



Horse & Pony

Description:

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

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 horse, ponies, or mules must have been enrolled online by May 15th. Those not enrolled cannot be shown, no exceptions.

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 15th 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 seven or more of 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 in FairEntry. It is encouraged to sign up for as many classes as 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.

Parking/Stall Interference: You may park in the lot north of the barn, along the creek, or south of the arena. 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 are arriving in 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 this 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.

During the shows on Saturday and Sunday traffic will be minimized in and out of the track and pit area. Friday night, however, is a track event and there will be increased traffic to the pit area. Trying to show out of a parked trailer east of the arena is not recommended on Friday night. Sometimes, it is necessary for a fair volunteer/participant to move tractors, trailers, and other equipment from the track and pit area. Remember, we are only one part of the fair/4-H exhibition. Be courteous and respectful and take whatever precautions you need to with your horse.

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 to see that this is specified headgear is properly fitted with approved harness fastened in place whenever mounted. Original tags must be present in program year and applies 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 member 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 stomachs.

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 in the Tree City Mavericks Club, the Equine Enthusiasts Club, and those who are not affiliated with either club. Each group will be told in advance, how many stalls will be available to them. The Project Leader(s) will be in charge of assigning the stalls. Participating 4-H members not affiliated with one of the local horse clubs should contact the Project Leader(s) to let them stall interest.

In order to claim your stall, the participating 4-H member must have submitted a completed entry form to the Project Leader(s) by July 1st. If the twenty (20) stalls are not filled, the Project Leader(s) will work with the club leaders to see that these stalls are filled. Only one (1) horse may occupy each stall, with the exception of a mare and foal (this is not recommended because of the high stress of the fair environment). Please do not stall horses that are known to be unruly, bite, kick stall walls, or

become extremely nervous in these conditions. Overly agitated horses may be sent home early if the Project Leader(s) deem that the horse is a danger to others or itself.

Stalled Horses must arrive at the fairgrounds one day prior to show day and remain until 12:00pm on the final day. Horses may arrive at the fairgrounds as early as 8:00am and may remain in stalls until 8:00pm on the final day. With approval from the Project Leader(s), an animal may be released early due to illness, injury, or family emergency. Participating 4-H members taking their horse home early may not be eligible for a stall the following year.

Participating 4-H members with stalls at the county fair shall do their best to keep their animals comfortable. Fresh water should be available at all times. 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 equine 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 member 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 ground work 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, the Horsemastership contest, and other activities. Please do not interfere with instruction, 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 be in place before the start of the show or during breaks for the safety of the exhibitors.