

DEPARTMENT J-E – HORSES AND PONIES – ENTRY RULES

1. Jr. Fair Judging will be in accordance with publication No. 179 – Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows.
2. **All youth age 19 and under, participating in any 4-H equestrian activity, are required to wear properly fitted protective headgear which meets or exceeds current ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards with the chin harness securely fastened at all times while riding or driving an equine. It is the responsibility of the rider, or the parent or guardian of the youth participant, to make sure that the headgear worn complies with appropriate safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrian use and is properly fitted and in good condition. The Ohio 4-H Horse Program, Show Committees, Officials, Extension Personnel and Volunteer Leaders are not responsible for checking headgear worn for such compliance.
**The Ohio 4-H Horse Program, Show Committees, Officials, Extension Personnel and Volunteer Leaders make no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, about any protective headgear, and cautions riders that death or serious injury may result despite wearing such headgear, as no helmet can protect against all foreseeable injuries in equestrian activities.
**The Ohio 4-H Horse Program, Show Committees, Officials, Extension Personnel and Volunteer Leaders may, at his/her discretion, check a participant's protective headgear for proper standards. If the youth is found to be wearing unapproved, defective, or improperly fitted headgear, he/she will not be permitted to participate in riding or driving activities until proper headgear is acquired.
3. Any complaints or protests must be filed according to The Ohio State University Extension Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows No. 179R article 20 under General Rules on pg. 8 which states as follows:
 - A. Complaints will be handled through the show steward, who will clarify rules and arrange for the exhibitor to visit with the judge if the steward feels the request is justified.
 - B. 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 the party or parties making the protest.
 - 2) A \$100.00 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, an Extension 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 the judge's interpretation of the rules for that class, shall not be protested.
 - C. The show manager has the right to prohibit an exhibitor from showing if there is evidence that the exhibitor has violated 4-H horse show rules that would make the exhibitor ineligible to show.
4. Judges' decision is final and non-disputable.
5. Unsportsmanlike conduct towards judges, show management or exhibitors, or physical abuse of the project horse will not be tolerated. Violators will be dismissed from the show and/or subject to further actions.
6. The judge will dismiss from the ring, any entry he/she feels is unruly or not in sufficient control for the safety of the handler or other exhibitors.
7. Health requirements for the Horse Department are found in the front of the fair book.
8. All Junior Fair horse members, while at the fair, are governed by Jr. & Sr. Fair Board.
9. Any Exhibitor, parent or advisor that suspects any horse to be given any substance that is not legal must let a senior fair board member know and the senior fair board member will address the situation.
10. The project grade will be determined by considering the performance abilities of the members.
11. All divisions of English Showmanship, English Equitation, Western Showmanship, Western Horsemanship, Ranch Showmanship and Ranch Horsemanship classes will be graded A+, A, B, or C.
12. Specialty classes and Horseless Horse classes will be placed 1-5 like a regular show and will NOT receive grades.
13. Walk-Trot classes are considered specialty classes. Walk-Trot exhibitors are not eligible for any other canter/lope classes and not eligible for Championship classes.
14. All divisions of English Showmanship, English Equitation, Western Showmanship, Western Horsemanship, Ranch Showmanship and Ranch Horsemanship Championship classes are filled with those who have received an A+ in their appropriate class. Draft Showmanship, Intermediate Western Reining and all divisions of Barrels, Poles, Keyhole and Stakes Championship classes are placed on qualifying run and best score or time.
15. Only one premium will be paid per project animal.
16. Every equine exhibitor is required to enter fair classes online using FairEntry. Permission to participate form will be uploaded in FairEntry. Horse ID, lease papers and photos will also be uploaded to FairEntry.

Deadline is June 1!

17. **Each horse must have an ID and 4 current year photos of the animal.** The photos should be a view that shows the full body, face and all 4 legs with no saddle: 1 photo of each side, the front and back views.
18. Exhibitor may enter a maximum number of two (2) light horses or ponies or two (2) draft horse/pony or two (2) small equine or a combination of the three types up to but not more than three (3) projects in the Jr. Fair Horse Show. *(For example: 2 light horse and 1 draft or 2 light horse and 1 small equine or 2 draft and 1 light horse or 2 small equine and 1 draft.)* If the draft project is shown in any draft horse/pony class, they are not eligible to show in any other class that is not designated as a draft class. The draft project will be eligible for all draft classes and therefore may be part of a team. The team will be entered under the one project horse or pony only. The draft that completes the team is only used in the team and is not considered an individual project.
19. Exhibitors may not show the same horse in Ranch and Western Showmanship, Ranch and Western Horsemanship, Ranch and Western Pleasure or Ranch Riding and Western Pleasure. That horse doesn't necessarily need to show only all Ranch or all Western. For example, an exhibitor can show their horse in Western Showmanship and then show that same horse in Ranch Horsemanship.
20. Members will show in classes by age and number of years in 4-H/FFA horse projects.
21. Members must enter a minimum of 2 classes per project with no limit on the number they wish to enter.
22. Each equine project must have a minimum body condition score of 4 and not over 7 to exhibit at the Wood County Fair. **Saturday around 8 p.m. before the fair begins all exhibitors must be at their horse stalls for a mandatory horse body condition check. Horse may be excused from fair if not meeting the BCS requirements.**
23. An obviously sick equine, or with a Grade 3 or greater lameness (consistently observable at the trot; marked nodding, hitching, or shortened stride; and minimal weight bearing in motion or at rest) will not be allowed at 4-H horse shows.
24. It is mandatory that all ponies (and miniature horses to be shown in pony classes) are to be measured. Ponies 5 years and older will receive a permanent Wood County Pony Measurement Card and ponies under the age of 5 years will receive a temporary card (must be measured every year until age 5). As long as the exhibitor has the permanent card, the pony does not need to be re-measured. If the card is lost, the pony must be measured again. All ponies must be measured to receive the measurement card or will not be eligible for a championship award. The pony championship awards available are for the following classes: Pony Stakes Race, Pony Poles, Pony Keyhole Race, and Pony Barrels. **A copy of the measurement card must be submitted with the exhibitors' Fair Entry Form.** Animals will be measured by a committee of 4-H Advisors. Official measuring is scheduled for **Qualifying show day** from **8-9:30 a.m.** and **12-2 p.m.** If an exhibitor is absolutely unable to attend this date, it is their responsibility to make arrangements with the measurement committee to have the animal measured no later than July 10th. **No late measurements will be accepted!** Horses will be designated as those animals over 58 inches. Ponies will be designated as those animals 58 inches and under. Horses and ponies must be entered in the proper class according to the animal's height.
25. All members showing Western, or Ranch projects shall wear a white or solid color dress shirt or blouse of western style with a collar and at least a 4-inch sleeve with no colored trim or logo larger than the size of a quarter, dark blue jeans, a helmet, or western hat (Showmanship), and western boots. Ties and scarves are optional. Members showing English must dress according to the Uniform Rule book. Jackets are optional according to the judge, but shirt must have at least a 4-inch sleeve if no jacket is worn. Chaps are optional in all classes. All riding and driving classes require the exhibitor to wear an ASTM or SEI safety helmet.
26. Appropriate attire shall be worn for the Pee Wee classes. Pee Wee's receive participation ribbons only. Pee Wee entries will be made at the same time as other entries are due. (The Pee Wee Classes are sponsored by the Wood County Agricultural Society and not the 4-H program.)
27. Each individual will be assigned a number and must have the number displayed on his/her back or both sides of the saddle to be judged or will be disqualified.
28. In case of hardship, any horse changed after June 1st is not eligible for Championship Classes at the Wood County fair.
29. A Coggins Test will not be required for the Wood County Fair.
30. All horse projects must be in place by **Saturday, 7 p.m.** (day prior to the first day of the fair) unless approved by the Horse Superintendent. **Projects will be released at 9:00 p.m., Sunday,** or when approved by the Horse Superintendent.
31. No hay is to be stored in or around the horse barn.
32. Barn aisle ways should be kept neat and clean at all times.
33. All horses are stalled in a box stall for the fair.
34. Horses must have a halter on at all times while in the stall.
35. No tying horses to the front or side bars of the box stalls. Tying to the corners is acceptable.
36. Any damage to the box stalls is the responsibility of the horse owner or lessee.

37. All manure is to be put in the designated manure dumpsters. No Trash Allowed in manure dumpsters!
38. If an exhibitor participates in a Walk-Trot class, they cannot enter other lope/canter riding classes.
39. All Championship classes of Horsemanship and Equitation will include rail work and patterns.
40. The horse representative for the "Buchman Showmanship Sweepstakes" contest will be selected from the Showmanship Sweepstakes Qualifier class to be held Monday of the fair at 2:00 p.m. Entries will be made at the same time as other entries are due in FairEntry. This is a chance to be the horse department representative, so the first-place qualifier is required to show in the "Buchman Showmanship Sweepstakes" contest.
Exhibitors that would like to compete:
 - are at least 14 years of age as of Jan. 1.
 - must have participated in the skillathon.
 - has completed interview judging.
 - has never won the "Buchman Showmanship Sweepstakes" contest in the past.
 - may show in English or Western.
41. Any equine animal may be subject to drug testing.
42. All tack and equipment are subject to inspection prior to showing.
43. Horseless Horse/EWD classes are for members that have not previously shown in a walk-trot-canter class at the Wood County Fair and/or are not currently taking their own equine project. (The Horseless Horse and EWD classes are sponsored by the Wood County Agricultural Society and not the 4-H program.)
44. Cross Rails is a walk-trot only class. Riders are not eligible for any other jumping class. Cross Rails is open only to 1st and 2nd year jumpers **AND** is based on the experience of the rider **NOT** the horse. **Anyone receiving 1st place in this class will be ineligible for this class the following year.**
45. The Champion Reining horse will be determined by the score they receive in one run.
46. Versatility rules:
 - a. The Championship Versatility Class is open to those who, with the animal they will use in Versatility:
 1. **successfully showed in at least two (2) Championship classes,**
 2. **placed in the top five (5) of a championship class,**
 3. **participated in the Interview Judging, and**
 4. **participated in the county or state Skillathon.**
 - b. Novice Contesting is not a class eligible for Versatility. Versatility is to be entered by experienced riders. If they are experienced enough to use contesting as an eligibility point, they should enter their appropriate class of Senior, Junior, or Pony.
 - c. Intermediate Western Reining is a Championship class and falls under rule 41 above as a qualifying class.
 - d. Specialty classes do not apply for Versatility.
 - e. The unnecessary roughness rule in the Uniform Rules for 4-H shall apply.
 - f. Horses and ponies are eligible for versatility.
 - g. Versatility classes will consist of English Equitation, Western Horsemanship, Reining, Poles, and Barrels. Pole and Barrel classes will be based on time only.
 - h. Participation in all Versatility classes is required, or all scores will be dropped. All points will be tallied. In the event there is a tie in the placings, the higher placing will be determined by the most first place finishes. If a tie still exists, the most second place finishes will be considered, etc.
 - i. Bonus points will be added for exhibitors that have placed in all five classes.
 - j. You will be allowed ten (10) minutes for changing tack/attire between classes. After the Horsemanship Class, you are to stay in the designated area at the north end of the arena.
 - k. All tack and attire changes will take place in the arena or designated area. Each exhibitor is allowed 2 helpers and a wheelbarrow in the arena to help during a change. Exhibitors can use the restroom when needed and to get off horse while not showing. The exhibitors' helpers may be in the designated area during the competition.
 - l. No vehicles are allowed around the outside of the arena for Versatility tack/attire changes. This rule will be strictly enforced.
47. Contesting Rules:
 - a. Contesting classes will have only one run.
 - b. You may enter classes in only one division for contesting: Senior, Junior, Novice, or Pony.
 - c. Times, placing, and disqualifications will be done from that one run.
 - d. Hardship animals are not eligible for placing.
 - e. Novice Contesting is open only to 1st and 2nd year contesters **AND** based on the experience of the rider **NOT** the horse. **Anyone receiving Novice Champion or Novice Reserve Champion will be ineligible for Novice classes the following year.**
 - f. The Champion Contest horse will be determined by time in their one run.

- g. Separate championships will be awarded for Senior, Junior, Novice, and Pony classes in Barrels, Poles, Stakes Race, and Keyhole Race.
 - h. Contest Classes are to be judged according to the publication no. 179 – Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows when possible but following Jr. Fair guidelines.
 - i. The announcer will be the signal to start a pattern. The competitor will then have two (2) minutes to get into the ring.
 - j. The arena is to be dragged every 8-10 runs depending on the entries in a class and a list of running order is to be posted ahead of time.
48. Champion Horse Project will have both a Junior (9-13) and Senior (14-18) division for horses. To be eligible the exhibitor must participate in the interview and skillathon. (Refer to Fair Book for complete Champion Project Rules). Champion class points will be awarded **one rider/horse**. Champion Horse Project Scoring:
- A. 50 points – Interview
 - B. 10 points – Premier Livestock Interview
 - C. 100 points – Skillathon, (raw scores will be used)
 - D. The following points in max 2 Championship classes with the same horse.
- | Placing | Points |
|---------|--------|
| 1 | 50 |
| 2 | 45 |
| 3 | 40 |
| 4 | 35 |
| 5 | 30 |
- E. Draft horse participants will get points from highest place in any 2 draft classes.
 - F. Small equine participants will get points from highest place in any 2 small equine classes.
 - G. Skillathon score will be tie-breaker.
49. **All exhibitors must complete the EquiSTEP program provided by The Ohio State University Extension by June 1 to be eligible to show at the Wood County Fair.**
50. **All exhibitors must have an Interview grade recorded with the Extension Office prior to the beginning of the fair or they will not be eligible to participate at the Wood County fair.**