

2026

Elkhart County 4-H Saddle Club

Survival Guide



ELKHART COUNTY

4-H SADDLE CLUB



Saddle Club meets on the second Monday of the month, January-July*

Some months may be different; see Dates to Remember for details

Text Alerts: Text your name & 'Join2026' to 574-370-6421 to sign up

Find us on Facebook: Elkhart County Saddle Club

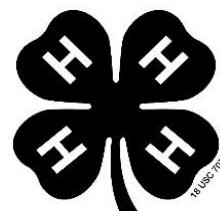
Website: <https://www.elkhartcounty4hsaddleclub.com>

Enroll Members: <https://v2.4honline.com/>



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Extension - Elkhart County



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Pledge to the American Flag

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America,
and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God,
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.



4-H Club Pledge

I pledge...
My **HEAD** to clearer thinking
My **HEART** to greater loyalty
My **HANDS** to larger service and
My **HEALTH** to better living for my club,
my community, my country, and my world.

4-H Motto

"To make the best better."

4-H Colors

Green and White

Costume Theme: Disney
Essay Topic: Colic

Club Leadership 2026

Adult Leaders

Organizational	Ashley King	(574) 354-7403
Co-Educational	Heidi Jackson	(574) 361-0758
Co-Educational	Heather McKay	(574) 536-0588
1 st /2 nd Year Member	Heather Riegsecker	(574) 370-0443
Show Coordinator	Sierra Cross	(574) 370-6421

4-H Club Officers

President	Isabelle Bailey
Vice President	Sky Riegsecker
Recording Secretary	Emma G. Yoder
Corresponding Secretary	Paige Truman
Health & Safety	Lilly Yoder

Junior Leaders:

Isabelle Bailey, Weston Bailey, Karina Barkey, Marlee Double, Senniya Franks, Braelynn Hardy, Gavin Lash, Tanner McKay, Keegan Meyer, Addison Reynolds, Sky Riegsecker, & Laikyn Seymour

Advisory Board, Etc.

Youth Advisory Board:	Isabelle Bailey	
	Karina Barkey	
	Paige Truman	
President	Jeff Meyer	(574) 849-1426
Vice President	Doug McKay	(574) 607-7372
Secretary	Heidi Jackson	(574) 361-0758
Treasurer	Kristal Cutter	(574) 849-3913
<u>Members:</u>	Toby Crowley	(574) 238-7792
	Madison Double	(574) 306-8408
	Angie Gingerich	(260) 894-2004
	Shane McKerchie	(574) 352-0440
	Jim Parcell	(574) 238-3186
Fair Board Representative	Toby Crowley	(574) 238-7792
Purdue Ext. Livestock 4-H Educator	Robert Kelly	(574) 533-0554
4-H Fair Office		(574) 533-3247

****All current contact information for leadership, including email addresses may also be found on the club's website****

PROJECT LEADERS

10 Year & Retiring Members	Michelle Hart & Michelle Cross
Awards	Heather McKay
Awards Banquet	*Leaders
Barn Bathrooms	Pat & Shelly Double
Bulletin Board	*Club Secretaries
Camp Sites (fair week)	Toby Crowley
Clinics	Shane McKerchie & Heather McKay
Concession Stand	Madison Double
Dressage	
Drill Team	Allison Miller & Heather Hanes
Driving	Angie Gingerich
English	Heather McKay
Fair Fun Show	Ashley King & Allison Miller
Fall Campout (offsite)	Leaders
Family Fun Show	Ashley King & Allison Miller
Flag Carriers & Singers	Sierra Cross
Fundraising	Jen Meyer
Grounds Beautification	Jen Meyer
Horse Bowl & Hippology	Ashley King
Horse Camp	Shane & Bekah McKerchie
Horse Enrollments	Ashley King
Judges & Patterns	Angie Gingerich
Judging	
Jumping	Heather McKay
Junior Leaders	Heidi Jackson
Leases	Jen Meyer
Maintenance, Buildings & Grounds	Doug McKay
Midstates	Bill Holdeman & Allison Miller
Open Arena	Heather McKay
Parade Float	4-H Members & Leaders
Posters	Ashley King
Round Robin	Angie Gingerich
Show Committee	Sierra C/Heather R/Angie G
Sponsorships	Angie Gingerich
Stall Picks	Advisory Board/Leaders
Survival Guide	Ashley King
T-Shirts	Nikki Crowley
Thank You Cards	*Club Secretaries & Ashley King
Trail	Shane McKerchie
Trailer Spots	Doug McKay
Vaccines	Ashley King
Website/Social Media	Leaders/Angela Black
Western	Angie Gingerich
Work Shifts	Madison Double
Youth Advisory Board	Ashley King

Parents!

If there is an area that you would like to help with, please contact the named Leader and we will get you signed up! We need as many parents involved as we can to make our club great!



Please be sure to check the Website as any changes in dates/locations will be posted there!

** More information on these activities on the following pages

January:

- 5: Advisory Board Meeting (6:30 PM @ Nelson's Express)
- 11: Junior Leader Meeting (6:00 PM @ Clover Hill)
- 12: Club Meeting (6:30 PM – 1st/2nd Year Members; 7:00 PM Returning Members @ Sheep/Swine Arena)
- 15: LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR 4-H – STATE DEADLINE**
- 20, 27: Horse Bowl & Hippology (Tuesdays) 6:00-8:00 PM @ TBD)

February:

- 2: Advisory Board Meeting (6:30 PM @ Nelson's Express)
- 8: Junior Leader Meeting (6:00 PM @ Clover Hill)
- 9: Club Meeting (6:30 PM 1st/2nd Year members, 7:00 PM Returning Members @ Sheep/Swine Arena)
 - Soap Orders Start
- 3, 10, 17, 24: Horse Bowl & Hippology (Tuesdays 6:30-8:00 PM @ TBD)

March:

- 2: Advisory Board meeting (6:30 PM @ Nelson's Express)
- 8: Junior Leader Meeting (6:00 PM @ Clover Hill #1)
- 9: Club Meeting (6:30 PM 1st/2nd Year Members, 7:00 PM Returning Members @ Sheep/Swine Arena)
 - Soap Orders Due
- 12: Shot Clinic @ Saddle Club Arena – Details TBA
- 3,10,17,24: Horse Bowl & Hippology (Tuesdays 6:30-8:00 PM @ TBD)

April:

- 6: Advisory Board Meeting (6:30 PM @ Nelson's Express)
- 12: Junior Leader Meeting (6:00 PM @ Clover Hill #1)
- 13: Club Meeting (6:30 PM 1st/2nd Year Members, 7:00 PM Returning Members @ Sheep Swine Arena)
 - Possible Fundraiser – Details TBA
- 7, 8, 14, 21, 22, 28, 29: Open Arena (5:30-8:00 PM Tuesdays & Wednesdays @ the Saddle Club Arena)
- 9, 16, 23, 30: Drill Team (6:00 PM-8:00 PM Thursdays @ the Saddle Club Arena)
- 15: Shot Clinic @ Saddle Club Arena – Details TBA

May:

- 1: Online Horse Camp Applications open (Campers, Junior Leaders, Gophers, Arena Setters, etc.)
- 4: Advisory Board Meeting (6:30 PM @ Lower Level)**
- 10: Junior Leader Meeting (6:00 PM @ Clover Hill #1)
- 11: Club Meeting (6:30 PM 1st/2nd Year Members; 7:00 PM Returning Members **Location TBA**)
 - Possible Fundraiser Orders Due
 - ONLINE Horse Camp Applications Due – May 12th!!
- 15: STATE HORSE ENROLLMENT DUE** (Also See list on page 9 or 18 for all that's due May 15th)
- 16-17: Open Horse Show (see showbill on website for details)
- 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27: Open Arena (5:30-8:00 PM Tuesdays & Wednesdays @ the Saddle Club Arena)
- 7, 14, 21, 28: Drill Team (6:00-8:00 PM Thursdays @ the Saddle Club Arena)

June:

- 1: Advisory Board Meeting (6:30 PM @ Nelson's Express)
- 8: Club Meeting (6:30 PM 1st/2nd Year Members, 7:00 PM Returning Members @ Sheep/Swine Arena)
- 15: SADDLE CLUB COMPLETION DEADLINE** (see page 9 or 18 for all that's due June 15th)
- 14: Junior Leader Meeting (time TBD @ Saddle Club Arena)

14-17: HORSE CAMP
20-21: Open Horse Show (See showbill on website for details)
2, 3, 9, 10, 23, 24, 30: Open Arena (5:30-8:00 PM Tuesdays & Wednesdays @ the Saddle Club Arena)
4, 11, 18, 25: Drill Team (6:00-8:00 PM Thursdays @ the Saddle Club Arena)

July:

6: Advisory Board Meeting (6:30 PM @ Nelson's Express)
13: Club Meeting (6:00 PM ALL members for Fair Packet Pick-Up & Stall Pick Night @ Saddle Club Arena)
10-12: Fair Practice Show (4-H Members **ONLY**; See showbill on website for details)
1, 7, 8, 14, 15: Open Arena (5:30-8:00 PM Tuesdays & Wednesdays @ the Saddle Club Arena)
2, 9: Drill Team (6:00-8:00 PM Thursdays @ the Saddle Club Arena)
23-(August) 1: FAIR WEEK

August:

10: Advisory Board Meeting (6:30 PM @ Clover Hill #1)
15-16: Open Horse Show (See showbill on website for details)

September:

14: Advisory Board Meeting (6:30 PM @ Nelson's Express)
13: Junior Leader Meeting (6:00 PM @ Clover Hill #1)
18-20: Fall Campout – Details TBA
***Watch for Information about our Fall Fundraiser!!

October:

5: Advisory Board Meeting (6:30 PM @ Nelson's Express)
11: Junior Leader Meeting (6:00 PM @ Clover Hill #1)

November:

2: Advisory Board Meeting (6:30 PM @ Nelson's Express)
8: Junior Leader Meeting (6:00 PM @ Clover Hill #1)

December:

7: Advisory Board Meeting (6:30 PM @ Nelson's Express)

Leasing a Horse

For those members who want to be involved in saddle club but do not have their own animal or a place to keep one, we do offer the option to lease an animal for the 4-H season. Please see the leader in charge of leases if you are needing help finding an animal for the year, OR if you have a horse available to be leased. Please be aware there are strict guidelines that go with leasing a horse. Please see the lease agreement form (located on our website) for more information. If you have any questions, please be sure to ask a leader before signing a lease.

Vaccination Requirements for 2026

Vaccination requirements are in place for all horses and ponies! This is not something we have any control over as a club. **It is a state requirement.** Please remember all horses and ponies that could possibly be shown at Fair, or be brought to Horse Camp, must have proof of vaccination no later than May 15. This includes all back up animals as well. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!!**

Karin Senn will offer shots at a discounted rate with no office call fee to Saddle Club families. She will be at the Saddle Club barn two evenings with sign ups available at meetings. You **MUST** sign up prior to the dates offered!

•

*** Please see the vaccination form on the website for an up to date list of which vaccines are required by the state for all animals brought to fair. ***

Club Dues

Dues: 1st 4-Her: \$45; 2nd 4-Her: \$20; 3+ 4-Her: \$10

Why do we pay dues of \$45 a year to participate in Saddle Club??

This seems to be a huge question asked each year below is just a partial list of things your dues help pay for each year.

- 1) Guest speakers for monthly meetings/judges for shows/ribbons for shows
- 2) Equipment to run fair/shows/camp etc. (Gas/Maintenance/New equipment when needed)
- 3) Horse Camp for 1st and 2nd year members (yes, they are charged but that fee does not cover cost)
- 4) We offer 210+ classes during fair week with awards/judges/ground maintenance/equipment, etc.
- 5) Building Maintenance – tent rental for fair week/repairs to concession stand, barn, show booth etc.
- 6) 20+ Open arena events to attend/practice etc. at the fairgrounds
- 7) July Schooling Show Free of charge with judge here to help answer questions
- 8) Family Fun Show/Family Camp Out--main dish provided/prizes/games
- 9) Supplies to operate the club: Paper/printing/office supplies etc.
- 10) Future building projects--as you know, many changes are coming to the fairgrounds and we have to be prepared to cover potential costs that will be passed onto clubs for the changes.

Sponsorships

What do sponsorships cover???

Sponsorships help to cover the cost of what's listed under club dues as well. This club offers so much to its members. We all know anything to do with horses seems to come with a large price tag and being able to offer all of the above things to all members each year comes with a hefty cost. The deadline for sponsorships to count towards that year's totals is JUNE 15th!!!!!! Absolutely no exceptions will be made on this date. Anything received after this date will count towards the following year's totals.

You can find a sponsorship form on the website with a list of needed sponsors for each year.

Each family will be responsible for getting one \$50 sponsorship (can be from family OR a sponsor on your behalf).

If you would like further information, please ask a leader or a board member!

Box Stall & Trailer Spot Requirements

Stall Costs: Box - \$40; Tie - \$15

What you will need to have completed to receive your box stall/trailer spot/Saddle Club

Completion on Monday, July 7th, 2025

****In fairness to all members if you have any of the below items missing you will not be given your box stall for fair until the item is completed---THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE!!!**

IF YOU DON'T TURN IN THE BELOW ITEMS ON TIME, YOU WILL BE MOVED TO THE BACK OF THE LINE DURING STALL PICKS!!!!!!

Done:

- Enrolled in 4-H by deadline
- Horse Enrolled on state website by MAY 15th OR Poster turned in by June 15th
- Proof of Vaccinations uploaded AND turned into club by May 15th
- Dues paid to club by June 15th
- Box or Tie Stall Fee paid by June 15th
- Horse Camp fee paid by the start of camp (if attending)

- \$50 sponsorship (minimum) turned in by June 15th (1 per family)
- Level Sheet by the end of Horse Camp (1-3-year members)
- Essay by June 15th (if not attending the Specified Workday) (4-10-year members)
- Signed up for Work Shifts by May 15th
- Liability Disclaimer & Care Contract Signed by June 15th

*****Failure to complete any of the above will give you an incomplete for Saddle Club this year. This will not affect your 4-H completion (except for the Level Sheet & Essay) but it will affect your eligibility for special saddle club awards/teams etc.)***

Project Requirements

1st-3rd year members will: Complete the correct level sheet. This is due by June 15th unless the member is attending horse camp in which case, we will complete these at camp. Due by June 15th or the last day of Horse Camp (whichever is later).

4th-10-year members will: **Complete a 300-400-word essay.** Your Essay (& Poster) topic is Hoof Care/Hoof Disease. Pay attention at our club meetings and to the Facebook page for tips and to help you write your essay or complete your poster! This is part of your responsibility to complete the year in Saddle Club. **Attending one of the **SPECIFIED** workdays will allow members Of 4+ years to be exempt from writing their essay!! Essays MUST be in a PDF or Word Document and sent in via attachment! NO EXCEPTIONS!!

The Essay will need to be turned in by June 15th!! If you miss this deadline, you will go to the end of the line during stall picks!!!

*Participation in the Horse Bowl & Hippology Program will count as your club completion for those who attend and compete at the state level. This applies to all age divisions and will replace your essay or your level sheet. You do not need to qualify to compete at the state level. See Ashley King with Questions.

**As of 2024, Not fulfilling completion projects will result in ineligibility for High Point Awards.

***The Essay will need to be turned in by June 15th and Level Sheets by the end of camp (at the latest) If you miss this deadline, you will go to the end of the line during stall picks.

POSTERS: Please see examples at club meetings. They will need to be on the same topic as the essay, Hoof Care/Hoof Disease. Please see Ashley for any further details and/or questions you have!!

Elkhart County 4-H Completion Project:

(This is not the same as Saddle Club Completion)

While all members are encouraged to show their horse or pony at the county fair that is not how the 4-H Project is completed. Project completion is different for each individual member. Completing the 4-H requirements is what allows you to receive your fair pass in July. However, the club has additional requirements to be considered to have completed the club. This is what will allow the member to choose a box stall for fair week and receive any achievement awards for the club such as ten-year jackets and retirement awards. Please see the Saddle Club Completion section for more details.

Each 4-H member must have either an animal at the fairgrounds during fair week or they will be required to have a poster or project on display. This is a requirement to receive your pass for fair given to us by the extension office. This will be turned in on the night passes are distributed. Your essay does not count as a project to display however the project should follow the essay topic using a visual display.

**If you are planning to bring an animal to fair and are unable to for any reason you must complete a poster or project prior to fair.

We understand animals sometimes get sick or hurt at the last minute and are unable to come to fair, however, the

fair passes given out are to view your project on display therefore you must have a project on display to retain your passes.

This is your completion project for 4-H. (not Saddle Club)

You will not receive Fair Passes without this being turned in!

No Exceptions will be made on this! Your Essay does not count as a project for display!

Completion Jackets

10-year Saddle Club members

All 10-year Saddle Club members will be eligible to receive a Black 10 Year Member Jacket. Jackets will be awarded to the member during fair week at their final ride. To be eligible for a 10-year jacket (provided by the Elkhart County 4-H Saddle Club) a member must complete all club requirements all 10 years enrolled as a member. These include but are not limited to:

- 1) Paying Club Dues
- 2) Completion project for fair/club --essay/record sheet/workbook/fair week project display
- 3) Complete all required parent and 4-Her work shifts
- 4) Box stall /tie stall fees paid when applicable

Failure to complete any of these in the 10 years in club will make the member ineligible to receive a jacket. They will not be eligible for the option below. They will still receive a retiring member award: sweatshirt, buckle, or blanket.

Retiring Members (6-years and up)

Any member completing 6 years and up in Saddle Club will be eligible for a Grey Member Jacket. Jacket cost will be partially covered by the club with the member receiving \$5.00 credit for each year they completed in the club**. To be eligible for this jacket a member must complete all club requirements for all years enrolled as a member. These include but are not limited to:

- 1) Paying Club Dues
- 2) Completion project for fair/club --essay/workbook
- 3) Complete all required parent and 4-Her work shifts
- 4) Box stall /tie stall fees paid when applicable

Failure to complete any of these in the years in club will make the member ineligible to receive a jacket. They will still receive a retiring member award- sweatshirt, buckle, or blanket. **Payment must be received prior to your jacket being ordered.

**4-H years will be based on the 4-H online system used by extension office/saddle club leader will track club completion

Liability Waivers and Care Contracts

Following suit with other livestock clubs, we will have two forms to be signed by each 4-H family. A Liability Disclaimer and a Care Contract, that both ensure we are able to make decisions for the best safety practices of our club's animals as well as make sure members know what level of care is expected for all animals brought in under our club.

Examples of these will be available for review at our club meetings and may also be posted on our Facebook and website. These will be signed IN FRONT OF A SPECIFIED LEADER, notarized and filed with the club. This will be a requirement for all 4-H member families. Must be turned in by June 15th!!!

WORK SHIFTS--Defined and Explained

To provide the club with safe stalls, up to date equipment, judges and awards, we need each member to contribute their time. The greatest need for member participation is during Fair Week.

You will be responsible to sign up for work shifts at our general club meetings.

Be sure to write down the times you select.

All work shifts must be signed up for by May 15th.

Fair Week

- 1) Each 4-Her is responsible for 3 work shifts (fair week or Workdays)

You must be on time for your shifts. If you cannot make your shift, it is your responsibility to get someone to cover your duties!

Concession Stand Responsibilities (All ages of 4-Her)

- Take orders and collect money
- Fill condiments
- Clean assigned area prior to end of shift
- Assist adults with food preparation

Barn & Ground Duty (3-5th grade 4Hers preferred!) These members will meet 3 times throughout the day!

- Sweep the barn and keep aisles clear
- Clean bathroom
- Keep horse wash rack/paths/roads free of manure (use the tubs provided)
- Pick up trash around barn, show areas and concession stand

*****Please note this is not a 4 hour straight shift it meets for short periods of time, 3 different times during the day*****

Show booth duty/Arena requirements (Senior Members & Adults ONLY)

(Need to wear closed toed shoes)

- Gates (open/shut)
- Window-take paperwork
- Set up/take down for events

This is not guaranteed to be an inside the show booth shift...you must come dressed and prepared to be working gates/arena set up etc.

- 2) One ADULT per family is responsible for 3 work shifts (same as 4-Her) or 1 of the other shifts listed below. You must be on time for your shifts. If you cannot make your entire shift, it is your responsibility to get someone to cover your shift duties in your absence.

Trail Boss Responsibilities (Adult)

- Be in charge of all workers and help with each shift change, opening and closing duties and making sure concession stand runs smoothly throughout the day.

Overnight Barn Duty fills all adult work shift

- Only adults can stay overnight (2 men or 2 women at one time)
- Keep aware of what is going on in barn and under tents all night

If you sign up for shift and cannot complete it (you are showing or gone) it is up to you to find a replacement to cover for you. Try to sign up on days you do not show!!!

If you do not make your shift, and do not send a replacement to fill in, you must complete TWO shifts to make up for the one that was missed. NO EXCEPTIONS!!

**** 10 year and Retiring Members need to have all shifts completed prior to Fair Week!**

Any member not completing work shifts will be considered incomplete for that year of Saddle Club and will become ineligible for BOTH a trailer spot and a stall for the following year.

DISRESPECT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. IF YOU ARE DISRESPECTFUL TO OTHER MEMBERS OR LEADERSHIP DURING YOUR SHIFT, YOU WILL, AT MINIMUM, BE MOVED TO THE END OF THE LINE FOR STALL PICKS OR WILL LOSE STALL AND/OR TRAILER SPOT ELIGIBILITY!!!!

Open Arena

What is Open Arena???

April – July , 2026

Open Arena will give club members an opportunity to ride and practice in the exact environment that horse/rider combination will participate in during fair week. The purpose of Open Arena is to provide club members with the opportunity to learn and practice skills necessary to become better as well as to improve safety.

Open Arena is a structured event where specific riding and event skills will be taught and evaluated. Adult and Junior Leaders will supervise Open Arenas and provide instruction and guidance to the club members. In addition, new and more seasoned riders will have plenty of opportunities to practice event and riding skills within the arena environment. The items listed on the schedule will be offered. If time allows, we will set up and do other patterns as well, as long as no members are still practicing the scheduled event. This is not meant to deter anyone from coming but to be sure you are aware of what is going on and attend on a night you know the event you are wanting to work on will be offered!

A schedule will be available on the website. Our goal is to offer as many different disciplines as possible. Changes to schedule will be posted on the website and Facebook.

Cancellation notices for weather will be posted on Facebook and group text.

****Text Alerts: Text your name and 'Join2026" to 574-370-6421 to be added**

When: Every Tuesday and Wednesday evening from April 8-July 9 from 5pm until 8pm (weather permitting)
NO open arena 6/ because of Horse Camp

Where: Elkhart County 4H Saddle Club Arenas

Contacts:

Advisory Board/Leaders	Tues night	**Specific contacts for each night
Advisory Board/Leaders	Weds night	TBD. See schedule/TEXTS/FB Page

General Rules and Courtesies

- Elkhart County 4-Hers, their parents and APPROVED leaders ONLY (4-H members take precedence for any and all activities; parents may ride on a limited basis)
- Riders may not mount until the Project Leader has arrived!!
- Do Not Lunge in a ring with rider's present
- Keep Language and discussions appropriate for 4-H environment - encourage do not discourage!
- Wear appropriate safety equipment including helmets and boots
- Provide supervision for children who are not riding
- Do not race horses anywhere on grounds -walk outside of arenas
- Sportsmanship and Horsemanship are always required.
- Excessive use of whips, crops or spurs is not part of the 4-H program. If the leader deems the use to be excessive, riders may be asked to leave.

*******FAIR WEEK CHECK IN & CHECK OUT*******

CHECK IN:

Saturday, July 25, 2026 8:00 AM - 10:00 & Sunday, July 26, 2026 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

All animals coming to the fair that will be kept in the barn or tents will need to be vet checked prior to being put into a stall. Check-in times are listed, and this is the **ONLY** time we can guarantee a vet will be onsite to clear your animal. If you cannot for some reason, make it to check in during these times you will need to contact a member of the advisory board to set up a time to meet with the vet. This will be based on the vet's availability and the animal will not be allowed to enter the barn or tent until this has been completed. The animal will need to be kept at the tie rack or at a trailer until the vet arrives.

-What do you need to bring to check in for each horse/pony:

1) Upon Arrival, you will have 5 minutes to unload what you need for your horse. You are able to use a wheelbarrow or cart to bring anything else into the grounds from the green lot after you park your trailer. Junior Leaders will be available to help you during your 5 minutes you are allotted to unload.

A copy of the animal's vaccinations, either the paper provided to you by the club with your vet's signature and/or receipt from the vet's office showing date/name of animal and vaccinations given.

- **This also needs to be kept with you all week at fair- if you are approached by a member of the Purdue Extension office you may be asked for this form and you will only have 5 minutes to produce it. The easiest way for many is to take a picture and keep that on your phone.**

Two emergency contact phone numbers to use when completing your vet card.

When you arrive, you will be asked to pull forward to the front of the unloading area and unload your horse/tack/feed etc. And then take the trailer to the green lot. We will have junior leaders and adults there to assist and guide you. Trailers that have spots around the arena will not be allowed to be parked during these unloading times. Once the check in times are over, you may bring the trailers in and put them in their spots for the week.

CHECK OUT:

Saturday, August 1, 2026 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM ***NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!***

Fair is always a long, but great week! Our week can't end until our area is neat and clean. The fairgrounds maintains a high standard of how our grounds looks when we leave so please understand we enforce their standards and require that your area is clean before you can remove your animal or trailer from the grounds. In order for everyone to be able to leave, please do your part in picking up trash, manure and anything you see that does not belong on our grounds.

1. Stalls:

- If you are in the BARN you must remove all sawdust, manure and decorations from your stall area – staples included. Stalls need to be swept out with a broom once cleaned. An advisory board member must sign your vet card accepting the condition of your stall.

- If your stall is in a TENT you do not need to remove sawdust/manure just your personal items. You must wipe down stall walls and **you must stay to help tear down stalls as well**. You must do these things in order for the designated advisory board member or leader to sign your vet card to complete your check out.

2. TACK ROOM: Please remember to take all tack, buckets, etc. from the barn tack room.
3. TRAILER AREA: Must be free of manure, hay, trash, etc. A leaf rake must be used to remove all loose hay from the ground. All trash must be picked up. **An advisory board member/leader must sign your vet card before your trailer can be removed from its spot.**

*****If you leave and do not have all signatures on your card or your area is dirty, you will be ineligible for a stall and trailer spot the following year!!!*****

Parking Rules:

For Shows, Clinics, Open Arenas, Drill Team and any other function held at our arena:

- Horses may only be tied to trailers and hitching rack by barn. Do not use trees or wash rack in Saddle Club Arenas. There is plenty of parking, if parked correctly, around the arena.
- We cannot interfere with rallies. We must keep our area clean, so this means to pick up all manure and hay at every event before you leave. We have wheelbarrows in the barn and the manure pit area is always available. We also have tubs for use at the wash rack so **no manure should be washed down the drain**. Please be responsible so we may keep using our own facility without any concerns from the Fair Board.
- When coming to any events with your horse at the Saddle Club Arena we are to be using Gate 5 (or 7 fair week). We are not to use Gate 1 or Gate 2. Although these are reminders for most of our families, please be mindful of our new members who may not yet know the rules, please be helpful and give a hand if needed.
- ***Fair week you need to park your vehicle in the green lot. If your vehicle is parked along the creek during fair week it will be towed AT YOUR EXPENSE!***

Parking Horse Trailers During Fair Week

4-H Members who show 4 or more days during fair week may request to park a trailer inside the gate in our south lot during fair week. Once requested, trailer spots are assigned based on space availability and rotate each year. The parking is LIMITED and so the advisory board requires that families cooperate and share trailers whenever possible.

Rules for Parking your Horse Trailer:

- The back of your trailer needs to be centered and against the stake. DO NOT MOVE THE STAKE!!!
- There is a 35' Length limit for trailers parked in the south lot. In fairness to all members this is enforced. (Trailer is measured from the very front tip to the very back end--so measure twice!)
- It is a FAIR rule that during the week of fair NO GENERATORS of any kind are allowed.
- NO ONE MAY PLUG IN for electricity/power in the South horse trailer parking area. The only allowed electric hook-up is in the campsite area. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!**

See the map of the Fairgrounds—Locate the "GREEN LOT E" for long term parking--you may not park your vehicle inside the fairgrounds unless you have a parking tag permitting you to do so.

Fair Week Trailer Spot Requests

*****Trailer parking requests need to be turned in on the website before the June Meeting*****

You must fill out a trailer request form in order to park and work out of your trailer during fair week. With the space we have available and the volume of trailer request forms we receive, we are unable to offer a trailer spot for only one 4Her to work off of. You need a minimum of 2 members.

When you trailer in, this means that you pull your trailer into the fairgrounds, drop off your animal and any tack/equipment and pull your trailer into the green lot to park. You **DO NOT** leave your trailer inside of the fairgrounds.

Please visit the website to submit a request. Save any response you receive as proof you made a submission. If

you do not receive a response, please **contact Andy Yeager to ensure you are actually placed on the list**. You may also contact him with any further questions you may have.

Fair Week Campsites

Saddle Club is one of the only clubs to have designated campsites. We currently have a waiting list to get a campsite. You do not need to reapply every year as you will retain your spot on the waitlist with us as long as you have a child enrolled in saddle club. This spot may not be passed down from generation to generation, so if you have grandchildren entering the club, they do need to get on the waiting list as well. If you have questions on how this works or to get on the list, please see **Andy Yeager**.

HORSE CAMP

Dates: June 14-17, 2026

What is Horse Camp???

Horse Camp is for first and second year members. If we have room, we do allow third year members. Campers bring their horses to the fairgrounds, they eat, sleep and breathe horses. Campers are under the supervision of adult leaders and junior leaders. During the camp experience, the 4-Hers learn to correctly groom, tack, wash, safely tie, clean stalls, and much more! Leaders and junior leaders get to know the new members better and make recommendations on progress where the 4-Her will find success. 4-Hers will be better prepared for fair week after attending camp!

Parent/Adult Help Wanted:

Parents are needed to make horse camp a success. Parents can help by volunteering to cook for campers or assist leaders in giving the 4-H campers a safe and fun camping experience. Do you have a full-time job? Ask the leaders what help is needed in the evening hours. Activities continue until bedtime!!

Contacts for Horse Camp information:

Shane & Bekah McKerchie 231-613-0105

- **Please note: We are at horse camp to teach our 4-Hers about Saddle Club and what to expect during fair week. We are not able or equipped to train horses during this time.
- **All 4-Hers must be able to mount and ride their animal safely at check in. If they cannot, they may remain at camp but the parents will be asked to remove the animal from camp. This is for everyone's safety: staff, campers and animals alike.

Round Robin

Master Show person is a class you must qualify to enter. To qualify you must receive 1st place in English or Western Showmanship. Both Junior and Senior level exhibitors can show in the Master Show person class. If the same exhibitor wins both English and Western Showmanship, they will choose which they want to represent in the Master Showman Class. Only the top placing senior exhibitor in the Master Show person Class will be eligible to represent our club at the Large Animal Round Robin Event offered by the Elkhart County 4-H Fair.

Fair Week Stall Selection Process

Box stall selection will be done at the July Club Meeting. They will be chosen in the following order:

1. The top 30 incentive earners (more explained in meetings and will be posted online)
2. 10-year members
3. 9-year members
4. 8-year members (and so on until we are out of stalls, or all members have chosen)

Missing deadlines will result in being moved to the back of the line for box stall selection!!

This is the fairest system we have come up with to choose stalls. The only way you are guaranteed a box stall if you are a 1st or 2nd year member is to be in the top thirty incentive earner spots. We do our best to meet everyone's needs/wants for a box stall, but we are limited on space. If you have an animal that requires a box stall and you are a 1st or 2nd year member you may want to consider trailering the animal in on days that you show. If space allows, we may have second stalls available. Tie stalls are almost always available and are usually available as a second stall. ***Please see the website for more information on box stall selection!!***

Walk/Trot Class Eligibility

All first and second year members will be placed in Walk Trot unless a parent asks for their child to be advanced to a canter group. Once a parent requests this a child will be evaluated by a leader to be sure they are safely riding at a canter with solid control of the animal. Once the 4-Her shows in a canter class they are not eligible to go back to a walk trot group even if they purchase a new animal and are not as advanced on this animal. This decision is based on the rider not the animal. All third-year members are required to show at a canter. Fair Week awards for Walk/Trot are not the same as the awards for members in the canter classes.

To complete by MAY 15th:

- **Enrolled in 4-H**
- **Horses/Ponies Enrolled**
- **Vaccine Form uploaded AND turned in to Saddle Club**
- **Work Shifts signed up for**

To complete by JUNE 15th:

- **Dues Paid**
- **Stall Fee Paid**
- **Camp Fee paid (by the beginning of camp)**
- **Level sheet complete by the end of camp**
- **\$50 Sponsorship paid**
- **Essay turned in**
- **Liability Disclaimer & Care Contract forms turned in**
- **Poster turned in**

2026 Fair Week Schedule

Saturday July 25th

Vet Check-In - 8:00 AM-10:00 AM

Schooling over jumps - 1:00 PM

JUMPING 2:00 PM

DRESSAGE 4:00 PM

Gymkhana Classes 6:00 PM

Sunday July 26th

Vet Check-In 8:00 AM-10:00 AM

Fair Parade

Drill Team Performance 5:15 PM (approximately)

Team Announcements 5:45 PM (approximately)

CONTESTING 6:00 PM (approximately)

(Barrels and Keyhole)

Monday July 27th

ENGLISH HALTER & PERFORMANCE: 9:00 AM

PLEASURE DRIVING

CONTESTING 6:00 PM

(Poles and Stake Race)

Tuesday July 28th

WESTERN SHOWMANSHIP & HALTER: 9:00 AM

CONTESTING 6:00 PM

(Flags, Down and Back, & Speed and Action)

Wednesday July 29th

WESTERN PERFORMANCE: 9:00 AM

FUN SHOW – not before 5:00 PM

Thursday July 30th

TRAIL: 9:00 AM

COSTUME CLASS 4:00 PM (2026 -)

Friday July 31st

WALK/TROT VERSATILITY: 9:00 AM (Pleasure/Barrels)

VERSATILITY JR/SR: not before 9:30 AM

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING 4-H MEMBERS: 6:00 PM

Saturday August 1st

Clean out barn, tear down stalls, clean horse trailer spots 8-10 AM

High Point Awards

*****Not Fulfilling completion projects will result in ineligibility for High Point awards!!**

The 2025 show season will offer High Point awards for both Contesting and Pleasure events. Elkhart County Saddle Club Members will have the opportunity to earn points showing at the May, June, July and August shows offered at the Saddle Club arena.

- There are 4 shows throughout the year where points may be accumulated towards High Point Awards. These are normally the May, June, July and August shows (this could be changed depending on the year). Fair DOES NOT count towards the High Point Awards.
- Elkhart County 4-H Saddle Club members ONLY are allowed to compete in the High Point Award program.
- There are 6 contesting events and 6 pleasure events that count towards the High Point Awards.
 - Contesting: Barrels, Poles, Flags, Keyhole, Stake Race and Down & Back
 - Pleasure: English Showmanship, English Equitation, English Pleasure, Western Showmanship, Western Horsemanship and Western Pleasure
- If a 4-Her is showing more than one horse, they MUST declare which one they are using for High Point before their first run at the first High Point Show each year. Each 4-Her can only declare one horse with which they will receive points. They can still ride another horse, but no placings earned with that horse will count towards their High Point totals.
- Points are given according to placings in each class after taking out the riders/horses that are not a High Point Award declared combination.
 - Example: Mike placed 1st, John placed 2nd (non-declared horse), Todd placed 3rd (not an Elkhart County 4-Her), Timmy placed 4th and John placed 5th (on declared horse)
 - Mike would receive points for 1st, Timmy would receive points for 2nd, and John (on declared horse) receives points for 3rd
- Points are given to the top 10 places as follows:
 - Example:
 - 1st place – 10 points
 - 2nd place – 9 points
 - 3rd place – 8 points
 - 4th place - 7 points; and so on
- After the final designated High Point show, all points are totaled for each event for both junior and senior divisions. There are awards given to the top 5 juniors and seniors in each event.
- Each person will then have all of their points from each event (both pleasure and contesting) totaled together and the 4-Her with the most overall points will be awarded the overall High Point Award, which is a new saddle.
- The saddle is sponsored at \$700 and is picked out by the winner. If they choose a saddle that is above the sponsored amount, they are responsible to pay the difference to cover the total.
- This is a sponsored activity and our sponsor chooses the awards each year.
- Total event points will be posted after the banquet at the end of the year on the saddle club's website.

Special Awards

**The Elkhart County Saddle Club recognizes members and parents for their various accomplishments and dedication. Several awards are given by merit according to specific standards, while others are nominated and chosen according to the established criteria. Awards are presented at the annual Saddle Club Banquet. Leadership does not always see everything that goes on. Please, feel free to share any actions or behavior that would be fitting with any of the awards listed on this page, or that you believe deserves recognition. We need your help to see the things that we aren't able to. *Leaders/Board reserves right to add or subtract from list.

***Debbie Fleck Award:** These awards were established in 1982 after the untimely death of a former club member. These awards will be presented to the 4-H member who accumulates the most points with one animal in the State Fair Gaming Qualifying Classes. Contesting was Debbie's favorite 4-H activity. There are eight divisions: Jr. Pony Grades 3-5, Jr. Pony Grades 6-7, Sr. Pony Grades 8-9, Sr. Pony Grades 10-12, Jr. Horse Grades 3-5, Jr. Horse Grades 6-7, Sr. Horse Grades 8-9 & Sr. Horse Grades 10-12.

***Sportsmanship Award:** The criteria for this special award is based on the definition of sportsmanship: 'a person who can take loss or defeat without complaint or victory without gloating and who treats their opponents with fairness, generosity and courtesy.' A person who is easy going or companionable. A person judged according to their ability to take loss, defeat, teasing, etc. Someone who is a good sport.

***Most Improved Member Award:** The basis for this award will be improvement in one or more of the following areas: riding ability, behavior, attitude and horse care. The member receiving this award will have at least four years in club activities.

***Cindy McCluckie Award:** This special award was established in 1980 in memory of Cindy, who died of cancer after competing in her first year in Saddle Club. It will be presented to a first or second year member who demonstrated outstanding enthusiasm, determination, persistence, positive attitude, courtesy and good attendance. All of these attributes exemplify the young lady for whom this award was established.

***Ernie Hill Memorial Award:** Awarded to a parent who has been exemplary in volunteer work in regards to club activities.

***Marilee Keim Leadership Achievement Award:** Given to a club member who has shown outstanding leadership in club activities; this person need not be an officer.

***Alison Hart Scholarship Award:** This scholarship is named after Alison, who passed away in a car accident during her 4-H career. A \$100 cash donation will be awarded by the Saddle Club to the recipient's college of choice that he or she will be attending. The recipient must be an 8 to 10 year member of the saddle club who has shown marked improvement over the years.

***Tom Holdeman Award:** The recipient is chosen based on consistent involvement in the hunter-jumper program of the club for at least 3 years and shows a persistent attitude. It is not based on winning or placing.

***Tom McGraw Award:** This award will be given to a 4-H member who exhibits a pony and shows determination and enthusiasm in completing their 4-H project.

***Saddle Club Award:** This award will be given to the club member that best demonstrates the spirit of the 4-H Saddle Club, including perseverance and enthusiasm.

Elkhart County Saddle Club follows the current edition of the Indiana 4-H Horse and Pony Handbook. Website posted Survival Guide shall hold the current referenced guidelines.