

WASHINGTON COUNTY HORSE COUNCIL DRESSAGE EVENTS
Washington County Agriculture Center 7307 Sharpsburg Pike, Boonsboro, MD

Show Coordinator: Jenn Dolan
Steward: Madeleine Wunderlich

PURPOSE: To provide a vehicle for aspiring equestrians as they set goals for the show season and develop basic training skills. We encourage all riders of any discipline and at every level to participate. Written feedback is provided at the dressage show to help make this a valuable learning experience. There are walk-trot tests for beginning riders or for green horses that are not yet ready to perform at a canter as well as more advanced tests.

ENTRY LIMITS AND DEADLINE: Each rider may show a maximum of two (2) horses or ponies with a maximum of 3 tests per mount. The show is limited to 35 dressage rides. Rides are available on a first come first serve basis. **The entry closing date is the Monday prior to show/ride-a-test day.** No emailed or late entries will be accepted. If registration is received after the limit has been reached, your check will be returned to you.

RIDE TIMES: Ride times will be emailed by no later than the Thursday night prior to the show day. Please be sure your email address is clearly printed on your registration form. Riders must be ready to enter the ring at their assigned times.

FACILITY: The dressage ring will be set up in an outdoor arena. Water spigots are available near the ring. Drinks and some prepackaged snack food may be available for purchase, but a full concession stand with hot food might not be available.

REFUND POLICY: Entry refunds will be made **ONLY** for a sick rider, sick horse, or lame horse reported to the show coordinator the evening before the show. A doctor's note for the rider or a veterinary note for the horse is required to receive a refund. There is no refund for competitors that do not notify show staff prior to the start of the competition.

DIRECTIONS:

From Frederick County: Take I-70 West. Exit Route 65 South. The Washington County Agricultural Center is approximately 7 miles down on the left.

From Western Maryland: Travel on I-70 East to Route 65 South. The Washington County Agricultural Center is approximately 7 miles down on the left.

From Pennsylvania: Travel on I 81 South to the I 70 Interchange. Follow signs for I 70 East. Exit Route 65 South. The Washington County Agricultural Center is approximately 7 miles down on the left.

From Shepherdstown West Virginia: Cross the Potomac onto Route 34 East. In Sharpsburg, Maryland, make a left onto Rt 65 North (by the gas station). Proceed past Antietam Battlefield. The Washington County Agricultural Center is approximately 4 miles up on the right.

TACK AND ATTIRE:

All riders must wear American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM) and Safety Engineering Institute (SEI) approved headgear with harness secured and boots with a heel whenever mounted.

· Any English style saddle with stirrups is acceptable. Bridles with a snaffle bit and either a plain cavesson (noseband), a dropped noseband, a flash noseband, or a figure 8 noseband made entirely of leather is mandatory. All bits must be smooth; twisted, wire, kimberwick, and pelham bits are not allowed. Martingales of any kind; bearing, side, or

running reins; any kind of horse boots or bandages; any form of blinders are not permitted. One whip no longer than 43.3 inches including lash and blunt spurs are optional.

- Rider's attire for dressage shows includes breeches or jodhpurs, boots, and a white shirt with a collar
- Fix-a-Test attire includes breeches or jodhpurs, boots and any type of shirt with a collar (polo, show shirt etc.)

ASSISTANCE:

Unauthorized assistance by a third party, whether solicited or not, that occurs after the bell has sounded to signal the start of a test and before the horse exits the arena will result in disqualification of the rider. Coaching from the side of the ring is not permitted under any circumstance. Please be respectful of the riders in the ring and keep your voice level low.

DESCRIPTION OF TESTS OFFERED:

The 2011 United States Dressage Federation tests and 2010 United State Eventing Association tests will be used. Please see the class list on the website for a copy of each test.

DRESSAGE SCORING:

Each movement is scored 0 (lowest) to 10 (highest) by the judge on the basis of quality of execution of the required movements. Score sheets with the judge's comments will be provided to each rider along with awards at the conclusion of the show.

AWARDS:

Ribbons are Awarded 1st - 3rd places. There will be a Grand Champion ribbon awarded for the highest scoring UDEF rider and the highest scoring USEA rider.

Dressage Show Tips

The judge is looking for the similar things during each test. The following are some of the basic criteria by which your ride will be judged:

- Straightness on centerline and into the transition(s)
- Balance and bending in the turns
- Clear walk and trot rhythms as well as willingness from the horse into each transition
- Free walks should allow the horse complete freedom to stretch neck forward as well as downward, clear walk rhythm, straightness on the diagonal and good ground cover.
- Halts should be straight.

The judge also gives collective marks. These are based on the overall performance during the test.

- Gaits: freedom and regularity.
- Impulsion: desire to move forward with suppleness of the back and steady tempo.
- Submission: acceptance of contact, attention and confidence.
- Rider's position: keeping in balance with horse.
- Rider's effectiveness of aids, correct bend and preparation of transitions.
- Geometry and accuracy: correct size and shape of circles and turns.