LICKING COUNTY 4-H HORSE & PONY COUNCIL

2026 SUPPLEMENT

This supplement should be attached to the Current 4-H Circular #179 "Uniform rules for 4-H Horse Shows" which including the following changes, shall constitute the rules under which all Licking County 4-H Horse Shows shall be conducted in Licking County.

All mailings (forms and/or fee payments) must be sent to Licking County 4-H Horse & Pony Committee (LC4-HH&PC) P.O. Box 87, Kirkersville, OH 43033. The Extension Office is unable to accept the papers on behalf of the LC4-HH&PC.

A. OWNERSHIP: No 4-H member will be eligible to show a horse or pony in a Licking County 4-H Show unless a 4-H Horse Identification form (identifying & describing the project), provided by the Licking County 4-H Horse & Pony Council, is properly completed and delivered on April 23, 2026 between the hours of 11:00am to 1:00pm to the Licking County 4-H Horse & Pony Committee (LC4-HH&PC) Members at the Extension Office or postmarked by April 24, 2026.

B. The full name of the project must be listed on each form. A full-length "side body view" 4x6 color photograph must fit in box and be attached to each ID form which will include a $6.00 processing fee. If a 4-H member is eligible to compete at the Ohio State Fair, the Registration Form for PAS (Performance Against Standard) must be properly completed and returned on April 23, 2026 between the hours of 11:00am to 1:00pm to the LC4-HH&PC Members at the Extension Office or postmarked by April 24, 2026. Late PAS entries or changes to PAS papers must be submitted before the 5pm June 21, 2026, accompanied by a $25 fee per paper. DO NOT STAPLE! (Please see section P on fees)

C. After April 24, if a 4-H member has only one horse or pony registered with ID form & photograph and it becomes unsound, dies, or in a condition that it cannot be shown the rest of the year, the member may petition the Licking County 4-H Extension Educator to participate at county 4-H shows using a substitute horse showing in the same division as initially intended. This member would be ineligible for PAS or awards with that horse or pony.

D. 4-H Leasing: 4-H members without a horse project may lease a horse or pony. See Leasing Rules & Regulations provided by the Licking County Extension Office. A 4-H Advisor's signature is required on the lease form. The lease agreement must be attached to the ID form along with a full-length "side body view" color photograph and must be properly completed and returned on April 23, 2026 between the hours of 11:00am to 1:00pm to the LC4-HH&PC Members at the Extension Office or postmarked by April 24, 2026. All leases must meet the criteria established in the "Ohio 4-H Horse Program Guidelines for Leasing a Horse Project."

E. Horseless Mentorship: All ID and mentorship forms must be properly completed and returned on April 23, 2026 between the hours of 11:00am to 1:00pm to the LC4-HH&PC Members at the Extension Office or postmarked by April 24, 2026. Mentorship agreement forms are turned in with 4-H club enrollment forms.

F. Production: Only 4-H members who have passed their thirteenth birthday as of January 1 of the current project year may participate in the production classes. See Rules & Regulations are available in your current uniform rules for 4-H Horse Shows. Forms are available through the

Considered 01/12/2026

Licking County Extension Office. Please read carefully for ownership, eligibility and deadline dates for qualification.

2. GENERAL RULES:
   A. Equine Safety Helmet Policy:
   This policy requires that all youth participants in any mounted 4-H equine activities or shows governed by Ohio 4-H or the Licking County 4-H Youth Development program must wear a American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM) and Safety Engineering Institute (SEI) approved helmet, with harness secured whenever mounted. This rule applies to all State and Licking County 4-H shows, events, club work sessions and clinics. If a member/youth arrives to the ring-gate without a protective helmet, he/she will be refused entry to the class. Anyone caught riding outside the ring without a helmet may be disqualified from further participation in that particular show or event. The Show Steward, Extension Educator, or designee will rule on any disputes regarding the use of helmets.
   B. No 4-H member is eligible to show more than two 4-H projects in one class.
   C. Riding classes such as Western / English: Pleasure / On the Flat, Horsemanship / Equitation that has over twenty (20) entries for outdoor arena and 15 entries for indoor arena, should be split to provide safety to all exhibitors. Beginner classes should be limited to 15 entries per split, and in Intermediate classes, no more than 15 horses should canter or lope at the same time.
   D. Only the 4-H member and/or 4-H Horseless member is permitted to ride or handle, in a training situation, the project animal at the PAS/4H Horse Shows. Reminder: Please note Section J for rules for the 4-H member (mentor) the Horseless member. (*Reference Ohio Rule Book, pg. 4*)
   E. SHARING A 4-H PROJECT:
   When siblings only have one horse available to show, they have two options to share that horse or pony:
      i. Option 1: One member would be designated eligible for any division or State Fair participation (if applicable). The other sibling would enroll in the Horseless Horse Mentorship project and show in Horseless classes.
      ii. Option 2: If siblings decide to share a 4-H project but neither wants to show in the Horseless division, they can both be eligible to show. However, only one may participate at the Ohio State Fair or at the Hartford Independent Fair with their horse project.
   F. 4-H MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING:
      i. 4-H Member
         1. 4-H member registered by April 1st with established 4-H club through Licking County Extension Office.
         2. Complete a 4-H Equine Project Book & Record Book (if applicable) that is approved by your 4-H club advisor and be graded by an advisor or qualified volunteer.
         3. Must attend at least six (6) meetings with the 4-H club with which that member is enrolled.
         4. Organizational Advisor must submit a list of members not in good standing to the Extension Office by October 1st.
         5. Volunteer and participate in the operation of LC4-HH&PC shows as required per the show sign-up sheets.
      ii. 4-H Parent Requirements to keep your 4-H MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING:
         1. Volunteer and participate in the operations of LC4-HH&PC shows as required for your 4-H member per the show sign-up sheets.

2. Assist and participate with your 4-H member in their Horse project and related activities.
3. Parent–Responsible Adult must be present while their 4-H member is interacting with their animal project. Example: Feeding, Bathing, Riding, Showing

G. Division Recognition Awards:

To be eligible for awards the 4-H member must participate in all designated classes for that division. 4-H Member must show at both June and July 4-H Horse Shows. 4-H Member and 4-H horse must be the same horse/rider combination for that division. Family members sharing a horse are both eligible for awards if applicable. Awards will be presented at the LC4-HH&PC Fall Banquet.

H. THERAPEUTIC RIDING (#172):

Especially for those youth who enjoy the benefits of participating in therapeutic riding lessons and clinics. These youth should work in cooperation with their family and 4-H club advisor to determine which project book/record book is most appropriate for the age, interests, and stage of development.

i. Unlimited time of enrollment. Project book of choice should be indicated to 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator.
ii. May choose to participate in project interview judging during either the Special Interest Day in July (without horse) or during the Hartford Fair (with horse).
iii. Eligible to participate in Therapeutic Riding Classes during Licking County 4-H shows as well as during the Hartford Fair.

I. HORSELESS HORSE PROJECT (#173):

Learn about horses without owning one. Over 20 different horse-related subjects are covered in easy-to-use worksheets. Written for the beginner but may be suited for youth of all ages.

i. Appropriate for up to three years of enrollment
ii. Special interest project. Attend an interview during the Special Interest Day in July. Project exhibit may be displayed in 4-H Center during the Hartford Fair with club or in miscellaneous booth. Not eligible for Horseless Horse classes.

J. HORSELESS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM (#173-M):

Learn about horses without owning one. This project is targeted at youth who wish to advance their knowledge and experience with horses so that they may progress to owning or leasing their own horse at some point in the future. This project will pair up the project member with another, more advanced, project member to learn about horses as well as their care and management.

i. Member will choose project/record book based upon interests and maintain a journal of project activities based upon their stage of development (This decision should be made in cooperation with family, mentor, and advisor.) This journal, along with project/record book will be graded by an advisor or volunteer.
ii. Contract of Understanding with appropriate signatures and a properly completed 4-H Horse Identification form must be delivered on April 23, 2026 between the hours of 11:00 am to 1:00 pm to the LC4-HH&PC Members at the Extension Office or postmarked by April 24, 2026.
iii. May participate in Horseless Horse classes during Licking County 4-H horse shows, and Hartford Independent Fair.
iv. During each year of enrolling in an equine project, you must complete an EquiSTEP Training assigned for that specific year (i.e. 2026 EquiSTEP).
v. This is up to a 3-year mentorship program unless a hardship case is filed with LC4-H&HPC.

K. HORSELESS HORSE MENTORSHIP PROJECT MEMBERS:

Horseless members must meet the uniform dress code as stated in section M. Horseless Definition: Horseless classes are for exhibitors who do not own or lease a horse. Horseless riding classes are Walk-Trot only. Horseless exhibitors are not eligible to show in Beginner, Intermediate, or Advanced classes.

L. BEGINNER MEMBERS:

1st & 2nd year members are eligible to show at walk and trot in their respective classes, only if they choose to do so. They are not permitted to show any three-gaited classes which include all performance classes that call for a canter or lope and versatility. Beginner classes are for 4-H members in their 1st & 2nd years, which do not feel safe at the canter or lope. Parents and Advisors may petition the Licking County 4-H Horse & Pony Council along with the 4-H Youth Development Educator to allow 4-H members to remain in beginner classes after 2nd year if it is felt unsafe to move out of beginner classes. Beginners must meet the uniform dress code as stated in section M. Beginner Definition: For beginner exhibitors in their first or second calendar year of showing in the Beginner Division and who have no experience in any form of competition at the canter or lope. Beginner riding classes are Walk-Trot only. Beginner exhibitors are not eligible to show or may not have previously shown in Intermediate or Advanced classes and maintain Beginner status.

i. Contesting – 1st and 2nd year beginners participating in walk trot contesting will be disqualified for any more than 3 canter strides in a row. In addition, more than 2 canter occurrences during each pattern will mean disqualification. Judge may excuse beginner rider at any time due to safety. All other rules from State 4-H rule book apply.
ii. Spotters – Those asked to help in walk trot classes are called Spotters. Only 6 Spotters are to be in the show ring at one time. At NO time are spotters permitted to coach or train 4-H riders; only encourage 4-H riders.

M. HORSELESS & BEGINNER UNIFORM DRESS CODE:

Horseless and Beginner Members participating at the Licking County Horse Shows & Hartford Independent Fair must wear the following uniform:

i. Plain, solid white oxford, long sleeve, collared shirt
ii. – All Disciplines.
iii. Western classes and Contesting classes: appropriate boots, jeans or slacks (black or blue), any color of tie and helmet cover may be used, no chaps. Gloves are optional.
iv. English: plain white long-sleeve collared shirt, appropriate boots, breeches, full harness on helmet in riding classes, no jackets. Gloves are optional.
v. Approved Safety helmets (ASTM/SEI) are required in all Classes.
vi. Event of extreme heat and Judge calls for polo's rider may wear white polo only.

N. INTERMEDIATE MEMBERS:

Intermediate members show walk, trot, and canter in their respective classes. Exhibitors may stay in Intermediate classes for 3 years. Parents and Advisors must petition the LC4-HHPC to allow 4-H members to remain in intermediate classes after 3rd year. Definition: For the inexperienced exhibitor who is beginning with the canter or lope and is learning about leads and building confidence. Intermediate riding classes are Walk–Trot–Canter/Lope. If Intermediate exhibitors show in an Advanced class(s) they are no longer eligible to show in the Intermediate Division. Intermediate exhibitors are not eligible for Beginner classes. The Hartford Fair does not recognize Intermediate classes, therefore Intermediate exhibitors are allowed to participate in their age division (other than Horseless/ Therapeutic/Beginner classes) and not lose their Intermediate

eligibility the following year. IN EVENT OF EXTREME HEAT AND JUDGE CALLS FOR POLO's ANY COLOR WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED.

O. ADVANCED DEFINITION:

For the experienced exhibitors showing in the appropriate age division at the Walk–Trot–Canter/Lope. To compete in classes for the purposes of qualifying for the Ohio State Fair, a separate form (PAS entry) must be completed. Advanced exhibitors are not eligible to show in Beginner or Intermediate classes. IN EVENT OF EXTREME HEAT AND JUDGE CALLS FOR POLO's ANY COLOR WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED.

P. PAS DEFINITION:

Performance Against Standards – To qualify for the Ohio State Fair show you must be an advanced rider only and must submit 2026 Ohio State Fair Representative Form (Licking County 4-H PAS Form) at the same time as the 2026 Horse Identification Paper (by appropriate deadline). Fees for PAS show: $10 per class, $6 ground fees, $15.00 stall fees. Once you compete in this division you cannot go back to a lower division. Out of county exhibitors must submit forms by 5:00 p.m. Sunday, June 21st; in addition, a fee of $10 per class, $6 grounds fee and optional $15 stall fee. Max class choice is 6 for exhibitors. All PAS Exhibitors must submit Coggins test result from 2026 with PAS Form. Coggins must be dated after January 1, 2026.

Q. EASY GAITED HORSES DEFINITION:

Easy Gaited Horses as defined by the 4-H rule book means a horse that does not trot. Example of breeds: Paso Fino, Tennessee Walker, and Rocky Mountain. Western and English tack and Western and English attire must be appropriate tack for division entered. If gaited horse is entered in gaited division then that horse is not eligible for horse or pony divisions.

R. DIVISION LISTS:

An Advisor from each 4-H Club must submit in writing by April 24 a list of 4-H members that will be showing and if they are Advanced, Intermediate, Beginner, and Horseless or Therapeutic riders. A club advisor may update the list at the 1st or 2nd shows (whichever applies first to their particular club). An Intermediate or 1st / 2nd year Beginner member may go up and show Advanced but cannot show Advanced and then go back into Intermediate or Beginner. If a 4-H member shows Advanced Western, they must show Advanced English and vice versa.

S. PONY HEIGHT & MEASUREMENT:

At the beginning of the 4-H show season all (point division) ponies must be measured, if member does not already possess a permanent card (issued once the horse reaches age six). If your pony needs measured, you should reach out to Kelli Evans (614.325.6566) to arrange for measurement. If you are unable to connect with Kelli, you can bring the pony to the 2026 Spring Clinic on Saturday, April 25th (9am-1pm). Measurements taken at that time will be marked on the county identification form and shall be official and final. If an animal is six years of age or older, permanent measurement card may be issued. For purposes of Licking County 4-H shows, the permanent measurement card shall be official and final if the pony remains the project of the same member or his/her family. Re-measurement each year will be unnecessary for such ponies. An animal, that is within the height requirements for a pony (58" or less), may be shown either as a horse or pony if the member so chooses but it may not be switched within that calendar year. State Fair Representatives will be re-measured at the State Fair.

T. TRAINING DIVISION:

Designed specifically for youth enrolled in the Horse Training Project. Walk-Trot only not eligible for 3 gaited. Member is eligible to show a specific horse in this division for up to two years. This class is meant to provide an incentive activity for experienced 4-H members who have developed

an ability to train a young /inexperienced horse (green / recently under saddle). Member must have at least one year of experience at the Intermediate Level or be entered in the Advanced Level. For detailed rules, please reference handout posted on 4-H website.

U. OVER FENCE DIVISION:

Novice is defined as a rider in their 1st & 2nd years of showing over fences. On the 3rd year they move up to the next level. Judges will be required to score riders using the Advanced score sheets. Copies may be given to participants if requested. Please note: Contestants showing at the State Fair – jumps will be set at maximum heights. Note: See CURRENT Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows.

V. "PREVENTIVE SHOWING"

will be done as often as possible where classes will be randomly/or all checked for illegal equipment or bits prior to the exhibitor entering the arena by the judge or designated adult individual. Exhibitor will have a reasonable opportunity to correct the situation and enter the arena. However, the judge does have the right to dismiss an exhibitor from the ring if they feel the entry is unruly, not in sufficient control for the safety of the handler or other exhibitors, determining soundness of the horse, abusive to the animal, and if the exhibitor is using improper equipment or wearing improper clothing.

W. MISCELLANEOUS:

i. English Classes: The judge will not take off for braided tails and sweat marks in Showmanship Classes. Horses and Ponies are encouraged to be braided in English classes; however, this is not a requirement and should not be heavily penalized.

ii. Dressage Classes: Small arena pattern in the 4-H rulebook will be utilized for the Dressage course.

iii. Ranch Pleasure: Ranch classes please reference the Current State Rule book.

iv. Contesting: In accordance with Uniform Guidelines for 4-H Horse Shows, Gymkhana classes will use the Running Start Method for both the Grubb arena (indoor arena) and the 4-H Equestrian Complex outdoor arena as outlined in Gymkhana Classes, Section 5, Subsection B. A safe, protected chute will be constructed by attaching 2 cattle panels to the current arena fencing on both sides of the gate and extending straight out to either the existing bollards of Grubb Arena or into the warmup pen of outdoor arena. The current gate of the Arena will be used to close the arena behind the rider. The horse and rider may be led/assisted to the beginning of the Chute but, only the horse and rider, and the person closing the gate may be in the chute (Beginners may be walked to the gate). The horse must be kept walking, under control until they cross the chute line marked with a flag on each side of the chute as designated by the Drag operator. As soon the horse and rider enter the arena the entrance gate is closed behind, he/she and remains closed until the horse is under control. For the barrels class pattern "C" will be used in Grubb Arena (Indoor Arena) and pattern "B" will be used in 4-H Equestrian Complex outdoor arena. Both patterns can be found in the Uniform Guidelines for 4-H Horse Shows.

X. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT:

Absolutely no approaching the judge without the permission and presence of the Show Manager or Steward. Complaints and protest will follow Current Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Show. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken by representatives of the LC4-HH&PC and OSU Extension. An Incident Report should be presented to the Licking County 4-H Extension Educator within five (5) days of the incident.

Y. VETERINARIAN'S CERTIFICATE:

If a horse that is to be shown is prescribed a medication by a veterinarian that will administered during a show, or be within the system of the horse during the show, a veterinarian's certificate must be submitted to show management prior to the horse being shown. Please refer to the Current Uniform Rules for4-H Horse Shows – General Rules for further explanation.

Z. INCLEMENT WEATHER:

If bad weather prevails the Judge, Ring Master, and LC4-HH&PC will:

- Stop show or activities at the first roar of thunder or sight of lightning.
- Send all individuals to shelter.
- No 4-H member will be mounted during a storm.
- All animals should be stalled or under shelter.
- Wait 30 minutes after last thunder to resume the show or activity.
- This information will be posted at the show grounds and online.

AA. LC4-HH&PC HORSE SHOW TIMES:

Entry Booth will open 30 minutes prior to posted show bill. Shows that are stopped due to bad weather or continue late into the evening and approach 11:00p.m. will be assessed by the LC4-HH&PC and determine whether to cancel the balance of the show or reschedule it at a time and location to be announced when determined. Club advisors will be notified of the date, time and location and will then be responsible to contact their Club Members.

BB. EDUCATION AT CLUB LEVEL:

LC4-HH&PC highly encourages each Club to conduct training and education sessions with their club members consisting of basic horse education, i.e., horse body parts and project book review. Each club is also highly encouraged to conduct work sessions where members bring their horses and are taught basic handling including showmanship and riding; show ring educate and procedures.

CC. CLASS / DIVISION CHANGES AT SHOW:

LC4-HH&PC will make a one-time exception for class mistake or change division during county shows (per exhibitor).

DD. ENTRY / FEES NOT RECEIVED BY DAY OF SHOW:

Parent / member can write one check for $100 Challenge Fee (in addition to all class fees). If fees are received by mail within 30 days, with appropriate postmark, parent / member will receive $100 refund. If original envelope is not received through the mail with appropriate postmark within 30 days, member forfeits all points earned during that show.

Revised January 5, 2026 (Policy Committee)

Considered and Approved Monday, January 12, 2026 (Licking County 4-H Horse & Pony Council)

All information and forms regarding 4-H horse related projects can be found at http://licking.osu.edu