



MSU Extension
2026 Ingham County 4-H Horse Committee
Horse Project Camp

June 16-17, 2026

Ingham County Fairgrounds | Mason, MI

The 2026 two-day Horse Project Camp is designed to prepare youth for fair and local horse shows. Participants will be grouped together based on skill level and areas of interest. Riding instruction is offered for various levels of skill from walk-trot through advanced. A variety of sessions and clinics will be offered ranging from English, Western, Gymkhana, and Ranch.

Members of the Michigan 4-H program, 8-19 years of age, may register. Any youth who is not a current 4-H member must join 4-H prior to registering for camp (there is no fee to be a 4-H member). Participants provide their own horse, tack, stall bedding, and supplies. They are required to care for their own horse during the three-day camp. Horses must remain on the fairgrounds for the entire camp. Camping is allowed, if there is a parent or guardian with the participant between 5:30 pm and 7:30 am in the camping area. Camp coordinators will not be responsible for any camper from 5:30 pm to 7:30 am. **All 4-H rules apply at camp, along with additional rules and guidelines listed in this document.**

Horse Camp Overview

Monday, June 15	5:30 pm - 7:00 pm: Camp Check-in
Tuesday, June 16	8:30 am - 4:30 pm: Clinics 5:30 pm: Pizza for camp families
Wednesday, June 17	8:30 am - 5:00 pm: Clinics Campers may haul out once stalls are cleaned (stalls may be kept for those showing at the 4-H Leader's Show)
For more information:	Email: inghamhorsecamp4h@gmail.com Website: https://bit.ly/horsecamp4h

***Note:** The Ingham County 4-H Leader's Horse Show will be held on Friday and Saturday, June 19-20, at the Ingham County fairgrounds.

4-H Horse Project Camp: General Information & Rules

PLEASE READ THIS INFORMATION CAREFULLY TO PREPARE FOR CAMP

Violation of camp rules could result in the camper and their animal being sent home.



GENERAL INFORMATION

1. There is a minimum expectation of members to have walk/trot riding ability. This is not a “learn to ride” with no previous experience type of camp. The camp committee reserves the right to dismiss those not deemed qualified to ride.
2. Participants must be 8 years of age by January 1, 2026 and must be a Michigan 4-H member (youth may join 4-H for free at any time throughout the year).
3. Horse campers/owners are liable for the welfare of their horse.
4. If parents need to contact camp staff in an emergency, they may contact the Fair office during normal working hours (8:00 am - 5:00 pm) 517-676-2428. For after-hours emergencies, contact a Camp staff member (cell phone numbers will be shared with camp details).
5. If at any time a horse camp representative feels that a child is ill, a parent will be required to come to camp to attend to their child. Our camp nurse is Debbie Bingham 517-488-1340.
6. A current, negative Coggins must accompany the camp registration form.
7. Campers will be required to bring their own lunches and snacks. There will be a limited number of snacks and water available throughout the days. If your child has food allergies, please indicate them in when registering for camp.
8. Please use only PINE shavings in stalls. Shavings are available for purchase from Crest View Tack or participants may bring their own shavings. Please use an appropriate amount of shavings for the comfort of your horse.
9. All stalls will need to be completely cleaned and approved by a 4-H Camp Staff member before leaving the fairgrounds, unless a camper is staying for the Leader’s Show. Any fees charged by the fairgrounds for unclean stalls will be passed on to the camper assigned to the stall. **Please indicate in the online registration form if you are planning on attending the Leader’s Open Show. The staff will attempt to keep your stalls in the same barn.**
10. Participants and teen volunteers may not leave the grounds from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm without permission from one of the camp staff members. For those camping, see camping rules.
11. Bicycles, skateboards, or wheeled vehicles of any kind are strictly forbidden.
12. Drugs, alcoholic beverages, and smoking materials will not be allowed. Appropriate measures, including notifying parents and/or police intervention will be taken.
13. Parents, instructors, personal trainers, and other family members are NOT TO INTERFERE with the instructors or riders during riding sessions. If there are problems or concerns, PLEASE direct them to any member of the camp staff. Anyone interfering will be asked to leave the fairgrounds.
14. The care of the horse, (i.e. water, feed, stall cleaning, cooling down the horse) is the **CAMPER’S RESPONSIBILITY**. If at any time, a camp representative feels that a horse may be ill, the owner will be called and will be required to come to camp and check on the animal. If it is deemed an emergency, the emergency veterinary contact indicated on the registration form will be contacted.
15. Friends are discouraged from visiting participants during camp.

SAFETY RULES FOR RIDERS AND HORSES



1. Campers may only ride their own horse. No riding double. No riding bareback.
2. Any vehicles being driven to camp **MUST** be parked in the open field EAST of the roadway and left there during camp hours (7:30 am – 5:30 pm). **NO DRIVING ALONG THE WEST SIDE OF THE SOUTH END SHOW ARENA DURING CAMP HOURS!**
3. Ride only in designated areas. **Horses must be led (not ridden) from the barns to the assigned rings.** Do not get on horse until an instructor is present in the ring and equipment has been checked. (i.e. helmet, tack)
4. All horses must be bridled with a bit when riding including gymkhana. Exceptions must be presented to the committee by a 4-H club leader or parent.
5. All campers must wear an ASTM-SEI approved helmet when riding - **REGARDLESS OF RIDING STYLE.**
6. Proper Western or English riding footwear (with a ½" heel) must be worn around the horses at all times. NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED TO RIDE WITHOUT PROPER FOOTWEAR. NO OPEN TOED SHOES OR BARE FEET ALLOWED WHILE HANDLING YOUR HORSE.
7. If your horse is dangerous or unmanageable it may be sent home at the camp Committee's discretion.
8. Horses exhibiting obvious signs of illness or unsoundness may require a medical clearance from a veterinarian before participating at camp.
9. TWO WATER BUCKETS must be hung on the front wall of each stall. The buckets must be hung chest high for the horse and must be full when leaving.
10. Hay bags must be tied at an appropriate height, so a horse is not able to get a leg caught in the hay bag.
11. Dogs are not allowed at camp.

FAIRGROUND CAMPING RULES

1. **Any Non-Scheduled activities after 5:30 pm must be supervised by a parent/guardian.** This includes, but is not limited to, bathing and grooming of horses, and stall cleaning. Camp staff are not responsible for campers after this time. Unsupervised campers will be asked to stop the activity and arrange supervision or a ride home.
2. NO HORSES OUT AFTER 9:00 PM.
3. Activity must be discontinued, and barn lights out at 10:00 pm.
4. For those camping, a fee of \$30 per night will need to be paid by check to the Ingham County Fairgrounds. This fee must be paid at camp check-in (cash or check payable to Ingham County Fairgrounds) and campers will receive a pass to place in the window of their camper.

HORSE CAMP FEES

The 2026 fees are below. All campers receive a camp t-shirt.

- \$120.00 first family member
- \$110.00 second family member
- \$80.00 third family member
- \$70.00 fourth + family members

A limited amount of scholarships for Ingham County 4-H participants, are available through the Ingham County 4-H Horse Committee. A link to the scholarship application form can be found on the [Ingham County 4-H Horses website - https://bit.ly/horsecamp4h](https://bit.ly/horsecamp4h). If you are from another county please contact your local MSU Extension county office for potential financial support.

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

The registration form will be available at the QR code or visit:
<https://bit.ly/horsecamp4h>.

- **Registration deadline is May 1, 2026**

Payment must be made by cash or check made payable to the Ingham County 4-H Horse Committee. Please send payment to:

Ingham County 4-H Horse Committee
121 E. Maple St.
P.O. Box 319
Mason, MI 48854

Payments must be received by May 1, 2026.

REFUND POLICY

The camp committee reserves the right to cancel horse camp in the event of less than the minimum number of registrations required to manage financial responsibility. In this instance, full refunds will be issued.

If horse camp is cancelled due to weather, it will transition to a one-day camp for \$50 per person and partial refunds will be issued.

If a camp participant would like to cancel their registration, they will receive a 60% refund if cancelled through June 2nd, 2026. No refunds will be issued after June 3rd, 2026 unless it is a medical emergency, family emergency or horse emergency (must have a letter from a veterinarian).

