

## Welcome to the Polk County 4-H Horse & Pony Project

This is your Polk County 4-H & Youth Horse Project Handbook. Please take the time to read it very carefully. You will want to refer to it often, so please keep it in a safe place. If you have any questions contact your local club Horse Project leader or a Horse Project committee member.

The goals of the Polk County 4-H & Youth Horse Project are **Horsemanship** and **Sportsmanship**. They are defined as follows:

**Horsemanship:** The art of riding, training, care, and handling of the horse.

**Sportsmanship:** Conduct involving honest competition, courteous treatment of each other and graceful acceptance of the results. Any 4-H & Youth sponsored events are governed by the rules of the sportsmanship and conduct that have been adopted by the state. Persons not abiding by these standards are subject to dismissal from the 4-H & Youth horse or horseless horse project.

Members have the responsibility of acquainting themselves with the Wisconsin 4-H Horse Project Equestrian Guidelines, which are the official guidelines for the Polk County 4-H & Youth Horse Project events. You may visit the following website for all Wisconsin State 4-H Horse sponsored clinics, meeting schedules, director name and address, and all rules and regulations at:

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/wi4haganimalscience/horse/>

Link to WI State Horse Handbook - <http://fyi.uwex.edu/wi4haganimalscience/wi-4-h-horse-assn-handbook/>

Forms for most activities are printed in the *Clover Connection* or available on the Extension Office website: <https://polk.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/welcome-to-4-h/>

**4-H Horse Project enrollment options:** *(changes/additions can be made until April 15<sup>th</sup>)*

Horse is a national 4-H project. It features curriculum that will guide you through the project. You can order books thru your 4H club leader. For additional curriculum possibilities, explore the [National Directory of 4-H Materials](#) and do a key word search for Horses, Horseless Horse or Clothes Horse. For further description on each of the "horse curriculum" please go to: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/wi4hprojects/animal-sciences/horses/>

Exploring (3<sup>rd</sup> graders and 4<sup>th</sup> graders in their 1st year of 4H must use this project code AND can also select Horse 1 – in order to be included on all project communications)

Horse 1	Draft Horse
Horse 2	Horseless Horse 1
Horse 3	Horseless Horse 2
Horse 4	Horseless Horse 3
Horse 5	Youth Leader—Horse/Horseless Horse

### Definitions for Horseless Horse and Managerial:

**Horseless Horse:** A horseless horse project member is defined as a 4-H member who has no one-on-one access to a horse. They do not own their own horse. Their family does not own or lease a horse. (Cloverbuds may not be horseless project members.) - *WI State guidelines*

**Leased or Managerial:** Defined as a youth who exhibits a horse that no other 4-H Horse Project youth is using and that is owned by someone other than the exhibitor or a family member of the exhibitor. The youth is responsible to ensure the horse is taken care of properly. Contact your county UWEX agent for specific rules regarding these project areas. - *WI State guidelines*

Here is a listing of literature that may be ordered from the University of Wisconsin-Extension Office:

Horses & Horsemanship  
Horses Are Fun  
Draft Horse  
Giddy Up & Go  
Riding The Range  
Alfalfa/High Quality Hay For Horses  
Additional Clothes Horse Patterns  
Forages For Horses  
Stable Relationships

Horse Science  
4-H Clothing: Horse/Riding Attire  
Pleasure Riding  
Head, Heart & Hooves  
Jumping To New Heights  
Horse Conformation  
Internal Parasites of Horses  
Horse Safety

**PROJECT COMMUNICATIONS:** The *Clover Connection*, Polk County 4H Horse & Pony Project “closed group” Facebook page, and email are the primary mode of communication for the Horse Project. Email addresses can be entered & updated in the 4H online - <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in> It is the responsibility of the member and their parent/guardian to make sure they stay informed about the project, their obligations, responsibilities and opportunities. We are a large project with many events happening and developing at all times. So please keep your contact information in 4H online up-to-date.

**General rules for participating in the Polk County 4H Horse Project are as follows:**

- 1. SEI approved helmets** must be worn at all times while riding or driving at any 4-H & Youth Sponsored event. Member must also **wear appropriate boots** (Western or English, according to tack) while riding. Appropriate foot wear must be worn at all times while handling the horse. NO flip flops, open toed shoes or crocs are permitted.
- 2. A negative coggins test report will be required of all horses at any clinic/training Centers/or other event WITH your horse.** No horse will be allowed to participate at a clinic/show/etc. without a negative Coggins test. Coggins test results are valid for 12 consecutive months. Please write the member name & horses “nick name” (if any) at the top of each copy before you submit to project secretary. **Please note that WI State Law requires that you have original coggins test with you at ALL TIMES for any horse(s) you are transporting. It is also strongly recommended that you have extra copies of the form with you at all time.**
- 3. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT** - 1 Safety Clinic; 1 Groundwork type clinic with horse; 1 Major Event AND 2 Training Centers OR 1 Safety clinic; 1 Groundwork type clinic with horse AND 2 Major events (you may substitute 2 training centers for 1 Major) [IF you wish to compete in Jumping - those qualifications are SEPERATE]
  - **You must attend a Safety Clinic. (Exception –** Project members who have qualified to show at the Polk County Fair for 3 consecutive years, a safety clinic will not be mandatory. Age is NOT a factor, just consecutive years of qualification. Project members who DO NOT meet the exemption MUST attend a safety clinic OR must have a “On Horse Safety Checklist” completed for their declared horse(s) by a designated 4H Horse Project Adult Leader by JUNE 1<sup>st</sup> of the current 4H year.
  - **Participation Documentation –** Each member will be responsible to complete a “FAIR QUALIFICATION “log” & have the clinician/4H leader sign that you were in attendance. ONCE YOU MEET your minimum requirements you must turn it into the project secretary by JULY 17th. (NOTE -You must participate in the majority of an event for your attendance to qualify for Fair. The clinician hosting the event will determine if participation merits qualification. Attendance at events that consist of 2 sessions will only count if you attend both sessions.)

- **Advanced** – Any clinic or training center that is listed as “advanced” means that the youth has experience riding and is **comfortable and able to lope their horse on command and have control. For the Advanced Barrel and Pole clinic this would include a HIGH LOPE or FULL GALLOP.** If you show up for a clinic that you are not qualified for you may be asked to audit the class for credit or attend a different session. Please understand that this is for the safety of all of our youth riders. If you are unsure of your abilities, please consult an adult committee member that has seen you ride.

### **3A. \*\*Additional Requirement for Polk County 4H Horse Project - Hunter/Jumper Program:**

In order to participate in the jumping classes at Fair, the rider must satisfy **the Safety Clinic (if required)** and **Groundwork clinic required by the project** AND either of the following options with **Jumping clinics/Events:**

- 1 Major Jumping event/clinic and 2 regular jumping clinics
  - Majors at this time are expected to be a Jumping Clinic (TBA), and the Mock show. There may be other opportunities.
- 4 Jumping clinics
- Jumping trainer Sara Rank must sign off on each participant’s qualification form that they have met these requirements and approve their entry for fair (from a safety/skill perspective).

**4. Polk County Horse Project – Horse Declaration** -The project member must declare their 4H ‘project horse’ by MAY 15TH. **A maximum of 3 horses may be declared.** This is the horse(s) you may bring to events/clinics throughout the season. **You may only show up to 2 horses at the fair.** (Explorers may only show 1 horse their first year).

In the unfortunate event that a member will NOT be able use one of their declared horse's AND must change (e.g. due to illness, injury, safety issues):

- Contact an executive member of the Horse Project Committee (IE Chairman, Vice Chair, Secretary or Treasurer)
- If the horse is physically unable to perform at fair, you may be asked to provide a Veterinarian or Farrier slip confirming the reasoning.
- If there are safety concerns regarding the horse, the parent/guardian must contact the Project Committee team to discuss the concerns
- If a replacement horse has been arranged, please provide the following to the committee:
  - a. Coggins for the current year
  - b. Safety declaration from the horse owner/trainer
  - c. Estimated number of hours the project member has worked with the horse

The project committee leaders will discuss the proposal for the replacement horse and will approve/disapprove the proposal.

***Declaration & Coggins forms need to be sent in by MAY 15TH .***

**5. Recommendations for HORSELESS HORSE members** – The Polk County 4H Horse project is not able to provide horses for Horseless Horse members. (*There may be times a 4H member or friend of 4H may have a horse available for use and they may be introduced to a horseless horse member, however, it is the responsibility of BOTH parties to determine if a working/use arrangement can be achieved. If a HLH member does find a horse to lease/use, they may need to switch to a managerial member status.*) Please pick up a Horseless Horse Project Program Guide at the Kick-off Meeting, County Extension Office, or from the Extension Office website.

NON-Horse activities that **HORSELESS HORSE** members can participate in:

- Horse Education Team (Horse-bowl & hippology)
- VOLUNTEER Service – Older youth (or younger ones w/ parent) can help at 4H practice show, fair or project fundraisers like the food stand.
- Participate in Horse Judging clinic or class at Mock show
- Participate at Area Animal-science Days.
- Give a horse-related demonstration speech at your club meeting

## **EXHIBIT OPPORTUNITIES**

Following is a suggestion of projects that could be done by members to exhibit at the fair. (please check the fair-book for even more possibilities)

1. Poster depicting history of a breed
2. Horse safety poster
3. Scrapbook containing ten breeds with information about each
4. Poster on diseases and parasites of horses
5. Poster on careers in the horse world
6. Drawings of markings of horses
7. Poster on good horse grooming
8. Any other project related to horses

**6. Horse Project Education Team** - The 4-H Horse Education Team provides members in Grades 3-13 a fun opportunity to meet and learn about horses throughout the winter/spring months, and then compete in a friendly and educational environment at the annual State Horse Bowl/Hippology contest.

All Polk County 4H Horse Project members who are interested in learning more about these opportunities are invited to join. No horse required! Join us at a future meeting. Look for information on project facebook page or email.

Youth Leaders - We welcome you to join us to help with coaching, or lead an educational game or activity. This would be a fun way to complete a Youth Leader project!

Some of the literature recommended is listed here, but the list does not include all 4-H Horse Project Literature: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/wi4hprojects/animal-sciences/horses/>

Below is a link to the Wisconsin 4-H web site which provides more information about the State Horse Bowl, Hippology and Speeches & Demonstrations competitions: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/wi4haganimalscience/wi-4-h-horse-assn-handbook/> Choose the link for [Educational Events Leader Supplement](#)

**7. What is Horse Camp?** Horse Camp is a 4-day, 3-night camp held at the Polk County Fair Park in

St. Croix Falls, WI. All Polk County 4H Horse and Pony Project Members that are 3rd grade and older will be welcome to apply – applicants must be signed up for the 4H Horse Project in 4H-Online. In addition, those that plan to attend camp will need be able to fully care for their horse, including feeding, grooming, saddling and be able to ride their horse independently. Project members attend camp with their horses learning and gaining skills and confidence both in and out of the saddle. Each day Campers will attend sessions in the various riding disciplines and some fun educational opportunities. Horse Camp is a wonderful time for our project members to not only improve their knowledge but also build some great memories with other horse loving youth! Campers are guided through their week by Youth Leader Camp Counselors. **(2022-camp information will be sent out separately)**

**8. Polk County 4H Horse Project Youth Leadership:** All members ages 7<sup>th</sup> grade and above may participate. (You do not need to be a Horse Camp Counselor to participate.) The direction of the group is usually determined by the interest of the participants. Most youth leadership type opportunities will involve some sort of advanced learning activity and/or an opportunity for planning of events for the younger members. (Most planning may be done in conjunction with youth committee meetings.)

**9. Current 4H Adult volunteer enrollment** - It is important for all member parents/guardians who will plan to get involved/participate with your child at various 4H horse events to have a **current** 4H volunteer approval/certification! In order for you to be "current" YOU MUST re-enroll at your club level EACH 4H year as an adult member/volunteer.




These are some reasons you would to be a current 4H volunteer:

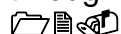
- transport a group of kids to any 4H related functions (IE any camps, clinics, leaders conference, horse bowl, etc)
- plan to stay overnight with 4H kids at a 4H scheduled event (IE horse camp, youth leader retreat, conference, etc)
- if you volunteer as a designated leader/chaperone/responsible adult for a group of 4H kids (this could be at a clinic, trail ride, open riding session, etc)

There is no additional fee for you to also enroll as an adult volunteer/leader for your 4H club. It is better to enroll and keep your 4H volunteer status current, then not to sign up, and find you need to have it! IF YOU HAVE NOT signed up as an adult volunteer/leader for your 4H club in the past and NOW wish to do so, you will also need to attend one of the 4H Volunteer training sessions offered through the extension office. If you have any questions about this please contact your 4H club leader.

**10. A Premise I.D. Number (Wisconsin Livestock Premises Registration) is required.** You can do this online at <http://www.wiid.org/>. [ IE **National Animal Identification System** -Information on how this important new livestock animal identification system is being implemented in Wisconsin. <http://fyi.uwex.edu/wi4hprojects/animal-sciences/horses/> Scroll down the page to find the following 2 items on the site:

- [Implementation of the National Animal Identification System in Wisconsin](#) (48 pages, 2 MB) by Bernie O'Rourke, UWEX Youth Livestock Specialist
- [Wisconsin Premise ID Registration system](#)

   **VOLUNTEER TIME** – The success of the Horse Project relies on the active participation of all members and their family's support. It cannot depend on the committee only to handle all duties & responsibilities that go along with the program. Opportunities for volunteer time will be communicated throughout the year!



Safety Clinic Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Groundwork clinic: \_\_\_\_\_

Major Events:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Training Centers:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Basic Checklist:**

- Valid Coggins within the last 12mo complete for each project horse?
- Extra copies of completed coggins made to keep with your truck/trailer when hauling horse?
- SEI approved Helmet and appropriate riding boots?
- **Declaration form, Project agreement forms & coggins mailed/turned in to project secretary BY MAY 15TH?**
- Premise ID number obtained? \_\_\_\_\_
- Determined that you have proper equipment for pleasure/ gymkahana/ jumping? (either ask an experienced 4H family/member OR have attended a clinic that discussed this)
- Has parent/guardian enrolled as an adult volunteer/leader for your 4H club?

**Addresses of Training Centers**

**Laughing Horse Ranch**

Tammy Belisle 715-222-5711  
2046 215<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Deer Park WI

**Limitless Ranch**

Sara Rank 651.246.1323  
2631 80<sup>th</sup> St  
Frederic WI 54837

**Rimoe Ranch**

Rod Rivard 715-248-3378 [www.rimoeranch.com](http://www.rimoeranch.com)  
968 County Rd H  
New Richmond, WI 54017

**Osero Farm**

Erin Osero  
1606 60<sup>th</sup> ST [eosero@gmail.com](mailto:eosero@gmail.com)  
Turtle Lake , WI 54889

**Polk County Government Center/ UW Extension Office**

100 Polk Plaza 715-485-8600 [www.polk.uwex.edu](http://www.polk.uwex.edu)  
Balsam Lake, WI

**Polk County Fair Grounds**

St. Croix Falls, WI <http://polkcountyfair.com>