

DEPARTMENT 14 - HORSES and PONIES

Events/times are subject to change.

Senior Fair Board: *Scott Dunham, Doug Marine
*denotes chairperson

Junior Fair Board: Taylor Payton



2025 FAYETTE COUNTY HORSE PROGRAM GUIDELINES

1. The "Uniform Rules for Horse Shows in Ohio" (4-H 179) will govern 4-H horse shows. All members (or families) taking a horse project need to purchase a rule book and be familiar with it.
2. Mandatory for all members to follow the 4-H Equine Mandatory Helmet Use Policy in "Uniform Rules for Horse Shows in Ohio" (4-H 179).
3. All members and their parent(s)/guardian(s) must sign a new "Permission to Participate" form each year. New members are required to get the 191R Horses, Safety and You manual, and with a parent/guardian to view required links, *Every Ride, Every Time and Horses, Kids & Ethics*. After reading the manual and viewing the required links, the member and parent(s) sign the form on the inside back cover of the manual, Advisors will keep on file a copy of this signed form and each year's new permission forms. When additional family members join, they can sign the original forms after they have seen the films and read the manual. Members who are not in a horse club should turn in the permission form and a copy of the 191R form in to the Junior Fair Board Coordinator and the Senior Fair Board Horse Representatives no later than **May 15**.
4. Competition at the county fair show and participation in the horse activities is limited to those enrolled in a Fayette County 4-H Club or FFA Chapter with a horse or horseless-horse project.
5. An ID sheet is to be completed for each horse, with a maximum of 5 (five) animals per member. Members of an immediate family may use the same horse with the exclusion of leased horses, but each member must complete an ID sheet for the animal. ID sheets are to be turned in by **May 15, 2025** to Junior Fair Board Coordinator. Primary horse(s) (maximum of 2) of a member stay at the fair all week. Additional horses may be brought in for Horse Show on Tuesday and taken back home that day, and/or Fun Day. Standardbreds that are currently being raced may be taken from the fairgrounds as needed to race.
6. If an animal is leased, a contract to lease must be reviewed and accepted by the Junior Fair Board Coordinator and the Senior Fair Board Horse Representatives. A signed copy of the contract must be filed by **May 15, 2025**.
7. All members must attend a minimum of two (2) outdoor practices with their project horse(s) and be evaluated by an advisor as to their safety before going to the fair. Those in a non-horse club need to make arrangements to attend two (2) of one of the horse club's practices for this purpose. The horse clubs have the right to require more than the minimum two (2) practices. Each club will honor the other club's meetings attendance and shall be counted as a meeting.
8. Horses are over 58". Ponies will measure at or below 58".
9. Age of the exhibitor is determined as of January 1, **2025**.
10. Stallions may not be shown unless they are part of a production project, and then only during the horse's first calendar year.
11. **The use of any mood-altering drugs are prohibited, per the "Uniform Rules" book. (4-H 179)**
12. The horse committee will deal with hardship case decisions on a case by case situation.
13. The 4-H horse shows must have a steward who will interpret and clarify rules. The steward will be the President of the Fayette County Horse Committee. Any exhibitor or family member with a grievance is to contact the steward first, not the judge. Judges' decisions about the placings are final. Poor sportsmanship on the part of the exhibitors, parents, or family members will not be tolerated.
14. Safe and legal tack is to be used at all times. Refer to the rule book for specific examples.
15. Each member is to complete a project book and, if applicable, participate in the skillathon/interview to complete their project.
16. Stall assignments will be made by the Junior Fair Board Horse Representatives.
17. Entries are due **June 6**. Entries submitted after **June 6** must include a \$25 late fee for each exhibitor. No entries will be accepted after **June 11**. **Showmanship is mandatory for all members showing horses**. After all entries are received, class determinations will be made according to the number of entries per class. Age divisions may be added or deleted as needed.
18. All Exhibitors with a horse at the fair will be required to have emergency contact information on file. Each club will be responsible for making sure their members' cards are complete and turned into the Horse Committee Secretary who will make sure appropriate copies are available for Senior Fair Board Members.

19. Exhibitors must be aware of and comply with body condition score requirements in the "Uniform Rules for Horse Shows in Ohio" (4-H 179R). If your horse/pony has a body condition score of less than 4, you will not be permitted to exhibit or show your animal at the fair.
20. A mandatory meeting for all horse exhibitors will be held on Monday of the fair at noon. This is a required meeting. A member can only be excused if they make prior arrangements with an advisor or Junior Fair Board Member. For further clarification, please see the 2025 Fayette County Horse Program Guidelines. Pertinent information and show numbers will be discussed and dispersed at this meeting.
21. If a member chooses to bring multiple horses, each member will be assigned a show number.
22. It is the expectation of all 4-H Horse Club advisors to help with all activities related to the 4-H Horse Program/Show: Mock Show, Move-in Day, setting up for classes, working entry and exit gates and making sure all shows run smoothly.

Classes:

- H1. Yearling Production Class
- H2. Western Showmanship
- H3. Western/English Showmanship Horse/Pony 2nd yr*
- H4. Western/English Showmanship Horse/Pony 1st yr*
- H5. English Showmanship, Horse/Pony - All Ages
- H6. Easy Gaited Showmanship - All Ages
- H7. Overall Showmanship Class
-1st and 2nd place winners of classes H2-H6 only. Winner represents the horse department in the Showman of Showmen Contest.
- H8. Hunter Under Saddle - All Ages
- H9. English Equitation - All Ages
- H10. Easy Gaited Pleasure - All Ages
- H11. Easy Gaited Horsemanship - All Ages
- H12. Walk/Trot Western Pleasure / HUS, 1st yr*
- H13. Walk/Trot Horsemanship/Equitation, 1st yr*
- H14. Walk/Trot Western Pleasure / HUS, 2nd yr*
- H15. Walk/Trot Horsemanship/Equitation, 2nd yr*
- H16. Western Pleasure / HUS, 2nd yr - 3 gaited*
- H17. Horsemanship/Equitation, 2nd yr - 3 gaited*
- H18. Western Pleasure
- H19. Western Horsemanship
- H20. Ranch Pleasure - All Ages
- H21. Ranch Riding - All Ages - Pattern B
- H22. Pleasure Driving - All Ages
- H23. Reining - All Ages
- H24. Trail - All Ages
- H25. Trail-Walk/Trot - 1st & 2nd yr*
- H26. Trail - Easy Gaited
- H27. Barrels - All Ages
- H28. Barrels - Walk/Trot - 1st & 2nd yr*
- H29. Flags - All Ages
- H30. Standardbred Driving Project

**1st and 2nd year members, any age, may show only in 1st and 2nd yr. classes on Tuesday. Beginners may choose either walk-trot or 3-gaited classes, but not both.*

PLEASE NOTE: After final entries are made, classes may be added or divided per the Horse Committee.

Hi-Point awards will be given for Tuesday's show to individuals in 3 divisions: Beginner, Junior Division and Senior Division. Awards go to the rider with the highest points in each division.

Horse Activity Schedule during Fair Week:

Monday	7 AM - All horses must be in place
Tuesday	8 AM - Junior Fair Horse Show
Wednesday	9 AM - Rodeo Day 6 PM - Costume Contest
Thursday	9 AM - Jr. Fair Versatility Show
Friday	9 AM - Contest and Fun Show

Horses can begin to be released after the Fun Show on Friday until 4 PM. Horses released any time after 7 PM.