

# **Ingham County**

# **4-H Horse Handbook**

**Revised February 2022**



## **4-H Pledge**



**I PLEDGE**  
my **HEAD** to clearer thinking,  
my **HEART** to greater loyalty,  
my **HANDS** to larger service,  
my **HEALTH** to better living,  
for my club, my community,  
my country, and my world.



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## **4-H MOTTO**

“To Make the Best Better”

## **4-H PLEDGE**

### **I PLEDGE**

my HEAD to clearer thinking,  
my HEART to greater loyalty,  
my HANDS to larger service,  
my HEALTH to better living,  
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my country, and my world.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Michigan 4-H youth development is a youth development program that involves volunteers in providing positive, experiential and educational opportunities for and with youth. Our mission is to create environments through collaboration that build strong, healthy youth, who are proactive in a complex and changing world.

### **Horse Committee**

Horse Committee is made up of horse club leaders, volunteers, parents/guardians and 4-H members. The 4-H Horse Board officers consist of the Chairperson, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, two Adult at Large and two Teen at Large members. The committee is responsible for planning and implementing the 4-H horse program. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to attend meetings where information is given, issues are discussed, and decisions are made. It is to the club's advantage to have a representative at every meeting so that information is brought back to the membership in a timely manner. Leaders who do not attend regularly are deferring to the decisions made by those in attendance. Meeting notices are sent to all registered leaders. Minutes from the previous meeting are available at each meeting and via email.

Horse Committee provides partial reimbursement to 4-H members on costs for State 4-H level competitions, State 4-H clinics and purchase of an ASTM-SEI approved helmet.

Horse Committee is an active part of the Ingham County 4-H Program, which is governed by MSU Extension Ingham County 4-H Staff. Issues like club and member registration deadlines are set by MSU Extension Ingham County 4-H Staff. They have recommended that all clubs have clear, written expectations of meeting attendance, responsibilities, rules and consequences. 4-H Council is open to all 4-H members, parents/guardians and leaders.

Horse Committee is an active member of Michigan Horse Council. There is representation at Michigan Horse Council meetings by a delegate from the Horse Committee. The delegate reports Horse Council information at monthly Horse Committee meetings.

## Ingham County Horse Committee Bylaws:

### I. Name

1. It will be known as the Ingham County 4-H Horse Committee. The four officers and four at-large members will be known as the Ingham County 4-H Horse Board.

### II. Purpose

1. To provide leadership and service to Ingham County 4-H horse members and leaders throughout the 4-H year.

### III. Membership

1. Horse Committee membership is open to representatives of each of the 4-H horse clubs in Ingham County, including leaders, parents/guardians and members. Voting privileges on the horse committee are limited to two adult representatives and two teen 4-H horse members (4-H age 13 years or older) from each 4-H horse club in Ingham County. At the call of vote, members must be in attendance or via video conference call (i.e. ZOOM) to place their vote/ballot.
2. Voting privileges are held by honorary members unless they qualify as a regular horse committee member as defined in 3.
3. Honorary membership is held by the coaches from Horse Judging Team and the 4-H Horse Superintendent.

### IV. Committee Year

1. The Horse Committee year begins September 1 and ends August 31.

### V. Meetings

1. The Horse Committee shall convene the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings shall be held in September, October, November, January, February, March, April, May, June and July. Meetings may be canceled or additional meetings held at the discretion of the 4-H Horse Board.
2. Meetings may be held in person, remote or combination of both.
3. The 4-H Horse Board may meet as needed throughout the year.
4. Appointed sub-committees may meet as required during the year.
5. Horse Committee meetings are open to all interested people.

### VI. Elections

1. Election of officers will be held at the October meeting.
2. The Horse Committee will elect a Chairperson and Secretary on odd years and Vice Chairperson and Treasurer on even years. Two adult-at-large and two senior 4-H teen-at-large member (4-H age 13 yrs. and older) are to be elected for 1-year term annually.  
**Chairperson:** Calls and presides over all Horse Committee meetings, provides agenda for meetings, announcement letter, holds officer meetings, selects and sets up committees for special projects, provides information and/or material to committees and checks on their progress, also acts as contact person for county office. The chairperson may not serve more than two consecutive terms as chairperson, except by special waiver by 2/3 vote. A Chairperson must have at least one year's experience on the 4-H Horse Board.  
**Vice-Chairperson:** Works closely with chairperson and conducts horse committee meetings in absence of chairperson, may chair a sub-committee, also assists in providing information to sub-committees.  
**Secretary:** Records minutes at each meeting, handles correspondence for committee, and prepares minutes to be available to membership before the next meeting.  
**Treasurer:** Collects and records all monies from fund-raising projects, disburses funds as required, keeps accurate detailed accounts of earmarked funds, reports activity at each meeting. Works with 4-H Horse Board and Committee Chairs to develop annual budgets. Submits financial report to the 4-H Office annually.  
**At-Large Board Members:** Serve on various committees, assist the officers and will also assume vacated officer positions as needed.
3. No nominations for officers will be accepted from the floor unless the nominee is present.

## VII. Voting Privileges of Officers

1. Officers may not vote unless they qualify as representatives of their clubs.
2. A Chairperson may not vote unless they vote as a tie-breaker.

## VII. Horse Board

1. The committee's officers and at-large members will make up the Ingham County 4-H Horse Board.
2. A Board member, or designated representative of horse committee, will be the representative to the 4-H council.
3. The Horse Board MUST submit a year-end report (including each committee's financial statement) to the following:
  - a. The 4-H Extension Staff
  - b. The Horse Committee
4. The year-end report will be submitted by the deadline set by Ingham County 4-H Staff for the year.
5. The chairperson has the right to call a Board meeting to authorize up to and including \$100.00, no more, without committee approval, to be expended in an emergency.

## IX. Sub-committee

1. Sub-committees may be used throughout the year to help promote and support 4-H horse activities.
2. Sub-committee chairs are appointed by horse committee (and approved by the board) and should function according to horse committee bylaws providing reports as requested.

## X. Achievement Day Judges

1. The chairperson of the Horse Committee and 4-H Horse Superintendent will hire and confirm the judges for Achievement Days.

## XI. Amendments

1. These bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 majority vote of the attending members at a Horse Committee meeting.

## XII. Procedure

1. The Ingham County 4-H Horse Committee will be governed by Robert's Rules of Order unless otherwise specified in these bylaws as stated above.

Adopted 1995, Amended 2009, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2022

## **Superintendent's Committee**

The superintendent's committee consists of the 4-H Horse Superintendent, appointed by the 4-H Staff, Assistant 4-H Superintendents and Clerks, appointed by the 4-H Superintendent. This committee is responsible for the planning and implementation of Achievement Days, and promoting the 4-H horse project. The 4-H Superintendent is a member of Horse Committee.

## **General Rules**

### **Michigan 4-H Horse Program**

All county 4-H horse programs are subject to the rules found in “Michigan 4-H Horse and Pony Project Show Rules and Regulations”. County programs may implement additional rules (found in this handbook) as necessary for management of the local program. Local rules may be stricter than state rules, but cannot be less. A copy of the Rules and Regulations can be found at:

[http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/resources/mi\\_4h\\_horse\\_show\\_rules](http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/resources/mi_4h_horse_show_rules)

### **Code of Conduct**

Project leaders, parents/guardians, and members will:

- Accept their responsibility to represent Ingham County 4-H Horse/Pony Project with dignity and pride by being positive role models.
- Conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner, exhibit good sportsmanship and provide positive role models.
- Respect, adhere to and enforce the rules, policies and guidelines established by Ingham County 4-H Horse/Pony Project programs.
- Abstain from and not tolerate physical or verbal abuse.
- Comply with equal opportunity and anti-discrimination laws.
- Avoid criminal activities.
- Support the 4-H principle of healthy living and positive role models for youth by refraining from using any tobacco products in the presence of 4-H members; use only in designated areas.
- Under no circumstances, possess, sell or consume alcohol or possess, sell or use controlled substances at an Ingham County 4-H Horse/Pony Project activity or event.
- Under no circumstances, attend or participate in an Ingham County 4-H Horse/Pony Project activity or event under the influence of alcohol and/or controlled substances.
- Accept the responsibility to promote and support the Ingham County 4-H Horse/Pony Project to develop an effective, county, state and national program.
- Operate machinery, vehicles and other equipment in a responsible manner.

### **Age Policy**

4-H programs are available for youth ages 5-19; and youth up to age 26 who have been determined eligible for special education services. The age of all 4-H members is determined as of January 1 of the current year. Riding and Horseless activities are available for all 4-H members; please be certain to review the age requirements for all activities or classes that are offered for each event youth participate.

### **Alternative Tack Exemption**

Alternative tack usage shall be allowed for all Ingham County 4-H events provided the following conditions are satisfied.

1. Veterinary documentation for alternative tack signed, dated and turned in to 4-H Superintendent within 5 days of diagnosis. Documentation shall be renewed each year.
2. 4-H Superintendent’s signature required for validation and approval of Alternative Tack Form which is valid for all 4-H sponsored events.
3. 4-H Superintendent reserves the right to access of Horses veterinary records and the use of secondary evaluations as deemed necessary for approval of Alternative Tack Form.
4. Bearer of **responsibility** to present documentation to the show office shall be the **4-H exhibitor**.

## **Ownership**

Ownership is encouraged but not required. Two regular 4-H members (ages 8-19) may not share the same horse/pony as their project in the same year with the exception of Cloverbud and P.E.P. Exceptions: P.E.P. Members are encouraged to have trained and cared for the horse/pony they enter; Cloverbud members (ages 5-7) are encouraged to share a horse for their riding classes with a sibling or another regular member in their 4-H club. A horse/pony must be designated as a member's project animal for Achievement Days and clinics by May 1 of current year.

## **Exhibitor Registration**

In order to show at the Achievement Days or qualifying 4-H events an "exhibitor registration" form, copy of current year Negative Coggins and three photos (left, right, and front views) of horse/pony must be submitted through 4-H leaders to the 4-H office by May 1 of current year. All members including Cloverbuds and P.E.P. must turn in May 1<sup>st</sup> form with corresponding documentation. Late Coggins will be accepted up to May 5 with a \$25 late fee. No Coggins/Horse registration will be accepted after May 5.

Please note: Michigan Department of Agriculture has revised its definition of calendar year; the Coggins report submitted May 1<sup>st</sup> must be valid through the remainder of the 4-H year (August 31<sup>st</sup>).

## **Horse Project Change Request**

Permission to change a member's project animal is obtained from the 4-H Superintendent's Committee and may be requested up to June 1. A written request stating the reason for the change, a veterinarian statement when applicable, three photos showing left, right and front views, current proof of negative Coggins, new horse/pony Registration form must be submitted to the 4-H Horse Superintendent prior to the first State Show qualifying show or June 1 whichever is first. Exhibitors may be granted only one horse/pony change per calendar year.

## **Member Registration**

New 4-H members must be registered by May 1.

Any returning 4-H member must be registered with a 4-H club by re-enrollment deadline in December.

New clubs must be registered by April 1 to allow members to be eligible for State Show.

## **Cloverbuds:**

This section is dedicated to 4-H members ages 5-7 years old (on January 1 of the current year). All 4-H Cloverbud experiences are noncompetitive. Cloverbuds must abide by the rules outlined for their section in the Michigan 4-H Horse and Pony Rules and Regulations in addition to the following rules:

1. Cloverbud members may utilize/share a horse with an older sibling or member within their 4-H club. Both members will need to identify the horse on their May 1<sup>st</sup> form.
2. Parents or teen leaders should accompany exhibitors into the arena.
3. All Cloverbuds are required to wear an ASTM-SEI approved helmet in all classes.
4. Cloverbuds must have parental supervision at all times when working with their horse/pony.

## **Club Assignments**

Each club is expected to volunteer for jobs or tasks hosted by Horse Committee, like Leaders Show and Achievement Day shows. Jobs could include Ring steward, gate, trail set up, gymkhana set up, announcer or office worker. The volunteer must be at least 13 years old. All other positions may be filled at the clubs' discretion; however younger workers under 13 must work with adult supervision. A club must work their scheduled assignment to be considered in "Good Standing". See Page 13.

## Safety

### **Failure to comply with these rules could lead up to/include removal from the 4-H event.**

1. ASTM-SEI approved helmets are required for all persons age 19 and under in all Hunt Seat, Dressage, Saddleseat, Western Bareback, Jumping and Gymkhana classes in all 4-H club sponsored events including open shows regardless of whether the person is enrolled in 4-H. All members must wear approved helmets at Horse Camp. All riders are encouraged to wear helmets at all times while working their horse; exhibitors wearing helmets in classes will not be discounted points/placings compared with exhibitors that wear a hat when allowed. Horse Committee will make a partial reimbursement (\$10) to Ingham County 4-H members, in Clubs in Good Standing, on the purchase of an ASTM-SEI approved helmet. Limit one helmet reimbursement per 4-H member per year.
2. 4-H members must always wear boots designed for horseback riding when handling or riding horses at 4-H events. Tennis shoes, sandals and flip-flops are not acceptable.
3. Riders are cautioned to use extreme care when entering and leaving the barns, show rings and practice rings. All horses/ponies must be walked around barn area. All horses/ponies must be led or ridden at a walk at all times outside of show rings and designated practice rings.
4. Use of a bridle and saddle is required at all times when riding except during bareback classes, practice arena warm up for bareback classes, and costume classes. There will be no riding double.

## **State 4-H Horse Show**

Competitors come from all over Michigan to the State 4-H Horse Show at Michigan State University. Each county is assigned a quota of delegates and selects their representatives. Our selection process is as follows:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ✓ <u>Be a registered Ing Co 4-H member</u>        | ✓ <u>Volunteer <math>\geq</math>4 hours</u>                                       |
| ✓ <u>Complete May 1 Exhibitor Horse/Pony form</u> | ✓ <u>Take the written test: 0-10 points</u>                                       |
| ✓ <u>Complete a State Show Application</u>        | ✓ <u>Show your horse at qualifying shows: earn points from your top 8 classes</u> |

## **Guidelines**

1. Rider 13-19 years old must be a registered Ingham County 4-H member and completed an Exhibitor's Horse /Pony Registration Form by May 1 including Coggins and pictures. Walk trot exhibitors are not eligible.
2. **State Show Application:**
  - a. Complete form by May 1 and submit with Exhibitor/Horse Registration form. Only one horse per rider (State rule).
3. **Volunteer Hours:**
  - a. 4 hours minimum of community service during the current 4-H year.
  - b. Submit State Show Volunteer Hour Log to the 4-H office by Leaders Show or to staff when taking the written test.
4. **Written Test of Horse Science, Horsemanship and Rules knowledge**
  - a. Test to be given during the Leaders Show.
  - b. There will be one make up test event offered for extenuating circumstances. You must request a make-up test with the State Show Delegate Committee.
5. Horse changes may be requested up to June 1 in the event of a horse injury or death. A new State Show application, Exhibitor Horse Registration form, Coggins, picture, veterinary statement and letter requesting a change must be submitted to the State Show Delegate Committee for approval. Section changes may be requested up to June 1 with the State Show Delegate Committee.
6. **Classes: Top 8 classes to be calculated per rider on State Show identified horse and section.**
  - a. Class points:  $\geq$ 6 riders per class: 1<sup>st</sup> place receives 6 points with 6<sup>th</sup> place receiving 1 point. When less than 6 riders the point max will be set at the number of riders present (e.g., if a class has 3 riders, 1<sup>st</sup> place will receive 3 points with 3<sup>rd</sup> receiving 1 point).
  - b. Eligible classes for Gymkhana: Barrels, Flags, Down & Back, Speed & Action, Poles, and Keyhole.

- c. Eligible classes for Performance: Showmanship, English Pleasure, English Equitation, Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship, Reining, English Western Riding, Trail\*, Dressage Seat Equitation, 2 Dressage tests.  
 (\*in-hand trail not eligible)
  - i. Top 2 dressage tests will be used for points in Performance section and Dressage placings will be calculated amongst only 4-H riders.
  - ii. Showmanship, riding classes and gymkhana classes are placed amongst all riders within that specific age bracket.
7. Written test point scale
  - a. A maximum of 10 points can be earned from the written (or oral) state show test on horse knowledge. The point scale for this test will be as follows:
 

10 points, 46-50 correct answers	5 points, 21-25 correct answers
9 points, 41-45 correct answers	4 points, 16-20 correct answers
8 points, 36-40 correct answers	3 points, 11-15 correct answers
7 points, 31-35 correct answers	2 points, 6-10 correct answers
6 points, 26-30 correct answers	1 point, 5 correct answers
8. Cheating on the written test will result in elimination of the individual from the State Show eligibility.
9. State Show Delegate Committee will verify all criteria have been met and calculate points from the written test and top 8 classes and announce the State Show Delegates at the last qualifying event.
  - a. The MI 4-H Extension determines the quota for delegates each year based on the number of enrolled member. For reference the 2022 quota for delegates is 18 riders.
    - i. 4 Alternates with the next highest point totals will be identified in the event that one or more of the delegates is unable to compete at the 4-H State Horse Show.
    - ii. State show delegates must submit appropriate paperwork and fees to MSU by the set date.
10. The State Show Delegate Committee will break any ties.
11. State show packets can be picked up by the delegate, parent/guardian or the delegate, or club leader once all delegates are announced.
12. Horse Committee will make a partial reimbursement for the cost of State Show entry fee to participating 4-H delegates when their club is in “Good Standing”.

## **Ingham County Fair**

Ingham County Fair has a division dedicated to 4-H clubs, Ingham county residents and Ingham county barns/organizations which is an excellent opportunity for clubs and youth to show their horse projects. Members exhibit and compete with their current year horse/pony project to reflect the dedication and time each member has invested. This is a multi-day horse show with classes divided according to breed/performance, age and level. The Fair is held at the end of July or beginning of August at the Ingham County Fairgrounds in Mason. Contact person is the Fair Superintendent of Horse Project which works with the 4-H Horse Superintendent.

### **General Rules:**

1. Exhibitors must be registered 4-H member, belong to an Ingham County community organization or live in Ingham County.
2. A stall fee and office fee is paid with the exhibitor’s Fair entry and is not refundable.
3. Classes will be judged according to the Michigan 4-H Standards as outlined in the current 4-H Horse and Pony Project Show Rules and Regulations. When these guidelines do not apply or are insufficient, United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Rules will govern.

### **Little International:**

This competition is held every year on the last Friday of Fair. Exhibitors demonstrate their showmanship skills with an animal from each project area. The top score from each age division will become the Little International winners. There are three age divisions; Senior (age 15-19), Intermediate (ages 12-14) and Juniors (ages 11 and under). 4-H members that placed First and Second in the designated Showmanship class and Showmanship Medals from dairy, beef, swine,

goats and sheep divisions compete for overall Showman. In the event 1 and 2 are not 4-H members or decline, the next highest 4-H member placing will be awarded until the slots are filled.

**Senior Ceremony** - The 4-H graduating seniors are honored at Fair in the riding ceremony on the first Sunday during the horse show in the 4-H South arena. The high school graduates write a short story (500 words or less) sharing their 4-H career and goals for their future. This story must be written in 3<sup>rd</sup> person, typed and submitted to 4-H Horse Superintendent upon check-in at the Fair and will be read during the ceremony.

## **4-H Horse Committee Activities**

### **Ingham County 4-H Horse Camp:**

The camp takes place at the Ingham County Fairgrounds and consists of clinics and riding sessions.

Participants must be current member (or pay \$20.00 participation fee upon registering for camp) of a county 4-H Horse Program, 8-19 years of age by January 1 of current year (please see registration packet for special Horse Camp activities for Cloverbuds). Participants provide their own horse, tack and supplies and are required to care for their own horse during the multi-day stay at camp. Horses must remain on fair grounds for the entire duration of camp. Camp staff will be on the grounds to monitor the horses at night. Camping for this activity is available and must follow 4-H policy for overnight events.

Participants will choose a discipline and instruction level for the camp. Riding instruction is offered for various levels of skill beginning with walk-trot through advanced. Disciplines offered are Hunt Seat, Jumping, Western, Gymkhana and Dressage. Clinic sessions offer demonstrations and information on horse care, horse behavior, training techniques and various other horse related topics. All 4-H rules apply at camp along with additional rules and guidelines listed in registration packet.

This is a great opportunity for 4-H horse members to become more familiar and comfortable with their 4-H project. For more information contact the 4-H office 517-676-7207.

### **Ingham County 4-H Leader Show:**

This is an open horse show organized by the 4-H Horse Board and 4-H horse clubs. The purpose of this show is to raise funds to further the horse program for Ingham County members. All clubs are expected to raise money through sponsorships for this show (donations may be eligible for tax deductions under IRS Code 501 (c)(3)). Any 4-H member, in Clubs in Good Standing, turning in sponsorships over \$100 receives a free stall at the show, and over \$250 receives a free stall and five classes for Leader Show. All clubs are expected to work assigned jobs as part of their contribution to the show. Contact person is the current Chairperson of the 4-H Horse Committee.

### **Banquet:**

In the fall or winter a recognition and award celebration for 4-H horse club members is organized through the 4-H Horse Board to honor our 4-H Horse Project members and volunteers. A host club(s) will volunteer to coordinate the set up and tear down of this event. Certificates, awards and recognition are given to members and leaders.

An annual recognition event open to all Ingham County 4-H members, is sponsored by 4-H Council every fall. Members receive County Medals, State Award Nominations, Club Community Service Award, Leader of the Year Award, Friend of 4-H, etc.

## **4-H Horse Committee Projects**

### **Horse Judging Team:**

The 4-H horse judging program teaches youth, ages 8 and up, how to evaluate the conformation and movement of horses of various breeds. Members learn how to judge the horse as close to the given breed or class standard as possible. Competition class types usually consist of halter, pleasure and equitation/horsemanship, western riding and reining. Members place classes and defend their placings in a structured format called “oral reasons”.

Members are not required to own a horse. There are no membership fees for this project; however members and their families are responsible for travel expenses. Participants are expected to attend scheduled meetings, including periodic farm visits. Members must understand that this is a team event and requires time commitment to the project.

The team competes in the spring at the 4-H Horse State Judging contest, held at MSU. Top placing senior teams at the State Judging contest have the opportunity to go on and compete at a national horse judging competition. For more information contact Horse Committee.

### **Proud Equestrian Program (PEP):**

Therapeutic horseback riding programs are available to members with special needs including physical, developmental, emotional or multiple disabilities. With the help of certified instructors, youth or adults challenged by disabilities can discover their abilities! Horseback riding helps improve balance, coordination, posture and muscle tone. It also increases self-esteem, self-confidence, discipline and social growth.

## **Awards and Special Recognition**

Several awards are available at the club, county and state levels. These awards are presented at either the 4-H Horse Committee awards banquet or 4-H Council awards banquet.

### **County Awards Packet:**

See the complete description for county awards in the Ingham County 4-H County Awards packet. Applications for county awards are typically due near the beginning of October. [Awards & Scholarships - Ingham County \(msu.edu\)](#)

#### **CLUB LEVEL**

- Cloverbud Certificate
- Outstanding Young Member
- Outstanding Teen Leader
- All Star Award
- Club Community Service Award
- Top Club Award

#### **COMMUNITY AWARDS**

- Leader of the Year
- Friend of 4-H

#### **INDIVIDUAL MEMBER RECOGNITION**

- County Medal
- State Awards
- Head and Heart Award
- Ingham County 4-H Ambassador
- 10 & 15 Year 4-H Member Awards
- Michigan 4-H Key Club Award
- Danforth National “I Dare You” Leadership Award
- Good Citizen Award
- Citizenship Washington Focus
- National 4-H Congress

### **Horse Banquet Awards:**

**Outstanding Horse Member Award** – Horse Committee sponsors a \$50.00 gift certificate and a gift to the top scoring horse project member in each of five categories; first year in 4-H horse project, first year in 4-H horse project and two years and up for other projects, two–three years in 4-H horse project, four–six years in 4-H horse project and seven years and over in 4-H horse project. Members apply for the awards by completing the Outstanding Horse Member form and submitting it to 4-H office by the County Awards application deadline. Winners are announced and prizes awarded at the 4-H Horse Committee Awards Banquet.

**Golden Feedbag Award** – This award, sponsored by Horse Committee, is given to a group or individual who demonstrates “outstanding dedication to the Ingham County 4-H Horse Program”. Nominations are accepted at the 4-H office by the County Awards application deadline. Leaders will receive ballots at the October Horse Committee (one vote per club); marked ballots to be returned to the 4-H office by the November Horse Committee meeting. Recipient is presented with a plaque at the Horse Committee Banquet, and permanent plaque is displayed in the 4-H office.

**Jr. Golden Feedbag Award** – This award is for Ingham County 4-H horse members ages 13-19. This award is for members who demonstrate outstanding service to the 4-H horse program. The member is nominated in 100 words or less, which is then given to the 4-H office. There will be a ballot vote (one vote per horse club) just like the Golden Feedbag Award. A small plaque will be sponsored each year for the member and a large plaque for display at the 4-H office with yearly brass updates.

## **Contests and Scholarships**

### **Michigan 4-H Equine Educational Expo (formerly known as 4-H Horse Jamboree)**

The event encompasses 3 contest areas—Equine Communication Contest, Horse judging and Hippology. This event takes place in April each year. Contest rules and registration can be found on the 4-H horse program website: [www.ans.msu.edu/extension/horse\\_youth\\_programs](http://www.ans.msu.edu/extension/horse_youth_programs)

**“Mark of Excellence” Award** – If you are 11 or 12 years old, you are eligible for this award. To enter, write an essay on the theme, “Because of 4-H I can...” Essays should be submitted to your county office by February 1st. Counties then select their representatives and submit names and essays to the State 4-H Awards Committee. For more information and instructions, visit:

[http://4h.msue.msu.edu/awards\\_scholarships/4-h\\_recognition\\_program](http://4h.msue.msu.edu/awards_scholarships/4-h_recognition_program)

Scholarship opportunities are available through 4-H. Please reference the website for additional details. [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/4\\_h\\_scholarships\\_and\\_recognition\\_program/4\\_h\\_awards\\_and\\_recognition\\_program](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4_h_awards_and_recognition_program)

## **Resources Available**

### **Workshops**

Workshops may be offered at the local and state level dedicated to the horse project.

### **Books available from the 4-H Office**

- 4-H Horse & Pony Project Show Rules and Regulations
- Horse Science
- Horses & Horsemanship
- Horse & Pony Project Record Book
- Officer Guideline books

### **Ingham County Library**

Contact your local library for information on horse related books and literature available.

### **Video Tapes available from MSU**

Contact 4-H office (676-7207) to reserve a date at least one week in advance.

### **Websites**

County 4-H <https://www.canr.msu.edu/ingham/4-h/>

Michigan 4-H - <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4h/index>

MSU Extension Youth Horse Programs – [https://www.canr.msu.edu/horses\\_ponies/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/horses_ponies/)

## Ingham County 4-H Horse Committee Guidelines

**Subject: 4-H Clubs in Good Standing (Horse Projects)**

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 4-10-02, amended 12-14-11, 5-1-15, 3-9-16, 3/1/17, 3/11/2020 and 1/12/2022  
(effective 2/1/2022)

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### **PURPOSE:**

The Ingham County 4-H Horse Committee provides leadership and service to Ingham County 4-H members and leaders throughout the 4-H year. Many of the activities that the Horse Committee organizes throughout the year are dependent on the volunteer work of the 4-H members and club leaders. The success of these activities is directly related to the quality and amount of program support that the Horse Committee can offer to the 4-H members.

### **GUIDELINE:**

**Definition:** A 4-H club is considered in “Good Standing” with the Horse Committee if the following criterion is met during the 4-H year (September 1 - August 31):

1. A representative from the club attends at least 7 of 10 Horse Committee meetings per 4-H year. In the event less than 10 meetings are held, a club can miss no more than 3 meeting.
2. A club must work their scheduled volunteer assignments at Achievement Days and Leader Show. Exception would be if they notify the person in charge of any difficulty prior to the day of assignment and they are excused in advance by person in charge.

**Notification:** If a 4-H club is not in “Good Standing,” the leader and each individual member of the club will be notified of their status by letter.

Horse Committee will also be notified of clubs not in “Good Standing” at the next scheduled Horse Committee meeting under New Business.

All members of a club in “Good Standing” have the following privileges for the 4-H year:

1. Members will be eligible for State Show Delegate reimbursement.
2. Member/club will be eligible for financial reimbursement or discounted fees from Horse Committee sponsored events.
3. Club maintains voting privileges at Horse Committee meetings.