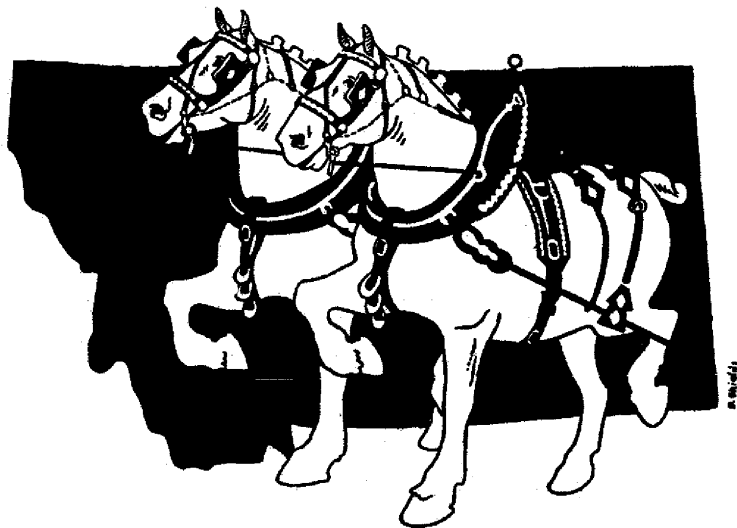


2026 RULE BOOK

BIG SKY DRAFT HORSE EXPO Established 1995

North American Six-Horse Hitch Classic Series
TRIPLE Point Show

June 26th, 27th, & 28th, 2026
Powell County Fairgrounds
Deer Lodge, Montana



HITCH ENTRIES DUE: APRIL 15,
OPEN CLASS ENTRIES DUE: MAY 1

(All Information True at Time of Printing)

For SCHEDULE & PATTERNS
Go To www.DraftHorseExpo.com

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BIG SKY DRAFT HORSE EXPO BOARD

Wade Thornley- Chairman	Gary Ritter – Vice Chair
Susan Ritter – Secretary	Dayna Gilman - Treasurer
Sue Shockley – Show	Marion Barton - Sponsors
Nancy Bare - Marketing	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Rhett Thornley	Tammy Perkins
Tracy Jenrich	Sandra Bacon
Sharon Bruce	

MOTELS & CAMPGROUNDS

Travel Inn	406-846-2370
Old Montana Inn (Newly Remodeled)	406-846-4771
Western Big Sky Motel	406-846-2590
Indian Creek RV Campground	406-846-3848
A-OK Campground	406-459-0818
Riverfront RV Campground (Garrison)	406-560-0248
Fairmont Hot Springs (Opportunity)	406-797-3241

Check Anaconda and Butte for additional lodging choices. In addition to motels and campgrounds there are several vacation rentals in the area.

BOOK EARLY!

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD APPLICATION

This \$150.00 scholarship was established by the Big Sky Draft Horse Expo Committee and may be awarded to any youth who meets the criteria set by the committee. All entry fees from Youth Classes are used to fund these awards. The Form can be found on our website, or you may request one be sent to you by texting Sue Shockley at 406-581-1405. The submission deadline is June 1, 2026. See Form for requirements.

GENERAL RULES

1. **EXHIBITORS' MEETING – 5:00PM Thursday, June 25**, in the Picnic Area near the Blue-Ribbon Pavilion. Meet committee members, volunteers, and staff. Question and Answer time. Lots of facility changes this year.
2. **SHOW TYPE** - This is a draft horse show with HITCH CLASSES, TEAMSTER EVENTS AND OPEN CLASSES.
3. **HAY**: Hay will be available to purchase with prior arrangements. (SEE ENTRY FORM)
4. **EXHIBITOR NUMBERS**: Each DRIVER must wear the correct DRIVER number for each class. Numbers shall be attached to person, cart, or wagon. **Hitches shall PROVIDE AND USE their NASHHCS numbers.**
5. **ENTRIES PER CLASS PER EXHIBITOR**: Exhibitors may enter each class **ONE** time.
6. **CROSS ENTRIES**: Hitches may not Cross Enter Open Classes **EXCEPT FOR Youth Team, Antique/Unique & Draft Horse Barrel Racing.**
7. Hitches may be made up of horses owned by one or more owners.
8. **DOGS**: All dogs shall be always kept on leashed while on the show grounds. No dogs are allowed in the bleachers.
9. **RIDER REQUIREMENTS**: For safety's sake, one rider deemed competent by the driver, shall be on the seat with the driver in each HITCH or OPEN class consisting of THREE (3) or more horses unless stated otherwise in the Class Description. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in disqualification of the Exhibitor from that class. No more than one rider is allowed, and no one shall be in the back of the wagon.
10. **The Expo Committee understands the use of Segways, bikes, 4-wheelers & golf carts are convenient, however they do cause safety issues. If using any of these, operate them in a SLOW, RESPONSIBLE MANNER. They cause concern, especially in the Warmup/Staging area where animals that are not familiar with these forms of transportation will be waiting for their class. Be cautious and respectful. Minors**

operating these conveyances must be under the supervision of an adult.

11. **ARENA PERSONNEL:** No person shall be permitted in the ring during the time of the judging of performance classes EXCEPT the judge, ring steward, judge's clerk, official photographer, one groom or header for each entry and those involved in pattern setup.
12. **INTERFERENCE WITH SHOW:** Any exhibitor, assistant, spectator or other person attempting to interfere with the judge or manager, in the performance of his/her duties in any manner may be asked to leave the facility and shall forfeit any monies, ribbons or awards.
13. **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:** There will be FIVE performances; Friday morning, Friday evening, Saturday morning, Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Schedule is on the last page of this book & will be posted on website.
14. **GATE HOLDS:** All entries must be ready well in advance of class time to avoid delays. "Entertainment Fillers" between some of the classes will be provided to allow time for a hitch/equipment change. The gate will be held 2 minutes for late entries after the class is called. Once arena gate is closed, no exhibitors will be allowed entry. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to advise the gate attendants if they will need a gate hold.
15. **VIOLATIONS:** Any person violating these rules and regulations shall be disqualified and forfeit any entry fees or premium that may be awarded. The Show Committee will settle any disputes.
16. **DANGEROUS ANIMALS** Any horse(s) or mule(s) out of control or dangerous, may be asked to leave the arena and/or the grounds and may forfeit entry fees/premium money. Any horses involved in an accident at previous shows or events here or elsewhere and deemed unsafe by the committee may be asked to leave and all premiums may be forfeited. Owners of unsafe animals will be subject to paying for damages caused by the accident.
17. **RULE ENFORCEMENT:** The Board for Big Sky Draft Horse Expo shall have general supervision of the grounds, the entire exhibition as well as control of show rules and regulations with support of the Show Committee. Should there be any dispute or misunderstanding which none of the By-laws, Rules and Regulations address, the Show Committee, acting as a Protest Committee, shall have the final and absolute right to alter, interpret, apply, or change these rules and regulations as may become necessary.

18. **GRIEVANCE PROCESS:** Any disputes with exhibitors, officials or any other individuals will be handled by the Show Committee, without public display. Anyone creating an unfavorable scene may be asked to leave the grounds. Any exhibitor who may desire to enter a protest must enter such protest in writing prior to the close of the show and deposit \$20 at the Show Office. If the protest is not sustained, the deposit will be forfeited and added to the funds of the Big Sky Draft Horse Expo.
19. **PREMIUM ERRORS:** Any error in recording premiums caused by oversight shall be corrected if proof of the mistake is provided to the Show Committee.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE INFORMATION

1. **ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE TIMES:** All Exhibitors must arrive no later than 4:00PM on Thursday. Arrival time begins after 12:00 noon Wednesday. All horses must be off the grounds by noon on Monday. For early arrival or extended stay please make prior arrangements with Expo Committee Chairman, Wade Thornley (208-589-3974). Additional fees may be charged by the Fairgrounds.
2. **EARLY DEPARTURE:** Please be respectful to those who are still showing and allow 30 minutes after the last class of the performance to move out. This will help keep the harnessing and hitching area safe.

ENTRY INFORMATION

1. **ENTRY FORMS DEADLINES:** **HITCH CLASS** entry forms must be received by April 15, 2026. **OPEN CLASS** entry forms must be received by May 1, 2026. **All entries will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. Please use the correct entry form for the class you are entering.**

2. **ALL ENTRY FEES, STALL FEES AND PROOF OF INSURANCE MUST ACCOMPANY ENTRY FORM.**

3. **LATE CLASS ENTRIES:** Late entries **MAY** be accepted until June 1 if space allows, but after that date, no entries will be accepted. There is a late entry fee of \$30 per class for entries made between May 1 and June 1.
4. **CLASS/DRIVER CHANGES:** Adding/changing classes will **NOT** be permitted after June 1. The **SHOW OFFICE** must be informed of any changes in drivers by 8:00AM on the day of the class. All changes will be taken by the **SHOW CLERK** or her representative in the **SHOW OFFICE** (camper near the announcer's stand).
5. **ENTRY FEES:**
***OPEN CLASS ENTRY FEES: \$20/class**
***YOUTH ENTRY FEES: \$10/ class**

***HITCH ENTRY FEES: \$25/class.**

***MASTER TEAMSTER: \$50 Competitors for the Master Teamster** will pay an additional \$50 entry. Fee will be jackpotted and paid out to the top teamsters.

***FEED TEAM RACE: \$25** \$20 of the fee will go toward the Jackpot which will be paid out to the winners.

DRAFT HORSE BARREL RACE: \$20

STALLING INFORMATION

6. **LIMITED STALLS:** Expo has limited stalls and outdoor pens. Stalls reservations will be **accepted on a first come first serve basis**. As the stalls and pens are filled, no more entries will be accepted unless exhibitors are able to provide their own stalls. Panel pens and electric fence pens are allowed. The space must be reserved and there is a small fee.
7. **Hitch Exhibitors** may keep their animals in box stalls provided at the Fairgrounds if they are available. The box stalls will accommodate only one hitch animal. Tie stalls are also an option. Please indicate on your entry form your preference for stalling.
8. **Open Class Exhibitors** may keep their animals in box stalls, tie stalls or outdoor pens. Due to limited box stalls, exhibitors are encouraged to put 2 animals in each box stall if possible. Please indicate on your entry form your preference for box stall, tie stall or outdoor pen. Exhibitors may provide their own outdoor stalls/pen but must reserve space on the entry form.
9. **Any restless animal or animals** that may cause harm to themselves or others should be tied in the stall/pen.
10. **Bedding** (wood shavings) will be provided at no charge.
11. **ALTERNATIVE STALLING:** The Exhibitor may provide their own panel pens/stalls for their animals. There will be a designated area for these types of stalls. There will be a \$5.00/day/ animal charge for this option. Please note on your entry if you choose this option.

WRISTBANDS INFORMATION

12. This is an **ALL-PAY** gate. The HITCH CLASS exhibitors will receive, in their EXHIBITOR PACKET at the Show office, 10 free EXHIBITOR/CREW wristbands. Each OPEN CLASS exhibitor will receive 4 free wristbands. Additional crew/exhibitor wristbands may be purchased for \$5 each at the Exhibitors' Meeting or at the Show Office.
13. All exhibitors and crew members must **WEAR** their EXHIBITOR/CREW WRISTBAND to be admitted to any gated area including the Warmup/Staging area and seating area. This rule will be strictly adhered to mitigate safety issues with having unauthorized people in these areas.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

14. **HEALTH CERTIFICATES:** Out-of-state horses: a health certificate is required within 30 days, with a negative Coggins test within twelve (12) months and permit number from the State of Montana. Have your Vet call the State of Montana (406-444-2043) to get the permit number prior to you leaving your state. This permit number must appear on the health certificate and is good for 10 days.
15. **BRAND INSPECTIONS:** All horses being hauled to or in the state of Montana must have a brand inspection from point of origin or, if your state does not require brand inspections, you must receive one prior to entering or leaving Montana. If you need a brand inspection done at the show, let the committee know and an inspector will be called. Any fees will be the responsibility of the exhibitor.
16. **STATE LAWS:** You should check with your own state for any other requirements to enter Montana or to re-enter your own state. Canadian exhibitors are to follow the Canadian entry laws in the U.S. and re-entry laws into Canada. Canadian Brand Inspections are required.
17. **VETERINARIAN INSPECTIONS:** At the discretion of the Show Committee, veterinarians may inspect animals before exhibition to determine that the animals are free from any evidence of infectious or contagious diseases or ectoparasites. Exhibitors should be aware that ringworm, warts, pinkeye, strangles, contagious ecthyma, scabies, lice, mites, ticks, and fleas all fall into these categories.
18. **VACCINATIONS:** It is recommended that your horses be current on vaccinations prior to attending any events where other horses are being shown or stabled. Consult with your veterinarian for any other vaccination recommendations.
19. **DRUG TESTING:** No horse or mule is to be shown if it has been given any forbidden substance defined as any controlled substance scheduled by the DEA. This includes stimulants, depressants, and all anabolic steroids. The committee reserves the right to test any horse or mule for the presence of forbidden substances.

LIABILITY & INSURANCE

20. **LIABILITY:** Exhibitors make entry at their own risk and release Big Sky Draft Horse Expo, show volunteers, Powell County, Tri-County Fair Board, and Powell County Fairgrounds Management Board from all liability of any kind; or loss of property, life, demands, costs, charges, and expenses that may be incurred by reason of any accidents, omissions, conducts of fault of any kind. Exhibitors of animals or other items liable to occasional accidents, injury or damage to people

coming into contact therewith, shall guard their exhibits in such a way as to protect the public.

21. **INSURANCE:** Exhibitors must have their own insurance to cover any personal loss because of any accident, illness or injury and insurance to cover injury caused by you, your animals, crew or equipment. **A Proof of Insurance Statement is required to be sent in with your entry form.**
22. **MONTANA EQUINE ACTIVITY LIABILITY LIMITATIONS ACT:** Montana Law – 27-1-727: (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3), an equine activity sponsor or an equine professional is not liable for injury to or the death of a participant engaged in an equine activity resulting from risks inherent in equine activities. (2) An equine participant shall act in a safe and responsible manner at all times to avoid injury to the participant and others and to be aware of risks inherent in equine activities. (3) Subsection (1) does not apply: (a) if the equine activity sponsor failed to make reasonable and prudent efforts to determine the ability of the participant to safely engage in the equine activity and the participant's ability to manage the particular equine based on the participant's representations as to his/her ability; committed an act or omission that constituted willful or wanton disregard for the safety of the participant; or intentionally injured the participant.

JUDGING CRITERIA

23. **CONFORMATION:** Match of animals in size, color, markings and uniformity. Hitch should represent the ideal example of conformation for the breed they represent. All animals must be sound (lameness is cause for elimination from awards.)
24. **WAY OF GOING:** All animals must pull evenly in the traces; heads up, even and traveling straight ahead; no fighting the bit, lagging or crowding ahead or to the side. The individual and collective response of the animals to the driver's verbal commands and manual signals while stopping, backing and fanning.
25. **PRESENTATION:** Cleanliness of the horses, harness, and wagon; condition of harness and wagon; decorations on horses; attire of driver, riders and grooms; appropriateness of vehicle to hitch; over-all appearance of the outfit.
26. **DRIVING:** How well the driver handles the horses and lines.

SPECIFIC CLASS JUDGING CRITERIA

27. **RAIL CLASSES:** Will be judged on: Conformation (40%); Way of Going (25%); Presentation (25%); Driving (10%) unless otherwise stated in the Class Description. These classes require traveling in both directions around the arena and a back-up while in the final line up.
28. **DRIVING CLASSES(Pattern Classes):** Will be judged on: Driving (50%); Way of Going (40%); Presentation (10%) unless otherwise stated in the Class Description.

HITCH CLASSES

1. **HITCH CLASSES:** Open to the following DRAFT HORSE BREEDS: Belgians, Clydesdales, Percherons, Shires, Suffolks and Spotted Drafts.
2. **All HITCHES** entering the NASHHCS designated classes must be members of that association. Dues must be paid directly to the NASHCS.
3. **All HITCHES must have an entry in ALL REQUIRED HITCH CLASSES** – THREE Classic Series Six Horse Conformation Classes and one Classic Cart class.
4. The Hitches will also be required to enter two of the remaining four classes. There will be Division A and Division B. DIVISION A will be required to drive in Ladies Cart and 4 Up Conformation while Division B will be required to drive in Team and Unicorn. The Expo Committee will draw names for each Division once entries are in and will advise Hitches which Division they will be entered in prior to the show.
5. Fifteen percent of earnings may be deducted for each class scratched and that money split between the other Hitch entries.

DESIGNATED HITCH CLASSES

- a. Classic Series 6 Horse Conformation Point Class – Friday, Saturday, and Sunday - **REQUIRED**
- b. Cart Classic Series Point Class - **REQUIRED**
- c. 4- Horse Conformation – Division A
- d. Unicorn – Division B
- e. Team – Division B
- f. Ladies Cart – Division A
- g. Classic Series Junior Cart: **NOT REQUIRED** The JR. Cart Class will be a sanctioned NASHHCS class. To be eligible to compete in this class, Juniors must be between the ages of 6 and 18 as of January 1st of the show year. The class will be split by ages. The Jr. Driver must be registered with the NASHHCS to compete in this class and be considered for NASHCS scholarships. There are no membership dues for Jr. Drivers. To register and for rules

visit naclassicseries.com. Judged 100% on driver's ability.
Style of horses and equipment are NOT to be considered.
Exhibitors must provide their own horses and carts.

OPEN CLASSES

OPEN CLASSES: These classes allow mules, draft and light breed driving horses including but not limited to Norwegian Fjords and Haflingers, grade and cross bred horses 14.2 hands and taller.

1. **BEAN BAG TOSS** - This is a **SINGLE HORSE**, a timed pattern class. It is open to a single horse or mule pulling a 2 wheel vehicle. Drivers will be handed 6 bean bags. At the flag start drivers will race to the furthest bucket. They will serpentine back through 6 buckets and return serpentine through the buckets. During either serpentine pass a bean bag must be tossed into each of the 6 buckets. Once you have reached the end bucket you will race back to the finish line. Fastest time wins. Any gait is acceptable. A 5 second penalty will be assessed for hitting a bucket with your animal or cart. A 5 second penalty will be assessed for missing any bucket with a bean bag.
2. ***CANADIAN MAZE I:** This is a **TEAM** class designed for the participants with draft horses, mules, light horses and/or cross breeds and driving a hitch wagon, farm wagon, rubber tire wagon etc. It is a timed event; loping is allowed, but animals must be always under control. There is a 10 second penalty for each cone disturbed. This class will conform to the rules presented in the Exhibitor Packets. The pattern will be made available prior to Expo.
NOTE: This class will also be designated as the Speed Driving Class for the Master Teamsters. It may be entered as an individual OPEN CLASS or as part of the Master Teamster.
3. **CANADIAN MAZE II:** This open **TEAM** class is designed for the participant with draft horses, mules, light horses and/or cross breeds and driving a marathon vehicle, chariot or a vehicle designed for speed. It is a timed event; loping is allowed, but animals must be always under control. There is a 10 second penalty for each cone disturbed. This class will conform to the rules presented in the exhibitor packets. The pattern will be made available prior to Expo.
4. **FEED TEAM RACE:** The Feed **TEAM** Race will be held as a Jackpot. There will be a \$5 entry fee and \$20 Jackpot money per teamster, which must be sent in with the entry form. Three places will be paid (1st - 50%, 2nd - 30% & 3rd - 20%). **EACH TEAM OF HORSES MAY ONLY COMPETE ONCE. EACH CONTESTANT IS ALLOWED TO DRIVE ONCE AND TO SWAMP ONCE.** Teamsters will be disqualified for not following rules.

5. **FOUR ABREAST:** This is for any horses or mules in harness. Points will be awarded as follows: 25% Conformation; 25% Way of Going; 25% Presentation; 25% driving. (Rail Class)
6. **FOUR UP DRIVING COMPETITION: Time Limit: 5 Minutes** This is designed for any horses or mules in harness. Judged on 50% Driving, 40% Way of Going, 10% Presentation (Pattern Class) required)
7. **GAMBLERS CHOICE CART: Time Limit – 3 Minutes** This class is for a **SINGLE** horse/mule driven with a two-wheel cart. There will be **TWO** carts on the course at the same time. The course may include, but is not limited to, such obstacles as a bridge, mailbox, loading dock, serpentine, and a pole slot. This is a timed event - each exhibitor will have **THREE (3)** minutes, with a 30 second warning, to negotiate as many obstacles as possible. Points will be awarded only with the successful completion of a task. Amendments to this class may be made at show time. Each obstacle is assigned a point value according to its degree of difficulty and each driver tries to amass as high a score as possible within the time allowed. After passing through the starting line, the competitor may drive through the obstacles, in any order, from any direction. Before repeating an obstacle, the driver must complete all obstacles. Each obstacle may be repeated but not in succession. If a horse refuses an obstacle without disturbing it, the driver may elect not to attempt it and may drive to another obstacle without penalty. The obstacle may be attempted later and if correctly driven, the appropriate points will be recorded. No points will be awarded for an incorrectly completed obstacle. If the signal sounds when the competitor is committed to an obstacle, the competitor may complete the obstacle and receive the appropriate points, then proceed through the finish markers for total time to be recorded. Whether or not the competitor committed to the last obstacle at the signal will be left to the discretion of the judge. Placings will be determined on a high score basis. If a tie occurs, the Premiums of each tied place will be combined and divided between the two individuals. Cantering is permitted.
8. ***HORSE/MULE STREET CLASS:** This is a **TEAM** rail class designed for the participant with any horses in harness who uses them for hayrides, carriage rides, or other activities as would be found on the streets. Rubber tired vehicles are acceptable. At the judge's discretion, exhibitors may be asked to fan, back up, or similar elements.
NOTE: This class will also be designated as Working Rail Class or the Master Teamsters. It may be entered as an individual **OPEN CLASS** or as part of the Master Teamster.

9. ***LOG SKIDDING: Time Limit: 5 minutes**
Skidding two logs through a designated course consisting of pylons and an alley. Precision and control of the **TEAM** and logs is the primary goal, simulating a logging activity. The driver must either ride on the logs or walk. He/she may not do **both. The Driver must follow the designed pattern. Penalty** points will be assessed if the Driver allows any part of himself/herself, logs, team or double tree to touch a pylon or break a barrier. **NOTE:** This class will also be designated as one of the working classes for the Master Teamsters. It may be entered as an individual **OPEN CLASS** or as part of the Master Teamster.
10. ***OBSTACLE COURSE: Time Limit: 5 Minutes The objective of this TEAM event is to drive a team through and around obstacles simulating a farm situation.** The Show will provide identical wagons. The course may include, but is not limited to, such obstacles as a gate, serpentine course of pylons, complete circles to left and/or right, an alleyway, a simulated loading dock to back up to, and precise stopping. Accuracy is most important, with time being used only as a tiebreaker. One safety assistant will accompany the driver. The function of the safety assistant is to ride on the wagon and come to the aid of the driver only if an emergency should arise. Should the assistant touch the lines or in any way speak or signal the driver or team, the driver will be disqualified in the event. Teams may be walked or trotted. Loping is not allowed. **NOTE:** This class will also be designated the Precision Obstacle Driving class for the Master Teamsters. It may be entered as an individual **OPEN CLASS** or as part of the Master Teamster.
11. **PLEASURE CART: The driver must use a two wheel cart and a SINGLE equine** in this class. At the judge's discretion, the exhibitor may be required to perform any or all the following: On the rail, ask for a walk, trot, or extended trot. To show a quiet and easy way of going. Must show a smooth responsiveness. Must stand quietly and back readily. To be judged on quality, performance, and manners. On the rail, ask for a stop, then change directions in place. In line, back-up straight, fan 90 degrees one way, forward into line. (Rail Class)
12. **SIX UP DRIVING COMPETITION: Time Limit: 5 Minutes** This is designed for any horses or mules in harness. A rider deemed competent by the driver is required. Judged on 50% Driving, 40% Way of Going, 10% Presentation (Pattern Class)
13. **TANDEM CART:** This is a rail class and involves driving a two-wheeled cart with two horses/mules harnessed one in front

of the other (leader & wheeler). Judged on performance, manners, and turn-out, this advanced class requires significant skill in managing complex rein handling for the tandem hitch. Judges look for overall impression, performance, way of going, manners, and the neatness and correctness of the turnout. The class requires a high level of control and precision as tandem driving is considered one of the more difficult forms of driving. It is more complex than teams or singles,

14. **YOUTH CART:** Open Class Youth must be between the ages of 6 and 18 as of January 1st of the show year. **The driver must use a two wheel cart and a SINGLE equine** in this class. If the Youth Driver wants to be considered for NASHCS scholarships s/he must register with the NASHHCS. The Youth may then enter the Classic Series Youth Cart class if driving a Belgian, Percheron, Shire, or Clydesdale since this is a Draft Horse only class. Judges 100% on driver's ability. Exhibitors must provide their own horses/mules and cart. (Rail Class)

OPEN CLASS MASTER TEAMSTER CLASSIC:

1. **The Master Teamster events may be entered by OPEN CLASS only, No Hitch entries.** There will be a **MASTER TEAMSTER SELECTED** based on total points earned in the four required classes. These classes are designed to demonstrate the partnership between team and driver in 3 ways: Precision Driving, Driving with Speed, and Driving for Work. The details and rules are:
 2. **ENTRY FEE:** Those wishing to compete for the Master Teamster award are required to pay an additional \$50 entry which will be paid out as a JACKPOT. Depending upon the number of entries, either three(3) or five (5) places will be paid out.
 3. **REQUIRED CLASSES:** Four classes are required and must be completed by each contestant using the same team for all classes.
 - a. **Precision Driving/Obstacle Course:**
 - b. **Driving With Speed/Canadian Maze I:**
 - c. **Driving For Work/ Log Skidding:**
 - d. **Horse/Mule Street Class**
4. **MDHMA** equipment will be provided and must be used by those competing for the Master Teamster Award in the Canadian Maze 1 and Obstacle Course. The exhibitor is expected to use their own 4-wheeled vehicle in the Street Class.
5. Each class will have an established time limit. Penalties will be assigned a time (number of seconds) which will be added to the total score.

6. Youth may enter and the same rules apply.
7. All classes have a designated course to follow.
8. **JUDGING CRITERIA FOR MASTER TEAMSTERS:**
 - a. **WAY OF GOING:** Animals pull evenly in the traces; heads up, even and traveling straight ahead; no fighting the bit, lagging or crowding ahead or to the side. The individual and collective response of the animals to the driver's verbal commands and manual signals while stopping, backing, and fanning.
 - b. **PRESENTATION:** Cleanliness & condition of the horses, harness & wagon
 - c. **DRIVING:** How well does the driver handles the horses and lines, hitching safely.
 - d. **FAULTS:** Running over or disturbing any part of the pattern; not staying within designated boundaries (when appropriate); not following the designated pattern/course, etc.
 - e. **OFF COURSE** – results in disqualification (DQ).

HITCH AND OPEN CLASS

These THREE classes may be entered by OPEN AND HITCH

1. **ANTIQUÉ/UNIQUE VEHICLE CLASS:** This is a **SINGLE** or **MULTIPLE** hitch 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 perform a fan, back up or other similar elements. This class is open to any driven equine, **OPEN AND HITCH CLASS** entries. (Rail Class)

2. **YOUTH TEAM:** Judged 100% on driver's ability. Style of horses and equipment are not to be considered. Youth must be between the ages of 6 and 18 as of January 1st of the show year. The class will be split into two age groups... This will be a pattern class. Horses must always be at a walk for youth 6 – 12; horses may trot for youth ages 13-18. A course will be provided for each age group. Horses/mules and wagons will be provided. Adult teamsters may take the lines if he/she determines the youth may be driving in an unsafe manner and youth will not place in the class. BSDHE will support decision of the adult teamster. (Pattern Class)
3. **DRAFT HORSE BARREL RACE:** This is a riding class. Any draft animal (light or heavy, Hitch or Open) that has been driven in a class at this year's Expo may be entered. The rider must have driven in a class at this year's Expo. The horse will be ridden bareback or with a saddle, in a suitable bridle. This is

a timed event, fastest time wins. Each rider will complete the barrel pattern (either 2 left turns, 1 right or 2 rights & 1 left). Knocking over a barrel results in a 5 second penalty, Off Course is a disqualification.

PRIZE MONEY

Recognition will be given to the first five places in the classes listed below. Premium money to be awarded as listed.

OPEN CLASSES

SINGLE HORSE/MULE 1st = \$100, 2nd = \$85, 3rd = \$70,
4th = \$55, 5th = \$50

Gamblers Choice Cart - Pleasure Cart – Youth Cart (No Premiums)

TWO HORSE/ MULE CLASSES 1st = \$120, 2nd = \$105, 3rd = \$95,
4th = \$80, 5th = \$70

Canadian Maze I - Canadian Maze II - Obstacle Driving - Log Skidding
- Horse / Mule Street Class - Tandem

FOUR HORSE/MULE CLASSES 1st = \$200, 2nd = \$180,
3rd = \$150, 4th = \$125, 5th = \$100

Four Horse Driving - Four-Abreast

SIX HORSE/MULE DRIVING 1st- \$225, 2nd- \$200, 3rd - \$175;
4th - \$150, 5th - \$125

DRAFT HORSE BARREL RACE There will be no cash payouts.
1st through 5th will receive awards only.

SPECIAL OPEN CLASSES

JUNIOR CART CLASSES– Awards Only

FEED TEAM RACE --- Jackpot 1st – 50%; 2nd – 30%; 3rd – 20%

MASTER TEAMSTER CLASSES: \$50 ENTRY FEES will be
JACKPOTTED with payouts being 3 or 5 places depending upon the
number of entries.

CHAMPION MASTER TEAMSTER – CUSTOM BRASS –
Presented Sunday during Grand Entry

HITCH CLASSES: LEVEL PAY

Four-Horse Conformation – Team – Unicorn - Classic Six Horse Hitch
Conformation – Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Ladies Cart, Classic
Series Cart, Classic Series Youth Cart (No Premiums)

OPEN AND HITCH CLASSES

ANTIQUE/UNIQUE – Will be paid out as a Two Animal Class

JUNIOR TEAM – Awards Only

DRAFT BARREL RACE - Awards Only

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS JUNE 26 -28, 2026 (Subject to Change)

THURSDAY JUNE 25TH

5:00PM **Exhibitors' Meeting – Picnic Area Pavilion**

6:00PM **BAR-B-Q – HALL OF FAME DINNER DURING BAR-B-Q**

FRIDAY 1ST PERFORMANCE

8:00AM National Anthem with Drill Team
8:15AM 1 Obstacle Course -OPEN&MASTER TEAMSTER
8:30AM 2 Log Skidding - OPEN&MASTER TEAMSTER
10:00AM 3 Team - HITCH DIVISION "A"
10:20AM 4 Tandem – OPEN
10:40AM 5 Youth Team – OPEN & HITCH 6 - 12 YO
6 Youth Team – OPEN & HITCH 113 - 18 YO

11:15AM DRAFT HORSE 101

12:00PM **PERFORMANCE ENDS**

1:00PM **Horse Drawn Water Wagon & Grader Demos GKR National Historic Site**

FRIDAY 2ND PERFORMANCE

6:00PM GRAND ENTRY -- Ramblin' Roses Drill Team – **Hall of Fame Awards**
6:20PM 7 Feed Team Race – OPEN
7:00PM 8 Classic Six Horse Conformation -HITCH-ALL
7:40PM 9 Mule & Horse Street Class – OPEN & MASTER TEAMSTER (2 Heats)
8:20PM 10 Unicorn HITCH DIVISION "B"
8:40PM 11 Antique/Unique
9:00PM **PERFORMANCE ENDS**

SATURDAY 3RD PERFORMANCE

8:00AM National Anthem
8:15AM 12 4 Up Obstacle Driving - OPEN&MASTER TEAMSTER
9:00AM 13 Classic Cart – HITCH (2 Heats??)
9:40AM 14 4 Abreast - OPEN
10:00AM 15 Classic Youth Cart -HITCH (2 Heats)
10:40AM 16 Bean Bag Toss - OPEN
11:00AM 17 Gambler's Choice - OPEN
11:40AM 18 Draft Horse Barrel Race – OPEN & HITCH
12:00pm **PERFORMANCE ENDS**

SATURDAY 4TH PERFORMANCE

6:00PM GRAND ENTRY -- Ramblin' Roses Drill Team – **Big Sky Awards**
6:20PM 19 Canadian Maze 1 – OPEN & MASTER TEAMSTER
6:40PM 20 Canadian Maze 2 - OPEN
7:00PM 21 Classic Six Horse Conformation-HITCH-ALL
7:40PM 22 Pleasure Cart – OPEN (2 Heats)
8:20PM 23 4 Up Conformation – Hitch Group A
8:40PM 24 Ladies' Cart – HITCH DIVISION "B"
9:00PM **PERFORMANCE ENDS**

SUNDAY 5TH PERFORMANCE

10:00AM Grand Entry –Colors by Ramblin Roses - Master Teamster Award & Youth Scholarship Awards
10:20PM 25 6 Horse Obstacle Driving - OPEN
11:00AM 26 Classic Six Horse Conformation-HITCH-ALL
11:40AM 27 Youth Cart OPEN – 13-18 YO
12:00PM 28 Youth Cart OPEN 6-12 YO