Ohio 4-H Horse Poster Contest Rules (updated 1/1/26)

GENERAL RULES:

1. Contestant Eligibility

a. Each contestant must be currently enrolled in a 4-H or FFA Horse project, a member in good standing with the county they represent, and have successfully completed the current year's EquiSTEP by the contest registration deadline.

b. Junior Contestants must be at least 8 years of age and in third grade and under 14 years of age as of January 1st of the current year.

c. Senior Contestants must be at least 14 years of age on January 1st of the current year, and not be more than 18 years of age on January 1st of the current year.

d. Contestants are eligible to compete in this contest in subsequent years.

2. Poster Format

a. Posters must be made using 22" x 28" poster board only.

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1. Posters must be displayed horizontally.
2. Poster boards are not to be mounted on any type of stiff backing (e.g. foam board, tri-fold).
3. Shadow boxes, overlays, or three-dimensional posters are not permitted. Stick on letters and stickers are permitted as long as they lay flat and do not extend past the edges of the poster.
4. Posters do not need to be laminated or covered with a thin plastic material; however, lamination will help preserve the poster.

b. The back of the poster must be clearly labeled in the upper left-hand corner with the exhibitor's name, county, and age as of January 1st of the current year. The completed and signed poster entry form must be taped to the back of the poster under the exhibitor's information.

c. Any poster not meeting these formatting requirements will be disqualified and not count toward year-end participation awards.

3. Scoring

a. Posters will be scored on: Educational Content (50 points)
Neatness/Appearance (30 points)
Originality (20 points)

b. Contestants must achieve a score of 60% or greater to earn participation credit towards the Communication Contest and year-end awards.

4. Poster Submission

a. Posters and completed entry forms must be submitted in-person during the Ohio 4-H Horseapalooza.

The 2026 Ohio 4-H Horseapalooza will take place on Saturday, March 7, 2026 from 12:30-4:30pm at Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center, 2201 Fred Taylor Dr, Columbus, OH 43210.

The top ten posters in each age division will be displayed in the Gilligan Complex during the Ohio State Fair Junior Horse Show. Additional posters will be displayed as space allows. Posters will be released on the Wednesday during the Junior Horse Show and any poster not claimed by the end of the Junior Horse Show will be recycled.
A copy of the score sheet for posters may be found online at www.horse.osu.edu on the contest page.