

## OHIO 4-H JUDGES TRAINING PROGRAM

1. The 4-H Horse Judges Committee, through its administration of the Ohio 4-H Judges Training Program, publishes a judges list on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each show year. The list contains the names of 4-H judges who have expressed an interest in judging 4-H shows and have met the criteria established by the judges committee as listed in this document. The current judges list is made available at <http://horse.osu.edu>. Placement on the 4-H Horse Show Judges List is a privilege, not a right, bestowed by the Judges Committee.
2. The 4-H Horse Show Judges Training Program, and the subsequent listing of judges, has the following objectives:
  - a. Identification of judges that demonstrate ability to work with youth; have good communication skills with youth, parents, and show management; demonstrate knowledge of 4-H rules and the ability to make decisions that reflect the 4-H philosophy of fairness and impartiality; and demonstrate professionalism in attire and conduct. An individual's conduct as a judge listed on the judge's list, as well as any other role the individual plays at an equine related activity, must be exemplary at all times.
  - b. Provide a list of the judges identified above and their capabilities as evaluated by show committees, to Ohio 4-H horse show committees, State Extension Horse Specialists in neighboring states, and other interested open horse show groups (committees).
  - c. To train our present judges and to provide training for beginning judges.
  - d. In as far as it is possible, to not list judges that may endanger Ohio's youth.
3. The list includes the judge's name, address, phone number, and any additional judge's card held. The list also indicates if they are a Beginner or Experienced (Regular) Judge and if they are willing to judge State Fair Qualifying shows where Performance Against the Standard judging is being done. **All Experienced judges interested in obtaining approval to judge PAS Shows must attend the separate PAS Training Session.**
4. The Ohio 4-H Judges Training Program and the compiling of the 4-H Horse Show Judges List are administered by the Ohio 4-H Judges Committee. The committee consists of the following representatives:
  - a. Up to three representatives of the State 4-H Horse Advisory Committee, who are selected by that committee on a rotating, three-year, term basis.
  - b. Eight representatives will be judges that qualify for experienced judges list. Each year at least two representatives will be elected, by all attending the annual clinic for a term of three years. Representatives must attend at least 75% of the committee's meetings and functions unless prior approval has been made from the State Office. The judges committee will nominate persons they feel are

qualified to be on the committee and nominations will be accepted from those in attendance at the clinic. Voting will be done by paper ballot.

- c. The State Horse Specialist will be the tenth member of the committee, and is responsible for the office administration of the Judges Training Program. All inquiries of the judges committee shall be made through that office.
5. All persons interested in the continued and improved success of the 4-H Horse Judges Training Program are urged to report any situation that involves a current judge who is not demonstrating conduct as indicated above. The following should be reported to the Judges Committee:
  - a. The individual's name and credentials.
  - b. The exact date, time and location of the incident.
  - c. An accurate accounting of all actions, conversations, and witnesses that may be contacted by the committee for verification of the report. Upon receipt of the report, the State Horse Specialist will notify the judge and request a written or oral response to the report. The Judges Committee will review each report and reach a decision, if necessary, by majority vote. If determined that the judge's conduct was unprofessional as compared to the standards of conduct for judges on the judges list, that judge will not be allowed to apply to the judges list for at least one year following the decision of the judges committee. Multiple offenders or convicted felons will be permanently removed from the judge's list.
6. The Judges Committee, as the administrative body of the Judges Training Program, reserves the right to do the following:
  - a. Consider all special cases for application to the judges list (i.e. transfer judges from other states, judges returning after retirement, etc.)
  - b. To rule on any situation not covered in the above rules, as necessary to ensure consistency and coherency of the Judges Training Program, and within the spirit of the 4-H program.
  - c. To add to or amend rules of the Judges Training Program to ensure the above stated objectives of the program.
7. Judges need to be aware of their responsibilities to show management and show management's responsibilities to the judge as set forth in the Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows.
8. There are two categories of judges on the judge's list: Experienced/Regular Judges – have completed requirements as listed below to be on the 4-H Horse Show Judge's List and Beginner Judges – have completed the basic requirements as listed below.

## Rules for being listed on the Ohio 4-H Horse Show Judges List

### A. Experienced/Regular Judges

1. Complete and achieve a minimum score of eighty-five (85) percent on an open rule book test on the current Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows. If a judge fails to achieve an 85%, they will be asked to retake the exam. After the exam has been retaken, if a judge still fails to receive an 85%, the judge will be removed from the Ohio 4-H Horse Judges List for one year. It will be the judge's responsibility to contact the State Horse Specialist for the opportunity to reapply for the Ohio 4-H Horse Judges List.
2. Submit a Judges Renewal Application (available at <http://horse.osu.edu>) along with the \$30 application fee by October 1<sup>st</sup> to: State Horse Extension Specialist – Judges Program, 2029 Fyffe Ct., Columbus, OH 43210. Applications received after October 1<sup>st</sup> must be accompanied by an additional \$10 late fee. **No renewal applications will be accepted after the postmark deadline of November 1<sup>st</sup>.** If you are attending the Multi-State Judges Training Clinic, the clinic fee should also be sent as directed. Clinic information is also available online at <http://horse.osu.edu>.
3. Judges interested in being designated as a PAS Judge on the Ohio 4-H Horse Show Judges List for the following year will need to attend a separate PAS Training Clinic. Information for the PAS Training Clinic is available online at <http://horse.osu.edu>.
4. Experienced/Regular Judges must attend the 4-H Judges Training Clinic every other year or attend the 4-H Judges Training Clinic and one other judges training clinic every three (3) years. Beginner Judges must attend the 4-H Judges Training Clinic every year. **Clinic attendance does not include the online option offered by some states.**
5. Have a minimum of three (3) acceptable show evaluations submitted from shows judged in the previous two years.

### B. Beginner Judges (First time judges applicants)

1. Obtain the Judges Application (available online) or from the State Extension Equine Specialist, 2029 Fyffe Ct., Columbus, OH 43210, email [cole.436@osu.edu](mailto:cole.436@osu.edu) or by phone 614-292-2625.
2. The application form requests the following information:
  - a. Background information on horse and judging experience.
  - b. Three (3) recommendations from those (not immediate family) able to evaluate your character and/or judging ability. The local Extension Professional in your home county must be one of the recommendations.

- c. **A minimum of three (3) acceptable apprentice judging evaluations or show evaluations. At least two (2) of these evaluations must be from shows outside the applicant's county of residence and apprentice evaluations must be from at least two (2) different judges.**
      - d. The completed application must be returned to the State Extension Equine Specialist with the \$30 application fee by September 1<sup>st</sup>. (Checks for application fee need to be made out to the State 4-H Horse Committee) Late applications will not be assured evaluation for the next year's judges list.
  3. After the completed application is received, the applicant will be sent a copy of the open rulebook exam which needs to be completed and returned to the State Horse Extension Specialist by December 1<sup>st</sup>.
  4. After the completed application is submitted, applicants will be sent a time for an interview with the State Judges Committee. The interview will be conducted at the current year's Ohio 4-H Horse Show Judges Clinic. Clinic information is available online at <http://horse.osu.edu>. Based on results of the interview, the following will occur:
    - a. If the applicant has a considerable amount of judging experience (10 or more acceptable show evaluations) or is listed on other judging lists that have a judge's training program and scores at least eighty-five (85) percent on the interview, eighty (80) percent on the judging done at the clinic, and eighty-five (85) percent on the rulebook exam, they will be listed as an Experienced Judge.
    - b. If the applicant scores at least eighty-five (85) percent on the interview, eighty (80) percent on the judging done at the clinic, and eighty-five (85) percent on the rulebook exam, they will be listed as a Beginner Judge. Once a Beginner Judge has ten (10) acceptable evaluations from shows they have judged on file, they will be listed as an Experienced Judge. If a Beginner Judge does not advance to the Experienced Judges status in three (3) years, the applicant will be evaluated and may be removed from the list. When a judge is removed from the list, they cannot reapply for at least one year.
    - c. If the applicant scores lower than eighty-five (85) percent on the interview, eighty (80) percent on the judging done at the clinic, or eighty-five (85) percent on the rulebook exam, they may be listed as a Beginner Judge, but be asked to do at least three (3) more apprentice judging shows in weak areas to gain more experience. The applicant will be re-evaluated the following year to determine if they will remain on the list.
    - d. Applicants that are not accepted at this time may reapply after one year.
  5. **If a judge does not participate in the Judges Program for more than five (5) years, they must go through the same process as new applicants to the Judge Program.**