



DATE: April 30, 2023  
TO: Potential Horse and Pony Pullers  
FROM: State Fair Office  
RE: Invitation/Rules for 2023 State Fair Horse and Pony Pull

The 2023 North Dakota State Fair will once again feature the Horse and Pony Pulling Contest. The Pony Pull Contest will be on Saturday, July 22 at 3:00pm. The Horse Pulling Contest will be on Sunday, July 23 at 5:00 pm. If additional entry forms are needed, please make photocopies.

**This contest is being conducted under rules established by the North Dakota State Fair.**

**ENTRY FORMS:**

Entries must be received **by July 1, 2023**. Each person is only permitted to have up to two teams. ONE DAILY ADMISSION TICKET WILL BE FURNISHED PER TEAMSTER, **only if** we receive your entry by **July 1, 2023**. If you pull both events make sure that you receive admission tickets for both days. Entries will be accepted the day of the pulling contest, but admission tickets will not be furnished.

**FEE:** \$50 Per Team – Horse Pull; \$35 Per Team – Pony Pull. (Payable to: NDSF)

**PREMIUMS:**

Cash awards will be given from first to ninth place in both the horse pull and the pony pull. The following illustrates the payout structure to be used:

**Horse Pull**

First-----	\$500	Sixth-----	\$200
Second-----	\$400	Seventh-----	\$150
Third-----	\$350	Eighth-----	\$125
Fourth-----	\$300	Ninth-----	\$100
Fifth-----	\$250		

**Pony Pull**

First-----	\$350	Sixth-----	\$175
Second-----	\$300	Seventh-----	\$150
Third-----	\$250	Eighth-----	\$125
Fourth-----	\$225	Ninth-----	\$100
Fifth-----	\$200		

The North Dakota State Fair will only be paying teamsters who place in the above positions.

**TROPHIES/PLAQUES:**

Horse Pull– 1st Place to Team in Percentage, Dead Weight Pull and Best Teamster Award.

Pony Pull– 1st Place Team in Percentage and Best Teamster Award.

*\*Best Teamster Award will be determined by the judge.*

**WEIGHING ON SITE:**

The ponies will be weighed Saturday, July 23, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Horses will be weighed on Sunday, July 24, 2022 from 10:00 am to 11 a.m. Weighing will take place at the Draft Horse Barn. JUDGES WILL BE PRESENT DURING WEIGHING. There will be a MANDATORY drivers' meeting in front of the Draft Horse Barn before the weigh-in. All horse pullers are encouraged to attend.

## **NORTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR HORSE AND PONY PULL 2023 RULES**

- 1. THE DECISION OF THE JUDGE IS FINAL!**
2. The required distance to pull is 20 feet. A team must complete the 20 ft. pull to be allowed to pull the next round. The pulling lane will be 16 ft. wide marked by ropes. If a horse steps on or over a rope, the driver will lose that attempt.
3. The team will receive credit for all the inches they pull during an attempt as long as they do not foul. If they foul during an attempt, no credit will be given for that attempt and once the skid stops the judges will reset the measuring stakes accordingly.
4. A driver has three (3) minutes from the time he or she enters the pulling lane to hook up and complete the pull. Within the three minutes, he may have three (3) attempts to pull through the required distance.
5. The judges will decide when bumping or jerking is severe enough to warrant a loss of pull or disqualification.
6. A driver has the option to unhook and walk his team once during a pull. If the driver unhooks after the first attempt, he forfeits his second. The pull must be completed on the next attempt, or the partial pull formula will apply.
7. –PERCENTAGE PULL-The team that pulls the highest percentage, compared to the team's weight, will be the winner. Teams must pull at least 100% to be eligible for prize money.
8. –DEAD WEIGHT PULL - Pullers may decide which class they want to pull in. Both classes will pull at the same time. Heavies will start pulling at 4500# or whatever weight is decided at the pullers meeting.
9. The teamster may ride the skid or walk beside it at his/her own discretion.
10. All teams entered in the percentage pull, weighing under 2900#, will be figured from 2900#. ALL teams must be weighed before the pull at a pre-designated site and time. All teams are weighed on the same scale. No substitutions after teams are weighed.
11. No abusive treatment of horses. There will be no profane language, prods, or slapping used by the drivers or hookers.

12. A driver is allowed two (2) hookers. Teamster and hookers must stay behind the evener at all times. Hookers are not allowed to help the team in anyway, except in case of an emergency.
13. No puller will be allowed to change drivers while he is participating in the contest unless he is sick or injured.
14. The course will be maintained as well as possible so all teams will have the same conditions to pull. Judges reserve the right to modify the rules or to alter the pull as pulling conditions change or as safety warrants.
15. Each team will have the option one (1) time during the contest to choose the direction they wish to pull the skid. If the judges rule that there is not sufficient room to complete the pull in that direction they may not allow the switch.
16. No team of horses shall be tied together with ropes, neck yolks, extra straps, or anything other than lines while participating in a contest.
17. No person may administer a drug to a horse, either internally or externally, for the purpose of altering the performance of the horse in the contest.
18. Persons in charge may require that the exhibitor submit his horses for examination by a licensed veterinarian to determine the presence of drugs. If the vet determines that the horse(s) have received performance altering drugs, the exhibitor will be disqualified from the contest, forfeit any prize money, and barred from competition for one year.
19. The committee reserves the right to make necessary changes to the rules. If changes are necessary, they will be announced.
20. Only two (2) teams permitted per person.

### **PONYPULL**

1. A full pull distance is 10 feet.
2. A team may unhook two (2) times to complete a pull.

**TEAMS MUST BE UNDER CONTROL AT ALL TIMES.**

**THE DECISION OF THE JUDGE IS FINAL!**

## **IMPORTANT STALLING AND PASSES INFORMATION**

- You will be provided with a trailer pass for 2 days as well as stalling for your teams for a maximum of 2 nights.
- If you plan to stay longer than 2 nights, you must pay the \$10 for a trailer pass/day and \$15 per stall/night.
- If you would like a tack stall, you must add \$15 per stall, per night to your total payment.
- Your gate passes for the day of the pull are free. Any other passes must be purchased.
- All stalls must be empty at 9am on Monday, July 24.

Horse's background (include information which may be used by the contest announcer, in the show program and in contest advertising. Such as: previous contests entered, previous or current owners, training and current use of horses, breeding and registration of horses, etc. continue on back if necessary.)

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**\*\*Entry deadline—July 1, 2023.** One daily admission ticket will be furnished per teamster if we receive the entry by July 1, 2023.

**Mail to: Horse/Pony Pull, North Dakota State Fair, P.O. Box 1796, Minot, ND 58702**

EXHIBITOR LIABILITY: The NORTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR or any of the Breed Associations, State or National, participating in this show will not be responsible for any loss or damage or injury to livestock exhibited, or for any kind or nature that maybe lost or destroyed, or in any way damaged. Each exhibitor will be responsible for any injury that may be occasioned to any person, whomsoever, by any livestock owned or exhibited by him and shall indemnify the NORTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR, and Associations, or any member thereof, against all claims and demands of any kind of livestock owned or exhibited by them, or arise from the negligence of the person in charge of any such livestock. All livestock exhibited in this show will be entirely at the owner's risk. DRUG TESTING WAIVER: The NORTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR and Contest officials reserve the right to have a licensed veterinarian test your horse for drugs. ENTRY BLANK SHALL BE DEEMED ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES.

\*All out-of-state horses (except South Dakota) must have a current one-year negative Coggins Test. All animals from out-of-state must be accompanied with a certificate of veterinary inspection. If from a state affected by Vesicular Stomatitis (VS), must have an importation permit number and a statement that the animal has not been exposed to and is not showing signs of VS. To obtain permit call during business hours 701-328-2655 or after hours 701-220-5194.

*Pony Pull – Saturday, July 22 2022 at 3:00 PM*  
*Horse Pull - Sunday, July 23, 2022 at 5:00 PM*

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TOTAL \$