

Madison County 4-H Equine Exhibitors

There are 2 new requirements this year for equine project members for 2023:

1. **A negative Coggin's test** is required to submit along with the Horse ID forms by May 1 (submit to the Extension Office)
2. All Equine project member must complete **EquiSTEP training annually**

NEW REQUIREMENT: EquiSTEP Training – Complete by May 15!

Ohio 4-H has implemented a new training requirement to ensure safety while working with horses. All equine exhibitors **MUST** complete an EquiSTEP training every year! (This is similar to the Quality Assurance requirement for livestock)

What is 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. The topics for this year's EquiSTEP are highlighted in bold below.

- STEP 1: Head (Helmet Safety)
 - **Helmet Safety Video (Every Year)**
- STEP 2: Hands (Equine Safety & Handling)
 - **YR 1 Equine Behavior**
 - YR 2 Safety & Handling
 - YR 3 Tack & Equipment
- STEP 3: Health (Equine Health & Nutrition)
 - **YR 1 Assessing Horse Health**
 - YR 2 Preventative Health
 - YR 3 Nutrition
- STEP 4: Heart (Sportsmanship)
 - **YR 1 Winning & Losing**
 - YR 2 Discipline vs. Punishment
 - YR 3 Handling Adversity

Who is required to do it? All Ohio 4-H equine project members are required to complete this training. Members must complete by May 15!

How do I complete it?

- **Option 1 (Preferred):** Complete online course at your own pace before May 15.
 - **Click this link to access EquiSTEP:** go.osu.edu/equistep2023
 - Each participant must enroll using their own unique email address. (Participants should not use their school email addresses as the course enrollment invitation will be blocked by the school's email system.)
 - Participants must view all five videos (introduction and STEPS 1-4) which last approximately one hour in total. Once the videos are completed, participants will be able to access the 10-question quiz. Participants must complete the quiz associated with the training and achieve a minimum score of 7 (out of 10) in order to pass the training.

- Once the quiz is successfully completed, participants will need to complete the course survey to trigger a certificate of completion. The certificate will be emailed to the participant's email address as well as to Madison County Extension Office. The participant must select their correct county to trigger the email to the correct email address and they must click on the submit button at the end of the survey to trigger the email.
- **Option 2:** In-person Training with Equine Committee members
 - Check email for a date coming soon!
 - Please bring an electronic device if available (phone, tablet, laptop) to complete the quiz at the end of training.

What is the deadline to complete? May 15

I am a new horse exhibitor; do I need to do this AND watch the helmet safety video?

Good news – NO! The helmet safety video is part of this curriculum. You only need to complete this EquiSTEP training.

I also exhibit livestock and attend a Quality Assurance. Do I still have to do this training?

Yes. The Livestock QA focuses on livestock species. EquiSTEP is specific to equine species.

What about Skillathon? The Equine Skillathon in June will still be required for all equine exhibitors to complete in order to be eligible to show at the Madison County Fair.

So wait, what all do I have to do to show my horse at the Madison County Fair though 4-H?

1. Register in 4-H Online by March 15 with your horse project (1st-3rd year exhibitors must enroll in the Beginning Horse Management project)
2. Be an active member of your 4-H Club as a member in good standing.
3. Horse ID forms, ***Negative Coggins test (New this year)**, and Lease agreements (if applicable) due to the Extension office by May 1
4. Submit your fair entries by May 15 via Fair Entry (online)
5. Complete EquiSTEP training by May 15
6. Attend Livestock Skillathon (June 20 or 28) with completed equine record book.

Questions? Contact the Extension Office at 740-852-0975 or contact an Equine Committee rep Colleen Martin at stephighatfs@aol.com or 614-374-6149