

## Parents Guide to Schooling Shows at BuckBranch Farm

Our shows at BuckBranch Farm are called “schooling shows”. They are an opportunity to expand our students experience with horses. They are meant to be low key, fun, and instructional for both parents and students. Because they are schooling shows, there are many advantages not found in recognized shows.

- Less expensive-entries fees much less than recognized shows and no trailering expenses for the horses
- Less expensive-no special riding attire required. We do expect hair pulled back neatly or put up in a hair net, boots polished (great opportunity to teach you child this lost art), plain shirt with sleeves (no writing) that is tucked in, and a belt if the breeches have belt loops.
- Less expensive-when you register in the office the morning of the show; your entry fee check is left open. You are only charged for the classes you ride not necessarily entered.
- Educational-one of the staff is located at each arena to help the rider. We can even be in the arena with the rider to help if it is needed.
- Educational-we are available all through the process and the day of the show to answer any questions.
- Fun! We work very hard to keep the natural stress of the situation under control for all the riders. We are encouraging and positive.

Here are some frequently asked questions. Please let me know if you have any that I missed and I will add them to the list.

### **Registration and Advanced Planning:**

1. What are the show dates for the year? You will find the answer at [www.BuckBranch.com](http://www.BuckBranch.com), [www.BeckyBrownHorsemanship.com](http://www.BeckyBrownHorsemanship.com), or ask any of the staff.
2. How do I know what classes and how many to enter? The description of the classes is attached. This is a conversation that you have with your trainer prior to the show to discuss what is appropriate.
3. How to register? An email is sent about 4-6 weeks prior to the show with the entry information. It is resent each Friday before the show. You register by replying to the email and cc. Becky. You should get a confirmation email back from BuckBranch. No payment is due until the day of the show. Horse assignments are usually made closer to the show when we see who has entered so that we may balance their work load that day.
4. Why is it helpful to register early? Doing the advance paperwork for the show is a big job. Classes have to be balanced, split, and horse assignments made. The dressage classes have to be scheduled on 6 minute intervals with consideration for the riders entered in other events. The show management has a penalty for late entries to encourage everyone to have their entry in so that we can proceed with those details earlier than midnight the night before!
5. When using a school horse, you may request the one you would like. However, we cannot guarantee that will be the horse assigned the day of the show. The horses have a

big job that day and we try to be careful about balancing the workload. Horse assignments are finalized the day before the show.

\*\*Sometimes riders are assigned a horse that they haven't ridden very much or even not at all. The gentlest horses must first go to the least experienced riders. We know our riders and our horses. If you find yourself in the situation where you have an unfamiliar horse, please accept it as a compliment. It means we feel the rider is up to the task of riding that horse in the show.

6. How do I receive updates of any show changes or cancellations? We try not to cancel shows but weather is unpredictable. All entrants will receive a notice by email as soon as the decision has been made. It will be no later than the Saturday afternoon before the show on Sunday. Entries are kept in the computer so if the rider is available for the rain date, just email BuckBranch and ask that the entry be reinstated. Unless you do this, you will not be entered for that show.

### **What to expect at BuckBranch the day of the show:**

#### **Check In Etc.**

- How early should I arrive? If your ride times are at the first of the day, you should arrive about 30-45 minutes early. Duties will be registering in the office, doing any final tacking up of horse (we do most of it the day of the show if you are riding a school horse); mounting and doing a 10-15 minute warm up.
- What to expect in the show office during check in? The wait time varies but is usually longest early in the morning. When you check in you will need one check made to BuckBranch Farm. This will be for the office fee and the class fees.
- Amount will be left open. When your rider is done showing **MAKE SURE YOU BACK TO THE OFFICE TO CLOSE CHECK. Credit cards are not accepted.** You will only pay for the classes that you participated in. If you are being coached or leasing a school horse, the check will be made to Triple B and you will pay that when you first check in. Coaching for the day is \$65 and leasing of a horse for the day is \$50. After you check in, you will be given a rider number that has a string. It is tied around the rider's waist with the number facing to the back.
- After checking in if you are leasing a school horse, proceed to the school barn. There will be an assistant there to help.
- Before the show begins, warm up is available in the Ashley arena (covered) or on the prepared surfaces just west of the arena. There will be a coach at both locations to help.
- The school horses are often shared with more than one rider. We just have so many horses but we want all riders to be able to participate. If the horse is used by two riders in the same class, it is like musical chairs but we expect each rider to tag team the other and help with stirrups and mounting if they can. We will have an assistant to help as well but this is a wonderful opportunity for our riders to learn team work and sportsmanship!

#### **During the Show**

- At the entrance to the arena will be a coach and one or more assistants. The jump courses are posted at the front of the arena and an assistant will help the rider understand the course. There will also be a white board at the same location to help the rider know what class is currently running.

- Class time estimates are sent out in an email the day before the show. These are estimates only. Once the competition begins it just goes until it is done. There will be riders that scratch (decide not to compete) so exact times are impossible to predict.
- The order of riders is listed on the master sheet of the coach but if a horse is shared there is time allotted for the riders to switch. Remember we all there to have fun and enjoy the day.
- When the placing for the class is announced the rider or parent can pick up the ribbon at the gate or at the end of the day in the office.
- Champion and Reserve Champions awards will be announced at the end of the day and an email is sent a day or two later. If the rider has left for the day, the ribbon and prize can be picked up at the regular class time later in the week.

**Miscellaneous:**

1. What should I bring? We have bleachers at each arena (jumper arena in construction) but you may also bring chairs. We ask that you not bring tents or umbrellas. Horses think those are gremlins! Please bring SUNBLOCK! You may bring food and coolers. Do know we have a wonderful concession stand just outside the office with breakfast tacos, hamburger, sometimes their famous Frito Pies, hot dogs, drinks, cookies, and other surprises. Our “lunch ladies” are wonderful and love to be of help.

2. Where do I park? For cars, the grass area just north of the entrance road, west of the jumper arena. If it is muddy, we ask that you park on the verge of the rock drive.

Trailers should park on the south side of the entrance road. If you back up to the Longhorn pasture, there are water spigots available for your buckets. If muddy, please turn left just past the Longhorn pasture staying on the rock road. Then turn right at the next rock road. You may park on the verge or on the rock road. PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE CROSS COUNTRY JUMP COURSE AREA. Pull down as far as possible to allow for the other trailers that will be coming.

Handicap-We will have 3 handicap parking space designations facing the main barn. One space is reserved for the Medical Personnel.

3. Emergency services are available all day at the show with a staffed ambulance.

4. Sometimes we have a professional photographer on site. The photographer is also a rider so she knows how to get the best pictures. After the show you will receive an email if you wish to purchase photos from her.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- This is a fun educational show. All kinds of glitches happen but we refer to those as teachable moments. We encourage all parents to have our philosophy. Keep the experience light and enjoyable. Everyday should include laughter!
- There is lots of staff. Please ask questions or express concerns. We are there to help in anyway that we can.
- Don't forget to close your check at the end of your day in the office.
- We appreciate feed back at the end of the show. Constructive criticism is best done in an email so that we can continue to improve the experience for everyone.