

2026 JUNIOR FAIR HORSE RULES



Youth Exhibitors are responsible for meeting all relevant deadlines.

THE OFFICIAL JUNIOR FAIR ENTRY DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, July 24, 2026

**SHOT RECORDS MUST BE UPLOADED WITH FAIR ENTRIES
NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT SHOT RECORDS**

Facebook – Stark County Jr. Fair Horse Committee
Stark County Junior Fair Facebook – Stark County Junior Fair News
Stark County Junior Fair Website: www.starkcountyjrfair4h.com

Stark County Junior Fair – OVERALL General Rules for ALL Species

The Stark County Junior Fair operates under the authority of and in conjunction with the Stark County Senior Fair Board. The Junior Fair Board is a department of the Stark County Fair with its own objectives. These objectives in many instances, require rules or guidelines that differ significantly from those of other Stark County Fair Departments.

Any boy or girl enrolled in a Stark County Youth organization is eligible to participate in the Stark County Junior Fair. They must abide by the rules and age limitations of said youth organization (4H, FFA, Grange, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, etc.)

1. To participate in 4H activities, youth must comply with the State 4H membership policy. 4H eligibility begins at age 5 (and in kindergarten as of January 1) and ends December 31st of the year in which they attain the age of 19.
2. Exhibitors in 4H classes must be enrolled in 4H club work in Stark County. Exhibits must be from 4H projects approved by the State or Local Extension office.
3. All members are encouraged to show in open class events.
4. Health rules for the livestock exhibits are the same as those governing all open class exhibits. Health papers must be shown, if requested, to the proper person before an animal is assigned a stall.
5. The Board of Directors of the Stark County Agricultural Society will, to the best of their ability, safeguard persons, livestock and articles on the grounds, but will not be responsible for injury, damage, disease, theft or loss of any kind.
6. Animals released due to illness or injury must have a signed release from the Fair Veterinarian, Junior Fair Coordinator and/or Barn Superintendent. Any animal removed without proper permission will be subject to 1-year suspension for the exhibitor.
7. Members are required to clean stalls or pens daily and maintain a neat and presentable area. Failure to keep the area clean or properly feed and water livestock may result in the committee withholding payment.
8. Anyone assisting with showing another exhibitor's animal must be enrolled as a current 4H or FFA or other youth organization member in Stark County.
9. All animals must remain on exhibit at the fair until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, the last day of the fair.
10. All animals sold remain the property of the member and in the member's care until Fair release time, 4:00 p.m., Monday, the last day of the fair. *Please be advised, some market animals may be released to contracted Livestock Brokers prior to the 4pm release time.*
11. Animals sold are not eligible to be shown again by that exhibitor or any other 4H or FFA member in any Junior Show in the County or State or Independent Fair in the calendar year. All Grand and Reserve Grand Champion market animals are terminal**. **Does NOT apply to the Dairy Beef Feeder project**
12. Exhibitors are responsible for their own veterinary bill.
13. Veterinarians assigned to the Fair for check-in will decide all matters of health, presence of disease and stall release.
14. The Fair Board will provide ribbons and/or appropriate awards. If the budget is exceeded, the Fair Board reserves the right to prorate cash premiums.
15. **Eligible youth may participate in both 4-H (clubs) and Vocational Agriculture (FFA) or be members of either organization. However, those involved in both must carry separate and distinct projects, including different animals and/or products, for each organization. Examples of distinct projects include Sheep Breeding, Market Lambs, Pullets, and Broilers. The same or similar animals or products cannot be exhibited in both organizations, even if classified under different projects or programs. Additionally, an animal or product may not be shown in more than one county in 4-H or FFA classes.**
16. Stark County youth programs and the Junior Fair Board will not condone the use of alcohol or drugs by any of its members, volunteers or anyone else associated with the Junior fair. The Junior Fair Coordinator, Junior

Fair Board advisors, FFA advisors, Extension office and the Senior Fair Board will contact parents or legal authorities to handle individuals caught using or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

17. In the event that a project animal dies after the designated possession date, members will not be permitted to replace the animal for the purpose of exhibition or sale in any Junior Fair event.
18. **All Entries are Due at midnight By or July 24th - NO EXCEPTIONS - No Changes will be permitted after entry deadline.**
19. A junior livestock show exhibitor shall be responsible for the continuous care, grooming, and preparation of the livestock entered in the junior livestock show. An exhibitor may receive assistance in the care, grooming, and preparation of the livestock entered in the junior livestock show, provided that the assistance shall be limited to explanation or demonstration provided by the following: Family members (as identified in OAC Rule 901-19-31); Household members; Advisors or adult volunteers of 4-H or FFA in the exhibitor's club or county; Agricultural education instructors; County extension agents; Department representatives; Veterinarians; Members of the exhibitor's 4-H club, FFA chapter, or other youth organizations; and Guest speakers of the 4-H, FFA, or other youth organizations. Additionally, a current Stark County Junior Fair exhibitor may assist. This rule applies to all projects entered in the Stark County Junior Fair show during the Stark County Fair from September 1, 2026, to September 7, 2026. Violation of this rule will result in the animal being ineligible for sale. * Any person not specified in paragraph (B) of OAC Rules 901-19-31 who provides assistance to a junior livestock show exhibitor shall register in writing with the sponsor. The responsibility to register rests with the exhibitor. An assistant may register for more than one exhibitor. Failure to register constitutes grounds for disciplinary action against the exhibitor. Assistance shall be limited to explanation and minimal demonstration.
20. No one may handle a Junior Fair exhibitor's animal(s) without the exhibitor's permission, except in an emergency. Committee members are permitted to handle animals as part of their regular duties, including during the show, sale, weigh-in, photos, loading, and unloading.
21. **Judges' Decisions are Final.**
22. Any Medical/School excuses must be submitted in writing to Committee Chair and Junior Fair Coordinator.
23. **ALL Junior Fair Exhibitors are REQUIRED to attend a QUALITY ASSURANCE (QA) CLINIC by JUNE 1 before the fair. Exhibitors who do not complete this requirement will be ineligible to show at the fair or bring a carcass.**
24. **Exhibitors must complete an online DRUG USE NOTIFICATION FORM (DUNF) for all market and lactating animals before the show. Failure to comply WILL result in disqualification from showing. This requirement is mandated by the Ohio Department of Agriculture under Ohio Revised Code 901-19-06 and 901-19-07. All Junior Fair livestock must be free of drug residues on the first day of the fair unless otherwise noted on the DUNF. Exhibitors are responsible for the care of their market animals until the fair concludes, the drug withdrawal period ends, or if the animal is placed under quarantine.**

Junior Fair Coordinator - Julie Pinter - jrfair@starkcountypfair.com 330.455.7856

Junior Fair Livestock Barn Superintendents (Subject to Change)

Beef	Amber Shoemaker	Danny Schmucker
Dairy	Justin Durkin	Dan Farnham
Goat	Jill McNeil	Mikayla Durkin
Horse	Mikayla Durkin	Dan McCracken
Poultry	Julie Nicholas	Justin Durkin
Sheep	Dave Stock	Jill McNeil
Swine	Mikayla Durkin	Sarah Yungen
Rabbit/Cavy	Jill Sterling	Drew Kissel

(Please refer to the Fair Book for contact information or leave a message at office@starkcountypfair.com)

2026 STARK COUNTY JUNIOR FAIR HORSE PROJECT RULES

GENERAL RULES FOR STARK COUNTY HORSE PROJECTS

1. Any boy or girl enrolled in a horse project associated with the Stark County Junior Fair Horse Committee is eligible to participate and must abide by the rules and age limitations of said organization. The Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows (4-H 179) and Horse Committee rules will apply to all Committee sponsored and Stark County Fair shows. The 4-H 179 Rulebook is available for purchase from the Extension Office.
2. Use of a safety helmet is **mandatory** according to State 4-H rules for all exhibitors (Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows – 4-H 179 -p.6-7 #1)
3. The Board of Directors of the Stark County Agricultural Society will, to the best of its ability safeguard persons, livestock and property on the Stark County Fairgrounds, but will not be responsible for injury, damage, disease, thefts or losses of any kind. The matter of insurance will be the sole responsibility of the exhibitor.
4. Age divisions for exhibitors in Horse Committee sponsored shows and the Stark County Fair are determined as of January 1st, of the current year. Junior exhibitors are 8-13 years of age and Senior exhibitors are 14-19 years of age. Please note that youth who are 8 years old must also be in the 3rd grade to be eligible to participate as junior exhibitors.
5. The following divisions will be used at all shows, including the Fair with age divisions as specified in rule 4:
 - Walk-Trot
 - Junior Canter
 - Senior Canter

*Walk/Trot classes are for youth in their **first** or **second** year completing a horse 4-H project. There is no separate Walk/Trot Showmanship classes. Youth will show in either Junior or Senior Showmanship Classes. Special circumstances can be presented to the Horse Committee in the event the exhibitor would like to complete in the walk/trot division. Approval of additional years in the walk/trot division is at the discretion of the Horse Committee.

6. **Participation in the annual Equi-Step (online) Program is required of all youth pursuing horse projects. Equi-Step must be completed and have a passing score achieved on or before April 30th.**
7. One exhibitor number will be used per horse/rider combination for the duration of the year. This number will be assigned at the Safety & Ethics Meeting. It is recommended that the number be displayed on both sides of your saddle in mounted classes.
8. Proper attire must be worn at all times during Horse Committee Sponsored events including the Stark County Fair. Proper show attire (hat/helmet, long pants, long sleeve shirt, boots, jacket/hunt coat). All exhibitors and adults must wear appropriate shoes when handling horses/ponies. No tank tops or spaghetti strap tops are permitted in the show ring and midriffs must be covered during competition.
9. The officers of the Stark County Horse Committee will make final decisions concerning any questions/disputes that arise during any Horse Committee sponsored events.
10. PAS (Performance Against Standard) participation for Stark County youth requires completion of Skillathon and participation in the County Fair Showmanship class the previous year unless the youth is in his/her 1st year in the 4-H Horse Program. A written Doctor/Veterinarian excuse is required for waiver of the non-participation in the previous year's county fair requirement. This excuse must be submitted to Horse Committee by the day of the Fair Show.

RULES RELATED TO PROJECT ANIMALS

1. Project animals must be owned by the exhibitor, the exhibitor's family, or be leased. The project animal must be in the exhibitor's care (owned/leased) and registered with the OSU Extension Office by June 1, of the current year. This means your Horse ID and lease forms must be submitted to the **Extension Office** by June 1, of the current year. (NOT TO THE COMMITTEE!)
2. **No stallions are permitted** at any Horse Committee sponsored events.
3. No one is to handle the exhibitor's project animal without the permission of the exhibitor unless there is an emergency. Adult Horse Committee members may handle animals during the normal course of their duties (e.g., running shows, taking pictures, loading, and unloading.)
4. Project horses/ponies must be under control at all times by the exhibitor or designated handler. An unruly horse/pony may be excused at the discretion of the Horse Committee and/or Junior Fair Coordinator. **Any person holding an exhibitor's project horse cannot school the horse/pony.**
5. No person other than the exhibitor is permitted to ride his/her project horse/pony at any Horse Committee sponsored points show or at the Stark County Fair.
6. Any horse/pony that is known to kick should be identified by a red ribbon tied in its tail while the animal is being used at any Horse Committee sponsored event. Horses/ponies known to kick must be identified by a red ribbon in the tail at the Stark County Fair any time they are out of their stalls.
7. Junior Fair exhibitors will be responsible for the care of their own animals from the official date of project enrollment until release time the last day of the Stark County Fair.
8. Regular training and care by anyone other than the junior fair exhibitor shall terminate 30 days prior to the first day or Fair competition. Lessons and instruction for the exhibitor are encouraged throughout the year to enhance safety and improve performance. No professional training of project horses/ponies is permitted within 30 days of the first day of Fair competition.
9. Exhibitors must be aware of and comply with the body condition core requirements in the Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows, p.11, #38. If your horse/pony has a body condition score of less than 4, you will not be permitted to exhibit or show your animal at the Stark County Fair. Any questions, please consult your veterinarian or a committee member.
10. Requesting to change a project horse/pony may be made by **completing the Horse Change Request Form** and submitting it in person at a regularly scheduled Horse Committee meeting. There must be a veterinarian letter stating the reason the horse/pony is unable to compete or a valid safety issue that can be evaluated by the Horse Committee must be presented. The replacement horse/pony must be of equal or lesser value/quality. **The date of Skillathon is the last opportunity to request a change of horse/pony prior to the Fair.**

RULES FOR STARK COUNTY FAIR ELIGIBILITY

1. Exhibitors seeking to participate in the Stark County Junior Fair Horse Shows must be enrolled in a horse project with an appropriate organization (e.g., 4-H or FFA)
2. Exhibitors must complete a minimum of **5 volunteer hours** (1 of which must be dedicated to Fair preparation) in order to participate at Fair.
3. All youth participating at the Stark County Fair are required to have their Stark County Fair entries and contact information to the Junior Fair Coordinator by (NEED DATE).
 - a. **Please note that entry in at least 1 Showmanship class is mandatory.**
 - b. You have until 5 pm Thursday night of fair to make any corrections to your entry. NO ADDITION OF ENTRIES. **CORRECTIONS ONLY.** (This may change if we show the whole week of fair) *TBD
4. The deadline for fair show entries and shot records to be **ENTERED INTO THE ONLINE FAIR ENTRY SYSTEM** is **(NEED DATE)**. No late entries will be accepted by the Junior Fair Coordinator, so it is very important that you get your entries and show records into the online system on time. Please note – “5 way” shots are **required**. Rabies vaccinations are recommended but are not mandatory.
5. Completion of Skillathon is **mandatory** in order to be eligible to compete at the Stark County Fair. If you know that you will be unable to attend the scheduled Skillathon, a make-up Skillathon appointment may be requested by contacting the Skillathon Coordinator. Completion of Skillathon is required to be eligible for High Point Awards at the Fair. Completion of Skillathon at the Ohio State Fair/or virtual Skillathon (July 14th) – see the OSU calendar. Both of these will be recognized as long as proof of participation is submitted to the horse committee.
6. All youth planning to participate at the Stark County Fair must pay a Fair Participation Fee in the form of a minimum **\$80.00 fee by July 1, of the current year, to the committee treasurer (no postmarks – must be turned in by the end of business day)**. This is just the initial participation requirement fee. Without payment of the minimum Fee/Sponsorship, the exhibitor may not be eligible to participate in the Stark County Fair and stall space cannot be guaranteed. For families with more than one youth participating in the program, the payment is \$80.00 for the first child and \$40.00 for each child thereafter. This money is used to fund the Stark County Junior Fair Horse program. A \$50.00 late fee will be assessed if the deadline for the Fee/Sponsorship is missed (July 1, of the current year, by end of business day to the Stark County Horse Committee Treasurer) , and stalls will be assigned as available.
 - a. There is an option to offset your fair fee, by selling Sponsorship Banner spots. All additional money from the sale of banner spots (\$25,000 = Presenting Sponsor, \$250 = Platinum Sponsor, \$150 = Gold Sponsor, \$100 = Silver Sponsor, \$80 = Gift Sponsor) to be displayed on the barn and or the arena. The final deadline for banner payments is July 1, of the current year. No exceptions or extensions. Any sponsorships received after the July 1 deadline is not guaranteed a banner or promotional signage.

RULES FOR FAIR SHOWS

1. **Violation of any rules contained in this document by the exhibitor and his/her family may be grounds for immediate dismissal from the Stark County Fair and the exhibitor being declared ineligible to show at the Fair the following year.**
2. The officers of the Stark County Horse Committee and the Junior Fair Coordinator will make final decisions concerning any questions/disputes that arise during the Stark County Fair Horse Shows. Judges' decisions about placings at the shows are final. **Poor sportsmanship on the part of the exhibitors, parents, family members and volunteers will not be tolerated.** Please refer to **CODE OF CONDUCT**.
3. **Participation in a Showmanship class is mandatory at the Fair Show.** If you do not participate in a showmanship class, you will not be permitted to show in any other classes at the fair.
4. All exhibitors at the Stark County Fair must have emergency information on file with the Horse Committee. This information is included in the online entry process. This consists of emergency contact information for a responsible adult who is at least 18 years of age, club name, advisor's name, and camping lot number (if camping at fair).
5. Stall assignments will be made by the Horse Committee. No stalls may be used for anything other than housing horse project animals at the Stark County Fair unless otherwise approved by the Horse Committee officer.
6. All horses/ponies must be housed and on display in the designated areas of the Fairgrounds during the Stark County Fair.
7. **Hauling in for the day of Stark County Fair shows is not permitted** nor shall any horse/pony stabled at the Fairgrounds be removed during the Fair without a veterinarian's certificate. This form is available from the Junior Fair Coordinator and must be signed by the Junior Fair Coordinator, a veterinarian, a Committee Member and the Junior Fair Exhibitor.
8. During the Stark County Fair, horses/ponies must be kept off the racetrack. If the gates to the racetrack are closed, **no exhibitor, family member or club advisor is permitted to open the gates.**
9. During the Stark County Fair, it may be necessary to designate times for working horses/ponies in designated arenas in order to ensure safety of exhibitors and project animals.
10. No open-toed shoes are to be worn by exhibitors in the fair barns or in the show area at any time.
11. Horses/ponies must be fed by **9:00 am each day** of the Fair. No feeding of grain during shows will be permitted. Horses/ponies must have access to clean water at all times.
12. All stalls must be cleaned daily by **9:00 am** during the fair. All manure must be deposited in the designated dumpster located at the end of the horse barn (facing the Goat Barn). Please clean up after yourselves.
13. Inspection of aisles, tack areas and stalls will take place daily at 10:00am. Junio fair exhibitors are responsible for keeping their designated club areas clean. Fire code dictates that all aisles and tack areas must be kept clear of debris and clutter. Your club may be eligible for the Herdsman Award

14. Aisleways:

- a. Aisleways are to be kept open and accessible to the public. There must be enough room for horses and Junior Fair Exhibitors to safely pass through.
- b. No tack boxes, hay or feed are to be kept in the aisles.
- c. Horses/ponies may not be tied in the barn aisles. All grooming and tacking must be done inside the exhibitor's stall.

15. The barns and arena will close at 11:00pm and reopen at 6:00am each day of the Stark County Fair.

16. The two (2) minute rule will not apply at the Fair Shows. Due to time constraints, all participants will be expected to be at the gate and ready when their classes are called. Participants will not be permitted to enter after the gate is closed.

17. High Point and Over-All Awards during the Fair will be calculated using the point system selected by the Horse Committee. Ties for High Point Awards and Over-All Awards will be broken by using the Showmanship Class Score. The exhibitor who scored the highest in their Showmanship Class will be considered the winner.

18. Prior to departure on the last day of Fair, your stall must be stripped and inspected by a Horse Committee member who will give the exhibitor permission to leave. All thank you cards must also be turned in to the Horse Committee president. No exceptions. If you do not comply, you will be ruled ineligible to show at the Fair the following year.

STARK COUNTY FAIR HORSE SHOW PROCEDURES (Subject to change with show dates)

1. Tack and equipment needed for the duration of the Fair must be brought into the barns on **Saturday or Sunday before the start of Fair. NO tack, hay, feed or equipment will be allowed to unload on Monday, "move in day".** As a result, if you need to drive your equipment up to the barn, you will need to wait until before 8:00am or after 11:00pm. **No horses/ponies can be moved in on Saturday or Sunday.**
2. Project horses/ponies must be hauled in on **Monday, August 31, 2026 between the hours of 8:00am and 12:00pm.** Animals must be in their stalls no later than 12:00pm and must be on display until release time after **6:00 pm on Monday, September 1, 2025.**
3. **A mandatory parent and exhibitor meeting will take place in the Jr. Horse Barn arena at 12:30pm.** Tack and bit checks will be completed at this time. If you are unable to attend due to an emergency, the parent of the exhibitor must contact a horse committee member and arrange a time to have their exhibitor's equipment checked. All tack and Horse Committee Class Sheets must be checked and completed by Wednesday September 2nd, 2026 by 12:00 pm.
4. **No trailer parking is available on the Fairgrounds during the Stark County Fair.** Vehicles and trailers must vacate premises immediately after unloading animals.
5. **When entering/exiting the fairgrounds and loading in/out during the Stark County Fair, the traffic pattern will be as follows:** Enter 7th Street gate and follow the road to the Jr. Fair Board Office. Stop on road in front of the barn (facing the racetrack) and unload/load and immediately move vehicle exiting (left by the rabbit barn and right) out of Roslyn Gate. This will be the only traffic pattern permitted; **no vehicles and trailers are to be parked on the track or infield to load/unload animals.**

6. The Stark County Jr. Fair Horse Committee **reserves the right to make situational adjustments to the rules on a case-by-case basis.**
7. **All judges' decisions are final. Approaching the judge at any time is strictly prohibited.**

2025 Horse Committee

Name	Position	Phone	Email	Club
Bryttanie Zimmerman.....Chair.....	330.933.9608.....		blacklabelfarms@gmail.com	Krazy Kitters
Tricia Durkin.....Vice-Chair.....	330.575.2557.....		qrtrhrse104@gmail.com	Krazy Kitters
Mel Fouse.....Treasurer.....	330.619.0959.....		sixlittlefouses@hotmail.com	Krazy Kitters
Cindy Krumm.....Secretary.....	330.705.2897.....		ckrumm1958@gmail.com	Stark County Stars
Bethany Scheffler.....Equine.....	330.904.9772.....		brvsch@gmail.com	Hartville Showstoppers
Academic Advisor				
Samantha Stein.....Club Rep.....	330.412.1880.....		sstein14@kent.edu	Stark County Stars
Amanda Rohr.....Club Rep.....	330.806.6635.....	homesteadfarmofohio@Yahoo.com		Krazy Kitters
Michelle Okey.....Club Rep.....	330.495.1516.....		michelleokey@gmail.com	Hartville Showstoppers
Pat Boone.....Club Rep.....	330.479.6416.....		patriciaboone59@yahoo.com	Stark County Stars
Open	Steward			
Open	Steward			
Julie Pinter.....Jr. Fair.....	330.455.7856.....		jrfair@starkcountyfair.com	Krazy Kitters
Coordinator		330.606.5313		