

Sandusky County 4-H Equine Member Guidelines 2021

**This handbook replaces the former County Rule Book which was included in the Horse Council Constitution.



General Information

This publication was designed to simplify and clarify county rules related to the 4-H Horse Program in Sandusky County. There have been many changes, so please review this document carefully.

Why County Rules?

Counties are *required* to set their own rules for a number of items, such as possession date and identification rules. It is also necessary to provide information about any classes not included in the state rule book (such as Novice classes, RWD classes, Egg and Spoon, etc). Sometimes rules specific to fair participation are also needed.

Counties are also given the right to add additional rules as needed, provided they do not conflict with State Rules. In this revision, we eliminated as many of those as possible.

Where to Find the Rules

There are four places which include rules which may apply to you as a 4-H Member. They are all available free of charge.

1. **County 4-H Handbook** - includes rules which apply to all 4-H members, as well as project descriptions and a calendar of major events.
2. **Ohio 4-H Uniform Rules for Horse Shows** (otherwise known as "State Rule Book") - Includes general rules for horse projects and rules for every class type, including required tack / equipment and how the class is scored or judged.
3. This **4-H Equine Member Guidelines** which includes county-specific horse project related rules and descriptions for classes not included in the state book.
4. The **County Fair Book** - If you choose to participate in the fair, you will want to secure a copy of this book in July to ensure you have all guidelines related to the fair.



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General Rules

Possession Date and Identification

Project animals can be owned by the member (or their family) or leased for use in 4-H.

Animals must be in the member's possession by **June 1st**. An ONLINE equine identification form including a current picture must be submitted to OSU Extension by June 1st each year. Leased horses also require a copy of the lease to be on file with this identification form. There is no limit to the number of animals per person, however each horse can only be exhibited by one member.

Members may use only their registered equine at 4-H Events (unless those events are also open to the public).

Exceptions / Hardship Cases

Occasionally, situations occur which make it impossible to continue with the designated project animal (death of the horse, member safety, etc.).

Members / parents should submit a request for a hardship case in writing as soon as the situation has become known.

Members granted hardship cases are permitted to participate but competitive awards may be restricted.

Equine Measurements / Sizes

See state rule book for height restrictions.

Small Equine may show in both Mini / Small Equine classes and pony classes.

Pony measuring is done 10am-12noon on the June 6th, or 6:00 - 7:00pm on June 11th at the Sandusky County Fairgrounds. All small equine (mini) and ponies must be measured.

Participation / Club Membership

Youth are required to be members of a designated horse club to take all horse projects except horseless horse.

Members are expected to participate in as many activities as possible. The more each member participates, the more they will get out of the program.

Members who wish to compete for awards and exhibit at the county fair must participate in at least two county-wide 4-H events with their equine including shows, trail rides, Eat & Ride Nights, or other events as posted. Members planning to exhibit more than one equine must bring each animal at least once. Production animals do not need to meet this requirement.



EquiStep Program

Required for New Horse Members

Required for all members taking horses for the first time in 2021. Open to all members (free of charge) as an option. This will be required for everyone in 2022.

Footwear Safety

Boots are required to be worn at all times when riding at 4-H events. Members must have closed toed shoes on at all times while handling equines.

Show Points and Year End Awards

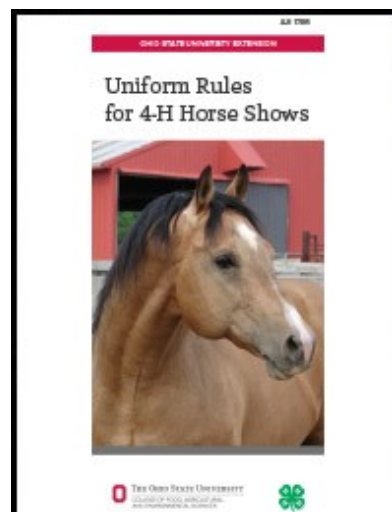
Sandusky County Horse Committee may offer year end awards at their discretion.

Details about any award program will be posted at 4-H Point Shows.

2021 New State Rule Book

There is a new Ohio 4-H Uniform Rules for Horse Shows book. Every family will want to get one of these from their advisor.

- Most classes are moving to a new scoring system, in which members will start with a score of 70, then can earn or lose points on each maneuver. See book for details as they vary by class.
- Two new Ranch classes were added: Ranch Horsemanship and Showmanship. Because of this we discontinued the county ranch classes. Only state ranch classes will be offered.
- There are new rules allowing for the use of “Dr. Cook Style” cross over, bitless bridles in some classes.



County Changes for 2021



1. Horse ID form has moved online. Visit: <http://go.osu.edu/sc4horse> for details.
2. All Ranch Classes are now in the Ohio 4-H Uniform Rules for Horse Shows. Ranch Trail was discontinued to remain consistent with the new state offered Ranch classes.
3. In Novice and RWD classes, riders are permitted to ride one or two-handed with any legal bit for the class (curb or snaffle), regardless of the age of the horse.

Class Descriptions, Gymkhana / Speed Classes

Classes in State Rule Book: Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, Speed and Control, Cones and Barrels, Stakes Race, and Keyhole

Ball Race

One barrel with an open end is located in the position of the third barrel in the barrel racing pattern. Contestant shall ride down to the barrel with a ball, throw the ball into the barrel, ride around the outside of the barrel and back past the timer line.

There will be no time if the ball misses or bounces out of the barrel. The barrel must be at least 20 feet from the fence.

Flags

Three barrels are set in the same pattern as the barrel race, with a bucket of sand on both the left and right barrel. A stick is placed in one of the buckets (rider choice).

Contestant runs around the outside of the barrels, grabbing the stick on their way past barrel #1 and depositing it in the bucket on the last barrel. Riders may stop at barrels but may not go around them.

Class Descriptions, Novice Classes

These classes are open to members who are riding in 4-H for the first or second year. This division includes only walk/trot, uses easier patterns, and is optional. Loping results in a disqualification.

- If members choose to ride in the Novice division, they cannot cross enter into other riding classes or lope/canter at 4-H events (in make up arenas, for example).
- Once a member shows in traditional classes which permit or require loping/cantering, they are no longer eligible for the Novice division.
- Appointments and scoring follows matching classes in state rule book, **except that riders may use one or two hands in any legal bit.**

Classes offered include: Showmanship, W/T Equitation/Horsemanship, Barrels, Stakes, & Trail.

Class Descriptions, RWD Classes

Classes offered are similar to the Novice series: RWD Showmanship, RWD Walk/Trot Equitation/Horsemanship, RWD Barrels, RWD Stakes.

- RWD participants must have a Winning 4-H Plan on file with the Extension Office to compete in this division. Members competing in this division may not cross enter into non RWD classes.
- Appointments, scoring and placings and other details are the same as matching classes in the State Rule Book For RWD Equitation/Horsemanship only walk and trot will be called. **Riders may use one or two hands with any legal bit.**
- Accommodations, such as leaders, side walkers, and assistants in the ring, can be adjusted for each rider's needs. Patterns may also be adjusted if needed by contacting the show steward or entry booth as soon as possible and well in advance of the class.

Class Descriptions, Misc Classes

Egg and Spoon

May be ridden western or English. Participants follow instructions as announced. Egg must rest in spoon at all times. This is considered a canter class. (No Novice Riders)

Horseless Horse (HH)

Horses are provided by 4-H Horse Members. Appointments are the same as showmanship classes. Hats are optional Participants will be judged on basic grooming and questions on topics from the Horseless Horse Book. There will be no independent control of the horse.

Draft

Animals shown in draft classes may not cross enter into any class in which they are riding with others. They may enter individual classes (speed and trail).

Draft Walk Trot Equitation - May be ridden English or Western. Same appointments as Equitation/Horsemanship depending on seat.

Draft Fitting and Grooming - Judged on the member's ability to groom, braid and turn out their draft horse, pony or mule (mules not braided) within the ring. There is 30 minute time limit. One handler permitted to hold the horse and hand items to member as needed.