



[www.Region4FallFestival.com](http://www.Region4FallFestival.com)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who can participate in the show?

The show is meant to provide an additional opportunity for exhibitors in all areas of the country to showcase their Missouri Fox Trotting Horses.

### What are Open Gaited Breed classes?

Open Gaited Breed (OGB) classes are open to all gaited horse breeds. OGB classes will use the MFTHBA Rule Book descriptions for classes but will replace "Optional Gait" for the fox trot in the class call list. The horse should perform the appropriate gait for the horse's breed.

### What are performance classes?

The classes not designated Open Gaited Breed fall into what the MFTHBA refers to as Performance Classes. In the performance ring, Missouri Fox Trotters are judged against the breed standard for gaits. Horses compete in either two gait (flat walk and fox trot) or three gait (flat walk, fox trot, and canter) classes. Horses three and under are only eligible to show in two-gait classes. Horses competing in the Amateur division do not canter until age five.

Fox Trotters in the performance ring typically exhibit with a standard bridle including a brow band and cavesson. Saddles should be western. Horses also wear ribbons in their forelock and mane. There are exceptions to the tack described above depending on the requirements of the specific class

### What is the difference between Open, Open Amateur and Novice?

**Open:** Open classes are open to any registered Missouri Fox Trotting Horse. Entered horses must meet the age and gender requirements of the class and be registered with the MFTHBA.

**Open Amateur:** Open Amateur classes are open to any rider with a current MFTHBA amateur card. There are no restrictions on ownership of the horse. Entered

horses must meet the age and gender requirements of the class and be registered with the MFTHBA.

**Novice:** This class will use the MFTHBA Novice class description. Exhibitors may not have won a Reserve World Championship, a Reserve World Grand Championship, or 1st place in any MFTHBA Performance class, excluding Novice/Apprentice and Youth divisions. Once an individual has won an Amateur Novice or Amateur Apprentice Division Championship they may no longer show in Amateur Novice/Apprentice classes. Youth who have exhibited and won in Non-Youth performance classes may not show in this division.

### Can youth show in non-youth classes?

Yes. It is recommended that all youth age 11 & under wear an ASTM/SEI certified helmet and use an electronic wireless device while riding.

### What are the requirements for each OGB Versatility classes?

**Showmanship:** A pattern class, designed to demonstrate the exhibitor's ability to fit and show a horse at halter. The horse is merely a prop to show the ability and preparation of the exhibitor. The ideal showmanship performance consists of a poised, confident, neatly attired exhibitor leading a well-groomed and conditioned horse that performs the requested pattern with promptness, smoothness and precision. Pattern(s) should be designed to test the showman's ability to effectively present a horse to the judge.

**English Pleasure 2 Gait:** English Pleasure horses should exhibit relaxed, free flowing movement, while exhibiting correct gaits that are of proper cadence. Horses should be obedient, have a bright expression with alert ears, and should respond willingly to the rider with light leg and hand contact. The class will be judged on performance, condition and conformation.

Maximum credit shall be given to the flowing, balanced, willing horse. Horses will work both directions of the ring at the flat foot walk and optional gait (i.e. fox trot, running walk, etc.). Horses should back easily and stand quietly.

**Country Pleasure 2 Gait:** Exhibitors may compete in English or Western tack and attire, but tack/attire should not be mixed (English saddle does not go with Western bridle and attire). This class is a two gait rail class that is judged on the quality and consistency of the flat walk and optional gait (i.e. fox trot, running walk, etc.), as well manners of the horse under saddle. The horse should have a quiet nature and be responsive to the rider's commands. Horses should exhibit a relaxed, willing, free flowing, rhythmic, movement, which shows a fit horse and gives the rider the most pleasurable of rides.

**Western Pleasure 2 Gait:** The western pleasure horse works quietly exhibiting an exceptionally smooth ride without excessive action or animation yet maintaining a natural rhythm. Maximum credit is given to the flowing, balanced, rhythmic and willing horse, which gives the appearance of being fit and a pleasure to ride. Horses must work both ways of the ring at the trail walk, flat walk and optional gait (i.e. fox trot, running walk, etc.). The judge may ask for a halt on the rail to test for quietness, ask for a back on the rail, ask the horse to back clear of the line-up and/or do a 360 degree neck reined turn to the right or left. The judge may also request the reverse to be performed at the walk or optional gait. Reins must be held in one hand and cannot be changed during performance. Faults which may cause disqualification include: Changing hands or two hands on reins, more than one finger between reins or improper use of romal (see MFTHBA rules).

**Horsemanship:** Western Horsemanship is a pattern class, designed to evaluate the rider's ability, in concert with their horse, to execute a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge. Maneuvers are to be performed with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence and maintaining a balanced, functional and fundamentally correct body position. Patterns should be designed to test the horseman's ability. The ideal horsemanship pattern is extremely precise, with the rider and horse working in complete unison, executing each maneuver with subtle aids and cues. The horsemanship pattern will be a two gait pattern.

**Bareback Equitation:** Exhibitors may compete in English or Western tack and attire, but tack/attire should not be mixed.

### **What are the requirements for the Region 4 Championship class?**

Region 4 Championship horses must be owned by a MFTHBA member residing within MFTHBA Region 4. Horse must participate in at least one preliminary class to be eligible. No entry fee required to enter.

### **Will payback be provided?**

Payback will be provided in ALL classes. The Top 5 will place in all classes and high point competitions. A \$75 payback will be provided to winners in classes prior to the break. 1-\$25, 2-\$20, 3-\$15, 4-\$10, 5-\$5

Payback for championship classes will be determined as we get closer to the show.

### **When can horses arrive?**

Horses may begin arriving at 2 p.m. on Friday. All horses arriving on Friday MUST arrive at the Missouri State Fairgrounds no later than 9 p.m. This is a fairgrounds policy. Gates accessing the stall area will be locked at this time. Horses may arrive on Saturday starting at 7 a.m.

### **Do horses have to have stalls?**

Yes. All horses MUST have a stall. No tie outs. In addition, exhibitors may want to consider purchasing an extra stall for a tack stall. Trailer parking is not close to barns.

### **When should I reserve a stall?**

Stalls will be assigned on a first come first serve basis. The first barn is the most convenient to the two arenas. Exhibitors are encouraged to reserve their stalls as soon as possible. See the stall reservation form for more information.

### **Can I bring my own bedding?**

Exhibitors MUST bring their own. There is a Tractor Supply store near the grounds if you would like to purchase it after arriving.

### **What is Novice Horse?**

In Novice Horse designated classes, the horse may not have won a Reserve World Championship, a Reserve World Grand Championship, or 1st place in any MFTHBA class in the competition area of the designated class (i.e. Performance, Model, Versatility or Ranch Horse). In Versatility only, Novice designation will be applied for a specific class (i.e. Western Pleasure, Reining, etc.). A horse eligible for Novice classes as of January 1 of the current year will remain a Novice for the calendar year.

### **What horses qualify for the Novice Horse Versatility Hi Point?**

Any horse that meets the MFTHBA definition of a Novice Horse (listed above) in at least two of the primary versatility classes (western pleasure, horsemanship, English pleasure and showmanship) is eligible for the Novice Horse Versatility Hi Point. Exhibitors should indicate the horse's eligibility on the entry form. A horse may not win both the Versatility Hi Point and the Novice Horse Versatility Hi Point.