



ON HER PONY (above), Moriah Carman, 2, waited for her turn while her father, Kendal Carman, held the rope. Mick Barth (below) walked a horse along a fence during the adult competition.

Adults and kids show off skills

The sun shined bright as the boy climbed atop the saddle and headed for the arena.

He held the reins in one hand and the other he let hang loose next to him, in correct Western riding style. He was relaxed and looking for a blue ribbon or two to start his week at the Decatur County Fair.

Isaac Carman rode the Bay horse to the first cone, walking him gently, then trotting to the next one, then loping. Then he pulled back gently on the reins to make the horse take a few steps back.

With a smile, he rode back to the gate to watch as the others did the same pattern in the dirt.

It was Saturday morning at the fairground, and the 4-H and Open Class horse show brought out 15 to 20 kids and adults to compete.

Each picked what they wanted to sign up for and prepared his or her horse for the day, brushing and saddling the mount for the show.

The kid and adults could compete in as many or as few events as they wanted.

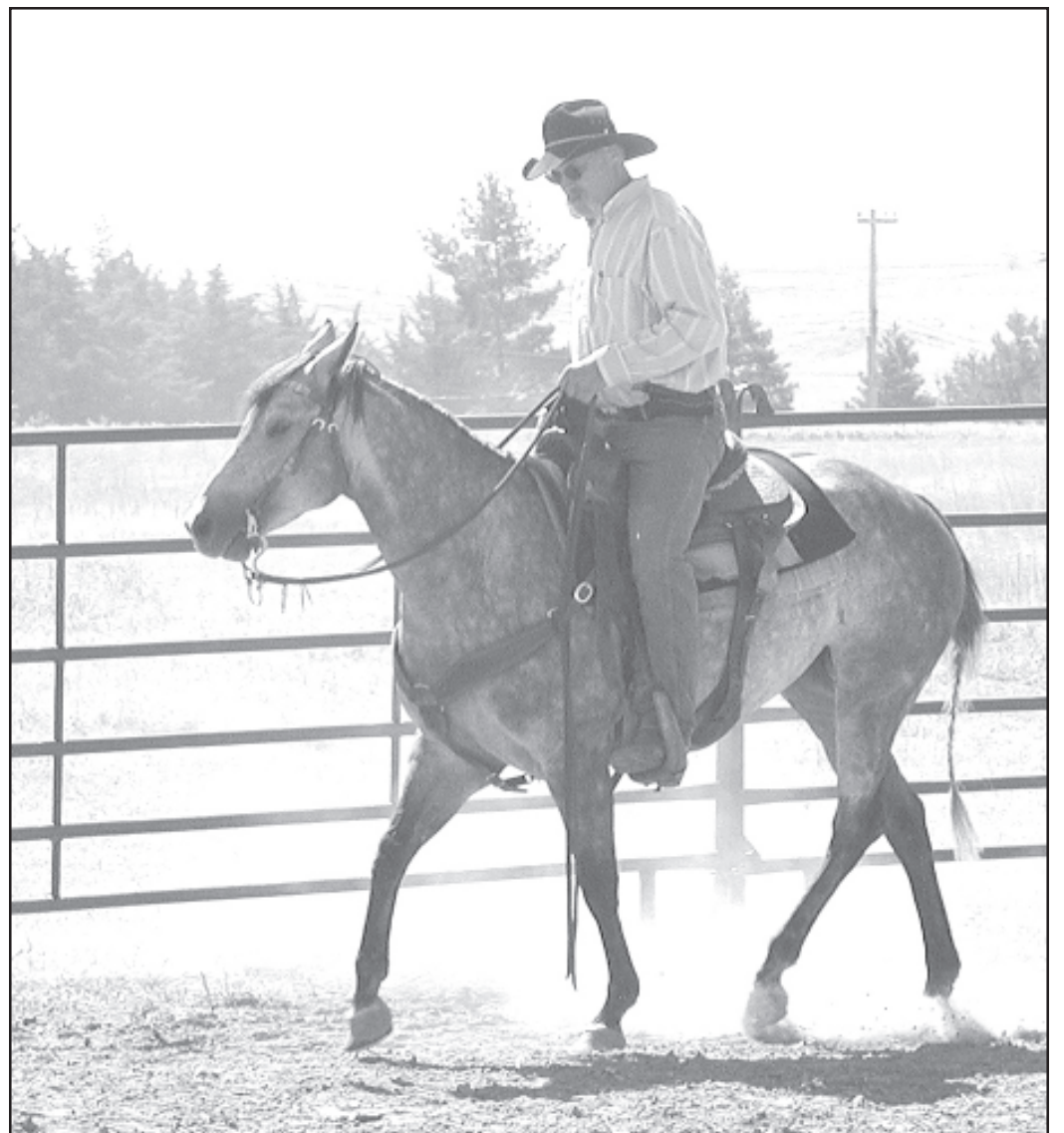
Choices included bareback horsemanship, trail, walk-trot, western pleasure, horsemanship, flag race, barrel race, pole bending, showmanship, halter, lead line and English pleasure.

The youngest to compete was

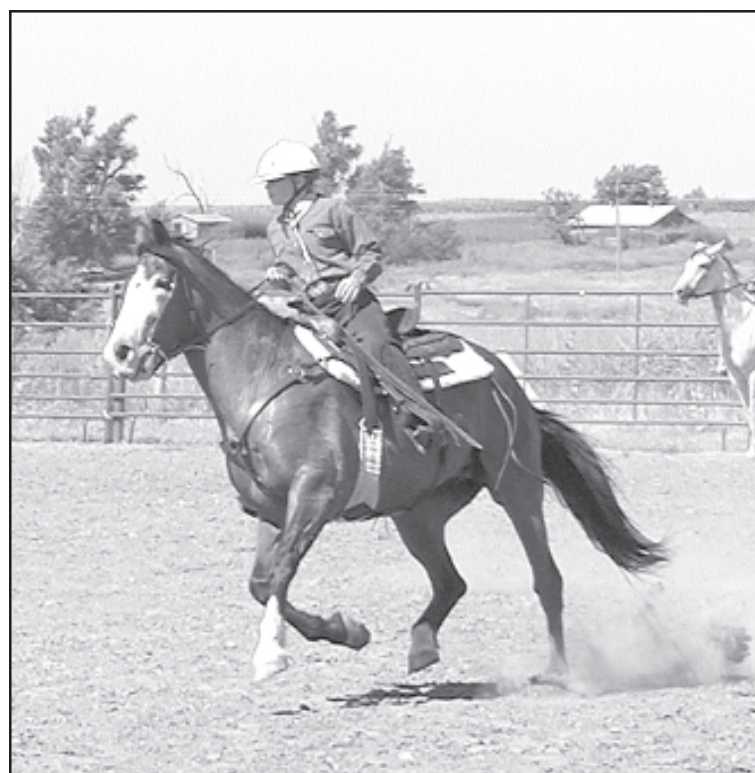
Moriah Carman, 2, who received a blue ribbon in lead line on Pistol Pete. Moriah rode the little white horse while her dad, Kendal Carman, led with a bright red rope. Moriah's father, older sister and brother all competed in the horse show.

When not competing, some of the kids and adults rode around the outside of the arena, while others sat under the announcer's box in the shade.

All of the events were broken up into age categories from 7 to 9, 14 to 18 and 19 plus. Riders received a blue, red or white ribbon for their efforts.



ISAAC CARMAN (above) started out a pattern on his horse during the 4-H and Open Class Horse Show at the Decatur County Fair on Saturday while Becca Reuther (right) let her horse lope in a circle.



Story and Photos by Kim Davis