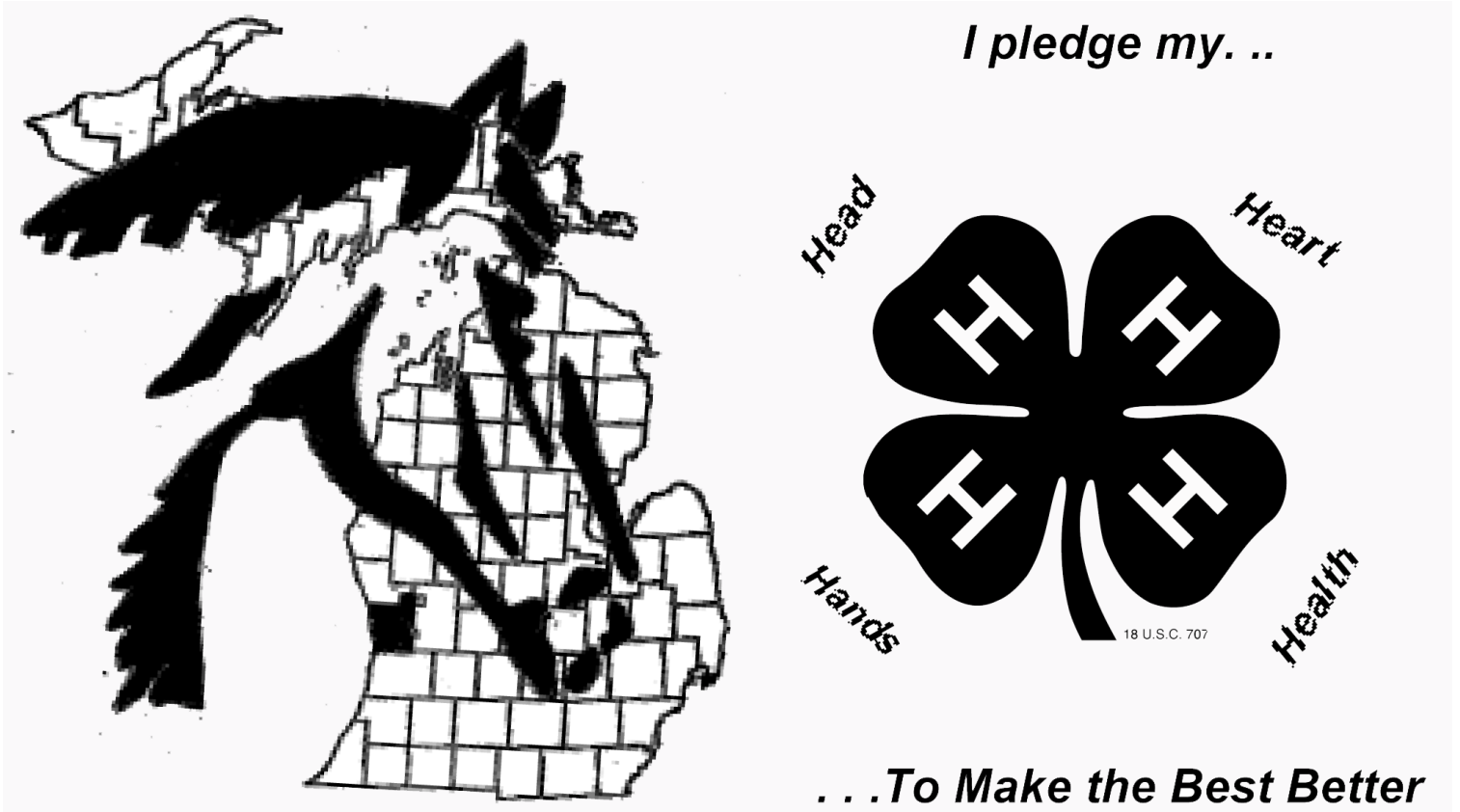


Ottawa County Michigan Horse Program



These are the official Ottawa County 4-H Horse Project Guidelines, developed by the Ottawa 4-H Horse Committee and approved by 4-H Horse Leaders and the Ottawa County 4-H Council.

For help in interpreting these guidelines, please consult the Horse Committee.

Visit our Ottawa County 4-H Horse Website
for additional resources:

ottawacountyhorse4-h.yolasite.com

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OTTAWA COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROJECT GUIDELINES



OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Horse Program is to help 4-H boys and girls achieve the following:

1. Development of leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship and other desirable traits of character.
2. Experience the pride and responsibility of owning a horse or pony and receive training in its care, feeding, management and related costs.
3. Appreciation of horseback riding as a healthy and wholesome form of recreation.
4. Skill in horsemanship and patience and understanding in handling horses and ponies.
5. Knowledge of safety precautions to prevent injuries to themselves, others and their mounts.
6. Greater love for animals and a humane treatment towards them.
7. Preparation for citizenship responsibilities by working together in groups and supporting community horse projects and activities.



REQUIREMENTS FOR 4-H HORSE AND PONY PROJECTS

1. Enrollment in an organized 4-H horse project club in Ottawa County is required by May 1.
2. All members must turn nine years old by January 1st to exhibit a project animal. The last year in the project is the calendar year they turn 20 years old.
3. Any club member may complete a project year in 4-H by:
 - A. Exhibiting a horse or pony at an Ottawa County fair.
 - B. Exhibiting a notebook at an Ottawa County fair.
 - C. Participating in a county recognized project within part of the state Horse Jamboree system.
If a year is completed by any of the above, the member will advance to the next year in 4-H.
4. Attend the number of club meetings as required by your club.
5. Complete all necessary project records as required by the county extension 4-H office and /or local 4-H leader.
6. Horse identification cards must be turned in no later than May 1 to show project animal in current calendar year. (Once done, horse will remain registered until otherwise notified.)
7. One horse, one rider--one rider, one horse.
8. All cases of sickness, loss, injury, or a veterinarian's certificate verifying the animal's inability to participate for the rest of the fair season will be left to the discretion of the Horse Committee. Once a project animal has received a premium at a fair, no further change may be made. Consult your local leader and the county Horse Committee concerning permission to procure a new project animal after the May 1 deadline.
9. Have the responsibility of caring for a horse or pony under the supervision of a local 4-H Leader which shall consist of the following:
 - A. Sound feeding program.
 - B. Doing all of the grooming.
 - C. Having full care of the tack.
10. To participate in the State 4-H Horse Show, members must meet State requirements. Ottawa County 4-H members may participate in the State 4-H Horse Show an unlimited number of times.

11. State 4-H Horse Project Guidelines will be followed in all areas that are not covered by county 4-H Horse Guidelines.

12. Any changes after May 1st will result in the ineligibility to participate in the State 4-H Horse Show or Trophy Classes at Fair.



APPROVED COUNTY 4-H HORSE SHOW RULES

Horse and pony rules for show:

1. Each 4-H member may show in up to four classes at each fair. At least one showmanship class per fair is required in order to exhibit in any riding or performance class.
2. Member's age is the age they are on January 1st.
3. One horse, one rider.
4. All project animals must have an identification card on file with the horse committee by May 1 to show project animal in the current calendar year.
5. If there are over 22 members or if safety warrants it, class may be split. Junior horses will be given special consideration.
6. We reserve the right to combine classes if necessary.
7. Each participant must choose a division to show in at each fair and remain in that division for the entire show. (eg. If showing in Jr. Horse, the participant must remain in Jr. Horse classes all day.)
8. Any project animal that is ridden is ineligible for In Hand Trail Class.
9. Written guidelines for in-hand jumping can be obtained from the Horse Committee.
10. Any member participating in walk/trot only classes may not show in any other riding classes. Entries in this class may not have shown in regular age group at a previous fair during the current season and will not be eligible for state points or trophy class.
11. Member must receive an "A" award in their qualifying class to enter a state points or trophy class.
12. All cases of sickness, loss, injury, or a veterinarian's certificate verifying the animal's inability to participate for the rest of the fair season will be left to the discretion of the Horse Committee.
13. Consult the county 4-H Horse Committee concerning permission to procure a new project animal after the May 1 deadline.
14. In the case of a new horse, member will be entitled to show in all classes except trophy championship or state points.
15. Once a member has received a premium on an animal in the current year no changes will be made.
16. No stallions over weanling age allowed.
17. No person may treat a horse in an inhumane manner. A disqualification may result.
18. SEI approved helmets are required any time a rider is mounted Hunt Seat, Dressage, Gymkhana, or any style bareback.
19. Club members must have their horses under control at all times. Horses are to be ridden or schooled by exhibitors only and only in designated areas. Offenders may be disqualified.
20. Artificial training appliances are not to be used on the show grounds. This includes but is not limited to martingales, tie downs, draw reins etc except as specified in the Michigan 4-H Horse and Pony Project Show Rules and Regulations Book.

21. Any 4-H member transferring from any county into Ottawa County must be approved by the Ottawa County 4-H Agent and the Horse Committee. Approved transfers must show in Ottawa County one full year to be able to show at the State 4-H Horse Show or compete in the Trophy Championship Classes at each fair.

22. For clarification on specific class rules, see the Michigan 4-H Horse and Pony Rules and Regulations Book.

23. Please refer to State 4-H Horse and Pony Rules and Regulations for official guidelines for Gymkhana, including but not limited to appointments or horse and rider, and official patterns.

24. Any exception to the above is at the discretion of the Ottawa County 4-H Horse Committee.

DIVISIONS

Age Group – Members participating in their age group may show in their age appropriate showmanship class(es), horsemanship and/or equitation class(es), bareback, and trail class.

First Year – This division is for a members first year of competition. First year members may show in First Year showmanship, and may choose either their age group or the walk/trot division for riding.

Junior Horses and Ponies – Animals five years and under. May participate in Junior Horse Showmanship, Junior Horse Equitation, Junior Horse Trail (or Trail In Hand if not ridden).

Walk/Trot - Those members participating in walk/trot only classes may not show in any other riding classes. Entries in this class may not have shown in regular age group riding classes at a previous fair during the current season and will not be eligible for state points or trophy class.

Miniature Horse – Animals must be 38” or under. May participate in appropriate showmanship class(es), Trail In Hand and Mini Horse In Hand Jumping (see committee for in hand jumping rules).

SPECIALTY CLASSES

State Show Points Class - Class in which members accumulate points towards becoming a State 4-H Horse Show delegate. Member must be at least 13 years of age. Those competing to become a state show delegate must enter a minimum of one State Points Showmanship class to be eligible for consideration. Contact the Horse Committee for additional information on the State 4-H Horse Show.

Trophy Championship Class - This class is the championship class. Any exhibitor receiving an A ribbon in their preliminary class is eligible to compete, with the exception of those members participating in the walk/trot division. Members participating in the trophy class are eligible to win a maximum of two trophies per season, one in showmanship and one in horsemanship. Once a trophy has been won in either showmanship or horsemanship members may not compete in that trophy class again.



OPPORTUNITIES IN 4-H

EQUINE EDUCATIONAL EXPO (formerly Horse Jamboree)

Mid-April of each year, the State 4-H program sponsors a two-day event on the Michigan State University campus for all 4-H members of the Horse Project to take part. It is known as the 4-H Equine Educational Expo and includes the events below. Contact the Ottawa County 4-H Horse Committee for additional information.

- JUDGING
- HIPPOLOGY
- QUIZ BOWL
- PUBLIC SPEAKING AND DEMONSTRATIONS

STATE 4-H HORSE SHOW

Each year in August 4-H hundreds of members from around the state of Michigan gather at the Michigan State University Pavilion to compete in showmanship, western and english riding, dressage, horsemanship, gymkhana, jumping and other events. A separate show for Miniature Horses is also held annually.

Based on our enrollment from the previous year, M.S.U. determines how many members can be sent from our county.

State 4-H Horse Show Eligibility

- Members must be 13 - 19 years of age.
- Must receive an "A" award in showmanship or horsemanship/equitation class to be eligible to compete in the respective State Points class.
- Must compete in at least one State Points Showmanship Class
- Member must have been enrolled in the Ottawa Country 4-H Horse project for at least one year.
- A 4-H member transferring from another county into Ottawa County must be approved by the Ottawa County Agent and Horse Committee. Approved transfer must show in Ottawa County one full year to be able to show at the State 4-H Horse Show.

How State Show Points are Earned and Figured

A point scale is used based on the members class placing and the number of spots available to go to the state show. If there are 21 available spots then it will be a 21 point scale. For example, in the State Points Showmanship Class first place would receive 21 points, second place 20 points, third place 19 points, etc. The same point scale is used in both the showmanship and horsemanship State Show Points classes.

A member may earn points in both the showmanship and horsemanship State Show Points classes at the Leader's Show and at the Berlin Fair 4-H Horse Show.

For Gymkhana members, the State Show qualifying show is the Leader's Show. Gymkhana points may be earned in Gymkhana State Points Showmanship and the designated State Points gymkhana classes.

Ottawa County Horse 4-H Notebook Requirements

FIRST YEAR:

1. Identify several feeds: oats, corn, barley, grass, hay, legume hay, straw.
2. Learn to manger tie an animal. Know how to make a bowline knot.
3. Learn how to properly groom a horse.
4. Learn the parts of the bridle.
5. Learn ten rules for safety precautions pertaining to the project.
6. Learn how to properly feed hay and grain.
7. Learn how to bridle, saddle, mount and dismount properly.
8. Complete and turn in project report to a local leader.

SECOND YEAR:

1. Meet requirements for first project.
2. Know eight common unsoundness and blemishes.
3. Locate 20 parts of the horse.
4. Learn characteristics of breeds.
5. Participate in at least one horse show suggested by a local leader.
6. Know how to care for an overheated horse (cooling a horse).
7. Learn parts of the saddle, adjustment.
8. Learn proper care and use of equipment.
9. Learn how to care for feet.
10. Volunteer for one shift at one of the Ottawa County Horse Shows.
11. Complete and turn in project report to a local leader.

THIRD YEAR:

1. Meet requirements for second project.
2. Locate 35 parts of the horse.
3. Demonstrate horsemanship knowledge.
4. Knowledge of keeping a horse healthy.
5. Excellent stable inspection report at all times.
6. Thorough knowledge of safety precautions.
7. Learn color and markings.
8. Learn parts and proper care of the hoof.
9. Knowledge of feeding a foal.
10. Complete and turn in project report to a local leader.
11. Participate in at least one 4-H horse show.

FOURTH YEAR:

1. Meet requirements for third project
2. Knowledge of judging colts and horses.
3. Demonstration at meeting.
4. Participate in a judging event.
5. Knowledge of fitting and grooming.
6. Knowledge of horse show grooming.
7. Participate in at least one 4-H horse show.
8. Care of foal, knowledge of colt breaking and training.
9. Volunteer for one shift at one of the Ottawa County Horse Shows.
10. Complete and turn in project report to a local leader.

FIFTH YEAR:

1. Meet requirements for fourth project.
2. Care of mare and foal.
3. Knowledge of horse breeding.
4. Knowledge of fees and feeding foal, yearlings and mature horses.
5. Participate in at least one 4-H horse show.
6. Complete and turn in project report to a local leader.

SIXTH YEAR:

1. Meet requirements of fifth year.
2. Learn to plan and conduct a 4-H horse show.
3. Anatomy and physiology of the horse.
4. Become a Junior Leader.
5. Participate in a horse show, judging event and demonstration.
6. Volunteer for one shift at one of the Ottawa County Horse Shows.
7. Complete and turn in project report to a local leader.

SEVENTH THROUGH TENTH YEAR:

1. Volunteer for one shift at one of the Ottawa County Horse Shows.
2. Self-Determined Independent Study

FAIR CLASS LIST

Ring A Showmanship

- 8401 Junior Horses & Ponies, Members 16 - 19 any style
- 8402 Junior Horses & Ponies, Members 13 - 15 any style
- 8403 Horses & Ponies, Members 17 - 19 Hunt Seat
- 8404 Horses & Ponies, Members 15 -16 Hunt Seat
- 8405 Horses & Ponies, Members 13 - 14 Hunt Seat
- 8406 Horses & Ponies, Members 17 - 19 Western
- 8407 Horses & Ponies, Members 15 - 16 Western
- 8408 Horses & Ponies, Members 13-14 Western
- 8409 First Year Showmanship, Members 13 - 19 any style
- 8410 Horses & Ponies, Members 16 - 19 Saddle Seat
- 8411 Horses & Ponies, Members 13 - 15 Saddle Seat
- 8412 Trophy Championship Showmanship, Members 15 - 19
- 8413 State Show Points - Eligible Members 13 - 19 any style

Ring A Equitation

- 8420 Junior Horses & Ponies, Members 16 - 19 any style
- 8421 Junior Horses & Ponies, Members 13 - 15 any style
- 8422 Horses & Ponies, Members 17 - 19 Hunt Seat
- 8423 Horses & Ponies, Members 15 - 16 Hunt Seat
- 8424 Horses & Ponies, Members 13 - 14 Hunt Seat
- 8425 Horses & Ponies, Members 17 - 19 Western
- 8426 Horses & Ponies, Members 15 - 16 Western
- 8427 Horses & Ponies, Members 13 - 14 Western
- 8428 Horses Members, 13 - 19, any style, walk/trot only
- 8429 Ponies Members, 13 - 19, any style, walk/trot only
- 8430 Horse & Ponies, Members 16 - 19 Saddle Seat
- 8431 Horse & Ponies, Members 13 - 15 Saddle Seat
- 8432 Trophy Championship Horsemanship 15 - 19 years old
- 8433 State Show Points - Eligible Members 13 - 19
- 8434 Bareback Horsemanship, Members 16 - 19
- 8435 Bareback Horsemanship, Members 13 - 15
- 8436 Reining/Western Riding, Members 16 - 19
- 8437 Reining/Western Riding, Members 13 - 15
- 8438 Reining/Western Riding, Members 9 - 12

Ring B Showmanship

- 8451 Yearlings at Halter, Members any age, any style
- 8452 Horses & Ponies, Members 11 - 12 Hunt Seat
- 8453 Horses & Ponies, Members 9 - 10 Hunt Seat
- 8454 Junior Horses & Ponies, Members 9 - 12 any style
- 8455 Horses & Ponies, Members 11 - 12 Western
- 8456 Horses & Ponies, Members 9 - 10 Western
- 8457 First Year Showmanship, Members 9 - 12 any style
- 8458 Horse & Ponies, Members 9 - 12 Saddle Seat
- 8459 Trophy Championship Showmanship, Members 12 - 14
- 8460 Trophy Championship Showmanship, Members 9 - 11

Ring B Equitation

- 8469 Horses & Ponies, Members 11 - 12 Hunt Seat
- 8470 Horses & Ponies, Members 9 - 10 Hunt Seat
- 8471 Junior Horses & Ponies, Members 9 - 12 any style
- 8472 Horses & Ponies, 11 - 12 Western
- 8473 Horses & Ponies, 9 - 10 Western
- 8474 Horses, Members 9 - 12, any style, walk/trot only
- 8475 Ponies, Members 9 - 12, any style, walk/trot only
- 8476 Horse & Ponies, Members 9 - 12 Saddle Seat
- 8477 Trophy Championship Horsemanship, Members 12 - 14
- 8478 Trophy Championship Horsemanship. Members 9 - 11
- 8479 Bareback Horsemanship, Members 9 - 12
- 8480 Dressage - Training Level Test 1- Members 16 - 19
- 8481 Dressage -Training Level Test 1 - Members 13 - 15
- 8482 Dressage -Training Level Test 1- Members 9 - 12

Trail/Other

- 8483 In Hand Trail, Members 9 – 19
- 8484 Trail, Members 17 - 19
- 8485 Trail, Members 15 - 16
- 8486 Trail, Members 13 - 14
- 8487 Trail, Members 11 - 12
- 8488 Trail, Members 9 - 10
- 8489 Trail, Members Any Age, Walk/Trot and Junior Horse
- 8490 Mini Horse In-hand Jumping, Members 9-19