



March 6, 2023

Dear Horse Exhibitor,

There are certain requirements that all horse exhibitors, regardless of 4-H club or FFA chapter, must complete to participate in the 2023 Mercer County Jr. Fair. This letter is full of information and many of these processes have been updated. Please read closely.

ALL exhibitors are required to complete the following by May 1, 2023:

1. **Horse Identification** – Horse ID must be completed annually for each member and horse. A member can ID up to three horses each year but is permitted to a maximum of two animals in the Junior Fair Show. Additional policies can be found in the fairbook on the horse and pony page. This process is now done in Ohio 4-H online. This is the same website and log in information that you used to enroll for your project.

To complete horse identification go to <http://v2.4honline.com>. Sign into your existing account, click on the members name and then on the “Animals” tab to add/ID your horse(s).

2. **EquiSTEP**- EquiSTEP is an annual statewide requirement for **all** youth participating in Ohio 4-H Horse Program activities. EquiSTEP replaces the statewide requirement of reading the *Horses, Safety, and You* (191R) resource and viewing the *Every Time, Every Ride* and *Horses, Kids, and Ethics* videos for youth and their families who are new to the 4-H horse program. The EquiSTEP curriculum focuses on helmet safety, equine safety & handling, equine health & nutrition, and sportsmanship and is designed to rotate topics every year.

Each member must have their own email address to sign up for the course. Two siblings cannot use the same family email address. If you use a school email address - be aware that school servers may block this type of email.

Here is the link to enroll in/access EquiSTEP: go.osu.edu/equistep2023

ALL exhibitors are required to complete by August 11, 2023:

3. **Horse Work Nights** – Each Junior Fair exhibitor and horse which will be participating in the Junior Fair must attend at least three equine work nights with at least one other horse and rider. The work nights must be completed before arrival day at fair and supervised by an approved 4-H horse advisor or horse superintendent. The horse must be ridden by the exhibitor to determine suitability for showing with other horses and people. There is a county wide work day on Saturday, May 27 that includes a vet check for body condition score. **More information is available on the attached page.**

If applicable:

1. **Horse Lease Guidelines** – If applicable, lease paperwork must be submitted to the Extension Office. For guidelines to create an appropriate lease agreement between the 4-H Member and the lessor – visit our website <https://go.osu.edu/animalid>. **Deadline to complete, if applicable, is May 1, 2023.**

Other Updates:

The Contesting Show will NO longer include Cones & Barrels and Speed & Control in the 2023 Junior Fair.

Livestock Interviews: We are encouraging exhibitors to create a display or poster for their livestock interview. This visual display should depict an area of study from the resource book. You do not need to cover the whole resource book on the poster - just one thing you focused your learning on for that year.

May 1 Deadline Requirements:

Horse Identification - <http://v2.4honline.com>

EquiSTEP - go.osu.edu/equistep2023

Horse Lease Guidelines (if applicable) - <https://go.osu.edu/animalid>

If you have any questions, please feel free to let me know.

Sincerely,

Beth Guggenbiller

Beth Guggenbiller
Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development
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2023 Horse Work Nights

Each Junior Fair exhibitor and horse which will be participating in the Junior Fair must attend at least three equine work nights with at least one other horse and rider. Member can attend any of the work nights listed on this document. The dates listed on this document are approved work nights to meet the requirement. Additional work nights may be added due to weather cancellations or other unforeseen circumstances but approved by the Senior Fair Board.

All work nights are held at the Mercer County Fairgrounds. Each work night will have a sign in sheet. Members will be required to sign in with their name and horse's name.

County Wide Work Night:

Our horse superintendents will be hosting a **required horse work night** that will include a Horse Vet Check by the county fair vet. This Vet Check will include a body condition scoring. Remember this is scoring for that particular day- but this will allow members to make adjustments over the summer to improve the horse's score if needed to participate at the fair.

This event will take place on **Saturday, May 27th @ 11:00 AM**. Member are required to bring ALL horses that are registered in their name or that they intended to show at the fair. If a horse does not participate in this vet check- it can not show at the fair. Member does not need to be present, but highly encouraged.

If you are absolutely unable to participate in this work night, you can contact Coldwater Animal Clinic (419-678-4071) and have this process completed at another time at your own location and cost. You will need to obtain official paperwork from the OSU Extension office before the vet check. Deadline for returned and completed paperwork is Wednesday, May 31 at 4:30pm. If paperwork is not returned by deadline, the horse is not eligible for the Junior Fair.

Jr Fair Work Nights Hosted by Horse Superintendent	Rhinstone and Wrangler's 4-H Club Work Nights	Ridin N Ropin 4-H Club Work Nights
Saturday, May 27 th @ 11:00 AM Tuesday, May 30 th @ 6PM Tuesday, June 6 th @ 6 PM Tuesday, June 20 th @ 6PM Tuesday, July 11 th @ 6PM Tuesday, July 25 th @ 6 PM Tuesday, August 8 th @ 6 PM	Saturday, May 6 @ 10:00 Am Thursday, May 11 @ 7:00 PM Thursday, May 18 @ 7:00 PM Thursday, May 25 – no practice Saturday, June 10 @ 1:00 PM Thursday, June 15 @ 7:00 PM Thursday, June 22 @ 7:00 PM Thursday, June 29 @ 7:00 PM Thursday, July 6 – no practice Thursday, July 13 @ 7:00 PM Thursday, July 20 @ 7:00 PM Thursday, July 27 @ 7:00 PM Thursday, August 3 @ 7:00 PM	Tuesday, May 2 @ 6:00 PM Tuesday, May 9 @ 6:00 PM Tuesday, May 23 @ 6:00 PM Tuesday, June 13 @ 6:00 PM Tuesday, June 27 @ 6:00 PM Tuesday, July 18 @ 6:00 PM Tuesday, August 1 @ 6:00 PM

If worknights are canceled – notification will be sent from the OSU Extension Office via email.