

Department 5: 4-H/FFA Horses

Saddle Horse Show:

Outdoor Horse Arena, Wednesday, October 8th, 2025, 8:30 a.m.

Saddle Horse Show:

Outdoor Horse Arena, Thursday, October 9th, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Trail will be set up and ready at 10:00 a.m. for exhibitors that are not involved with the band competition.

All exhibitors are expected to be ready no later than 12:00 p.m.

Saddle Horse Show Contesting Classes:

Outdoor Horse Arena, Friday, October 10th, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

Superintendents: Becky Shonebarger-Bell, Nick Tipple, Grace Daniels

Assistant Superintendents: Jami Clark and Mara Weber

Please note: Junior Fair horses will be housed in the AAA Building.

Housing Forms: Junior Fair Exhibitors housing animal(s) in a location other than the property on which they reside must obtain and file a Livestock Housing Form with the OSU Extension Office. Deadline for filling out this form is the deadline set forth for possession of the animal. For more specifications, refer to the General Rules.

Horse ID: Forms and photo of project horse and back up horse if claimed (showing all distinctive markings, 1 side with exhibitor) must be uploaded to 4-HOnline by June 1st. FFA exhibitors should submit Horse ID forms and photo to the OSU Extension Office via email or hard copy by June 1st of the current year. One (1) project horse and one (1) backup horse ID per exhibitor. Link to form: <http://go.osu.edu/fairfieldhorse>.

Health Papers: Are not required. 4-H exhibitors must upload a negative Coggins test in 4-HOnline with Horse ID paperwork by June 1st of the current year. FFA exhibitors should submit documentation for a negative Coggins test to the OSU Extension by June 1st of the current year.

EquiSTEP: Ohio 4-H's Equine Safety, Training, and Education Program. EquiSTEP is an annual requirement for all Ohio 4-H youth enrolled in a horse project. Fairfield County 4-H and FFA Horse Exhibitors are required to complete EquiSTEP by June 1st of the current year with documentation submitted to the OSU Extension Office.

Horse Lease and Pony Form: Due June 1st to OSU Extension. Link to information and forms: <http://go.osu.edu/fairfieldhorse>.

Horse Permission to Participate Form: Due for FFA Members by June 1st to OSU Extension. Link to form: <http://go.osu.edu/fairfieldhorse>.

Skillathon: Each exhibitor must participate in a Skillathon. Youth are encouraged to attend the species you are exhibiting. If an exhibitor plans to compete for Horse Premier Exhibitor, they must attend the Horse Skillathon at the Fairfield County Fairgrounds on September 21st, 2025, to be eligible.

Project Record Books:

- 4-H and FFA Record Books are required to be COMPLETED for each project.
- 4-H Members should have a NEW 4-H Record Book each year they take the project.
- 4-H and FFA Records Books will be reviewed at Skillathon.
 - For those who forget or don't bring their book – the book will need be completed and turned into the OSU Extension Office by Friday, September 19th, 2025.
 - Exhibitors who do not properly complete a record book for each of their fair projects WILL NOT be allowed to exhibit at the fair. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
 - No books will be reviewed after September 21st, 2025.

Entries: Fair entries are required by 4-H and FFA exhibitors to be eligible to compete at the Fairfield County Junior Fair. 4-H exhibitors must be enrolled in the corresponding 4-H project by enrollment deadline, April 15th. Fair entries will open in early August and close at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, August 29th, 2025. All entries will be made online in the FairEntry program: <http://go.osu.edu/fairfieldfairentry>.

Entries for the Horse Showmanship Division: One entry per exhibitor **required**.

Horse exhibitors must enter and complete **at least ONE** Showmanship Division Class to be eligible to show in the Fairfield County Junior Horse Show. **Exhibitors are welcome to enter more than one showmanship class.**

Horse Showmanship Classes: All Showmanship Classes will take place on Wednesday.

- For Western Showmanship Classes: Refer to Uniform Rules for Horse Shows for standards/qualifications.
 - For English Showmanship Classes: “Saddleseat” entries will be included in Hunt Seat, and the judge will judge accordingly. Refer to Uniform Rules for Horse Shows for standards/qualifications.
 - For Ranch Showmanship Classes: Refer to Uniform Rules for Horse Shows for standards/qualifications.
1. Novice Showmanship (All Ages – 1st Year Members)
 2. Gaited Showmanship (All Ages)
 3. Ranch Showmanship (8-11)
 4. Ranch Showmanship (12-14)
 5. Ranch Showmanship (15 & over)
 6. Ranch Showmanship Championship
 7. English Showmanship (8-11)
 8. English Showmanship (12-14)
 9. English Showmanship (15 & over)
 10. English Showmanship Championship
 11. Western Showmanship (8-11)
 12. Western Showmanship (12-14)
 13. Western Showmanship (15 & over)
 14. Western Showmanship Championship
 15. Showman of Showmen Showmanship Championship

Entries for the Horse Show Division: In addition to the entries made in the Showmanship Division in FairEntry, each exhibitor must complete additional Horse Show entries online in FairEntry in the Horse Show Division by the FairEntry deadline.

Horse Show Classes (Wednesday):

16. Hunter Hack
17. English Equitation (8-11)
18. English Equitation (12-14)
19. English Equitation (15 & over)
20. English Equitation Championship
21. Hunter Under Saddle (8-11)
22. Hunter Under Saddle (12-14)
23. Hunter Under Saddle (15 & over)
24. Walk/Trot English Equitation (8-12)
25. Walk/Trot English Equitation (13 & over)
26. Easy Gaited Equitation (All Ages)
27. Walk/Trot Western Horsemanship (8-12)
28. Walk/Trot Western Horsemanship (13 & over)
29. Walk/Trot/Gaited Championship
30. Western Horsemanship (8-11)
31. Western Horsemanship (12-14)
32. Western Horsemanship (15 & over)
33. Western Horsemanship Championship
34. Western Pleasure (8-11)
35. Western Pleasure (12-14)
36. Western Pleasure (15 & over)

Horse Show Classes (Thursday):

1. Trail (8-11)
 2. Trail (12-14)
 3. Trail (15 & over)
 4. Walk/Trot Trail (8-12)
 5. Walk/Trot Trail (13 & over)
 6. Trail in Hand (All Ages)
 7. Extreme Trail Championship
 8. Walk/Trot English Pleasure (8-12)
 9. Walk/Trot English Pleasure (13 & over)
 10. Walk/Trot Western Pleasure (8-12)
 11. Walk/Trot Western Pleasure (13 & over)
 12. Barrels (8-11)
 13. Barrels (12-14)
 14. Barrels (15 & over)
 15. Walk/Trot Barrels (8-12)
 16. Walk/Trot Barrels (13 & over)
 17. Poles (8-11)
 18. Poles (12-14)
 19. Poles (15 & over)
 20. Stakes Race (8-11)
 21. Stakes Race (12-14)
 22. Stakes Race (15 & over)
 23. Keyhole Race (8-11)
 24. Keyhole Race (12-14)
 25. Keyhole Race (15 & over)
 26. Ground Roping (All Ages)
- Contest Champion and Reserve*

Horse Show Classes (Friday):

1. Versatility
 2. Ranch Riding (8-11)
 3. Ranch Riding (12-14)
 4. Ranch Riding (15 & over)
 5. Walk/Trot Ranch Pleasure (8-12)
 6. Walk/Trot Ranch Pleasure (13 & over)
 7. Ranch Pleasure Horse/Pony (8-11)
 8. Ranch Pleasure Horse/Pony (12-14)
 9. Ranch Pleasure Horse/Pony (15 & over)
 10. Easy Gaited Pleasure (All Ages)
 11. Ranch Horsemanship (8-11)
 12. Ranch Horsemanship (12-14)
 13. Ranch Horsemanship (15 & over)
 14. Ranch Horsemanship Championship
- Overall High Point Winner**

Arrival Time: Between 9:00 a.m. Saturday and 9:00 a.m. Sunday for horses stalling at the fair. Those not stalling will be trailered in the day of the show **or any Junior Horse activity held at the Outdoor Arena** (See Horses Special Rule #16 below).

Release Time: 1:00 p.m. Saturday. No animals will be released prior to the stated release time without notifying the Horse Superintendent and completing a release form. Forms will be available from the Horse Superintendent. Once an animal is released, it may not return for the duration of the current Fairfield County Junior Fair. Any exhibitor violating this rule will be barred from exhibiting that species at the fair the following year. All animals are to be removed from the fairgrounds by 11:00 p.m. Saturday.

Premiums: Now known as the Premium Process. Exhibitors will earn premiums based on 50% from Skillathon/Project Book and 50% from vet exam at 9:00 a.m. on move-in day. If exhibitor chooses to “haul in”, then the vet exam grade will be given by Junior Fair Horse Show judge. Project books will be checked during county Skillathon. If an exhibitor does not complete a project book and turn it in at Skillathon, he or she will be ineligible to receive a premium and will not show that specie at the county fair for that year. It is the exhibitor’s responsibility to complete project books annually for their exhibit.

- Horse Premiums: “A”= \$6.00; “B”= \$5.00; “C”= \$3.00

READ THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY JUNIOR FAIR GENERAL RULES AND HEALTH REGULATIONS and UNIFORM RULES FOR 4-H/FFA HORSE SHOWS

Horses Special Rules

1. The Uniform Rules for the 4-H Horse Shows (4-H Book 179R) will apply to the Fairfield County Fair Junior Horse Show and Fairfield County Junior Fair Rules. Fairfield County Junior Fair Rules are reviewed by the Horse Advisory Committee. Fairfield County Junior Fair rules will prevail.
2. **A Showman of Showman Class will be held on Wednesday to determine the exhibitor who will represent horses in Super Showmanship on Thursday, Grand Champion from English Showmanship Championship, Grand Champion from Ranch Showmanship Championship and Grand Champion from Western Championship Showmanship classes will compete/return to the Showman of the Showman class to determine who will be representing horses in Super Showmanship. (This person is no longer based on the oldest winner but the overall winner of Showman of Showman). Please refer to the Super Showmanship rules for more information.**
3. Exhibitors may enter only 1 horse project total through the online FairEntry program. Every exhibitor is required to complete the Premium Process (Skillathon/Project Book and vet exam) on opening day if stalling at the fair. If hauling in, the vet exam will be conducted by the judge for the Junior Fair Horse Show. Each exhibitor will be graded A, B, or C. Premiums will be paid on the premium Process.
 - a. Exhibitors entered in Western Showmanship, Ranch Showmanship or English Showmanship must show in at least ONE showmanship class to be eligible to show in any other classes of the current Junior Fair Horse Show. Once an exhibitor competes in their showmanship class(es), they are eligible to show in any classes in the show they meet the requirements for, to include contest classes. If an exhibitor fails to show in a showmanship class, they will be removed from / eliminated from all other classes they are entered in.
4. The Western Showmanship Championship Class is open to those placing first or second in their age division in Western Showmanship. The English Showmanship Championship Class is open to those placing first or second in their age division in English Showmanship. The Ranch Showmanship Championship Class is open to those placing first or second in their age division in Ranch Showmanship. Exhibitors showing in Gaited or Novice Showmanship Class may show either Ranch, English or Western. Their style of showing (English, Ranch or Western) will determine which championship class they will return to. If an exhibitor wins (places first) in more than one Championship, (i.e.. wins Grand Champion in English and Western) they must decide which mode of showing they will represent in Showman of Showman. There is no rollover of representation, hence Reserve Champions will not compete in the Showman of Showmen.
5. All horse exhibitors showing at the Fairfield County Fair are eligible to compete in ground roping. However, the exhibitor must complete the Premium Process requirement to be eligible.
6. All premiums will be given on the Premium Process.
7. All animals exhibited must have been completely and fully owned (as evidenced by a bill of sale or registration papers) and in the complete and continual care of the exhibitor on or after June 1st. Junior Fair Horses may be leased according to rules in the "Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows." Leasing contracts must be on file at the OSU Extension Office by June 1st via 4-HOnline.
8. Exhibitors may declare a second animal to be used as a backup animal. A backup animal may be a leased animal. A family may share a backup animal that is owned or leased. However, the leased backup animal may only be declared as a project by one family member. A backup animal would be used only in the case of injury or death to the project animal or other extreme circumstance approved by the 4-H Horse Advisor Committee Officers. Vet documentation is required. The animal must be replaced by the move in day (Sunday, 9:00 a.m.- opening day of the fair) of the Fairfield County Fair. The backup animal must be declared by June 1st along with all the required paperwork (same requirements as project horse).
9. Siblings/stepsiblings living in the same household may share a horse project. No more than 2 siblings may share a horse. Both siblings must turn in separate Horse Identification Forms. Only one sibling may compete for State Fair Qualification (which is to be identified by June 1st). At the county fair, siblings must compete in separate classes. Leased horses may not be shared.
10. Walk/Trot classes are based on the rider's experiences. Walk/Trot classes are for **first year** members with limited experience **or members with Winning 4-H Plans** on file at the OSU Extension Office, or members with horses not capable of three gaits. Members entered in Walk/Trot classes are not eligible to show in any other classes that require three gaits, **this includes anyone entered into Easy Gaited classes**. Advisors must sign off for a 4-H/FFA member to participate in these classes **if they are riding these classes based on ability or disability. If a 4-H/FFA member competes at any P.A.S. show or at the Ohio State Fair in canter classes, they are ineligible for Walk/Trot classes at the Fairfield County Fair.**
11. No bedding will be provided for Junior Fair Horse exhibitors. Exhibitors must provide their own sawdust or wood shavings. Upon release on Saturday, Junior Fair Horse stalls must be stripped and cleaned completely. Advisors will walk the stalls before any horse can be taken home.
12. 4-H/FFA horses are not permitted in the Outdoor Arena or the Warm-Up Arena/ area during the Open Draft, Open Mule and Pony, or Open Miniature Horse shows, unless they are entered and showing in one of those specific shows.
13. 4-H / FFA horses must use the designated walkways and roped areas. Horses and child must be accompanied by an adult (immediate family member as defined as **parent, stepparent, grandparent, step grandparent, guardian, or sibling over the age of 18, but not a current 4-H/FFA member themselves**) when walking to the Outdoor Arena / Warm Up area. Horses must be led from the barn area and mounted only when they are within the warmup area or inside the Outdoor Arena.

14. 4-H/FFA members must have an adult family member (**refer to Special Rule #13 for definition of adult family member or advisor**) when lunging, riding, or have their horse in the Outdoor Arena or Warm-up arena/area. **For safety reasons, 4-H/FFA members may have a parent or an advisor assist with lunging their horse if they are unable to safely do it themselves. The 4-H/FFA member must be present. No schooling other than lunging is permitted by anyone other than the 4-H/FFA member.**
15. No bareback or double riding permitted. NO riding with halter and lead rope. Horses must be properly tacked. Riding apparel must include **shirt with some type of sleeve (NO tank tops/shirts cut down sides or bottom)**, long pants, boots with a heel, and ASTM/SEI approved safety headgear **if mounted on your horse.**
16. Only declared project horses may participate in or be trailered in the day of the Junior Fair Horse Show or for any 4-H or Junior Fair Horse activity including but not limited to the Fun Speed Show, Exhibition Classes, and Fun Horse Show. **NO HORSES WILL BE LEFT UNATTENDED WHILE TIED TO OR STANDING ON A TRAILER.**
17. Only 4-H/FFA members will ride their project horse during the Fairfield County Fair. Another person may show the project animal in one of the Open Horse Shows (Open Draft, Open Mule and Pony, Open Miniature Horse, Open Horse and Pony) if the 4-H/FFA member is showing the same project animal in that show. No one can ride a project animal 30 days prior to PAS shows, State Fair Horse Show, or the Fairfield County Fair for schooling purposes. This is cause for disqualification to the 4-H/FFA member. Refer to Uniform Rules for Horse Shows for specific rule clarification.
18. A 4-H/FFA member attending school or other circumstances that keep them from exercising the animal during the allowed times may have a parent, advisor, or senior 4-H/FFA member walk or lunge their project animal to allow exercise for the animal. **The 4-H/FFA MEMBER MUST NOTIFY THEIR ADVISOR OF THIS ARRANGEMENT.** This in no way releases the 4-H/FFA member from complying with General Rule 22 in this book and they are expected to be responsible for the exercising at all other times.
19. There will be no additions to the entries after 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday of fair week. Anyone choosing to scratch a class prior to the show start must inform the Superintendent. Scratches made during the show must be done at the announcers stand. All scratches are final.
20. The number of stalls for each 4-H Club/FFA Chapter must be declared no later than September 20th, 2025, to allow any adjustments that might be needed for tack stalls/tack trailers.
21. Back numbers are required to be worn on exhibitor's back or on both sides of the horse when participating in any Junior Fair Horse Show, schooling clinics, exhibition classes or "fun" shows. Number must be **LEGIBLE BLACK and BOLD NUMBERS** and preferably waterproof.
22. The Junior Fair Horse Department will expect courteous and orderly conduct by the exhibitor and their attendants (parents or person responsible for exhibitor). Harassment, profanity, or unsportsmanlike conduct towards fair officials, judges, fair managers, 4-H/FFA advisors, 4-H educators, Show Superintendents, show helpers or fellow exhibitors or attendances (parents or person responsible for exhibitor) will not be tolerated. Any violations of this rule would warrant the withholding of any premiums won and eviction from the Fairfield County Fair. If any of the above occurs, the first violation the show superintendent will discuss with the 4-H/FFA advisors. The second violation the show superintendent will discuss with the 4-H/FFA advisor present with the exhibitor, along with the attendants (parents or person responsible for the exhibitor) and the Junior Fair Director. Third violation would result in eviction.

Junior Fair Horse Show High Point Guidelines

1. All entrants in the Jr Fair Horse Show will be eligible for the high point award. The goal of the High Point is to encourage and reward versatility in our exhibitors and their horses. Points will be awarded by the placings in all classes except Champion classes and Versatility class, according to the point scale below.
2. Points will be recorded and calculated, and the High Point Winner will be announced after the close of the Junior Fair Horse Show. In the event of a tie for the High Point Winner, **the number of 1st places earned during the Junior Fair Horse Show will be used. If the 1st places do not break the tie, the highest single placing in showmanship regardless of how many showmanship classes they have participated in. If the two tie breakers still fail to break the tie, the flip of a coin will be used.**

Placing Points Awarded

- 1st Place: **5** Points
- 2nd Place: **4** Points
- 3rd Place: **3** Points
- 4th Place: **2** Points
- 5th Place: **1** Point