

Defiance County Junior Fair
Department 100
Horse Department Guidelines - 2025

Show Dates:

Pleasure/Riding Classes: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 @ 9:00 am
Contesting Classes: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 @ 5:00 pm

New Rule Changes

- The exhibitor participating in a class is fully responsible for understanding the specific requirements of each class he/she enters. If exhibitor does not meet those criteria, the judge has the authority to remove exhibitor from the class.
- Mandatory Barn Meeting: Participation by at least one family member is required unless other arrangements have been made with the Barn Supervisor. Failure to have a representative will result in forfeiture of all horse premiums. **2025 Barn meeting is Saturday, August 16th at 10:00 am.**

Horse Possession Date

1. Horse ID forms for any horse eligible to show at the Defiance County Fair must be registered with the Extension Office by June 1st. Exhibitor may substitute a horse only from what was registered.
2. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to have the correct horse information on file.
3. Exhibitors are allowed two horses at the County Fair. Exception: Production classes.
4. Hardship cases: The Livestock Committee may make exceptions to this rule on an individual basis for the County program only. Requests must be made in writing to the Extension Office.

Defiance County Junior Fair Information

A. Project Completion Requirements

1. All horse exhibitors must complete a **Skillathon** for project completion. A 4-H/FFA member is not required to show in the Junior Fair Horse Show.
2. **EQUiSTEP** Horse Education on-line program is required for all horse exhibitors to be completed by June 1. This will count for Livestock Quality Assurance requirement. Youth will receive a link to enroll in the online course once 4-H enrollment is completed.
3. **Horse Vaccine:** The 5-Way Horse Vaccine is required. Please attach receipt in record book.
4. Online Registration available for Horse ID and Vaccination: <https://go.osu.edu/horseid>
5. Exhibitor may print forms at: <https://u.osu.edu/defiance4h/horse-resources/>
6. **Required Exhibitor Paperwork:**
 - Horse ID, Photo & Vaccination Records (on-line or paper) June 1
 - Lease Forms June 1
 - PAS (State Fair) Registration of Classes and Shows June 1
 - Release of Liability Waver June 1

B. Livestock Move-In

1. Livestock check-in is the Friday before start of Fair.
2. Move-In Times: 9:00 am – 11:00 am **OR** 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Check in with Barn Supervisor.
3. All animals must have a valid DUNF form completed via the Online DUNF link **PRIOR to** move-in.. The On-Line link will open the Wednesday before livestock check-in. It is recommended to wait as close to move-in day as possible to ensure the information is correct.

4. Animals must be free of all drug residues on ***move-in date***.
5. Health papers are not required for animals purchased and residing in Ohio. Horses imported/brought into Ohio for exhibition must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection issued within thirty days preceding the exhibition opening date. See Ohio's Livestock Health Exhibition Rules for further clarification and a complete listing of health requirements.

C. Livestock Release

1. All animals are released on Friday from 4:00 – 7:00 pm. Horse trailers are asked to leave thru the campground gate.
2. Each exhibitor must clean his or her stall prior to leaving the fairgrounds. Premiums forfeited for stalls not cleaned by noon on Saturday.
3. The Livestock Committee will designate one area for stall manure on last day of Fair. Failure to dump horse manure in the designated area will result in loss of premiums.

D. Stall Assignments

1. It is the Livestock Committee's goal to be able to provide one stall for each horse exhibitor. In years where there are not enough stalls for a member's second horse, the Fairboard will provide a tent and additional stalls.
2. Members registered with two horses must make a final determination by August 15th as to whether they are bringing a second horse.
3. Any changes in stall assignments without prior approval of the Barn Superintendent will result in forfeiture of premium and the exhibitor not being permitted to show in the current year with that project.

E. Junior Fair Eligibility

1. All Defiance County Junior Fair exhibitors must successfully meet all requirements of their youth organization before being eligible to exhibit for competition. See Exhibitor and General Guidelines.
2. 4-H and FFA Dual Membership Policy: Ohio 4-H members are often also FFA members, sometimes within the same county and sometimes in an adjacent county. These members need to keep in mind the 4-H policy about 4-H projects being separate from school projects. To keep work in both organizations clearly separate, **4-H members are advised to take different species in the two organizations** or, at the very least, to take market animals in one and breeding animals in the other. FFA members must exhibit FFA projects in the county of their school chapter.

General Guidelines

A. Class Entries

1. Defiance County Junior Fair will follow the **Ohio 4-H Uniform Horse Rules** for exhibition.
2. Properly fitted ASTM/SEI approved **protective headgear (helmet)** intended for equestrian use is required to be worn by all youth ages 19 and under while riding or driving an equine at any 4-H sponsored activity.
3. **Pleasure classes are limited to one exhibitor per class.** Example: Cannot take two horses in western showmanship. Does not apply to contesting.
4. Only people showing in a horse class at the Defiance County Fair may ride, drive, or train that animal at the fair. Exhibitors may only ride the horse that is registered with entries. The violator and the horse will be disqualified from further participation.
5. **Class limits:** Exhibitors must register a minimum of two (2) classes per horse. There are no maximum class limits.
6. **Unable to Show Animal:** If an exhibitor is unable to show his/her animal due to health concern, another current Jr. Fair exhibitor may be permitted to show the animal based upon **PRIOR** approval with the Barn Supervisor.

7. The Barn Superintendent may switch an exhibitor's class if not entered in appropriate class. The exhibitor may scratch classes the day of show, but may not add a class.
8. If a member scratches all classes & does not show in a Junior Fair Show, the horse will be sent home.
9. Jr & Sr. classes may be combined based on number of entries.
10. Horses may be measured at the discretion of the Barn Supervisor.
11. It is up to the discretion of the Barn Supervisor to cancel any class based on arena conditions and safety factors. Questions regarding arena conditions should be directed to the Barn Supervisor.

B. Showmanship

1. Show attire may not include a farm name and or advertisement for a farm, breeder, etc. It is at the discretion of the Barn Supervisor to ask an exhibitor to change clothing for a class.
2. Exhibitor may show in ONE showmanship class.
3. Horses: Showmanship class is mandatory with a horse that is being used for other classes.
4. Any exhibitor showing misconduct or poor showmanship in the show ring, the show area, or barns will have full forfeiture of premiums by decision of the Junior Fair Livestock Committee.
5. Exhibitor must show his/her own animal for showmanship according to Junior Fair records.

C. Show Attire

1. Refer to Uniform Horse rules for recommended show attire.
2. Properly fitted ASTM/SEI approved **protective headgear (helmet)** intended for equestrian use is required to be worn by all youth ages 19 and under while riding or driving an equine at any 4-H sponsored activity.

D. Barn Guidelines

1. **Properly fitted ASTM/SEI approved protective headgear (helmet) intended for equestrian use is required to be worn by all youth ages 19 and under while riding or driving an equine at any 4-H sponsored activity.**
2. Only people showing in a horse class at the Defiance County Fair may ride, drive, or train that animal at the fair. The violator and the horse will be disqualified from further participation. Horse exhibitors are not permitted to ride other exhibitor's' horses.
3. Sleeping in barns is not permitted.
4. All animals must be housed at the fair for the entire week in order to show and receive premiums. Horses must show in a Junior Fair horse show to be permitted to stall horses.
5. Exercising of horses: Horse members are asked to be courteous to other fairgoers and only exercise horses in the designated areas. Please remove all horse manure from public areas (grassy areas, parking areas, etc.)
6. Animals will be exercised in the arena and designated make up area only. Please refer to the schedule posted in the barn for appropriate times. A round pen is not provided or permitted at the County Fair.
7. Horses must be in a stall or haltered/bridled with lead or longe line at all times.
8. No horses are to be ridden inside the barn or outside the 4-H arena at any time, except in designated exercise or make up areas. Exhibitors needing special accommodations should see the Barn Supervisor.
9. From the time the horse arrives at the Fair, only the exhibitor may ride, drive or train the animal at Fair. Violations will result in the exhibitor and the horse being disqualified from further participation.
10. Couches/Furniture are NOT permitted in any barn. (Picnic tables are allowed.)
11. All livestock barns will be closed to the public at 11:00 pm. Barns are also closed to the general public during livestock shows.
12. All animal washing and grooming must be done in designated areas.
13. Junior Fair members and or family members should not feed other member's animals without permission.

14. All stall decorations, stall cards, signs, etc are to be removed by noon on Saturday in addition to stalls/pens being cleaned or forfeit all premiums.
15. Dogs on the Fairgrounds: Dogs are not allowed on the midway, in or around the livestock barns and/or show arenas. Exception to service dogs.
16. Curfew is 12:30 am every night of the fair.

E. Clean Pen Guidelines

1. Fair goers come to the fair to see the animals and other projects that are being exhibited. Exhibitors are to keep the animals, stalls, and aiseways clean and swept. Exhibitors should strive to make their exhibit and the barns as welcoming and inviting as possible.
2. All livestock pens/stalls must always be kept clean and presentable. Livestock pens/stalls must be cleaned at a minimum of once daily and may be cleaned by the exhibitor or family member.
3. Each exhibitor must clean his or her stall/pen prior to leaving the fairgrounds. Exhibitor must wait until animal has been loaded from stall to start cleaning pens. Exhibitor must check out with a Barn representative. Pens must be cleaned by 12:00 noon on Saturday. Failure to do so will result in forfeiting current year premiums and eligibility for exhibition with that species for the following year. Evaluation of the stalls/pens will be done by the Barn Supervisor.
4. Pens, aisles and animals must be kept clean during fair week. Failure to do so will result in forfeiting current year premiums and eligibility for exhibition with that species for the following year. Evaluation of the stalls/pens will be done by the Barn Supervisor.
5. Pens will be inspected on a daily basis. Pens determined not to be presentable will receive a verbal warning from Barn Superintendent. Pen must be cleaned within two hours of receiving the verbal warning.

F. Code of Conduct

1. Exhibitors are representing their youth organization at Junior Fair events, shows and activities. The 4-H membership agreement extends to all organized Junior Fair activities. The Livestock Committee, in communication with the Extension Educator, will handle behavior and disciplinary action at the Fair as necessitated by a member's inappropriate and/or unlawful behavior.
2. 4-H Horse Exhibitors are expected to follow the Ohio 4-H Horse Uniform Guidelines and Defiance County Junior Fair Guidelines. Failure to abide by these guidelines may/will result in the exhibitor and animal being dismissed from the Fairgrounds and premiums forfeited. First offense will be a verbal warning. Second offense will be cause for dismissal.

G. Awards and Premiums

1. Refer to the Premium List for class premiums.
2. Ribbons: 1st – 5th place ribbons will be awarded for each Junior Fair class.
3. Three grand and reserve champion rosettes will be awarded for Championship classes. (Champion Showmanship Class, Champion of Champion Horsemanship Class and Champion of Champion Contesting Class.)
4. Thank you cards will be required by the end of the week to the Jr. Fair office in order to receive premiums. It is up to the Barn Superintendent as to how to distribute the trophies/thank you cards.

Ohio Health Exhibition Guidelines

Health Papers: Animals imported or brought into Ohio for exhibition must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection issued within thirty days preceding the exhibition opening date. Any medications that need to be administered to animals during the fair must be coordinated with the **COUNTY FAIR VET** prior to administering the medication. A DUNF form must be completed. Medication may not be performance enhancing.

901:1-18-08 Horses, mules and ponies:

- A.** Horses, mules and ponies moved within Ohio for exhibition: (1) If not under quarantine and if they are free of any signs of a contagious or infectious disease; and (2) If the animal is twelve months of age or older, the exhibition manager may require that the animal has been tested and classed negative to an official test for equine infectious anemia within twelve months of the opening date of the exhibition.
- B.** Horses, mules and ponies imported into Ohio for exhibition: (1) Shall be accompanied by an official certificate of veterinary inspection issued within thirty days of the opening date of the exhibition or obtain a permit for extended time granted by the chief of the division of animal industry as authorized in paragraph
- C.** of rule 901:1-17-01 of the Administrative Code; and (2) If the animal is twelve months of age or older, it shall be accompanied by evidence the animal was negative to an official test for equine infectious anemia within twelve months of the opening date of the exhibition; and (3) Upon request by an authorized representative of the Ohio department of agriculture, the person responsible for each animal must make available a chronological list of dates, places and events attended by this animal within thirty days prior to entry into Ohio.

First Year Classes:

Exhibitors showing in the first-year showmanship class may not show in any other showmanship classes. Exhibitors showing in the first-year performance or riding classes may not show in any other performance or riding classes.

Trail Class in Hand:

This class is for equine to be exhibited with the handler on the ground, putting the animal through the obstacles. An exhibitor cannot show the same horse in Trail in Hand and also in the regular Trail Horse class at the same show. Attire for the handler is the same as for a showmanship class.

Champion of Champion Showmanship Class:

Entrants for this class will be the first place individual in all Showmanship classes, excluding production class, first year member class, and grooming. Judge will place five entries in this class.

Gymkhana Showmanship:

Entrants for this class must use the same horse as entered in the Gymkhana (Contesting) classes.

Champion of Champion Contester:

Entrants for this class will be the first-place individual in all contesting classes, with the exception of first year member contesting classes, to participate in a pre-determined run off class that will be rotated each year. Rotation order: Barrels (2025), Pole Bending (2026), Keyhole Race (2027), Stakes Race (2028).

Champion of Champion Horsemanship Class:

Entrants for this class will be the first-place individual in all performance/riding classes, with the exception of first year member class.

Versatility Class:

To qualify for the Versatility Class exhibitor must have placed in 1st – 5th in a showmanship, horsemanship or equitation classes. Exhibitor must have two years of horse showing experience. The class will be limited to 10 entries.