

## 2025 Tipton County 4-H Horse and Pony Safety Sheet

Members and Parents,

In an effort to make our 4-H activities as safe as possible for your child, the Tipton County 4-H Council in conjunction with the 4-H Council's Horse & Pony Standing Committee has drawn up the following rules. We feel these rules will help your child to learn in a safe environment. Please go over these rules together with your child and sign and return the page 3 to the 4-H Office where they will be kept on file. With your help we can have a safe year of fun and learning. If you have any questions, just contact the 4-H Office.

### TIPTON COUNTY 4-H HORSE AND PONY SAFETY RULES

1. These safety rules will be enforced at all 4-H Horse and Pony activities. If a child or horse is exhibiting disruptive or dangerous behavior, they may be asked to leave the grounds.
2. Workshops and/or clinics are for 4-H members and their horses only. Extra people (parents) are welcome, but extra horses are a danger to your child. During the 4-H activities, both arenas will be reserved for the use of 4-Hers only.
3. All those present at a workshop and/or clinic must participate. If a child does not bring a horse, they can still listen and learn.
4. While attending a workshop and/or clinic, members' horses will either be tied at the trailer, walking in hand or participating in the arena.
5. Riding on the grounds outside of the show arena, make-up arena, or any other designated riding area during county 4-H activities or events is prohibited, and will not be tolerated. There is, however, **ONE** exception to this rule and it applies only during the 4-H Fair. Upon completion of a class in the main arena, a rider may exit through the south-west gate of the show arena and ride directly into the practice arena via its north-west gate.
6. Proper equipment must be used at all times. This means appropriate leg and footwear, helmets, and safe and properly fitted tack as described in the 4-H 661 handbook.
7. Members and their horses should be ready to participate at the time the 4-H activity begins.
8. 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. Original tags must be present in all approved helmets. This policy will apply to all county, area, and state 4-H horse and pony events, shows, and activities.
9. A 4-H member must be properly mounted on their horse during all 4-H activities. More specifically, this means *seated, proper use of tack, and hands on reins*. Any member acting in a manner deemed unsafe may be asked to leave the grounds.
10. Members will follow the dress code for the class entered according to the Indiana 4-H Horse and Pony Handbook (4-H 661 available at the Purdue Extension-Tipton County office).
11. All other rules and guidelines not covered in the County Rules will be followed in accordance with the Indiana 4-H Horse and Pony Handbook available through the Extension Office.
12. In order to participate in the Tipton County 4-H Horse and Pony program with your horse or pony, this form **MUST** be signed and returned to the 4-H Office by July 1, of the current year, before animals can be ridden during 4-H activities, and in all subsequent years.
13. The Tipton County 4-H Council will handle any reports of infractions of the above rules that are presented to them by the Safety Chairman as recommended by the 4-H Council's Horse and Pony Standing Committee.
14. One lead rope, per horse, must be tied to each gate/stall in the horse barn, *and* a halter either on the animal or readily available for each horse in the stall.
15. The State 4-H Youth Department at Purdue University has agreed to allow Mini/Exploring 4-H members in grades K-2, to participate in some animal projects subject to certain conditions. These conditions are specified below:

\*\*\*Each county may determine its own programs, classes, and participation requirements subject to the following safety guidelines:

\*\*\*“Mini/Exploring 4-H members, in grades K through 2, will be allowed to show, work with, or care for animal projects after their parent or legal guardian has signed a liability release. Mini/Exploring 4-H members may independently show, work with, or care for animals that weight 300 pounds or less. Mini/Exploring 4-H members may only show, work with, or care for animals over 300 pounds when they are assisted by a parent, legal guardian, or another adult designated in writing by parent or legal guardian.” (*Assisted means with the adult in control at all times, via a lead strap.*)

\*\*\*Mini/Exploring 4-H members exhibiting horses MUST wear ASTM or SEI standard F1163 (or above) certified helmets whenever mounted. The 4-H member is responsible to see that this specified headgear is properly fitted with the approved harness in place and fastened whenever a rider is mounted.

\*\*\*If the guidelines stated in this policy are not followed for a particular event or activity, then such event or activity shall not be considered to be a 4-H event or activity and shall not be under the auspices of Extension 4-H educators or covered by Purdue University.

\*\*\*Mini/Exploring 4-H members MUST follow the rules and guidelines, as do regular 4-H members. They MUST complete the bottom portion of this form and it MUST be signed and returned to the 4-H Office or given to the Horse and Pony Superintendent no later than the day of the Mini show.

16. **SAFETY IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERYONE INVOLVED** (including, 4-H’ers, parents, and anyone involved with the 4-H program in anyway). Any infractions to these rules should be reported to the 4-H Council’s Horse & Pony Standing Committee.

(Detach, sign, date and return this portion to the Extension Office before riding in any activity on grounds)  
(Mini/Explorer 4-H members may turn it into the Horse and Pony Superintendent the day of the Mini Show.)

4-H Member Signature\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name\_\_\_\_\_