

LaPorte 4-H Draft Horse & Mule Project



Name: _____

Number of Years in Project: _____ 4-H Club: _____

YEAR:

Purpose of Project

The purpose of the Wagon Masters 4-H program is to empower youth through hands-on experiences with draft horses and mules. It cultivates leadership, responsibility, and sportsmanship while teaching proper horsemanship, animal well-being, and safe handling practices. The program also encourages community engagement and personal growth.

Note: 4-H Members are urged to own their own draft horses and mules, but it is not required.

For lease papers and vaccination forms please visit: <https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/projects/4-h-project-horse.html>

All animals must conform to Health Regulations and vaccinations. All exhibitors must have proof that their animals have been vaccinated for: Eastern and Western Encephalomyelitis, Rhinopneumonitis, Influenza, Potomac Horse Fever, Strangles, and Tetanus. West Nile and

Rabies are not required, but highly recommended. A receipt for immunizations purchased may be used as proof.

- All shots need to be given by the summer clinic date.
- Rabies is required for any draft horses that are going to go to the Indiana State Fair 4-H Horse and Pony Show. Draft animals must also be entered in 4-H Online to be eligible for the Indiana State Fair 4-H Horse & Pony Show.

Goals for the Year

There are many things to learn about horses, their care and management. The topics **circled** are those I would like to learn more about:

Selection& Judging	Care of Feet & Shoeing
Breeds	Grooming
Parts	Shelter & Stalls
Training	Showing
Improving Driving Skills	Horse Psychology
Use & Care of Equipment	Safety with Horses
Determining Age by Teeth	Care of Mare & Foal
Feeding & Rations	Other Ideas List Below:
General Horse Health	



Learning Objectives

Years 1-3:

- Identify major draft horse breeds.
- Demonstrate basic safety around draft horses.
- Practice proper grooming techniques.
- Learn to safely lead, tie, and hold lines.
- Participate in halter class showmanship.
- Drive a single draft horse to a cart.
- Drive a team to a wagon.



Years 4-6:

- Master all skills from Years 1-3.
- Identify horse and harness parts.
- Learn cart/wagon parts.
- Apply basic first aid.
- Safely back a wagon.
- Practice safe hooking and driving procedures.
- Identify proper horse condition.



Years 7-10:

- Master all skills from previous years.
- Identify common health issues.
- Learn proper collar, bit, and harness fitting.
- Refine line adjustments and hooking procedures.
- Understand basic nutrition guidelines.

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