

**Adams County 4-H DRIVING RULES**  
**Edited 2002**

1. Horses/ponies/mules will be shown at a flat-footed walk, a working trot and a “trot-on” or “road trot” both ways of the ring for the reinsmanship rail class.  
Horses/ponies/mules should stand quietly and back readily.
2. The Reinsmanship Pattern class will be judged on the driver's ability to maneuver through a designated set of obstacles in an efficient and stylish manner. Obstacles may include ground pole obstacles for walk throughs or rein backs, barrels for turns, cones for serpentine or circles, chalk rings for pivots, etc.
3. To be judged on the individual and collective response of the animal to the driver's verbal and manual signals, ability of driver, the ease with which he/she puts the animal through their paces and their response, and the working relationship between the driver and animal.
4. An adult (18 or over) must accompany any 4-H member under 18 in the vehicle at all times, but should not take the reins unless necessary to control the horse/pony/mule or to prevent an accident. Vehicle should have appropriate room for two. **No one other than the designated adult and 4-H member may be in the vehicle at any time.**
5. It is the responsibility of each competitor to ensure that harness and vehicle are in good repair and structurally sound. No stirrup-type carts or sulkies will be allowed.
6. Equipment to be used: a whip suitable to vehicle, a collar or breast collar harness, a standard bridle and a snaffle or curb bit. If using a curb bit, the curb chain must meet the judge's approval. Such chains must lay flat against the jaw and must be at least 1/2" in width. Breaching or thimble brakes required. Check reins, martingales, nosebands, or blinkers may be used at the exhibitor's option. No wire curb straps, padded or covered, or any other artificial appliances will be allowed.
7. The exhibitor shall be neatly attired. The basic driver's outfit calls for a conservative shirt or blouse, pant or skirt and sturdy shoes or boots. Optional attire includes a hat or helmet, gloves, and a lap robe. English or Western show attire may be worn.
8. A designated warm up area/time will be announced.
9. The bridle should fit properly to prevent catching on a vehicle or other piece of harness and under no conditions should a bridle be removed from a horse while it is still hitched to a vehicle.
10. Horses/ponies/mules should never be left unattended while hitched.
11. A driver should never allow passengers to enter a vehicle until he/she is seated with reins in hand and must never dismount while passengers are in the vehicle.

12. The judge must excuse from competition any unsafe vehicle or any unruly horse/pony/mule. Drivers should remain a safe distance from other vehicles. Any driver endangering the safety of other participants and unable to control his/her horse/pony/mule will be disqualified.
13. All officials should be constantly on the lookout for unsafe actions by any participant or unsafe harness and vehicles and report them to management.
14. Parade or silver equipment is permitted, but shall not count over normal working equipment.
15. The method used for change of direction in the arena shall be determined by the show officials.
16. All 4-H driving exhibitors must pass the level I driving test to be eligible for the driving classes at the Adams County Fair.
17. Any horse/pony/mule entered in the driving class must be on the 4-H members ID sheet.