

**2026**

**Perry County Jr. Fair  
Horse & Pony Rules**



**Compiled and approved by:  
Horse Committee, OSU Extension, and Sr. Fair Board**

**DISCLAIMER**

**Failure to read and understand provided information, including this document and 4-H mailings/emails is not an acceptable reason for unmet deadlines or requirements.**

Please remember that communication is a two-way street -  
ask your club advisors or the Extension Office for help if you feel like you are missing something

### **Resources Available from OSU Extension:**

#179R - Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows – the statewide rule book for 4-H horse programs

*\*It is the responsibility of the advisor AND the exhibitor to be familiar with this resource.*

#190R – Horse Project & Record Book – multi-year fillable book to track horse project records

#174-189 – All other horse-related 4-H project books

Horse Skillathon Kit – may be borrowed by club advisors for practice to prepare for Skillathon Judging (*held during pre-fair judging days, bring Record Book to receive full points, Jr. & Sr. categories awarded*)

### **Fair Week Schedule:**

Monday – 9am start, all classes requiring equipment set-up (trail, roping, jumps)

Tuesday – 9am start, Western & Ranch classes

Wednesday – 9am start, English, followed by Walk/Trot Contest & Contest

Thursday – 5pm start, Contest

### **General Exhibition Information**

- Anyone identifying an animal at the fair in need of medical attention should contact the exhibitor's club advisor so that advisor may contact fair veterinarian.

- Class patterns will be posted on the side of the announcer's stand at the start of each show day. Patterns created by the county will be available through Advisor ahead of show.

-Know the language on show day... "You're up...On deck...In the hole...Be thinking about it!"

-Scoresheets (as used) will be posted on the side of the announcer's stand following each class.

- All Junior Fair exhibitors of a horse/pony will receive ONE grade and premium. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to pick up their premiums at the Sr. Fair Board office on Friday and Saturday of fair week, 11am-7pm.

### **Exhibition Requirements**

#### ***Member Requirements:***

1. If exhibiting through 4-H, member **MUST** be enrolled in selected horse project by April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline through 4-H Online enrollment system **AND MUST** participate in a minimum of 5 club meetings.
2. **MUST** annually complete an online EquiSTEP program **AND** quiz, offered through OSU Qualtrics online **by June 1<sup>st</sup>**. Directions are emailed to all enrolled families.
3. **MUST** have paperwork (for project horse **AND** potential back-up horse) submitted to OSU Extension (through the club) **by May 1<sup>st</sup>**, this includes: Horse ID, Permission/Helmet Form, and lease(s).
4. **MUST** meet county requirement for participating in 3 meetings on horseback with a 4-H Horse Advisor present, at the fairgrounds arena for familiarizing animal with the surroundings. This applies to FFA & 4-H members; for 4-H members, these may count towards the 5-meeting requirement.
5. **MUST** complete online fair entry for horse classes (with permission of club/chapter advisor) **by June 20<sup>th</sup>**. The age of the exhibitor on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year determines their class eligibility. **\*\*The exhibitor may ride Western OR Ranch, and this**

*must be clearly declared through the fair entry – if riding Ranch, the only Western classes that may be shown are In-Hand Trail and Reining.*

6. All exhibitors MUST follow the Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows regarding safety helmets. Exhibitors MUST wear an approved helmet at ALL TIMES while riding or driving a horse/pony for 4-H events. This includes meetings/practices, warm-ups, fair exhibition, PAS competition, or any 4-H sponsored shows/events. Likewise, appropriate clothing and tack is also expected; no bareback riding is permitted at the fairgrounds.

### ***Animal Requirements:***

1. Horses/ponies must be in the exhibitor's possession and under their care on or before **May 1**, with required identification forms submitted to OSU Extension by May 1. Leasing is permitted with the required paperwork submitted to the OSU Extension by May 1. **An exhibitor may identify 1 primary project animal and 1 back-up project animal.** Siblings may exhibit the same animal not in the same classes. Siblings **only** may list the same back-up animal. \*If backup project animal is leased, that paperwork is due **May 1**.
2. All horses/ponies must have received a '5-way' vaccine (Equine Influenza, Equine Rhinopneumonitis [Equine Herpes Virus Type 1 & 2], Equine Eastern & Western Encephalomyelitis, and Tetanus Toxoid) and submit paperwork accordingly **no later than June 30<sup>th</sup>** of current fair year to the Senior Fair Board Office. Horse projects without vaccine documentation risk being denied the right to show.
3. All horses are subject to Body Condition Scoring at the fair by the contracted fair veterinarian or show judge. Horses scoring less than a 4 are ineligible to exhibit. 4-H Advisors are encouraged to score animals throughout the meeting season and may deny permission for members to make fair entries.
4. Horses are over 58" in height. Ponies are 58" in height or less. If project animal is barefoot or shod at time of measuring, that is how they must be shown in PAS and at fair.
5. The use of hoof polish, mane and tail extenders is permitted except for horses being shown in Ranch classes. Ranch only permits trimming of the bridle path.
6. Horses/ponies aged 5-years and under may be ridden 2-handed with a snaffle bit or hackamore.
7. Horses/ponies known to kick should have a Red Ribbon tied to tail, serving as a warning to other exhibitors.
8. Horses/ponies must be in place by 10:00pm Sunday prior to fair. Horses/ponies are dismissed Friday from 9:00am-4:00pm. *\*Entry in Showman of Showmen may remain stalled through Friday night.*

### **Rules Regarding Fairgrounds Facilities**

1. Clubs using the Arena/Booth/Restrooms/Equipment for practices prior to fair are responsible for assuring all items are securely put away and areas are cleaned up and locked at the end of practice. Failure to do so may result in clubs losing the privilege of practicing on the property.
2. When a 4-H club is assigned stalls in a barn, they must stay in those assigned areas. All stalls in the barns MUST be used. Tack stalls are not guaranteed.
3. Exhibitors are NOT permitted to spend the night in the horse barns/tents.
4. Each exhibitor is responsible for cleaning out his/her stall no later than 4:00pm Saturday. Failure to do so will result in the exhibitor being ineligible to exhibit the following year.

5. An advisor must be present at all times while exhibitor is in the Arena. No practicing in the Arena from midnight to 6:00am. The Arena is available for practice at the end of each show day for the discipline that will show the following day.
6. No bareback riding in OR outside of Arena.
7. No freely running animals are allowed in the Arena or the Round Pen. Gates must be closed when animals are present.
8. Other than during show hours, animals must be led to/from the Arena and Round Pen.
9. On show days, the only exhibitors in Round Pen should be those 'on deck' for upcoming class. 'Assistants' are only allowed in Round Pen to lead animal and rider to Arena.
10. No paid instruction may take place at the fairgrounds during the week of fair.
11. No excessive use of whips/crops. \*To be determined & announced by judge daily.
12. On show days during classes ONLY exhibitors, judge and steward are permitted in the arena except for when the judge requests assistance from advisors or medical personnel.
13. **Exhibitors/parents are not permitted in the announcer's booth.** Concerns should be brought to your club advisor who will address with the volunteers in the booth and/or the judge.

### **Rules Regarding Fair Week Classes**

*\*Show rules are based on the Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows, unless specified by these county rules and regulations.*

1. Only the Junior Fair exhibitor is allowed on their project animal on day of show. ONLY the exhibitor can ride a State Fair Qualified horse between PAS and the Ohio State Fair Junior Horse Show.
2. Participation in a showmanship class is mandatory for exhibitor's first two (2) years of showing at the Perry County Fair. (Accommodations will be made for youth with special needs **through completion of a Winning 4-H Plan.**)
3. Exhibitors will be given a 2-minute warning for a class and will be scratched if not arriving by that time. Exhibitors should let the judge know if they require a tack change between classes.
4. Novice Showmanship is for FIRST YEAR exhibitors only. Exhibitors can be any age. If participating in this class, cannot participate in any other Showmanship class.
5. Exhibitors may show in Walk-Trot classes for their first two years of exhibition (accommodations will be made for youth with special needs **through completion of a Winning 4-H Plan**) and may show Western or English. Walk-Trot exhibitors cannot participate in ANY three-gaited classes and may ONLY participate in Walk-Trot gymkhana classes. If gait is broken twice in these classes, result is DQ.
6. In-Hand Trail is not considered a three-gaited class.
7. Exhibitors in Western Reining will use Pattern A from the Uniform Rules Book.
8. Exhibitors in Trail may choose to ride English or Western, with points being awarded accordingly. Exhibitors may ONLY be in one of the following: Trail OR In-Hand Trail.
9. Exhibitors may enter in jumping classes but MUST demonstrate skill and be approved to compete by Fair Judge ahead of classes starting.
10. Flag Racing Class – no pick, no stick, no time.
11. Exhibitors may participate in the Western Riding class without achieving the 80% Pattern Class score as recommended in the Uniform Rules Book.
12. Trophies are provided by the Senior Fair Board for first place winners in State Fair Eligible Classes. Rosettes to first five places in each class, unless stated otherwise.
13. Grand Champion Showmanship class consists of 7 exhibitors max. – 1<sup>st</sup> place in 2 Western Showmanship classes, 2 Ranch Showmanship classes, 2 English

Showmanship classes. The winner of Novice Showmanship may be included at the request of the judge. Winner of Grand Champion Showmanship will represent equine in the Showman of Showmen contest on Friday evening.

***High Point Awards:***

- High Point Awards will be given for the following categories: Western, Ranch, English, Contest and Walk/Trot as well as All Around (\*must show in at least 1 class in each discipline W/R, E, C)

- All classes for a discipline are included in the High Point score. Walk/Trot scoring includes 1 showmanship class, 1 roping class, trail in-hand, and all walk/trot classes.

- Scores are tallied as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> Place – 5pts, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – 4pts, etc, regardless of # in class.  
*\*Extension Office representative will be responsible for tallying scores using the class binder.*

- Tie Breaker for each discipline will be as follows:

Western – new Horsemanship Pattern

Ranch – new Ranchmanship Pattern

Walk/Trot – new Horsemanship pattern

English – new Equitation pattern

Contest – timed Down & Back

All Around – new Showmanship pattern.