



CLAY COUNTY 4-H HORSE AND PONY

**Updated for 2026*

4-H Horse & Pony Leader: Jesse Johnson (jesse.johnson@duke-energy.com)

OBJECTIVES:

The exhibition of animals, and 4-H as a whole, is intended to be a learning experience for members. The objectives of the Horse and Pony Club are to provide a means for 4-H members to:

- a) Develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship and other desirable traits.
- b) Be better prepared for citizenship responsibilities through working in groups and supporting horse projects and activities.
- c) Promote a greater love for animals and humane treatment toward them.
- d) Experience the pride of working with a horse or pony and being responsible for its management and welfare.
- e) Develop an appreciation for horseback riding as a healthy and wholesome form of recreation.
- f) Enhance their horsemanship skills and knowledge as well as understanding the business of breeding, raising and training horses and ponies.
- g) Increase their knowledge of basic safety precautions in order to prevent injury to themselves, their horse and others.
- h) It is the expectation of the Clay County 4-H Council Board of Directors that any assistance provided be the purpose of teaching a member correct care and NOT be an action undertaken by an individual solely in an effort to help place the animal higher by improving showing characteristics.
- i) These rules apply to Clay County and not to the Indiana State Fair. All State Fair rules supersede these attached rules.
- j) Please also refer to the County Horse & Pony Handbook and State Handbook for specific rules & patterns.

ENROLLMENT:

- a) The 4-H member must be enrolled in the Horse and Pony project by **May 15, 2026**.
- b) Animals must be under the 4-H member's ownership or lease by **May 15, 2026**. No animal may be substituted or traded.
- c) Each member must complete the Indiana 4-H Horse & Pony 4HOnline Animal Enrollment showing a picture of their animal's colorings and markings by **May 15, 2026**.
- d) Any animal exhibited must be shown and owned by the contestant, or owned in partnership with the contestant's father, mother, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, grandparent or legal guardian. Leased horses may be shown the entire year by the contestant, father, mother, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, grandparent, legal guardian or lessor.
- e) Each member shall assume the daily responsibility for his/her animal and tack. The level of responsibility assumed shall be determined by the exhibitor's age and ability.
- f) No stallions are eligible to show and are not allowed on the grounds.
- g) No foals are eligible to show and are not allowed on the grounds.

GROOMING:

Clay County 4-H encourages members and their immediate families to be the primary groomers of their animals. However, exhibitors may use outside groomers for show day assistance if needed. If you plan to have grooming help at the State Fair, please review their updated rule book to ensure all requirements are met. Contact the Extension Office with any questions.

HEALTH:

- a) The following applies to horses coming from Indiana for exhibition in Indiana:
 1. All 4-H Horse and Pony exhibitors must supply a completed [2026 Certificate of Completion of Indiana 4-H Requirements for Exhibition of 4-H Horse and Pony](#) (Form 4-H-1031-W).
 2. A health certificate of veterinary inspection is not required.
 3. An EIA (Coggins) test is not required.
- b) No horse may be exhibited showing any symptoms of any communicable disease.
- c) In addition to a licensed veterinarian, an animal may be dismissed by the current Horse and Pony leaders.
- d) All animals must be sound, humanely treated and healthy. A licensed veterinarian may remove any questionable animals. Animals are subject to inspection by a licensed veterinarian.

Continued on the next page...



- e) For more information on equine health requirements call the Indiana State BOAH at (877) 747-3038 extension 322.
- f) Horses coming from out of state for exhibition in Indiana must meet the following requirements:
 - Each horse must test negative for Coggins within 12 months of the date of exhibition.
 - Each horse must be accompanied by an official health certificate of veterinary inspection that indicates the results of the Coggins test.
- g) For all health issues not specifically covered by the rules, refer to the Indiana 4-H Horse and Pony Handbook.

STALL REQUIREMENTS:

- a) All exhibitors shall keep their animal(s) at the fair until the scheduled release time, unless barn space is limited. This is at the discretion of the adult leader(s).
- b) All 4-H'ers are expected to help with set-up and clean-up.
- c) An animal must occupy your assigned stall throughout the fair until the official release date and time.
- d) There will be a pen/stall fee of no more than \$5 per pen/stall due at the beginning of the fair. Please see your leader for further communication on this closer to fair.

SHOW:

- a) All 4-H Livestock will be shown by current Clay County 4-H members only during the fair. Entry in fair classes must be made no later than **July 1, 2026** in fair entry (<https://faireentry.com/>). **Absolutely no more classes may be added after July 1.** Classes can be scratched after entering, please let leaders know before the start of the show.
- b) Age/Class levels are based on what you are as of **January 1, 2026**
 - Junior (Grades 3-5)
 - Intermediate (Grades 6-8)
 - Senior (Grades 9-12)
- c) Grade and registered animals will be shown in the same class.
- d) The exhibit classes will correspond with the State Fair classes, and additional classes can be added. Not all classes offered at State Fair will be offered at the county level and not all classes offered at the County level will be offered that the State Level
- e) Only one animal per exhibitor may be shown in each class unless resulting champions dictate otherwise.
- f) All members must wear proper attire, **including approved headgear when required.** Refer to Official Handbook.
- g) Contesting horses must enter and exit the arena at a controlled walk.
- h) All animals must be shown by the club member with no assistance from another person other than another club member, family member, or person intervening for the immediate safety and well-being of the exhibitor and the animals.
- i) If in the opinion of the judge and/or adult leader(s), the club members cannot safely exhibit the animal, they will be credited for completing the project when the record book is submitted.
- j) For all issues not specifically covered by these rules, refer to the Indiana 4-H Horse & Pony Handbook.
- k) Mini 4-H'ers will show after the Western Showmanship is complete on Sunday, **July 19.** **The Mini 4-H Show will include members that are enrolled in the Clay Co. Mini 4-H program and are currently in the 2nd grade.** Mini 4-H members must be entered in the horse project by **May 18, 2026** to allot time for pairing with an older 4-H member & their animal.

SHOW AWARDS

English	Western
Champion Huntseat Equitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Junior ● Intermediate ● Senior 	Champion 56" & Under <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mare ● Gelding
Champion English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mare ● Gelding 	Champion Over 56" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mare ● Gelding
Champion of Show	Champion of Show
High Point English Performance Horse	High Point Western Performance Horse



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior • Intermediate • Senior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior • Intermediate • Senior
<p>English Showmanship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior • Intermediate • Senior 	<p>Western Showmanship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior • Intermediate • Senior
<p>Saddle Seat Equitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior • Intermediate • Senior 	<p>Western Horsemanship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior • Intermediate • Senior
	<p>High Point Gaming Over 56"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior • Intermediate • Senior
	<p>High Point Gaming 56" & Under</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior • Intermediate • Senior

REFERENCES:

[Purdue Extension Horse Project](#)
[Indiana State Fair Book – Horse & Pony](#)

IMPORTANT HORSE & PONY DATES:

May 15, 2026	Deadline to enroll horses online— Your enrollment will not be complete if your animals are not enrolled online. Exhibitors who fail to register their animals online before the May 15th deadline will not be enrolled and therefore will not exhibit at the county or state fair.
May 18, 2026	Mini 4-Her's must be signed up to participate in the Mini 4-H horse show.
TBD	Horse vaccination clinic – check with the leader for further information.
July 1, 2026	Fair Entry due
TBD	Deadline to register horses online for the State Fair.
July 18 - 24, 2026	Clay County Fair
July 17, 2026	Horse check-in at the Clay County Fair
July 18, 2026	Horse check-in at the Clay County Fair
July 18, 2026	Contesting show at the Clay County Fair
July 19, 2026	Western Show at the Clay County Fair
July 19, 2026	Mini 4-H Horse show
July 20, 2026	English Show at the Clay County Fair
July 23, 2026 (9:00 PM)	Horses released
August 7 - 23, 2026	Indiana State Fair

