

March 10, 2026

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 2026 Mercer County Jr. Fair. Please read closely.

ALL exhibitors are required to complete the following by May 1, 2026:

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.

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). This is the same website and log-in information that you used to enroll for 4-H/projects.

2. **EquiSTEP**- EquiSTEP is an annual statewide requirement for **all** youth participating in Ohio 4-H Horse Program activities. The EquiSTEP curriculum is completed online and focuses on helmet safety, equine safety & handling, equine health & nutrition, and sportsmanship and is designed to rotate topics every year.

Please make sure you click submit at the end of course, so the results are processed. Certificate should be uploaded onto 4-H Online by the member.

Link for EquiSTEP 2026: <http://go.osu.edu/equistep2026>

ALL exhibitors are required to complete by August 12, 2026:

1. **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. 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, 2026.**

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.

State Fair and PAS Show: Please see the website for all information if interested:

<https://ohio4h.org/animalsciences/horse/pas-qualifying-shows>

2026 Junior Fair Book: There have been several updates and changes in the Jr. Fair Book regarding rules, schedules, and the overall fair flow for the upcoming 2026 Mercer County Jr. Fair. As an exhibitor and parent, it is your responsibility to review all applicable sections of the rule book.

You can view online using link/QR code below and copies will be available in our office and at all Livestock Quality Assurance sessions.

<https://go.osu.edu/juniorfairbook>



Deadline Requirements:

May 1 - Horse Identification - <http://v2.4honline.com>

May 1 - EquiSTEP - <http://go.osu.edu/equistep2026>

May 1 - 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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2026 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 and Vet Check:

The county will not require a Horse Vet Check prior to the fair this year. All Junior Fair Horse's must have a Body Condition Score of 4-7 in order to participate though. If a member, horse superintendent, or advisor believes there is a horse in questioning of scoring between a 4-7, the county fair veterinary can see the horse. The veterinary can only advise and give their recommended score. The Junior Fair Judge has the final ruling on show day.

Jr Fair Work Nights Hosted by Horse Superintendent	Rhinestone and Wrangler's 4-H Club Work Nights
<p>Please arrive early and be ready to ride @ 6:30 PM</p> <p>Wednesday, June 10 at 6:30 PM Wednesday, June 24 at 6:30 PM Wednesday, July 1 at 6:30 PM Wednesday, July 22 at 6:30 PM</p>	<p>Please arrive at 6:30 PM and ride at 7:00 PM</p> <p>Thursday, May 28 Thursday, June 4 Thursday, June 11 Thursday, June 18 Thursday, June 25 Thursday, July 2 Thursday, July 9 Thursday, July 16 Thursday, July 23 Thursday, July 30 Thursday, August 6</p>