Members, parents and advisors are urged to familiarize themselves with the rules and policies governing the 4-H Horse Projects. Every family with horse projects should have a copy of the “Uniform Rules for the 4-H Horse Shows” (4-H Circular #179) for the current year. County Rules and Policies may override or modify those set forth in the Uniform Rules. Exhibit requirements are available from the Extension office or your advisor. Questions should be directed to the County Extension Office.

General Rules:
1. 4-H members must be enrolled in a Ross County 4-H club with horse and/or pony projects by March 1 of the current year.
2. The age of the member is determined as of January 1 of the current year.
3. Equine Safety and Ethics Program – Every 4-H member enrolled in a Horse project and planning on exhibiting at the County Fair must complete the state requirement for this program.
   
   A) Every 4-H member and their parent/guardian read the safety booklet, Circular 191R and sign the last page verifying they have read it. If a parent/guardian has more than one child in 4-H they only need to use one booklet. Papers must be turned in by June 1 with other registration papers.
   
   B) The youth and parent/guardian must view two videos: “Every Time, Every Ride” and “Horses, Kids and Ethics”. (These are available in the county office). The club advisor will have members/parents sign a form verifying they have viewed these videos.

   Once the youth and parent go through the program they need not repeat it.

   Note: We ask that the Equine Safety and Ethics Program be conducted on a club level. 4-H Horse clubs (not individuals) will check the videos out and conduct this program at one of their club meetings.

4. The parent and youth sign the Permission to Participate in 4-H Horse Activities Disclosure and Release of Claims form (found in 4-H Horse project registration materials in project books) – Due April 1. This must be completed annually.

5. Members, parents and advisors are expected to participate in 4-H Horse Committee fund raisers as part of their 4-H Club and their Horse project. Examples of these include but are not limited to the NBHA show; PAS show; clinic; and any additional fund raisers. Clubs who do not have participation in a majority of these activities will not be included in the club stall assignment drawing which is held at the horse committee meeting in June and will be placed at the end of the 4-H club horse stall assignments.

6. Members must follow project guidelines (included with project book) for their particular project number in addition to all rules included here.

7. All horses and ponies carried as 4-H project animals must be either owned by the member, member’s immediate family, or leased and in the possession and continual care of the 4-H member by JUNE 1 THROUGH ROSS COUNTY FAIR, of the current year. These animals may not be changed, switched, or trained by professionals during the project year. Continual care does permit boarding an animal, provided the member is involved in feeding, cleaning, and caring for the horse. All registration ID forms, lease agreements, and production contracts MUST be turned into the Extension office by June 1 for project eligibility (no exceptions). Leasing is not allowed for 4-H production projects.

8. Hardship Case requests must be submitted to the Extension office in writing. A veterinarian’s statement of condition of the animal must be obtained and accompany the written hardship case request. A hardship committee comprised of three horse advisors (each from different clubs and excluding the hardship club) will review the hardship case, observe the horse project animal and make a determination of soundness. The contacting and any fees of the veterinarian will be the responsibility of the 4-H member/owner. The horse must be deemed unsuitable to show in showmanship at the fair for a replacement animal to be approved. All hardship
committee decisions are final. No hardship cases may show at the State Fair [to comply with page 5 of the Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows 4-H 179.]

9. Members may register up to three (3) project animals for but you may only show one (1) horse per class. If registering multiple project animals one must be designated as your main (and showmanship) animal. [See ID/Registration Form for space to indicate this]. Stallions may be shown only through their first calendar year. All three horses may be stalled at the fair so long as the committee determines there are enough stalls available.

10. Junior Fair Horse Project Members must turn in a completed Project/Record Book to their advisor prior to the Saturday of the fair (move in day). Any Junior Fair Horse Project Member who does not turn in a completed Project/Record Book will not be allowed to exhibit and show the animal at the fair.

11. Project animals may only be shown by one 4-H member in any one year. When an animal is traded or sold during the project year, the project will be counted incomplete.

Leasing
4-H members who lease a project must comply with the Ohio 4-H Horse Program Guidelines for Leasing a 4-H Horse Project and fulfill requirements to be eligible to show at the fair. A written lease agreement, along with a Ross County 4-H Horse Project Registration/ID Form, must be drawn by the owner and the youth to insure adequate care of the animal, protect the investment of the lessor, and to detail the responsibility of the youth in regards for caring for the animal. The leased horse must be in the 4-Her’s possession and continual care by June 1 of the current year.

Lessons and Training
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, state fair qualifying, or state junior fair 4-H Horse Show. Showing a 4-H 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 4-Her in an open or breed show within 30 days prior to the 4-H competition, the 4-Her must be present and have shown the project horse in that show.

A. 4-H horses are not permitted to be under regular training and care of a professional trainer or any other person after JUNE 1 of the current year. 4-H members may receive instruction provided they are present and involved in the instruction.

B. 4-H horses are not permitted to be boarded for the purpose of training after JUNE 1 of the current year. Failure to comply with this rule will result in disqualification of 4-H members from showing at the current year state fair qualifying show and county fair show.

C. The 4-H Horse Committee and County 4-H Extension Educator shall have the authority to interpret and enforce all rules according to the best interest of 4-H members and those concerned. These governing bodies will determine the eligibility of any youth in question. Ross County Rules and Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows, current issue, will be followed. All decisions will be final.