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Note: Some classes may not be offered at the State 4-H Show.

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**Reviewers:**
State 4-H Horse and Pony Advisory Committee

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*Note: Text in italics indicates a change or addition.*
4-H
Program
Policies
MISSION OF 4-H
The mission of today’s 4-H is to help youth and volunteers in their development through experiential educational programs. It is accomplished through direct involvement of youth, adults, and the community.

OBJECTIVES
The objectives of the Indiana 4-H Horse and Pony program are:
1. To develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship and other desirable character traits.
2. To develop an appreciation of horse well-being and proper horsemanship.
3. To experience the pride and the responsibilities of owning a horse or pony.
4. To learn good horsemanship and an understanding of proper management for breeding, raising and training horses and ponies.
5. To provide an opportunity to observe and learn through participation and observation.
6. To accept constructive criticisms and learn new ways of training and caring for animals.
7. To provide an opportunity for educational experiences through county, area and state functions.

GOAL
The Indiana 4-H Horse and Pony Handbook is written as a training manual for 4-H’ers and 4-H leaders throughout the State of Indiana. In a horse program as large as Indiana’s, consistency is very important for smooth operation of the program. Due to the variations in size and organization of the horse clubs, counties need the right to adapt or add to these rules to meet local needs. Therefore, the County 4-H Horse and Pony Advisory Committee and/or the local 4-H educator have the final say in using or changing these rules for local shows. However, when the 4-H’er comes to the Area and State 4-H Horse and Pony Shows, these rules, as set forth in this manual, will be strictly followed.

Rules governing exhibitor safety (headgear and boots) and animal well-being are mandatory at all 4-H horse and pony events and activities.

PROGRAM POLICIES
1. First and foremost, all exhibitors, parents and spectators will conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen. They will be expected to conduct themselves in such a manner as to set a good example for other 4-H exhibitors and other spectators at the show. Inhumane treatment of animals, impolite behavior, poor sportsmanship, or disruptive actions, (as deemed by the show management) will result in disqualification and/or removal from the grounds.
2. It is strongly suggested that these policies and rules be used as a guide in county programs.
3. Safety rules governing headgear and boots, and rules addressing animal well-being, are mandatory at all 4-H horse and pony events. Judges have the responsibility to refuse to conduct classes in which these safety rules are not enforced.
4. The State 4-H Horse and Pony Advisory Committee shall be the representative of Indiana’s 4-H Horse and Pony leaders and members. (Refer to the Advisory Committee Constitution and By-laws for details of the committee structure.)
5. Any situation not covered by these policies and rules shall be handled by the proper representative of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, or their designee.

Age of animal and grade of 4-H member
1. Any boy or girl in Indiana who is enrolled in 4-H may participate in 4-H classes and activities, providing he/she meets the eligibility rules for participation.
2. Youth may become 4-H members when they enter the third grade and continue thru grade 12. These individuals may continue their 4-H membership for a maximum of ten (10) years. For summer shows, a child’s grade in school is the grade they were in on January 1st of the current year. Children advance one grade/year of 4-H involvement, regardless of academic standing.

3. 4-H Junior and Senior categories:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Juniors</th>
<th>3rd – 7th grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>8th grade and above</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. The age of an animal will be computed on the basis of a calendar year starting on January 1 of the year foaled. For example, an animal foaled any time in 1998 would be considered one year old (a yearling) on January 1, 1999, two years old on January 1, 2000, etc. Animals five years of age and younger will be considered junior animals.

5. It is recommended that horses not be ridden in 4-H events before July 1 of their two year old year.

Ownership
1. Exhibitor must be enrolled during the current year in the 4-H project exhibited. Check with county Extension office for county enrollment deadline.

2. Animal must be under the 4-H member’s ownership or lease by May 15 and this ownership must be maintained continuously until the completion of the State Fair. Records must be started by May 15. Absolutely no animal may be substituted or traded for the original animal after May 15.

3. 4-H animals exhibited after the animal enrollment deadline (April 1st for steers and May 15th for all other animals), under a different name than the person listed on the Indiana 4-H animal enrollment form shall not be eligible to be shown in the 4-H show at the Indiana State Fair. This means that if the animal is exhibited at any show by anyone other than a person listed on the Indiana 4-H enrollment form, the animal will not be eligible to be shown in the 4-H show at the Indiana State Fair. This term/condition does not apply to siblings, who may show each other’s animals at any show during the year without jeopardizing State Fair eligibility, regardless of whether or not the sibling is a 4-H member. 4-H animals are expected to be in the possession and regular care of the 4-H member who owns/leases them (unless other arrangements have been agreed upon by the county 4-H council) from the animal enrollment deadline until the conclusion of the county and/or state fair. NOTE: This term/condition does not apply to the horse & pony program where a parent MAY also show the horse or pony after it has been enrolled in the 4-H program.

4. Leasing is considered the equivalent of ownership of a 4-H project animal. The 4-H’er should be regularly involved in the care of the horse, regardless of where stabled, and the 4-H’er should have exclusive show use of the animal during the 4-H lease period.

Approved Protective Attire:
Headgear: All 4-H members are required to wear a properly fitted ASTM or SEI standard F1163 (or above) certified equestrian 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 be in effect beginning with the 2003 program year and applies to all county, area, and state 4-H horse and pony events, shows, and activities.

Vests: Protective vests are recommended in all mounted classes.
Show Guidelines

1. First and foremost, all exhibitors, parents and spectators will conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen. They are expected to conduct themselves in such a manner as to set a good example for other 4-H exhibitors and other spectators at the show. Inhumane treatment of animals, impolite behavior, poor sportsmanship, or disruptive actions, (as deemed by the show management) will result in disqualification and/or removal from the grounds.

2. All animals must be sound, humanely treated and healthy. (Refer to Extension Publications AS-552, AS-554, and ID-269 for guidelines). Animals are subject to inspection by a licensed veterinarian and questionable animals may be removed.

3. Animals under 40” in height shall not be ridden at 4-H events. It is recommended that the weight of the rider does not exceed 30% of the weight of the horse.

4. Only 4-H horse and pony members may ride or drive 4-H animals on the 4-H show grounds.

5. All 4-H riders in the 4-H show must wear the proper footwear of western, hunt or jodhpur boots. Drivers must wear boots or closed shoes.

6. Stallions are not eligible to show, except during the calendar year they are foaled.

7. Weanlings, yearlings and two-year-old animals must be shown at the height of the dam, unless their height exceeds that of the dam. If the dam’s height is unknown, the animal will show in the over 56 inches class. Animals may be measured by the show committee.

8. All participants in the ring while a class is being judged shall be 4-H members. (An exception is made for the Pleasure Driving class and for assisted equitation classes.) Adults serving in this capacity must be approved 4-H volunteers, or family members.

9. In all riding classes, animals must be ridden astride (one leg on each side) of the horse, or with an approved side saddle.

10. Ribbons previously won will not be worn in any classes.

11. The use of illegal or prohibited equipment or attire in any class will result in disqualification.

12. 4-H exhibitors must have their assigned exhibitor number in a visible position(s) from both sides during the show. Exhibitors with hair covering and/or obstructing the view of their numbers, may be disqualified.

13. Any exhibitor (or their parents, teachers, etc.) who breaks a governing rule may be barred from showing and/or forfeit any prizes or winnings.

14. The official show steward will be charged with the authority to interpret 4-H rules.

15. Ring courtesy dictates that exhibitors maintain a safe distance between animals in halter and performance classes.

16. The judge must excuse any animal from the ring he/she deems unsafe, bleeding from the mouth or in any way being treated inhumanely.

17. Decision of the judge will be final. Questions concerning rules are to be presented to the 4-H show manager or show steward. All judging will be done from within the ring except in contesting, over fences, color guard, and dressage classes.

18. 4-H members with special needs are encouraged to show horses and show management shall allow assistance and rule modifications when appropriate.

19. Use of electronic devices in the showring is prohibited unless approved by show management.

Non-protestable Decisions:

1. The soundness of an animal as determined by the official veterinarian.

2. The soundness of an animal as determined by the judge.

3. A judge’s decision that represents his/her individual preference or opinion.

Measurement Procedures

1. All animals must be shown at the height indicated on the enrollment form (i.e. shod or unshod). The show committee may measure at random, one time only, any animal of questionable height. The Indiana
State Fair 4-H show considers animals 56 inches and under to be ponies, and animals over 56 inches to be horses. When pony classes are split by pony height, the following designations will be used: 50 inches and under; over 50 inches and including 56 inches.

**STATE SHOW ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

1. The 4-H Horse and Pony exhibitor, in grades 4-12, may participate in only one of the three state shows, i.e. English, Senior Division Western, or Junior Division Western. The 4-H'er may only show one animal (except mare and foal) at the state show. An animal may be shown at the state show by only one 4-H member. (Contesting and Color Guard are considered part of all three shows).

2. It is recommended the same combination of animal and exhibitor entered for the State Show have shown in the same class, if offered, or the most similar class, if the same class is not offered, in either their county or area show.

3. 4-H horses and ponies exhibited must meet current Indiana State Animal Health Exhibit Requirements and/or regulations deemed necessary by the show committee.

4. Color Guard animals must be enrolled by the 4-H members as project animals. Color Guard entries must be made on both the standard State Fair entry form, and in the county’s name using separate 4-H Horse and Pony Color Guard forms and listing complete names of team members and positions for their Color Guard in the space provided. Entry forms are available at the County Extension Office.

5. Refer to current State Fair 4-H/FFA Handbook/Premium List for all rules regarding Indiana State Fair participation and competition.

6. State Fair entry forms are available on the 4-H website: www.four-h.purdue.edu Entries should be sent to the State Fair entry office by certified mail or completed online; keep a copy for your records. Submission of a State Fair entry form binds the exhibitor to all terms and conditions in the official State Fair 4-H/FFA Handbook/Premium List.

7. Each 4-H member may enter and show only one animal at the State Show. A mare and foal is considered as one animal.

8. Official Indiana 4-H Horse and Pony Enrollment Forms must be completed and on file at the respective county Extension office by May 15 to show at the State Show. Counties and areas may exercise the option and require this also for participation in respective county and area events. Counties may choose to set an earlier deadline date.

9. The 4-H exhibitor is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the 4-H Horse and Pony Enrollment Form and the State Fair Entry Form. If the forms are incorrect, or incomplete the 4-H member may be disqualified.

10. Additional hair may be added to a horse’s tail.

11. ALL 4-H ANIMAL EXHIBITS MUST BE FREE OF DRUG, STEROIDS AND CHEMICAL OR FOREIGN SUBSTANCE RESIDUE. The Indiana State Fair Board and/or State 4-H Youth Office reserves the right to test any animal exhibit for any foreign substance, to include, but not limited to, drugs, steroids or chemicals. The submission of any 4-H entry into the State Fair by an exhibitor expressly grants the Indiana State Fair Board, its departmental directors, and/or State 4-H Youth Office the right to conduct such tests. Refusing such tests will result in disqualification and forfeiture of all entry fees and awards. Test samples collected from any 4-H horse, pony, mule, donkey, or draft horse shall be free of any foreign substance, including any steroids or any drug or chemical affecting the central nervous system (for example, stimulants, depressants or pain killers).

12. Grievance
   (See grievance procedures in current State Fair 4-H/FFA premium book.)