



## Horse & Pony

### Description:

The 4-H Horse & Pony program provides youth with educational information and experiences about different Horse & Pony species.

### Rules & Regulations

Failure to meet the expectations outlined below will result in ineligibility to show, or participate in the livestock auction, and forfeit any winnings. All animals must be under the care and ownership of the 4-H members no later than May 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Decatur County Expectations

Animal Livestock Record Sheets are to be completed and returned at check-in. The project manual must be included with your exhibit. All 4-H horses, ponies, or mules must have been enrolled online by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Those not enrolled cannot be shown, no exceptions.

### Possession/Ownership

4-H animals exhibited after May 15<sup>th</sup> by anyone other than the participating 4-H member, sibling or the owner of the animal will not be eligible to show at the county level. The term sibling is defined as any youth member who shares the same 4-H family profile information.

### State Fair Entries

An animal does not need to be shown locally in order to be shown at the state fair. If you do not show at the county level, the animal must still be registered by May 15<sup>th</sup> in 4-H Online.

### Exhibit Guidelines

**General Horse & Pony Rules:** The Decatur County 4-H Horse & Pony Show will be governed by the rules in the current Indiana 4-H Horse and Pony Handbook. Participating 4-H members are allowed to show no more than three (3) horses, ponies and/or mules total at the county fair (mare and foal count as one). Participating 4-H members may enroll the same animal as another participating 4-H member; however, only one 4-H member may show the horse during the 4-H Show Season. Exception: siblings are allowed to sign up and show the same horse as stated in the 4-H State Handbook.

A horse, pony and/or mule may only be substituted due to injury, illness, or death and the participating 4-H member has no other horse signed up. This must be vet-signed, verified and approved by the 4-H Extension Educator and the Horse & Pony Project Leader(s) before the show begins. A

substituted horse must be a registered 4-H horse and vaccinations completed; this animal will not be eligible as a State Fair entry.

Additional questions and situations will be handled by the species Project Leader(s), Youth Extension Educator, and 4-H Council President. Any questions, complaints, and/or suggestions for next year's show can be expressed to the Project Leader(s) or Youth Extension Educator. The Project Leader(s) is/are "running the show" and will be your best source of information. The intent is to put on the best show possible within the rules established and mandated by the 4-H Council, the Indiana State 4-H Organization, and insurance provider.

**Photo Requirements:** All horses must be photographed in which all markings on the horse are visible. A front head shot, all four legs, and any other pictures to show all marking will be required. The pictures must be accurately listed in the 4-H Online system.

**Project Requirements:** Youth must complete the suggested activities listed in the member guide, select a horse or pony, complete horsemanship tasks, give demonstrations, and complete records. The 4-H member should hand-carry the current year's Certificate of Completion of Indiana 4-H Requirements for Exhibition of 4-H Horse and Pony to all 4-H Horse and Pony events. Failure to meet guidelines on this form, an incomplete form, or outdated vaccinations will result in ineligibility from Indiana 4-H Horse and Pony Events.

**Required Vaccinations:** Eastern and Western equine Encephalomyelitis, Rhinopneumonitis/EHV type 1 and 4, Equine Influenza, Tetanus, and Rabies.

If home vaccination is completed for the required vaccinations, the receipt of purchase and the label from the vial(s) must be attached to this form. Your veterinarian is the best way to ensure horses are vaccinated for appropriate disease risks and make certain the vaccines are handled and administered properly. Improperly handled vaccines can become ineffective or even increase the risk of side effects. Indiana law requires rabies immunization be administered by a licensed and accredited veterinarian.

**Registration Requirements:** All participating 4-H members will be expected to sign up for classes in FairEntry. It is encouraged to sign up for all classes you may want to participate in. Youth will not be able to add classes the day of the show. Participating 4-H members may scratch any classes the day of the show. If there is a height question, it will be checked by the project leader and another club leader present for verification of height above or below 56 inches.

**Parking/Stall Interference:** You may park in the lot north of the barn and along the creek. Please drive slowly and carefully through this area as there is a lot of foot and equine traffic. Horses may be shown from the trailer but may not stay overnight if not in a stall. If you arrive on the morning of the show day, be sure to allow time to prepare yourself and the horse. Horses are not required to stay all week; however, horses that do stay must be stalled.

Some cattle will be tied out to trailers by the creek in the evenings. These animals are led out in the evening and taken back to the Livestock Pavilion in the morning. Usually, only horses stalled on the North side of the barn will see them. If your horse may be afraid of cattle, you will want to stall them or remove them from that area during these times.

**Equipment & Attires Requirements:** It is expected to wear proper attire for your events whether they are Western, English or Speed events. Make certain that your equipment is legal, particularly bits. Different disciplines and/or events require or allow different equipment. A class will not be held for you to make your changes. Numbers should be displayed, unobstructed, on either yourself or on both sides of your saddle blanket.

As of September 2022, all Indiana 4-H Horse & Pony members are required to wear a properly fitted ASTM or SEI standard F1163 (or above) certified helmet, and boots, whenever mounted or driving, at a 4-H Horse & Pony event, show, or activity. The 4-H member is responsible for seeing that this specified headgear is properly fitted with approved harness fastened in place whenever mounted. Original tags must be present in program year and apply to all county, area, and state 4-H Horse & Pony events, shows, and activities. with your Project Leader(s) and the State Handbook for more information.

**Adult Assistance:** An adult is not to be lunging a horse for the participating 4-H member by themselves. No adults are allowed to ride, school, or drive a participating 4-H members horse from the start of the show through the end of the show on the fairgrounds. Doing so could result in the participating 4-H members not being allowed to show that animal for the remainder of the show and/or forfeit any previously earned awards. An adult may ride with a participating 4-H member when driving (cart or buggy) even when showing.

**Etiquette Expectations:** Please observe show ring etiquette particularly in rail classes. Give yourself and other riders plenty of space. Don't crowd, run up on, or let your horses show aggression towards other animals. If you are afraid to lope, don't enter a loping/cantering class. If your horse cannot lope around the arena without wanting to race the other horses, then you should enter the class either. Remember, the judge can ask a participant to come to the center of the arena (dismissing you) if they feel that others or the rider is in danger. Sportsmanship is a must, any participant demonstrating unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.

**Self and Horse Care:** Take care of yourself and your horse during the show. Hydrate yourself before and during the competition. Offer water to your horse often and make sure they are urinating (remember, some equines are shy and need to have a "special place" to relieve themselves). Food is fuel for both humans and horses, both of you will perform and behave better with something in your stomach.

**Stalling Regulations:** All participating 4-H members that are involved in the horse and pony project that participated in the fundraising for awards for the 4-H exhibition show, are eligible for a stall at the 4-H exhibition (limit: one (1) stall per member). Stalls will be distributed evenly based upon number of participating 4-H members. The Project Leader(s) will be in charge of assigning the stalls. Participating 4-H members not affiliated with the horse club should contact the Project Leaders or a club leader to make them aware of interest.

Participating 4-H members with stalls at the county fair shall do their best to keep their animals comfortable. Fresh water should always be available. Fans are recommended and bedding should be adequate for absorption and cushion. The participating 4-H member must supply their own bedding, no straw. Stalls should be cleaned often and the area in front should be kept clean and orderly. Soiled bedding should be deposited only in the manure spreader. All equines must be in their stall by 8:00pm,

except if the horse is colicky or sick. Stalls should be stripped and the immediate area by your stall cleaned before the horse is taken home.

**Exercise Requirements – Stalled Horses:** Housed horses will be exercised a minimum of thirty (30) minutes each day between the hours of 6:00am and 8:00pm. An adult should be present whenever a participating 4-H member is lunging, hand walking, and/or riding their horse. Anyone 4-H age or younger, on a horse, must be wearing an approved helmet and boots. No exception. Adults are also strongly encouraged to wear an approved helmet. Horses are not to be exercised north of the gravel driveway that goes by the horse barn or west of the horse barn itself. Failure to follow stalling and exercise rules may result in the participating 4-H members being asked to leave the grounds for the remainder of this year's exhibition or not being allowed to stall a horse at next year's exhibition.

**Arena Expectations:** Riding is limited to the arena and make-up arena, no exceptions. Horses may not be turned out in the arena or make-up arena. It is required that an adult be present at the arena when a participating 4-H member is doing either groundwork or riding their animal in the arena or in the make-up arena. Participating 4-H members are to be respectful of others riding in the arena. At no time is there to be running or racing of your animals.

At certain times during the week, the arena may be used for clinics, lessons, fun shows, and other activities. Please do not interfere with instructions, but feel free to take part in the activities even if you had not known about or planned on participating in the event.

Tents set up during the show should be ten (10) feet away from the arena fence. At no time should any items be tied to the fence. The tents should in place before the start of the show or during breaks for the safety of the exhibitors.

### *Fraud and Deception*

Fraud and/or deception will not be allowed relative to 4-H exhibits. Fraud and/or deception being defined to include, but not limited to, the following terms:

Tampering (altering) and/or misrepresentation relative to an animal's breeding, age, ownership, and/or method of preparation or completion.

Artificial enhancements of adding, removing and/or remedying physical filling under the skin, use of artificial heels, methods to give the appearance of hair in locations where it is not grown naturally and false swatches.

Unethical fitting of animal exhibits considered as consisting of administration of any substance (this includes, but is not limited to, carbonated beverages, alcoholic beverages, forced consumption of water, etc.) or performance of any surgical procedure, altering the animal's conformation and/or rendering its tissue unfit at the time of exhibition. Exceptions include hoof trimming, dehorning, removal of hair, manipulation of normally attached hair, and treatments or surgical procedures applied to relieve pain and suffering of sick or injured animal, providing such treatments do not render the animal's tissue unit for human consumption.

## *Determination of Fraud & Deception*

Species Project Leader(s), Extension Youth Educator & 4-H Council President will determine if fraud and deception have occurred. Any suspected animals may be required, upon conclusion of judging, to submit to examination or tests as prescribed by the 4-H Council. If the Project Leader(s) determines that fraud and deception have occurred, the result may be disqualification.

Penalty: upon determination that fraud and/or deception has occurred prior to, during, or after judging, any one or more of the following penalties may be imposed:

- The exhibit in question may be immediately disqualified
- Any or all premiums, trophies and awards won by the exhibitor in any or all Fair departments may be withdrawn and required to be refunded or returned to the species Project Leader(s).
- The 4-H Exhibitor may be barred from the competition at the Decatur County 4-H Exhibition shows in the project where the fraud or deception for up to three years.

## *Due Process*

The assessment of any or all penalties for fraud and/or deception, excepting immediate disqualification shall follow the below listed processes:

- The director in charge of the department will determine which penalties to impose.
- The exhibitor will be notified in writing of the penalties imposed.
- Within 15 days of receiving written notification, the exhibitor may appeal the decision in writing to the Decatur County 4-H Council.

A date will be set for the hearing by the 4-H Council and the exhibitor will be notified in writing.