

MontanaFair Draft Horse Expo 2026

SPONSORED BY



SUPERINTENDENT: Billie Schenk c:(406) 425-4791

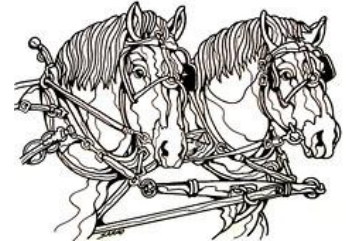


ASSISTANT: Melody Bilden h:(406) 323-4353

c:(406) 697-5353 -text only

ENTRY OFFICE: Email: entryoffice@metrapark.com (406) 869-5200

www.montanafair.com



STALL RESERVATIONS: Call Billie (406) 425-4791 or Melody (406) 323-4353
Enter early to ensure stall availability.

<u>ENTRY DEADLINE</u>	<u>HORSE ARRIVAL</u>	<u>SHOW HOURS</u>	<u>HORSES RELEASED</u>
TUESDAY	FRIDAY	SAT & SUN	SUNDAY
8/4/2026	8/7/2026	8/8 & 9/2026	8/9/2026
By 5:00 pm	Prior to 4:00 pm	12:00pm -5:00 pm	Show Conclusion

EXHIBITOR FEE: \$10.00 per exhibitor
HORSE DEPT FEE: \$50.00 per exhibitor (this includes stall fees and 3-day trailer pass)
ENTRY FEES: \$25.00/per class
LATE FEE: \$40.00/per class (due by 11:30am on show day)

ENTRY DEADLINE: All entries and fees must be received by the MontanaFair Entry Office by 5:00 pm, Tuesday, August 4, 2026.

We would appreciate early entry for stalling and facility purposes. Post entries may be accepted based on availability, for \$40 per class. Payment is due in cash or check by 11:30am on show day.

GATE ADMISSION: With payment of the Horse Dept Fee, each exhibitor will receive a 3-day trailer pass which serves as admission for the participant. Non-refundable Exhibitor's Discounted Day tickets (\$6) and 9-day wristbands (\$50) can be purchased through the MetraPark Box Office. Discount exhibitor tickets will not be available after August 1, 2026.

PREMIUMS: Premiums for this event will be paid to three places: 1st - \$300.00, 2nd - \$200.00, 3rd - \$100.00. Buckle to 1st place winner in each class. Ribbons awarded in each class to 1st – 3rd place. Junior Classes: Premiums for these classes will be paid to three places, 1st - \$150.00; 2nd - \$100.00; 3rd \$50.00. The Montana Draft Horse & Mule Association will provide trophy belt buckles for the Junior Classes.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Exhibitors must read and observe the General Rules and Regulations of MontanaFair as posted on the website, as well as the following rules specific to this department:

1. Open to all, with the exception of department superintendents, clerks, and volunteers.
2. Proper entry and identification are essential.
3. MontanaFair will provide stall signs which must be completed by the exhibitor.
4. The judge's decision is final, and no protest will be accepted by management. Should an exhibitor have questions, comments, or concerns, they are not to contact the judge but please submit to the superintendent.
5. If a team has been entered in the wrong class, the judge has discretion to move the entry to another class.
6. All exhibitors will be required to sign a liability waiver. Parent or guardian must sign for any exhibitor under 18 years.
7. Junior drivers must be between the ages of nine (9) and eighteen (18) as of January 1, 2026. Junior drivers must be accompanied by an adult in each class.
8. Minis are eligible for classes 105 & 106 Only. Mini Drivers do not need to be accompanied by an adult.
9. Class patterns will be available the day of show.
10. For the safety of all exhibitors, patrons, and animals, absolutely NO dogs will be allowed in the spectator area, show arena or stalling barn. No dogs are allowed in carnival or display buildings of the fair, and service/exhibit animals per Yellowstone County policy, must be on a leash at all times or can be removed by Yellowstone County Animal Control.

DRAFT HORSE EXPO PROGRAM

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, AUGUST 8 & 9, 2026

MetraPark's New Outdoor Arena



SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2026

9:30 am – Mandatory Exhibitors Meeting



12:00 pm – Prayer for the Safety of Horses & Teamsters, followed by National Anthem

101 - STREET CLASS ~ This is a rail class designed for the participant with any horse(s) in harness who uses them for hayrides, carriage rides, or other activities as would be found on the streets. Rubber tired vehicles are acceptable. The vehicle and harness used must be clean, in good repair, and appropriate to the entry. To be judged 25% Presentation; 25% Conformation; 25% Way of Going; 25% Driving. At the judge's discretion, exhibitors may be asked to fan, back up or similar elements.

102 - PLEASURE CART CLASS ~ This is a rail class suitable for and to be driven by any lady or man in a 2 wheeled cart. At the judge's discretion, the exhibitor may be required to perform any or all of the following: On the rail, ask for a stop, a walk or extended trot, then change directions in place. In line, back-up straight, fan 90 degrees one way, forward into line. To be judged 25% Presentation; 25% Conformation: 25% Way of Going; 25% Driving.

103 - ANTIQUE & UNIQUE VEHICLE CLASS ~ This is a rail class to be judged 25% on uniqueness; 25% authenticity; 15% quality of vehicle; 15% on appropriate animal(s) and 20% on attire according to the vehicle. At the judge's discretion, exhibitors may be asked to fan, back up or perform other similar elements.

104 - JUNIOR CLASS – RAIL ~ This is a rail class designed for the participant with any horse(s) in harness who uses them for hayrides, carriage rides, or other activities as would be found on the streets. Rubber tired vehicles are acceptable. The vehicle and harness used must be clean, in good repair, and appropriate to the entry. To be judged 25% Presentation; 25% Conformation: 25% Way of Going; 25% Driving. At the judge's discretion, exhibitors may be asked to fan, back up or similar elements. Junior must be age 9 to 18 as of January 1, 2026, and must be accompanied by an adult.

105 - PONIES & MINIS RAIL CLASS ~ This class is for ponies and mini. This is a rail class. To be judged 25% Presentation; 25% Conformation: 25% Way of Going; 25% Driving. The judge may ask questions about your horse and or vehicle.

106 - PONIES & MINIS OBSTACLE COURSE ~ Obstacles may include a mailbox, loading dock, serpentine, a pole slot, or other obstacles may be added. Points will be awarded only with the successful completion of each task. (Any amendments to this class may be made at showtime). To be judged 25% Presentation; 25% Conformation: 25% Way of Going; 25% Driving.

107 - LADIES ONLY CLASS ~ This is a rail class designed for the participant with any horse(s) in harness who uses them for hayrides, carriage rides, or other activities as would be found on the streets. Rubber tired vehicles are acceptable. The vehicle and harness used must be clean, in good repair, and appropriate to the entry. To be judged 25% Presentation; 25% Conformation: 25% Way of Going; 25% Driving. At the judge's discretion, exhibitors may be asked to fan, back up or similar elements.

108 - CANADIAN MAZE ~ This class is designed for the participants with draft horses, mules, light horses, and/or cross breeds driving a hitch wagon, farm wagon, rubber tire wagon, etc. It is a timed event; loping is allowed, but animals must always be in control. The course is a CROSS of cones set 15 ft apart in all directions. Object is to enter and exit each arm of the cross once, (or travel each arm twice-once going toward the center of the cross, once exiting the cross. Contestant who fails to enter and exit each leg of the cross once-or who enters or exits any leg of the cross more than once is disqualified. There will be ten (10) seconds added time for each cone disturbed. Contestants must enter the maze via the designated starting point and complete the maze by exiting through the designated finish point.

109 - FEED TEAM RACE ~ Team must be driven through and around the course stopping at feed stations to pick up or drop off feed. This is a timed event. Teams must be kept at a walk or trot. Team must be completely stopped as bags are placed on or taken off the wagon. For safety purposes, salt blocks must be picked up and set down. Throwing of salt blocks will result in five (5) seconds added time. The driver and the helper must both ride on the wagon except when loading and unloading bags or hay. Both must be on the wagon before the team starts or stops. If team breaks into a lope or if both driver and helper are not on wagon as required, will result in five (5) seconds added time. Twenty (20) seconds will be added if a feed bag or hay bale is broken. Feed bags and hay bales must be completely on the sled floor or five (5) seconds will be added. Twenty (20) seconds will be added for each break in the pattern.



SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2026

12:00 pm Prayer for the safety of Horses & Teamsters, followed by National Anthem

110 - OPEN HITCH ~ Judged 100% on driver's ability. Style of horses and equipment are not to be considered. Hitches will enter at a walk on the rail, trot, and reverse. Cones will be set up, and navigated with a serpentine, a back and a fan both directions. This is a judged pattern class. To be judged 25% Presentation; 25% Conformation; 25% Way of Going; 25% Driving.

111 - JUNIOR CLASS – RAIL AND OBSTACLES ~ This is a rail and obstacle class designed for the participant with any horse(s) in harness who uses them for hayrides, carriage rides, or other activities as would be found on the streets. Rubber tired vehicles are acceptable. The vehicle and harness used must be clean, in good repair, and appropriate to the entry. To be judged 25% Presentation; 25% Conformation; 25% Way of Going; 25% Driving. At the judge's discretion, exhibitors may be asked to fan, back up, dock or similar elements. Junior must be age 9 to 18 as of January 1, 2026, and must be accompanied by an adult.

112 - OBSTACLE COURSE ~ This is a timed event. Obstacles may include a mailbox, loading dock, serpentine, a pole slot, or other obstacles may be added. Five (5) seconds will be added for failure to complete any obstacle or part of the course correctly. A broken pattern results in disqualification.

113 - LOG SKIDDING ~ This is a timed event. Each contestant skidding a 16' long log through a designated course consisting of pylons and alley. Precision and control of the team and logs is the primary goal, simulating a logging activity. There is a 5-minute time limit for the course. Five (5) seconds will be added for any violation. The driver must either ride on the logs or walk. He/she may not do both. The driver must follow the designed pattern. The driver must not allow any part of himself/herself, logs, team or doubletree to touch a pylon or break a barrier.

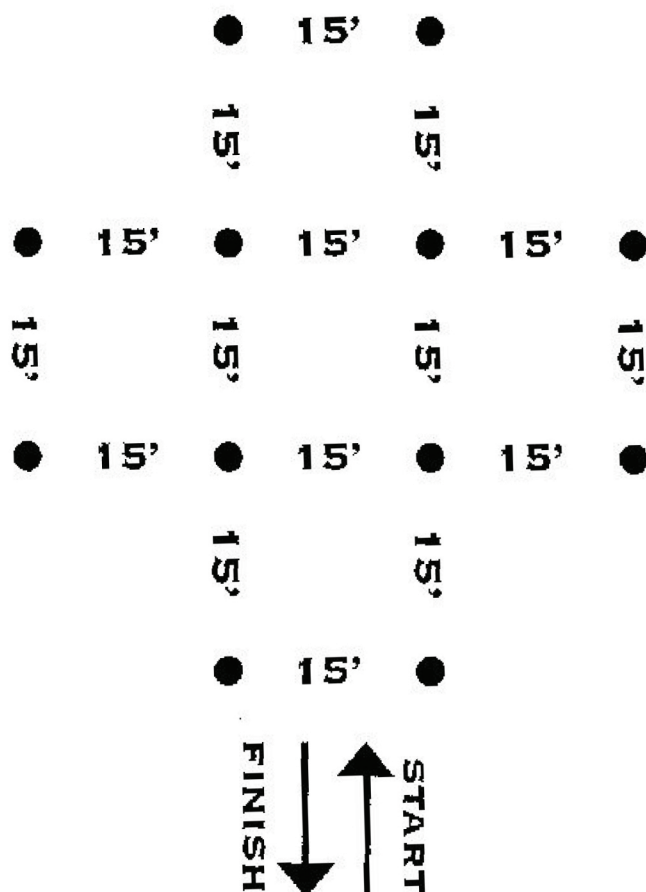
114 - BARREL RACE ~ There will be three (3) barrels set in a clover pattern. This is a timed event. Horses or Mules to be ridden. Horse must have also been in a driving class. Ten (10) seconds will be added for a knocked over barrel. A broken pattern results in disqualification.

2026 MONTANAFAIR DRAFT HORSE EXPO - EXHIBITOR QUESTIONNAIRE

Your name	Entry # <small><i>Entry office or superintendent can assist with your assigned entry numbers.</i></small>
Your Occupation	Home City/State
Classes entered	
Type of Buggy/Wagon	
Horse's name/s	
Breed	
Age/Color	
How long have you owned it?	
What do you use it for?	
Special things you like about your horse	

Please complete form and submit to Superintendent before the start of the competition.

CANADIAN MAZE 1 & 2



1. Course is a CROSS of cones set 15 feet apart in all directions.
2. Object of the event is to enter and exit each arm of the cross once. (or, the object of the event is to travel each arm of the cross twice—once going toward the center of the cross, once exiting the cross.)
3. Event is timed.
4. Contestant who fails to enter and exit each leg of the cross once—or who enters or exits any leg of the cross more than once—is disqualified.
5. Contestant must enter the maze via the designated start point and complete the maze by exiting through the designated finish point.
6. Disturbing Pylon = 1 Fault. Each Fault adds 10 seconds to time.