

## Groom and Clean Entry Form

Entry forms are DUE BY August 1, 2024. Entries must be postmarked by August 1, 2024. No late entries will be considered. For more info or questions contact Joe Parola at [joeparola@gmail.com](mailto:joeparola@gmail.com).

Entries may be mailed with one check for each team fee of \$20.00 for small equine and \$30.00 for saddle horse. Please make checks to Lorain County 4-H Advisory and send with this form to:

Ohio State University Extension, Lorain County

Attn: Groom and Clean

42110 Russia Rd.

Elyria, OH 44035

Jr. Team – both members must be between 8 yrs old and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and 13 yrs of age on Jan. 1, 2024. Sr. Team – at least one member must be 14-18 yrs. On Jan. 1, 2024.

Small Equine Teams consists of 2 members and Saddle Horse members consist of 3 members.

List team members below (PLEASE PRINT)

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ (as of 1-1-24) Club \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one \_\_\_\_\_ Jr. Team \_\_\_\_\_ Sr. Team

2. Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ (as of 1-1-24) Club \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one \_\_\_\_\_ Jr. Team \_\_\_\_\_ Sr. Team

3. Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ (as of 1-1-24) Club \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one \_\_\_\_\_ Jr. Team \_\_\_\_\_ Sr. Team

# Groom and Clean Contest Rules

## TEAMS

- Participants must be Lorain County 4-H Members enrolled in an Equine project. One team per member per event.
- Contest divisions will be Jr. Team (8 and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to 13 yrs) and Sr. Team (14-18 yrs) according to 4-H age as of Jan. 1 of current year. A Jr. may be used on a Sr. Team but a Sr. may not be used on a Jr. Team.
- Each team will consist of 2 members for Small Equine and 3 members for saddle horse. Team members may come from any club.
- All team members must wear boots or heavy leather shoes and long pants.
- Tops cannot be worn that will identify a team, farm, club or business name.
- No gloves or coveralls may be worn. Gloves or dust masks may be worn while grooming for medical reasons only.
- Members must wear identification number provided for the event.
- Each team will provide its own grooming tools. No electric or battery powered equipment may be used.
- Teams may substitute a member due to conflicts in other 4-H events at fair or illness. This must be approved by Groom and Clean committee prior to start of contest. However, once contest has started, no substitutions will be allowed.

## HORSES/SMALL EQUINE

- Each team must provide a safe equine for the contest. The equine MUST belong to at least one of the members on the team.
- Each equine must arrive wearing a properly fitted nylon or leather halter and a lead rope (no chains until showmanship).
- The equine should be reasonably groomed. No show sheen before mud is applied.
- The equine should arrive at the contest site at least 2 hours prior to the contest starting time so that the management can uniformly dirty them. Allow more drying time for damp weather.

## EQUIPMENT

- Equipment should be clean, dry and in good condition

## REQUIRED GROOMING KIT (2 for small equine and 3 for saddle horse teams)

- Curry comb (hard rubber or plastic)
- Stiff bristled brush
- Body brush (medium bristles)
- Dandy brush (soft bristles)
- Mane and tail comb or regular hair brush) NOT BOTH
- Hoof pick (standard type)
- Grooming cloth (no larger than hand towel)
- \*Quart of water (can be spray bottle or bucket NO GLASS) and must be sprayed on rag if used.
- \*Ground cloth
- \*Fly spray (can be used if needed). NO SHOW SHEEN or FINISH. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT FLY SPRAY MAY CONTAIN OILS.  
\*\*Only one ground cloth, bottle of water, fly spray and lead with chain per team

## TEAMWORK

- Teams should work smoothly together.
- Members should look like they know what they are doing.
- Members should not stop grooming until time is called – except for safety reasons.

## SAFETY

- 4-H rules of safety should be used
- Do not kneel or squat
- Do not crawl under equine
- Do not reach across to the other side
- Do not go under neck
- Do not put head or face where it can be kicked
- Do not put tools on ground, under or on equine. If a tool can't be fit in pocket, it should be returned to ground cloth
- If a tool is dropped, use foot to move it to a safe distance from equine before picking it up
- If an equine is upset, calm it before continuing
- If it becomes obvious that a certain procedure cannot be safely completed, such as handling rear legs, notify the judge.
- Never get into a position that you can't get out of immediately
- When feet are being cleaned, all should be aware. Unless there is a problem, it is not necessary to stop grooming

## METHOD

- All members will groom the equine at the same time. One member will clean hooves all the way around.
- Do not rush at the equine
- Groom front to back and top to bottom
- Use tools in proper order :
  - curry first (do not use on head or below knees and hocks or on tender parts or the mane or tail)
  - then stiff bristle brush (do not use on head. Use on lower legs, mane and tail)
  - then body/medium bristle brush ( do not use on head)
  - then dandy/face brush ( may be used on entire horse except hooves) and then rag
- Comb or hair brush. do not tear at mane or tail)
- Hoof pick ( may use edge to scrape mud from outside of hooves. Carefully pick feet in order, starting with near front, then near rear)
- Water (if used, must be used on cloth or rag – do not spray directly on the equine)
- Fly spray (use with care – if it is absolutely necessary to use while grooming, all grooming should stop. Try to wait to fly spray until the 10 minute practice time)
- Cloth or rag (can be used on entire equine – do not shake it near the equine)
- NO TRIMMING ALLOWED – hair will not be clipped or cut
- Make sure nose, mouth and head are wiped with the cloth or rag

## GROOMING

- The equine will enter the ring for drying time
- THE EQUINE MUST NOT LEAVE THE RING ONCE THE MUD HAS BEEN APPLIED
- Contest starts when teams enter the ring
- Teams are to place their grooming equipment at least 10' behind the equine they are to groom and then stand behind the tools
- Judge will inspect the equine and equipment

## HANDLER

- Each team will have one responsible handler 18 yr or older.
- Handlers will not coach members in any way.
- They will speak with team members only to maintain safety.
- Any coaching will result in disqualification of the team

## SCORING

- Judges then inspect the groomed equine
- Scoring is based on the following: Teamwork and method – 35 points, Safety – 30 points, Equipment – 5 points Total – 90 points

## WRITTEN TEST

- Written test may be given while the judge is doing the evaluation of the groomed equine
- All members of each Jr. and Sr. teams will take the written test covering information from the appropriate 4-H books.
- Questions will be from the Small Equine Project Book (#182) for Small Equine and from the Beg. Horse Management Book (#174) and Light Horse Selection (#175) for Saddle Horse
- Total time for test will be 15 minutes
- Teams are told when 10, 5, and 2 minutes remain. Then stop
- Scoring - 10 points per team member (20 points for Small Equine and 30 points for Saddle Horse)

## SHOWMANSHIP

- Teams are given 10 minutes to work with their equine to prepare for showmanship
- Showmanship will follow 4-H State Rules, except it will be done in work clothes worn while grooming
- Appropriate hats may be worn
- The only equipment change allowed for showing will be a chain lead strap to replace the lead or rope used while grooming.. No halter change
- All members will be judged on their ability to show the equine
- Each member will show the equine as instructed by the judge
- Teams will decide which one will do each part of the pattern
- Showmanship pattern will be determined by the judge and posted one hour prior to the start of the contest
- Scoring – 10 points per team member (20 points for Small Equine and 30 points for Saddle Horse)
- There is not time limit for this section of the contest

## JUDGES

- A minimum of one judge will be confirmed for each contest age division
- Judge's decision is final
- All ties will be broken using the following sequence:

First – the written test score, Second – the grooming score and last – the showmanship score