



Nebraska State Fair Youth Ranch Horse Mentor Matchup

The Nebraska State Fair Youth Ranch Horse Mentor Matchup was created to provide local equestrian youth an opportunity to learn and compete with relevant hands-on educational activities with their equine partner and top equine professionals. Applications will be accepted until August 1, 2026. **Read the specifications below carefully BEFORE submitting an application. By signing and submitting an application, you agree to all specifications.**

Champion Award: \$1200

Reserve Champion Award \$600

1. To be Eligible, you must:
 - a. Be between the ages of 14-21 as of January 1, 2026
 - b. Have access to a safe horse
2. Interested youth will need to submit a completed application and a video showing the rider's ability and the safety of the horse/rider.
 - a. The video should be submitted via a link on the application and be no longer than 3 minutes.
 - b. The video should show the interested youth riding the horse intended to be used in the program.
 - c. The video should include each of the following: reining maneuvers, ranch riding maneuvers, ranch trail obstacles.
3. Completed applications will be accepted until August 1, 2026 11:59 pm cst through the Nebraska State Fair website.
4. Applications will be reviewed and up to ten (10) individuals will be selected to participate and notified no later than August 10, 2026.
 - a. Selections will be based on:
 - i. Horse/rider connection and potential
 - ii. Desire to be involved in the equine industry
 - iii. Professionalism
 - iv. Humane and respectful treatment of all animals and individuals.
5. Competition
 - a. Meet the Mentors Sunday August 31, 2026 @ 7:00 pm
 - b. Competition Starts Monday September 1, 2026 @ 9:00 am
 - c. Western attire is mandatory.
 - d. Classes – subject to change
 - a. Reining
 - b. Ranch Riding
 - c. Ranch Trail

