



## **LaPorte County 4-H Horse & Pony Club Newsletter**

### **JANUARY 2026**

Hello E-Z Riders!

Our next club meeting will be on Tuesday, January 20th. Horseless horse will meet at 6:00, Horse & Pony at 7:00PM at the LaPorte County Fairgrounds Small Projects building.

#### **4-H Enrollment:**

Please make sure you are enrolled for the 2025 year. The enrollment **deadline is January 15, 2026** for high point and also to continue to receive communication from the extension office.

Please visit <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in> to enroll.

#### **Elder-Tree Event:**

A huge thank you to Rita Beaty for organizing this event. It was a success! Thank you to everyone that participated and to those that came to the nursing home. We sang carols up and down the hallways, passed out the presents to residents, and visited with some of the residents.

#### **Club Officers:**

At our January meeting we will be electing club officers. Below is a list of the positions we need to fill and the responsibilities. Please begin thinking about nominating someone you think would fill these positions well for your club. For a little interactive fun and to see if you read the newsletter, please wear your favorite hat to the meeting for a little

#### **Ambassadors Barn Dance:**

Please mark your calendars for MARCH 7th!! Your 2026 ambassadors are going to be putting on a barn dance fundraiser for the Horse & Pony club and the LaPorte Animal shelter. The flyer is attached. If you are interested in donating to the door prizes please let your ambassadors, Julia Rudecki & Brooklyn Gogel, or senior leader, Danielle Ekovich, know.

**Guest educational speaker:**

At each meeting we will be inviting a guest speaker. For the January meeting we will have Dr. Madisyn Walters from Full Range and Remedy Chiropractic. She provides chiropractic care to humans as well as animals of all kinds.

**Horse Camp:**

Horse camp is for 1st and 2nd year EZ Riders. Dates are May 1-3 and will be held at the fairgrounds horse and pony arena. More information on sign ups to come.

**Drill team:**

The drill team call out meeting will take place following the February meeting. Those interested in joining the drill team please stay after that meeting for more information from Coach Jaime Ciperas.

**Curriculum changes:**

Grades 3-5: Book 1

Grades 6-8: Book 2

Grades 9-12: Book 3

We will have what chapters to do at the meeting. Older grades...if you already have book 4, please don't worry about getting a new book. We will just have you do 2 chapters in your current one.

**Communication:**

Newsletters will be sent out via email from the extension office the Friday before each meeting. Please read for important information. We also have a Facebook page: LaPorte County 4-H Horse and Pony Club. As well as the Remind app. Please text @ezrid to 81010 to join. Here is the link to our website that is through the extension website. <https://extension.purdue.edu/county/laporte/4-h/horse-and-pony.html>

**Tack Sale:**

The annual tack sale flyer is attached. Dates will be March 21 & 22.

## **CLUB OFFICER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

### **PRESIDENT (1-int/sr member)**

- \*Work with club officers
- \*Work on meeting agenda with club officers and club leader
- \*Lead the club meetings
- \*Provide opportunities for club members to express opinions and participate in meetings
- \*Be courteous and fair to all.
- \*Be a model club member.
- \*Notify club leader and vice president in advance if unable to attend the meeting or activity

### **VICE PRESIDENT (1-int/sr member)**

- \*Serve as chair to plan club activities and events
- \*Survey members to learn their interests and ideas for club programs
- \*Work on meeting agenda with club officers and club leader
- \*Arrive early for meetings to prepare
- \*Know the duties of the president so you can conduct a meeting in the president's absence

### **SECRETARY (1)**

- \*Take complete and accurate notes during the meeting
- \*Record any motions made during the meeting.
- \*Be prepared to read the motion as stated.
- \*Prepare minutes of the last meeting
- \*Record names of club officers.
- \*Help club officers and club leader to develop meeting agenda
- \*Arrive early to prepare for meeting
- \*Let the club president and club leader know in advance if unable to attend the meeting. \*Provide a copy of meeting minutes in your absence to present at the meeting.
- \*Prepare any club correspondence and share any club correspondence

### **TREASURER (1)**

- \*Maintain accurate records of club funds
- \*Work with club committee treasurer
- \*Prepare treasurer's report to share at club meetings
- \*Help club officers and club leader to develop meeting agenda

### **RECREATION LEADERS (2-3)**

- \*Plan a recreation activity for each meeting
- \*Be enthusiastic and encourage others to have fun
- \*Plan activities that everyone can do
- \*Get everyone involved
- \*Stop the activity before the group gets bored
- \*Participate in planning club meetings and activities

### **HEALTH/SAFETY LEADERS (1)**

- \*Participate in planning club meetings and activities
- \*Provide some type of health/safety information at club meeting. This can be guest speaker, demonstration, activity, etc
- \*Arrive early to help prepare for meeting

### **SONG LEADERS (2-3)**

- \*Lead the club in singing or get others to lead
- \*Work with club officers and club leaders and songs to be used
- \*Know the 4-H Song and teach it to other members

### **LaPorte County 4-H Horse & Pony - 2026 Schedule**

The club meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm CST.

Horseless Horse meetings will begin at 6:00pm.

January 15, 2026	4-H Enrollment Deadline for high point & communication
January 20, 2026	Horse & Pony Meeting - Small Projects Bldg
February 17, 2026	Horse & Pony Meeting - Small Projects Bldg
March 17, 2026	Horse & Pony Meeting - Small Projects Bldg
April 21, 2026	Horse & Pony Meeting - Small Projects Bldg
May TBA, 2026	Animal Enrollment Deadline
May 19, 2025	Horse & Pony Meeting - Horse & Pony Barns * Work day before meeting
June 1, 2025	Vaccination Deadline
June 2026	Fair Entry Deadline
June 16, 2024	Horse & Pony meeting - Horse & Pony Barns <b>*Final date to turn in High Point qualification sheet</b> <b>*Project Book due</b> *Work Day before meeting
July 11 - July 18, 2026	Fair Week

There will be more work days scheduled, along with a few scheduled Saturdays. More information will come as the dates get closer.

This is a tentative schedule. Dates and times are subject to change. Please follow us on FaceBook, the Remind App or email for Club updates.

Should you have any questions, please contact us by email at [lp4hhorse@gmail.com](mailto:lp4hhorse@gmail.com) or the Extension Office at 219-324-9407.

#### LaPorte County 4-H Horse & Pony Leaders

Superintendent: Libby Wilson

President/Asst. Superintendent: Scott Mrozinski

Vice President: Jaime Ciperias

Secretary: Dawn Nicholson

Treasurer: Alisha Baughman

Co-treasurer: Libby Wilson

Sr. Leader: Danielle Ekovich

Co-Sr. Leader: Jeff Hay

Chris Smith, Jen Schweizer, John Langford, and Dustin Erwin

Youth member: Ophelia Baughman and Lily Mrozinski