

2026 HURON COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM AND SHOW RULES

WELCOME TO THE HURON COUNTY 4-H PROGRAM!

As your 4-H club organizes this year, you will find some very important information in this project requirements letter. The Family Guide to 4-H contains information on more than 150 possible 4-H projects. It is to be used, along with this letter, when selecting projects. Knowing the requirements of a project, when it will be judged, and what you will have to exhibit will help you make the best choice. Parents should participate in the project selection process and should read this requirements letter carefully before enrolling in projects.

HURON COUNTY 4-H GUIDELINES

1. **MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY:** As of January 1, eligibility for participation in 4-H projects and competitive events begins when a child is age 8 and in third grade. Any youth aged 9 or above is eligible for project membership, regardless of grade level. 4-H membership ends December 31 of the year in which you turn 19. *OSU Extension embraces human diversity and is committed to ensuring that all research and related educational programs are available to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. This statement is in accordance with United States Civil Rights Laws and the USDA.*

2. **MEETING ATTENDANCE:** Your club must have at least eight meetings each year and you must attend at least six to complete your year's membership and exhibit at the fair. Your club may have additional requirements, i.e., attendance at riding meets. Check with your advisor. You may be excused from meetings for other 4-H activities or for school activities. Meetings missed because of work, community baseball, family vacations, etc. are not excused.

3. **ENROLLMENT:** Families will self-enroll in their 4-H club and projects through 4-HOnline. Families will be given instructions explaining the process of self-enrolling in the 4-H database. Enrollment may be done between November 1st and May 1st.

4. **PROJECT ENROLLMENT FEES:** There is a \$12.00 per project enrollment fee. The enrollment fee will include one project book, up to \$12.00 in value. Members in the second year or third year of the Horseless Horse project, may use the same book, but must pay \$12.00 to enroll in the project each year. Most horse project manuals require an Equine Record Book, which also costs \$12.00. Beginning Horse Management, Horse Training and Trail Riding cost more than \$12.00 for each manual. Check this letter for exact costs. **Each family must have an updated Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows (2024) book, \$8.00, PDF available for \$9.75.**

5. **PROJECT SELECTION:** Projects should be selected based on age, interest, and/or previous experience. See Horses on pages 12-13 in the 2026 Project Guide to 4-H.

6. **PROJECT REPETITION:** If a member feels that he/she has not mastered the information in any project book, they should repeat that project. A member should not progress through the

projects too fast, or they will run out of project options for their remaining years in the project area. Each project may be taken multiple times, but the same project may not be taken indefinitely.

7. **HORSE OWNERSHIP DATES:** All horses taken as 4-H projects must be under the member's care by May 15. Animals and photos must be added to 4-HOnline by the Fair Entry deadline.

8. **4-H AND FFA JOINT MEMBERSHIP:** An individual may be enrolled in both 4-H and FFA; however, separate and different projects shall be carried by the member. For example, one may take a pleasure horse in 4-H and a production or draft horse in FFA. Members can bring 2 animals to the fair, as long as animal numbers do not exceed available stalls. Animal numbers will be reviewed at the May Horse Council meeting.

9. HORSE PROJECT COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS:

- All horses must be vaccinated with a 5-way vaccine. See General Rule 11, pg.2.
- Members must participate in the horse skillathon.
- All project and record books must be complete and turned in for review at the skillathon.
- If a member does not take a horse to the fair, they may write a letter to the 4-H Committee asking to be dismissed from the project.

10. FAIR ENTRY AND RELEASE DEADLINES:

- Traffic flow for livestock (except rabbits, chickens, waterfowl, pigeons, and turkeys which go directly to their barns) when entering the fair is to enter on the racetrack and go right around the track to the fire station. All vehicles should exit through the West Lot gate.
- All Junior Fair Horses enter on Sunday, Aug. 16 between 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. After vet inspection, members will walk their horse to the horse barn.
- All still projects (including Horseless Horse posters) enter the fairgrounds on Sunday, Aug. 16 between 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Horseless Horse posters are turned in at the Junior Fair Office.
- All livestock and still projects are released on Sunday, Aug. 23 between 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Horseless Horse posters will be displayed & picked up in the Miscellaneous Building.

11. **PARENTAL ACCESS TO JUDGES AT THE FAIR:** No one may talk to the judge or enter the ring during a show. AFTER the show, requests to speak to the judge must go through the show steward or superintendent. IF the judge agrees to take questions, the exhibitor must be present and ask the questions.

12. **RING ETIQUETTE:** Ring etiquette is about common courtesy, manners, and safety. Getting caught up in competition and winning ribbons may cause exhibitors and spectators to forget proper behavior. Our focus should be on doing our personal best, helping others, having fun, making friends, and creating lasting memories!

GENERAL RULES:

1. Members can bring 2 animals to the fair, as long as animals are in different classes and animal numbers do not exceed available stalls. Animal numbers will be reviewed at the May Horse Council meeting.
2. Within the same show, for each horse, exhibitors must choose a style of seat within English (Hunter Seat or Saddle Seat) and Western (Western or Ranch) classes. Refer to Uniform Rules pg 11, rule 37.
3. Members must have animals in their continual care by May 15.
4. A member cannot change or switch projects after May 15, unless there is an approved grievance. Changing to a back-up horse is allowed and classes may be re-evaluated.
5. Members may enroll in any horse project to qualify for any class at the fair (ex: you do not have to take the gymkhana project to participate in the gymkhana classes). Exceptions:
 - #187 Roping- members must enroll in the project to participate in the class.
 - #175 Horseless Horse- members are not permitted to bring a horse to the fair.
6. Anyone leasing a horse, pony, or miniature (back-ups included) must file a completed lease by May 15th, signed by the animal's owner, the 4-H member, the member's parent/guardian, and the 4-H advisor. Horse Council will review leases at their May meeting to assure they meet the conditions of a 4-H horse project. Leases are not final until receiving approval.
7. Members must practice with and show their own horses, ponies, or small equine.
8. Horse Measuring Guidelines:
 - The animal may be measured barefoot or shod (option up to exhibitor, but the animal must be shown as measured; animal may be measured barefoot and have 5/16" added to the height and be listed as shod for showing).
 - A horse is over 58", a pony is 58" or under, and small equine is 38" and under.
 - Animals may show in a class for animals larger than they are, but never in classes smaller than they are (this includes animals in gymkhana classes). Youth may not show in classes of different animal height in the same show/fair.
9. Each club with horse projects must have a representative at every Horse Council meeting to have privileges to vote.
10. Horses with a body condition score of less than 4, when using a scale of 1-9, obviously sick horses, and horses with Grade 3 or greater lameness are not allowed at 4-H shows. The show manager, show veterinarian, judge, or the club advisor can dismiss a horse from the show for these reasons.
11. All project animals, including back-ups, must receive a 5-way vaccine (EEE/WEE, Tetanus, Influenza, and Rhino, or a combination with Rabies). It is also strongly recommended that they be vaccinated for Rabies. Exhibitors should discuss their vaccination program with their veterinarian. The vaccinations must be given and the form uploaded to FairEntry by June 30th. A vaccination form must be completely filled out and signed by the veterinarian or horse person administering the vaccination. If the vet administered the vaccination and is unable to sign the form, a vet receipt will be accepted. Failure to turn in a completed vaccination form by the deadline will result in the equine being ineligible for fair.
12. Others may ride the exhibitor's project horse in Fun Shows, using the owner's discretion. A signed liability waiver is required.

BACK-UP ANIMALS:

1. Each member may list their project horse(s) and up to two back-up horses. A back-up horse may be listed by up to 3 members. Back-up horses are secondary project animals, so the exhibitor must work with the horse and be involved in its care throughout the season. All back-up horses not owned by the exhibitor or the exhibitor's family must be covered by a valid lease.
2. Switching to a Back-up Horse: The member, member's family and club advisors make the decision if a switch to a back-up horse is needed prior to the fair.
3. If switching to a back-up or a grievance has been filed, classes entered may be re-evaluated. Notify the Extension Office to change the classes on Fair Entry.
4. If the project horse and back-up horses are not available for fair, a grievance to switch to another horse may be filed, see Grievance Procedure on Pg 4.

EQUISTEP:

1. Each 4-H member with a horse project (including Horseless Horse and Ground Roping taken as an equine project or going to State Fair) must complete the state required online EquiSTEP training at ohio4h.org/horse.
2. This must be completed before 4-H horse activity participation (ride nights, fun shows, and horse shows during the fair).
3. Due date: May 1, 2025
4. Failure to complete EquiSTEP will result in being ineligible to compete in any horse activities for the current 4-H year.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Huron County 4-H Guidelines.....	1
Table of Contents	2
Equine 4-H Projects	2
General Rules	2
Back-Up Animals.....	2
EquiSTEP.....	2
Fair Schedule	3
Fair Rules	3
Showmanship, Trail, & Performance Classes....	4
Tack.....	4
Class Splits.....	4
Grievance Procedure.....	4
Members Needing Assistance.....	4
Mandatory 4-H Helmet Policy.....	4
Ranch	5
PAS and State Fair.....	5
Gymkhana	5
Equine Versatility.....	6
Small Equine	6
Roping	7
Horseless Horse	7
Dream Team	8
Horse Skillathon.....	8
Important Dates.....	10

EQUINE 4-H PROJECTS

ALL LEVELS PROJECT:

#187-Roping (\$12.00) See pg. 7 for details.

BEGINNER PROJECTS:

#174-Beginning Horse Management (\$24.00)

*This book covers the basics of caring for a horse and learning to ride. The project book contains record sheets as part of the book contents. **Note:** The Equine Record Book is not required the first year the project is taken. Member must purchase an Equine Record Book each year after the first year they enroll in the project. Members should take this project for two or more years.*

#173- Horseless Horse (\$12.00)- See pg. 7 for details

INTERMEDIATE PROJECTS:

#175-Light Horse Selection (\$12.00)

#177-Horse Training (\$24.00)

#180-Learning to Jump (\$12.00)

#181-Draft Horse (\$12.00)

#182-Small Equine (\$12.00)

#184-Standardbred Horses (\$12.00)

#186-Gymkhana (\$12.00)

#188-Trail Riding (\$12.00)

(Competitive trail riding encouraged)

#189-Dressage (\$12.00)

5. The extension office will receive notice when a member completes EquiSTEP.

FAIR

1. Each exhibitor is required to submit a fair entry for each entry number (class) they will participate in at the fair by June 30th. If a back-up animal is going to be used and will be in different classes than the original horse, contact the Extension Office to have the fair entries changed.
2. When making entries, members will be required to designate a horse for each class the sign up for.
3. All project horses, including back-ups, must be uploaded to FairEntry by June 30th. You will be required to add:
 - Horse name
 - Front and side photo
 - Vaccination form
 - Lease (if applicable)
4. Members can bring 2 animals to the fair, as long as animal numbers do not exceed available stalls. Animal numbers will be reviewed at the May Horse Council meeting. Additional project animals may be carried and used for state fair.
5. Brothers, sisters, and step siblings may share the same project animal, if in different divisions. If in the same division, the older sibling must show in the next age group. Only one member of the family sharing the project animal is eligible to try out for state fair.
6. All male horses exhibited at the fair must be gelded.
7. Exhibitors may enter in all classes in which they are eligible and qualified; one horse per rider, per class, with advisor approval.
8. Horses, ponies & small equine may be entered in any class, unless specifically noted that a class is for horses/ponies or small equine only.
9. Parents & advisors should not sign members up for classes in which the rider or horse are not properly schooled.
10. All classes will be judged in accordance with rules in 4-H Circular 179R, Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows (\$12.00).
11. PARENTAL ACCESS TO JUDGES: No one may talk to the judge or enter the ring during a show. AFTER the show, requests to speak to the judge must go through the show steward or superintendent. IF the judge agrees to take questions, the exhibitor must be present and ask the questions.
12. Members in western-style classes on Tuesday must choose between the traditional western classes (western horsemanship and western pleasure) or ranch classes (ranch horsemanship, ranch pleasure and ranch riding). They may not enter in both divisions.
13. Member's must declare if they are walk-trot or canter by Aug. 1.
14. Walk-Trot classes are only for walk-trot members. Walk-trot decision is for the entire fair. Canter in a Fun Show or any competition ends walk-trot eligibility.
15. Once an exhibitor/horse team has competed in performance for state fair that exhibitor may not enter walk-trot classes in the County Fair.
16. Any scratches at the fair must be made by parents/guardians or advisors at the booth, as soon as they are known.
17. Horses must be at the fair all week to be eligible to show, unless special permission is granted by the Senior Fair Board.
18. Equine may be worked out in the arenas during posted hours.
19. Only the exhibitor may ride or school their project animal at the fair, except for lunging or a safety correctional situation. The exhibitor must be present.
20. Uniform Rules, pg. 4 – The 30 day no trainer rule takes effect 30 days prior to the county state fair qualifying (PAS) show for those trying out for State Fair and 30 days prior to the County Fair for all others.
21. All exhibitors must use the entry gate to enter and the exit gate to exit. This is for every show and every exhibitor. The only exception is if an alternate is announced for the entire show.
22. Entering the Arena for Classes with a Pattern: The entire class will enter the arena and put their "tail to the rail". The judge will then call individuals to do their pattern work. There will be a two-minute gate call for all participants to enter the arena or be disqualified from the class.
23. Make Up Area: Only exhibitors in the next class may have their horses in the area right outside the entry gate of the arena.
24. End of Class Safety: One adult per exhibitor will be allowed to enter the arena after the class has been judged to help hold the horse, if needed.
25. ALL champions will enter the ring, with their horse, for recognition. Exhibitors must be properly attired (ex. No tank tops).
26. A Fun Show is held Saturday evening of fair, hosted by a 4-H horse club. The host club is determined by alphabetical order.
27. No barn decorations may be removed until check out time.
28. Each family exhibiting large livestock will receive 1 West/East Lot pass per family after showing a vet check slip at the Jr Fair Board office Sunday or Monday.

Member must purchase a project book the first year they enroll in the project. Some projects have pages which must be completed each year the project is taken. Duplicate pages will be given, upon request. The Equine Record Book is a required supplement to these intermediate 4-H horse projects that must be purchased each year. (\$12.00)

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENT:

#179R Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows
Each family must have an updated copy (2024) (Hardcopy \$12.00, PDF \$9.75)

2026 Fair Schedule:

- **Sunday (1:00 am-2:00 pm)**- Horses come to the fair (Must be unloaded & uncovered)
- **Sunday (5:30 pm)** - Horse Fair Kick- Weisenburger Arena
- **Monday (12:00 pm)** - Horseless Horse Interviews- Pickworth Pavilion
- **Tuesday (9:00 am)** - Showmanship, Trail, Small Equine & Performance
- **Wednesday (9:00 am)** - Ranch, Ranch Trail, & Roping
- **Thursday (After Open Pony Show)** - Small Equine Driving
- **Thursday (After Small Equine)**- Dream Team
- **Friday (9:00 am)** - Gymkhana Classes
- **Saturday (9:00 am)** - Versatility Classes
- **Saturday (5:00 pm)** - Fun show
- **Sunday (8:00 am-12:00pm)** - Horses released

TACK

1. Any questions about bits & tack can be brought to the booth a half hour after Skillathon.
2. All tags must be removed from bits & tack prior to inspection. Bridles/Bits will be inspected by the judge on day of show for final decision.
3. Show Day Bridle Inspection: Bridle inspection will begin 30 minutes prior to show time. There are strict rules in the Uniform Rules book for Acceptable Bits and Tack, see pages 18-24. Inspections will be done outside of the arena.
4. Additional questions will be referred to the judge for final decision.
5. Kimberwick bits are not allowed in gymkhana classes.
6. Anyone riding a horse at the fair must wear heeled boots, an ASTM helmet, and the horse must be bridled. (See helmet policy or the Uniform Rules book).

CLASS SPLITS

1. All classes other than Walk-Trot, Not Under Saddle, and Small Equine for horses will be split into Senior, Intermediate and Junior Divisions.
2. Age divisions follow the State Fair Horse age divisions. Senior is for ages 16-18; Intermediate is for ages 13-15; and Junior is for ages 8-12. All ages are as of January 1.
3. Senior Division classes will precede the equivalent Junior or Intermediate Division classes, except in Trail.
4. All classes will be split into A & B divisions at 10 entries, except dressage, reining and trail classes. Classes which must be split will be divided by the age of entrants. NOTE: If scratches at fair bring the total entrants for a split class below 10, the class split may be eliminated.
5. If classes must be split, exhibitors will remain in their class split for the entire show, regardless of scratches. i.e., An exhibitor who starts in the "A" division of Junior Western Cloverleaf Barrels will remain in the Junior "A" division for all gymkhana classes.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

If a dispute, conflict, or problem arises with a project animal, advisor, rule or executive decision, any 4-H youth and/or advisor may appeal the problem to the Horse Council president within 15 days of the incident. The following grievance procedure shall be used:

1. The grievance form shall be filled out and presented to the Horse Council President and 4-H Extension Educator. All grievances must be signed by at least two advisors from the grievant's own club, legitimizing the grievance. If the grievance is against advisors in the club, it must be signed and legitimized by at least two Horse Council Executive Committee members.
2. A formal date for the hearing shall be established by the Extension Office.
3. All Horse Council members and the grievant(s) shall be notified of the hearing date.
4. The Horse Council shall conduct an unbiased assessment of the problem and determine an equitable solution. All voting will be by secret ballot, one vote per club.
5. Any grievance filed after the possession deadline of May 15 requires a \$25.00 nonrefundable grievance filing fee. The fee is payable to Huron County Horse Council and is earmarked for the General Fund.
6. The grievance fee must be paid before the grievance can be heard by the horse council.
7. If the solution is not satisfactory to the grievant(s), they still have the right to appeal it to the state level. A \$50.00 protest fee must be paid to appeal a grievance to the state level. Money will be paid to the Horse Council and earmarked in a Protest Fee line item.

MEMBERS NEEDING ASSISTANCE:

- Members who need an assistant(s) to show, may enter Class 27 (Green Broke Walk-Trot Horsemanship/ Equitation) or Class 23 (Walk-Trot Horsemanship/ Equitation), and one showmanship class.
- Adult, non-4-H member assistants are allowed, as needed.

MANDATORY 4-H HELMET POLICY

Following is the wording as it is stated in the Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows, #1 on page 6, with regards to the mandatory helmet policy. For further information, please contact: Dr. Kimberly Cole, Extension Equine Specialist at cole.436@osu.edu. This policy has been adopted by the Huron County Agricultural Society and is in effect at all 4-H & Junior Fair equine activities, including work nights.

Class 150 – Showmanship, Trail, Small Equine & Performance

- Tuesday

1. Senior English Showmanship
2. Intermediate English Showmanship
3. Junior English Showmanship
4. Senior Western Showmanship
5. Intermediate Western Showmanship
6. Junior Western Showmanship
7. Western Showmanship Not Under Saddle (for all non-riding projects; all ages, not eligible for any other western showmanship class)
8. Walk Trot Showmanship (for English or Western)
** 30 Minute Break
Showmanship Champion Classes (Sr., Int. & Jr.)
**10 Minute Break
9. Senior Trail Class
10. Intermediate Trail Class
11. Junior Trail Class
12. Walk-Trot Trail Class – All ages (Only Walk-Trot exhibitors eligible)
13. Trail in Hand (Over 38"; not eligible for any other trail class)
14. Small Equine Trail in Hand
15. Small Equine Jumper in Hand
**Tack Change

***If competing in Western classes, you are not eligible for any corresponding Ranch classes.**

16. Senior Western Horsemanship
17. Intermediate Western Horsemanship
18. Junior Western Horsemanship
19. Senior Western Pleasure Class
20. Intermediate Western Pleasure Class
21. Junior Western Pleasure Class
22. Senior English Equitation
23. Intermediate English Equitation
24. Junior English Equitation
25. Senior English Pleasure
26. Intermediate English Pleasure
27. Junior English Pleasure
28. Green broke (horse age 5 & under) Walk-Trot Horsemanship/Equitation –(Not eligible for any canter classes; includes riders requiring assistance) (Not eligible for championship)
29. Walk-Trot Horsemanship/Equitation –1st & 2nd year only; all ages (Rider never cantered in any competition; not eligible for any canter classes; includes riders requiring assistance)
30. Walk-Trot Pleasure
31. Green broke (horse age 5 & under) Walk-Trot pleasure – (Not eligible for any canter classes; includes riders requiring assistance) (Not eligible for championship)
**15 Minute Break

Horsemanship/Equitation Champion Classes (Sr., Int. & Jr.)

“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 is not permitted to participate in riding or driving activities until proper headgear is acquired.”

Huron County additional helmet rule: Loss of safety headgear from the exhibitor’s head while in the arena for any gymkhana class will result in disqualification.

PAS & STATE FAIR

1. PAS registration and fee is due at the May Horse Council meeting. Advisors can collect and turn in. No late entries!
2. PAS shows will be held by Lorain County at 8:30 a.m. on June 13, 2026, at the Lorian County Fairgrounds and by Huron County at 8:30 a.m. on June 20, 2026, location TBA.
3. 2026 Ohio State Fair Junior Horse Show is July 20th-24th
4. State Fair Registration and non-refundable fees are due online by 1:00pm, July 1st.
<https://ohio4h.org/events/ohio-state-fair-junior-horse-show>
5. A negative Coggins Test must be uploaded to 4-HOnline by July 1st.
6. All 4-h members participating in a state 4-H horse activity must be currently enrolled in a 4-H horse project. Exceptions:
 - Horseless Horse only counts for non-mounted activities
 - State 4-H Dressage show- Must be enrolled in Dressage project
 - State 4-H Trail Ride- Must be enrolled in Trail Riding project
 - State 4-H Ground Roping- Must be enrolled in Roping project

Class 151 - Ranch - Wednesday

***If competing in Ranch classes, you are not eligible for any corresponding Western classes.**

32. Senior Ranch Showmanship
33. Intermediate Ranch Showmanship
34. Junior Ranch Showmanship
***Tack change break*
35. Senior Ranch Horsemanship
36. Intermediate Ranch Horsemanship
37. Junior Ranch Horsemanship
38. Senior Ranch Pleasure
39. Intermediate Ranch Pleasure
40. Junior Ranch Pleasure
41. Senior Ranch Riding
42. Intermediate Ranch Riding
43. Junior Ranch Riding
***Break to set up trail pattern*
44. Roping
45. Senior Ranch Trail
46. Intermediate Ranch Trail
47. Junior Ranch Trail

*** Ranch Champions Announced (Sr., Int. & Jr.)*

48. Senior Reining
49. Intermediate Reining
50. Junior Reining

GYMKHANA CLASS RULES

Flag Race Pattern Rules: Must run outside of barrels. No penalty for knocking down “out bucket”. Failure to pick up the flag from the “out bucket” is a disqualification. Missing the flag in the “in bucket” is a 10 second penalty. Knocking over a barrel is a 5 second penalty per barrel knocked over.

Walk-Trot Gymkhana Rules:

Exhibitor is not eligible for any canter classes. Ten second penalty for breaking into a canter or lope for 3 or less strides. Must keep forward motion or will be disqualified. No one who breaks into a canter may place above a participant who walks and trots the entire course.

High Point Gymkhana Guidelines:

All gymkhana classes, except grasshopper, will count as points for grand and reserve high point awards. A & B division times will be combined by time to determine points.

Points follow the rider/horse team

5 points - first place; 4 points - second place; 3 points - third place; 2 points - fourth place; 1 point - fifth place

Tie Breaking Guidelines for Gymkhana High Point Classes:

1. The highest number of first place finishes, by combined times.
2. The higher place finish (Second is better than two fourths; Third is better than a fourth and a fifth, etc.) by combined times.
3. The higher place when in the same classes.
4. The lowest total times of events.

Class 152 – Gymkhana – Friday

51. Senior Western Cloverleaf Barrels
52. Intermediate Western Cloverleaf Barrels
53. Junior Western Cloverleaf Barrels
54. Senior Flag Race
55. Intermediate Flag Race
56. Junior Flag Race
57. Senior Dreamweaver
58. Intermediate Dreamweaver
59. Junior Dreamweaver
60. Senior Pole Bending
61. Intermediate Pole Bending
62. Junior Pole Bending
63. Senior Stakes Race
64. Intermediate Stakes Race
65. Junior Stakes Race
66. Senior Keyhole
67. Intermediate Keyhole
68. Junior Keyhole

<p><u>Grasshopper Rules:</u> Senior, Intermediate, and Junior Grasshopper classes. Heights of jumps will be between 12” – 18”. Knocking a pole off is a 5 second penalty. Going off course is a disqualification. Grasshopper does not count toward Gymkhana Championship points.</p>	<p><u>Walk-Trot Championship Guidelines:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Must show in 3 classes to qualify <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Showmanship Pleasure Equitation Trail, Walk-trot trail, Trail in hand Walk-Trot can be English or Western 	<p>69. Senior Speed & Control 70. Intermediate Speed & Control 71. Junior Speed & Control 72. Senior Grasshopper 73. Intermediate Grasshopper 74. Junior Grasshopper</p> <p><u>Class 153 – Walk-Trot Gymkhana - Friday</u> 75. Walk-Trot Barrels – All ages* 76. Walk-Trot Flag Race – All ages* 77. Walk-Trot Stakes Race – All ages* 78. Walk-Trot Keyhole – All ages* * Only Walk-Trot exhibitors eligible</p> <p><i>Gymkhana Champions Announced (Sr., Int., Jr., & Walk-Trot)</i></p>
<p><u>EQUINE VERSATILITY</u> Performance Versatility - Contestants must qualify by placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in a showmanship and/or horsemanship or equitation class at the fair. (NOT Western Showmanship Not Under Saddle)</p> <p>Gymkhana Versatility - Contestants must qualify by placing 1st, 2nd or 3rd in barrels, stakes race, pole bending or keyhole at the fair.</p> <p>Small Equine Versatility - Contestants must qualify by placing 1st, 2nd or 3rd in showmanship, trail-in-hand, or a driving class at the fair. Must have competed in a driving class in the Junior Fair, current year.</p>	<p><u>EQUINE VERSATILITY RULES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members may not pre-enter versatility classes. They must qualify at the fair by placing in selected classes as indicated in the left-hand column. Once a member has qualified, entry cards (found at the booth) must be signed by an advisor and turned in to a Horse Superintendent. Performance Versatility Classes will be held on Saturday, Aug. 22 starting at 9:00 a.m.; followed by Gymkhana Versatility and Small Equine Versatility. Each participant may have 1 handler and 2 helpers. It is okay to talk to the exhibitors during Versatility, but they may not be coached during the event. <p>NOTE: If a small equine (38” and under) places 1st - 3rd in an English Showmanship class, the next saddle-type project will qualify for versatility.</p>	<p><u>Class 155 - Versatility - Saturday</u> 79. Senior Performance Versatility 80. Intermediate Performance Versatility 81. Junior Performance Versatility 82. Senior Gymkhana Versatility 83. Intermediate Gymkhana Versatility 84. Junior Gymkhana Versatility 85. Small Equine Versatility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance Versatility classes will be Showmanship (English/Western), English Pleasure, Western Horsemanship, and Keyhole Gymkhana Versatility classes will be Horsemanship, Reining (pattern A Flying lead change), Keyhole and Barrels Small Equine Versatility classes will be Showmanship, Jumper-in-hand, Pleasure Driving, and Reinsmanship.
<p><u>SMALL EQUINE (38” AND UNDER)</u></p> <p>-Small Equine classes will be held after the Trail classes on Tuesday.</p> <p>-Small Equine Driving classes will be held after the Open Pony Show on Thursday.</p>	<p><u>SMALL EQUINE CLASS RULES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passengers in hitch classes are optional, for safety. Proper helmets are required for all driving classes. (See Rule #1 on page 6 of the Uniform Rules). See Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows: pages 30-34 for Trail in Hand, pages 80-82 for Jumper in Hand, pages 86-92 for driving classes. Leads for classes 41-42 and harnesses for classes 80-81 must be inspected prior to entering the show ring. Driving class bits may include Liverpools, Pelhams and Kimberwicks, as long as approved by the Bit Inspection Committee. (Exception to rules in Uniform Rules book, Acceptable Bits & Tack, pg. 23). 	<p><u>SMALL EQUINE (38” AND UNDER)</u></p> <p><u>Class 154 - Small Equine (38” & under) - Tuesday</u> 14. Small Equine Trail in Hand (Not eligible for any Other trail class) 15. Small Equine Jumper in Hand</p> <p><u>Class 154 - Small Equine (38” & under) - Thursday</u> 86. Small Equine Pleasure Driving 87. Small Equine Reinsmanship</p>

<p><u>ROPING</u></p> <p>#187-Roping (\$12.00)</p> <p><i>Member must purchase a project book the first year they enroll in the project. This project can be completed as a still project without a horse.</i></p>	<p><u>ROPING</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project may be taken as a horse project or a still project. • Option 1- Taking as a <u>horse project</u> allows you to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bring a horse to the fair ○ Optional to sign up for the roping class and any other horse show classes during the fair ○ Must complete EquiSTEP and Skillathon ○ *Members must enroll in the Roping project in order to participate in the roping class at the fair. ○ *Huron County only offers ground roping, no mounted roping. • Option 2- Taking as a <u>still project</u> allows you to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bring a poster about something they learned in the project to the fair and be interviewed ○ Optional to sign up for the roping class during the horse show at the fair. ○ May not sign up for any other horse show classes. ○ *Members must enroll in the Roping project in order to participate in the roping class at the fair. ○ *Members must make a Fair Entry for their still project (roping still project) and an additional entry for the class (roping class) if they wish to participate in it. ○ *If planning on competing at the State Fair with the Roping project, the member must complete EquiSTEP. • Members can choose to do both option 1 and 2, if they want to bring a horse and do a poster. They would only need to do 1 book and will be graded with their still project. 	<p><u>Class 156- Other Horse Programs</u></p> <p>44. Roping Class (Wednesday)</p> <p>88. Roping (still project) Still project interview judging will be Monday morning, August 17 starting at 12:00pm in the Auctioneer G.A. Pickworth Judging Pavilion.</p>
<p><u>HORSELESS HORSE PROJECT</u></p> <p>#173-Horseless Horse (\$12.00)</p> <p><i>Members enrolling in this project may use the same project book for 3 years but must enroll in the project and pay the fee each year. (\$12.00)</i></p> <p><i>The Equine Record Book is not required</i></p>	<p><u>HORSELESS HORSE RULES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For young members not enrolled in a horse project. • Learn about the many aspects of horses. • The project book is lengthy and designed to provide learning opportunities over a three-year period. • Members must prepare a poster, 22" x 28", about horses, showing something that they learned in their project. (<u>Regular poster board only. No foam boards, wood boards, displays, etc.</u>) • Posters must be turned in at the Junior Fair Office on Sunday, Aug. 16 by 3:00 p.m., not the Miscellaneous Building. • Horseless Horse posters will be displayed in the Miscellaneous Building at the fair, after judging. • Posters should be picked up in the Miscellaneous Building on Sunday, Aug. 23 between 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. • Failure to turn in a poster results in the member being unable to place. • All guidelines on pg. 3 of the book must be followed each year the project is taken. • Horseless Horse is an Equine project. Members are required to do EquiSTEP and Skillathon is optional. 	<p><u>Class 156 - Other Horse Programs</u></p> <p>89. Horseless Horse – 1st year (Monday) 90. Horseless Horse- 2nd year & beyond (Monday)</p> <p>Judging will be by interview, Monday, Aug. 17 in the Auctioneer G. A. Pickworth Judging Pavilion, starting at 12:00 p.m.</p> <p>An interview schedule will be available at the Junior Fair Office when posters are turned in on Sunday, Aug. 16.</p> <p>Project book must be brought to judging.</p>

DREAM TEAM

- Consists of one Sr., one Intermediate, and one Jr. Equine member. (3 members)
- The Teams will be chosen at random at the July Horse Council meeting. {use letters for Teams, i.e. Team A, B}
- Exhibitor shows their own project (Horseless Horse)*
- Class will be judged and placed according to point system. Awards go to the 3 team members. 1st thru 5th.
- The classes shown are: Western Showmanship, Western Horsemanship, & Dreamweaver
- The team decides who shows what discipline.
- Exhibitors will wear t-shirts, jeans, boots, & helmet. Team can choose a t-shirt color.
- Tack is Western halter (Leather w/ leather lead, chain optional) and Western saddle. {see Uniform Rules book}
- Class limit will be determined at the Horse Council meeting. Allowance for two Sr. one Jr., or two Intermediate one Jr.
- Showmanship can be a Small equine or Horseless Horse member, discretion of owner*

DREAM TEAM

91. Dream Team (Thursday)
Thursday after the Open Pony Show and Small Equine driving.

*Must make a Fair Entry

HORSE SKILLATHON

It is MANDATORY for all horse project members to enter the Horse Skillathon.

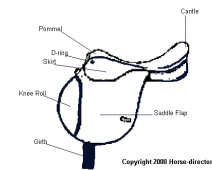
Members must participate in skillathon to complete their project requirements.

HORSE SKILLATHON RULES

- Will follow state fair age divisions and be split into Senior (ages 16-18), Intermediate (ages 13-15) and Junior (ages 8-12) Divisions.
- The top five placings in each division will be recognized (trophy and ribbons) at the fair. Premiums will be paid for Horse Skillathon by sponsors.
- Possible skillathon stations may include, but are not limited to: Anatomy, Breeds, Colors, Gaits, Bits, Tack, Shoes, Nutrition, Plants, and General Horse Knowledge. Specific topics are TBA.
- Use project book #174 - Beginning Horse Management, to study for the Horse Skillathon.
- Complete project and record books are required to be turned in at the skillathon.

HORSE SKILLATHON

Horse skillathon will be held on Sunday, August 16th, at 3:00 pm outside each members stall.



Important 2026 Horse Dates:

- January 28- Horse Council meeting- Secretary's office, fair grounds
- March 25- Horse Council meeting- Secretary's office, fair grounds
- May 1- Member/Project Self-enrollment Deadline
- May 1- Yearly online EquiSTEP due – ohio4h.org/horse
- May 1 – Ride nights begin
- May 15- Possession deadline
- May 27- Horse Council meeting- Secretary's office, fair grounds
- May 27- PAS registration due at Horse Council meeting- No late entries!
- May 27- Horse Royalty application and money due at Horse Council meeting
- May 27 - Club Project List due at Horse Council meeting
- June 13- Lorain County PAS show –8:30 a.m. at the Lorian County Fairgrounds
- June 20- Huron County PAS show – 8:30 a.m. location TBA
- June 25- Horse Council Meeting- Vet's Pavilion, fair grounds
- June 30- Fair Entry due
- June 30- Animal uploaded to Fair Entry:
 - Animal Name
 - Front and side photo
 - Vaccination form
 - Lease (if applicable)
- July 1- State Fair registration, fees, and negative Coggins test due by 1:00 p.m. No late entries!
- July 20-24- Ohio State Junior Horse Show
- July 29- Horse Council meeting- Vet's Pavilion, fair grounds
- July 26- Horse Royalty Judging- Fair grounds
- August 1- Declare if Walk-Trot or Canter
- August 7- Horse Council meeting- Vet's Pavilion, fair grounds *Advisors receive back numbers
- August 16- Horses enter Fair between 1:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m
- August 16- Horseless Horse projects enter Fair between 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Jr. Fair Office
- August 17-22- Huron County Fair
- August 23- All projects released between 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- September 23- Horse Council meeting- Secretary's office, fair grounds

Horse Clubs (Ride Night)

Bronc Busters (Tuesday)

Desperadoes (Wednesday)

Huron County Ribbon Wranglers

Rocking H (Monday)

Rough Riders (Thursday)

Silver Spurs (Saturday)

The HC Lone Rangers (Sunday)

Trailblazers (Friday)