be on any agricultural fairgrounds while in operation.

Liability

In no case shall Cabarrus County of the Cabarrus County Fair be held responsible for any loss, theft, injury, death by disease or damage of any character, to any property, while same is at the Cabarrus Arena & Events Center at any time or place, regardless or the cause of such loss or damage. All entries are made subject to this rule, and there are absolutely no exceptions.

The Fair and Cabarrus County will not be responsible for any claims, losses, injuries, or damages done to, occasioned by, or arising from any animal or item exhibited and the exhibitor shall release, indemnify, and hold harmless the Fair, Cabarrus County, its agents, employees, officers and contractors from all claims, losses, injuries, and damages including, but not limited to reasonable attorney's fees.

Any person or persons obstructing any passage or roadway on the Fairgrounds with automobile or other vehicle shall be removed at owners' expense and will be subject to the penalty of a misdemeanor. Parking space does not insure against theft or fire hence the Fair is not responsible in case of theft or fire.

Notice: WARNING - Under North Carolina law, an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting exclusively from the inherent risks of equine activities. Chapter 99E of the North Carolina General Statutes.

FOR YOUR SAFETY, NO FOOD OR DRINKS ARE ALLOWED IN THE LIVESTOCK AREA. PARENTS AND GUARDIANS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSISTING MANAGEMENT IN ENFORCING THIS RULE.