

# 2024 Holmes County Jr. Fair Equine Project Guidelines

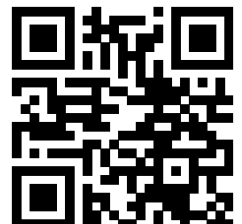
## Project Checklist

- Check the 4-H calendar for the most up-to-date information regarding our program.
- Enroll in 4-H** through 4-HOnline ([oh.4honline.com](http://oh.4honline.com)) by April 1. Individual clubs may set an earlier date.
- Project Record Book:** Purchase, complete, and bring to a Skillathon interview to be graded.
- Possession Date:** Obtain and care for your animal(s) by June 1. The animal must remain in your care during the entire project period or throughout the fair. IF leasing, lease paperwork must be on file by June 1 in Fair Entry.
- Junior Fair Book:** Obtain and read a Holmes County Junior Fair Book for rules and regulations for our county fair. Read and follow all rules pertaining to your project.
- Horse Rule Book:** It is strongly encouraged to purchase a Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Show book. These can be purchased online at <https://extensionpubs.osu.edu/uniform-rules-for-4-h-horse-shows/>
- Project Completion:** Attend and participate in Holmes County 4-H Skillathon Interviews on either July 18 or July 22, 2024.
- Fair Entries** due by 11:59 pm on June 1: Make ALL fair entries online at <https://holmesjrfair.fairentry.com> for your animal(s).
- EquiSTEP:** Ohio 4-H's Equine Safety, Training, and Education Program. EquiSTEP is an annual requirement for all Ohio 4-H youth enrolled in a horse project. Due by JUNE 1.
- Possession of animal:** The project must be in the care and possession of the member by JUNE 1 of the current year and remain with the member throughout the fair. Each exhibitor may bring one (1) horse to the fair. IF extra stalls are available you may the opportunity to bring a second horse to the fair. This can change year to year once each exhibitor is provided with at least one (1) stall.
- Awards:** All exhibitors who receive a trophy, plaque, or other award sponsored by a donor are expected to send a Thank You note to the sponsor(s). Thank you cards will be provided with your award. Please turn in your unsealed thank you card to the Jr. Fair Office by the end of the fair. The name and address of the sponsor can be found on the award. Contact the Jr. Fair secretary's office if you cannot find it.
- Outstanding Award:** The Holmes County Jr. Fair Outstanding Exhibitor Awards program was developed to recognize youth who go above and beyond in their species both in and out of the show ring. Exhibitors who wish to participate must complete the skillathon/project record book judging (no make-up judging), and showmanship. Awards will be presented Saturday, August 10 at the 4- H Awards Ceremony in the Large Arena.

## Important Notes/Rules for Equine Projects

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- **Protective Headgear:** All exhibitors are required to obtain and wear a properly fitted helmet, which meets or exceeds current ASTM/SEI standards with the chin harness securely fastened at all times while riding an equine.
- **Condition:** Any equine with a body score of 4 or less and is showing any obvious signs of lameness/injury, can be dismissed off the premises at any time. Thus, disqualifying the exhibitor from participating in the current fair.
- **Ownership:** Equine used as project animals must be owned by the member, the member's family (parent, grandparents, sibling-full or step, or legal guardian(s) and their children) or leased. A horse can only be leased to only one 4-H member as a project.
- **Who can ride:** The equine used as a project animal can be ridden by the 4-H exhibitor.
  - **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 but cannot include regular training and care of the horse within 30 days of competition in any county state fair qualifying show or the State Fair Junior Horse Show. Showing a 4-H member project animal in a class at a show is not considered training. However, if a project animal is shown by someone other than the 4-H member in an open or breed show within the 30 days prior to the 4-H competition, the 4-H member must be present and show the project horse in the same show.
  - **Family** members can ride a 4-H member project horse without the 4-H member being present within the 0-day limit as long as it is not a daily occurrence and is merely for pleasure and does not include training of the horse for the show ring.
- **Drug administration:** Including any herbal preparations that affect the central nervous system (stimulant or depressant) of a horse shown in any 4-H class is strictly prohibited. The administration of a drug for therapeutic measures, including the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, is permitted unless the drug affects the central nervous system (stimulant or depressant). If used, a veterinarian's certificate prescribing the drug must be filed with show management prior to showing. The use of any equipment that affects the cardiovascular, respiratory, or central nervous system (stimulant or depressant) of a horse while shown in any 4-H class is strictly prohibited. Use of any substance or method that affects the normal movement of the tail is strictly prohibited. Tongue ties are also prohibited. Any exhibitor guilty of showing an animal under the influence of any prohibited drug, using any forbidden substance, or failing to file a veterinarian's certificate prior to showing is disqualified and forfeits all placings and awards for the show. Additional penalties may also be given by show management, based on the situation.
- **Approved and Prohibited Tack (Western & English):** Please visit <https://go.osu.edu/equinetackrules> for more information, and or scan the QR code. We still highly encourage the purchase of the Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows.



# 2024 Approved and Prohibited Tack

## (Western & English Disciplines)

### Western Tack:

- ❖ A hackamore in Western classes, it means the use only of a flexible, braided rawhide or leather bosal, the core of which must be rawhide. The bosal may be no greater than 1 inch at the nose. Absolutely no riding material is permitted under the jaws, regardless of how padded or covered. This does not refer to a so-called mechanical hackamore, which is only allowed in gymkhana and roping classes.
- ❖ A snaffle bit is referring to a conventional O-ring, egg-butt, or D-ring direct pressure bit with a ring no larger than 4 inches. The mouthpiece should be round, smooth, untwisted metal. It may inlaid, but smooth or latex-wrapped.
- ❖ A curb bit refers to a bit that has a solid or a jointed mouthpiece, has shanks, and acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical decisions and should be considered a standard Western bit.
- ❖ A bitless bridle means the use of a cross-under headstall. Sidepulls or halters are not allowed.
- ❖ In Gymkhana and roping classes only, other types of bits may be used, including gag bits, snaffle bits, and bits with a twist to the bar as long as the mouthpiece is a minimum of 5/16 of an inch in diameter 1 inch from the cheek piece. Bits may have a maximum length of 8½ inches. The port must be no higher than 3½ inches maximum, with rollers and covers acceptable. Jointed mouthpieces, half-breeds, and spades are standard. Curb bits must use curb straps or chains that are at least ½ inch wide and lay flat against the jaw when activated.

### Saddles:

- ❖ Western classes, must be shown in Western saddles. Australian saddles must have a horn.

### Prohibited Equipment:

- ❖ Draw reins, except for donkeys.
- ❖ Martingales nosebands, and tiedowns. (except in Roping and Gymkhana classes)
- ❖ Double-twisted mouthpieces are not allowed.
- ❖ Protective leg boots/wraps in Western Pleasure, Western Riding, Trail, Ranch, and Showmanship classes.
- ❖ No bare metal is allowed over the nose or the poll of the horse.
- ❖ NO type of chain or wire mouthpiece is allowed, no matter how well wrapped.
- ❖ Roping bits with both reins connected to a single ring at center of cross bar is not allowed.
- ❖ Saddles with excessive silver are not allowed in Ranch classes.
- ❖ Wire curb straps.



## English Tack:

- ❖ English (Hunt Type) classes require all bridles to have cavessons and plain, flat, rolled, or laced leather brow bands.
- ❖ English snaffle (no shanks), Kimberwick, and Pelham bits are acceptable.
- ❖ With regard to mouthpieces, they must be a minimum of 5/16 of an inch in diameter when measured 1 inch in from the shank, cheek, or ring. They may be smooth, round, slot twist, straight bar, or solid. The mouthpiece may have two or three pieces. If it has three pieces, a connecting ring of 1¼ inches or less in diameter or a connecting flat bar of 3/8 to 3/4 of an inch, which lies flat in the horse's mouth, is acceptable.
- ❖ Curb (leverage bits) have a maximum shank length of 8½ inches with the shank length measured. Shanks may be loose or fixed.
- ❖ Any bit having a fixed rein requires the use of a curb chain and is considered a curb (leverage) bit. Curb bits must use a curb chain. They must be ½ inch wide and lay flat against the jaw when activated.
- ❖ Bitless bridles (cross-under) are permitted. Sidepulls or halters are not.

## Saddles:

- ❖ English (Hunt type) classes allow forward seat, side saddle, or hacking type saddles made of leather or synthetic materials. Straight-flap dressage and cutback./saddle seat saddles are not allowed.

## Prohibited Equipment:

- ❖ Spurs with rowels.
- ❖ Leg wraps
- ❖ Draw reins
- ❖ Figure eight or cross-chain cavessons
- ❖ Flash or dropped cavessons ( except in Dressage classes)
- ❖ Tiedowns or martingales for Saddle Seat, Hunter Under Saddle, and Hunter Hack classes
- ❖ Artificial appliances, such as wired ears, tail braces, and mouth controls, i.e., tongue ties
- ❖ Slip or gag bits
- ❖ Double-twisted mouthpieces are not allowed. Single-twisted mouthpieces are allowed as long as the mouthpiece is a minimum of 5/16 of an inch in diameter