



Old Orchard Farm Show Level Guide

Why Show with OOF?

At Old Orchard Farm, horse showing is about **teamwork, growth, and community**. Our program provides a clear pathway for riders at every stage, from first-time competitors to seasoned athletes. We field one of the **largest teams on the Ontario Silver West Circuit** each season, with 20–30 horses and riders representing OOF at Angelstone.

While Old Orchard Farm has enjoyed much success on the Gold Circuit in the past, we have chosen to focus our competitive program on the Silver Circuit. This level aligns more closely with our program goals and values, offering a balance of competitive opportunity and accessibility. The Silver Circuit provides riders with the same high-quality venues, facilities, and experiences as the Gold Series, while remaining more financially attainable for our families. At the same time, we uphold the high standards of horse and rider excellence that earned us success on the Gold Circuit, ensuring our team continues to perform with professionalism and pride.

Showing at OOF emphasizes:

- **Horsemanship & Responsibility** – riders prepare and care for their horses themselves
- **Teamwork & Sportsmanship** – everyone helps with set-up, tear-down, and supporting teammates
- **Skill Development** – building confidence, refining technique, and strengthening the mental game
- **Progression** – each tier prepares riders for the next

Levels of Showing at OOF:

1. In-House Fun Shows (Unsanctioned)

- **Purpose:** Low-pressure, learning-focused shows at OOF. Great introduction to competition.
 - **Classes:** Hunter, jumper, equitation; divisions by age/ability.
 - **Commitment:** One day; minimal time and cost. Riders may use lesson horses (horse-use fees may apply unless part boarding).
 - **Focus:** Develop horsemanship, grooming skills, braiding, game-day nerves.
 - **Support:** Volunteers essential, family participation expected.
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2. OOF Schooling Show Series (EC Bronze level equivalent/unsanctioned)

- **Purpose:** Step up from fun shows, still relaxed, but with higher turnout and formality.
 - **Classes:** More options and heights (up to ~2'9"/1.0m).
 - **Commitment:** One-day shows at OOF.
 - **Requirements:** Part board recommended; riders must prep and care for their horse independently.
 - **Focus:** Show etiquette, course strategy, consistency, and rider mental game.
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3. Silver West Show Team

- **Purpose:** High-level, multi-day competition at Angelstone and similar venues.
 - **Commitment:** 5+ weekends, typically Wed–Sun. Set-up, tear-down, daily care, early mornings, late nights. Parents must attend and contribute.
 - **Requirements:** Show part board or care lease (horses unavailable to riding school during show season). Serious year-round training; minimum 3 rides/week from September.
 - **Financial:** Significant. Membership fees, braiding, trailering, stabling, coaching, entries, additional prep shows/clinics.
 - **Focus:** Teamwork, advanced horsemanship, independence, resilience in all weather. Rider and parent effort is crucial.
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4. Gold Level Shows (A Circuit)

Not Currently on offer at OOF except as part of the new Silver Crossover Initiative

- **Purpose:** Top-tier competition; national level.
- **Commitment:** Full weeks, extensive travel, year-round preparation.
- **Requirements:** Elite horses, highly experienced riders, major financial and time investment.
- **Financial:** Extremely high; not for casual competitors.

- **Focus:** Compete against the very best including Olympians, professionals, and top juniors.
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Core Values Across All Levels

- **Horsemanship First:** Riders handle their own grooming, care, and prep. OOF is a “do it yourself” barn.
- **Mental Game:** Learn to stay composed, ride thoughtfully, and adjust under pressure.
- **Teamwork:** Riders, parents, and coaches work together helping each other is essential.
- **Representation:** Riders always reflect OOF values: respect, sportsmanship, and effort.