

Lawrence County 4-H Horse Program

Rules & Regulations

1. To be eligible to participate in Lawrence County 4-H Horse Projects 4-H members must be at least eight (8) years old by January 1 of the current 4-H year AND in the 3rd grade or nine (9) and in any grade as of January 1 of the current 4-H year. Membership eligibilities ends December 31 of the calendar year in which member reaches the ages of 18 as of January 1. Members must also be enrolled in an Ohio 4-H Horse project by March 15th of the current 4-H year.
 - a. In order to receive a county fair pass and county fair premium for completion:
 - i. Lawrence County 4-H Horse youth must complete their 4-H horse project book and attend at least 5 meetings with their club to receive fair pass.
 - ii. Lawrence County 4-H Horse youth must complete 2 of the 3 to receive their county fair premium:
 1. Horse project county fair interview/project display
 2. Horse Skillathon
 3. county-wide horse show
 - iii. Horseless Horse projects are required to complete the project book and interview.
2. Cloverbud boys and girls whom are 5 years of age and in Kindergarten thru the 2nd grade may be in a horse club monitored by a designated 4-H advisor. According to Ohio 4-H state guidelines “because of program objectives, safety, liability, and issues of competition, 4-H Cloverbud members do not have direct contact or control of animals unless specified or the activity is approved”, Cloverbuds are not to have direct involvement with the horse including but not limited to riding. Specific project activities are available for use with Cloverbuds. Advisors must use this approved material: <https://ohio4h.org/cloverbudresources>
3. All members must complete a Permission to Participate each year to the county extension office. If applicable, the member must also submit a horse identification form and a horse leasing form. These forms must be on file at the Extension Office by the March 15th enrollment deadline.
 - a. All horse must be owned by the 4-H member and/or their immediate family member or can be leased.
 - b. Family members may use the same horse for county participation. However, only one may compete for state fair qualification and that member must be identified prior to showing in a state fair qualifying show. An animal carried as a project can be shown by only one member in state fair participation.
 - c. All animals carried as 4-H projects and those that are shown at the state fair must be owned or leased and in the continual care of the 4-H member by March 15th. Continual care does permit boarding an animal, provided the member is involved in caring for the horse and the horse is not a production animal.



4. Horses, Safety, and You (#191R) must be complete in the members 1st year of 4-H Horse participation. Members and parents must complete page 35 in the book and submit a copy to the Extension Office. Failure to complete this and the necessary supplemental videos will result in ineligibility for exhibition. Every Time, Every Ride & Horses, Kids, and Ethics videos are available for viewing at the county extension office.
5. Ohio 4-H Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows must be followed by all 4-H members, parents, volunteers, and clubs always. Available for purchase at the county extension office.
6. All youth participating in any 4-H equestrian activity are required to wear properly fitted protective headgear which meets or exceeds current ASTM/SEA standards with the chin harness securely fastened at all times while riding or driving equine. It is the responsibility of 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. However, those may so choose to check for proper standards and if the youth is found to be wearing unapproved, defective, or improperly fitted headgear, he/she is not permitted to participate in riding or driving activities until proper headgear is acquired.
7. To be eligible to participate in a county-wide or state 4-H horse activity, members must meet all registration deadlines and activity rules and expectations. Failure to do so, will result in ineligibility for the activity. Please note, a minimum of five (5) Lawrence County 4-H Horse members must register for county events. If less than 5, by county deadlines, the activity is subject to cancellation.
8. 4-H Members and their attendants are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous and orderly manner. Harassment, profanity, or unsportsmanlike conduct toward show officials, judges, show managers, volunteers, extension staff, or exhibitors will not be tolerated. Any violation of this rule will warrant withholding of premiums and awards and/or disqualification.

County Horse Show Requirements

9. At the county level, a 4-H member may take as many horse projects as he/she wants but cannot take two of the same discipline, except draft horses. Members must declare one discipline to each horse by show registration deadline. A member may only show one horse in each discipline, it can not be the same horse. Members must show in at least one showmanship class, in order to show in other county classes.
10. Only 4-H/FFA members showing their horse in a class at a show may ride their horse at the show. If someone other than the members is found riding the horse, the violator and the horse will be disqualified from further participation at the show.
11. No person other than exhibitors and show officials is allowed in the ring while any class is being judged without permission of the show manager.
12. Because of animal welfare concerns and the image that 4-H wants present, horse with a body condition score of less than 4, when using a scale of 1-9 (ribs easily discernable, tops of spinous process easily discernable, tailhead prominent with hook bones easily discernable, withers accentuated, and neck obviously thin), obviously sick horses, and horses with Grade 3 or greater in lameness (consistently observable at the trot, marked nodding, hitching or shortened stride, and minimal weight bearing in motion or at rest) are not allowed at 4-H shows.

13. A tack inspection will be conducted in the paddock before the class. In the case of a dispute over the approval of a piece of tack, the judge will have the final say. If a youth is found in violation, the youth will be given an opportunity to change illegal tack if they do so and still make the class.
14. Suitable English Attire is jodhpurs and riding coat and helmet. Conservative, well-coordinated colors and fabrics are preferred. Day coats with jodhpurs are acceptable and contrasting vests and/or ties are acceptable. Suitable Western attire, including boots, helmet, shirt with collar and long sleeves are required for entry in western horsemanship and contest classes. A helmet must be worn or the youth will be disqualified.
15. All decisions made by the judge are final. Grievances along with a \$100.00 fee should be filed with the ring stewards at the completion of the class.
16. Stallions cannot be shown after the age of eight (8) months.
17. No one is allowed in the announcers stand during the 4-H horse show other than the 4-H Horse committee members, OSU Extension Staff, and other authorized volunteers.
18. Horseless horse members are permitted to show another 4-H member's horse in the Horseless Project class at the county fair show. If participating in this option, the 4-H member must complete the Horseless Horse Project ID Form and the permission to participate form by March 15th.

PAS Information

19. To qualify for the Ohio State Fair Junior Horse Show, 4-H members must follow all PAS requirements, deadlines, etc. found at <https://ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/animal-sciences/horse/pas-shows>
20. Prior to the PAS/County 4-H registration deadline, the youth must determine the County 4-H/PAS/State Fair classes in which they wish to qualify. A youth must qualify in two (2) PAS classes in order to go to the Ohio State Fair Junior Horse Show. If they qualify in more than two (2) classes, the youth can select which classes (maximum of 4 classes) they will enter the State Fair Jr. Horse Show. At the State Fair Jr. Horse Show, youth will only be allowed to show in the classes (up to 4) for which they qualified for. Class listing offered at the Ohio State Fair Jr. Horse Show can be found at <https://ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/animal-sciences/horse/pas-shows>
21. 4-H members only have two chances to qualify for Ohio State Fair:
 - a. 1 double judge show
 - b. 2 single judged shows**A PAS show must have a PAS judge.