

By-laws of the 4-H Horse Developmental Committee of Gratiot County

- Article 1: The organization shall be called the 4-H Gratiot County Horse Developmental Committee, hereinafter referred to as the "Horse Developmental Committee".
- Article 2: **Purpose:** The purpose of the Horse Developmental Committee shall be to advise and support the 4-H staff member and the fair board in planning and conducting county horse programs and Gratiot County Fair for Youth (hereinafter referred to as GCFY) horse program.
- Article 3: **Membership:**
- A. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, or veteran status.
 - B. Membership shall consist of one adult Gold level volunteer and one youth representative from each 4-H club or FFA chapter that have horse exhibitors enrolled in 4-H. Each representative may have an alternate representative for voting when unable to attend. Each club/chapter has two votes, one Gold Level Volunteer adult and one youth. Attendance by interested parents and friends who are devoted to the horse program are encouraged and said persons are eligible to serve on committees whenever and wherever needed adults must become 4-H Gold level volunteers.
 - C. Clubs and FFA chapters are to elect representatives and get names and addresses to the horse developmental secretary through the Extension office by January 1st each year with terms of office to take effect January 1st.
 - D. It shall be the responsibility of the elected representatives to contact the alternate to assure representation of the clubs/chapters at Horse Developmental Committee meetings.
 - E. It is advisable for both the representative and the alternate to attend meetings whenever possible to keep informed of Horse Developmental issues/discussions.
 - F. Ex-officio (non-voting and non-office holding) members shall be the 4-H staff member and FFA chapter leaders.
- Article 4: **Officers:** The officers of the Horse Developmental Committee shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- Article 5: **Election of Officers**
- A. Election of officers shall be held annually at the September meeting, with terms of office to begin at the close of the election meeting. (All officers must be Gold Level Volunteers.
 - B. The term of office shall be for one year or until successors are elected.
- Article 6: **Duties of officers**
- A. The President shall preside at all meetings.
 - B. The Vice-President shall preside at meetings in the absence of the President.

- C. The Secretary shall keep a written record of all regular and special meetings. Minutes shall be typed and available within two weeks after the meeting was held and electronically distributed. The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping the roll call of attendees.
- D. (1) The Treasurer shall receive and account for all moneys of the organization. They will ensure monthly bank statements are received at the Extension office. They will ensure the financial summary report is completed and submitted to the Extension office annually by staff selected deadline.
(2)
(3) Any expenditure over fifty dollars in a single transaction (\$50) must be voted on by the Horse Developmental Committee prior to the expenditure.
(4) Books must be reviewed by two persons selected by the Executive board annually.

Article 7:

Meetings:

- A. Regular meetings shall be held quarterly determined at the beginning of the program year.
- B. Special meetings shall be held as deemed necessary and called by the fair superintendent, and/or the president through the 4-H staff.
- C. Members shall be notified of special meetings at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.
- D. The bylaws may be amended at any regular or special meeting by a 2/3 of the voting members present if the changes were sent out one month before to the full membership.
- E. A quorum will consist of at least 2 Executive board members and two clubs.

Article 8:

Rules: The latest edition of the Michigan 4-H horse and pony project show rules and regulations shall be accepted as general rules and standards of judging for all county horse activities unless modified by the Horse Developmental Committee.

Article 9:

Standing Committee:

- A. The Advisory Committee:
 - (1) The Advisory Committee, created by the Horse Developmental Committee is a standing committee headed by the Horse Developmental President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, horse fair superintendent.
 - (2) Only during the week of the fair does the Advisory Committee (with the approval of the fair board President) have full authority to make any necessary decisions on behalf of the Horse Developmental Committee and only on matters pertaining to the fair.

Article 10:

Governance: The By-Laws shall be available to every member of the Horse Developmental Committee, and to all other interested persons.

Article 11:

Horse Program Participants:

- A. All horse program participants (4-H, FFA, and independent) must have made a declaration of a horse or pony project by the GCFFY May deadline in order to show that horse at the fair or be eligible to represent Gratiot County 4-H as a state show delegate .
- B. Exhibitor can only show 4-H at one county fair In the equine division.
- C. Follow rules posted in GCFFY fair book when participating in fair and follow all 4-H program rules for 4-H events.

Article 12:

State 4-H Horse Show Delegates:

- A. Any 4-H youth age 13-19 who is interested in being considered for State Show must follow the Gratiot County 4-H state horse show qualification process that can be found at the MSU Extension office- Gratiot County.
- B. Any exhibitor that was chosen to represent Gratiot County at the State 4-H Horse show, and does not attend the show, will be responsible to reimburse all costs to attend the State 4-H horse show.

Article 13:

Restrictions

- A. Upon dissolution of this organization, all remaining funds and property will be turned over to the Gratiot County MSU Extension Office for use in the equine project area.
- B. Any decision passed in conflict with the policies or practices of the county 4-H program or MSU Extension may be vetoed by the MSUE 4-H Staff.

Revised:

March 28, 1977; May 21, 1979; March 23, 1981; February 28, 1983; January 26, 1987; January 31, 1994; April 15, 1994,; April 24, 1994; August 28 1995; March 31 1997; August 23, 1999; September 27, 1999; November 27 2000; January 28, 2002; January 16, 2012, Nov.4 2019, May 12, 2023