HORSE

2026

COMMITTEE: Ashley Cunningham, Chair, Belinda Snell, Co-Chair, Bev Bentley, Andrea Ellis, Raegan Eltzroth, Sherri Kile & Su Schmidt

The Horse committee meets the third Monday of the month throughout the calendar year. Active members are required to attend at least 50% of the activities to retain membership and voting privileges.

March 15	**Project Enrollment Deadline**
March 15	**PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN 4-H HORSE ACTIVITIES DISCLOSURE AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS, Due at time of online enrollment.**
March 18	**Horse Orientation Meeting: Wednesday, 6:30pm, OSU Extension office**
May 1	**Project Registration: Horse ID, Lease Agreement Form & EquiStep Due online in 4honline. (Horseless Horses members working with a mentor and horse must complete EquiStep online and upload certificate into 4honline.**
May 1	**Horse Ambassador Application Due to OSU Extension office**
May 19	**Horse Ambassador Contest**
June 1	**Fair Class Entries Due to OSU Extension office**
June 16	**Skillathon: 6-8 p.m., OSU Extension office**
June 28	**Tri-County Horse Show, Saturday, 9:00 a.m., Fairground-Horse Arena**
July 8	**Horseless Horse Judging: Wednesday, 10 a.m., Fairground-Expo Building**
July 10	**Open Arena: Friday, 8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.**
July 10	**Horse Arrival, Barn Set Up & Open Arena: Friday, 8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Fairground-Horse Arena & Barn**
July 11	**Fair Horse Show-English, Speed & Fun: Saturday, 10 a.m., Fairground-Horse Arena**
July 12	**Fair Horse Show-Western, Ranch & Fun: Sunday, 10 a.m., Fairground-Horse Arena**

General Horse Project Rules and Show Rules

Ownership (*Taken directly from **State Uniform Rules** with the exception of the May 1 date)*

1. Horses and ponies used as project animals must either be owned by the member, member's family or leased. The purpose of a lease is to provide an educational 4-H experience for youth who might not otherwise have the opportunity. If an animal is leased, a 4-H contract to lease must have the approval of the county OSU 4-H Extension Agent. A copy of the signed contract must be filed in the OSU Extension office.

2. An animal carried as a project can be shown by only one FFA/4-H member in state fair. See rule #3 for county fair participation.

3. Siblings may show the same horse provided; they do not show in the same class or age group or if it is an independent class. The family may only have one horse ID on file for the current year. If there are multiple horse ID's on file siblings are ineligible to share a project animal. Siblings would be eligible for high point but only one sibling may enter/participate in any championship class. Only one youth is eligible to qualify the project animal for state fair competition. All sibling sharing project animal requests must first be approved by the OSU Extension office and the Clinton County Horse Committee and should be clearly noted on project ID forms.

4. A member may carry a maximum of 4 project horses.

5. All animals carried as a 4-H project must be owned or leased and in the continual care of the 4-H member by **May 1.** Continual care does permit boarding an animal, provided the member is involved in feeding, cleaning and caring for the project. Project animals should not be switched during the year.

6. Lessons, instruction and advice for the member are encouraged. As long as the member is present in a learning situation, such assistance can include occasional riding or handling of the horse by another person. It cannot include regular training and care of the horse within 30 days of competition in the Clinton County Fair, PAS show or the state fair junior horse show. Showing a 4-H member's project animal in a class at a show is not considered training. However, if a project animal is shown by someone other than the 4-H member in an open or breed show within 30 days prior to the 4-H competition, the 4-H member must be present and must show the project horse in that show.

7. Family members can ride a 4-Her's project horse without the 4-H'er being present within the 30-day limit as long as it is not a daily occurrence and is for recreational purposes only.

Horseless Horse

1. This project is designed for allow members to explore horses and horse projects. Members have the option of completing the Horseless Horse 4-H project book and participating in pre-fair judging and put a project on display in the Jr Fair Building during the fair.
2. Members taking the Horseless Horse 4-H project book may also choose to work with a current/enrolled 4-H/FFA equine member to experience hands-on learning while mentoring an equine member and participate in the Jr Fair Horseless Horse class held during the Jr Fair Horse Show.
3. If a member selects to mentor an equine member and work with a horse project they will need to complete the following: complete EquiStep online by May 1, enroll in the Horseless Horse project, identify mentor by June 1, sign the permission to participate, keep an insert/log - to log hours and have 6 recorded practices with the mentor and must complete the fair entry to sign up for the Showmanship Horseless Horse Class

Hardship Cases

1. The county may make exceptions on an individual basis to the June 1 date for local programs, but there are **no exceptions** for state fair participation.

2. Children away at school or in a stepfamily may still participate as long as the animal is identified by **May 1** and they do assume responsibility for the animal before the show. Rules for regular training and handling of the horse are the same as described above.

3. **Hardship & Substitution**

Hardship-requests must be submitted no later than 7 days before the first day of the Junior Fair Horse Show to the Horse Committee and OSU Extension Office. This would apply to youth with only one horse ID on file for the current year. Hardship requests may only be made in situations involving death, disease and/or injury to the project animal. Hardship requests must include documentation confirming the need for the hardship request up to and including; vet documentation, advisor documentation, and/or farrier documentation. Hardship requests must have the approval of the club advisor, the Clinton County Horse Committee and the OSU Extension office. A horse ID form, and lease agreement (if applicable) are required for the substituted project animal.

- Hardship horse is not eligible to show in any Championship classes or any High Point participation.
- Sabina Saddle and Spur and the Invitational Showmanship Class are not considered Championship classes.
- Hardship horse is not eligible to show in any additional classes not already entered on June 1 Jr Fair entry form.

Substitutions must be submitted no later than one hour before the start of the Junior Fair Horse Show to the Horse Committee and the OSU Extension Office and would apply to youth with two or more horse ID's on file for the current year and would allow for the substitution of another horse, with a horse ID already on file for the current year. Substitution requests must have the approval of the club advisor, the Clinton County Horse Committee and the OSU Extension office. Substitution horse must already have a horse ID form, and lease agreement (if applicable) on file for the current year.

- Substitution horse is eligible to show in Championship classes or High Point participation if already entered on June 1 Jr Fair entry forms or Championship participation earned at the show
- Substitution horse is not eligible to show in any additional classes not already entered on June 1 Jr Fair entry form.

General Rules, 4-H Enrollment

1. Members must be enrolled in a Clinton County 4-H Jr. Fair horse project and must have attended six meetings to be able to participate in the 4-H Horse Show. A member need not participate at the county fair show to be counted as a completed 4-H member. A member also need not participate in the county fair show in order to compete in the PAS show.

2. Members **may** complete the skillathon for beef, dairy, dogs, goats, hogs, horses, poultry, rabbits and sheep at the designated time before or during the fair to be eligible to show their animals at the fair. A completed official 4-H project book or insert, which is 10% of the total skillathon score must be turned in at the time the test is taken. Those not taking the skillathon during the county event are ineligible for any skillathon or high

point awards. Members who enter the skillathon test buildings must sign in and take the skillathon that night. Only members taking the Skillathon are permitted in the testing areas. No cell phones may be used in the testing area. Skillathon age divisions: Jr. 8-13 & Sr. 14-19

3. This rule also includes county and state fair Dressage and PAS exhibitors.

Show Registration & Deadlines

1. Fair entries (Entries due to OSU Extension by June 1.)
    a. Absolutely no entry additions will be made to fair entries after deadline for fair entries.

Show Requirements

1. Projects are limited to mares and geldings.

2. Horse and pony sizes are as follows:
    a. Horse is over 58”
    b. Large pony is over 54" and not to exceed 58"
    c. Small pony is 54" to 35”
    d. Miniature Horse 34” and under

3. A member must designate distinction of each project animal as “either/or” a horse, pony, or donkey/mule for fair day class offerings.

4. Horses or Ponies shown in Contesting/Driving showmanship must be entered in at least one Contesting/Driving Class and may participate in the Championship or Invitational Showmanship classes if qualified.

5. Only two horses per exhibitor may be entered in individual classes such as trail, barrels, poles, jumping, dressage, etc. All other classes a member may enter & exhibit only one horse per class.

6. First and second year members have the following option: Choose the designated Walk Trot Beginner Classes ages 8-18 or enter the Walk Trot Canter age group classes. Once a Beginner has shown in age group classes they may not return to Beginner status. Walk Trot Beginners may also show in Good Grooming, and Open Halter. Members carrying two or more projects must enter their respective age group class, not Beginners classes. Beginners are not eligible for State level consideration for riding classes. Walk/Trot Classes may be divided into 1st/2nd year or age divisions in any given year at the discretion of the Show Committee based on class numbers after entries have been turned into the Show Committee. Beginners may not participate in the any three gated classes. Beginners may participate in the Intro to Canter Class. Beginners are not eligible for high point.
    a. Intro to Canter for Beginners Class: Members may participate in the Intro to Canter as well as Walk Trot classes. This class is for first & second year horse exhibitors only. The winner must move on to his or her age group the following year.

7. Halter Animals may be shown in their respective showmanship/performance classes according to the classification of the animal and/or the age of the member.

8. To compete in the Jumping Class, a member must have prior approval by his/her horse advisor.

9. Member and Horse combination may not return to cross rails jumping after jumping and completing 2 feet.

10. Warm up for hunter/jumper exhibitors will be available one hour prior to the show only.

Show Protocol & Etiquette

1. No spectator, parent or exhibitor is to be permitted to talk to the judge during the show. Questions are to be directed to the show steward. No verbal or physical abuse of any judge, show management official or 4-H member will be tolerated. Automatic suspension from the show will result in any member and/or parent and/or advisor that is guilty of such unsportsmanship. The above “abuse” rule applies to all Clinton County 4-H sanctioned shows.

2. In the event of question or dispute, the Clinton County Horse Committee has final interpretation of all rules, regulations and class size.

3. Only members showing their equine projects may ride their project horse/pony on show days and handle their equine project in a show nature. Project groomers at the Clinton County Fair are limited to the following: Clinton County 4-H and FFA members, their immediate families and any Clinton County 4-H and/or FFA advisors. This grooming rule includes holding, washing, and/or working with the animal while on exhibition.

4. Exception: for the purpose of control and safety, a family member (as defined in the Project Grooming Rules) may help lounge a horse or pony.

5. No inhumane equipment or treatment will be tolerated. Unruly horses must be excused by the judge or steward.

6. Chaps are optional in any Western/Ranch Horsemanship class.

7. "Fake" tails may be utilized in our county horse shows.

"Family" means the immediate family of the exhibitor to include the exhibitor's parent, stepparent, foster parent, grandparent, step grandparent, foster grandparent, brother, sister, step brother, step sister, half-brother, half-sister, son, daughter, step son, step daughter, aunt, uncle, step aunt, step uncle, or legal guardian. A legal guardian will be defined as a court appointed person to provide the care management of a minor.

Show Day Rules

A committee consisting of the Horse Committee Chair(s) and the show steward shall confer with judges prior to the day's opening ceremonies to discuss show procedure and clarification of judging responsibilities. All patterns to be used during the day shall be posted prior to the start of the show. The Horse Committee reserves the right to cancel or combine classes at any time due to insufficient entries.

Fair Show Classes & Awards

All classes at the fair show will be placed 1-6 except the Janet & Frank Fowler Horsemanship Class place 1-3, Roger Walker Memorial Equitation Class place 1-3, Sabina Saddle & Spur Pleasure Class place 1-3, the Wayne Smith Memorial Championship Showmanship Class place 1-3, Senior Invitational Showmanship Class, and Hopper-Walker High Point Easy Gaited Trophy.

Janet & Frank Fowler Memorial High-Point Trophies shall be awarded for the highest accumulated scores for a 4-H member both a senior exhibitor (14-18 years) and junior exhibitor 8-13 years), one horse/one rider, based on four designated classes offered during the 4-H Horse Show excluding special rotating-trophy classes. A member will designate by June 1 four classes they wish to accumulate points in on a separate entry form. The first tiebreaker will be the skillathon score. Should a second tiebreaker be needed, a fifth designated class placing will be utilized. Beginners are not eligible for high point.

Hopper-Walker High Point Easy Gaited Trophy shall be awarded for the highest accumulated scores to a 4-H member, one horse/one rider, based on specified Easy Gaited classes offered during the 4-H Horse Show. (Easy Gaited Showmanship, Easy Gaited Equitation, Easy Gaited Pleasure, Halter, Trail, and Good Grooming) The first tiebreaker will be the skillathon score. Should a second tiebreaker be needed, a fourth designated class placing will be utilized. Janet & Frank Fowler Horsemanship, Roger Walker Memorial Equitation, and The Wayne Smith Memorial Championship Showmanship Class are open to only first and second place winners in the respective areas. All disciplines and age groups are encouraged to participate.

The Sabina Saddle & Spur Pleasure Class has open eligibility with the exception of members showing in the Beginners Classes. Sabina Saddle & Spur-Exhibitors must register for this class on their fair entry form.

The Invitational Senior Showmanship class is open to exhibitors 14 years of age or older. The winner of this class shall participate in the Sweepstakes Showmanship Contest. Exhibitors must register for this class on fair entry form.

The Ed Reed Memorial Contest Champion Rotating Trophy will be awarded to the 4-H member with the fastest combined time of **4 speed events.** The member will designate by the June 1 entry deadline the horse they will be using. Entries are limited to one per member and scores are based on the 1 horse/1 rider entry.

Sheila Sites Hunter Over Fences Memorial shall be awarded for the highest accumulated scores to a 4-H member, one horse/one rider, based on specified jumping classes offered during the 4-H Horse Show. (Working Hunter Over Fences, Hunt Seat Equitation Over Fences Junior & Senior, Hunter Hack and Dressage). The first tiebreaker will be the skillathon score. Should a second tiebreaker be needed, a fourth designated class placing will be utilized.

4-H Equine Mandatory Helmet Use Policy
All youth 19 years 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, Judges, 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 will not be permitted to participate in riding or driving activities until proper headgear is acquired.

JUNIOR FAIR HORSE SHOW
Saturday, July 11, 10 A.M.
Welcome & Invocation to start promptly at 9:45 a.m.

Presentation of clubs

Stick Horse Show (Pre-4-H age youth)-Open to all youth ages 8 and under. The stick horse show will take place during the lunch break.

1. Good Grooming 8-13 years (Open to Beginners)
2. Good Grooming 14-18 years (Open to Beginners)
3. English Showmanship, Horse or Pony 14-18 years
4. English Showmanship Horse or Pony 8-13 years
5. English, Ranch & Western Showmanship Horse or Pony 8-18 years WT Beginners
6. Invitational Sr Sweepstakes Showmanship 14-18 years (No WT Beginners)
7. Working Hunter OF 8-18 years
8. Hunt Seat EQ OF 14-18 years
9. Hunt Seat EQ OF 8-13 years
10. Cross Rails 12"-18" 8-18 years
11. Hunter Hack 8-18 years
12. English, Ranch & Western Ground Poles Horse or Pony 8-18 years WT Beginners
13. English Dressage 8-18 years
14. Western Dressage 8-18 years
    Award presentation for Sheila Sites Hunter OF Memorial Trophy
15. English Pleasure Horse 14-18 years
16. English Pleasure Horse 8-13 years
17. English, Ranch & Western Pleasure Horse or Pony 8-18 years WT Beginners
18. Sabina Saddle & Spur Pleasure Class (Includes; English, Western, Ranch. No WT Beginners)
19. English EQ, Horse or Pony 14-18 years
20. English EQ, Horse or Pony 8-13 years
21. Easy Gaited EQ/HMS 8-18 years
    Award presentation for Hopper-Walker Highpoint Easy Gaited Trophy
22. English EQ, Horse or Pony 8-18 years WT Beginners
23. English, Ranch & Western Intro to Canter Horse or Pony 8-18 years WT Beginners
24. Roger Walk EQ Championship Class (1st & 2nd place winners in any Equitation Class are eligible. No WT Beginners) Award presentation for Roger Walker EQ Championship Trophy
25. Barrels Horse or Pony 14-18 years
26. Barrels Horse or Pony 8-13 years
27. Barrels Horse or Pony 8-18 years WT Beginners
28. Poles Horse or Pony 14-18 years
29. Poles Horse or Pony 8-13 years
30. Poles Horse or Pony 8-18 years WT Beginners
31. Stakes Horse or Pony 14-18 years
32. Stakes Horse or Pony 8-13 years

33. Keyhole Horse or Pony 14-18 years
34. Keyhole Horse or Pony 8-13 years

Award presentation for Ed Reed Memorial Contesting Trophy

Fun Classes-Open to All Clinton County 4-H Horse Exhibitors (Entries taken day of show.)

1. Speedball Race 8-18 years
2. Catalog Race 8-18 years
3. Flag Race 8-18 years
4. Boxer Short Race 8-18 years

The Horse Committee reserves the right to cancel or combine classes at any time due to number of entries.

JUNIOR FAIR HORSE SHOW
Sunday, July 12, 10 A.M.
Welcome & Invocation to start promptly at 9:45 a.m.

Presentation of clubs

35. Good Grooming 8-13 years (Open to Beginners)
36. Good Grooming 14-18 years (Open to Beginners)
37. Horseless Horse Showmanship 8-18 years
38. Open Halter 8-18 years (Open to Beginners)
39. Western Showmanship Horse or Pony 14-18 years
40. Western Showmanship Horse or Pony 8-13 years
41. Western, Ranch & English Showmanship Horse or Pony 8-18 years WT Beginners
42. Ranch Showmanship Horse or Pony 8-18 years (may only show in Ranch SMS)
43. Contesting/Driving Showmanship Horse or Pony 8-18 years
44. Small Equine Showmanship 8-18 years
45. Wayne Smith Championship Showmanship (1st & 2nd place winners in any showmanship.) (No WT Beginners)
46. Small Equine Hunter 8-18 years
47. Small Equine Jumper 8-18 years
48. Ground Roping
49. Trail Horse or Pony 8-18 years
50. Small Equine Trail In Hand 8-18 years
51. Western, Ranch & English Trail Horse or Pony 8-18 years WT Beginners
52. Western, Ranch & English Ground Poles Horse or Pony 8-18 years WT Beginners
53. Western Pleasure Horse 14-18 years
54. Western Pleasure Horse 8-13 years
55. Western, Ranch & English Western Pleasure Horse or Pony 8-18 years WT Beginners
56. Ranch Pleasure 8-18 years (May only show in Ranch Pleasure)
57. Western HMS Horse or Pony 14-18 years
58. Western HMS Horse or Pony 8-13 years
59. Western HMS Horse or Pony 8-18 years WT Beginners
60. Ranch HMS 8-18 years (May only show in Ranch HMS)
61. Western, Ranch or English Intro to Canter Horse or Pony 8-18 years WT Beginners
62. Fowler Memorial HMS Championship (1st & 2nd place winners in any HMS class.) (Includes; Western, Ranch. No WT Beginners)

Fun Classes

1. *Walk Trot Apple Under Chin 8-18 years (WT Beginners)
2. Walk Trot Canter Apple Under Chin 8-18 years
3. *Walk Trot Egg & Spoon 8-18 years (WT Beginners)
4. Walk Trot Canter Egg & Spoon 8-18 years
5. Costume Class 8-18 years