

LaPorte County 4-H Horse and Pony Club Handbook E-Z Riders Club

1. 4-H Membership

- a. **Enrollment** - All Horse and Pony members are required to enroll through Purdue University. Enrollment opens October 1st and should be completed online no later than January 15th.
 - i. Link to Enrollment - <https://v2.4honline.com>
 - ii. Link to Purdue Extension Horse and Pony information - <https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/projects/4-h-project-horse.html>
- b. **Horse Enrollment**- All horses and ponies, including pictures and all back up animals, must be enrolled online through Purdue Extension by May 15th. It is the 4-Her's responsibility to insure proper enrollment.
 - i. Link - <https://v2.4honline.com>
- c. **Demonstrations** - All members are encouraged to complete a demonstration before fair.
 - i. Demonstrations are designed to educate not only the member, but also the audience.
 - ii. Demonstrations may be given during the monthly meetings, clinics, or horse camp. See attachment for requirements.
- d. **Ownership and lease of animals**
 - i. **Ownership:** Members may exhibit animals as owned if actually owned by the member or immediate family members. In this situation, immediate family member refers to the actual parent/guardian and/or sibling that resides with the member.
 - ii. **Leased animals:** Members whom do not own the actual animal that they are competing with may lease said animal. The standard lease form must be on file with the Purdue Extension office and a copy available for verification upon request.
 - Any leased animal will be subject to all rules set forth by Purdue University Extension and any set forth by the local club.

- Link to Purdue Horse and Pony forms -
<https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/projects/4-h-project-horse.html>

e. **Member Divisions**

Members grade is the grade enrolled in at the time of 4-H enrollment.

- I. Junior Division: Members in 5th grade or under
- II. Intermediate Division: Members in 6th to 8th grade
- III. Senior Division: Member in 9th to 12th grade

f. **Dues-** All members will be required to pay local and state dues.

Members must pay state dues before they are allowed to participate in any 4-H horse and pony activity involving their animal.

- i. State dues will be paid online or through the extension office.
State dues are \$15 per member.
- ii. Local Dues can be paid at any Horse and Pony meeting. Local dues are \$30 per member.

g. **Safety/Attire-** Safety is of the utmost importance and a 4-H member can be removed from any activity if he/she does not follow basic safety practices.

- i. All 4-H members are required to wear a properly fitted ASTM or SEI standard F1163 (or above) certified helmet whenever mounted, or driving, at a 4-H Horse and Pony event, show or activity. The 4-H member is responsible for properly fitted headgear 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.
- ii. Any event, class or clinic that has more than 18 riders in the arena at one time may be “split” to maintain a safe environment.
- iii. Boots must be worn while handling/riding an animal.
- iv. It is recommended that all members wear long pants while working with an animal and required for all members while riding. As a club member, you are a 4-H representative and are to dress appropriately while participating at 4-H events.
- v. Any animal that exhibits a tendency to strike will be required to wear a red ribbon on or around the tail.
- vi. Members will be required to show with approved long sleeve western/english attire when showing under a judge unless otherwise stated at time of showing.

h. **Clinics--** The LaPorte County 4-H Horse & Pony Club along with the “committee” officially support free clinics held locally in the county by approved clinician leaders that have completed the proper 4-H volunteer

training. ***Any activity that is outside the officially supported clinics may not be accepted as participation towards your 4-H Participation Sheet.***

- i. In order to earn credit for a clinic, a member must be in attendance for the entire clinic time and be an active participant at the event.
 - ii. Horse Camp can be used as a substitute for two clinics for any members that participate as riders and/or Junior Leaders
 - iii. More advanced riders are strongly encouraged to team up with inexperienced riders to promote and encourage horsemanship and safety.
 - iv. Drill Team members may receive credit for 2 clinics if they complete drill team.
 - v. Not Applicable - Team Tournament members may receive one clinic credit per Team Tournament practice attended, up to a maximum of two clinic credits.
 - vi. Clinic attendance is encouraged.
- i. **4-H Horse and Pony Meetings**
- i. All members are encouraged to attend all meetings but are suggested to attend a minimum of 4 meetings.
 - ii. Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month starting at 7:00 pm. September, November, January, February, March, April, meetings are generally held in the Community or Small Projects building at the LaPorte County Fairgrounds. The May, June and October meetings are generally held at the horse and pony area of the fairgrounds.
 - iii. Members are encouraged to attend 4 of 8 monthly meetings.
 - iv. Members must stay for the entire meeting in order to earn credit.
- j. **Community Service Project**
- 1. All members are encouraged to complete an annual community service project that enhances our community.
 - 2. This can be done in a group, with the club, or individually.
- k. **Work Days-** Work days are encouraged to help clean and maintain the horse and pony facility. Members are encouraged to attend 2 work days annually.
- i. Scheduled work days are 5-7 pm prior to the normal May and June meeting.
 - ii. All other work days will be scheduled as necessary.
- l. **Participation Checklist Form-**

- i. Members will be required to complete and turn in the Participation Checklist Form by the scheduled June meeting in order to be eligible to bring an animal to fair.
- ii. Members are responsible for acquiring proper signatures immediately following any officially sponsored activity.

2. Project Requirements

- a. Members must be enrolled by January 15th of each year. Members are to complete the 4-H Horse and Pony Project manual and turn into Club Leader by the June meeting.
 - i. Level 1: Giddy Up & Go - Grades 3rd and 4th
 - ii. Level 2: Head, Heart and Hooves - Grades 5th, 6th and 7th
 - iii. Level 3: Horse Care - Grades 8th and 9th
 - iv. Level 4: Riding the Range - Grades 10th, 11th and 12th

3. Animals

- a. Members may lease or own a horse or pony. Two people may not use the same horse. There will be no substitute of animals after animal enrollment.
 - i. Although members may enroll multiple 'back up' horses, they are limited to showing one or two animals.
 - ii. Siblings may 'co-enroll' animals but only one sibling may show a given animal at the fair.
 - iii. Once an animal has been shown by a member at the fair, it is that member's project only and may not be shown by a sibling. Only exception is if the sibling is showing only in the Horseless Horse Project.
- b. Members care for one or two grade or registered horses or ponies which are yearlings, two year olds, three year olds or older. The limit is one animal to be exhibited at the fair for riders in grades 3-5 and two animals may be shown at the fair for members who have completed 3 years or more in a Horse & Pony Project. Mare and foal are considered one animal. Members must own or lease their animal and enroll the animal by May 15th.
- c. **Size:**
 - i. Any animal measured at or above 56" will be considered a horse and any animal measured under 56" will be considered a pony. Animals may be measured onsite at day of show if deemed necessary.
- b. **Vaccinations:**
 - i. Certain vaccinations are required for animals to attend the LaPorte County Fair to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all

animals. **Vaccinations must be administered by June 1st** to enable that animal eligible for fair.

- Eastern/Western
- Rabies
- Strangles
- Rhino/EHV
- Tetanus
- Influenza

c. **Record Keeping:**

- i. It is members responsibility to keep current and accurate records. All Animals that attend Fair will be required to have vaccinations sheets (or a photocopy) submitted with the member's Fair packet. It is strongly advised to keep copies of any and all important paperwork in case any issues arise.

4. Fair

- a. **Fair Rules:** The Committee will ensure the fair show follows both the Purdue Indiana 4-H State Guidelines as well as commonly used local rules. The committee will retain ownership of locally acceptable rules and make judgement calls as necessary to ensure safety and fairness for all 4-H members.
- b. **Check-in:** All animals are to be at fairgrounds for check-in and are expected to stay until release time. Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis and will have to be approved by the entire committee prior to fair check-in.
 - i. Horses will check in at the designated time which will be announced at the June meeting. All animals will go through a vet check in to determine whether or not the animal is reasonably healthy enough to survive the entire week of fair. All animals will stay at fairgrounds till release time on Saturday.
 - ii. Any animal that has health issues or becomes a threat may be released by a committee member at any time.
 - iii. All 4-H Horse and Pony animals participating in 4-H activities, must be sound, humanely treated and healthy and exhibit a Body Condition Score between 4.0 and 7.0.
- c. **Stall Decorations and Meet MyHorse:**
 - i. Stall Decorations and Meet My Horse contest must be ready for judging by Tuesday evening at approximately 6:00 p.m.
- d. **Schooling or training:** Only active 4-H horse and pony members are allowed to ride and/or school any 4-H animal during fair.
 - i. Parents will be allowed to lunge animals for exercising purposes only.

- ii. Only LaPorte County 4-H Horse and Pony members are allowed to ride animals at the fair.
 - iii. Any member riding an animal must wear long pants and closed toe leather boots. Any member working an animal on the ground should wear closed toe leather boots.
- e. **Pony Measurement:**
 - i. Any animal that is reasonably close to the 56" height will need to be measured when it is checked in at fair. The measurement taken during check in will be the official number used to determine size during that show. Exceptions will be made if the owner/member can provide a certified card.
- f. **Stalls:**
 - i. Stalls and surrounding area will need to be kept neat and orderly.
 - ii. Stall grading will be done at 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. daily. If no attempt to maintain a clean stall or area is made, the animal may be removed from premises.
- g. **Class Timeliness:**
 - i. If tack change is necessary, it is the members responsibility to advise show officials as soon as possible.
 - ii. Once the gate is open for a class, anyone showing has 2 minutes to report.
- h. **General:**
 - i. Disrespect:
 - 4-H Member: When attending, participating or acting on behalf of the 4-H program, all persons are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with accepted standards of behavior, show respect for others' rights and refrain from any conduct which may be injurious to the 4-H program. Inhumane treatment of animals, impolite behavior, poor sportsmanship, or disruptive actions (as deemed by the show management and/or Extension personnel) will result in disqualification and/or removal from the grounds with a loss of premiums and awards. If necessary, a dismissal from the 4-H program.
 - Any other individual that exhibits blatant disrespect towards a judge or show official will be removed from the premises immediately.
 - ii. Classes with too many or too few entries may be adjusted as necessary by the show officials, horse and pony committee, or show judge.
 - iii. Absolutely no exhibitors are allowed to stay in the barns overnight.

5. Extra LaPorte County Horse and Pony Activities

- a. All club volunteer leaders must meet with the committee prior to the beginning of the season to share goals and schedule. All 4-H leaders must be approved annually by the 4-H Extension Office.
 - i. **Horseless Horse**
 - Horseless horse meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. before the regular monthly meeting
 - Program designed for 1st and 2nd year members that are not horse owners but want to learn about the equine discipline.
 - Horseless horse participants will be paired with a regular member and learn about the industry. Members will show in one class at the fair.
 - ii. **Drill team**
 - Members work closely together to create pattern type performances.
 - Drill team members practice regularly for competitions and parades.
 - iii. **Horse and Pony Judging Club**
 - Judging team will study and learn to judge halter and performance classes across multiple breeds.
 - Generally competitions are held in winter/early spring
 - This is a separate Club from the Horse & Pony Club.
 - iv. **Ambassador**
 - There are two ambassadors chosen each year to represent the Horse and Pony Program.
 - Each Ambassador is required to attend special events to showcase the horse and pony program throughout the year as well as complete a community service project.
 - v. **Horse Camp**
 - Horse Camp is a weekend event designed for 1st and 2nd year members to attend and learn how to be more accomplished with their horsemanship skills. This event is normally held in May or June.
 - vi. **Horse and Pony Education Poster**
 - A way for members to learn more about individual topics and educate the public on equine species.
Ownership/lease of a horse is not required. The following suggestions are ideas for horse posters, but can be anything educating the public about any aspect of horses and ponies. 4-H members need not be limited to just these mentioned topics.

- Level 1 - Grades 3-5: Poster topics could include horse care, horse breeds, barn management, how a horse communicates, horse disciplines, tack/use or equipment, etc
- Level 2 - grades 6-8: Poster topics could include responsible horse ownership, uses of horses, disease/parasite prevention, careers with horses, showmanship, hippology, etc.
- Level 3 - grades 9-12: Poster topics could include learning life skills with the horse project, your horse and the law, nutrition, animal health, animal welfare, horse judging, proper seat, equitation, etc.

6. Facility and Usage

- a. **4-H members:** The Horse and Pony facility (excluding the office) is only available during a 4-H scheduled event by an approved volunteer.
- b. 4-H Members/family will need to abide by the following:
 - i. Park in an approved area
 - ii. Clean up after yourself and your animal. Dispose of any waste in the appropriate area.

7. Governing Body

a. 4-H Officers

- i. Officers will be voted on by active members annually.
- ii. All officers will be required to attend meetings.
- iii. All officers will be responsible for managing the meetings as outlined by their job descriptions and helping with club sponsored activities.

b. Horse and Pony Committee

- i. The Horse and Pony Committee is the governing organization that is directly in charge and responsible for managing all duties related to the Horse and Pony 4-H membership. The committee will follow all State guidelines as outlined by Purdue University Extension.
 - Any issues that arise about the management of any 4-H event or the horse and pony facility should be brought to the attention of the Horse and Pony Committee.
 - Issues must be brought up by current members or their legal guardian/parents.
 - Issues may be sent in writing or brought during regular committee meetings.
 - Committee selection - Contact the Extension Office to complete an application.

8. Notice:

- a. In case of extenuating circumstances, please contact a committee member or the Extension Office as soon as possible. The earlier we know the more likely we will be to solve the issue.**
- b. The Horse and Pony Committee has the unilateral authority to clarify or modify any rules as necessary in accordance with the Horse and Pony Committee Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).**

9. Contact Information

For questions regarding the LaPorte County 4-H Program, feel free to contact the LaPorte County Extension office at 219-324-9407.

Facebook: LaPorte County 4-H Horse and Pony Club

Email: lp4hhorse@gmail.com

Website: www.lp4hhorse.com