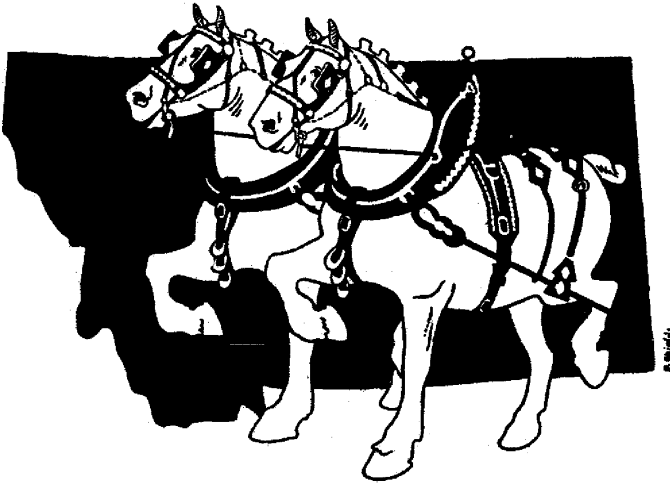


**27<sup>TH</sup> Annual**  
**BIG SKY DRAFT HORSE EXPO**  
North American Six-Horse Hitch Classic Series  
**TRIPLE Point Show**

*JUDGE — MARC PITTMAN*

**Show Premium List**  
*June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023*  
**Deer Lodge, Montana**  
[www.DraftHorseExpo.com](http://www.DraftHorseExpo.com)



Follow Us on Facebook at Big Sky Draft Horse Expo

E-mail: [info@DraftHorseExpo.com](mailto:info@DraftHorseExpo.com)

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

<http://www.nps.gov/grko/index.htm>

Powell County Old Prison Museum

[www.pcmf.org/prison.htm](http://www.pcmf.org/prison.htm)

**ENTRIES DUE: Hitch Exhibitors: May 1, 2023**  
**Open Class Exhibitors: May 15, 2023**

# **NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION** **FOR 2023!!!**

1. **EXHIBITORS' MEETING - 11:30AM Friday** in the Picnic Area near the Blue-Ribbon Pavilion. Meet committee members, volunteers, and staff. Question and Answer time.
2. **NEW CLASS – AMATEUR FOUR HORSE DRIVING CLASS.**  
**This class is open to all HITCH AND OPEN AMATEUR EXHIBITORS.** Drivers of Hitches and Open entries, start looking for your amateur driver and start practicing. We have not had an amateur class at EXPO for many years and it is time to bring it back. One of the goals of the Big Sky Draft Horse Expo is to encourage the tradition of driving and hopefully interest more people in this fun and historical activity. The driver must be one who has never shown a six-horse hitch in competition and never won a four- horse competition at any show. The driver competing in the Four Horse Amateur class cannot enter any other four and six horse competitions at this show. This class requires everyone entered to pay an entry fee. Five places will be paid out. See Class Description on **Page 11**
3. **YOUTH CART CLASSES:** This year there will be a **Classic Series Youth Cart Class** and an **Open Youth Cart Class.** To be eligible to enter either class, the driver must be 6 through 18 years old as of Jan. 1, 2023. The Classic Series Cart Class is a draft horse only class, meaning the Youth must drive one of these draft breeds, Belgian, Percheron, Shire, Spotted Draft or Clydesdale, and must be registered with the Classic Series. They will compete for NASHHCS scholarship points. The Open Youth Cart Class is open to all youth and they may drive any breed horse or mule. Class info on **Pages 7 & 10**
4. **CULTIVATING IS BEING REPLACED WITH DRIVING WITH PRECISION AND CONTROLLED SPEED.** This class is new this year and is all Open Class competitors are eligible to enter. If you are competing in the MASTER TEAMSTER CLASSIC, this is one of the four required classes. There is a defined course each teamster must complete while not breaking from an Extended/Working trot. Breaking to a walk or a lope will add penalty points. It will be timed and scored. Challenging but fun. **Pages 10 & 11**
5. **GAMBLERS CHOICE CART: RULE CLARIFICATION** - This class is for a SINGLE horse/mule driven with a two-wheel cart. See class description for NEW RULES. **Pages 8 & 9**
6. **FEED TEAM RACE – NEW RULES:** Each team of horses may compete only once. Each contestant may drive once and swamp once. See Class Description **Page 8**

7. **HITCH CLASS REQUIREMENTS:** See Page 7
8. **CLASSIC SERIES** - The 2023 Expo will be a **THREE-point NASHHCS Show**. There will be two open 6 Horse Hitch Classes and one Gelding 6 Horse Hitch Class. – See Page 4
9. **CANADIAN MAZE I & II** – Open Class exhibitors may enter both classes again this year. Canadian Maze 1 is one of the Master Teamster Classes, but is open to all. Page 8
10. **ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE TIMES** – Begins Thursday, June 22nd at noon and all Exhibitors must be on the grounds by Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00AM. See Page 5
11. **PATTERNS** – Pages 12 - 15

## **Welcome to the 27<sup>TH</sup> Annual Big Sky Draft Horse Expo**

This show is designed to support the draft horse industry, the driving of horses and to create a fun, entertaining and educational event in Montana. The classes are arranged to offer the spectators a variety of activities each day and to make the show flow as smoothly as possible for the exhibitors. The show features draft horse breeds and welcomes mules and light driving horses to enter the OPEN classes.

Again, this year EXPO invites you, the Exhibitors, crews and families to enjoy a very affordable Bar-B-Q and free musical entertainment on Friday and Saturday evenings after the show. So, bring your lawn chair or a blanket and maybe your dancing shoes and relax, on the grass, after a long day of competition. The public is invited to attend as well and are being encouraged to visit you and your beautiful animals in the barns.

There will again be a variety of vendors, under the grandstands, offering some great opportunities to pick up a souvenir of the show, various services and some great food. The Expo Official Merchandise will be sold there as well. The Old Prison Museums has put together a wonderful exhibit of Historical Transportation that will be on display under the grandstand throughout the show. The Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site always provides interesting activities and exhibits at the ranch, across the street from the Fairgrounds and the Deer Lodge businesses provide wonderful hospitality so stop in and say “Thanks”.

We hope you will enjoy your time at Expo!

### **BIG SKY DRAFT HORSE EXPO COMMITTEE**

**Wade Thornley**  
**Rhett Thornley**  
**Marion Barton**  
**Chet Monson**  
**Sue Shockley**  
**Norm Johnson**  
**Tracy Jenrich**  
**Melissa Mjelde**

**Pat Hansen**  
**Betty McCoy**  
**Nick Shrauger**  
**Gary & Susan Ritter**  
**Charlie & Dayna Gilman**  
**Logan Thornley**  
**Carrie Lease**

## **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 meet the criteria set by the committee. All entry fees from Youth Classes are used fund these awards. See Form for requirements.

### **Motels & Campgrounds**

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Travel Lodge</b>                        | <b>406-846-2370</b>   |
| <b>Warden Inn – NEW</b>                    | <b>1-800-987-2234</b> |
| <b>Western Big Sky Motel</b>               | <b>406-846-2590</b>   |
| <b>Indian Creek RV Campground</b>          | <b>406-846-3848</b>   |
| <b>A-OK Campground</b>                     | <b>406-846-1629</b>   |
| <b>Riverfront RV Campground (Garrison)</b> | <b>(406) 560-0248</b> |
| <b>Fairmont Hot Springs (Opportunity)</b>  | <b>406-797-3241</b>   |

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

### **GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

#### **ALL ENTRIES AND EXHIBITORS ARE SUBJECT TO THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. This is a draft horse show with HITCH CLASSES, TEAMSTER EVENTS AND OPEN CLASSES.
2. **HITCH CLASSES:** Open to draft horse breeds including Belgians, Clydesdales, Percherons, Shires, and Suffolks.
3. **OPEN 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.
4. **CROSS ENTRIES:** There will be no cross entries with HITCH CLASSES and OPEN CLASSES WITH THE EXCEPTION OF: JUNIOR TEAM and the AMATEUR FOUR HORSE DRIVING.
5. **NORTH AMERICAN SIX HORSE HITCH CLASSIC SERIES:** The Big Sky Draft Horse Expo will be a part of the NASHHCS again this year. Points from this show will be added to the exhibitors' totals. At the end of the 2023 season, those with the highest number of points will compete for top honors at the finals.
6. **This year all HITCHES entering the NASHHCS designated classes must be members of that association. Dues may be paid directly to the NASHCS or may be included with the Big Sky Draft Horse Expo entry form.**
7. **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.
8. **LIABILITY:** Exhibitors make entry at their own risk and release Big Sky Draft Horse Expo, the Show Committee and volunteers, Powell County, Powell County Chamber of Commerce, Tri-County Fair Board, and Blue Ribbon Pavilion 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 persons coming into contact therewith, shall guard their exhibits in such a way as to protect the public. **You must have your own insurance to cover any personal loss as a result 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.**
9. **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.
10. **DANGEROUS ANIMALS** Any horse(s) or mule(s) out of control or seemingly dangerous, may be asked to leave the arena and/or the grounds and 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. Owner of unsafe animals will be subject to paying for damages caused by the accident.
  11. **RULE ENFORCEMENT:** The Chairperson(s) of the Steering Committee for Big Sky Draft Horse Expo shall have general supervision of the grounds, the entire exhibition as well as control of the 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 will govern, 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.
  12. **GRIEVANCE PROCESS:** Any disputes with showmen, 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 with the secretary. If the protest is not sustained, the deposit will be forfeited and added to the funds of the Big Sky Draft Horse Expo.
  13. **PREMIUM ERRORS:** Any error in recording premiums caused by oversight shall be subject to correction whenever proof of a mistake is furnished to the Show Committee within one week after the show.
  14. **ENTRY FEES:** There will be a \$15 entry fee charged for each class and Jr. Classes will be \$10. These fees apply to both HITCH and OPEN CLASS exhibitors. There are two exceptions; 1) Master Team – anyone competing for the Master Teamster award will be required to pay an additional \$50 entry fee. This entry will be jackpotted and paid out to the top teamsters. 2) Feed Team Race – anyone competing in the Feed Team Race will pay a \$5 entry fee plus a \$20 Jackpot Fee (total of \$25). The \$20 fees will be added together and paid out to the winners as a jackpot.
  15. **ENTRY FORMS:** HITCH entries must be received by May 1, 2023 and will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. OPEN CLASS entries must be received by May 15, 2023. 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 \$10 per class. ALL ENTRY FEES, STALL FEES AND PROOF OF INSURANCE MUST ACCOMPANY ENTRY FORM.
  16. **STALLING:** Hitch Exhibitors may keep their animals in tie or box stalls provided at the Fairgrounds. The box stalls will accommodate only one hitch animal. Open Class Exhibitors will have box stalls and may put 2 animals in each box stall. Any restless animal or animals that may cause harm to themselves or others should be tied in the box stall. Bedding will be provided. The Exhibitor may, as an alternative to stalling in the provided stalls, provide their own panel fences/stalls for their animals. There will be a designated area for these types of stalls. There will be a \$5.00/day charge for this option. All Box Stall are \$20 for the weekend. Tie Stall are \$10 for the weekend. (SEE ENTRY FORM)
  17. **LIMITED STALLS:** If the barns are full, no entries will be accepted after the deadline. Entries will be accepted on a first come first serve basis until the spaces are filled. Should barns fill prior to the entry deadline, the Committee has the option to close entries early or work to make other accommodations.
  18. **HAY:** Hay will be available to purchase with prior arrangements. (SEE ENTRY FORM)

19. **ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE TIMES: ALL EXHIBITORS MUST ARRIVE NO LATER THAN 11:00AM ON FRIDAY.** Arrival time begins after 12:00 noon Thursday. All horses must be off the grounds by noon on Monday. For early arrival or extended stay please make prior arrangements WITH FAIRGROUNDS STAFF. Additional fees will be charged BY THE FAIRGROUNDS for extended stays. (SEE ENTRY FORM)
20. **EARLY DEPARTURE: Please be respectful to those who are still showing. This will help keep the harnessing and hitching area safe. If exhibitors are getting ready for a class or just returning after a class, please wait to start your move out. On Sunday the gates will be open for departure until 10AM and will reopen at 3PM.**
21. **EXHIBITOR NUMBERS:** Each exhibitor must wear the correct exhibitor number for each class. Numbers shall be attached to person, cart or wagon.
22. **DOGS:** All dogs shall be always kept on leashes while on the show grounds. No dogs are allowed in the grandstand.
23. **WRISTBANDS:** This is an ALL-PAY gate. All exhibitors and crew members must wear their EXHIBITOR WRISTBAND in order to be admitted to any gated area including the Warmup/Staging area. **This rule will be strictly adhered to in an effort to mitigate safety issues with having unauthorized people in these areas.** Everyone must wear their wristbands in order to be allowed in the grandstand area. The Exhibitors will receive, in their EXHIBITOR PACKET, one wristband per animal.
24. **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.
 

**HEALTH REQUIREMENTS**
25. **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.
26. **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 here, let the committee know and an inspector will be called. Any fees will be the responsibility of the exhibitor.
27. **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.
28. **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.
29. **VACCINATIONS:** It is recommended that your horse 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.
30. **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 classes 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 allowed in the back of the wagon during competition. An adult rider must be on the seat with any Jr. Driver.
31. **APPROPRIATENESS OF ANIMALS AND EQUIPMENT:** Animals shall be hitched to an appropriate vehicle for the class entered, and should be clean and well groomed. We recommend rolled manes for HITCH CLASSES. All harness should be clean and in good repair.

32. **SHOW DRESS:** The drivers and assistants are asked to dress in appropriate, neat and clean attire and present their entry with clean equipment in a safe condition.
33. **ARENA PERSONNEL:** No persons shall be permitted in the ring during the time of the judging of performance classes EXCEPT the judge, ring steward, official photographer, and one groom or header for each exhibit. Those involved with pattern setup may also be in the arena.
34. **INTERFERENCE WITH SHOW:** Any exhibitor, assistant, spectator or other persons 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.
35. **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:** There will be 4 performances; Friday afternoon, Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon and Sunday. Check schedule for details related to time and class offerings.
36. **GATE HOLDS:** All entries must be ready well in advance of class time to avoid delays. 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. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to advise the gate attendants if they will need a gate hold.
37. **JUNIOR DRIVERS:** Junior drivers must be between the ages of 6 and 18 and be accompanied by an adult into each class. Specifically, they must turn 9 during the show year and be 18 or under as of January 1 of the show year. The signature of the parent/guardian of the exhibitor on the entry form indicates the youth possesses the skills to safely handle the horse(s) for the class being entered. The Juniors may be broken into two age groups: 6 through 12 and 13 through 18.
38. **CLASS/DRIVER CHANGES:** Adding/changing classes will NOT be permitted after 1:00 on the Friday prior to the show. Show secretary must be informed of any changes of drivers by 9:00 a.m. the day of the class. All changes will be taken by the show secretary or her representative in the **HORSE SHOW OFFICE** (small building to the south of the Blue Ribbon Pavilion).
39. **SHOW OFFICE:** The Show Office will be Open Thursday 2PM – 4PM and on Friday at 10AM. There will be a sign posted on the Office door with hours and phone contacts.
40. **CLASS CANCELLATIONS:** Classes with less than 3 participants may be cancelled. Exhibitors will be notified prior to the show of any cancellations.
41. **GENERAL SHOW CLASS JUDGING CRITERIA:** (Unless Listed In SPECIFIC Class Guidelines)
  - 1) **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 of hitch from awards.)
  - 2) **WAY OF GOING:** All animals must pull evenly in the traces; heads up, even and traveling straight ahead; no fighting the bit, lagging behind 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.
  - 3) **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.
  - 4) **DRIVING:** How well the driver handles the horses and lines. Hitches may be made up of horses owned by one or more exhibitors.
42. **SPECIFIC CLASS JUDGING CRITERIA:**
  - 1) **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.
  - 2) **DRIVING CLASSES** will be judged on: Driving (50%); Way of Going (40%); Presentation (10%) unless otherwise stated in the Class Description.
43. **JUNIOR CLASSES:** Horses/mules and wagon are provided for youth to drive in the Junior Team. Exhibitors must provide their own animals and cart for the Open Junior Cart and Junior Classic Cart Class classes.

44. **HITCH CLASS REQUIREMENTS:** Each of the exhibitors in the HITCH CLASS entries **must drive in ALL DESIGNATED HITCH CLASSES (7) 15% of earnings will be deducted for each class scratched and that money split between the other Hitch entries.**

**DESIGNATED HITCH CLASSES**

- 1) Gelding 6 Horse Conformation Classic Series Class – Friday - REQUIRED
- 2) 6 Horse Conformation RAIL CLASS – Saturday - REQUIRED
- 3) 6 Horse Conformation RAIL CLASS – Sunday – REQUIRED
- 4) Classic Series Cart Rail Class - REQUIRED
- 5) 4- Horse Conformation - REQUIRED
- 6) Unicorn - REQUIRED
- 7) Team – REQUIRED
- 8) **JUNIOR CART/CLASSIC SERIES JUNIOR CART: THIS IS NOT A REQUIRED CLASS!**

The JR. Cart Class will be a sanctioned NASHHCS class AND IS A DRAFT ONLY CLASS. The driver must be driving a Belgian, Percheron, Shire or Clydesdale. 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 Jr. Driver must register with the NASHHCS to compete in this class and be considered for NASHHCS scholarships. There are no membership dues for Jr. Drivers. To register and for rules visit [naclassicseries.com](http://naclassicseries.com). Judges 100% on driver's ability. Style of horses and equipment are NOT to be considered. Exhibitors must provide their own horses and cart. (Rail Class) **TO SIGN UP FOR THIS CLASS THE HITCH ENTRY FORM MUST BE USED.**

45. **DESIGNATED OPEN CLASSES WITH DESCRIPTIONS –**

**No Hitch Cross Entries**

- 1) **ANTIQUÉ/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 other similar elements. This class is open to any driven equine. No Hitch Wagons that are shown in the HITCH CLASSES are allowed nor are cross entries with HITCH CLASS exhibitors. (Rail class)
- 2) **\*CANADIAN MAZE I:** This class is 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 under control at all times. 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 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 under control at all times. 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) **\*DRIVING WITH PRECISION AND CONTROLLED SPEED:** The objective of this event is to drive a team through and around obstacles simulating driving through a town to make a delivery on time and safely. One safety assistant will accompany the driver. The Show will provide identical wagons. The course may include, but is not limited to, such obstacles 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 tie-breaker. Time in the course area is restricted to THREE (3) minutes. 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 are to negotiate the course as quickly as possible without breaking out of a working/extended trot. Walking is considered a break in gait. Loping is not allowed. **NOTE: This class is one of the four designated as a Master Teamster class. It may be entered as an individual Open Class or as part of the Master Teamster.**

- 5) **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.
- 6) **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)
- 7) **FOUR UP DRIVING COMPETITION:** This is designed for any horses or mules in harness. Judged on 50% Driving, 40% Way of Going, 10% Presentation (Pattern Class) required)
- 8) **GAMBLERS CHOICE CART:** 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. Obstacles may include 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. Each obstacle may be driven twice but not in succession. If driven a third time no points will be awarded. 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 was committed to the last obstacle at the signal will be left to the discretion of the judge.  
Placing will be determined on a high score basis. Time will decide ties. If a tie occurs in both points and time, the winner will be decided by a driveoff.  
Cantering is permitted.
- 9) **HORSE/MULE STREET CLASS: This is TEAM rail class designed for the participant with any horses in harness who uses them for hay rides, 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.**
- 10) **\*LOG SKIDDING:** Skidding two 16-foot 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. There is a 5-minute time limit for the course. 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. **NOTE: This class is one of the four designated as a Master Teamster class. It may be entered as an Individual Open Class or as part of the Master Teamster.**
- 11) **\*OBSTACLE COURSE:** The objective of this event is to drive a team through and around obstacles simulating a farm situation. One safety assistant will accompany the driver. 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 tie-breaker. Time in the course area is restricted to five minutes. 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 is one of the four designated as a Master Teamster class. It may be entered as an individual Open Class or as part of the Master Teamster. If entered as Master Teamster, the driver will be assessed on hooking and unhooking.**

- 12) **PLEASURE CART:** 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 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)
  - 13) **YOUTH CART:** Youth must be between the ages of 6 and 18 as of January 1st of the show year. **This is for the Open Class Youth only. 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. There will be no cross entries. There are no Classic Series membership dues for Jr. Drivers. To register and for rules visit [naclassicseries.com](http://naclassicseries.com).** Judges 100% on driver's ability. Exhibitors must provide their own horses/mules and cart. (Rail Class)
  - 14) **SIX UP DRIVING COMPETITION:** 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)
  - 15) **EIGHT UP DRIVING COMPETITION:** 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.
  - 16) **EIGHT UP 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 of from awards.) **(A rider deemed competent by the driver is required)** (Pattern Class and Rail Class)
46. **OPEN CLASS MASTER TEAMSTER CLASSIC: For 2023, The Master Teamster events may be entered by OPEN CLASS exhibitors only. 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:**
1. OPEN CLASS exhibitors wishing to compete in the Master Teamster will pay a \$50 Entry Fee.
  2. The entry fees 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. \*\*\*\*FOUR Classes are required and must be completed by each contestant.
  4. An exhibitor is required to use the same team for all 4 classes.
  5. MDHMA equipment will be provided and must be used.
  6. 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.
  7. A rider (SWAMPER) is required for each entry. This person may assist in heading the animals. The rider (SWAMPER) may not communicate with driver except when necessary for safety.
  8. Youth may enter and the same rules apply.
  9. An order of go will be established and followed.

10. All classes have a designated course to follow.
11. **MASTER TEAMSTER CLASSES INCLUDE:**
  - A. **PRECISION DRIVING/OBSTACLE COURSE: SEE CLASS DESCRIPTION UNDER OPEN CLASSES.** In addition to faults, scoring will include Way of Going, Driving and Presentation. \* This class will be used to assess hooking and unhooking skills.
  - B. **DRIVING WITH SPEED/CANADIAN MAZE I: SEE CLASS DESCRIPTION UNDER OPEN CLASSES.** In addition to faults and time, scoring will include Way of Going, Driving and Presentation.
  - C. **DRIVING FOR WORK/ LOG SKIDDING: SEE CLASS DESCRIPTION UNDER OPEN CLASSES.** Scoring will include faults and will also include Way of Going, Presentation, and Driving.
  - D. **PRECISION DRIVING WITH CONTROLLED SPEED: SEE CLASS DESCRIPTION UNDER OPEN CLASSES.** Scoring will include faults and also Way of Going, Presentation and Driving.
12. **JUDGING CRITERIA FOR MASTER TEAMSTER CLASSES**
  - A. **WAY OF GOING:** Animals pull evenly in the traces; heads up, even and traveling straight ahead; no fighting the bit, lagging behind 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 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.

**47. HITCH AND OPEN CLASSES**

**MAY BE ENTERED BY BOTH HITCH AND OPEN CLASS EXHIBITORS**

- 1) **JUNIOR TEAM:** Judged 100% on driver's ability. Style of horses and equipment are not to be considered. Juniors must be between the ages of 9 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 be at a walk at all times for youth 6 – 12; horses may trot for youth age 13-18. A course will be provided for each age group. Horses/mules and wagon will be provided. Adult teamster 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)
- 2) **NEW HITCH/OPEN CLASS - AMATEUR 4 HORSE DRIVING**  
 Amateur Four Driving class has been set up to encourage new drivers. The definition of an Amateur Four Driver is any driver who has never shown a six-horse hitch in competition and never won a four-horse competition at any show. The driver competing in the Four Horse Amateur class cannot enter any other four and six horse competitions. Horses may be entered in both. The class will be judged 100% on driving ability. Drivers will be drawn for position. Drivers will be given a specified test. Matching should not be considered in judging. Class to be judged on the responsiveness and smoothness of the hitches in completing the course. See **Premiums for Prize \$**

---

**PREMIUMS**

Recognition will be given to the first five places in the classes listed below. Premium money to be awarded as listed. Any animal deemed unworthy of placing shall not be awarded a Premium.

**OPEN CLASSES**

**SINGLE HORSE/MULE 1<sup>ST</sup>** = 90, 2<sup>ND</sup> = \$75, 3<sup>RD</sup> = \$60, 4<sup>TH</sup> = \$45, 5<sup>TH</sup> = \$40

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

**TWO HORSE/MULE CLASSES** 1<sup>ST</sup> = \$110, 2<sup>ND</sup> = \$95, 3<sup>RD</sup> = \$85, 4<sup>TH</sup> = \$70, 5<sup>TH</sup> = \$60

Antique/Unique Vehicle - Canadian Maze I - Canadian Maze II - Obstacle Driving - Log

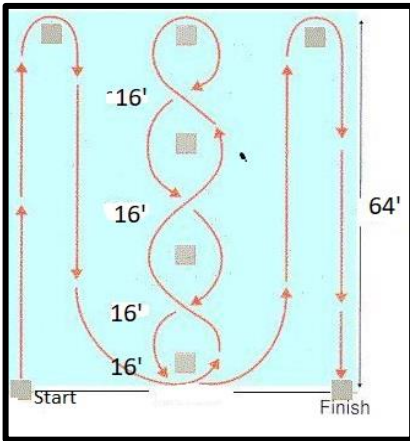
Skidding – Driving with Precision & Controlled Speed - Horse / Mule Street Class

**FOUR HORSE/MULE CLASSES** 1<sup>ST</sup> = 190, 2<sup>ND</sup> = \$165, 3<sup>RD</sup> = \$140, 4<sup>TH</sup> = \$115, 5<sup>TH</sup> = \$90

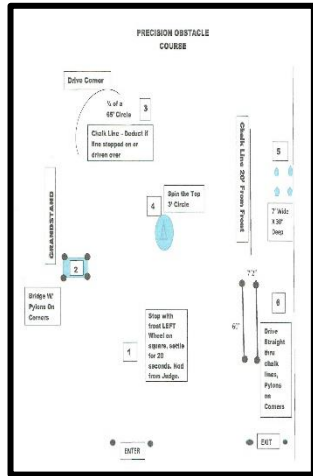
Four Horse Driving - Four-Abreast



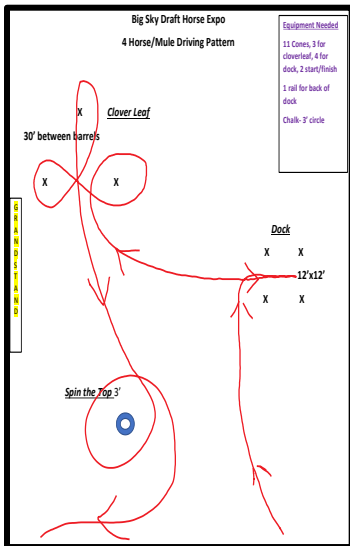
## Precision Driving With Controlled Speed



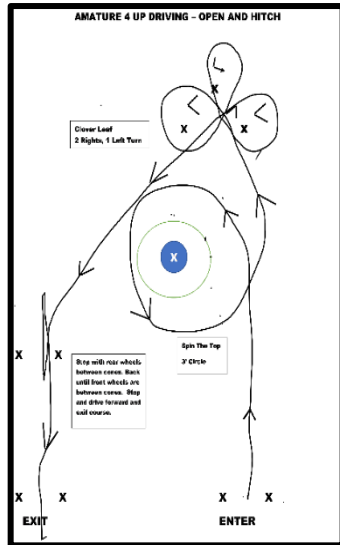
## Precision Obstacle Course



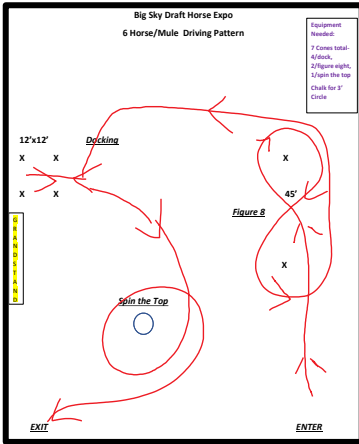
## 4 Up Driving



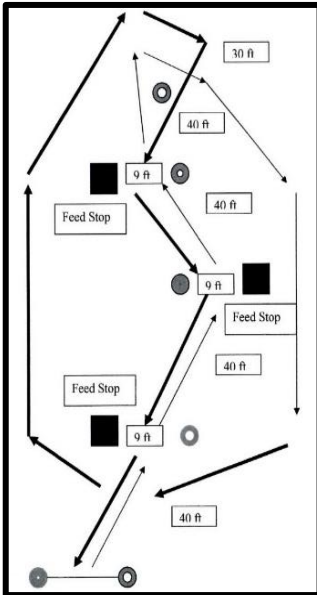
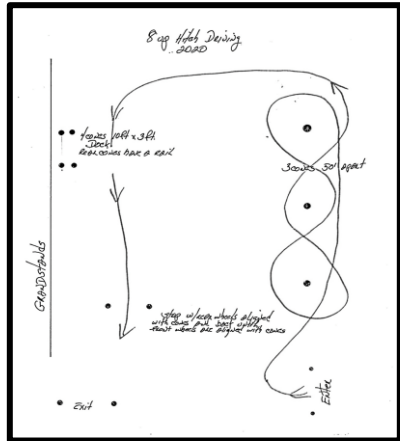
## Amateur 4 Up Driving



## 6 Up Driving



## 8 Up Driving

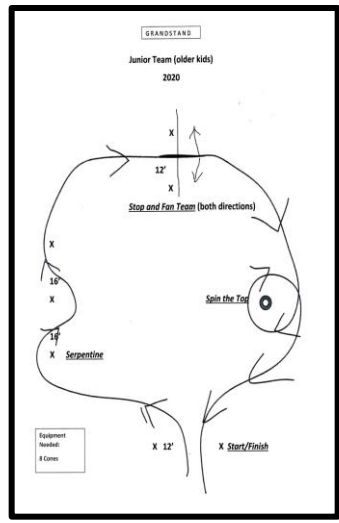
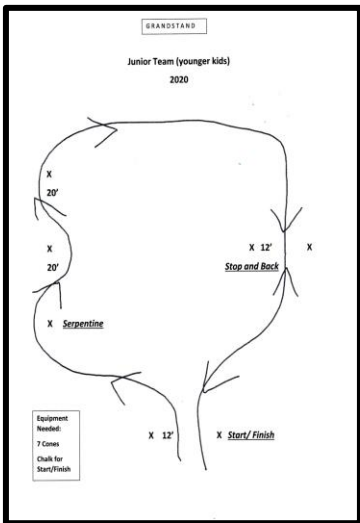
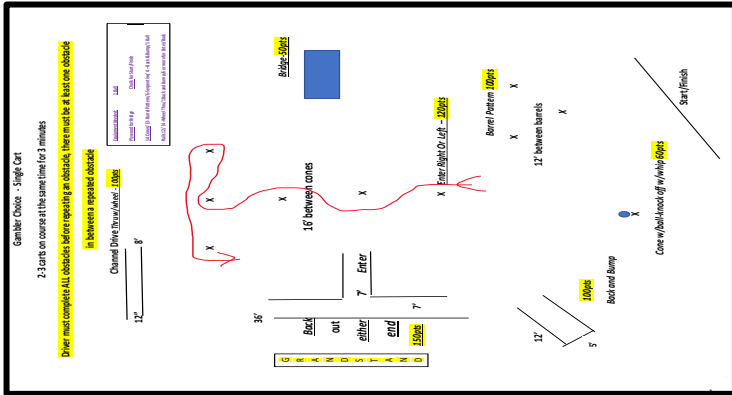


### FEED TEAM RACE

**OBJECTIVE:** Drive a team through and around the course stopping at three Feed Stations to pick up and drop off feed.

- PATTERN:** Feed must be picked up or dropped off at each of the Feed Stations. After Feed is loaded on the wagon, the team proceeds to the end of the course, makes a right turn around the end cone and then proceeds to make a complete circle around the cone. After making the circle, the team will again make a right turn around the end cone then unload 2 bags of feed at one Feed Stop, the bucket of water at another Feed Stop and, at the final Feed Stop, one bag of feed and one salt block before crossing the Finish Line. The Team must stay inside the course, pass between the cones at the Start and Finish Line and between the plywood and cone at each of the Feed Stops.
- ELEGIBILITY:** Each team of horses may compete only once. Each competitor may compete once as the Driver and once as the Swamper.
- TIME:** Starts and stops when the neck yoke passes of the Start/Finish Line.
- SPEED:** Teams must be kept at a walk or trot. Five penalty points will be added to the Driver's score each time the team breaks into a lope.
- LOADING & UNLOADING:** Team must be completely stopped as feed is placed on or taken off the wagon. Five (5) penalty points will be added to the Driver's score if the team is not completely stopped at each Feed Station.
- DRIVER & HELPER:** Both people must ride on the wagon except when loading and unloading feed when only the Swamper may get off the wagon. Both must be on the wagon before team **STOPS** or **STARTS**. Five (5) penalty points will be added to the Driver's Score if both are not on the wagon when the wagon is moving.
- FEED:** Twenty (20) penalty points will be added for each bag or salt block broken. 20 points will also be added should the water in the bucket be lower than marked line on the bucket.
- PLACEMENT OF FEED:** At each Feed Stop the feed must be placed completely on the plywood square. If any part of the feed is not on the square, a five (5) point penalty will be added to the Driver's score. A possible 10 points may be added if there are **two items unload and neither is totally on the square**.
- ACCIDENTAL LOSE OF FEED:** If a feed item falls from the wagon, 10 penalty points will be added to the score.
- PATTERN BREAKS:** The competitor will be disqualified if s/he is off course.

# Gamblers Choice



## 2023 BIG SKY DRAFT HORSE EXPO SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**10:00AM - FRIDAY JUNE 23 PRESHOW EVENT** - Horse Drawn Equipment Demos –  
 Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site Visitors' Center

### FRIDAY JUNE 23 FIRST PERFORMANCE

- 3:00PM National Anthem and Presentation Of Colors
- 3:10 PM Teamster Precision Obstacle – (Open & Master Teamster)

3:40PM Take Down Filler  
 3:50PM Classic Series Geldings Six Horse Conformation- (Hitch)  
 4:20PM Mule & Horse Street Class – (Open)  
 4:40PM Kids Stick Horse Race with Randee  
**4:55PM** Unicorn – Hitch  
**5:15PM** Filler  
 5:25PM Pleasure Cart (Open)  
**5:45PM** Classic Series Cart (Hitch)  
**6:05PM** Filler  
**6:15PM** 8 Up Driving & Conformation (Open)  
**6:30PM** **VISIT THE BARNS, EXPO B-B-Q & MUSIC Open to the public**

**SATURDAY JUNE 24 SECOND PERFORMANCE**

9:30AM Presentation Of Colors and National Anthem  
 9:40 AM Teamster Driving for Work - Log Skidding (Open & Master Teamster)  
 10:10AM Filler Take Down & Set Up  
 10:20AM Youth Team (Open & Hitch)  
 10:50AM Filler Take Down  
 11:00AM Team (Hitch)  
 11:30AM 4 Abreast (Open)  
 12:00PM Classic Series Jr. Cart (Hitch)  
 12:20PM Youth Cart (Open)  
 12:40PM **DRAFT HORSE 101 - LEARN ABOUT DRAFT HORSES & INTERMISSION**

**SATURDAY JUNE 24 THIRD PERFORMANCE**

1:30PM Grand Entry – Hall Of Fame Awards & Youth Scholarship Awards  
 2:00PM Canadian Maze II (Open)  
 2:20PM Canadian Maze I– (Open & Master Teamster)  
**2:40PM** Classic Series Six Horse Conformation (Hitch)  
**3:10PM** Filler For Set Up  
**3:20PM** Precision Driving and Controlled Speed (Master Teamster and Open)  
 3:50PM Kids Boot Race with Randee – Take Down  
 4:05PM 4 Horse Conformation (Hitch)  
 4:35PM Filler – Set Up  
 4:45PM 4 Horse Amateur Driving (Hitch & Open)  
 5:15PM 4 Up Driving (Open)  
 5:45PM **VISIT THE BARNS, EXPO BAR-B-Q & MUSIC OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
 6:30PM **HALL OF FAME DINNER – BY INVITATION**

**SUNDAY JUNE 25 FOURTH PERFORMANCE**

10:00AM Cowboy Church With Katy and Clay Law  
 11:00AM Grand Entry – Big Sky Awards, & Master Teamster Award  
 11:30AM Feed Team Race (Open)  
 11:50AM Filler – Take Down  
 12:00PM Antique/Unique Vehicle (Open)  
 12:20PM Take Down Filler  
 12:30PM Classic Series Six Horse Conformation (Hitch)  
 1:00PM Kids Pole Bending (Setup)  
 1:15PM 6 Horse Driving (Open)  
 1:45PM Filler Take Down & Set Up  
 1: 55PM Gamblers Choice (Open)  
**2:15PM FINALE!! 10 HORSE HITCH DEMONSTRATION**