

2026 Ashland County 4-H & FFA Saddle Horse By-laws

Revised 1/26

Article I Eligibility

1. Any Ashland County potential 4-H member must be at least 8 years old and in the third grade or age 9 regardless grade level. Member may not have passed his/her 19th birthday by January 1 of the current year. A member's age for the 4-H year is his or her age on January 1.
2. Membership is open to all youth regardless of race, color, gender identity or expression, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or national origin.

Article II Enrollment and Member Requirements **Possession Date is May 1**

- Ground Roping: You must enroll in Project #187 Roping to participate in Ground Roping.
- Dressage: You must enroll in Project #191R Dressage to participate in Dressage classes.
- The deadline to add a backup horse to the member's 4Honline profile is MAY 1.
- All members may register four animals. Weanlings and yearlings will not count as one of these four animals. Two year olds **will** count as one of the four.
- Stallions may be shown only within the same calendar year in which they were foaled. Saddle Horse projects are limited to mares and geldings.
- Horses and ponies used as project animals must either be owned by the member, the member's family, or leased. A family is defined as mother/father, grandparent, sibling, or stepchildren.
- All animals carried as a 4-H or FFA project must be owned or leased and in the continual care of the 4-H or FFA member by May 1. Continual care does permit boarding an animal as long as the member is involved in feeding, cleaning and caring for the horse.
- State rules regarding sharing a horse/pony will be followed. No one may show a horse/pony that someone else uses to qualify for State Fair.



Required to Complete Project/Show at Fair

1. **Must enroll in 4-H at <https://v2.4honline.com> by April 15 or be a FFA member with a horse project and meet all FFA requirements. Enrolled members may add projects in 4Honline until May 1.**

- Late enrollments are eligible to participate in summer shows, but do not accumulate points towards Outstanding Horse Member Award, year end awards or State Fair and are not eligible to participate in the county fair show.
- Transfers from one 4-H Club to another after April 15, may be made only upon agreement of the advisor of both clubs and the County 4-H Educator.
- FFA Members must sign a permission to participate form—contact the Extension Office

2. Horse(s)/pony(s) must be entered and identified in the member's profile at

<https://v2.4honline.com> by **MAY 1. This includes any back up horse/pony.**

- **A CURRENT Lease form for this year must be uploaded with the horse/pony identification in 4Honline by May 1 if you are leasing your animal.**
- **Certificate of Equistep completion must be uploaded with your horse(s) identification details. The online safety course, Equistep, must be completed every year.**
- **Any horse identification that is submitted but sent back for corrections, must be corrected and resubmitted by June 15.**

3. ALL horse members must complete the EquiStep safety course online each year. Check 4-H newsletter, Facebook page or our website for instructions to access it. This Equistep completion certificate is to be uploaded into 4Honline under your horse(s) profile by MAY 1.

4. Must complete Quality Assurance training by June 1. This will be offered through Ashland County with dates offered in March & April.

5. If a horse is on a medication, a vet slip must be turned into the Extension Office.

6. Each 4-H member must complete BOTH the Equine Record Book and their choice of project book. The only exception is members taking project #174, Beginning Horse Management since this book includes records.

7. **Must attend at least one scheduled county sponsored clinic or workshop** to participate with their horse project at the Ashland County Fair or be eligible for the Outstanding Horse Member Award. **You must attend the required 1 hour of a clinic. Attendees will sign in and sign out. This will be the official record of attendance.**

Parents are strongly encouraged to attend with their child. See 4-H Calendar for dates

- Clinic #1 -
- Clinic #2 -
- Clinic #3-



8. Members **must attend two scheduled Ashland County 4-H/FFA Horse Shows and exhibit in at least two classes**, excluding ground roping, at each show. **Out of county PAS shows count.**

9. Members and family are required to work a minimum of ONE ENTIRE SHOW. Individuals must sign in AND sign out for it to count. The Horse Committee will assign your show. If you can not make it, it is your responsibility to find someone to switch shows with and inform the Horse Committee of this trade.

10. Members **must complete an online Ashland County Fair Entry through the Jr. Fair office by the August deadline.** Fair entries will open in July.

11. **Must complete Ashland County's Horse Project book judging/interview/skill-a-thon in August. See 4-H Calender for dates and times. Watch the 4-H Newsletter in July for the link to sign up for your time slot.** Satisfactory completion of the project record book will be a large part of this final grade. You must have current year records to present at judging.

Article III

Animal Eligibility

- 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 any county or the State 4-H horse show.**
- Showing a 4-H or FFA member's project animal in a class at a show is not considered training. If a project horse is shown by someone other than the member in an open or breed show within 30 days prior to the 4-H competition, the member must be present and have shown the project horse in that show.

Article IV

General Exhibition Rules for all 4-H Shows

- All animals must be well groomed, trained and under control.
- All horses must be in-hand either by a lead rope with halter or a bridle and reins. Horses cannot be turned loose at any time except when they are in their enclosed stall.
- Horses/ponies must exhibit a body score of at least 4 as required by state 4-H rules.
- Members shall be neat and clean. Proper show attire is required for classes.
- Appropriate boots must be worn in all classes.



- 4-H and FFA riders/drivers and all other youth under age 19 must wear safety headgear at all times while riding or driving a horse at 4-H events. Safety headgear must meet SEI or exceed ASTM-F 1163-90A qualifications. page 6, #1 in Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows.
- A horse that is known for kicking **MUST** be identified by a red ribbon tied on its tail. This will be enforced. A horse that has been identified as prone to kick by the Horse Committee personnel, and the owner/rider has been informed of such, must wear the red tail ribbon for the remainder of the show year whenever the horse is out of the stall.
- **No spectator, parent or exhibitor is to be permitted to talk to the judge during a show. If there are questions to be asked, they are to be taken to the show management.**
- No horse shall be treated in an abusive manner on the show grounds. No use of profanity or obscene gestures will be permitted. Violations could result in removal from the show grounds at the discretion of the show management. All infractions in the show ring will be handled at the discretion of the judge.
- No 4-H or FFA member attending a horse show shall be permitted to use tobacco products, chemicals (such as drugs) or consume alcoholic beverages on the grounds. **NO PROFANITY** will be acceptable. Parents and advisors should serve as positive role models in these areas.
- All tack must be serviceable, safe, and clean.
- Any eligible 4-H or FFA Horse Club member must show their own project.

Article V

Junior Fair Exhibit

- Junior Fair Horse shows and activities will be conducted by the Junior Fair Board with the guidance of the Junior Fair Horse Coordinators and the Extension Staff.
- If an animal is deemed unsafe or under a body score of 4 by show management or a judge, it will not be allowed to show.
- A project does not have to be exhibited at the fair to be a completed project. The advisor will determine whether a project is complete or incomplete.
- Members will only stall one project at the Ashland County Fair, space permitting.



- Animals are to remain on the fairgrounds until released by the Senior Fair Board. Any horse or pony with a pre-existing condition which precludes it from weeklong participation at the fair can **NOT** be brought to the fair. No animal stabled on the fairgrounds will leave the fairgrounds during the fair without the required documentation from the fair vet and the Senior Fair Board. The animal must be examined by the fair vet **on the fairgrounds**. If a horse is dismissed at the fair by the fair vet and has the required documentation from the fair vet and Senior Fair Board, the member may substitute their “back up” horse in it’s place. This back up horse must already be identified in the member’s 4Honline profile.
- Due to past problems, it is recommended that you vaccinate your horse prior to bringing it to the county fair.
- Members have 24 hours after a warning to clean their stalls. Stalls not cleaned will then incur a \$50 per day charge to the member. An additional \$100 fine will be added if the stall is not cleaned at the end of the fair. Stalls must be checked by a Horse Committee member before being dismissed from the fairgrounds.
- For State Fair participation, Coggins test is required and must be dated after January 1, 2026.

Article VI

Summer 4-H Horse Show Rules

1. Any unruly horse may be excused from the ring at the judge’s discretion. The ringmaster or ringmistress should call unsafe situations to the judge’s attention.
3. All horses may be worked both ways in the ring at all gaits in horsemanship and similar classes. Horsemanship and Equitation classes may require the execution of a pattern. Patterns are required in PAS shows.
4. Once project is declared and shown as a horse or pony, project remains as such throughout the year.

Undersized project horses may be shown in horse classes only within a division for the entire year If the member so chooses and indicates on the 4-H Horse registration sheet. One official measurer And a referee will be present at each show until show is over to measure any questionable projects.

Western and English horses	Over 58 inches
Large Ponies	Over 54 inches, not to exceed 58 inches
Medium Ponies	Over 50 inches, not to exceed 54 inches
Small Ponies	50 inches and under

5. Entry fees for all classes and grounds fee for 4-H shows will be established on a yearly basis.

6. The selection of classes for county summer horse shows shall be at the discretion of the Horse Committee.
7. There will be five placings per class with top five places being recognized, except at PAS shows. Only first year exhibitors will receive participation ribbons and all other classes will not be placed.
 8. The Saddle Horse Advisory Committee will be responsible for obtaining the summer saddle horse show judges.
9. The point system for **ALL** Class Awards is as follows:

Number of Class Entries	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
0 -5	6	4	3	2	1
6-10	7	5	4	3	2
11-15	8	6	5	4	3
16-20	9	7	6	5	4
21-25	10	8	7	6	5

10. The State Fair selection shall be based on the **PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE STANDARD PROGRAM.**
11. To go to State Fair, a member must qualify in at least two classes. If they qualify in more than two classes, they may choose which classes (maximum of four classes) they will enter at State Fair.
12. A walk/trot exhibitor may not canter anywhere on the grounds the day of an Ashland County 4-H Horse Show. If a member canters at one of these shows, he/she must enter canter classes and may no longer show walk/trot. A member may canter at 4-H clinics or workout events without losing their walk/trot status.
13. Any person stabling at the fairgrounds for any 4-H summer show must sign up prior to the show for a stall with a deposit of \$20 per stall and must provide their own shavings. Members are responsible for cleaning the stall before they leave or within one hour after completion of the last class or points earned at that show will be deducted and the \$20 Deposit will not be refunded. Stall is to be inspected by a member of the Horse Committee after cleaning.
14. All show fees and prior debts must be paid in full prior to entering the next show.
15. 4-H Clubs are required to work at least one summer show. Individual members are required to work at least two hours throughout the show season. A signup sheet will be available at all clinics for members to sign up to work the summer shows. Jobs include entry booth, ring crew, gates, supply the concession stand and work the concession stand.
16. Outstanding horse member forms need to be given to any horse committee member to sign upon completion of showing or working at the show.



17. **Gymkhana classes** consist of:

Gymkhana Pleasure

Gymkhana Showmanship

Gymkhana Horsemanship

All four contesting classes

If an exhibitor shows in Gymkhana Pleasure, Gymkhana Horsemanship and Gymkhana Showmanship, he/she must show in at least two contest classes. An exhibitor who chooses to show in Gymkhana Pleasure, Horsemanship and Showmanship classes may not cross enter into regular Western Pleasure, horsemanship or showmanship classes and vice versa. This rule applies to the exhibitor, not the horse. To summarize, an exhibitor must choose between the two disciplines for pleasure, horsemanship and showmanship.

Gymkhana is a western discipline. It must be shown in Western (no English attire).

- Gymkhana Showmanship must be shown in a leather or nylon, non-breed specific halter.
- Gymkhana Pleasure and Gymkhana Horsemanship may be ridden in contesting gear/equipment/attire, and the exhibitor may ride using two hands.

****Any regulation not covered by these by-laws shall be governed by:**

1. The most recent edition of the Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows.
2. The PERFROMANCE AGAINST THE STANDARD Rules

****For additional Ashland County Fair information, requirements and rules refer to: ****

- **2026 Ashland County Junior Fair Book**
- **State Livestock Tampering Exhibition Rules at: <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/chapter-901-19>**

2026 Horse Advisory Committee Members

Courtney Crossen, Chair	419-606-6419	Kathy Field	419-606-6950
Marla Hoover	419-908-3711	Eliza Jenkins	567-203-7016
Phoebe Spidel	419-651-2064	Kacey Jordan	567-203-2297
Sadie VanDyne	419-651-9614		

2026 OUTSTANDING HORSE MEMBER AWARD

- * Any Ashland County 4-H'er or FFA Member enrolled in a Horse Project may apply for this award.
- * All points, except for bonus points, will be accumulated for Ashland County Saddle Horse Committee sponsored events.
- * Must complete a one page essay worth 20 points. This essay can be on anything about your horse project.
- * The purpose of this award is to give recognition to horse members for their participation, knowledge and record keeping. Developing horsemanship skills in a fun and educational atmosphere is the focus of this award.
- * **The completed participation sheet, record book and project book(s) must be turned into the Ashland County Extension Office by 3 pm. Friday, October 9. The office closes at 3 p.m. There are no exceptions to this due date. These items must be in a three ring binder.**
- * Up to six (6) awards will be given.
- * **Neatness Counts!**
- * Books will be evaluated by same group of committee members.

Points will be awarded as follows:

- Project Book(s) (25 points maximum)
 - Will be judged on neatness, organization, completeness.
 - For projects other than #174 and FFA, an Equine Record Book is also required.
 - Judging score sheets for all projects must be included. Ten points will be deducted if a scoresheet is missing or it is not in a three-ring binder.
- Ashland County 4-H Shows (10 points each)
 - Participation must be verified by signature of designated horse committee member present for that day. Participation means working on ring crew, showing in 2 or more classes, running gates, etc. Workers need to sign in at the entry booth both time in and time out. Must work at least 2 hours.
- Essay (20 points)
- Outstanding Horseman Test (25 points maximum).
This written knowledge test can be taken at the horse project book judging in August or at Fair Check In. Test may be read to a member if an accommodation is needed.

BONUS

- * Additional Clinics, Workshops or Shows Attended. (2 point each; maximum 40 points)
Two points for other clinics, workshops or shows. Observing events such as these are good learning experiences. It must be an event planned and organized by any horse organization. Attendance must be verified by signature of event sponsor. Club workouts do not apply.

PARTICIPATION SHEET - 2026

Ashland County Shows: must enter 2 or more classes or work at least 2 hours to get credit (10 points for each show)

SHOW	DATE	HORSE COMMITTEE SIGNATURE
Ashland Co. 4-H/FFA Horse Show – 10 pts	May 9	
Ashland Co. 4-H/FFA Show - 10 pts	June 6	
Ashland Co. 4-H/FFA Show - 10 pts	June 13	
Ashland Co. 4-H/FFA Horse Show - 10 pts	July 11	
Ashland Co. 4-H/FFA Horse Show - 10 pts	August 1	
Ashland Co. Fair Monday Show - 10 pts	September 21	
Ashland Co. Fair Wednesday Show - 10 pts	September 23	

Ashland County Clinics: (10 points for each clinic)

CLINIC	DATE	SIGNATURE OF EVENT SPONSOR
Ashland Co. Clinic - 10 pts		
Ashland Co. Clinic - 10 pts		
Ashland Co. Clinic – 10 pts		



