

4-H HORSE PROJECTS

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:

Horses and ponies must be free of signs of contagious or infectious disease. Health certificates and coggins tests are not required for the Scioto County Fair or Ohio State Fair competition. Animals may be subject to vet inspection at the fair.

GENERAL RULES:

1. 4-H members must be enrolled in a Scioto County 4-H club with their equine project by April 15th, with changes being made until May 1st.
2. The age of the exhibitor is determined as of January 1, of the current year.
3. Equine projects must be in the possession and continual care of 4-H members by MAY 1st. Lease or special housing agreements need to be on file by May 1st.
4. All 4-H members must complete a horse identification form for each horse being taken as a 4-H project. 4-H'ers must indicate which project they will qualify on for State Fair on the PAS form.
5. 4-H members who lease a project must complete a 4-H Contract for Leasing a Horse and fulfill requirements to be eligible to show at the fair.
6. Horse identification forms, lease contracts, and production contracts must be turned in to the Extension Office by May 1, to be eligible to show. No exceptions.
7. As space is available, 4-H members may exhibit up to two equine projects and one production (mare and foal or yearling) project at the fair. They may enroll in as many 4-H projects as they feel they can successfully complete.
8. A 4-H member may show up to two different horses in the same speed or trail class, as long as they are enrolled in at least two different projects with those horses.
9. If a 4-H'er is exhibiting and showing a production project (mare and foal or yearling), and this project is not their only project on exhibit, or it has not been pre-approved by the Horse Committee, production projects will only be transported to the fair on the day of the show and then removed. Situations seeking exemption from this rule must be reported to the club head advisor by July 1. Head advisors will bring these limited situations before the Horse Committee for review by July 15.
10. Two members in the same family will be permitted to take the same horse as their 4-H horse project provided each individual case has been identified by May 1st. Hardship case situations will be reviewed and approved by the 4-H Horse Committee by July 15th.
11. All 4-H horse projects must be carried in an established 4-H horse club. No other projects can be carried in these clubs.

12. 4-H members unable to take a horse can take a "Horseless Project" to learn more about horses. All 4-H'ers taking the "Horseless Project" must be interviewed to complete their project. They must complete the sections of the "Horseless Project" book respective to the 4-H'er's age. Interviews will be conducted during pre-fair still project judging in July. Horseless Horse members may show another 4-H'er's horse in Horseless Project Classes at the County Fair Horse Show. Advisors should pair "Horseless" members up with a "regular" member by May 1 or as soon as possible.
13. **Cloverbud boys and girls (5 years old in kindergarten thru the 2nd grade) can be in a horse club monitored by a specific advisor(s). However, they cannot participate in any direct involvement (such as riding) with the horses according to new state guidelines. New project activities are available for use with Cloverbuds. Advisors must use this approved material. Cloverbuds wishing to participate in county fair activities must be registered for interviews by the deadline listed in the pre-fair schedule.**
14. 4-H members must attend five (5) 4-H club meetings and have completed the Safety Training before the multi-county State Fair (PAS) Qualifying Show.
15. Project animals can not be switched during the year. Potential hardship cases must be reported to the club head advisor by July 1. Head advisors will bring these situations before the 4-H Horse Committee for consideration by July 15. Applications will not be considered after this date. All applications must be accompanied by a vet certificate. Hardship cases are not considered for State Fair participation.
16. When an animal is traded or sold during the project year, the project will be counted incomplete. Members may continue to attend 4-H meetings and participate in club activities but cannot be judged in this project. To receive a fair pass (if the traded animal is their only project) these members must complete their project book, attend the specified number of meetings and exhibit a poster or educational display at the fair.
17. All animals carried as 4-H projects and those that are shown at State Fair must be owned or leased and in the continual care of the 4-H member by the date specified by the member's county. Continual care does permit boarding an animal, provided the member is involved in caring for the horse.
18. Lessons, instructions and advice for the member are encouraged. As long as the member is present in a learning situation, such assistance can include occasional riding or handling of the horse by another person, but cannot include regular training and care of the horse within 30 days of competition in any county state fair qualifying show or the state fair junior horse show. Showing a 4-H'er's project animal in a class at a show is not considered training. However, **if a project animal is shown by someone other than the 4-H'er in an open or breed show within the 30 days prior to the 4-H competition, the 4-H'er must be present and have shown the project horse in that show.**
19. Family members can ride a 4-H'er's project horse without the 4-H'er being present within the 30 day limit as long as it is not a daily occurrence and is merely for pleasure and does not include training of the horse for the show ring (i.e. trail riding with visiting relatives or friends).
20. Only the people showing an animal in a class at the 4-H fair show can ride that animal at the show. The violator and the horse will be disqualified from further participation at that show. (An exception may be made for children simply wanting to sit on or to be lead while riding the horse in a non-schooling manner.)

21. Forbidden substances or methods are not permissible. Horses must be made available for drug testing upon request of show management.
 - a. The administration of any drug affecting the central nervous system (stimulant or depressant) to a horse shown in any 4-H class is strictly prohibited.
 - b. The full use of modern therapeutic measures for the health of the horse, including the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, is permitted unless the drug may also stimulate or depress the circulatory, respiratory or nervous system. A veterinarian's certificate must be filed with show management prescribing the anti-inflammatory drug prior to showing. **All medication and treatments are subject to ODA guidelines, laws and rules.**
 - c. The use of irritants (including blisters, ginger or similar soring or pain inducing substances or devices) that affect the gait, carriage or performance of the horse are forbidden.
 - d. Any exhibitor guilty of showing an animal under the influence of any prohibited drug, using any forbidden substance or failing to file a veterinarian's certificate prior to showing will be disqualified. He or she will forfeit all winnings for the show. Additional penalties may also be given by show management, **local law enforcement & the ODA** based on the situation.
22. The judge or steward may dismiss from the ring any entry he or she feels is unruly or not in sufficient control for the safety of the handler or other exhibitors.
23. No person other than the exhibitors and show officials will be allowed in the ring while any class is being judged without permission of the show manager except in the case that the ring crew is needed.
24. The 4-H horse show must have a steward who will interpret and clarify rules. Any exhibitor wishing to discuss any matter with the judge must first contact the steward who may approve and arrange such an appointment.
25. Unsportsmanlike conduct toward judges, show management or exhibitors or physical abuse of the project horse will not be tolerated. Violators will be dismissed from the show by the show manager.
26. Western and English horse and pony sizes are as follows: a. Horse is over 58" (14-2 hands); b. Large pony is over 54" (13-2 hands); but not exceeding 58" (14-2 hands); c. Medium pony is over 50" (12-2 hands) but not exceeding 54" (13-2 hands); d. Small pony is 50" (12-2 hands) and under.
27. Horses are not permitted to show in pony classes. Once the height of the animal is established and the class (horse or pony) that the animal is to be shown in is determined, switches cannot be made. (For example, if a 4-H member's animal measures to be a pony and he or she chooses to show it in a horse class, he or she cannot switch to a pony class at any other Scioto County 4-H horse show in that calendar year.)
28. Stallions may not be shown unless a part of a production project and then only through their first calendar year. Any stallion shown must be born on or after January 1, of the current year.

29. Any horse under five years of age may be ridden two handed with a snaffle or hackamore bit in any western class. Proof of the horse's age is the burden of the rider.
30. Procedures for handling horse show complaints and protests are as follows:
- a. **Any individual wishing to discuss any matter with the judge must first contact the steward. Arrangements for a meeting and discussion with the judge will be made through the steward and at his or her discretion. Anyone who fails to abide by this rule is subject to disciplinary action.**
 - b. Complaints will be handled through the show steward, who will clarify rules and arrange for the exhibitor to visit with the judge if they think the request is justified.
 - c. If any complaint cannot be resolved at the steward level, a written protest should be filed with show management.
 - 1). Protests must be made in writing and signed by at least two parties filing the protest.
 - 2). A \$50 fee must accompany the protest. The fee will be retained by the show management and used to pay the costs of investigating the protest.
 - 3). The protest and fee must be filed with the show manager the same day of the show. The protest will be considered at the time designated by the show manager and will include the accused, the accuser, and Extension representative, Senior and Junior Fair Representative and any other needed parties. If any party cannot attend, a representative must be sent.
 - 4). **A judge's decision on how a class is placed or a decision on disqualification of an exhibitor based on their interpretation of the rules for that class, shall not be protested. Any questions and/or disputes must be settled prior to the judge leaving the fairgrounds. All judge's decision's are final.**
 - d. **The show manager and other 4-H management authorities have the right to prohibit an exhibitor from showing if there is evidence that the exhibitor (or someone acting on their behalf) has violated 4-H horse show rules that would make the exhibitor ineligible to show.**
31. Appropriate riding footwear must be worn while riding and/or handling horses.
32. Any advisor has the right to halt a rider who is riding in an unsafe manner (i.e. "cowboying" or "doubling", etc.). The rider will get down from the horse, walk the horse back to the barn and place the horse in its stall. The advisor will then notify the member's advisor and the 4-H agent. Continual disregard for this role can result in loss of riding privileges during fair.
33. **It is highly recommended that youth wear protective head gear at all times while riding a horse. Protective head gear is acceptable in any 4-H class even if it is not the style that goes with a certain class. When buying protective head gear, the buyer should look for the letters ASTM and SEI which indicates that the head gear has met safety standards.**

34. **All 4-H horse project members must enroll in project #191R (Horse Safety Book) their first year.** It must be taken at least one year, however, advisors may require “refresher courses” or re-enrollment at their discretion. Advisors must keep records of who has enrolled in this project each year. Records should be maintained for reference as long as the member is eligible to enroll in a 4-H horse project. Records (or a copy of the signature sheet on the back page of the safety book) will be used to verify the member’s enrollment and education on proper safety procedures.
35. The 4-H, Horse Committee, Agricultural Society and County 4-H Extension Professionals shall have the authority to interpret and enforce **all** rules according to the best interests of 4-H members and those concerned. These Committees and the 4-H Professional will determine the eligibility of any youth in question. Scioto County rules and Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows revised 2000, will be followed. All decisions will be final.
36. **All livestock exhibits must be in place in their assigned space by the time specified on the fair schedule. All animals must stay until midnight Friday of the fair. Horses can leave after midnight Friday until 6:00 a.m. on Saturday of the fair. If not removed before 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, they must remain until midnight Saturday of the fair.**

4-H Member’s Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date