



HORSE PROJECT GUIDEBOOK



Species-Chair:

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IMPORTANT DATES		IMPORTANT INFO	
Registration	May 3 rd	Record Book	Required

General Requirements

- ◆ Participating youth must abide by all general rules and regulations listed in the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council's Member Guidebook. This includes, but is not limited to, Code of Conducts, registration deadlines, showmanship and market requirements, etc.
- ◆ To participate in a 4-H horse project, youth must attain the age of five (5) or older by January 1st of that calendar year.
 - Members that are 5-7 years of age will participate in the 4-H Cloverbud program and will have their own Cloverbud classes.
- ◆ Registration is due to the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council Auction Committee no later than the May council meeting.
 - Any changes thereafter must be approved by the Horse Species Chair.
 - To switch the project horse or class division (W/T – W/T/C), an appointment must be set up with the Horse Species Chair for an evaluation with the horse leading to approval or denial.
- ◆ Youth are required to complete a project record book depicting their 4-H experience for the year.

Fair Week Requirements

- ◆ In order to unload any horse out of the trailer, a copy of a negative Coggins test for the current year and proof of Rhino Flu vaccine must be presented to the Horse Species Chair or Superintendent
- ◆ Youth may bring up to two horses; one per category out of the following categories: horse, draft, mini & pony.
 - Mini & pony must be measured prior to fair to insure they will be entered in the right classes
- ◆ 4-H members are responsible for the care, feeding, and watering of their own animal throughout the week
 - Be sure to bring enough grain and hay to feed your horse for the week
 - Be sure to bring all necessary supplies including feed and water buckets and stall mats (if you choose to use them)
 - No feed, buckets, wheelbarrows, pitchforks, etc will be provided for you
 - Stalls must be cleaned by 8 AM and cleaned throughout the day

- Water should remain full and fresh at all times
- Hay bags are allowed
 - In order to leave hay bags up overnight, they must be a nylon slow feed bag. No nets will be approved to leave in stalls overnight.
- The Northwestern Michigan Fair cannot guarantee that the sawdust that is provided will not contain black walnut. If you are concerned, it is suggested that you bring your own sawdust/shavings

Rider & Show Requirements

- ◆ Required Footwear:
 - When riding, both in the show ring and when exercising your horse, participants must have a shoe/boot with a stepped heel
 - Members must wear closed-toe shoes or boots while on barn duty, cleaning stalls or handling horses
- ◆ Helmet Requirements:
 - ALL riders in Hunt Seat classes, Dressage, Saddle Seat, Gymkhana, English appointments or riding English in practice are required to wear an approved SEI helmet.
 - Riders 14 & Under MUST wear a helmet at all times while riding, no matter the discipline
 - This includes riding while in the practice ring and showing
 - Helmets are HIGHLY encouraged for all riders while mounted in any discipline
- ◆ Novice riders are first year showing and is a walk/trot class
 - Year is based on rider, NOT horse. Cloverbud years do not count
- ◆ Rookie classes are for riders who need additional years in walk/trot or who have switched horses and the horse needs to be in walk/trot
 - Rookies who earn Rookie Highpoint and Reserve do NOT qualify for a second year as a Rookie with the same horse, unless they have been evaluated by the species chair and assistant and an additional year is deemed necessary
- ◆ Novice, Rookie, and Walk Only riders may NOT canter during fair and must wear a helmet when mounted on their horse
- ◆ Walk only riders may be on a horse's lead (which is attached to a halter, halter should be under bridle), have a registered volunteer next to horse with no attachment, or be riding alone. Side-walkers are also allowed
- ◆ Cloverbud, Novice, or Rookie may use any legal bit that parent or leader feels is safe for the child regardless of the horses age.
 - Bit must be appropriate for discipline
- ◆ All classes will be judged using Michigan 4-H Project Show Rules and Regulations
- ◆ Showmanship, Trail, Equitation, and Horsemanship will run patterns
 - An order of go will be used in pattern classes if needed to keep the flow of the show

- ◆ Exhibitors may ride in ONE division (Walk Only, Miniature Horse/Small Equine, Novice, Rookie, Gymkhana, Ages 8-12, Ages 13-15, Ages 16-19) per horse/rider or handler combination for the entire show

Cloverbuds

- ◆ Cloverbuds ages 5 & 6 may be involved with a horse project but they must be directly assisted one-on-one by a registered volunteer who is on the ground holding the horse's lead to maximize safety
 - Lead line must be attached to a halter which should be under the bridle
- ◆ Cloverbuds age 7 may be involved with a horse project but they must be assisted by a registered volunteer who is in the ring with the participant at all times, for shows and exercise
 - Walk-trot experiences may be an appropriate activity for participants in this age group
- ◆ Cloverbuds may utilize exercise times throughout fair week if the registered volunteer, using their best judgment, deems it safe for the child to do so
 - Species chair or barn superintendent have the right to limit activities due to safety concerns at any time
- ◆ Cloverbud members MUST wear ASTM- or SEI- approved helmets for all 4-H horse experiences, including showmanship

Tips

- ◆ Participants will benefit from attending at least one horse show prior to the fair. Species chair and assistant can supply a list of horse shows if needed
- ◆ Horses should be up to date on vaccinations and deworming as recommended by their veterinarian. Rhino-flu vaccine is required. Strangles vaccine is HIGHLY encouraged. It is best to talk to a veterinarian for the best vaccine plan for the horse.
 - Be sure to have a vet receipt or purchase receipt
 - Vaccines must be given no later than 3 weeks prior to arriving at the fair