



Rusk County 4-H & Youth Horse Project Handbook

Mission Statement

The mission of the Rusk County Horse Project Committee is to provide safer horsemanship, educational opportunities and a fun environment through structured youth leadership and parent involvement, centered around a fun and flexible organization for all involved.

Facebook page - Rusk County 4-H / Youth Horse Project

(If unable to access Facebook, contact the secretary and she will be happy to find an alternative way to keep you informed.)

4-H State Policies

For more information on statewide 4-H policies, volunteering, formation of clubs, etc. check out this link to the Youth Development page

<http://4h.uwex.edu/files/2016/09/WI4HYouthDevelPolicies.pdf> .

- SEI approved helmets must be worn and fastened at all times while riding or driving at any 4-H & Youth sponsored event.
- Riders and/or handlers must all wear appropriate footwear (closed toe shoes, boots with a cut out heel) while riding and/or handling their horse. No flip-flops, open-toed shoes or crocs are permitted.
- Riders must wear long pants while riding.
- All horses must be saddled while riding, no riding double or bareback.
- No cruel or inhumane treatment of any animals.
- No stallions born before January of the current year may be at 4-H & Youth sponsored events.
- At all functions sponsored by Rusk County 4-H on or off the fairgrounds, no drinking or inappropriate language.
- At all times minors must be under the direct supervision of a responsible adult. Parents should contact another responsible adult directly to make arrangements if they are unable to stay with their child at a horse project event.

Horse Project & Fair Policies

- A hard copy of current Coggins must be submitted at the first 4-H & Youth sponsored event that you attend with your horse, as well as with your fair entries. It is best practice to keep a copy with you at all times.
- Safety Tests for each horse/exhibitor combination must be completed by the date fair entries are due and turned in with your entries.
- Horse exhibitors at fair must participate in Showmanship.
- Horses in stalls cannot be left unattended with bridles or saddles on.
- No tying to fairground fences or gates.
- No tying with your horse's bridle/reins.
- No riding in barns or south of the barns.
- Horses must be kept at a walk when not in the arena or warm up area.
- No smoking in the barns.
- Arenas are not to be used as unsupervised turnouts.

- Put away all equipment you use and clean up all manure in stalls, by trailers and on fairgrounds before you leave. Wheelbarrows, rakes and manure bunkers are available on the fairgrounds.
- Participants in scheduled clinics with a clinician should show respect for that clinician by participating, listening and attempting to do what the clinician asks. Open riding is available on Mon., Thurs. & Sat. evenings from 6-9 pm for Horse Project members unless a clinician is scheduled.
- At fair, barns are open from 6 am-11 pm.
- If a horse comes in late to fair, it must be prearranged and vet checked. If it leaves early, it must also be vet checked before leaving.
- If you have a problem at fair, please contact the horse superintendent.
- No exhibitor may show more than two horses in the Junior Fair. No horse may be shown by more than one exhibitor unless approved by the fair board. Exceptions may only be made for horseless horse or immediate family (sibling/step siblings).
- During fair, only the exhibitor can ride their horse, exhibitors are encouraged to do as much care of their own horse as they are able.
- If stalled, horses need water at all times. Hay and feed as needed.
- Leather halters and chain leads are commonly used, but not required for showing in Showmanship and Halter.
- Horses 5 years old and older in Western Pleasure and Horsemanship classes must be ridden in a shanked bit. Check links below for more information on correct bits for certain classes.
- During check-in at fair, you need to have the Premise ID (where your horse is kept).

Horse Project Best Practices

- Ride and handle your horse in a manner which keeps everyone else safe, including keeping at least one horse length away from other horses.
- Ride to the level of your least experienced or most timid rider.
- If someone is in trouble, stop and help.
- More experienced horse project members are encouraged to help the younger and/or less experienced members whenever they can.
- Families of children in the horse project are encouraged to help during the fair show to help the show run smoothly. There are many ways to help before, during and after the show. Please contact a board member if you are looking for ways to help and they will be glad to let you know where help is needed.

- Horse stalls should be cleaned a minimum of twice daily.
- Stalled horses should be exercised daily.

Helpful Links

Check out the State 4-H Equestrian Guidelines pages

(<http://fyi.uwex.edu/wi4haganimalscience/files/2014/06/Equestrian-Guidelines.pdf>) for class descriptions and rules, and great information on general show etiquette. We also have a printed copy of these available.

Check out the State 4-H Gymkhana Class Rules for good information on Gymkhana/Game Classes

(<http://fyi.uwex.edu/wi4haganimalscience/files/2014/06/2016-Gymkhana-Rules-Class-List-1.pdf>). We also have a printed copy of these available.

Good general information about the 4-H horse project and some other good links

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

This is the 4-H horse association handbook link. It has good information about the state show, classes and all other things horse and opportunities in our state to be involved.

(<http://fyi.uwex.edu/wi4haganimalscience/we-4-h-horse-assn-handbook/>).

If you are traveling to other shows in the area, most are judged by WSCA (Western Saddle Clubs Association) rules and judges, so here is a link to their past rule book

(<http://www.wsca.org/graphics/wscarulebook2013.14.15.pdf>). The WSCA site does sell updated rule books as well on their website, but this will be pretty close. They also have a listing of shows and events.