

Horse and Pony

Description:

The 4-H Horse and Pony Project provides youth a fun and 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.

State Fair Entry

Exhibitor Check list:

- Horses must be ID in V2.4online by May 15.
- Register for ALL classes in Fair Entry by June 8th, 2026

Exhibit Guidelines:

- 1) The 4-H member is encouraged to complete the Horse and Pony activity sheet according to their grade level OR member must attend and participate in 3 outdoor workshops with their horse/pony (these may include participation in Allen County Horse and Pony Shows). Completed Activity sheets or workshop participation is due by the Thursday before Fair in the Horse & Pony Office at the Fairgrounds.
- 2) Judges and leaders reserve the right to excuse a horse or rider from any 4-H function.
- 3) Members should enroll online by May 15. All fees must be paid in full by May 15th to be eligible for awards or scholarships. Those who have not paid will not be eligible to show at County Fair.
- 4) All Allen County 4-H Horse and Pony Club meetings must be open to all persons connected with 4-H in Allen County.
- 5) The official Indiana State 4-H Horse and Pony Rule Book shall be used at the 4-H horse shows. **Exception:** The Allen County 4-H Horse and Pony Leaders may change or adopt rules for their local show and these rules shall take precedent over any other rules.
- 6) Horse(s) and pony(ies) must be vaccinated prior to attending any outdoor meetings. For those members who give their own vaccinations a receipt and proof of purchase slip needs to be attached to the State Form along with the signature of the vet who administered the rabies vaccine. Horse(s) and pony(ies) may not participate in any activities prior to proof of vaccination.
- 7) Each exhibitor is allowed to exhibit a maximum of 3 project animals provided at least one of the 3 is 38" and under. Examples: 2 animals over 38" and 1 animal under 38" OR animals 38" and under OR 1 animal over 38" and 2 animal 38" & under.
- 8) The project animal(s) selected must be identified online by May 15 of the current year and may not be substituted after that date, without 4-H leader approval. If a substitute horse has been approved by the leaders, the substitute horse will be ineligible for any championship on any level (i.e.: Grand and Reserve, High Point, Versatility, Showmanship and Team Tournament, etc.). A substitute horse will not be approved if a member already has a second horse project over 38".
- 9) Any animal to be used must be owned or leased by the member using the animal or in partnership with the member's father, mother, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, grandparent or guardian. The animal or rider may not show twice in the same class. **All leased animals must have a current signed lease on file at the Allen County Extension Office by May 15 of the current year.**

Horse and Pony

- 10) Allen County 4-H members may co-lease a project animal, but project animal may not be shown twice in the same class. This is for County Fair ONLY. Both members are encouraged to complete in either a halter class or showmanship class and complete an *individual activity sheet per their grade level*.
- 11) NO stallions are eligible to show except during calendar year foaled.
- 12) All outdoor meetings will be open to all sizes of equine at the same meeting; members are to be qualified by approved Horse and Pony Leaders.
- 13) Proper horse equipment must be used and proper attire worn by the member at all times while handling their animal at 4-H events. Reference Criteria for 4-H Events and Activities – Indiana 4-H Youth Program Policies and Procedures – General Terms and Conditions.
- 14) Only 4-H Horse and Pony members may ride, lunge, or drive THEIR 4-H Project animal(s) at 4-H events.
- 15) Allow Mini 4-H members to participate and show a live horse/pony at County Fair in compliance with State 4-H mini regulations.
- 16) 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 to see that this specified headgear is properly fitted with the approved harness fastened in place whenever mounted. This policy applies to all county, area and state 4-H horse and pony events, shows and activities
- 17) A deposit will be required prior to stalling of the *animal(s) at the Allen County Fair*. Deposit will be refunded in full at the conclusion of the *fair* provided that the stall is left clean and undamaged.
- 18) Any suggestions for improvements will be appreciated and should be given in writing to the club leader. Suggestions will be brought up at leader meetings; however, any changes in the by-laws will have to be agreed on and voted upon by the leaders.
- 19) All leaders must have all Purdue Volunteer required courses complete in the system by January 15 to be considered a Horse and Pony Leader.
- 20) Anyone not able to meet any rule above will be given due process to have their special circumstances reviewed by the Adult Leaders and, if necessary, the Allen County 4-H Clubs, Inc. Board.
- 21) All ponies 8 years and under and all miniature horses 5 years and under are required to be measured one (1) time between March 1 and June 15. A height certification card must be on file and verified by two Allen County 4-H Horse and Pony Adult Volunteers. This measurement will be done once per season. Ponies are 56” and under. Miniature Horses are 38” and under. All ponies over the age of 8 years old and miniature horses over the age of 5 years old with an Allen County height certification on file do not need to be remeasured. Any exhibitor participating in any of the miniature horse classes will be required to comply with the rulebook set forth by the American Miniature Horse Association.
- 22) Horse and pony leaders, with the approval of the fair board and a veterinarian, are able to dismiss a horse or pony from the fairgrounds if it is not fit by breed standard and is showing signs of being severely overweight or underweight.
- 23) In order to be in the running for awards provided by the Horse & Pony Clubs the following requirements must be met by the conclusion of fair week in order to be eligible for All Around High Point or High Point Discipline Awards:
 - Cover two shifts in food booth or find someone to work their shift during fair week.
 - Volunteer 5 hours at one extra H&P event (i.e. clean up day, open show)
 - And raise \$100 in sponsorship funds or 5 additional volunteer hours at a H&P event/fair