

HORSE & PONY

PLEASE NOTE: Any changes/updates from the previous year will be *BOLDED and ITALICIZED*! Pay special attention to any projects with *BOLD, ITALICIZED WORDS* because they have changed from last year.

The 4-H Horse and Pony project provides youth with a fun hands-on learning experience that develops life skills as well as teaches valuable information about properly caring for their animal. Subjects such as general management, training, nutrition, housing, and health care are presented in the curricular materials, through workshops and activities such as horse bowl, hippology and judging, and in preparation of an exhibit. Youth also have the opportunity to develop responsibility, decision-making, nurturing, and communication skills through active participation in the 4-H Horse and Pony project.

Completion, exhibition participation, and State Fair information for Horse and Pony			
Division/Level	Grades	Completion Activities Needed	Maximum State Fair Entries
Level 1	Grades 3-5	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	Check IN State Fair Website
Level 2	Grades 6-8	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	Check IN State Fair Website
Level 3	Grades 9-12	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	Check IN State Fair Website

SUGGESTED REFERENCE MATERIALS (available for purchase in Extension Office or shop4-h.org)

- Level 1: Giddy Up & Go
- Level 2: Head, Heart & Hooves
- Level 3: Stable Relationships
- 4-H Horse Program: Horses & Horsemanship
- 4-H Horse Program: Horse Science

GUIDELINES

1. Refer to the Hendricks County 4-H Livestock and Animal Section for General Guidelines related to all livestock projects. See 4-H Policies, Entry & Exhibit Guidelines for poster and general display guidelines.
2. Be sure to enroll in the project on 4-Online and enter exhibit information into FairEntry by designated date.
2025 designated FairEntry Deadline is Tuesday, July 1st at 11:59 p.m.
3. Complete the Record Sheet (if not exhibiting at the Hendricks County 4-H Fair).
4. If wanting to exhibit a poster/display/notebook related to this species, 4-H members may do so under the "Animal Education" Project. (see page 24 for details)

HORSE & PONY TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. No animal should have any tack/halter left on while stalled overnight. Animal cannot be tied or restricted while in the stall.
2. Safety rules governing headgear and boots, and rules addressing animal well-being, are mandatory at all 4-H Horse and Pony events. Judges have the responsibility to refuse to conduct classes in which these safety rules are not enforced.
3. Any situation not covered by these policies and rules shall be handled by the proper representative of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, or their designee.
4. 4-H Horse and Pony exhibitors must provide a current year Certificate of Completion of Indiana 4-H Guidelines for Exhibition of 4-H Horse and Pony prior to participating in any 4-H activities with their horse or pony. Please refer to form 4-H-1031-W for Body Score Condition, Required Vaccinations, and Recommended Vaccinations/Procedures.
5. The age of an animal will be computed on the basis of a calendar year starting on January 1 of the year foaled. For example, an animal foaled any time in 1998 would be considered one-year-old (a yearling) on January 1, 1999, two years old on January 1, 2000, etc. Animals five years of age and younger will be considered junior animals.
6. It is recommended that horses not be ridden in 4-H events before July 1 of their two-year-old year.
7. Leasing is considered the equivalent of ownership of a 4-H project animal. The 4-H'er should be regularly involved in the care of the horse, regardless of where stabled, and the 4-H'er should have exclusive show use of the animal during the 4-H lease period.

Approved Protective Attire

Headgear: All 4-H members are required to wear a properly fitted ASTM or SEI standard F1163 (or above) certified equestrian helmet whenever mounted, or driving, at a 4-H Horse and Pony event, show, or activity. The 4-H member is responsible to see that this specified headgear is properly fitted with the approved harness fastened in place whenever mounted. Original tags must be present in all approved helmets. This policy applies to all county, area, and state 4-H horse and pony events, shows, and activities.

Adults riding horses are also at risk of head injury; therefore, adults are strongly encouraged to wear properly fitted, certified helmets when they are riding at any 4-H sponsored activity/event so that they will serve as role models of safe behavior, as well as protect themselves.

Vests: Protective vests are recommended in all mounted classes.

Show Rules

1. The weight of the rider and tack does not exceed 30% of the weight of the horse.
2. Only 4-H Horse and Pony members may ride or drive 4-H animals on the 4-H show grounds.
3. All 4-H riders in the 4-H show must wear the proper footwear of western, hunt or jodhpur boots. Drivers must wear boots or closed shoes.
4. Stallions are not eligible to show, except during the calendar year they are foaled.
5. Weanlings, yearlings and two-year-old animals must be shown at the height of the dam, unless their height exceeds that of the dam. If the dam's height is unknown, the animal will show in the over 56 inches class. Animals may be measured by the show committee.
6. All participants in the ring while a class is being judged shall be 4-H members. (An exception is made for the Pleasure Driving class and for assisted equitation classes.) Adults serving in this capacity must be approved 4-H volunteers, or family members.
7. In all riding classes, animals must be ridden astride (one leg on each side) of the horse, or with an approved side saddle.
8. Ribbons previously won will not be worn in any classes.
9. The use of illegal or prohibited equipment or attire in any class will result in a disqualification. Equipment that unnaturally attaches the rider to the saddle or horse is prohibited. No rubber bands allowed.
10. 4-H exhibitors must have their assigned exhibitor number visible during the show. Exhibitors with hair covering and/or obstructing the view of their numbers may be disqualified. Show management may want to consider providing numbers for both sides of the saddle pad.
11. Any exhibitor (or their parents, teachers, etc.) who breaks a governing rule may be barred from showing and/or forfeit any prizes or winnings.
12. Ring courtesy dictates that exhibitors maintain a safe distance between animals in halter and performance classes.
13. The judge must excuse any animal from the ring he/she deems unsafe, bleeding from the mouth or in any way being treated inhumanely.
14. Decision of the judge will be final. Questions concerning rules are to be presented to the 4-H show manager of the day. All judging will be done from within the ring except in contesting, over fences, color guard, and dressage classes.
15. All 4-H Horse and Pony classes shall be judged by the current edition of the Indiana 4-H Horse and Pony Handbook (4-H 661). Therefore, exhibitors should secure a personal copy from the local county Extension Office. Refer to 4-H 661 for any policies/terms not addressed in this Handbook.
16. 4-H members requiring special accommodations are encouraged to show horses and show management shall allow assistance and rule modifications when appropriate.
17. Whenever riding or mounted: long pants, shirt, boots, and helmet are required; no electronics of any kind allowed

Non-protestable Decisions

1. The soundness of an animal as determined by the official veterinarian.
2. The soundness of an animal as determined by the judge.
3. A judge's decision that represents his/her individual preference or opinion.

HENDRICKS COUNTY SHOW ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

1. 4-H horses and ponies exhibited must meet current Indiana State Animal Health Exhibit Guidelines and/or regulations.

2. Official Indiana 4-H Horse and Pony Enrollment must be completed and on file at the Hendricks County Extension office by May 15th or earlier if the county has an earlier deadline to show at the County Show.
3. The 4-H exhibitor is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the 4-H Horse and Pony Enrollment Entry. If the entries are incorrect or incomplete, the 4-H member will not be able to exhibit the affected animals at the County Fair.
4. Additional hair may be added to a horse's tail.

4-H Horse and Pony Hendricks County Fair Terms and Conditions

1. Exhibitors wishing to show a horse or horses at the county fair must submit a stall request form. Animals may check in and check out only on Fairboard approved check in and checkout days and times. All exceptions to this rule will be handled by the 4-H Horse and Pony Fairboard Director and Extension Educator and submitted in writing to the Fairboard at least one week prior to the start of the fair. Animals will be stalled according to availability. If all stalls are full, an alternate action will be determined.
2. Either ownership or leasing will allow siblings to show each other's horses without jeopardizing County Fair eligibility regardless of whether or not the sibling is a 4-H member. The animal needs to be under lease until the completion of the county/or state fair. The official lease agreement (4-H-869W) is dated April 1st to September 1st of the current year.
3. Exhibitors may bring a maximum of three (3) different horses (horse, pony, miniature, mule, donkey) for the week of fair, but may only exhibit one animal per class.
4. In such cases where there is more than one 4-H member in a family in the same age group and the family has only one horse to show, the horse may be shown by more than one member of the family in the same show at county level but not in the same class. (Excluding mares and foals considered one animal)
5. Any Horse/Pony exhibited must be shown and owned by the child, or owned in partnership with the child's father, mother, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, grandparent or legal guardian. Note exception: leased Horses/Ponies may be shown if they follow county policy regarding leases, in the county from which the entry is submitted.
6. Horses may be measured to verify the I.D. of any horse or pony entered in the County Fair Horse & Pony Show. Only one (1) measurement will then be made, and that measurement will supersede previous measurements. Animals will be placed in the proper division according to height: i.e. over 56", 39"-56", mini-38" or under. Weanlings, yearlings & 2 yr. old's are to be shown at the height of the dam.
7. Exhibitors are responsible for safely entering the ring after classes have been announced. The exhibitor may be disqualified at the discretion of the judge if the exhibitor *does not* enter the ring within 2 minutes of the class after the horses have been announced to enter the ring.
8. Contesting horses will be brought to the arena in a controlled manner as determined by the judge before beginning the pattern. Assistance may be given by one (1) person of contestants' choice. Any changes in this procedure will be announced before the class. Failure to enter or leave the arena in a controlled manner will result in disqualification, at the discretion of the judge. Running or galloping into the arena is an automatic disqualification, at the discretion of the judge. Show management may elect to allow one horse to enter the ring while the previous horse is departing the ring. Hitting forward of the cinch, exhibitor's failure to control the animal, endangering themselves and others, as determined by the judge or show manager could result in disqualification. High point contesting tie breaker is determined by keyhole time. Texas keyhole (2 cones) will be used in shows.
9. Only 4-H horse and pony members may ride, lunge or drive 4-H animals on the show grounds. Only if conditions are not safe or the exhibitor cannot control their animal, may assistance be given with lunging (exhibitors must be present). This assistance may only be from:
 - a. Members of their family who are no more than 2 generations removed from the exhibitor
 - b. From a current Indiana 4-H member
 - c. From approved 4-H Adult Volunteers who are from the 4-H member's county of enrollment. Trainers are not allowed to assist unless they are an approved 4-H groomer signed up by June 15th each year.
10. Mounting or riding a horse (other than during a show class) is only permitted in the outdoor practice arena (not lunge pens) from 6:30 a.m. – 9 p.m., the horse arena during open arena times (times posted or announced), or in the barn make up arena if showing within two classes (only during shows and only at a walk). Lunging may only be performed in the lunge pens behind the barn or the horse arena during posted or announced times. Horses are not allowed in the grass or any area other than the barn, wash stalls, horse arena, practice arena, and lunge pens. Failure to comply may result in loss of awards and dismissal from the show grounds.
11. 4-H Horse and Pony concerns or decisions should be brought to the attention of the 4-H Horse and Pony leader and will be handled accordingly. If a grievance is required, please refer to the county grievance policy.
12. Only one horse per member in a class. Exhibitors wishing to show more than one animal in a Championship halter class will be able to have assistance in handling the additional animal by another properly enrolled 4-H Horse & Pony member. Mare and foal winners are not eligible for the champion and reserve champion. Mare and foal counts as one class for the exhibitor.
13. Mules, donkeys, horses and ponies (including miniature horses & draft horses) are eligible to show at the

- Hendricks County Fair 4-H horse and pony show and must comply with the terms and conditions.
14. Fans must have proper safety approved shrouds. Extension cords are not permitted unless an exemption is granted by the Fairgrounds Facilities Manager.
 15. Certified headgear and boots with a heel shall be worn at all times when mounted on their horse(s) during 4-H Horse and Pony activities. It is the responsibility of the 4-H member to ensure that the headgear meets the guidelines outlined in the State 4-H Horse and Pony Handbook (4-H 661).
 16. No unauthorized pedestrians will be allowed in the Arena during horse and pony warm-up or practice times.
 17. Only shavings are allowed for bedding stalls. All stalls with horses must have at least two (2) bags of shavings. No one is allowed to sleep in stalls with animals. This is dangerous! All exhibitors must clean the stalls they use. Barn manager or committee member will check each stall before a horse is allowed to leave the fairgrounds. Failure to properly check out of the barn may result in sanctions or penalties during the current or next 4-H season as determined by the Extension Educator.
 18. By order of the State Fire Marshal, aisles and exits must remain clear at all times. No horses are to be tied in the aisle. Failure to comply may result in disqualification, removal of awards, and suspension of the privilege of exhibiting at the County Fair.
 19. Classes offered in the County Fair 4-H Horse and Pony Show are subject to evaluation, and may be eliminated or combined due to low participation.
 20. Versatility Classes will be a one horse/rider combination that cannot have participated in any walk/trot class during the Western or English Show. Exhibitors must have two helpers consisting of 4-H members (proof required), immediate family members (parent/legal guardian or sibling), **and/or approved volunteers/groomers**. Helpers must wear closed toe shoes (boots preferred). Helpers only assist with tack changes. Causes for disqualification from an event during versatility: any disqualification in an event as determined by the judge; receiving coaching during an event; any of the following outside of the START and STOP commands for tack changes: coaching/instruction to exhibitor, anyone touches the horse or exhibitor, exhibitor dismounts their horse or begins to undo tack, anyone other than the 2 approved helpers assisting or in exhibitor's tack area, any assistance given after STOP is announced. Disqualification from 2 or more events will result in being disqualified from the versatility class. Exhibitors will compete in four events:
 - a. Showmanship (5-minute tack change to follow)
 - b. English Pleasure (5-minute tack change to follow)
 - c. Western Horsemanship (2-minute tack change to follow)
 - d. BarrelsFor each event except barrels, all horses will enter and exit show ring at the same time. All classes will be judged according to the rules in 4-H 661. All exhibitors will be placed in each event by the judge **and then** scored and ranked (i.e. if there are 15 exhibitors, rank will be from 1 (best) to 15 (worst). In the event of one or multiple disqualifications in an event, each disqualified exhibitor will receive the highest possible score (i.e. a 15 if there are 15 participants). The quickest barrel time will receive the lowest score and the slowest time will receive the highest score. To determine final placing, the ranked score from all the versatility events will be added for each exhibitor. The exhibitor with the lowest overall score will win. In the case of a tie in ranked scores, the quickest barrel time will determine the winner.
 21. Exhibitor/horse combination may only show Hunt or Saddle type showmanship and halter, but not both.
 22. Any animal in a class that, in the opinion of the judge, acts in such a way as to be considered unsafe for all parties concerned will be excused from that class.
 23. Any class having more than 20 exhibitors may be divided into cuts with a final round at the discretion of the judge.
 24. No animals will be allowed to check in early or stay beyond posted times without permission.
 25. Champion and Reserve classes will consist of participants placing 1st or 2nd in the designated prior classes.
 26. The Walk Trot classes are intended Exhibitor/horse combination. If an exhibitor/horse combination shows in walk trot classes (pleasure, equitation/horsemanship), they are ineligible to show in any 3-gaited or versatility classes with the same exhibitor/horse combination. Western Day, Combined Event Days, and English Days will be considered separately (i.e. an exhibitor/horse combination can compete in Walk/Trot on English Day and still be eligible for regular 3-gaited pleasure on Western Day).
 27. The Hendricks County 4-H Horse Barn will close at 10 p.m.
 28. Show management reserves the right to make any changes to class lists, or anything pertaining to horse shows, clinics, and projects.

Horse & Pony Club Supreme Showman

- **See Page 134**