

**2017-2018 CITRUS COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION**  
**General Horse Showmanship and In-Hand Trail Class Information**

1. Showmanship classes are not conformation, model, or grooming classes, although grooming and fitting is certainly part of the judging criteria. This is a performance class with emphasis to be placed on the exhibitor's ability to show the animal.
2. Club member and equipment:
  - a. Personal appearance: neat, clean, well groomed, attentive, courteous, and attire as described:
    - i. Dark black slacks or dark black jeans
    - ii. White dress shirt or white blouse **with Collar**
    - iii. Ties optional for 4-H, Ties or scarf required for FFA
    - iv. Dark boots or leather lace-up shoes (no tennis shoes)
    - v. 4-H'ers: must wear either a 4-H Jacket, 4-H Patch or Vest
    - vi. FFA: Jacket required and tie or FFA scarf
    - vii. Approved Equestrian helmet with fastened chin harness is required.
  - b. Equipment:
    - i. Hunter: Clean, adjusted, and acceptable hunter bridle or halter. No crops or bats are permitted.
    - ii. Saddle Seat: Clean, adjusted halter or bridle (full, Pelham, curb or snaffle.) No whips are permitted.
    - iii. Western: Clean, adjusted halter to fit the horse. Fancy halters shall not be given preference over good working halters. No whips or bat permitted.
    - iv. If using a halter, the halter must be made of leather, rope or suitable material. If leads with chain are used, the chain may be under the horses chin or pass thru the bottom, center ring of the halter and folded back on its self. No chain may be in the horse's mouth or over the horse's nose.
3. Horse (fitting and grooming):
  - a. The horse should be clean, well groomed, in good condition, and fitted for its type.
  - b. The horse's feet should be cleaned and either trimmed or properly shod.

**Method of showing Youth Showmanship**

4. A. Walk, trot (or natural gait\*) turn, stop, back, and pose your horse as directed by the judge or ring steward.
  - B. Lead from the left side of your horse with your right hand on the lead shank or bridle reins. When showing your horse at a walk, walk by his side - never directly in front of him. His head should be about even with your shoulder. When moving, keep your horse's neck, head, and body in a straight line and maintain precise control. Move him directly toward or away from the judge, unless the judge indicates that he wishes to see him from the side.
  - C. Show the horse with a shank short enough to assure maximum control and responsiveness from the horse. The basic position of the exhibitor should allow constant observation of the horse's feet and also permit observation of the judge and ring officials
  - D. Never obstruct the view of the judge and do not stand directly in front of the horse.
  - E. Run by the left side of your horse when you are showing him at the trot (or natural gait\*). He should move willingly toward or away from the judge with his head, neck, and body in a straight line. He should trot freely, fast and be alert with head up but not too high.
  - F. When a particular show ring procedure being used by a judge requires horses to be reversed, they should be turned to the right. Turn in as small a space as possible and attempt to keep the horse's hind feet planted in one place while turning. All turns should be made natural. Any turn requiring more than 90 degrees should be made to the right.

G. Keep your horse posed at all times and know where the judge is and what he wants. A good showman always gives the judge the best view of the horse. You cannot change your horse's type and conformation but you can improve his style and appearance. Make it easy for the judge to see your horse to its best advantage.

H. Keep your proper position in line, and allow reasonable space (at least six feet) between your horse and the other horses. Never let your horse interfere with another horse.

I. Be alert when leading in a circle - observe the horse in front of you; bumping this horse from the rear is a serious fault in showmanship and very unsafe.

J. If asked to change positions in the line, back your horse out of the line and approach the new position from behind. Space horses adequately.

K. Move easily, quietly, and with confidence when showing your horse. Be courteous, respond promptly to directions, and demonstrate good horsemanship at all times.

L. Do your showing with the lead shank or bridle reins.

### **Open & Youth In-Hand Trail Class**

1. This class is designed to show the horse's ability to navigate and cope with various situations and obstacles encountered in everyday farm life. It is designed to show a horse's ability to perform these obstacles with a willing attitude. The horse is judged on cleanness and promptness with which obstacles are negotiated, ability to negotiate obstacles correctly, and attitude and mannerisms exhibited by the horse while negotiates the course.
2. No additional credit will be given for unnecessary / additional maneuvers (such as side passing to and from an obstacle.)
3. The judge may ask an exhibitor to move on the next obstacle if the exhibitor is unable to complete the maneuver in a reasonable time or if the judge deems that the exhibitor is, or will be, in an unsafe situation. The judge may also ask the exhibitor to move on after a third refusal at an obstacle.
4. An exhibitor may elect to skip an obstacle without disqualification.
5. Whenever possible, realistic or natural obstacles will be used. These may include but not limited to:
  - Opening, passing through, and closing a gate.
  - Mailbox
  - Walk / Trot through a log 90° obstacle
  - Back through straight, "L", into / out of
  - Simulated water hazards a marked location.
  - Pick up front feet
  - Step over at a walk – natural branches, logs, fence post, etc.
  - Any other safe hazard and negotiable obstacle. Which could be reasonably be found in everyday farm work and meets approval of judge.